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## 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.

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

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



“The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes, but in having new eyes.”

—Marcel Proust

## 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.

## Thursday, Aug. 10

Senior Menu: Chicken Alfredo, California blend, peaches, whole wheat bread.

Family Fun Fest, Downtown Groton, 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Summer Splash, Downtown Groton, 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Common Cents Community Thrift Store, 209 N Main, open 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

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

**OPEN:** Recycling Trailer in Groton

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## The Bulletin by Newsweek

### World in Brief

student-loan borrowers to have their debt eliminated, marking another setback for President Joe Biden's student debt relief efforts.

Moody's downgraded credit ratings of ten small and mid-sized banks and warned it may downgrade six major banks, citing weaker profitability and funding risks facing the sector as the U.S. contends with high-interest rates and an incoming "mild recession."

U.S. diplomat Victoria Nuland said she was denied requests to meet with Niger President Mohamed Bazoum during her visit, and that coup leaders were "firm" on "how they want to proceed, and it does not comport with the Constitution."

South Korea has started the evacuation of more than 35,000 participants at the World Scout Jamboree from the campsite a week early due to incoming typhoon Khanun, which is forecast to hit the southern regions on Thursday.

New York City Mayor Eric Adams plans to set up a new humanitarian center for asylum seekers along the East River on Randall's Island. The center is expected to house as many as 2,000 adult asylum seekers.

In the ongoing war in Ukraine, at least 31 people were injured and five people died in Russia's strikes on Pokrovsk in the Donetsk Oblast, according to Ukraine's interior minister. Meanwhile, a Ukrainian woman identified as a Russian informant has been arrested after allegedly plotting to assassinate President Volodymyr Zelensky..

### TALKING POINTS

"If the election is a referendum on Joe Biden's policies, and the failures that we've seen, and we are presenting a positive vision for the future, we will win the presidency and we will have a chance to turn the country around. If, on the other hand, the election is not about January 20, 2025, but about January 6, 2021, or what document was left by the toilet at Mar-a-Lago, if it's a referendum on that, we are going to lose," Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis said during an interview with NBC News.

"My dad used to say, 'Half of winning is showing up.' You showed up. You spent time with the surviving students. You gave them hope. You played ball in the park with them. You signed jerseys with their names of the children that were lost on it. I mean, it really — it validates in ways I don't think you really understand," President Joe Biden told the Houston Astros in speaking about the team's support for the Uvalde community following the 2022 Robb Elementary School mass shooting.

### WHAT TO WATCH IN THE DAY AHEAD

Donald Trump is scheduled to deliver a speech at a rally in Windham, New Hampshire, campaigning in the early primary state days before the first Republican debate.

Voters in Ohio will cast their ballots today to decide whether amendments to the state's Constitution should require the backing of at least 60% of the state legislature to pass. The ballot measure would make new revisions, including a proposed amendment protecting abortion access, trickier to adopt.

President Joe Biden is expected to discuss his administration's investments in conservation during a visit to the Red Butte Airfield in Arizona.

It's a big day for corporate earnings, with major companies like Eli Lilly, UPS, AMC Entertainment, and Barrick Gold set to report their quarterly results.

Trade balance and wholesale inventories for June are on the economic calendar from 8:15 a.m. ET.



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## The Perfect DOG

**This search is gonna be ruff!**

MUSIC AND LYRICS BY  
DAVID ABBINANTI

BOOK BY  
JILL ABBINANTI

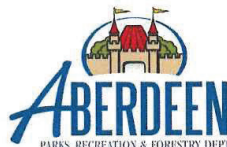
INSPIRED BY THE BOOK  
"THE PERFECT DOG"  
BY JOHN O'HURLEY

When: Thursday, August 10, 2023

Time: 1:00pm

Where: Groton Community Center – 109 N 3<sup>rd</sup> St

Entry Fee: \$0





## Over three dozen students get free school supplies

**Pictured left to right are Diane Warrington, April Abeln, Nancy Larsen, Ruby Larson, Pat and David Miller and Char Martin.** (Photo courtesy April Abeln)

It is estimated that parents of Groton Area Elementary students will spend \$25,000 on school supplies this year! Enrich Groton SoDak Inc, a nonprofit organization, was established to serve the needs of our community through acts of giving and enrichment. Monday night was just another example of the service of this organization. Enrich volunteers and board members worked at the community center and provided over 3 dozen students with school supplies ranging from glue sticks to markers and even to plastic spoons. We are so grateful for the monetary donations we received to help us achieve this mission and we wish our Groton Area students a wonderful school year ahead!



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Courtesy Photos from April Abeln



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Courtesy Photos from April Abeln



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## Groton Jr. Legion takes fifth at state

Back row- Coach Aaron Severson, Gavin Englund, Jarrett Erdmann, Braxton Imrie, Korbin Kucker, Carter Simon, Taylor Diegel, Caden McInerney, Brevin Flihs, Kellen Antonsen, Coach Seth Erickson

Front row - Lincoln Krause, Karsten Flihs, Bat Boy Micah Krause, Nick Morris, Nick Groeblichhoff. (Courtesy Photo from Becky Kotzer)

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**Paula  
Jensen**

**Vice  
President of  
Program  
Development**



## The Community Coach

### What's behind your community's historic population shift?

I spent some valuable time last month doing a bit of data discovery about rural communities. In my search I explored an interactive map\* showing the percent change in total population from the 2010 to the 2020 Census at both the state and county levels. I first zoomed in to view the South Dakota county-level data – it was a mix of blue (growth) and beige (decline) county blocks spread across the east and west sides of our state. I discovered 33 of 66 counties in South Dakota had positive population growth in the past ten years!

Then I zoomed out to view the population change map of the United States\*. I uncovered something interesting -- one (and only one) darker brown county in the southernmost tip of Illinois -- Alexander County – bordered by the intersection of the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers. I was curious, so I clicked on the map to see their 36.4% negative growth rate was the largest of any of the 3,138 counties across the United States. Alexander County's 2020 total population was 5,240 compared to their 2010 total population of 8,238. That drop in population is a significant one-time decline, but the truth is Alexander County had been losing large segments of their population since its peak of 25,496 residents during the 1940s. Over eight decades, they've had an enormous 80% loss in their total population.

### What happened?

Without living in Alexander County, it's hard to know exactly what's been happening, yet one author, David Szoke, writes an extraordinary viewpoint in his essay about the region's drastic decline, titled, Heartland Deluge: Race, Flooding, and the Two Alexander Counties, Illinois. It is a compelling read. Here's a segment of the full essay:

"This migration illustrates the flight from rural pressures as agricultural communities struggle to combat the river's unceasing ebb and flow. The two Alexander Counties – Cairo in the south and the smaller white towns to the north – represent two different responses to the hardships of the modern rural Midwest. Today, flooding remains the most significant shared factor in the decline of the two Alexander Counties. Neither community has had the infrastructure nor the funds to fix their dire situation. Alexander County exemplifies rural America in microscale, illustrating the racial tensions and isolation felt by black communities and the abandonment felt by struggling farmers facing submerged fields, lacking the political capital to sway the legislators who could fix their housing and flooding crises. The rivers straddling the county's borders, once providing commerce and agricultural abundance, now act as the greatest threat to the livelihoods of those who remain. However, the Ohio and Mississippi are not responsible for the manmade decline of Alexander County; they may be the force which depopulates the humble lowlands for good.

I hope as you're reading this essay online, you will reflect on what has attributed to the historic population shift of your own rural community, because rural population decline is a fact, but it's not the whole story.

My takeaway from learning about Alexander County, Illinois, is that our greatest actions as a leader are to 1) show up with some hard facts, 2) guide conversations that develop strong relationships on both sides of an issue, and 3) ultimately work on building trust because as local leaders -- whether you are a volunteer, elected, or paid -- our actions or lack thereof have long-term consequences.

Any community that chooses to die a long slow death like Alexander County, Illinois, is most often filled with local volunteer leaders, elected officials, and residents who are not open to looking at data, making hard choices, addressing conflict, exploring what's possible, or working on unity around the core issues of what it means to be a thriving community or region.

\*\*\*\*\*

FACTS ABOUT MY COUNTY -- In Marshall County, South Dakota, where I live, population decline has been constant since the 1920s when our population peaked at 9,596 people. This is common for many rural counties. Every decade after the 1930s Marshall County has lost between 5% and 15% of our population,



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except for in 2010 when the Census showed an uptick of 1.7% growth. Now with a population of 4,656, which is approximately a 50% decline in population over time, we are a thriving region.

To address our challenges over the years, Marshall County, South Dakota, has made critical investments and implemented various innovative strategies to attract and retain as many residents as possible as economies have shifted. Some of those efforts were:

- Economic Diversification – Developing an industrial park in the 1970s in Britton and attracting Horton Industry was a lasting monumental move as the agriculture industry began shifting away from family farming, more women were entering the workforce, and higher paying jobs with benefits were needed. Now several manufacturing businesses operate in Britton as a hub for hundreds of regional jobs. In the 1990's our regional economy diversified by adding a large dairy operation.

- Investment in infrastructure – This is more than streets, water towers, and sewer lifts -- it's about starting a rural water system, investing in the hospital multiple times, supporting emergency services, making parks accessible for everyone, focusing on tourism, historic courthouse rehab and expansion, and keeping Main Streets alive.

- Promotion of quality-of-life factors – The redevelopment of Ft. Sisseton Historic State Park, implementing local events, promoting the lakes region, quality libraries & museums, and supporting youth sports are just a few factors in our region.

- Support for entrepreneurship – The catalyst for local entrepreneurship was when we partnered with Dakota Rising in a three-county collaboration. Today the culture of starting your own business is alive and supported by economic development.

- Collaboration among community stakeholders – Having visionary leaders and mentors to keep developing those leaders over the decades is critical to our success in Marshall County. Whether it was the creation of Britton Area Foundation or starting Glacial Lakes Area Development, local leaders have spearheaded change for our communities.

- Initiatives focusing on rural healthcare access – Having our own hospital and ambulance service is vital. We also have a strong County Nurse position who visits schools, brings in the Delta Dental van, and educates our community.

- Evolving education – Changing with the times and collaboration has been a key factor in the success of our two remaining K-12 schools in Marshall County. Whether it's starting a High School Trap Shooting Team or allowing students to become apprentices/interns at local businesses, we put students first, promote excellence, and let students know they are welcome to thrive in the region after high school.

- Broadband connectivity – Partnering with our local cooperative, Venture Communications, has put us on the forefront of advanced technology.

When faced with the data of declining rural population, instead of viewing our rural places as a relic of an idyllic past, we must recognize the innovative spirit that made our communities vibrant along the way. That innovation remains key to the future of our rural places. The good news is that innovation, diversity of ideas and people, and new concepts don't need to be imported to your rural community – they're already there.

*The Community Coach. Having a passion for community leadership and development is what drives Paula Jensen's personal and professional life. Paula lives in her hometown of Langford, South Dakota, population 318+. She serves as a Strategic Doing practitioner, grant writer and community coach with Dakota Resources based in Renner, South Dakota. Dakota Resources is a mission-driven 501c3 Community Development Financial Institution working to connect capital and capacity to empower rural communities. Contact her at paula@dakotaresources.org.*

\*Map Source: <https://mtgis-portal.geo.census.gov/arcgis/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=2566121a73de463995ed2b2fd7ff6eb7>

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## 2023 Sturgis Rally Vehicle Count – Through Day Three

STURGIS, S.D. – The South Dakota Department of Transportation (SDDOT) will provide daily traffic counts for vehicles entering Sturgis for the 83rd Annual Sturgis Motorcycle Rally which runs from Aug. 4-13, 2023. The traffic counts to date at nine locations entering Sturgis for the 2023 Rally are as follows:

**Friday, Aug. 4: 45,652 vehicles entered**

Down 13.4% from the previous five-year average

**Saturday, Aug. 5: 38,126 vehicles entered**

Down 37.3% from the previous five-year average

**Sunday, Aug. 6: 60,586 vehicles entered**

Up 4.4% from the previous five-year average

2023 Total to Date: 144,364 Vehicles

Previous Five-Year Average: 171,606 Vehicles

## Highway Patrol Sturgis Rally Daily Information

Compiled from 6 a.m. Saturday August 5, 2023, to 6 a.m. Monday August 7, 2023

### Fatal Crashes:

At 9:49am, Sunday, Interstate 90, mile marker 36: A 2021 Harley Davidson motorcycle traveling westbound braked for unknown reason causing a 2003 Chevy Express Van to strike the rear end. A 2003 Harley Davidson equipped with a side car, also traveling westbound, was unable to avoid the collision and struck the Chevy van. A 2023 Harley Davidson then struck the debris and crashed. The 54-year-old female passenger of the 2003 Harley Davidson was pronounced dead at the scene. All other individuals involved received serious non-life-threatening and minor injuries. The occupants of the 2003 Harley Davidson and 2021 Harley Davidson were wearing helmets. The occupants of the 2023 Harley Davidson were not wearing helmets.

At 12:30pm, Sunday, US Highway 14A, mile marker 43: A 2007 Harley Davidson motorcycle was traveling eastbound, failed to negotiate a curve, crossed the center line, entered the north ditch, and tumbled. The 41-year-old driver was not wearing a helmet and was pronounced dead at the scene.

### Injury Crashes:

At 7:55am, Sunday, US Highway 83, mile marker 35: a 2012 Hyundai Santa Fe was traveling northbound, entered the west ditch and hit a fence line. The vehicle traveled down the fence line and struck a pole. All passengers were wearing seatbelts. The driver and front seat passenger received serious non-life-threatening injuries.

At 9:34am, Sunday, US Highway 16A, mile marker 51: A 2019 Harley Davidson motorcycle was traveling southbound and drove over debris in the roadway while negotiating a curve. The motorcycle lost control and entered the east ditch. The driver was wearing a helmet and sustained minor injuries.

At 12:27pm, Sunday, South Dakota Highway 34, and Interstate 90 Exit 23: A 2023 Polaris Slingshot was traveling southbound on Interstate 90 Exit 23 overpass. The Polaris turned left to enter the interstate. A 2008 Suzuki motorcycle was traveling northbound and applied its brakes to avoid a collision with the Polaris. The Suzuki lost control and crashed. Occupants of the Polaris were wearing seatbelts and did not receive injuries. The driver of the Suzuki was not wearing a helmet and received serious non-life-threatening injuries.



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At 12:45pm, Sunday, South Dakota Highway 20, mile marker 53.7: A 2017 Harley Davidson motorcycle was traveling eastbound. The motorcycle struck an antelope in the roadway. The motorcycle left the roadway and entered the south ditch. The driver was not wearing a helmet and received serious non-life-threatening injuries.

At 12:49pm, Sunday, US Highway 385, mile marker 86: a 2017 Harley Davidson motorcycle was traveling southbound. The driver lost control for unknown reasons and separated from the motorcycle. The driver was wearing a helmet and received minor injuries.

At 1:41pm, Sunday, US Highway 16A, mile marker 24: A 2016 Victory motorcycle was traveling eastbound and struck a deer. The motorcycle tipped and slid off the roadway causing the driver to separate from the motorcycle. The driver was not wearing a helmet and received serious non-life-threatening injuries.

At 2:10pm, Sunday, South Dakota Highway 89, mile marker 73: A 2022 Indian motorcycle was traveling southbound, crossed the road, and entered the north ditch striking some rocks. The driver was separated from the motorcycle and the motorcycle traveled back into the northbound lanes. A 2016 Harley Davidson then struck the unoccupied Indian motorcycle. The driver of the Indian motorcycle was wearing a helmet and received serious non-life-threatening injuries. The driver of the Harley Davidson was not wearing a helmet and received minor injuries.

At 2:24pm, Sunday, US Highway 16, mile marker 32: A 2010 Harley Davidson motorcycle was traveling eastbound in the right lane. A passenger car entered the motorcycle's lane, striking the side of the motorcycle. The motorcycle left the roadway, and the driver was separated from the motorcycle. The driver of the motorcycle was wearing a helmet and received serious non-life-threatening injuries.

At 2:33pm, Sunday, Old Hill City Road, and Lafferty Gulch Road: A 2023 Harley Davidson motorcycle was traveling east bound. A deer ran out in front of the motorcycle causing the driver to lose control and separate from the motorcycle. The driver was wearing a helmet and sustained serious non-life-threatening injuries.

At 2:59pm, Sunday, South Dakota Highway 87, mile marker 70: A 2005 Harley Davidson motorcycle was southbound and failed to negotiate a right hand curve colliding with a parked 2023 Nissan Rogue. The driver of the motorcycle was wearing a helmet and received serious non-life-threatening injuries. The driver of the Nissan was not injured.

At 3:00pm, Sunday, US Highway 16A and Sylvan Lake Road: A 2014 Harley Davidson motorcycle and 2009 Harley Davidson motorcycle were traveling westbound. The 2014 Harley Davidson struck a deer in the roadway. The 2009 Harley Davidson was unable to avoid collision and struck the rear of the 2014 Harley Davidson. Both drivers were not wearing helmets and receive minor injuries.

At 3:37pm, Sunday, South Dakota Highway 87, mile marker 54: A 2005 Harley Davidson motorcycle was stopped on the shoulder of the road. The driver attempted to start the motorcycle and the back tire caught the dirt and slid into the ditch. The driver was wearing a helmet and received minor injuries.

At 3:38pm, Sunday, Playhouse Road, and Grayhound Gulch Road: A 2016 Harley Davidson was traveling southbound, failed to negotiate the curved and collided with a 2020 Harley Davidson motorcycle. The driver of the 2016 Harley Davidson was not wearing a helmet and received minor injuries. The driver and passenger on the 2020 Harley Davidson were wearing helmets and received serious non-life-threatening injuries.

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At 4:41pm, Sunday, Lazelle Street and Exit 30 Interstate 90 on ramp: A 2018 Harley Davidson motorcycle and 2018 Chevy Malibu were stopped at the stoplight. The light turned green and both units continued northbound. An unknown motorcycle stopped in the intersection causing the Chevy to stop abruptly. The Harley Davidson struck the rear end of the Chevy. The driver of the Harley Davidson was not wearing a helmet and received minor injuries. The driver of the Chevy was wearing a seatbelt and was not injured.

At 5:40pm, Sunday, US Highway 85, mile marker 7: A 2015 Harley Davidson motorcycle was traveling eastbound, failed to negotiate a curve, crossed the center line, and struck a 2015 Ford Explorer. The driver of the Harley Davidson was wearing a helmet and received minor injuries. The driver of the Ford was wearing a seatbelt and was not injured.

At 6:25pm, Sunday, US Highway 16, and US Highway 16B: A 2019 Harley Davidson motorcycle was traveling northbound, slowed and entered the eastbound turn lane. The motorcycle entered the off ramp and lost traction causing the driver and passenger to become separated from the motorcycle. The driver and passenger were wearing helmets. The driver was not injured, the passenger received minor injuries.

Item	Sturgis	Rapid City District	District Total	Last Year to Date
DUI Arrests	31	5	36	45
Misd Drug Arrests	29	17	46	33
Felony Drug Arrests	13	5	17	19
Total Citations	213	152	365	382
Total Warnings	678	458	1136	1368
Cash Seized	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Vehicles Seized	0	0	0	0
For Drug Poss.	0	0	0	0
For Serial No.	0	0	0	0
Non-Injury Accidents	6	10	16	12
Injury Accidents	7	14	21	14
Fatal Accidents	2	0	2	2
# of Fatalities	2	0	2	2

## Traffic Switch Scheduled for U.S. Highway 12 from Aberdeen to Bath

ABERDEEN, S.D. – On Friday, Aug. 11, 2023, traffic will be switched to the newly constructed westbound lanes of U.S. Highway 12 from Aberdeen to Bath.

Once the traffic switch is complete, the contractor will begin work to build the new alignments for eastbound Highway 12. Motorists should prepare for suddenly slowing and stopped traffic and be aware of construction equipment and workers through the work zone.

This work is part of a \$20.5 million grading and paving project that includes lighting, pipework and a reinforced concrete box culvert.



## Bee colonies disappearing at 'unsustainable' rate, signaling trouble for ag industry

Abbey Stegenga

South Dakota News Watch

For more than a decade, beekeepers in South Dakota and around the country have been fighting against historically high annual colony loss rates of more than 30%.

The continued loss of colonies has the potential to affect roughly 100 different agricultural crops across the country and could raise food prices while decreasing food availability, according to an article from the University of Florida Extension.

The state's beekeepers brought in more than \$18.6 million from the sale of honey from roughly 185,000 colonies in 2022, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. South Dakota ranked sixth in the nation in terms of honey production that year.

But declining numbers of bees, both domestic and wild, threatens yields on crops ranging from almonds and apples on the West Coast to cotton and cranberries in the East.

In 2022-23, the nation's beekeepers experienced a 48.2% annual loss rate of managed honey bee colonies, a 9.2% increase from the 2021-2022 season. However, 2020-21 reached a 50.8% colony loss rate, the highest annual loss rate on record, according to data gathered by the non-profit honey bee research group Bee Informed Partnership.

Wild bee populations have also suffered.

In 2017, the rusty patched bumble bee became the first native bee species in the lower 48 states to be placed on the federal endangered species list by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. That same year, several non-governmental conservation groups said roughly 347 other species of native bees also are threatened.

In all, bees account for up to \$18 billion in added value to the country's agriculture industry annually, according to the USDA.

Without pollination from bees, many of which are trucked around the country from their summer home in South Dakota to provide pollination services, experts worry the price of common food items such as strawberries and apples could rise.



**Beekeepers often make agreements with landowners to place hives in hayfields or pastures. These hives were placed in a hayfield that saw a massive bloom of sweet clover, a prime bee food source that results in the mild, light-colored honey that South Dakota is renowned for producing.** (Photo:

South Dakota News Watch)

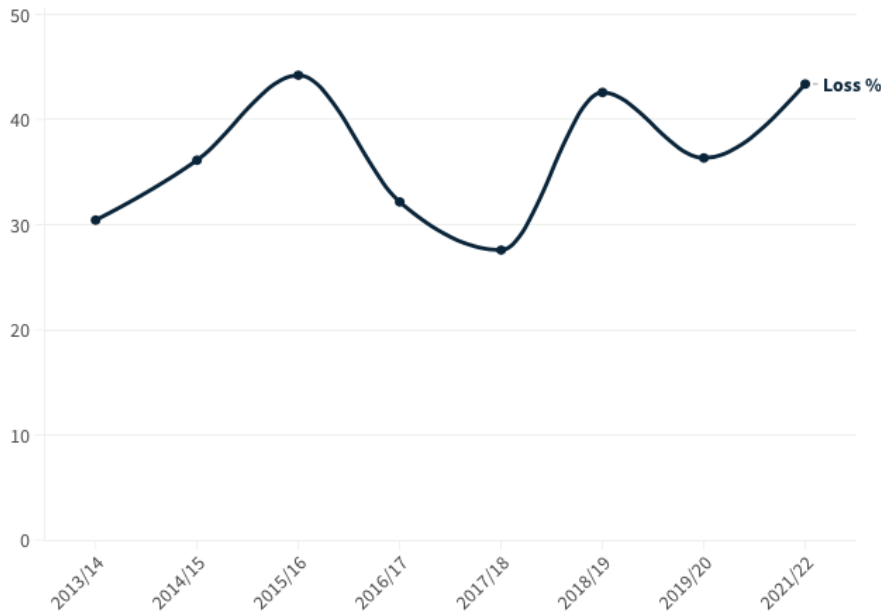


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## South Dakota bee colony loss per year

From 2013 to 2022, annual colony loss rates in South Dakota averaged between 27% and 44%, according to the Bee Informed Partnership. Data for South Dakota was unavailable for the 2020-21 season.



Source: [Bee Informed Partnership](#) • Graphic: Michael Klinski / SD News Watch

## Bee industry suffers commercial losses

Some commercial beekeepers have said official data undercount the loss of commercial bee colonies.

Bret Adee, a co-owner of Adee Honey Farms, which is based in Bruce, South Dakota, and one of the largest beekeeping operations in the world, said some commercial keepers lost 70% or more of their bees in the 2018-19 winter.

Adee said his company lost so many bees at the time that the business was forced to shutter its beekeeping operation in Nebraska and lay off employees. Prior to 2018, the business kept bees in the state for 60 years, he said.

"We didn't have enough bees in our boxes," Adee said.

Honey produced from South Dakota's sweet clover, alfalfa and wildflowers is highly prized for its

mild flavor and light color. Unfortunately, per-hive production has fallen about 50% over the past 15 to 20 years, said Kelvin Adee, Bret Adee's brother and business partner.

From 2019 to 2022, honey production in South Dakota fell from 19.44 million pounds to about 7.5 million pounds, according to USDA data.

As annual honeybee colony loss rates continue to rise and honey production falls, the federal government has at times pulled back its honeybee monitoring efforts.

In July 2019, the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service announced it would indefinitely suspend its quarterly honeybee colony survival survey. In December 2018, the service suspended its annual cost of pollination survey. According to USDA news releases, both surveys were cut due to budget reductions. However, the USDA resumed the colony survival survey in October 2019 and the pollination survey in 2022.

News of the colony loss survey being cut was a blow to the industry, Bret Adee said.

Many beekeepers worry that the information might be lost for good and with it more targeted research funding. Better research



**This sign welcomes visitors to the offices of Ade Honey Farms, a beekeeping business started in 1959 in Bruce, S.D., which is now one of the world's largest bee providers to the agricultural industry.**

(Photo: Bart Pfankuch, South Dakota News Watch)

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**A closeup of a bee that was collected in Badlands National Park.** (Photo: Shutterstock)

will be needed to help reverse the tide of honeybee colony deaths, Bret Adee said.

## **Tough time to be a bee**

High colony loss rates aren't new to the industry.

Over the last 12 years, the U.S. has averaged a 39.6% annual colony loss rate among its domestic bees, according to the Bee Informed Partnership.

The losses have beekeepers worried about the future of their industry.

"Any business that has a 30% annual loss rate, that's getting to be unsustainable," said John Stolle, a beekeeper near Sturgis.

Jay Fatland, a lifelong beekeeper from Kimball who provided honey as a flavoring for "The Original Kimball Popcorn Ball," had wound down his beekeeping efforts over the several years prior to 2019.

Losing so many bees each year just got to be too hard to handle, he said.

"It's just a struggle to keep the bees alive anymore," Fatland said.

In 2019, Fatland was down to about 200 hives and had mostly retired from the business that was his sole source of income for more than 30 years.

The Adees pegged colony losses at closer to 60% or 70% in 2019.

"They died faster than we can breed them," Brett Adee said.

With steep annual losses, Bret Adee said, beekeepers won't be able to keep up.

According to Bee Informed, the U.S. lost an estimated 37.7% of managed honey colonies from October 2018 to April 2019, making it "the highest level of winter losses reported since the survey began in 2006-2007."

## **Wild bee populations see downward trend**

Wild bees are showing marked declines.

Until the late 1990s, the rusty patched bumble bee was a fairly common visitor to backyard tomato gardens and wildflowers in South Dakota and most other upper Midwestern and Eastern states. Since 2000, the bee has only been reported in 13 states plus one Canadian province, according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

There isn't much historical population data on the more than 4,000 native bee species in North America.

The Center for Biological Diversity published one of the few comprehensive reports on the continent's native bee population in 2017. The report found that there was sufficient data to assess the population of about 1,400 bee species. Roughly half those species were declining and 347 of them were determined to be threatened, the report said.

Declining native bee populations also pose a big problem to anyone who buys food.

While domestic honey bees are pretty good at pollinating some crops such as almonds and canola, they aren't so great with such things as squash. Squashes tend to bloom early in the morning when domestic honey bees aren't very active, said Amanda Bachmann, an urban entomology field specialist with the South Dakota State University Extension Service.

Instead, native squash bees handle most of the squash pollination duties.

"If you're growing zucchini here, you can go out in the morning and if you see a bee flitting about, it's probably a squash bee," Bachmann said.

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**Amanda Bachmann, an urban entomology field specialist for the South Dakota State University Extension service, shows off a collection of pollinators found in the state in this 2019 file photo. Included are more than a dozen types of bees, wasps and several butterflies.** (Photo: South Dakota News Watch file photo)

Wild bees and a host of other native pollinators, such as monarch butterflies, also are responsible for pollinating in far greater numbers than domestic bees. All of that pollination work helps provide food for everything from pheasants to cattle and even people.

"These are the things doing the heavy lifting in terms of pollination," Bachmann said of wild pollinators.

## Several factors raise bee mortality

No one has been able to pinpoint a single cause for the widespread devastation of honeybees or native bees. Instead, a combination of factors is at play in the beehives themselves and in the fields where the bees look for pollen and nectar.

"The whole environment has changed," Kelvin Adey said.

One of the biggest problems facing bees in South Dakota is a change in how the state's farmers operate.

Flowering plants such as milkweed have been virtually eliminated from the fields growing the state's top two crops, corn and soybeans. Those grains, which have seen their

acreage greatly expanded in South Dakota over the past two decades, can spell harm for bees.

Tim Hollmann, a beekeeper from Dante, South Dakota, said the problem with corn and soybeans is two-fold.

First, the fields tend to be devoid of any plant life other than corn or soybeans, thanks to the use of glyphosate herbicides such as Roundup.

Bees need flowers from which to draw the pollen and nectar they eat and use to make honey. A 2018 study by a group of researchers at the University of Texas also showed that glyphosates may be harming gut bacteria in bees and making the insects more susceptible to disease.

## Pesticides harm the bees

The second problem with corn and soybean fields is pesticides.

Neonicotinoids are one of the most popular pesticides and are named for their chemical makeup that is similar to nicotine. When bees get hit with stray spray from a farm field, they die. Neonicotinoids are used all over the world and on various food crops because compared with other chemical pesticides, they're considered relatively safe for humans.

Pesticides also help boost crop yields and keep food prices down, said Bachmann, who also works as a pesticide educator. Taking an effective tool for controlling pests away from farmers could cause as much harm as good, she said.

Bees can even be indirectly exposed to pesticides.

A lot of seeds are sold coated with neonicotinoids, which are then absorbed into the growing plant. A bee can pick up a non-lethal dose by landing on such plants and then can carry the chemicals back to the colony and expose other bees which are weakened.

Fungicides are another man-made threat to bees.

The insects evolved to work with certain fungi in their pollen stores, Bret Adey said. The fungi help break down pollen so it's easier to digest and gives the bees better nutrition. Fungicides sprayed on crops



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**Colorful beehives are shown near Custer State Park in South Dakota.** (Photo: Shutterstock)

to increase yields are then picked up by foraging bees and carried back to hives, where they can kill the helpful fungi.

## Using powdered sugar to fight a mite

Ultimately, a parasite acts as one of the biggest threats facing bees.

Varroa destructor, better known as the varroa mite, has been ravaging North American bee hives for decades. The mite first was found in the U.S. in 1987. South Dakota, as a top honey producing state, was infested with the mites soon after.

Varroa destructor is native to Asia and acts similar to a tick. The mite attaches to a bee and feeds on its fat body tissue, which is similar to a mammal's liver, weakening the host and making it more susceptible to disease and starvation when food runs low, according to research

from the University of Maryland. Varroa mites also happen to be insects.

"That's been really difficult, you're trying to kill a bug that lives on a bug," Stolle said.

There isn't a very effective treatment for mite infestations, which by themselves are not necessarily fatal to bees, he said. Some beekeepers coat their bees with powdered sugar to try to loosen the varroa mite's hold, but that only goes so far, Stolle said.



Female of *Varroa destructor* on dead bee *Apis mellifera*

**Varroa destructor, a mite, is one of the deadliest honey bee parasites. The Varroa mite, shown microscopically attached to a dead bee, acts like a tick by latching onto bees and bee larvae, weakening the bee and potentially spreading disease.** (Photo: Courtesy U.S. Department of Agriculture)

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Varroa mites also carry diseases such as deformed wing virus that can kill bees and infect whole colonies. Diseases have long been a killer of domestic bees and are easily spread because honey bees are social creatures. Often, honey bees interact with both wild bees and domestic bees from other colonies while out foraging up to three miles from their hive.

## **Despite setbacks, all is not lost for beekeepers**

Even with all the doom and gloom surrounding the beekeeping industry, domestic honey bees are in no immediate danger of extinction. The people who harvest bees for pollination and sell honey could be the ones in trouble.

"We're not at a tipping point yet, but we're getting there," Stolle said.

Luckily, most farmers and ranchers seem to be concerned about bees and the landscape they live on, Bret Adee said. There is a strong movement in South Dakota to diversify crops and focus on soil health as a way to boost farm incomes. What's good for soil is generally good for bees too, he said.

"Every time I meet someone who is doing that, I get excited," he said.

There's some good news for native bees too, Bachmann said.

More people are becoming aware of the issues facing pollinators and are interested in helping out where they can.

One of the big things people can do is use pesticides only as designed, Bachmann said. Every pesticide, whether it is intended for agricultural use or for the backyard, comes with a label that tells the user how to use it legally and safely while minimizing harm to beneficial bugs such as bees and butterflies.

"A lot of home pesticides tell you not to apply them to flowering plants," Bachmann said.

For Stolle, there's real hope in the interest more people seem to be taking in bees.

He said he sometimes is approached by curious people at gas stations while transporting his bees.

Not too long ago, most everybody gave him dirty looks and kept their distance, Stolle said. Yet one person told him the story of a relative who had been injured in the blitz of London during World War II and would have lost a leg if not for doctors using honey to help treat an infected wound.

"I think more people are starting to think, 'Where does my food come from?'" Stolle said.

— *This article was produced by South Dakota News Watch, a non-profit journalism organization located online at [sdnewswatch.org](http://sdnewswatch.org).*



## **ABOUT ABBEY STEGENGA**

Abbey Stegenga joined South Dakota News Watch as a 2023 summer intern through the Scripps-Howard Fund. She studies journalism, English and Spanish at Augustana University in Sioux Falls.





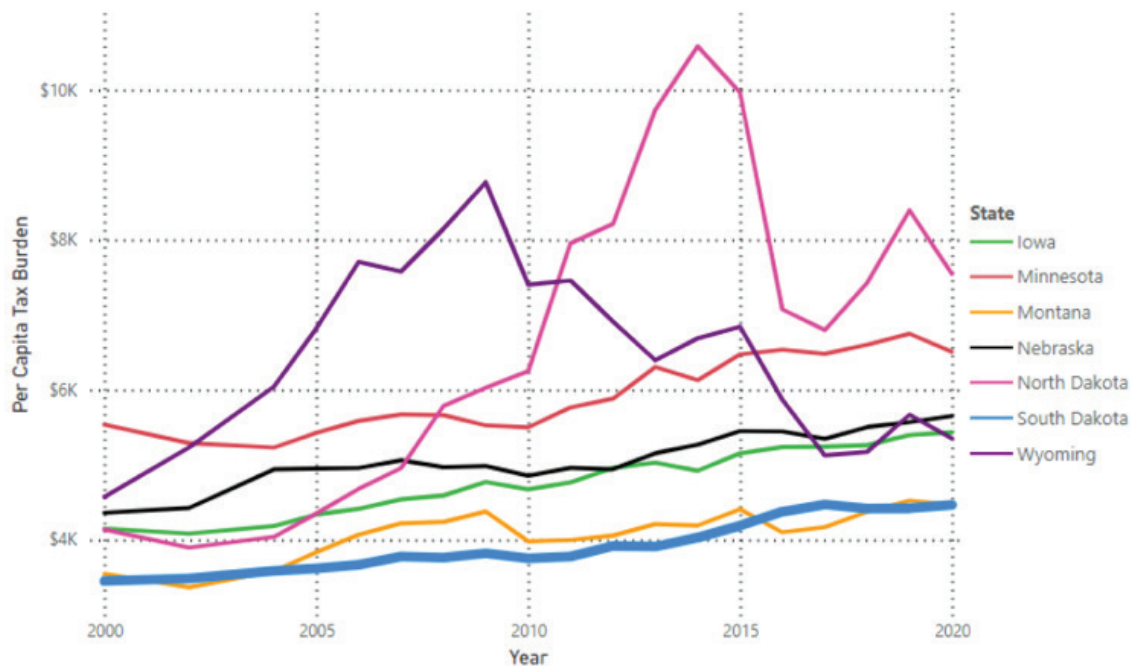
## SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

### SD has lowest per capita tax burden in the region; highest sales tax burden, report says

BY: MAKENZIE HUBER - AUGUST 7, 2023 5:59 PM

Graph 1: Total Tax Revenue Generated



South Dakota ranks just below Montana for the lowest per capita tax burden compared to surrounding states, according to a report from the Legislative Research Council on Aug. 7, 2023. (Courtesy of Legislative Research Council)

report compared South Dakota with Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota and Wyoming.

South Dakota ranked just below Montana for the lowest overall per capita tax burdens in 2020. South Dakota's total per capita tax burden that year was \$4,466, while Montana was slightly higher at \$4,471. North Dakota topped the list at \$7,545.

As for sales tax, South Dakota leads its neighbors with a per capita sales tax burden of \$1,788. North Dakota is second highest with \$1,732 per capita and Montana ranks last, since it does not impose a sales tax.

Forty percent of South Dakota's total tax revenue comes from sales tax revenue, which "really demonstrates how much South Dakota relies on sales tax," said LRC research analyst Will Steward.

South Dakota is the only state in the region that levies a sales tax on food, which Gov. Kristi Noem attempted to eliminate during the 2023 legislative session. Instead, legislators chose to cut South Dakota's sales tax by .3%. There is an effort to bring a ballot measure in 2024 to repeal the food tax.

The report also analyzed income, corporate, property, severance and motor fuel taxes. South Dakota had the second-lowest property tax burden in the region. South Dakota and Wyoming are the only surrounding states that do not impose income taxes.

South Dakota residents bear the lowest tax burden per capita in the region, according to a report shared with lawmakers Monday. But residents also bear the region's heaviest sales tax burden.

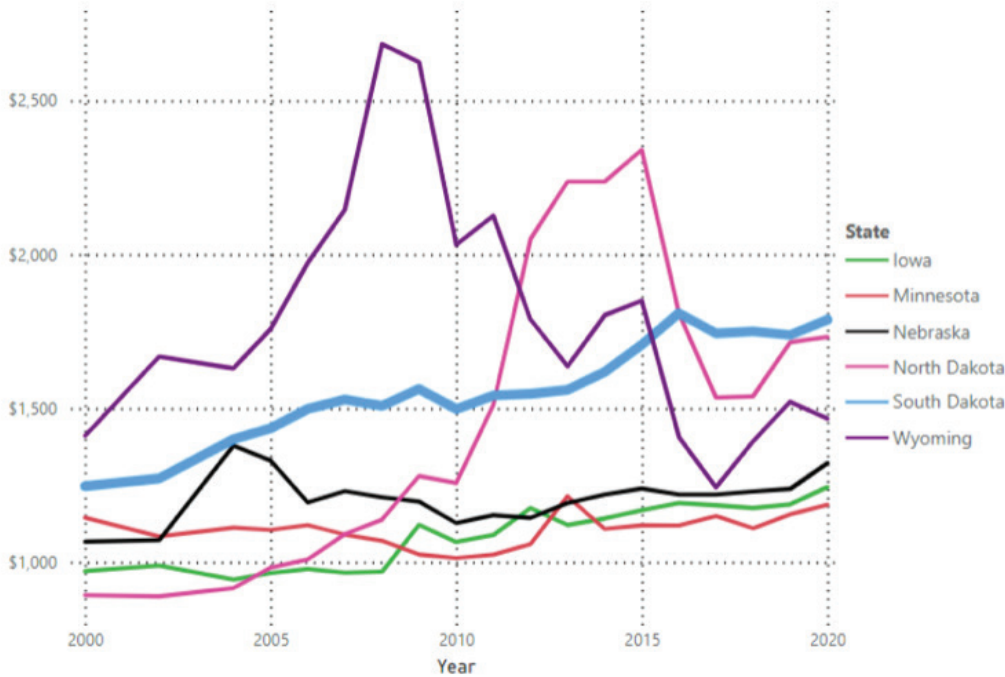
The Legislative Research Council, which provides legal and fiscal analysis for lawmakers, shared the report with the South Dakota Legislature's Executive Board during a meeting in Pierre. The



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Graph 3: Per Capita Sales Tax Revenues



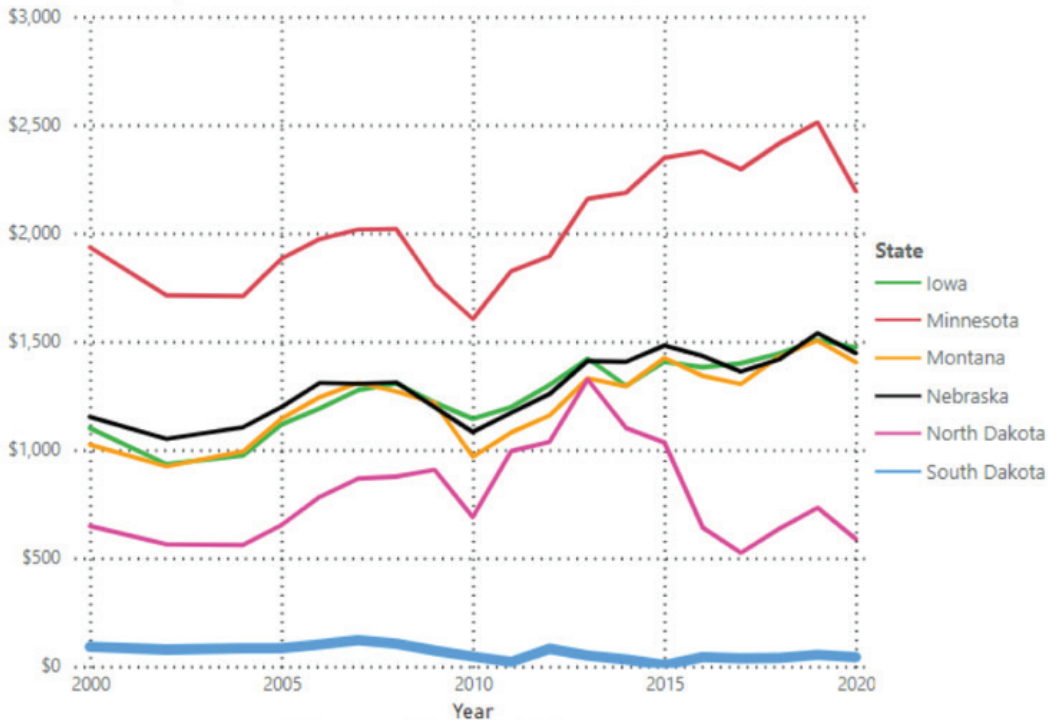
South Dakota ranks first for its per capita sales tax burden compared to surrounding states. North Dakota follows closely, while Montana is the only surrounding state not imposing a sales tax, according to a report from the Legislative Research Council on Aug. 7, 2023. (Courtesy of Legislative Research Council)

Steward cautioned lawmakers that there are several contributing factors that go into the total tax burden of a state, including population. "Fixating on individual parameters" without context could lead to "inaccurate conclusions," he added.

"Just looking at these individual parameters without looking at the broader tax structures around it could be a bit hazardous," Steward said.

*Makenzie Huber is a life-long South Dakotan whose work has won national and regional awards. She's spent five years as a journalist with experience reporting on workforce, development and business issues within the state.*

Graph 7: Per Capita Income Tax Burden



South Dakota and Wyoming do not impose income taxes. Minnesota leads the region for its income tax burden on residents, according to a report from the Legislative Research Council on Aug. 7, 2023. (Courtesy of Legislative Research Council)

## South Dakota congressman fosters tribal connections with Ben Reifel Internship

BY: JOSHUA HAIAR - AUGUST 7, 2023 4:07 PM

An internship offered by U.S. Rep. Dusty Johnson is fostering connections between Washington, D.C., and tribes in South Dakota.

The Ben Reifel Internship has existed for several years and is named after the only Native American to represent South Dakota in Congress. Among internships sponsored by South Dakota's congressional delegation, it's the only one focused specifically on tribes.

"This is a key way for us to make sure that we're creating more opportunity for people who care about tribal affairs," said Johnson, R-South Dakota. "At the same time, we're creating a new generation of people that understand that federal-tribal intersection."

Kiara Ehle, a recent Ben Reifel Intern and member of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, wrote about the experience for a press release from Johnson's office. While interning in Washington,



**U.S. Rep. Dusty Johnson and Kiara Ehle, a Ben Reifel Intern, at St. John's Church on the Pine Ridge Reservation in June 2023.** (Courtesy of the Office of Rep. Dusty Johnson)



**U.S. Representative Ben Reifel in his office in June 1963.**

(South Dakota State University Archives and Special Collections, H. M. Briggs Library)

D.C., she attended meetings with business leaders, tribal officials and representatives of organizations from South Dakota.

"With each meeting I sat in on, I became more driven to want to take a more active role in politics aside from voting," she wrote. "The relationship Congressman Johnson and his staff have fostered is critical to paving a pathway of advocacy on behalf of his constituents."

Reifel was born in 1906 on the Rosebud Indian Reservation. He grew up to serve in World War II, earn a doctoral degree from Harvard, work for the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and become the first Lakota person elected to Congress. He died in 1990.

Reifel was a Republican and prominent proponent of the Indian



Civil Rights Act who fought to ensure tribes received proper compensation when the government took their land.

"He was incredibly effective," Johnson said. "And he wasn't just a representative for the whites or Native Americans."

Legislation sponsored by Johnson renamed the U.S. Postal Service building in Rosebud, just miles from Reifel's birthplace, as the Ben Reifel Post Office Building in 2020.

Potential interns may contact Johnson's D.C. office at (202) 225-2801 for more information. Interns do not have to be enrolled in college or a tribe, but they should have an interest in pursuing a career on a reservation or in tribal relations.

*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.*

## Senator accused of illegally pocketing COVID funds cooperating with state

BY: JOHN HULT - AUGUST 7, 2023 1:13 PM

Attorney General Marty Jackley says a Rapid City state senator accused of illegally accepting more than \$600,000 in COVID relief funds is working to resolve the situation.

Monday was the Jackley-imposed deadline for Sen. Jessica Castleberry, R-Rapid City, to either pay back the \$603,219 in funds she collected for her daycare business, Little Nest Preschool, or to come to an agreement with the state on how to move forward.

A letter from Jackley dated July 26 said failure to do so by 1 p.m. Aug. 7 would cause Jackley's office to "pursue the matter in court."

Jackley's statement did not elaborate on the nature of Castleberry's cooperation. It's unclear if she's agreed to pay back all or some of the funds immediately, to pay back the funds over time, or if she's committed to paying back the funds at all.

The statement says only that Jackley's office "continues to receive and review documents related to this issue, and we are still awaiting documents from the State Department of Social Services."

"Senator Castleberry and the State Department of Social Services have been cooperating with this office," he wrote.

The letter from Jackley and a news release from Gov. Kristi Noem each noted late last month that Castleberry had run afoul of conflict-of-interest laws by accepting the funds, which came from the federal government but were administered by state agencies over which Castleberry has a say in her role as senator. Noem's news release said a staffer for the Department of Social Services noticed the senator's name on an application for \$4,000 additional dollars.

The state Supreme Court has ruled that lawmakers cannot vote on bills from which they would person-



**The Little Nest Child Care and Learning Center in Rapid City.** (Seth Tupper/South Dakota Searchlight)

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ally benefit through state contracts. Castleberry voted on the appropriations bills which included the funds she'd later collect for her business.

Castleberry's current situation with the Attorney General is tied to the collection of funds funneled through the state to support her business in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, but she also took in federally administered funds. Little Nest Preschool also received \$164,520 in federal PPP loans, which are not part of the state-allocated federal funds.

Castleberry was appointed by Gov. Noem to fill a vacant seat in 2019 and ran unopposed on the ballot last fall. She issued a statement on the allegations last month that claimed that she'd followed all applicable laws. Her statement to South Dakota Searchlight also pledged to cooperate with authorities to resolve the matter.



**Sen. Jessica Castleberry, R-Rapid City, at the Capitol during the 2022 legislative session.** (John Hult/South Dakota Searchlight)

Castleberry later told The Dakota Scout newspaper she would not seek reelection in 2024.

Ian Fury, spokesman for Gov. Kristi Noem, said all questions on the matter should be referred to Jackley's office. Castleberry has yet to respond to a request for comment from South Dakota Searchlight.

Sen. Lee Schoenbeck, R-Watertown, told his fellow lawmakers during a meeting of the South Dakota Legislature's Executive Board on Monday that he'd like that committee to discuss the Constitutional provision on conflicts of interest that led to an investigation into Castleberry's pursuit and acceptance of COVID relief funds.

The Senate Pro Tempore said people with an interest in running for office have asked him recently if they might wind up in violation of the provision if they've done business with the state. He also said current lawmakers need more clear guidance on the rules.

"We've got, and I suspect you're going to hear it in the news in the next month, more instances of people that are in transactions (with the state)," Schoenbeck said. "We have to do something for potential candidates and current legislators so that they're not getting in trouble. The more hands that look at that, the better."

Schoenbeck said he's already begun drafting some verbiage to clarify guidance for lawmakers, and that he'd like to add it to the agenda of the executive board's next meeting.

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



**Marty Jackley** (Courtesy of Attorney General's Office)



## Nebraska, South Dakota, Iowa join fight against legal doctrine on federal regulatory authority

**Upcoming U.S. Supreme Court case could reshape what deference should be afforded to federal agencies when interpreting their authority to craft regulations**

**BY: ZACH WENDLING - AUGUST 7, 2023 3:22 PM**

LINCOLN — Nebraska Attorney General Mike Hilgers recently joined counterparts in 26 other states in urging the U.S. Supreme Court to overturn or clarify a legal precedent that could have major implications for federal regulatory authority.

Nebraska, South Dakota and Iowa are among the 27 states that joined a July 24 filing to the Supreme Court regarding the deference that should be afforded to federal agencies when interpreting ambiguous or silent language passed by Congress. Known as the Chevron deference, the legal doctrine requires courts to defer to reasonable agency interpretation when regulatory authority is ambiguous.

The joint brief argues that Chevron has been “abused and manipulated,” allowing federal agencies to “run amok,” and contends the court should overrule or at least clarify Chevron when it decides *Loper Bright Enterprises v. Raimondo* (named after Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo), in its next term. Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson recused herself from the case.

The case deals with the National Marine Fisheries Service and a regulation that requires fishing companies to have an additional person on fishing boats to track regulatory compliance. Companies must pay the monitor’s salary.

Hilgers, in a July 25 statement, said the U.S. Constitution lays out three branches of government, not four, and leaves legislative power to elected representatives, “not unelected and unaccountable bureaucrats.”

“Overturning Chevron is a critical step to restoring the Constitution’s protection against the unaccountable use of power and will help save Nebraskans from an endless number of regulations and burdens,” Hilgers said.

Former Nebraska Attorney General Doug Peterson was among 18 state attorneys general last December asking the high court to review the *Loper Bright* case.

### **Changes could ‘hamstring agencies’**

Eric Berger, Earl Dunlap Distinguished Professor of Law at the University of Nebraska College of Law, said the Chevron doctrine is a two-part test:

First, is the statute clear? If so, the agency is obliged to follow the statutory language.

Second, if the statute is ambiguous, did the agency reasonably interpret the language for the rule or regulation at issue? If so, the court defers to an agency’s interpretation.

Berger said statutes can be ambiguous for multiple reasons, such as when congressional leaders lack subject matter expertise in drafting laws or disagreeing on policy, so legislation becomes a work of compromise that is not always “crystal clear.”

Sometimes, Berger added, Congress knows future problems will arise but does not know what they will look like, so officials offer broad authority and allow agencies to respond as they see fit.

Berger added that Chevron-adjacent cases regularly come up at the Supreme Court, and even more so at lower federal courts, though a change to Chevron could “hamstring agencies.”

“The Supreme Court can’t be everywhere at once,” Berger said. “But it would be a strong signal that agencies are not to get the kind of deference that they’re used to in statutory interpretation.”

### **Doctrine benefits Republicans and Democrats**

Some view Chevron as a liberal decision that helps progressives, Berger said, as they tend to believe more in regulation nowadays as a solution to societal problems. However, both Republican and Democratic administrations have used Chevron to their benefit.

For example, Chevron takes its name from the 1984 decision in *Chevron v. Natural Resources Defense Council*, where the court ruled in favor of an EPA policy during the Reagan administration.

That EPA regulation interpreted a definition in the Clean Air Act so a group of industrial, pollution-emitting

devices in a "bubble" counted together as a "major stationary source" rather than individually. The court ruled the definition was reasonable.

Berger said enough of the Supreme Court's conservative justices have voiced displeasure with Chevron, and the court has signaled it is far more skeptical of the administrative state "really than any Supreme Court has been since the mid-1930s."

"I would be surprised if they kept it [Chevron] exactly the same," Berger said. "But exactly how aggressive they are in displacing it, I think it's hard to predict."

### States that joined legal brief

West Virginia led the legal brief in support of overturning or clarifying Chevron. The following states also joined: Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia and Wyoming.

Three dozen Republican members of Congress and the Republican-led House of Representatives also filed supporting briefs. South Dakota's Congressional delegation did not sign on to those supporting briefs.

*Zach Wendling is a senior at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, double-majoring in journalism and political science. He has interned for The Hill and The News Station in Washington, D.C., and has reported for the Nebraska News Service and The Daily Nebraskan.*

## Two deaths, fewer citations mark third official day of Sturgis bike rally

BY: JOHN HULT - AUGUST 7, 2023 1:59 PM

Two people died in motorcycle crashes on the third official day of the Sturgis rally.

The rally's first fatality took place before 10 a.m. Sunday just southeast of Sturgis on Interstate 90, when the rider of a 2021 Harley Davidson motorcycle braked unexpectedly, causing a van to rear-end the bike. Another motorcycle with a sidecar was unable to avoid the wreck and also crashed. A third motorcycle also struck the wreckage.

The 54-year old female passenger of the second motorcycle was pronounced dead on the scene, according to a news release from DPS spokesman Steve Long. Everyone else involved sustained serious non-life-threatening and minor injuries.

The second death on Sunday came a few hours later on Highway 14A southwest of Sturgis, when the 41-year-old male rider of a 2007 Harley Davidson missed a curve, skidding into then tumbling in the north ditch. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

The news release from Long also included a snapshot of arrest totals from 6 a.m. Saturday through 6 a.m. Monday.

Lower-level drug arrests and accidents are trending up in the rally's early days, while drunken driving and total criminal citations are trending down.

A news release noted 13 more "miscellaneous drug arrests" and 11 more accidents than at this point in the rally last year.

Total DUI arrests are down slightly, meanwhile, and felony drug arrests are down two from last year's pace. Total citations and warnings are also down from last year.

In addition to the two deaths recorded on Sunday, three other bikers died in western South Dakota on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday last week. The rally officially kicked off on Friday.

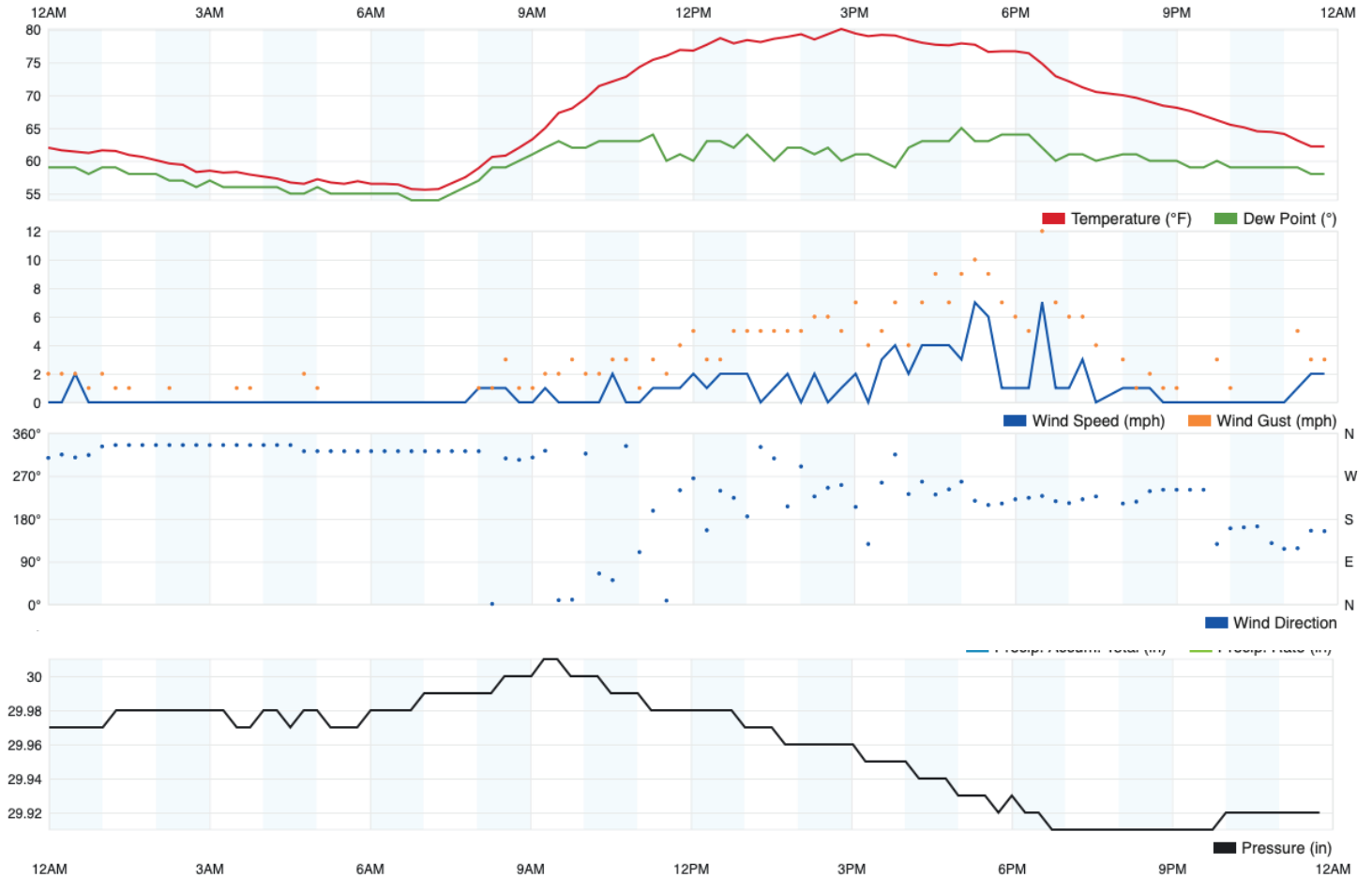
*John is the senior reporter for South Dakota Searchlight. He has more than 15 years experience covering criminal justice, the environment and public affairs in South Dakota, including more than a decade at the Sioux falls Argus Leader.*



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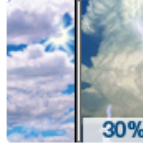


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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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Today	Tonight	Wednesday	Wednesday Night	Thursday	Thursday Night	Friday
						
Sunny	Mostly Clear	Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Partly Sunny then Chance T-storms	Chance T-storms	Sunny
High: 81 °F	Low: 57 °F	High: 81 °F	Low: 58 °F	High: 85 °F	Low: 60 °F	High: 83 °F

 **Couple Chances for Rain This Week** August 8, 2023 2:02 AM

**Today & Wednesday**  
➤ Chc showers west/south tonight, otherwise dry, Highs mid 70s & low to mid 80s

**Friday & Saturday**  
➤ Mostly dry, Highs in the 80s to near 90°

**Thursday & Thursday Night**  
➤ Chc thunderstorms, Highs in the 80s to around 90°, Lows around 60

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

National Weather Service  
Aberdeen, SD

Couple of rain chances coming up



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## Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 80 °F at 2:44 PM

Low Temp: 56 °F at 6:49 AM

Wind: 12 mph at 6:20 PM

Precip: : 0.00

Day length: 14 hours, 29 minutes

## Today's Info

Record High: 102 in 1949

Record Low: 42 in 1921

Average High: 83

Average Low: 58

Average Precip in Aug.: 0.63

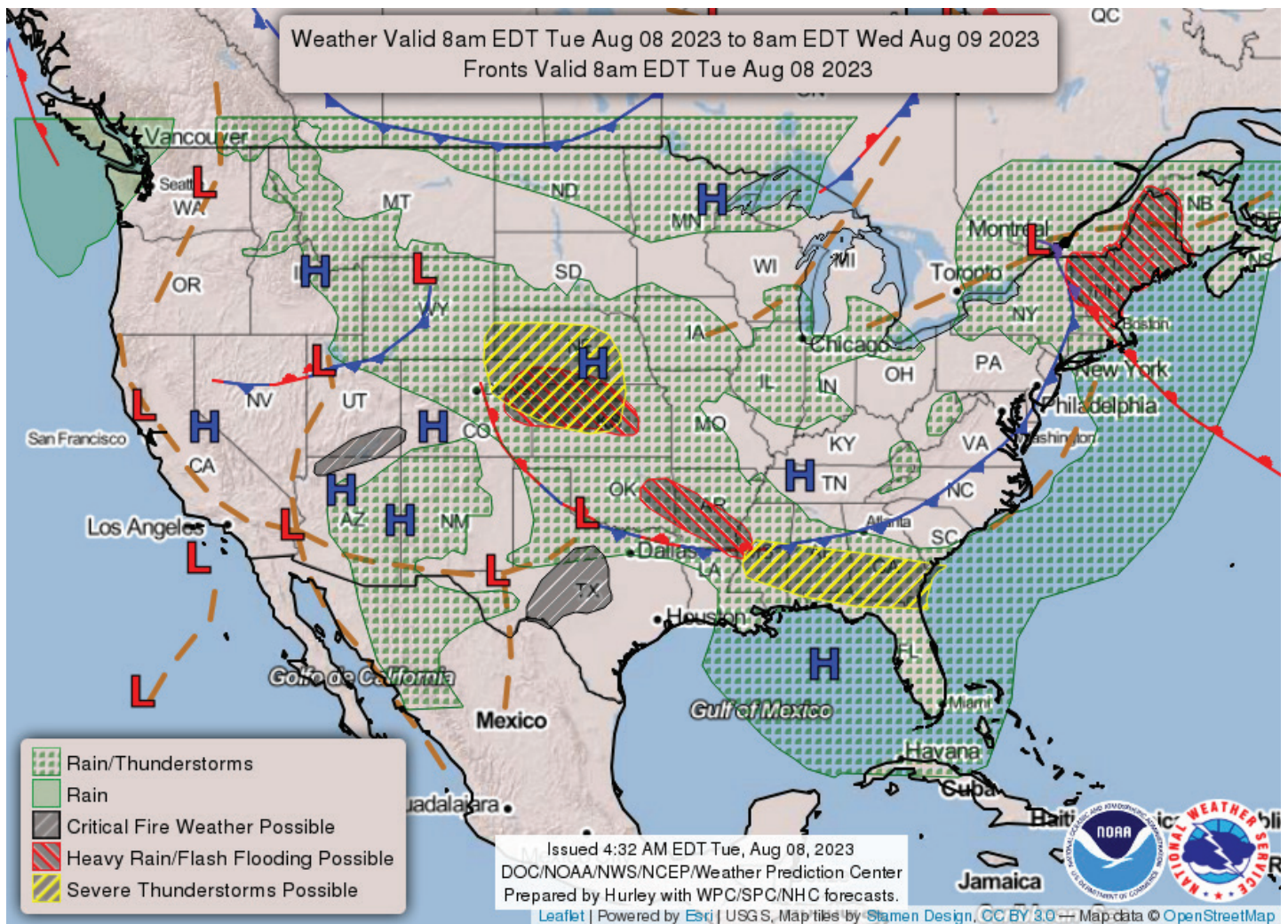
Precip to date in Aug.: 2.13

Average Precip to date: 14.49

Precip Year to Date: 14.80

Sunset Tonight: 8:52:50 PM

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:24:28 AM



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## Today in Weather History

August 8, 2010: Thunderstorms produced damaging winds and flash flooding from heavy rain along and near the Missouri River in southeast South Dakota during the late afternoon. Bon Homme and Yankton Counties were among the hardest hit areas. Avon in Bon Homme County, thunderstorm winds caused widespread damage to trees and power lines. The tree damage included large trees uprooted or blown down, and falling trees destroyed at least two houses. The damage to power lines caused a power outage over the town which lasted about 5 hours. The winds also destroyed a large shed and damaged a camper parked in the shed. In Tyndall, thunderstorm winds of 70 mph caused tree damage, including large trees blown down. The winds also blew down power lines, damaged several small sheds, and tore shingles off roofs. Thunderstorm winds also ripped through Yankton County. Near Napa, winds overturned several campers and caused widespread tree damage, including large trees blown down at a Lewis and Clark Lake campground.

1874: Swarms of Rocky Mountain locust invaded Denver, Colorado. Millions were seen cruising through the air. The insects were picked up by a thunderstorm gust front and carried into the city. The grasshoppers ravaged crops in surrounding counties for the last month. Click [HERE](#) for more information about The Year of the Locust, 1874.

1878 - The temperature at Denver, CO, soars to an all-time record high of 105 degrees. (The Weather Channel)

1881 - A cloudburst and flash flood occurred at Central Springs, CO, and Idaho Springs, CO. (David Ludlum)

1882 - An August snowstorm was reported by a ship on Lake Michigan. A thick cloud reportedly burst on the decks covering them with snow and slush six inches deep. Snow showers were observed at shore points that day. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1983 - The temperature at Big Horn Basin, WY, reached 115 degrees to establish a state record. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Thunderstorm rains in eastern Nebraska sent the Wahoo River and Ithica River above flood stage. Thunderstorm rains in western Iowa sent the Nishnabotna River over flood stage. Up to seven inches of rain deluged the Council Bluffs area Friday evening and Saturday morning. Thunderstorms produced 4.4 inches of rain in three hours Friday evening, along with golf ball size hail. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Thunderstorms developing along a slow moving cold front produced severe weather from central Kansas to southern Wisconsin late in the day. Thunderstorms in Iowa produced hail three inches in diameter at Vinton, and produced wind gusts to 75 mph at Donohue and near Mount Pleasant. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - A total of ninety-nine cities in the central and eastern U.S. reported record low temperatures for the date, including Alpena MI with a reading of 40 degrees. Mount Mitchell NC was the cold spot in the nation with a morning low of 35 degrees. Early evening thunderstorms around Las Vegas NV produced wind gusts to 116 mph. The high winds damaged or destroyed about eighty- two aircraft at Henderson Sky Harbor Airport and McCarran International Airport, causing fourteen million dollars damage. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

2007: A tornado bounces across Staten Island and Brooklyn, New York, ripping off roofs and damaging dozens of buildings. The EF-2 twister hop-scotched through Brooklyn's Bay Ridge and Sunset Park neighborhoods around 6:30 am.



Daily Devotionals

## Seeds of Hope

### STRESS AND DISTRESS

A man hurrying to meet a deadline was caught in a traffic jam. As his anger grew and his patience diminished, he noticed a bumper sticker that read, "Go ahead and honk. It's your ulcer." It added to his rage, and he tried to strangle his steering wheel by squeezing it as tightly as he could. But, nothing happened as his rage grew, and he became more upset.

Stress invades all of our lives and quickly causes distress. Whether it is a problem we are having difficulty solving, a goal we can't achieve, or a decision that eludes us, we all face events that seem to be more than we can bear or beyond our capabilities. What then?

Peter said, "Give all your cares and concerns, worries and woes to God for He cares about what happens to you!" When we refuse to give our stressors and struggles to God, we reveal our lack of trust in His power and strength. Often this shows a lack of humility on our part because we are saying to Him: "I really don't need You - I can do this all by myself!" It takes real humility to admit to God that we need His help and the help of others who care for us and are concerned about us. We need to recognize our limitations and His greatness and willingness to do for us what we can't do for ourselves.

Prayer: Father, give us an understanding of our limits and limitations, and our need for Your help. When we come to the end of our abilities, may we be humble enough to call on You for Yours! In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you. 1 Peter 5:7



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

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## 2023 Community Events

- 01/29/2023 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



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## 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 DRAW: 15 Hrs 29 Mins 57 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS:  
08.07.23

4 8 29 33 52 5

All Star Bonus: 5x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:  
**\$7,580,000**

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 14 Hrs 44 Mins 57 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS:  
08.07.23

4 8 12 37 38 11

TOP PRIZE:  
**\$7,000/week**

NEXT DRAW: 14 Hrs 59 Mins 57 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS:  
08.05.23

7 12 22 27 31

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:  
**\$20,000**

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 14 Hrs 59 Mins 57 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS:  
08.07.23

26 29 37 49 63 22

TOP PRIZE:  
**\$10,000,000**

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 15 Hrs 28 Mins 57 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS:  
08.07.23

6 13 20 35 54 22

Power Play: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:  
**\$170,000,000**

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 15 Hrs 28 Mins 57 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)



## News from the Associated Press

### **SD Processor Boosts Industrial Hemp in Dakotas**

Hemp for Feed, Food, Automotive and Building Materials Celebrated at SD Facility Grand Opening  
What: National industrial hemp experts gathered at Complete Hemp Processing to discuss the opportunities and challenges of the new crop.

Who: A.H. Meyer & Sons, a fourth-generation South Dakota family-owned honeybee business have expanded into growing and processing hemp.

Where and When: The August 3-5 event included crop field tours in Clark, SD as well as an Open House and Conference at the Winfred, SD facility.

For more Information: Contact Complete Hemp Processing at (605) 291-9083

kenmeyer@ahmeyerandsons.com

WINFRED, S.D., Aug. 7, 2023 /PRNewswire/ -- Industrial hemp experts discussed opportunities in food, feed, farming, automotive and building materials at the South Dakota grand opening of the state's first industrial hemp processing center near Madison, SD in Lake County.

After five years of planning and working with South Dakota lawmakers on industrial hemp policy, Complete Hemp Processing opened its doors to around 200 farming neighbors and visitors from across the United States on August 3-5.

A.H. Meyer & Sons, a fourth-generation South Dakota family-owned honey and beeswax processing business expanded into growing and processing hemp. Siblings Ken and JB Meyer and Melissa Shipley have set up the new facility in Winfred, SD.

"We want farmers in the area to know we are here," said Ken Meyer. "They can grow industrial hemp and have a place for it to be processed."

The company has contracted with local farmers to grow the 1,600 acres of harvested hemp it will take to keep the facility running three shifts after the upcoming harvest.

The company was also promoting John Peterson and his Wakonda, SD-based Dakota Hemp – another processing plant being installed about an hour away.

The processors see themselves as collaborators building the new industry, not competitors.

"We need at least another two processors in South Dakota to continue to keep up with farmers growing hemp," said Meyer.

After 80 years of US prohibition, industrial hemp, a non-intoxicating version of cannabis sativa, was re-legalized under the 2018 Farm Bill. Further rules for hemp are expected to be incorporated in the 2023-24 Farm Bill, including possibly lessening fees and restrictions for growing hemp for grain and fiber.

Used by humans for 10,000 years, the hemp plant produces some of the world's strongest natural fibers and its high-protein grain (sold as "hemp hearts") is highly nutritious. Reintroducing the industrial crop into US agriculture has been challenging because of a lack of genetics and a 2019-2020 boom-and-bust CBD market that sidetracked the industry and alienated some US farmers.

Animal Feed as pathway to commodity prices

Bringing hemp prices down to compete with other commodities is a challenge at a small scale, said Andrew Bish, of Giltner, NE-based Bish Enterprises and Monte Vista, CO-based Global Fiber Processing.

Hemp hurd, currently selling for 36 to 66 cents per pound needs to be at 20 to 30 cents and hemp seed grain is priced at 50 to 55 cents per pound and needs to be between 30 to 35 cents for market competition with existing products, Bish said.

"Hemp can only be neat and cool for so long. There's a timeline. The rubber has to meet the road," he said. "The challenges really are regulatory. We can't produce enough fiber and hurd to make that market really sustainable, it will have to exceed 2 to 3 million acres a year. If we don't have more volume, you can't go into the automotive industry."

Approval for animal feed is the secret to scale in the hemp industry, Bish said. He serves as president

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of the non-profit Hemp Feed Coalition.

The majority of corn and soy grown in the United States, as well as other agricultural co-products like brewers grains, go to the \$415 billion animal feed market. High-quality proteins and Omega 3 and 6 oils found in hemp seed have been deemed "Generally Recognized as Safe" for humans since the 1990s, but are yet not approved for animal feed by the FDA. Hemp seed has long been approved for animal feed in Europe and Canada. Some hemp genetic strains are dual-crop, harvestable for both grain and fiber.

The coalition has been working for three years on an egg-laying chicken application for hemp grain with the FDA. But costs to get a new ingredient approved for animal feed are high, about \$250,000 per species.

A handful of states have approved hemp for animal feed including Texas, Montana (for companion animals) and Oklahoma. University research is being conducted in New York, Kansas, Kentucky, Colorado, Oregon and elsewhere to help approve hemp seed for animal feed.

"If you want to drive down those prices, we have to create an avenue to a market and the animal feed market is there. You don't have to do much with the hemp seed to turn it into a product," Bish said. "That's really where the money is going to be in this industry when we can have those two streams of income."

Decorticator facility toured

Along with a tour of Horizon Hemp Seeds' local hemp fields in Clark, SD, Irish music and barbecue, the event featured the unveiling of the facility's Fiber Track 660 decorticator. The machine unbales hemp stalks and separates the outer long fiber bark (bast) from the inner woody core (hurd).

Final outputs from the process include long fiber and short technical fibers used in textiles and nonwoven applications, hurd used for building materials, animal bedding and mulch and micronized dust used in plastics.

"We talk about value-added agriculture, we talk about ways to grow ag, and we really talk about 'how do we keep our kids and our grandkids here?'" said State Sen. Casey Crabtree. "To grow hemp in South Dakota and process it here creates opportunities for the next generation."

Stacked along the walls were bales grown by another lawmaker/farmer, Sen. Joshua Klumb, who worked with Crabtree and the South Dakota Industrial Hemp Association to eliminate barriers to growing industrial hemp in the state.

Acreage small, but growing in South Dakota

Nationwide, the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service's count of harvested hemp acres dropped by 45% between 2021 and 2022 to 18,251 from more than 40,000, largely because of the crash of the CBD market. However South Dakota reported the highest hemp acreage harvested last year (2,550 acres) with about 3,000 acres planted this year, according to Derrick Schiefelbein of the South Dakota DANR.

Oil Seeds

Keynote speaker Roger Gussiaas, founder of Carrington, ND-based Healthy Oil Seeds said he needed at least 6,000 acres of grain hemp to be harvested to achieve his goal of 40% growth. He encouraged farmers to branch out from a rotation of corn and soy.

"I'd love to work with any of you that want to grow hemp for grain," he said. "We want to buy your hemp, pay you well and add respect to that too."

Building Materials

Hemp-lime building materials were used to build a sample wall in a "hempcrete" building workshop held by Texas-based hemp builder Ray Kaderli, president of the US Hemp Building Association.

"The overarching theme here is for building and construction to be the demand for what's being grown on a farm and processed in a facility like this," Kaderli said.

Hemp building materials are seen as plant-based alternatives that can help mitigate the large carbon footprint of the construction industry, which studies show contributes up to 38% of greenhouse gasses worldwide and takes up more than 25% of landfills.

The Project PA Home insulated with spray-applied hempcrete in New Castle, PA was developed as a way for farmers to see their product in use for the building industry, said Philip Berezniak of DON Services. The project was supported by local universities, housing agencies, the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture and private industry.



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"Collaboration has been the secret," Berezniak said.

Corbett Hefner of Monte Vista, CO-based Formation Ag and Global Fiber Processing presented a load-bearing hemp cinderblock under development from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. A tiny fraction of the cinder block market would require hundreds of thousands of acres of hemp to be planted, Hefner said.

Other hemp building materials made in the USA on the market include HempWood flooring and Hemp-Wool fiber batt insulation.

## Automotive Industry

The European automotive industry has used hemp fiber in car parts for decades, and that demand is still strong in Tennessee and the region where General Motors, Volkswagen, Nissan and Ford have developed large factories, said Frederick Cawthon, president of the Hemp Alliance of Tennessee.

The hemp in the car that's being manufactured right now at Mercedes Benz in Alabama "is being brought in from France," Cawthon said. "Because we're not doing a quarter of a million acres that they're doing in Europe to support the industry right now," he said. "There's no reason we should not be producing that here ... and we're just talking about one segment, automotive."

Hemp Alliance of Tennessee and a coalition of regional universities and organizations were awarded \$55 million in grant money in the USDA's \$3 billion Climate Smart Commodities program to help local farmers cover the costs of growing industrial hemp.

## Agricultural Research

Independent seed trials in 10 states last year sponsored by the Utah-based Global Hemp Association planted multiple certified and non-certified seed strains in different US geographical regions. The data came in handy, said GHA founder Mandi Kerr, as industrial hemp advocates worked with federal lawmakers to encourage a "fiber and grain exemption" to remove barriers and slash licensing and testing costs for farmers growing hemp for industrial uses.

In a self-described "pep talk" Morris Beegle, founder of We Are for Better Alternatives, acknowledged that the re-introduction of industrial hemp had a long way to go before it became a standard rotational crop in the United States, but said the plant provided an answer for challenging times in agriculture and society.

"This extraordinary plant, long misunderstood and underutilized, possesses the power to revolutionize our industries, protect our and nutritional benefits for humans and animals, and drive positive change," Beegle said.

About Complete Hemp Processing: A.H. Meyer & Sons, Inc. (doing business as Complete Hemp Processing) is a 4th generation family-owned business with over 90 years of experience in the Agricultural Industry. In the early 1930's A.H. Meyer immigrated from Switzerland and began learning the beekeeping trade. The company is proud to still be in the

beekeeping service industry -- serving beekeepers across the United States with a Beeswax Rendering Facility and a Honey Packing Facility. The company's heritage of ingenuity and willingness to develop new ideas is what led the company to build a decortication facility for processing industrial hemp fiber -- supporting the industrial hemp farmers in the South Dakota agricultural community.

For more information contact Ken Meyer at Complete Hemp Processing at (605) 291-9083

kenmeyer@ahmeyerandsons.com

View original content to download multimedia: <https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/sd-processor-boosts-industrial-hemp-in-dakotas-301894482.html>

SOURCE Complete Hemp Processing

## **A proposed constitutional change before Ohio voters could determine abortion rights in the state**

By JULIE CARR SMYTH and SAMANTHA HENDRICKSON Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Ohio concludes a hastily called and highly charged special election Tuesday, a contest that could determine the fate of abortion rights in the state and fuel political playbooks nationally heading into 2024.

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On the ballot is Issue 1, a proposal to raise the threshold for passing future changes to the state's constitution from a simple majority to 60%. But more passionately in the sights of the proposal's backers — including Republican officeholders — is a proposed constitutional amendment on the November ballot that calls for enshrining access to reproductive care in the state's foundational document.

The measure was clearly resonating with voters, who turned out in huge numbers during the early voting period, which ended Sunday. The number of advance ballots cast — a combination of mail and early in-person ballots — hit nearly 700,000, more than double the early vote during the state's two previous midterm primary elections in 2022 and 2018.

Ohio's August elections have historically focused on local issues and been plagued with chronically low turnout.

The Republican lawmakers who backed Issue 1 maintained that the measure was not about thwarting the fall abortion amendment, despite reinstating an August special election just like the ones they had only recently voted to eliminate.

Raising the bar for passing citizen-led constitutional amendments could make it difficult, if not impossible, for the fall proposal to succeed, based on polling figures. Voters in several states, even deeply conservative ones, have affirmed abortion rights since the U.S. Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade* last year, though usually with less than 60% of the vote.

AP VoteCast polling last year found that 59% of Ohio voters say abortion should generally be legal.

Out-of-state money has poured into both sides of the contest over the 60% threshold, even as both supporters and opponents say one of their main goals is to keep special interests from having more influence over state policy than average Ohioans.

The campaign in favor of Issue 1, Protect Our Constitution, has told voters that raising the threshold will keep deep-pocketed interest groups from pushing redistricting, gun control and minimum wage policies on Ohio. One Person One Vote, the opposition campaign, argues that raising the threshold for passing future amendments would prioritize the interests of Ohio's increasingly conservative GOP supermajority at the statehouse over those of everyday voters.

But abortion rights are at the epicenter of the fight, as Ohio and other states have been given control of their own abortion policies following the Supreme Court overturning *Roe v. Wade* last summer. Ohio's ban on most abortions had been placed on hold under *Roe* and then allowed to take effect briefly after the court overturned it. Since then, it has been frozen again while a challenge alleging it violates the state constitution plays out.

The abortion amendment would give individuals the right to make their own reproductive health care decisions, including on contraception, fertility treatment, abortion and miscarriage care, until a fetus is viable outside the womb.

At the same time, a broad bipartisan coalition opposes Issue 1 for other reasons. Former Ohio governors and attorneys general of both parties have come out against the constitutional change, calling it poor public policy. If passed it would reverse 111 years of direct democracy that has the potential to affect future citizen-led ballot efforts.

Protect Women Ohio, the campaign against the fall abortion question, has spent millions on the August election — airing ads suggesting the measure not only codifies abortion, but could pressure children into receiving gender-affirming care and undercut parental rights.

Several legal experts have said there is no language in the amendment supporting the ads' claims, but it follows a pattern through this election cycle of misinformation and fear-mongering being used to sway voters.

Issue 1 opponents have aired ads and mobilized a large coalition, including voting rights, labor, faith and community groups, as well as the state Democratic Party.

It was because of chronically low turnout that lawmakers voted just last year to scrap summer elections, prompting an unsuccessful lawsuit alleging this year's August special election violated the new law and calling further into question if it was brought back solely to thwart abortion rights for Ohioans.

## South Korea evacuates thousands of Scouts from coastal campsite as tropical storm nears

By KIM TONG-HYUNG Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Carrying huge backpacks and water bottles, tens of thousands of Scouts began arriving at university dormitories, government and corporate training centers, and hotels around Seoul and other inland cities on Tuesday afternoon as the South Korean government evacuated the World Scout Jamboree ahead of a tropical storm.

The South Korean government had scrambled to keep the 12-day gathering of Scouts going in the face of struggles with heat, hygiene and land use controversies, as thousands of British and American Scouts departed over the weekend.

It wasn't until Monday afternoon that officials announced the decision to abandon the coastal campsite in the southwestern town of Buan, after forecasters raised alarms that Tropical Storm Khanun was heading toward the Korean Peninsula.

The 37,000 Scouts, who hailed from 156 countries and were mostly teenagers, folded up their tents before boarding over 1,000 vehicles for the evacuation. Officials say 656 vehicles had left the campsite as of 4 p.m.

Most of the scouts will be accommodated in Seoul and the surrounding area, with others sent to other provinces in the country's north and central regions.

South Korean officials say the Jamboree will continue in the form of cultural events and activities, including a K-Pop concert in Seoul Friday.

Scouts from Britain, who had transferred to hotels in Seoul over the weekend because of the extreme heat at the Jamboree site, visited a war memorial and the former presidential palace.

Hundreds of scouts from Norway had already left the site on Monday, citing concerns about the complications of moving together with tens of thousands of other Scouts. Geir Olav Kaase, leader of the Norwegian contingent, said the Scouts arrived at their hotels in Incheon by 9 p.m. Monday.

The provincial government had hoped the event would draw attention and investment to a controversial swath of reclaimed land.

Concerns had been raised beforehand about having such large numbers of young people in a vast, treeless area lacking protection from heat as South Korea grappled with one of its hottest summers in years. After the Jamboree began, hundreds of participants were treated for heat-related ailments.

The government insisted the event was safe enough to continue and channeled resources to keep the event going, adding medical staff, air-conditioned buses, military shade structures, and hundreds of workers to maintain bathrooms and showers, which some Scouts had complained were filthy or unkempt.

Saemangeum is the result of a 19-year project to build a 33-kilometer (21 mile) seawall, which South Korea describes as the world's longest.

Since the wall was finished in 2010, the land the wall helped to reclaim from the sea remained largely barren. Once seen as a major development project for a region lacking an industrial base, it's now increasingly viewed as an ecological blunder that wiped out coastal wetlands and hurt fisheries production.

Local government officials insist that the project remains key to the region's economic future, despite its failure to deliver on early promises.

In a 2018 document describing its successful bid to host, the North Jeolla provincial government wrote that its main reason for hosting the event was to lure badly needed infrastructure investment to the area after initial plans didn't progress as hoped.

"North Jeolla Province needed a project that could spur the construction of an international airport and other SOC (social overhead capital) investments to further encourage the development of Saemangeum's inner areas," provincial officials wrote, using an acronym that refers to infrastructure projects.

Local officials continue to pursue plans for new highways, ports and an international airport. The airport



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was initially supposed to be built for the Jamboree, but construction hasn't started yet.

Organizers said the campsite will not be used for any other events after the Scouts leave.

Tropical Storm Khanun has meandered around Japan's southwestern islands for more than a week, dumping heavy rain, knocking out power and damaging homes.

Early Tuesday morning, the storm was centered 350 kilometers (217 miles) south of Kagoshima, a city on the southwestern tip of Japan's main southern island of Kyushu. Khanun produced winds of 108 kph (67 mph) with gusts to 144 kph (89 mph) and was slowly moving north, the Japan Meteorological Agency reported.

The West Japan Railway Co. said it would suspend some Shinkansen bullet train services on the country's main island of Honshu from Tuesday night through Wednesday morning. Flights and ferries in and out of Kagoshima in southern Kyushu also were suspended Tuesday, according to the prefecture.

South Korea's weather agency, which measured the storm at typhoon strength of 126 kph (78 mph), expected it to gain strength slightly before making landfall Thursday morning. It's expected to bring strong winds and heavy rains to South Korea from Wednesday to Friday.

In an emergency meeting to discuss the storm on Tuesday, South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol called for officials to be aggressive with disaster prevention measures, including evacuations of residents in risk areas, to prevent injuries or deaths. He also said the country will do its "utmost" to ensure the safety of the Scouts so that they can "return home with good memories."

South Korea's Ministry of the Interior and Safety instructed local officials to prepare to shut down coastal areas, hiking trails, river parks, underpass tunnels and other places vulnerable to flooding.

More than 270 police cars and four helicopters were deployed to escort the buses transporting the Scouts, said Interior and Safety Minister Lee Sang-min.

"This is the first time in more than 100 years of World Scout Jamborees that we have had to face such compounded challenges," said Ahmad Alhendawi, secretary general of the World Organization of the Scout Movement, who credited South Korea's government of "mobilizing all available resources" into the relocation effort.

"It's disappointing that these adverse weather conditions have forced us to shift our plans," he said.

## **US inflation has steadily cooled. Getting it down to the Fed's target rate will be the toughest mile**

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Over the past year, inflation in the United States has tumbled from 9% all the way to 3%, softening most of the price pressures that have gripped the nation for more than two years.

Now comes the hard part.

Squeezing out the last bit of excess inflation and reducing it to the Federal Reserve's 2% target rate is expected to be a much harder and slower grind.

A measure called "core" inflation, which excludes volatile food and energy prices, is even higher than overall inflation. It, too, seems likely to slow only gradually. The Fed pays particular attention to core prices as a signal of where inflation might be headed. In June, core prices were up 4.1% from a year earlier, according to the Fed's preferred gauge.

"We see some challenges in getting that all the way back to 2% quickly," said Michael Hanson, senior global economist at J.P. Morgan.

The stickiness of inflation could endanger the possibility that the Fed will achieve a rare "soft landing" — a scenario in which it manages to slow inflation down to its target level through higher interest rates without derailing the economy. If inflation were to remain elevated for too long, the Fed might feel compelled to further raise its key rate from its current 5.4%, a 22-year high. Most economists say they think the central bank is done hiking, but only if inflation continues to cool.

At the same time, the Fed has acknowledged that inflation pressures have eased significantly over the past year. Encouragingly, that slowdown has occurred even while the economy has continued to expand

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and employers have steadily hired at a healthy pace.

On Thursday, when the government will issue inflation data for July, economists expect it to show a slight pickup in year-over-year inflation to 3.3%. It would be the first such increase after 12 months of declines.

In part, any rebound in annual inflation for July will reflect higher gas prices. Unless they ease, gas prices could keep overall inflation above 3% through the end of the year. The national average pump price has jumped about 30 cents, to \$3.83, in the past month, partly because the cost of oil has risen.

One obstacle in bringing inflation down to the Fed's 2% target is that the price slowdown so far has reflected mainly relatively painless changes not likely to be repeated. Until last month, for example, gas prices had already plunged from a peak national average of \$5. And supply-chain snarls that had swollen the prices of cars, furniture, appliances and other physical goods have mostly unwound. The cost of long-lasting manufactured goods actually declined slightly in June from a year ago.

Another factor is that prices had soared in the first half of 2022 before slowing in the second half. So any increase in July would have the effect of boosting the year-over-year inflation rate.

What's now sending prices up is mostly the cost of services — everything from dental care and auto insurance to restaurant meals and summer concerts. Those costs mostly reflect healthy wage gains for workers, which are often passed on to customers in the form of higher prices.

"Energy prices are off, commodity prices off, core goods fell," said Kristin Forbes, an economist at MIT and a former member of the Bank of England's interest-rate setting committee. "That's the quick, easy stuff. What's left is this underlying wage-service inflation. And that's the part that's harder to slow down and will take longer."

Many employees, especially in the economy's service sector, could push for further raises in the coming months. With labor shortages still a problem for service industries, workers have leverage to demand higher pay. For most Americans, pay gains have trailed inflation over the past two years.

Higher pay is one key issue driving strikes among Hollywood writers and actors. It was also a focus of the Teamsters union in its negotiations with UPS, which led to large pay gains. The United Auto Workers is also pushing for robust raises in its talks with U.S. automakers.

Hanson, of J.P. Morgan, notes that measures of health insurance costs will start to rise this fall because of quirks in how the government measures them. And auto insurance and repair costs have been surging. A key reason is that vehicle prices soared after parts shortages developed when the pandemic erupted; costlier cars are more expensive to fix and insure. Auto insurance prices have soared nearly 17% in the past year.

As a result, economists generally expect core prices, under the Fed's preferred measure, to still rise at a 3.5% annual pace by year's end — far above its 2% target. The Fed's latest forecasts show that its policymakers expect core inflation to still be 2.6% at the end of 2024.

Still, there are some hopeful signs that hiring and wages are slowing, which would cool inflation over time. On Friday, the government reported that employers added 187,000 jobs in July, a solid total but still reflective of a slowdown: Job growth over the past three months has averaged only about half the pace of the same period in 2022. And wage growth slipped to 4.6% in the April-June quarter, the government said, the slowest pace in a year and a half.

"That trajectory tells us where things will go in the next 12 months," said Skanda Amarnath, executive director of Employ America, an advocacy group.

At his most recent news conference, Fed Chair Jerome Powell sounded some cautious but hopeful notes about the prospect of a soft landing.

"I wouldn't use the term optimism about this yet," he said. "I would say though that there's a pathway... We've seen so far the beginnings of disinflation without any real costs in the labor market. And that's a really good thing."

Yet a defining characteristic of the post-pandemic economy has been resilience, with consumers in particular showing a surprisingly persistent willingness to spend. Some economists worry that it will take a sharp rise in unemployment to reverse that trend and finally conquer inflation.

The Fed has already been coming under some criticism for sharply raising rates and potentially putting the job market at risk. Sen. Elizabeth Warren, a Massachusetts Democrat, wrote Powell before the Fed met last month and urged him to forgo another rate increase. The central bank, though, went ahead with its 11th rate hike since March 2022.

"The Fed's aggressive rate hikes disproportionately threaten Black workers and their families and risk fully reversing the extraordinary labor market gains we have seen," Warren, a frequent Fed critic, wrote.

With political pressure on the Fed rising, Powell and other officials may soon see the precipitous drop in inflation in the first half of this year as having been the easy part.

"The Fed has got lucky so far in what it's gotten," said Steven Blitz, chief U.S. economist at GlobalData TS Lombard. "Most of the decline in inflation was going to happen anyway. They really own the part that's to come."

## Mourners gather in Ireland to pay their respects to singer Sinead O'Connor

LONDON (AP) — Fans lined the streets of Sinead O'Connor's former hometown in Ireland on Tuesday to bid farewell to the elfin singer who left a big impression on her devoted followers and the music world.

Ruth O'Shea, who had come to the coastal town of Bray south of Dublin with her two daughters, became teary as she spoke of O'Connor's significance, saying she had "meant the world to her."

"She was so rebellious and empowering and inspiring, and my mother hated me listening to her music," O'Shea said. "She was just brilliant. Brilliant — I loved her, and then the kids, I suppose by osmosis because I played her when they were both growing up, they'd go, 'Oh God, mom's listening to Sinead O'Connor, she's obviously had a rough day.' She just gave me hope. And I just loved her, I loved her."

O'Connor, 56, was found unresponsive at her London home on July 26. Police have not shared a cause of death, though they said her death was not suspicious.

O'Connor's family invited the public to line the waterfront as her funeral procession passed by, following a private service.

"Sinead loved living in Bray and the people in it," her family said in a statement. "With this procession, her family would like to acknowledge the outpouring of love for her from the people of Wicklow (county) and beyond, since she left ... to go to another place."

Fans tucked handwritten notes and flowers behind a chain wrapped around a granite post at the entrance to her former home, thanking her for sharing her voice and her music. One sign listed causes that the singer had expressed support for, including welcoming refugees.

"Thanks for your short special life," one note read. "Gone too soon."

O'Connor, a multi-octave mezzo soprano of extraordinary emotional range who was recognizable by her shaved head, began her career singing on the streets of Dublin and soon rose to international fame.

She became a sensation in 1990 with her cover of Prince's ballad "Nothing Compares 2 U," which topped charts from Europe to Australia.

She was a critic of the Roman Catholic Church well before allegations of sexual abuse were widely reported. She made headlines in October 1992 when she tore up a photo of Pope John Paul II while appearing on NBC's "Saturday Night Live" and denounced the church as the enemy.

She was public about her struggles with mental illness. When her teenage son Shane died by suicide last year, O'Connor tweeted there was "no point living without him" and she was soon hospitalized. Her final tweet, sent July 17, read "For all mothers of Suicided children," and linked to a Tibetan compassion mantra.

Since her death, celebrities have paid tribute to her, and ordinary people have shared acts of kindness she performed.



## Powerful storm kills 2 people and leaves 1.1 million without power in eastern US

By ASHRAF KHALIL and JEFFREY COLLINS Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — At least two people died, thousands of U.S. flights were canceled or delayed, and more than 1.1 million homes and businesses lost power Monday as severe storms, including hail and lightning, moved through the eastern U.S.

The National Weather Service issued a tornado watch for the greater D.C. area, lasting until 9 p.m. A special Weather Service statement warned, "There is a significant threat for damaging and locally destructive hurricane-force winds, along with the potential for large hail and tornadoes, even strong tornadoes."

The storms' spread was massive, with tornado watches and warnings posted across 10 states from Tennessee to New York. The National Weather Service said more than 29.5 million people were under a tornado watch Monday afternoon.

In Anderson, South Carolina, a 15-year-old boy who arrived at his grandparent's house during the storm was struck and killed when a tree fell on him as he got out of a car, according to the Anderson County Office of the Coroner.

In Florence, Alabama, police said a 28-year-old man was struck by lightning and died, WAAY-TV reported.

By Monday night, more than 2,600 U.S. flights had been canceled and nearly 7,900 delayed, according to flight tracking service FlightAware. Many cancellations were at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, which was digging out from disruptions caused by Sunday storms.

The Federal Aviation Administration said it was rerouting planes around storms heading to the East Coast.

The White House pushed up by 90 minutes President Joe Biden's departure on a four-day trip that's taking him to Arizona, New Mexico and Utah. The White House also canceled a back-to-school cybersecurity event that was to feature first lady Jill Biden, who is a teacher, Education Secretary Miguel Cardona, Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas and school administrators, educators and education technology providers from around the country.

The Office of Personnel Management announced Monday that all non-emergency employees would have to depart before 3 p.m., when all federal offices closed.

"This does look to be one of the most impactful severe weather events across the Mid-Atlantic that we have had in some time," National Weather Service meteorologist Chris Strong said in a Facebook live briefing.

The storms prompted federal workers to be sent home early so they wouldn't be in their cars amid wind, hail and tornadoes.

Strong advised residents: "Have yourself in a strong shelter. Be at home or be at work."

The storms postponed a Major League Baseball game between the Phillies and the Washington Nationals in Philadelphia, and in Maryland, the National Weather Service issued a flash flood warning into Tuesday after 4 inches (10.2 centimeters) of rain fell in a short amount of time.

By early evening, more than 1.1 million customers were without power across Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Maryland, Delaware, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, West Virginia and Virginia — all states along the storm system's path, according to poweroutage.us. The Knoxville Utilities Board tweeted that the damage across its service area in Tennessee was "widespread and extensive" and will likely take several days to repair.

Trees and power lines were toppled in multiple states, falling into roads and some homes, news outlets reported.

A row of utility poles was toppled in Westminster, Maryland, WJLA-TV reported.

In Hockessin, Delaware, at least one residence had the roof ripped off, 6ABC-TV reported.

"We saw the clouds coming and could hear a rumbling in the distance," said Tom Tomovich, whose home was damaged. "We went into the house and we were on the first floor, and before we could blink an eye the winds just came right through the back of our house."

## **Biden will announce a historic Grand Canyon monument designation during his Arizona visit**

By CHRIS MEGERIAN and TERRY TANG Associated Press

TUSAYAN, Ariz. (AP) — President Joe Biden will use his visit to Arizona on Tuesday to formally announce a national monument designation for the greater Grand Canyon, making Native American tribes' and environmentalists' decades-long vision to preserve the land a reality.

Biden is expected to announce plans for a new national monument to preserve about 1,562 square miles (4,046 square kilometers) just outside Grand Canyon National Park, national climate adviser Ali Zaidi confirmed. It will mark the Democratic president's fifth monument designation.

Tribes in Arizona have been pushing Biden to use his authority under the Antiquities Act of 1906 to create a new national monument called Baaj Nwaavjo I'tah Kukveni. "Baaj Nwaavjo" means "where tribes roam," for the Havasupai people, while "I'tah Kukveni" translates to "our footprints," for the Hopi tribe.

Tribes and environmentalists for decades have been trying to safeguard the land north and south of Grand Canyon National Park, while Republican lawmakers and the mining industry tout the economic benefits and raise mining as a matter of national security.

The designation is a reminder of a "new era" in which collaboration and stewardship with tribes is valued, said U.S. Interior Secretary Deb Haaland, the first Native American cabinet secretary.

"It will help ensure that indigenous people can continue to use these areas for religious ceremonies, hunting and gathering of plants, medicines and other materials, including some found nowhere else on Earth," said Haaland, who recently visited the Havasupai Indian Reservation. "It will protect objects of historic and scientific importance for the benefit of tribes, the public and for future generations."

Biden arrived Monday evening at Grand Canyon National Park Airport, where he was greeted by Democratic congressmen Raúl Grijalva and Ruben Gallego. Biden embraced them when he got off Air Force One, and the trio chatted for a few minutes. Grijalva, who serves on the House Natural Resources Committee, has repeatedly introduced legislation to create the monument.

Biden will be speaking in an area that is between Pinyon Plain Mine, which is being developed and has not opened, and Red Butte, a site culturally significant to the Havasupai and Hopi tribes.

Representatives of various northern Arizona tribes have been invited to attend the president's remarks. Among them are Yavapai-Apache Nation Chairwoman Tanya Lewis, Colorado River Indian Tribes Chairwoman Amelia Flores, Navajo President Buu Nygren and Havasupai Tribal Councilwoman Dianna Sue White Dove Uqualla. Uqualla is part of a group of tribal dancers who will perform a blessing.

"It's really the uranium we don't want coming out of the ground because it's going to affect everything around us — the trees, the land, the animals, the people," Uqualla said. "It's not going to stop."

The Interior Department, reacting to concerns over the risk of contaminating water, enacted a 20-year moratorium on the filing of new mining claims around the national park in 2012.

Existing mining claims will not be affected by this designation, senior Biden administration officials countered. Furthermore, the monument site encompasses around 1.3% of the nation's known and understood uranium reserves. Officials say there are significant resources in other parts of the country that will remain accessible.

A U.S. Geological Survey in 2021 found most springs and wells in a vast region of northern Arizona known for its high-grade uranium ore meet federal drinking water standards despite decades of uranium mining.

In 2017, Democratic President Barack Obama backed off a full-on monument designation. The idea faced a hostile reception from Arizona's Republican governor and two senators. Then-Gov. Doug Ducey threatened legal action, saying Arizona already has enough national monuments.

Opponents of establishing a monument have argued it won't help combat a lingering drought and could prevent thinning of forests and stop hunters from keeping wildlife populations in check. Ranchers in Utah near the Arizona border say the monument designation would strip them of privately owned land.

The landscape of Arizona's political delegation has since changed considerably. Gov. Katie Hobbs, Democratic Sen. Mark Kelly and Sen. Kyrsten Sinema, an independent, are all on board. Hobbs, a Democrat,

has openly urged Biden to issue a designation. In a letter sent to Biden in May, Hobbs claimed that she heard from people across the political spectrum, including sporting groups and outdoor groups, in support of a monument.

Mining companies and the areas that would benefit from their business remain vehemently opposed. Buster Johnson, a Mohave County supervisor, said the monument proposal feels solely politically driven and there should have been another hearing on the matter. He doesn't see the point of not tapping into uranium and making the country less dependent on Russia.

"We need uranium for the security of our country," Johnson said. "We're out of the game."

No uranium mines are operating in Arizona, although the Pinyon Plain Mine just south of Grand Canyon National Park has been under development for years. Other claims are grandfathered in. The federal government has said nearly a dozen mines within the area that has been withdrawn from new mining claims could still potentially open, even with the monument designation, because their claims were established before 2012.

After Arizona, Biden will go on to Albuquerque on Wednesday, where he will talk about how fighting climate change has created new jobs. He'll then visit Salt Lake City on Thursday to mark the first anniversary of the PACT Act, which provides new benefits to veterans who were exposed to toxic substances. He'll also hold a reelection fundraiser in each city.

## **Russian missiles kill 7 in Ukrainian city and Kyiv accuses Moscow of targeting rescue workers**

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — The death toll from two Russian missile strikes that hit apartment blocks and other buildings in an eastern Ukrainian city climbed to seven, with 81 people injured, authorities said Tuesday, as officials accused the Kremlin's forces of targeting rescue workers.

Two Russian missiles slammed into the downtown area of Pokrovsk, in the eastern Donetsk region that is partially occupied by Russia, on Monday evening, officials said.

The dead were five civilians, one rescuer and one soldier, Donetsk Gov. Pavlo Kyrylenko said. The wounded were 39 civilians, including two children; 31 police officers; seven emergency workers; and four soldiers.

The Iskander missiles, which have an advanced guidance system that increases their accuracy, hit within 40 minutes of each other, according to Kyrylenko.

Russia has since the start of the war aimed artillery and missiles at the exact same spot it struck around 30 minutes earlier, often hitting emergency workers who had deployed at the scene. It's a tactic, called a "double tap" in military jargon, that the Russians also used in Syria's civil war.

"All of (the police) were there because they were needed, putting their efforts into rescuing people after the first strike," Ivan Vyhivskyy, chief of Ukraine's National Police, said Tuesday. "They knew that under the rubble were the injured — they needed to react, to dig, to retrieve, to save. And the enemy deliberately struck the second time."

Kyrylenko said that 12 multi-story buildings were damaged as well as a hotel, a pharmacy, two stores and two cafes.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy accused Moscow of trying to leave nothing but "broken and scorched stones" in eastern Ukraine.

Russian missiles, drones and artillery have repeatedly struck civilian areas in the war. The Kremlin says its forces target only military assets and claim other damage is caused by debris from Ukrainian air defense weapons. Neither side's claims can be independently verified.

Meanwhile, an overnight attack on the town of Kruhliakivka, in the northeastern Kharkiv region, killed two people and injured nine others, Gov. Oleh Syniehubov said.

Russia also dropped four guided bombs on a village near Kupiansk, in the Kharkiv region, killing two civilians, Ukraine's presidential office said.

Rescuers later came under fire and two of them were injured, it said.



## China's July exports tumble by double digits, adding to pressure to shore up flagging economy

By JOE McDONALD AP Business Writer

BEIJING (AP) — China's exports plunged by 14.5% in July compared with a year earlier, adding to pressure on the ruling Communist Party to reverse an economic slump.

Imports tumbled 12.4%, customs data showed Tuesday, in a blow to global exporters that look to China as one of the biggest markets for industrial materials, food and consumer goods.

Exports fell to \$281.8 billion as the decline accelerated from June's 12.4% fall. Imports sank to \$201.2 billion, widening from the previous month's 6.8% contraction.

The country's global trade surplus narrowed by 20.4% from a record high a year ago to \$80.6 billion.

Chinese leaders are trying to shore up business and consumer activity after a rebound following the end of virus controls in December fizzled out earlier than expected.

Economic growth sank to 0.8% in the three months ending in June compared with the previous quarter, down from the January-March period's 2.2%. That is the equivalent of 3.2% annual growth, which would be among China's weakest in three decades.

Demand for Chinese exports cooled after the Federal Reserve and central banks in Europe and Asia started raising interest rates last year to cool inflation that was at multi-decade highs.

The export contraction was the biggest since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, according to Capital Economics. It said the decline was due mostly to lower prices, while volumes of goods were above pre-pandemic levels.

"We expect exports to decline further over the coming months before bottoming out toward the end of the year," said Capital Economics in a report. "The near-term outlook for consumer spending in developed economies remains challenging."

The ruling party has promised measures to support entrepreneurs and to encourage home purchases and consumer spending but hasn't announced large-scale stimulus spending or tax cuts. Forecasters expect those steps to revive demand for imports but say that will be gradual.

"Domestic demand continues to deteriorate," said David Chao of Invesco in a report. "Policymakers have pledged further policy support, which could buoy household spending and lead to an improvement in import growth for the coming few months."

Exports to the United States fell 23% from a year earlier to \$42.3 billion while imports of American goods retreated 11.1% to \$12 billion. China's politically sensitive trade surplus with the United States narrowed by 27% to a still-robust \$30.3 billion.

China's imports from Russia, mostly oil and gas, narrowed by just under 0.1% from a year ago to \$9.2 billion. Chinese purchases of Russian energy have swelled, helping to offset revenue lost to Western sanctions imposed to punish the Kremlin for its invasion of Ukraine.

China, which is friendly with Moscow but says it is neutral in the war, can buy Russian oil and gas without triggering Western sanctions. The United States and French officials cite evidence China is delivering goods with possible military uses to Russia but haven't said whether that might trigger penalties against Chinese companies.

Exports to the 27-nation European Union slumped 39.5% from a year earlier to \$42.4 billion while imports of European goods were off 44.1% at \$23.3 billion. China's trade surplus with the EU contracted by 32.7% to \$19.1 billion.

For the first seven months of the year, Chinese exports were off 5% from the same period in 2022 at just over \$1.9 trillion. Imports were down 7.6% at \$1.4 trillion.

## European scientists make it official. July was the hottest month on record by far

By SETH BORENSTEIN AP Science Writer

Now that July's sizzling numbers are all in, the European climate monitoring organization made it official: July 2023 was Earth's hottest month on record by a wide margin.

July's global average temperature of 16.95 degrees Celsius (62.51 degrees Fahrenheit) was a third of a degree Celsius (six tenths of a degree Fahrenheit) higher than the previous record set in 2019, Copernicus Climate Change Service, a division of the European Union's space program, announced Tuesday. Normally global temperature records are broken by hundredths or a tenth of a degree, so this margin is unusual.

"These records have dire consequences for both people and the planet exposed to ever more frequent and intense extreme events," said Copernicus deputy director Samantha Burgess. There have been deadly heat waves in the Southwestern United States and Mexico, Europe and Asia. Scientific quick studies put the blame on human-caused climate change from the burning of coal, oil and natural gas.

Days in July have been hotter than previously recorded from July 2 on. It's been so extra warm that Copernicus and the World Meteorological Organization made the unusual early announcement that it was likely the hottest month days before it ended. Tuesday's calculations made it official.

The month was 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) warmer than pre-industrial times. In 2015, the nations of the world agreed to try to prevent long-term warming — not individual months or even years, but decades — that is 1.5 degrees warmer than pre-industrial times.

Last month was so hot, it was .7 degrees Celsius (1.3 degrees Fahrenheit) hotter than the average July from 1991 to 2020, Copernicus said. The world's oceans were half a degree Celsius (0.9 degrees Fahrenheit) warmer than the previous 30 years and the North Atlantic was 1.05 degrees Celsius (1.9 degrees Fahrenheit) hotter than average. Antarctica set record lows for sea ice, 15% below average for this time of year.

Copernicus' records go back to 1940. That temperature would be hotter than any month the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has recorded and their records go back to 1850. But scientists say it's actually the hottest in a far longer time period.

"It's a stunning record and makes it quite clearly the warmest month on Earth in ten thousand years," said Stefan Rahmstorf, a climate scientist at the Potsdam Institute for Climate Research in Germany. He wasn't part of the Copernicus team.

Rahmstorf cited studies that use tree rings and other proxies that show present times are the warmest since the beginning of the Holocene Epoch, about 10,000 years ago. And before the Holocene started there was an ice age, so it would be logical to even say this is the warmest record for 120,000 years, he said.

"We should not care about July because it's a record, but because it won't be a record for long," said Imperial College of London climate scientist Friederike Otto. "It's an indicator of how much we have changed the climate. We are living in a very different world, one that our societies are not adapted to live in very well."

## Bursting ice dam in Alaska highlights risks of glacial flooding around the globe

By BECKY BOHRER and MARK THIESSEN Associated Press

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP) — The gray, two-story home with white trim toppled and slid, crashing into the river below as rushing waters carried off a bobbing chunk of its roof. Next door, a condo building teetered on the edge of the bank, its foundation already having fallen away as erosion undercut it.

The destruction came over the weekend as a glacial dam burst in Alaska's capital, swelling the levels of the Mendenhall River to an unprecedented degree. The bursting of such snow-and-ice dams is a phenomenon called a jökulhlaup, and while it's relatively little-known in the U.S., researchers say such glacial floods could threaten about 15 million people around the world.

"We sat down there and were just watching it, and all of a sudden trees started to fall in," Amanda Arra,

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whose house continued hanging precariously over the river bank Monday, told the Juneau Empire. "And that's when I started to get concerned. Tree after tree after tree."

The flooding in Juneau came from a side basin of the awe-inspiring Mendenhall Glacier, which acts as a dam for the rain and melted snow that collect in the basin during the spring and summer. Eventually, the water gushed out from under the glacier and into Mendenhall Lake, from which it flowed down the Mendenhall River.

Water released from the basin has caused sporadic flooding since 2011. But typically, the water releases more slowly, over a number of days, said Eran Hood, a University of Alaska Southeast professor of environmental science.

Saturday's event was astonishing because the water gushed so quickly, raising the river's flows to about 1 1/2 times the highest previously recorded — so much that it washed away sensors that researchers had placed to study the glacial outburst phenomenon.

"The flows were just way beyond what anything in the river could withstand," Hood said.

Two homes were completely lost and a third partially so, Robert Barr, Juneau's deputy city manager, said Monday. There were no reports of injuries or fatalities.

Eight buildings, including those that fell into the water, have been condemned, but some might be able to be salvaged by substantial repairs or bank stabilization, he said. Others suffered lesser damage.

While climate change is melting the Mendenhall and other glaciers around the world, its relationship to such floods is complicated, scientists say.

The basin where the rain and meltwater collect was formerly covered by the Suicide Glacier, which used to flow into the Mendenhall Glacier, contributing ice to it. But the Suicide Glacier has retreated as the climate warms, leaving a lake in the basin dammed by the Mendenhall.

While that part can be linked to climate change, the unpredictable ways that those waters can burst through the ice dams and create floods downstream is not, they said.

"Climate change caused the phenomenon, but not the individual floods," Hood said.

The variability in the timing and volume of such floods makes it hard to prepare for them, said Celeste Labeledz, an environmental seismologist at the University of Calgary.

More than half of the people at risk from glacial outburst floods are in just four countries — India, Pakistan, Peru and China, according to a study published this year in Nature Communications.

One of the more devastating such events killed up to 6,000 people in Peru in 1941. A 2020 glacial lake outburst flood in British Columbia, Canada, caused a surge of water about 330 feet (100 meters) high, but no one was hurt.

Because the ground along the Mendenhall River is largely made up of loose glacial deposits, it's especially susceptible to erosion, Hood said. The damage could have been much worse if the flood coincided with heavy rains, he said.

Chris and Bob Winter built their house about 50 feet (15.2 meters) off the Mendenhall River in 1981. It flooded for the first time in 2014, an event that prompted them to raise their house 3 feet. It flooded again on Saturday with about 3 inches of standing water, enough to soak the carpets, subflooring and drywall.

"You just got to rip it all out," Chris Winter said. "I just don't know what's going to happen, but we can't live in our house right now."

She said her biggest concern is that they are both in their mid-70s and will probably have to move south at some point.

"We raised our family, and they're gone and nobody's in Juneau," she said. "And I don't know that we'll be able to sell it."



## 2 Russian missile strikes hit a city in eastern Ukraine, killing at least 5 people, officials say

By HANNA ARHIROVA and JIM HEINTZ Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Two Russian missile strikes hit the city center of the Ukrainian city of Pokrovsk in the eastern Donetsk region Monday evening, killing at least five people and wounding two dozen more, Ukrainian officials said.

The strikes, which targeted the Ukrainian portion of a region partially occupied by Russia, occurred within 40 minutes of each other, according to Donetsk Gov. Pavlo Kyrylenko. The attack damaged nine- and five-story buildings, residential houses, a hotel where foreign journalists used to stay, dining establishments, shops and administrative buildings, he said.

Ukraine's Interior Minister Ihor Klymenko said five people, including a local official of Ukraine's State Emergency Service, were killed and 31 more were wounded by the strikes. Nineteen policemen, five rescuers and one child were among the wounded, Klymenko said.

The Suspilne news site, however, cited head of the Pokrovsk City Military Administration Serhiy Dobriak as saying that seven people were killed and 27 were wounded. The conflicting reports could not be immediately reconciled.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in an online statement accused Russia of trying to leave nothing but "broken and scorched stones" in eastern Ukraine. His remarks accompanied footage of a damaged, five-story residential building with one floor partially destroyed.

The deadly attack came just a day after officials from around 40 countries gathered in Saudi Arabia to find a peaceful settlement for the war in Ukraine. Russia's Foreign Ministry on Monday denounced the two-day talks in Jeddah as not having "the slightest added value" because Moscow — unlike Kyiv — wasn't invited.

A statement by the Russian Foreign Ministry repeated previous assurances that Moscow is open to a diplomatic solution on its terms that would end the 17-month-old war, and that it is ready to respond to serious proposals. The Kremlin's demands include Kyiv recognizing its annexation of four Ukrainian regions, which Russian forces at this point only partially control, and Crimea, which Moscow seized in 2014.

But Mykhailo Podolyak, an adviser to Zelenskyy, ruled out Moscow's previous demands that would give Russia time to dig in deeper in the parts of Ukraine it has occupied. He said on X, formerly known as Twitter, that Russian forces must fully withdraw from the occupied areas and there would be no compromise by Kyiv on that.

U.N. political chief Rosemary DiCarlo participated in the Jeddah meeting by video, and U.N. deputy spokesman Farhan Haq said the United Nations welcomes all diplomatic initiatives and wants "to keep pushing forward towards any form of a peace that is based on the U.N. Charter, including on the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine."

Meanwhile, the Ukrainian Security Service announced Monday it had detained an alleged Russian informant who gathered intelligence about Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's trip to the southern Mykolaiv region last month.

It claimed the woman "was collecting data for an airstrike during Zelenskyy's visit."

The woman attempted to establish Zelenskyy's route, times and visits in the region. She was detained when she tried to pass the information to the Russians, the statement said, without providing evidence.

Zelenskyy has been a prime target for the Kremlin since Russia's full-scale invasion in February 2022, when he refused to leave Kyiv as Moscow's forces approached.

He has been one of Ukraine's unexpected trump cards in the war, playing a key role in rallying public morale, including a nightly video address, and becoming a recognizable face across the world as he presses allies and others to help Ukraine.

Also on Monday, Russian shelling struck a nine-story residential building in the city of Kherson, killing one person and wounding four others, according to regional Gov. Oleksandr Prokudin. He said Kherson had endured a "tough night" as the Russians "covered the central part of the city with fire."

A 57-year-old woman was killed and four people were wounded in the Russian shelling of a village in the

northeastern Kharkiv province, Gov. Oleh Syniehubov said.

## A judge called an FBI operative a 'villain.' Ruling comes too late for 2 convicted in terror sting

By MICHAEL HILL Associated Press

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — In a scathing ruling last month, a judge said the FBI had used a “villain” of an informant to manipulate a group of Muslim men into going along with a fictitious plot to destroy military planes and synagogues in New York City’s suburbs. She ordered three released from prison, saying “the real lead conspirator was the United States.”

Now, a man convicted in another sting carried out by the same FBI operative says he hopes the ruling will prompt U.S. prosecutors to review the fairness of similar counterterrorism operations carried out in the wake of the 9/11 terror attacks.

“Hopefully this will be the first step for the Justice Department to review all those cases of conspiracy and entrapment,” said Yassin Aref, a former imam who spent 14 years in federal custody in a case involving a business loan made to an Albany pizza shop owner and a made-up story about a Stinger missile.

Aref and the shop owner were arrested in 2004 in one of several FBI stings carried out by a paid civilian operative named Shahed Hussain, whose work has been criticized for years by civil liberties groups.

Hussain entered the U.S. with his wife and two sons in the 1990s after he was accused of murder — falsely, he once testified— in his native Pakistan. He settled in the Albany area and was working as a translator when he got caught helping someone get their driver’s license illegally. In exchange for leniency, he started working for the FBI.

American law enforcement at the time was on a massive hunt for terrorist “sleeper cells” planning attacks on U.S. soil. Hussain worked with the FBI to approach people suspected of being sympathetic to Islamic militant groups and see if they could be talked into an illegal act.

One target was a group of four men from Newburgh, New York, who were arrested in 2009, convicted of plotting deadly antisemitic attacks and sentenced to 25 years in prison.

Courts have upheld their convictions, finding they knowingly became eager participants in a plot to plant explosives at a Bronx synagogue. But when three of the four applied for compassionate release, U.S. District Judge Colleen McMahon granted the request, saying the FBI had sent a master manipulator “to troll among the poorest and weakest of men for ‘terrorists’ who might prove susceptible to an offer of much-needed cash in exchange for committing a faux crime.”

In a ruling July 28, McMahon called them “hapless, easily manipulated and penurious petty criminals” who had no connection to any terrorist group and had “never remotely contemplated” violent extremism before they met Hussain.

The ruling resonated with defendants and attorneys in a case Hussain helped build in 2004 against two men involved with an Albany mosque, Aref and former pizza shop owner Mohammed Hossain.

Posing as a successful businessman, Hussain befriended Hossain, eventually offering to lend him \$50,000 for his struggling business. But he also told the pizza parlor owner the money would come from the sale of a shoulder-fired missile, imported from China, to a group that wanted to kill a Pakistani diplomat in New York City.

Hossain later said he thought the talk about an attack was a joke and that the missile he was shown was a plumbing supply. For religious reasons, he asked his imam, Aref, to witness the business transaction, much like a notary.

Aref and Hossain, now free after serving long prison terms for money laundering concealing material support for an attack with a weapon of mass destruction and giving material support to a terrorist organization, say they were innocent.

“I was a businessman taking care of my children,” Hossain told The Associated Press.

Defense lawyers said they were manipulated to take part in a deal they didn’t understand.

“The government wanted to make me something big, to make me look like danger,” said Aref, speaking

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to the AP from his native Iraq, where he now lives. When the FBI was not able to find real terrorists, he said, "then they created one."

The FBI declined to comment. Emails seeking comment were sent to the Department of Justice and the regional U.S. attorney's office.

At the time of the arrests, then-deputy attorney general James Comey said "we are working very, very hard to infiltrate the enemy." After their convictions, then-U.S. Attorney Glenn Suddaby said the pair were "prone to support terrorism."

But the Albany case became a prime example used by critics who believed the government overreacted in its response to 9/11. In their view, Hussain was not informing on potential terrorists, but pushing people toward illegal behavior.

Judge McMahon described Hussain as "most unsavory," saying he encouraged his naïve targets with rhetoric and a large cash reward.

McMahon's government-led conspiracy criticism is "exactly the argument we were making," said Terence Kindlon, the attorney who represented Aref. Kindlon called it a "contrived case" tried amid rage over 9/11.

Hussain is believed to have returned to Pakistan, but he maintained a limo company in upstate New York that was operated by a son. In 2018, one of the company's vehicles wrecked while carrying a group on a birthday outing, killing 20. Hussain's son was convicted of manslaughter and sentenced to at least five years in prison after prosecutors presented evidence that the company had evaded safety regulations.

The FBI said in a prepared statement that it did not take any action that allowed the limousine company to operate, "nor did we take any action to interfere with the prosecution of the case."

Contact information for Hussain in Pakistan could not be found.

Aref, 53, was deported after his prison sentence but says he bears no ill will. His appeals attorney, Kathy Manley, said legal appeals are exhausted.

Hossain, 68, was released in 2020 and lives in Albany. He no longer has the pizza place, but maintains a handful of rental properties. He said the experience has left him with lingering fears.

"If I look back and I'm thinking about what has happened," he said, "it just makes me numb."

## Two rivals claim to be in charge in Niger. One is detained and has been publicly silent for days

By CARA ANNA and CARLEY PETESCH Associated Press

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — Nearly two weeks have passed since the coup in Niger, and the two men making competing claims to power have gone quiet in recent days. One is the ousted president, who said last week he's being held hostage and has been publicly silent since then. The other is the military junta leader who asserts he acted out of concern for the country's security and has encouraged Nigeriens to defend it from any foreign intervention.

Here's a look at President Mohamed Bazoum and Gen. Abdourahmane Tchiani as Niger's junta defies a threat by the West African regional bloc to step in and use force if necessary:

### PRESIDENT MOHAMED BAZOUM

As neighbors in West Africa experienced multiple coups and kicked out the military forces of former colonizer France in recent months, Niger's president came to be seen as a crucial partner of the West in the fight against groups linked to al-Qaida and the Islamic State organization in what has become the global epicenter of extremism, the vast Sahel region south of the Sahara Desert.

The 63-year-old Bazoum took office in early 2021 in Niger's first peaceful, democratic transfer of power since the country's independence in 1960. The preferred successor of outgoing President Mahamadou Issoufou, Bazoum had been a teacher by training and a longtime Cabinet minister who comes from Niger's small ethnic Arab minority.

Welcomed for his security cooperation with the United States, France and others as alliances with neighboring countries deteriorated, Bazoum was one of three "close partners" among African leaders to meet with U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken at last year's U.S.-Africa summit.



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Closer to home, Bazoum received praise for taking on issues such as child marriage in the country with the world's highest birth rate.

But some in his security forces reportedly felt threatened as Bazoum made changes in leadership in recent months. Under house arrest as the coup unfolded, he managed to stay in touch with the outside world by phone, at least for more than a week.

"I write this as a hostage," Bazoum managed to dictate for an opinion piece published in The Washington Post on Thursday.

In that piece, he pushed back against the coup leaders' assertions that they had acted in response to growing insecurity in Niger, saying that "to the south, where we face the terrorist group Boko Haram, there have been almost no attacks for two years." He added, "The country's north and west have likewise suffered no major attacks since I took office."

The Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project supported that in a statement after the coup in Niger, saying "levels of lethal violence are in steady decline, and significantly reduced in comparison to Mali and Burkina Faso."

Bazoum urged the United States and other international partners to intervene. Those partners are concerned. China issued a statement on Thursday calling Bazoum a friend of China and saying that "we hope that his personal safety is ensured."

U.S. officials said they were still able to communicate with Bazoum and that their most recent contact was Monday morning.

GEN. ABDOURAHMANE TCHIANI

The former head of the Niger's presidential guard, Tchiani has accused Bazoum of not doing enough to keep the country safe from Islamic extremists and declared himself the leader of the mutinous soldiers calling themselves the National Council for the Safeguarding of the Country,

Now he and his allies have reached out to the Russian mercenary group Wagner for help, according to Wassim Nasr, a journalist and senior research fellow at the Soufan Center, signaling a major shift in international partners.

The junta also is aligning with neighboring Mali and Burkina Faso, which also are led by juntas and are sending a delegation to Niger after saying any foreign intervention there would be seen as a "declaration of war" against them, too.

Tchiani, who is in his early 60s, is an army veteran and ally of former president Issoufou. He reportedly helped block a coup attempt in March 2021 shortly before Bazoum was sworn in as president.

The general is from the Tillaberi region northwest of the capital and bordering Mali. It is part of the area inside Niger that has suffered greatly from Islamic extremist attacks. After the coup, he asserted that he had stepped in to avoid watching Niger's "inevitable demise."

Like a number of high-ranking military officials in African nations, he received some U.S. training. In the past, he served as military attache at the Niger embassy in Germany. He also took part in a past mission with the regional bloc, ECOWAS, which now threatens a military intervention if Bazoum isn't reinstated.

Bazoum had been preparing to fire Tchiani as head of the presidential guard, the International Crisis Group said in a report on Monday, citing people close to the president.

The general hasn't spoken publicly since a televised speech on Wednesday in which he called on Nigerians to be ready to defend against "all those who want to inflict unspeakable suffering" on the country. He also promised to create the conditions for a peaceful transition to elections.

Bazoum, however, in his last public statement asserted that he's still in charge.

## Once Colombia's most-wanted drug lord, the kingpin known as Otoniel faces sentencing in US

By JENNIFER PELTZ Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — For years, the man known as Otoniel was seen as one of the world's most dangerous drug lords, the elusive boss of a cartel and paramilitary group with a blood-drenched grip on much of northern Colombia.

On Tuesday, Dairo Antonio Úsuga faces sentencing to at least 20 years in a U.S. prison. He pleaded guilty in January to high-level drug trafficking charges, admitting he oversaw the smuggling of tons of U.S.-bound cocaine and acknowledging "there was a lot of violence with the guerillas and the criminal gangs."

The U.S. agreed not to seek a life sentence in order to get him extradited from Colombia. Instead, federal prosecutors in Brooklyn are seeking a 45-year term for Usuga, who is 51 and has a number of medical problems.

His "desire for control and revenge simply cannot be overstated, nor can the degree of harm he inflicted," prosecutors wrote in a recent court filing. They described his decadelong leadership of Colombia's notorious Gulf Clan group as a "reign of terror."

Usuga's lawyers have sought to cast him as a product of his homeland's woes — a man born into remote rural poverty, surrounded by guerilla warfare, recruited into it at age 16 and forged by decades of seeing friends, fellow soldiers and loved ones killed. Over the years, he allied with both left- and right-wing combatants in the country's long-running internal conflict.

Understanding his crimes "requires a closer evaluation of the history of violence and trauma that shaped Colombia as a nation and Mr. Usuga-David as a human being," social worker Melissa Lang wrote, using a fuller version of his last name, in a July report that his attorneys filed in court.

Usuga was Colombia's most-wanted kingpin before his arrest in 2021, and he had been under indictment in the U.S. since 2009.

The Gulf Clan, also known as the Gaitanist Self Defense Forces of Colombia, holds sway in an area rich with smuggling routes for drugs, weapons and migrants. Boasting military-grade weapons and thousands of members, the group has fought rival gangs, paramilitary groups and Colombian authorities. It financed its rule by imposing "taxes" on cocaine produced, stored or transported through its territory. (As part of his plea deal, he agreed to forfeit \$216 million.)

"In military work, homicides were committed," Úsuga said, through a court interpreter, when pleading guilty.

Usuga ordered killings of perceived enemies — one of whom was tortured, buried alive and beheaded — and terrorized the public at large, prosecutors say. They say the kingpin ordered up a dayslong, stay-home-or-die "strike" after his brother was killed in a police raid, and he offered bounties for the lives of police and soldiers.

"The damage that this man named Otoniel has caused to our family is unfathomable," relatives of slain police officer Milton Eliecer Flores Arcila wrote to the court. The widow of Officer John Gelber Rojas Colmenares, killed in 2017, said Usuga "took away the chance I had of growing old with the love of my life."

"All I am asking for is justice for my daughter, for myself, for John's family, for his friends and in honor of my husband, that his death not go unpunished," she wrote. All the relatives' names were redacted in court filings.

Despite manhunts and U.S. and Colombian reward offers topping \$5 million in total, Úsuga long evaded capture, partly by rotating through a network of rural safe houses.

After his arrest, Gulf Clan members attempted a cyanide poisoning of a potential witness against him and tried to kill the witness' lawyer, according to prosecutors.

## Even frozen Antarctica is being walloped by climate extremes, scientists find

By MELINA WALLING Associated Press

Even in Antarctica — one of the most remote and desolate places on Earth — scientists say they are finding shattered temperature records and an increase in the size and number of wacky weather events.

The southernmost continent is not isolated from the extreme weather associated with human-caused climate change, according to a new paper in *Frontiers in Environmental Science* that tries to make a coherent picture of a place that has been a climate change oddball. Its western end and especially its peninsula have seen dramatic ice sheet melt that threatens massive sea level rises over the next few centuries, while the eastern side has at times gained ice. One western glacier is melting so fast that scientists have nicknamed it the Doomsday Glacier and there's an international effort trying to figure out what's happening to it. And Antarctic sea ice veered from record high to shocking amounts far lower than ever seen.

What follows if the trend continues, a likely result if humans fail to curb emissions, will be a cascade of consequences from disappearing coastlines to increased global warming hastened by dramatic losses of a major source of sunlight-reflecting ice. That's something scientists have long been watching and are even more concerned about now.

"A changing Antarctica is bad news for our planet," said Martin Siegert, a glaciologist, professor of geosciences at University of Exeter and lead author on the paper.

Siegert said he and his team wanted to understand more about the causes of extreme events, and whether more of those events would happen as a result of burning fossil fuels, so the team synthesized research on a wide range of topics including atmosphere and weather patterns, sea ice, land ice and ice shelves and marine and land biology. The study found climate change extremes are getting worse in a place that once seemed slightly shielded from global warming's wildness. The continent "is not a static giant frozen in time," they said, but instead feels climate change's wrath and extremes "sporadically and unpredictably."

Anna Hogg, a co-author on the paper and professor at the University of Leeds, said that their work illustrates complex and connected changes between the ice, ocean and air. "Once you've made a big change, it can then be really hard to sort of turn that around," she said.

And it's a change with links to human activity. "This is indeed a strong signature of climate change," Helen Fricker, a professor of geophysics with the Scripps Institution of Oceanography at the University of California, San Diego who was not involved with the study, said in an email. "It's not good."

Siegert and Hogg's team looked at several factors including heat waves, loss of sea ice, collapse of ice shelves and impacts on biodiversity. Siegert described last year's heat wave in Antarctica, which brought research station thermometers to a whopping 38 degrees Celsius (70 degrees Fahrenheit) above normal temperatures. Hogg said that sea ice is at an all time low, a major cause for concern: In the Antarctic, the July average for sea ice extent fell below previous low set in 2022. And ice shelves, which can be the size of several large buildings, are also under threat as they melt and eventually collapse.

Sea ice and ice shelves work like a cork in a bottle, holding back glaciers that would otherwise rush into the ocean. When they disappear, glaciers flow many times faster. What's more, the disappearance of large swaths of ice accelerates warming like swapping a white T-shirt for a black one on a hot summer day — replace ice with land or water, and suddenly the earth is absorbing the sun's rays rather than reflecting them.

The topic of extremes "is with us more frequently and will be with us even more frequently in the future," said Peter Schlosser, vice president and vice provost of the Global Futures Laboratory at Arizona State University not involved with the research. Systems like Antarctica are extreme by nature, but that doesn't mean they're not vulnerable, he added — they're highly susceptible to small changes.

"I'm not an alarmist, but what we see is alarming," said Waleed Abdalati, an environmental researcher at the University of Colorado not involved with the study. He said that extreme events are one thing, but when superimposed on a trend — a trend of global warming that heightens those extreme events — that's



a cause for concern. "We can handle events," he added, "but we can't handle a steady increase of those destructive events."

That's something climate scientists say we'll need to prepare for, by continuing to reduce greenhouse gas emissions while introducing adaptation measures for sea level rise and extreme weather around the world.

"We've been saying this for 30 years," said Ted Scambos, an ice scientist at the University of Colorado whose paper from 2000 was cited in Siegert and Hogg's article. "I'm not surprised, I'm disappointed. I wish we were taking action faster."

## Georgia kids would need parental permission to join social media if Senate Republicans get their way

By JEFF AMY Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — Georgia could join other states requiring children to have their parents' explicit permission to create social media accounts.

Two top Republicans in the Georgia state Senate — Lt. Gov. Burt Jones and Sen. Jason Anavitate of Dallas — said in a Monday news conference they will seek to pass such a law in 2024. The proposal could also restrict accounts on other online services.

"It's important that we empower parents," Anavitate said. "A lot of parents don't know how to restrict content."

Anavitate said Georgia's rules would be modeled on a law Louisiana passed this year. That measure, which takes effect in 2024, says social media services must verify an account holder's age and can't let someone younger than 18 join without parental consent.

Arkansas, Texas and Utah also passed laws this year requiring parental consent for children to use social media. Some in Congress are also proposing parental consent for minors.

California last year enacted a law requiring online services to do more to protect children's privacy and safety.

Anavitate said he has briefly been in contact with Meta Platforms, the company that owns Facebook and Instagram. He and Jones said they would discuss plans with the social media giant.

The move comes after U.S. Surgeon General Vivek Murthy warned in May that social media hasn't been proven to be safe for young people. Murthy called on tech companies, parents and caregivers to take "immediate action to protect kids now." He asked tech companies to share data and increase transparency and for policymakers to regulate social media for safety the way they do car seats and baby formula.

To comply with federal regulation, social media companies already ban kids under 13 from signing up to their platforms, but children have been shown to easily evade the bans.

Up to 95% of teens aged 13 to 17 report using a social media platform, with more than a third saying they use them "almost constantly," the Pew Research Center found.

Anavitate also said he wants to strengthen Georgia's law on cyberbullying. Existing law requires any student found to have engaged in bullying three times be sent to an alternative school. Anavitate said he wants to revive his 2022 proposal requiring schools to warn students and parents that some acts of bullying could lead to criminal stalking penalties.

Meta announced last year that it was taking steps to verify someone's age, including letting people upload their ID or record a video selfie; and partnering with an age verification company. Meta says it provides "age-appropriate experiences" for teens 13-17 on Instagram, including preventing unwanted contact from unknown adults.

Anavitate this year sponsored a new law that bans TikTok, Telegram, WeChat and other applications from being installed or used on state-owned computers.

Free speech advocates warn the measures could lead sites to wall off information and even make it harder for adults to reach it.

The new laws could also lead platforms to require people to use government ID to verify age.

That's already happening on some pornography sites targeted by laws in Louisiana, Utah and Virginia.

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The Free Speech Coalition sued Utah and Louisiana on behalf of adult entertainers, erotica authors, sex educators and casual porn viewers, saying those laws were unconstitutional because they discriminate against certain types of speech. A Utah judge dismissed the suit there last week, saying the challengers couldn't sue because of how the law is designed.

## **Brazil has 1.7 million Indigenous people, near double the count from prior census, government says**

By DAVID BILLER and FABIANO MAISONNAVE Associated Press

BELEM, Brazil (AP) — The diminutive woman with a white feather headdress stood on the stage of the majestic colonial theater in Brazil's Amazon on Monday and addressed the crowd.

The woman, Minister of Indigenous People Sonia Guajajara, declared the day "the milestone of Indigenous participation," then cited the national statistics institute's freshly released census data that revealed the full scope of the nation's Indigenous population: 1,693,535 people.

While just 0.8% of Brazil's population, the figure marks an 89% jump from the nation's prior census, in 2010, due to greater willingness of people to recognize their roots and better survey methods, including access to previously unreachable villages, she said. The latter largely explains why their numbers within Indigenous territories grew 20%, to 622,066.

"This a historic moment with that picture that the statistics agency has made," she said on the eve of the two-day Amazon Summit in Belem. "It's a historic moment of the restart of social, popular participation, and of the dialogue of our civil society with government."

The setting seemed symbolic: a theater displaying European décor -- French chandeliers, Italian marble busts and a massive painting across the ceiling depicting Greek deities. It was built during the rubber boom, with fortunes amassed with raw material from deep in the Amazon, and little care for what its extraction implied for local communities. There is no trace of them in the so-called Theater of Peace -- except on Monday many of their descendants could be found from the floor seats up to the balcony boxes, wearing tribal vestments.

The gathering formed part of the events leading up to the Amazon Summit, during which presidents and representatives from the eight countries home to the world's largest tropical rainforests will converge in this city to discuss how best to face up to its myriad challenges.

In the so-called Amazon Dialogues during the days before the summit, there was surprisingly diverse participation of delegations from regions of the Amazon. Some boat trips to reach Belem took as long as five days.

In some 400 events, representatives of Indigenous groups, riverine communities, fishermen and Afro-descendants discussed topics such as harassment from carbon credit companies, ending deforestation and illegal mining. One of their main demands was to cancel new oil projects in the region.

Though the large majority came from Brazil, which holds two-thirds of the Amazon, there were also representatives from all eight countries. Most events took place in the same convention center where the presidents will meet starting on Tuesday.

There, Indigenous Warao people from Venezuela sold crafts made of straw next to Kayapo Indigenous people painting their bodies with traditional designs. Riverine community stalls sold native honey, Brazil nuts and cassava flour. There were also protests against oil exploration near the mouth of the Amazon River.

"You can clearly see that Brazil has a significant social problem to solve, a social problem left by the previous government," said Colombian Indigenous leader Anitalia Pijachi Kuyuedo, referring to the administration of far-right former president Jair Bolsonaro. "There are many grievances, much pain, much anger, and you can feel the emotions in the words of those you speak with."

In an interview with The Associated Press on Monday, Guajajara, the minister, agreed that their anxiety has been palpable, but finally they have a forum.

"There were six years of the complete silencing of civil society, and spaces for social participation were extinguished. People became very afraid to express themselves," Guajajara said. "This is the first moment

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when society is once again engaging in dialogue with the federal government.”

Brazil’s government had expected 10,000 attendees, but instead, 24,000 had arrived, according to Guajajara.

Over 1,200 of them were camping in a private recreational park on Belem’s outskirts, with tents arranged in rows beside the stone trail gently winding through the jungle past waterslides coursing into man-made pools. Early Monday, they were rising to eat breakfast and prepare for the events of the day ahead.

Some smiled at the sight of Chief Raoni Metuktire, a leader from the Amazon known throughout the world for defending the environment, sitting on a flimsy chair beside the trail and smoking a pipe. He shook hands and exchanged pleasantries with well-wishers.

Diolina Krikati had traveled with about 40 others from her native Maranhao state. In an interview, she stressed the importance of the Amazon for generating the rains that irrigates crops in fields far from the forest – ensuring a livelihood not just for Indigenous people, but many non-Indigenous Brazilians, too.

“(The summit) is like taking a moment to hear Indigenous people, and we need to be listened to. It’s a moment we need to speak about our needs, and our difficulties,” said Krikati, 31.

Another attendee was Naldinho Kumaruara, 29, a spiritual leader wearing a crown of blue macaw feathers and a necklace made of snake bones, and who held a giant maraca in his hand.

Kumaruara had come from his Indigenous territory – threatened by illegal logging and fishing, and predatory tourism – to Belem, the state capital. Already he had spoken with members of Para state’s secretariats of education and health who visited the park, as well also officials of President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva’s general secretariat at the convention center.

He sees this gathering, bringing together all nations that are stakeholders in the Amazon, as a step forward, and also one that has better likelihood to advance Indigenous causes than others, like the Free Land Camp in the capital Brasilia.

“Now it is different, because we can speak for ourselves; It isn’t a white person coming and speaking for us. We are always involved, but we didn’t have a position to speak,” he said. “Today, we can speak.”

Later that afternoon, Naldinho was among those in the crowd of Belem’s colonial theater. From an upper balcony, he watched as a group of adolescent Indigenous people stomped and sang on the stage.

The interim president of Brazil’s statistics institute Cimar Azeredo announced the revised population statistic to the crowd, saying it had “helped to rediscover Brazil.”

Their larger numbers means a greater share of the government resources can be earmarked for investment in Indigenous people’s health and education, Planning and Budget Minister Simone Tebet said at the event.

And Guajajara stressed that it also means more money for security – a need she said was underscored just hours earlier, when three people of the Tembe ethnicity were shot.

And in coming months, she told the crowd, the federal government will expel invaders from 32 Indigenous territories; her announcement was met by cheers and applause from the audience, plus the shaking of maracas.

“Never again a Brazil without us!”

## **An Ohio election that revolves around abortion rights is fueled by national groups and money**

By ALI SWENSON and SAMANTHA HENDRICKSON Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Supporters of a ballot question in Ohio that would make it harder to change the state constitution and could determine the fate of abortion rights there say a yes vote will provide a “defense against out-of-state meddling.”

Opponents argue that a yes vote would give “special interests the winning advantage.”

But an analysis of campaign finance data shows that as both sides lambast out-of-state interests, they are largely funded by such donors. Even outside of the official coalitions for and against the measure, money, celebrity and influence from afar are fueling much of the last-ditch campaigning and misinforma-



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tion about the measure, known as Issue 1, on Tuesday's ballot.

The coalition supporting the measure, called Protect Our Constitution, is funded almost entirely by billionaire Illinois business owner Richard Uihlein, who contributed \$4 million of the campaign's \$4.8 million, according to campaign filings. The campaign's largest Ohio-based donation, \$150,000, came from Save Ohio Jobs, a group tied to the Ohio Chamber of Commerce.

The effort against Issue 1, called One Person One Vote, also raised a majority — nearly 85% — of its \$14.8 million in contributions from outside Ohio, its filings show. Several of the largest donations came from so-called dark money groups that aren't legally obligated to disclose their donors, including the progressive Sixteen Thirty Fund, based in Washington, and the social justice group the Tides Foundation, based in California. The Sixteen Thirty Fund counts among its funders Hansjörg Wyss, a Swiss billionaire who has given the group more than \$200 million since 2016.

It's increasingly common across the nation to see a large influx of out-of-state money in state-level races, said Travis Ridout, co-director of the Wesleyan Media Project, which tracks advertising spending. Polarized issues that resonate nationally, like abortion in the Ohio election, can be a major motivator.

If Issue 1 passes, it would raise the threshold for passing future changes to the Ohio Constitution from a simple majority to 60%, making it significantly harder for a November ballot issue enshrining abortion rights in the state to get enough votes.

Some of the messaging from the outside groups has been deceptive. A fake newspaper distributed throughout the state has spread misleading claims about the opposition while conspiracy theorists hosted a get-out-the-vote event.

Allison Schroeder, a boutique owner in the northwest Ohio town of Ottawa, checked her mail last month to find what looked like an eight-page local newspaper, titled "The Buckeye Reporter."

"You know, Buckeye Reporter, you think of Ohio, you think of Buckeyes," Schroeder said. "And the fact that they had articles and quotes from local politicians, they kind of seemed to give it a little more credence and more importance."

But a closer look revealed the mailer was far from unbiased journalism. The articles emphasized prominent elected Republicans who supported Issue 1, while stereotyping the opposition as communists, Black Lives Matter supporters and LGBTQ+ allies.

The mailer also attributed a fake mission statement to the grassroots advocacy organization Red Wine and Blue, which opposes Issue 1, falsely claiming it aims to require the teaching of "critical race theory" and ban schools from teaching kids "that there is such a thing as biological sex."

Katie Paris, founder of Red Wine and Blue, told The Associated Press such a mission statement doesn't exist, nor do these claims reflect the group's values.

An internet search for The Buckeye Reporter reveals it is one of more than a thousand pseudo-local news outlets created by an Illinois-based network known as Metric Media or Pipeline Media, which churns out content promoting Republican candidates and ballot issues across the country.

A Chicago return address on the mailer matches the business address of Pipeline Media, according to state filing documents.

Priyanjana Bengani, a senior research fellow at the Tow Center for Digital Journalism at Columbia University who has researched the network, said Metric Media has printed similar mailers ahead of other recent high-stakes elections, such as a referendum on abortion last year in Kansas.

It's unclear whether the official campaign supporting Issue 1 worked with Metric Media directly to publish favorable articles about it — neither group responded to inquiries from the AP. However, Protect Our Constitution has purchased several Facebook ads that link to online articles from The Buckeye Reporter and another Metric Media brand, The Cleveland Reporter, suggesting it is at the very least using the network's content for its benefit.

"You're worried about outside influence, but you're influencing it from the outside," Schroeder said. "It seems a little hypocritical at best."

Other controversial figures from outside Ohio also are weighing in and declaring their support for Issue 1. A national religious organization, Catholics for Catholics, gathered a lineup of anti-abortion influencers

and conspiracy theorists from across the U.S. to urge a “yes” vote during a Sunday “rosary rally” in a Cincinnati suburb.

The rally’s advertised speakers included actor Jim Caviezel and former national security adviser Michael Flynn, both of whom have amassed large followings even as they’ve touted baseless conspiracy theories.

Caviezel, who recently starred in the film “Sound of Freedom,” has denied alleged ties to QAnon but has repeated several of its talking points on conservative talk shows hosted by Steve Bannon and Charlie Kirk, and spoke at a QAnon-organized convention in 2021.

Flynn, a central figure in former President Donald Trump’s attempts to overturn the last presidential election, has since focused on the Christian nationalist movement, with the goal of making Christianity the center of American life and government institutions.

Neither Caviezel nor Flynn responded to requests for comment.

Also speaking was Abby Johnson, a former Planned Parenthood employee turned anti-abortion activist who said in an interview with the AP that vague language in November’s abortion amendment leaves loopholes for minors to receive abortions and gender-affirming surgery without parents’ knowledge.

Several independent legal experts disagree with this claim. The fall abortion amendment would protect access to various forms of reproductive health care but makes no mention of gender surgery, and the attorneys who wrote it say Ohio’s parental consent law would not be affected.

As for abortion “up to birth” — a phrase medical experts say is misleading — the November abortion initiative wouldn’t stop the state’s lawmakers from restricting abortions after the fetus is viable outside the womb, around 23 or 24 weeks.

Ahead of Tuesday’s election, Ohio groups doing their final campaign pushes are still being helped by out-of-state forces, data shows.

Protect Women Ohio, the campaign against the fall abortion issue, spent \$5.5 million on ad buys to support Issue 1 in the last week before the election, according to data from AdImpact, which tracks spending on campaign ads. The cash brings the “yes” side’s total ad spend closer to the “no” side, which still has outspent supporters of Issue 1 by about \$3 million in summer campaigning, AdImpact data shows.

Protect Women Ohio is an in-state group that has raised some \$1.5 million from Ohio donors. But according to campaign filings, the group’s out-of-state contributions dwarf its in-state contributions by some \$6.5 million.

## **Firefighting helicopters collide over Southern California desert, killing 3 in crash**

CABAZON, Calif. (AP) — Two firefighting helicopters collided while responding to a blaze in Southern California, sending one to the ground in a crash that killed all three people on board.

The crash late Sunday afternoon in the desert about 85 miles (137 kilometers) east of Los Angeles involved a huge Sikorsky S-64E and a smaller Bell 407. The larger Sikorsky landed safely.

“Unfortunately, the second helicopter crashed and tragically all three members perished,” Cal Fire Southern Region Chief David Fulcher said at a news conference early Monday.

The Bell helicopter was being used for observation and coordination, Fulcher said. The Sikorsky can drop water or retardant on fires. Fulcher said he did not know whether it was loaded at the time of the crash.

The victims were Cal Fire Assistant Chief Josh Bischof, 46, Cal Fire Capt. Tim Rodriguez, 44, and contract pilot Tony Sousa, 55, the firefighting agency said.

Bischof had 24 years of fire service and Rodriguez had 19 years, fire officials said.

Bischof, who lived in Menifee, recently was promoted to assistant chief and worked at the Southern Region Operations Center at March Air Reserve Base, retired Cal Fire Battalion Chief Don Camp said.

“The big things that stood out about Josh were his integrity and his character,” Camp told the Riverside Press-Enterprise.

“He was unswerving,” Camp said. “Not only did he seek out opportunities to make himself better ... but

also to make all of us better as a team, whether it was a (new) firefighter working for him at the base or a fellow chief officer.”

President Joe Biden was briefed about the crash and “he and the first lady are praying for the families of the firefighters who lost their lives while bravely battling this fire,” White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre told reporters Monday as Biden flew to Arizona.

Flags at the State Capitol were ordered flown at half-staff in their honor.

“This terrible tragedy is a reminder of the dangers our courageous firefighters face daily while working to keep our communities safe. We owe them our deepest respect and gratitude and will always honor their bravery and sacrifices,” Gov. Gavin Newsom said in a statement.

Cal Fire and Riverside County Fire Department resources had been dispatched to a structure fire near the intersection of Broadway Street and South Ronda Avenue in the community of Cabazon shortly after 6 p.m. That blaze spread into surrounding vegetation and a full wildland fire dispatch was initiated, which included six airplanes and helicopters.

“That’s not an uncommon dispatch for a wildland fire, to send those resources,” Fulcher said.

Cal Fire said in a social media post at the time that the fire was burning “in light flashy fuels with a moderate rate of spread” and had spread over approximately 3 acres (1.2 hectares).

While battling the blaze, the two helicopters collided just before 7 p.m. 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 sky was clear and there were breezy winds typical of the Cabazon area, said Capt. Richard Cordova, a Cal Fire public information officer for the region.

“They were good conditions to fly in,” he said.

The Bell crew’s mission was to tell helicopters where to make drops, working in conjunction with the crew of an airplane flying above all others, Cordova said. That aircrew’s role is called “air attack.”

“They kind of work together,” Cordova said. “The air attack is the main boss up in the sky and the helicopter coordinator assists with the air attack and helps out with the helicopters.”

The pilot of the crashed helicopter was flying under contract with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. The Sikorsky and its two-person crew were also under contract.

Cal Fire operates its own fleet of about 60 aircraft but also contracts with commercial companies for additional helicopters and airplanes that are on standby at bases statewide.

Cordova said in-flight collisions are rare but have occurred during previous California wildfires. He recalled two instances over several decades but did not immediately have details.

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

## **Biden heads west for a policy victory lap, drawing an implicit contrast with Trump**

By CHRIS MEGERIAN Associated Press

TUSAYAN, Ariz. (AP) — President Joe Biden set out Monday on a Western swing aimed at showcasing his work on conservation, clean energy and veterans’ benefits as he seeks to draw an implicit contrast between his administration’s accomplishments and former President Donald Trump’s legal troubles.

Biden’s first stop will be the Grand Canyon area, where on Tuesday he will announce a new national monument to preserve about 1,562 square miles (4,046 square kilometers) around Grand Canyon National Park and limit uranium mining, White House officials said.

Climate adviser Ali Zaidi told reporters accompanying Biden aboard Air Force One on Monday that the president will designate his fifth national monument during the stop in northern Arizona. He said a dozen tribes had “stepped up” and asked for the monument.

After Arizona, Biden will travel to New Mexico and Utah.

The Democratic president will be in Albuquerque on Wednesday and will talk about how fighting climate change has created new jobs, and he’ll visit Salt Lake City on Thursday to mark the first anniversary of



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the PACT Act, which provides new benefits to veterans who were exposed to toxic substances. He'll also hold a reelection fundraiser in each city.

Biden will use the three-night trip to "continue to highlight the progress he's making across his agenda," particularly when it comes to climate change, said Natalie Quillian, the White House deputy chief of staff.

"You can expect to us to highlight more groundbreaking projects, more ribbon cuttings and opportunities to show the American people how these investments and jobs are reaching their communities and their neighborhoods," she said.

The White House has been pushing to demonstrate the impact of Biden's policies, hoping to harness lower inflation numbers and strong employment figures to alleviate the president's sagging poll numbers.

Biden is fresh from more than a week of vacation at his homes in Rehoboth Beach and Wilmington, Delaware. On the day that Trump faced a new indictment for attempting to overturn his 2020 election loss, Biden went to a fish restaurant with first lady Jill Biden, saw the movie "Oppenheimer" and took a moonlit walk across the beach.

He hasn't commented about the charges against his Republican predecessor, maintaining the same strategic silence he did regarding the previous two indictments.

The criminal charges appear to have done little to dampen Republican voters' enthusiasm for Trump, who remains the leading candidate for his party's 2024 nomination for president. The situation has also provided a challenge and an opportunity for Biden.

The legal dramas have drawn attention away from the White House, making it harder for Biden to generate public attention for his accomplishments. But it's also created a suitable backdrop for Biden's promise to break with years of Trump-fueled chaos and focus on governing.

Democratic pollster Anna Greenberg said Trump's legal trouble "sucks the oxygen out of everything else" and limits the chances for Republicans to discuss other issues, such as the economy.

"People like to say nothing matters anymore," she said. "But the conversation that you're not having actually does matter."

Biden's trip will traverse a varied political landscape.

Arizona is a key battleground state that Biden won narrowly in 2020, making him the first Democrat since Bill Clinton in 1996 to carry the state. Arizona also is one of a handful of genuinely competitive states heading into next year's election, making it critical to Biden's reelection bid.

New Mexico is considered safe for Democrats. Utah is a Republican stronghold whose governor, Spencer Cox, has stressed finding common ground across party lines.

It's also a critical region for conversations about climate change. Phoenix saw 31 days in a row of temperatures at least 110 degrees Fahrenheit (43.4 degrees Celsius).

Biden's senior adviser on clean energy, John Podesta, said the president would talk about "the investments that we need to ensure that we are building a resilient society going forward in the face of what is becoming a challenging situation."

Trump has denied any wrongdoing and has claimed without evidence that he's being targeted by Democrats trying to keep him from reclaiming the White House.

## William Friedkin, Oscar-winning director of 'The Exorcist' and 'The French Connection,' dead at 87

By LINDSEY BAHR AP Film Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — William Friedkin, the generation-defining director who brought a visceral realism to 1970s hits "The French Connection" and "The Exorcist" and was quickly anointed one of Hollywood's top directors when he was only in his 30s, has died. He was 87.

Friedkin, who won the best director Oscar for "The French Connection," died Monday in Los Angeles, Marcia Franklin, his executive assistant for 24 years, told The Associated Press on behalf of his family and wife, former studio head Sherry Lansing. His son Cedric Friedkin told the AP he died after a long illness.

"He was role model to me and to (my brother) Jack," Cedric Friedkin said. "He was a massive inspiration."

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He cemented his legacy early with "The French Connection," which was based on a true story and deals with the efforts of maverick New York City police Detective James "Popeye" Doyle to track down Frenchman Alain Charnier, mastermind of a large drug pipeline funneling heroin into the United States.

It contains one of the most thrilling chase scenes ever filmed: Doyle, played by Gene Hackman in an Oscar-winning performance, barely misses making the arrest on a subway train, then stops a passing car to follow the train as it emerges on an elevated railway. He races underneath, dodging cars, trucks and pedestrians, including a woman pushing a baby buggy, before catching up to one of Rey's henchmen and shooting him.

The movie, which was made for only \$2 million, became a box office hit when it was released in 1971. It won Academy Awards for best picture, screenplay and film editing, and led critics to hail Friedkin, then just 32, as a leading member of a new generation of filmmakers.

He followed with an even bigger blockbuster, "The Exorcist," released in 1973 and based on William Peter Blatty's bestselling novel about a 12-year-old girl possessed by the devil.

The harrowing scenes of the girl's possession and a splendid cast, including Linda Blair as the girl, Ellen Burstyn as her mother and Max Von Sydow and Jason Miller as the priests who try to exorcise the devil, helped make the film a box-office sensation. It was so scary for its era that many viewers fled the theater before it was over and some reported being unable to sleep for days afterward.

"The Exorcist" received 10 Oscar nominations, including one for Friedkin as director, and won two, for Blatty's script and for sound.

With that second success, Friedkin would go on to direct movies and TV shows well into the 21st century. But he would never again come close to matching the acclaim he'd received for those early works, and gained a reputation for clashing with both actors and studio executives.

"I embody arrogance, insecurity and ambition that spur me on as they hold me back," he wrote in his 2012 memoir.

His 1977 film "Sorcerer," a gangster thriller starring Roy Scheider was widely panned at the time and also failed with audiences. It's since been reappraised by critics and has become a cult classic that Friedkin himself would continue to defend. In 2017, he told IndieWire that it's the only of his films that he could still watch.

"The zeitgeist had changed by the time it came out," he said in 2013. "It came out at the time of 'Star Wars,' and that more than any film that I can recall really captured the zeitgeist."

"Star Wars" was a film he was approached to produce, but he said later that he couldn't see its potential. He also turned down "M(asterisk)A(asterisk)S(asterisk)H" for the same reason.

Francis Ford Coppola praised Friedkin in a statement, saying his films "are alive with his genius.

"Pick any of them out of a hat and you'll be dazzled. His lovable, irascible personality was cover for a beautiful, brilliant, deep-feeling giant of a man. It's very hard to grasp that I will never enjoy his company again, but his work will at least stand in for him," Coppola's statement said.

A few years after "Sorcerer" brought him back to Earth, he followed with another disappointment: "Cruising," starring Al Pacino as a cop who goes undercover to solve the grisly murders of several gay men. It was protested by gay rights activists for how it depicted homosexuality.

Other film credits included "To Live and Die in L.A.," "Rules of Engagement" and a TV remake of the classic play and Sidney Lumet movie "12 Angry Men." Friedkin also directed episodes for such TV shows as "The Twilight Zone," "Rebel Highway" and "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation."

Born in Chicago on Aug. 29, 1939, he began working in local TV productions as a teenager. By age 16, he was directing live shows.

"My main influence was dramatic radio when I was a kid," he said in a 2001 interview. "I remember listening to it in the dark, Everything was left to the imagination. It was just sound. I think of the sounds first and then the images."

He moved from live shows to documentaries, making "The People Versus Paul Crump," in 1962. It was the story of a prison inmate who rehabilitates himself on Death Row after being sentenced for the murder

of a guard during a botched robbery at a Chicago food plant.

Producer David Wolper was so impressed with it that he brought Friedkin to Hollywood to direct network TV shows.

After working on such shows as "The Bold Ones," "The Alfred Hitchcock Hour" and the documentary "The Thin Blue Line," Friedkin landed his first film, 1967's "Good Times." It was a lighthearted musical romp headlined by the pop duo Sonny and Cher in what would be their only movie appearance together.

He followed that with "The Night They Raided Minsky's," about backstage life at a burlesque theater, and "The Birthday Party," from a Harold Pinter play. He then gained critical attention with 1970's "Boys in the Band," a landmark film about gay men.

Author and film historian Mark Harris wrote on social media that, "Not many directors can say they made a gay movie that people argue about decades later. William Friedkin made two: Boys in the Band (I like it, many don't) and Cruising (I don't like it, many do). That's not nothing."

Friedkin had three brief marriages in the 1970s and '80s, to French actress Jeanne Moreau; British actress Lesley-Anne Down, with whom he had a son; and longtime Los Angeles TV news anchor Kelly Lange. In 1991, he married Paramount studio executive Lansing.

In recent years, Friedkin wrote a candid memoir, "The Friedkin Connection," and directed several well-received movies adapted from Tracy Letts plays including "Bug" and "Killer Joe," starring Matthew McConaughey as a hit man. And he wasn't done working yet: A new film, "The Caine Mutiny Court-Martial," starring Kiefer Sutherland, is set to premiere at the Venice Film Festival next month.

He was also always willing to reflect on his rollercoaster career, especially as "The French Connection" celebrated its 50th anniversary. Thinking back to the iconic car chase sequence, Friedkin told NBC News in 2021 that it was legitimately life-threatening and that he'd never do it again.

"Everything you see, we actually did. There was no CGI then. There was no way to fake it. I just put the pedal to the metal, and we went 90 miles an hour in city traffic," he said. "The fact that nobody got hurt is a miracle. The fact that I didn't get killed, the fact that some of the crew members didn't get hurt or killed. That's a chance I would never take again. I was young and I didn't give a damn. I just went out and did it. I set out to make a great chase scene and I didn't care about the consequences, and now I do."

Friedkin's influence on film and popular culture continues to live on too. A new "Exorcist" film is even coming out this year, from director David Gordon Green, with Burstyn reprising her role.

Friedkin said he never got too worried about what the critics were saying over the years.

"I really don't live by what the critics write, although I was aware of the critical reception of all of my films," he reflected in 2013. "My own take on the films I've made is based on what I achieved versus what I set out to do."

## Trump lawyers urge judge to narrow proposed rules on evidence sharing in election subversion case

By ALANNA DURKIN RICHER Associated Press

Donald Trump's legal team told a judge overseeing the election conspiracy case against him on Monday that prosecutors' proposed protective order aimed at preventing the public disclosure of evidence is too broad and would restrict his First Amendment rights.

Lawyers for the early 2024 Republican presidential primary front-runner said in court papers that the judge should impose a more limited order that would bar the public release only of materials deemed "sensitive" — such as grand jury documents — rather than all evidence handed over by the government in the case accusing Trump of conspiring to overturn his 2020 election loss.

Prosecutors with special counsel Jack Smith's team quickly countered with their own filing accusing Trump of objecting to their proposal because he wants to be able to use the government's evidence to "try the case in the media rather than in the courtroom."

U.S. District Judge Tanya Chutkan said later Monday that she would hold a hearing on the dueling proposals, and that Trump would not have to attend.



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Prosecutors asked Friday for the protective order, which would impose rules on what Trump and his defense team can do with evidence shared by the government as they prepare for trial in the case unsealed last week.

Smith's prosecution team has said a protective order — not unusual in criminal cases — is particularly important in Trump's case because of his penchant for using social media. They have expressed concern that Trump could improperly share sensitive case information online that could have a "harmful chilling effect on witnesses."

In their filing Friday seeking the order, prosecutors included a screenshot of a post from Trump's Truth Social platform that same day in which he wrote, in all capital letters, "If you go after me, I'm coming after you!"

Trump's lawyers said citing that post to claim there's a danger that Trump might publish secret grand jury information was "a provocative claim when searching for headlines, perhaps, but one that falters under minimal scrutiny."

The former president's legal team said his post was "generalized political speech" and had nothing to do with the case. A Trump spokesperson said last week that the post was in response to "dishonest special interest groups and Super PACs."

Trump's lawyers, who have characterized the case as an attack on his right to free speech, told the judge that the need to protect sensitive information about the case "does not require a blanket gag order over all documents produced by the government."

"In a trial about First Amendment rights, the government seeks to restrict First Amendment rights," Trump's lawyers wrote. "Worse, it does so against its administration's primary political opponent, during an election season in which the administration, prominent party members and media allies have campaigned on the indictment and proliferated its false allegations."

Trump's lawyers accused President Joe Biden of trying to capitalize on the indictment in posting what they called a "thinly veiled reference" to Trump's prosecution just hours before Trump's court appearance last week. They included a screenshot in their court filing of a tweet from Biden's campaign account, which included a video of the president drinking from a mug emblazoned with "Dark Brandon" — a meme featuring Biden with lasers for eyes. The caption said, "A cup of Joe never tasted better."

Trump's lawyers on Saturday had asked for an extra three days to respond to prosecutors' request for the protective order, saying they needed more time for discussion. But Chutkan who was nominated to the bench by former President Barack Obama, swiftly denied that request.

Prosecutors said that they are ready to hand over a substantial amount of evidence to Trump's legal team and that much of it includes sensitive and confidential information.

The prosecutors' proposed order seeks to prevent Trump and his lawyers from disclosing materials provided by the government to anyone other than people on his legal team, possible witnesses, the witnesses' lawyers or others approved by the court. It would put stricter limits on "sensitive materials," which prosecutors said would include grand jury witness testimony and materials obtained through sealed search warrants.

Prosecutors noted in court papers Monday that Trump has made several comments about the case on social media even since they filed their protective order request. They referenced one Trump post about former Vice President Mike Pence — a potential witness in the case — in which Trump called Pence "delusional."

Prosecutors said Trump's proposal aims to allow for the release of transcripts and audio recordings of witness interviews conducted outside the grand jury process.

"The Government has proposed a standard, reasonable order that will streamline the flow of discovery to the defendant while preserving the integrity of these proceedings. The defendant has proposed an unreasonable order to facilitate his plan to litigate this case in the media, to the detriment of litigating this case in the courtroom. Normal order should prevail," prosecutors wrote.

Trump has denied any wrongdoing in the case, as well as another prosecution brought by Smith that

accuses him of illegally hoarding classified documents at his Mar-a-Lago estate in Palm Beach, Florida.

He has characterized all the cases against him as an effort to take down his 2024 campaign. His legal team has indicated that it will argue that he had relied on the advice of attorneys around him in 2020 and that Trump had a right to challenge an election that he believed had been stolen.

Trump pleaded not guilty last week to four felony counts, including conspiracy to defraud the U.S. and conspiracy to obstruct Congress' certification of Biden's electoral victory. The charges could lead to a lengthy prison sentence in the event of a conviction, with the most serious counts calling for up to 20 years.

It's the third criminal case brought this year against Trump, but the first to try to hold him responsible for his efforts to remain in power during the chaotic weeks between his election loss and the attack by his supporters on the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021.

Smith also charged Trump in June with dozens of felony counts alleging the former president illegally kept classified records after he left the White House and obstructed government efforts to get them back. A new indictment recently unsealed in that case accuses Trump of scheming with Mar-a-Lago staffers to try to delete security footage sought by investigators.

Magistrate Judge Bruce Reinhart in that case imposed a similar protective order in June that prohibits Trump and his legal team from publicly disclosing evidence turned over to them by prosecutors without prior approval.

## **K-pop star Suga becomes 3rd BTS member to begin military service in South Korea**

By MARIA SHERMAN AP Music Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Following his debut solo tour earlier this year, Suga, the K-pop superstar rapper/singer/songwriter, has become the third member of BTS to begin South Korea's compulsory military service.

"We would like to inform our fans that SUGA has initiated the military enlistment process by applying for the termination of his enlistment postponement," Big Hit Music said in a statement.

"We ask you for your continued love and support for SUGA until he completes his military service and safely returns. Our company will spare no effort in providing support for our artist."

In South Korea, all able-bodied men aged 18 to 28 are required by law to perform 18-21 months of military service under a conscription system meant to deter aggression from rival North Korea.

The law gives special exemptions to athletes, classical and traditional musicians, and ballet and other dancers if they have obtained top prizes in certain competitions and are assessed to have enhanced national prestige. K-pop stars and other entertainers aren't subject to such privileges.

However, in 2020, BTS postponed their service until age 30 after South Korea's National Assembly revised its Military Service Act, allowing K-pop stars to delay their enlistment until age 30.

There was heated public debate in 2022 over whether to offer special exemptions of mandatory military service for BTS members, until the group's management agency announced in October that all seven members would fulfill their duties.

In December 2022, BTS's eldest member, Jin, enlisted at age 30 after revoking his request to delay his conscription. J-Hope followed suit last April.

## **Megan Thee Stallion describes daily suffering after Tory Lanez shooting during rapper's sentencing**

By ANDREW DALTON AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Megan Thee Stallion said she has suffered daily since rapper Tory Lanez shot her in the feet three years ago in a written statement read during Lanez's sentencing, which will stretch into Tuesday.

"Since I was viciously shot by the defendant, I have not experienced a single day of peace," Megan said in a statement read by Los Angeles County Deputy District Attorney Kathy Ta. "Slowly but surely, I'm

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healing and coming back, but I will never be the same.”

The hip-hop star, who testified during the trial, said she struggled with whether she would appear to give the statement in person, but said she “simply could not bring myself to be in a room with Tory again.”

She asked that her absence not be taken as a sign of indifference, and urged Judge David Herriford to issue a stiff sentence.

The judge had been expected to sentence Lanez Monday at a hearing that often can take only a couple of hours, but Herriford had attorneys for the two sides argue each factor of his potential sentence, and allowed seven witnesses to give statements on Lanez’s charitable giving, his childhood trauma, and his status as father of a 6-year-old son.

Prosecutors are asking a judge to hand down a 13-year sentence to the 31-year-old Lanez, whose legal name is Daystar Peterson. Lanez was convicted of three felonies: assault with a semiautomatic firearm, having a loaded, unregistered firearm in a vehicle and discharging a firearm with gross negligence.

Lawyers for Lanez said in a sentencing memo that he should get only probation and be released from jail to enter a residential substance abuse program. They plan to appeal his conviction.

Megan testified during the trial that Lanez had fired the gun at the back of her feet and shouted for her to dance as she walked away from an SUV in which they had been riding in summer 2020. The pair had left a party at Kylie Jenner’s Hollywood Hills home.

Lanez’s father, Sonstar Peterson, a Christian minister, choked back tears in court Monday as he told the judge about his wife, Luella, dying just a few days after showing the first symptoms of a rare blood disorder that would lead to her death when Lanez was 11.

“I don’t think anybody ever gets over that,” he said of their youngest child, Lanez. “But his music became his outlet.”

Other witnesses talked about Lanez nearly constant charitable giving even before fame and money from music came to him in 2017.

The mother of his son, Raina Cassagne, called him “the most supportive father, the funnest father.”

Dozens more wrote letters to Herriford, including rapper Iggy Azalea, who asked the judge to hand down a sentence that was “transformative, not life-destroying.”

The judge said Lanez’s son, who is 6 years old, also sent in a handwritten letter, but Herriford did not describe it further.

A chaplain from Los Angeles County jail appeared in court and said that Lanez has led daily prayer groups that have eased tensions in the protective custody unit where he is being held.

Herriford made findings in favor of each side Monday, leaving little indication of what sentence he will give.

He found that Megan was an especially vulnerable victim when she was shot, but that Lanez was not especially cruel or callous in firing at her, legal factors that could influence his decision.

Herriford said that he will consider Lanez’s charitable giving and glowing statements made about him as a pillar of his family and community.

But the judge also said he would consider what prosecutors called attempts by Lanez, through social media posts and in song lyrics, to intimidate Megan and to cast doubt on whether she was shot at all.

Herriford said Lanez also had a clear lack of remorse, but said he won’t allow that to be a factor because the rapper has a right to maintain his innocence.

Megan, in her statement, cited the absence of remorse, saying Lanez “has blamed the system, blamed the press, and as of late has tried to take advantage of his childhood trauma.”

Sonstar Peterson also grew emotional when he expressed his regret for rising in court after jurors returned with their verdict and denouncing the “wicked system” that led to his son’s conviction. Deputies wrestled him from the courtroom at the time.

“I want to personally apologize to you,” he told the judge Monday. “It was an overwhelming time.”

Lanez began releasing mixtapes in 2009 and saw a steady rise in popularity, moving on to major-label albums. Megan Thee Stallion, now 28, was already a major rising star at the time of the shooting, and her prominence has surged since. She won a Grammy for best new artist in 2021, and has had No. 1 singles



with "Savage," featuring Beyoncé, and as a guest with Cardi B on "WAP."

## **Niger coup leaders refuse to let senior US diplomat meet with nation's president**

By SAM MEDNICK and ELLEN KNICKMEYER Associated Press

NIAMEY, Niger (AP) — A senior U.S. diplomat said coup leaders in Niger refused to allow her to meet Monday with the West African country's democratically elected president, whom she described as under "virtual house arrest."

Acting Deputy Secretary of State Victoria Nuland also described the mutinous officers as unreceptive to U.S. pressure to return the country to civilian rule.

"They were quite firm about how they want to proceed, and it is not in support of the constitution of Niger," Nuland told reporters. She characterized the conversations as "extremely frank and at times quite difficult."

She spoke after a two-hour meeting in Niger's capital, Niamey, with some leaders of the military takeover of a country that has been a vital counterterrorism partner of the United States.

In speaking to junta leaders, Nuland said, she made "absolutely clear the kinds of support that we will legally have to cut off if democracy is not restored."

If the U.S. determines that a democratically elected government has been toppled by unconstitutional means, federal law requires a cutoff of most American assistance, particularly military aid.

She said she also stressed U.S. concern for the welfare of President Mohamed Bazoum, who she said was being detained with his wife and son.

The meeting was with Gen. Moussa Salaou Barmou, a U.S.-trained officer, and three of the colonels involved in the takeover. The coup's top leader, former presidential guard head Abdourahamane Tchiani, did not meet with the Americans.

In other developments Monday, leaders of West Africa's regional bloc said they would meet later this week to discuss next steps after the junta defied a deadline to reinstate the president. The meeting was scheduled for Thursday in Abuja, the capital of neighboring Nigeria, according to a spokesman for the ECOWAS bloc.

Meanwhile, the junta's mutinous soldiers closed the country's airspace and accused foreign powers of preparing an attack.

State television reported the junta's latest actions Sunday night, hours before the deadline set by ECOWAS, which has warned of using military force if Bazoum is not returned to power.

A spokesman for the coup leaders, Col. Maj. Amadou Abdramane, noted "the threat of intervention being prepared in a neighboring country," and said Niger's airspace will be closed until further notice. Any attempt to fly over the country will be met with "an energetic and immediate response."

The junta also claimed that two central African countries were preparing for an invasion, but did not name them. It called on Niger's population to defend the nation.

The coup toppled Bazoum, whose ascendancy was Niger's first peaceful, democratic transfer of power since independence from France in 1960. The coup also raised questions about the future of the fight against extremism in Africa's Sahel region, where Russia and Western countries have vied for influence.

Niger had been seen by the United States and others as the last major counterterrorism partner in the Sahel, south of the Sahara Desert, where groups linked to al-Qaida and the Islamic State group are expanding their influence.

Also Monday, Mali said it and Burkina Faso, both neighbors of Niger run by military juntas, were sending delegations 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 the coup nearly two weeks ago, when mutinous soldiers detained Bazoum and installed Tchiani as head of state. Analysts believe the coup was triggered by a power struggle between Tchiani and the president, who was about to fire him.

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It was not immediately clear what ECOWAS leaders will do now. 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.

Nigeria's Senate has 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.

Guinea and neighboring Algeria, which is not an ECOWAS member, have come out 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 the bloc's efforts to restore constitutional order.

The junta has asked for help from the Russian mercenary group Wagner, according to Wassim Nasr, a journalist and senior research fellow at the Soufan Center.

However, Nuland indicated that coup leaders did not seem receptive to welcoming Wagner mercenaries into the country, as has happened with several surrounding unstable West African countries.

"I will say that I got the sense from my meetings today that the people who have taken the action here understand very well the risks to their sovereignty when Wagner is invited," Nuland said.

The junta is exploiting anti-French sentiments 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. France has suspended almost 500 million euros (\$550 million) in aid to Burkina Faso.

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

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."

## **A survivor of the fatal Pennsylvania bus crash describes chaos and heroism after it turned over**

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) — A bus carrying up to 50 people traveling from New York to Ohio crashed and hit another vehicle on a Pennsylvania interstate, killing three passengers, state police said.

The wreck happened during heavy rain around 11:50 p.m. Sunday on Interstate 81 just north of Harrisburg, state police said.

The bus drove off the road, struck an embankment, rolled onto its right side and hit the back of a car that was stopped in the right lane, according to a crash report.

Three passengers were declared dead at the scene, the police report said, and others suffered injuries that ranged from minor to severe.

Matthew Oshiafi, a passenger on the bus operated by the Super Lucky Tour Company of Boston, told Pennlive.com that he remembered a terrible screeching and shuddering before the bus crashed and flipped. He said he was sitting in the last row.

Oshiafi, 39, a New York City resident who was headed to Cincinnati to visit family, said the crash threw people from their seats and left some piled on top of others. He heard people screaming and saw people around him severely injured or unconscious.

Oshiafi said he saw a couple in a nearby seat with a baby and noticed the woman appeared to be unconscious and the man was trying to help her. The man handed the baby to Oshiafi, who said he passed the baby through the broken bus windshield to emergency responders.

"I'm shaking," he told the newspaper on Monday, about 10 hours after the crash. "I know people have died."

A Milton S. Hershey Medical Center spokesperson said it helped 28 patients from the crash, ages 1 to

69. Three were admitted, one in critical condition. Three others were being evaluated and 22 were discharged. The University of Pittsburgh Medical Center Community Osteopathic treated 21 patients, treating and releasing 20 of them; one adult remained hospitalized, the medical center said.

A Red Cross-run reception center at a nearby fire company closed late Monday after helping 23 adults and two children, feeding them and offering emotional support.

A Dauphin County spokesperson said information about the people who died was not immediately available through the coroner's office.

The name of the bus driver has not been released. Trooper Megan Frazer said Monday morning that more details about the wreck might not be released by police until Tuesday.

Peter Chan, the bus company manager, said in a brief phone interview Monday that he was "very sorry to hear about the accident" but had no further information because he hadn't been able to talk to the driver, who was injured in the crash and remains hospitalized.

## Neighbors say a Chicago man charged with killing an 8-year-old girl was upset over noise

CHICAGO (AP) — A man was charged with first-degree murder Monday after witnesses said an 8-year-old Chicago girl riding a scooter was fatally shot by someone upset over noise.

The charge was filed against Michael Goodman, 43, in the death of Sarabi Medina, Chicago police announced.

"It just didn't make sense. None of it made sense," neighbor Megan Kelle told the Chicago Sun-Times. "Everybody in the community would just tell him they are just kids having fun playing. Just let them be."

The shooting happened Saturday night in Chicago's Portage Park neighborhood. Police were at Goodman's apartment building Sunday, interviewing people and collecting evidence, hours after the shooting.

"Before he shot her, he had said something about them being too loud," Kelley said.

After the shooting, Goodman was tackled by Sarabi's father and shot during a struggle, according to a police report. He was taken to a hospital.

"He ran over there, football-tackled this guy," community activist Andrew Holmes said.

Goodman was in custody Monday but was not listed in online Cook County court records and an attorney for him could not be located to comment on the case.

Stuffed animals and sunflowers were placed at the base of a tree near the shooting scene.

"With great sadness, we are devastated at the loss of another young life," Chicago Public Schools said in a statement.

## President Biden hosts Astros, says he can relate to Dusty Baker, oldest manager to win World Series

JOSH BOAK and COLLEEN LONG Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — At 73, Dusty Baker became the oldest manager ever to win the World Series when the Houston Astros took the title last year. On Monday at a White House celebration for the team, President Joe Biden said he could relate.

"People counted you out saying you were past your prime. Hell, I know something about that," joked Biden, who in 2020 became the oldest president ever elected, at age 77. Biden, now 80, is running for reelection in 2024.

Baker has been around the game for decades. He won a World Series as a player with the Los Angeles Dodgers and had been to the Fall Classic twice before as a manager. He finally got his first title in his 25th season as a manager. The win came 20 years after a near-miss, when he came within five outs while guiding the San Francisco Giants.

"I remember rooting for him as a kid, and I was older than he was," Biden quipped.

Baker, now 74, spent the past three seasons with the Astros after they hired him to help the team regain



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credibility after a sign-stealing scandal cost manager A.J. Hinch and general manager Jeff Luhnow their jobs, and made Houston the most reviled team in baseball.

Baker, like Biden, is working on a repeat and says he wants to be back in the White House next year after winning the title again.

The team presented Biden, the 46th president, with an honorary jersey with the number 46. The MLB trophy was on display during the ceremony in the East Room, where the team also posed for photos.

The Astros won last year's World Series over the National League's Philadelphia Phillies -- whose fans include first lady Jill Biden. The president often jokes that he must root for the Phillies or else he'll be sleeping alone. He joked on Monday that he wouldn't be able to set foot in Philadelphia again after hosting the Astros.

This season the Astros are not doing too badly, either. They hold an American League wild-card spot and are 2 1/2 games behind the first-place Texas Rangers in the AL West. The team begins a three-game series in Baltimore on Tuesday.

Among the players in attendance was Astros shortstop Jeremy Peña, who was the World Series MVP as a rookie, the first time a new player won the coveted award.

Baker praised his team during the ceremony.

"They always believed in themselves, prior to me even coming here -- that they had the ability to win," he said. "And they show what perseverance and character can do."

Besides baseball, Biden spoke of the team's support for survivors of the Uvalde, Texas, massacre. Last May, a gunman killed 19 children and two adults at an elementary school in Uvalde. Later that summer, the team chartered 10 buses and brought hundreds of people from Uvalde for a game against the Oakland Athletics.

"I think you athletes underestimate how much hope you give," said Biden, turning to the team standing on risers behind him. Sports may seem to be only about winning, but that's not true of the best teams."

"At best it lifts people up and brings them together and helps them be there for each other."

## 'Of course' Trump lost the 2020 election, DeSantis says after years of hedging

By MICHELLE L. PRICE Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Republican presidential candidate Ron DeSantis said definitively that rival Donald Trump lost the 2020 election, an acknowledgment the Florida governor made after years of equivocating answers.

"Of course he lost," DeSantis said in an interview with NBC News posted Monday. "Joe Biden's the president."

DeSantis has often sidestepped questions about whether he believes the 2020 election results were legitimate. But in recent days he has started publicly questioning the lies that Trump and his allies have made about the election's legitimacy.

Federal and state election officials and Trump's own attorney general said there was no credible evidence the election's outcome was affected by fraud. The former president's allegations were also roundly rejected by courts at the time, including judges he appointed.

Last week, Trump was charged by Justice Department special counsel Jack Smith with four felonies related to his efforts to overturn the results of the 2020 election in the run-up to the violent riot by his supporters at the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021.

DeSantis' shift in rhetoric has come as he seeks to reset his stagnant 2024 White House campaign. Trump, who remains widely popular with the Republican Party base, is the early and commanding front-runner in next year's GOP presidential primary.

DeSantis in his interview at first didn't offer a clear answer when asked if Trump lost, saying, "Whoever puts their hand on the Bible on Jan. 20 every four years is the winner." But he gave a more direct answer when pressed again.

The governor repeated his concerns about voting methods from the 2020 election, criticizing mail vot-

ing and so-called "ballot harvesting," but like other Republicans he said he would embrace the methods he had criticized.

"We are going to do it, too. We're not going to fight with one hand tied behind our backs," DeSantis said.

Academic research has shown that mail voting increases turnout but doesn't benefit either party. Campaigns have normally pushed for it, allowing them to lock in votes early and focus their efforts on Election Day to encourage straggling supporters to get to the polls.

"The issue is, I think, what people in the media and elsewhere, they want to act like somehow this was just like the perfect election. I don't think it was a good-run election, but I also think Republicans didn't fight back. You've got to fight back when that is happening," he said.

DeSantis has cast himself on the campaign trail as someone who could more successfully implement Trump's politics and has walked a wobbly line criticizing his actions.

Last month, he said Trump should have offered a stronger condemnation of the Jan. 6 attack. But he also said it was not an insurrection but a "protest" that "ended up devolving, you know, in a way that was unfortunate."

DeSantis has argued Republicans will lose in 2024 if they're focusing on the past election and the former president's legal problems, which also includes federal charges of mishandling classified documents, including those stored at Mar-a-Lago in a ballroom and bathroom, among other spaces.

"If the election is a referendum on Joe Biden's policies and the failures that we've seen and we are presenting a positive vision for the future, we will win the presidency," DeSantis told NBC. "If, on the other hand, the election is not about Jan. 20, 2025, but Jan. 6, 2021, or what document was left by the toilet at Mar-a-Lago, if it's a referendum on that, we are going to lose."

## **Ex-Minneapolis officer unrepentant as he gets nearly 5 years in George Floyd killing**

By STEVE KARNOWSKI Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Tou Thao, the last former Minneapolis police officer convicted in state court for his role in the killing of George Floyd, did not show any repentance or admit any wrongdoing as he was sentenced Monday to 4 years and 9 months.

Thao had previously testified that 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 murder touched off protests worldwide and forced a national reckoning of police brutality and racism.

At his sentencing hearing, Thao said he never intended to hurt anyone that day. He spoke at length about his growth as a Christian during his 340 days behind bars but denied any responsibility for Floyd's death. In rambling remarks full of biblical references, he drew parallels with the sufferings and false accusations endured by Job and Jesus.

"I did not commit these crimes," Thao said. "My conscience is clear. I will not be a Judas nor join a mob in self-preservation or betray my God."

Hennepin County Judge Peter Cahill, who found Thao guilty in May of aiding and abetting second-degree manslaughter, said he would have liked to have heard some kind of repentance from Thao on Monday.

"After three years of reflection, I was hoping for a little more remorse, regret, acknowledgement of some responsibility — and less preaching" he said.

Cahill then sentenced Thao to 57 months — the top end of the range recommended under state guidelines, where the standard sentence is 48 months, an even four years. The sentence was more than the 51 months that prosecutors had sought and the 41 months requested by Thao's attorney, Robert Paule.

Thao's sentence will run concurrently with a 3 1/2-year sentence for his separate conviction on a federal civil rights charge, which an appeals court upheld on Friday. Thao will be returned to federal prison to

finish that sentence before he is transferred to a Minnesota state prison to serve out the remaining few months with credit for time served.

Paule, who called Thao "a good and decent man with a family" in court, said afterward that they will appeal in both the state and federal cases. He declined further comment.

Assistant Attorney General Erin Eldridge said during the hearing that Floyd's final words "reverberated across the globe."

"George Floyd narrated his own death over the course of a restraint that lasted more than 9 long minutes until he lost consciousness, stopped breathing and his heart stopped beating," she said.

Thao facilitated Floyd's death, she said, because he "stood by and allowed it to happen" and stopped others from helping the dying man, including a Minneapolis firefighter who was a trained emergency medical technician and could have performed CPR on him.

"He knew better, and he was trained to do better," Eldridge said.

The hearing, which lasted just over half an hour, reflected how the legal cases flowing from Floyd's murder are winding down. While Floyd family members were a frequent presence during earlier proceedings, none were in the courtroom for Thao's sentencing. Eldridge told the court they wanted to grieve in private. Apart from four relatives or friends of Thao, most of the people in the courtroom were journalists.

Prosecutors left the courthouse without commenting to reporters.

In his 177-page ruling that Thao was guilty, Cahill said Thao's actions separated Chauvin and two other former officers from the crowd, 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 had 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 Kueng.

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, though he plans a long-shot appeal of his state conviction to the U.S. Supreme Court. Lane and Kueng pleaded guilty to state charges of aiding and abetting manslaughter.

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.

## **Judge tosses Trump's defamation suit against writer who won sexual abuse lawsuit against him**

By JENNIFER PELTZ Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A federal judge tossed out former President Donald Trump's countersuit against the writer who won a sex abuse lawsuit against him, ruling Monday that Trump can't claim she defamed him by continuing to say she was not only sexually abused but raped.

The ruling shuts down, at least for now, Trump's effort to turn the legal tables on E. Jean Carroll, who won a \$5 million judgment against him in May and is pursuing her own defamation suit against him. Trump attorney Alina Habba said his lawyers would appeal "the flawed decision" to dismiss his counterclaim.

Carroll's lawyer, Robbie Kaplan, said she was pleased with the ruling and looking ahead to a trial scheduled



in January in her defamation suit, which concerns a series of remarks that Trump has made in denying her sexual assault allegation.

"E. Jean Carroll looks forward to obtaining additional compensatory and punitive damages" in that trial, Kaplan said.

Carroll accused Trump of trapping her in a luxury department store dressing room in 1996, forcibly kissing her, yanking down her tights and raping her as she tried to fight him off.

He denies any of it happened, even that they ran into each other at the store. He has called her, among other things, a "nut job" who invented "a fraudulent and false story" to sell a memoir.

In this spring's trial, a civil court jury concluded that Trump sexually abused Carroll but rejected her claim that he raped her. Legally, the difference depended on specifics of how, in the jury's view, he penetrated her against her will.

When a CNN interviewer asked her what was going through her mind when she heard the rape finding, Carroll responded, "Well, I just immediately say in my own head, 'Oh, yes, he did. Oh, yes, he did.'" She also said she had told one of Trump's attorneys that "he did it, and you know it."

Trump then sued Carroll, saying her statements were defamatory. He sought a retraction and money.

"These false statements were clearly contrary to the jury verdict," the attorneys argued in court papers, saying the panel had found that rape "clearly was not committed."

Jurors in the case were told that under the applicable New York law, rape requires forcible penetration by a penis, whereas sexual abuse would cover forcible penetration by a finger. Carroll alleged that both happened.

Carroll's lawyers said that her post-verdict statements were "substantially true."

So did the judge.

"The difference between Ms. Carroll's allegedly defamatory statements — that Mr. Trump 'raped' her as defined in the New York Penal Law — and the 'truth' — that Mr. Trump forcibly digitally penetrated Ms. Carroll — are minimal," Judge Lewis A. Kaplan wrote in Monday's ruling. "Both are felonious sex crimes."

"Indeed, both acts constitute 'rape'" as the term is used in everyday language, in some laws and in other contexts, added Kaplan, who isn't related to Carroll's lawyer.

The Associated Press generally does not name people who allege they have been sexually assaulted unless they come forward publicly, as Carroll has done.

## **Justice Department helping Ukraine in war crimes investigations, Attorney General Garland says**

By LINDSAY WHITEHURST and NICHOLAS RICCARDI Associated Press

DENVER (AP) — The U.S. Justice Department is cooperating with the International Criminal Court and supporting Ukrainian prosecutors carrying out war crime investigations, Attorney General Merrick Garland said Monday as he reaffirmed his department's aid more than a year after the Russian invasion.

Congress recently allowed for new U.S. flexibility in assisting the court with investigations into foreign nationals related to Ukraine, and the Justice Department will be a key part of the United States' cooperation, Garland said.

"We are not waiting for the hostilities to end before pursuing justice and accountability. We are working closely with our international partners to gather evidence and build cases so that we are ready when the time comes to hold the perpetrators accountable," he said in a speech to the American Bar Association in Denver.

He appointed a prosecutor to serve at a center opened last month in The Hague to support nations building cases against senior Russian leaders for the crime of aggression. International Center for the Prosecution of the Crime of Aggression will not issue indictments or arrest warrants for suspects but will instead support investigations already underway in Ukraine, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland.

The ICC does not have jurisdiction to prosecute aggression in Ukraine because Russia and Ukraine have not ratified the Rome Statute that founded the court, though Ukraine's prosecutor general has said they

plan to join.

The United States also is not an ICC member state. Since the Treaty of Rome, which established the court, took effect, successive U.S. administrations beginning during Bill Clinton's presidency have taken a largely hands off approach toward the ICC due to concerns it might open investigations and prosecute American soldiers or senior officials.

Although it is not a member of the court, the U.S. has cooperated with the ICC in the past on war crimes issues, notably during the Obama administration when Washington contributed evidence to the investigation into atrocities allegedly committed by the Lord's Resistance Army in Uganda and surrounding states in east Africa.

However, American antipathy toward the tribunal reached new heights during the Trump administration when it imposed sanctions on the former ICC chief prosecutor and several aides for pursuing investigations into alleged war crimes committed by U.S. troops in Afghanistan and Iraq and Israeli servicemembers in the West Bank and Gaza.

The Biden administration rescinded those sanctions shortly after taking office and its decision to actively assist the court with Ukraine investigations marks another step toward cooperation with the ICC.

The Justice Department is giving wide-ranging assistance to Ukraine, from training on prosecuting environmental crimes to help developing a secure electronic case-management system for more than 90,000 suspected atrocity crimes. Garland also touted the \$500 million seized assets and over three dozen indictments the department has handed down to enforce sanctions.

"Ukraine must do three things simultaneously: it must fight a war; it must investigate war crimes; and it must ensure that a just society comes out on the other side of the war," he said. The Justice Department is "honored to stand with them."

Garland also encouraged more private lawyers to volunteer to help Ukrainian victims. He recalled how his grandmother and his wife's family were able to flee Europe as refugees to the United States and avoid the Holocaust. Other relatives were killed by the Nazis.

"We do not know if anyone involved in their deaths were held accountable," Garland said. "The families of the victims of the current atrocities in Ukraine deserve to know what happened to their loved ones. They deserve justice."

## Illinois to ban advertising for guns allegedly marketed to kids and militants

By JOHN O'CONNOR AP Political Writer

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (AP) — Illinois will soon outlaw advertising for firearms that officials determine produces a public safety threat or appeals to children, militants or others who might later use the weapons illegally, as the state continues its quest to curb mass shootings.

Gun-rights advocates say the plan, which Democratic Gov. J.B. Pritzker has pledged to sign into law, is an unreasonably vague decree that violates not only the constitutionally protected right to own guns, but also free speech.

The prime exhibit in Democratic Attorney General Kwame Raoul's effort is the JR-15, a smaller, lighter version of the AR-15 semi-automatic rifle advertised with the tag line, "Get 'em One Like Yours." The maker says it is deliberately made smaller, with added safety features, to fit younger shooters as they learn from adults how to safely maneuver such a weapon. Raoul says it's marketed to children and potentially entices them to skip the adult supervision and start firing.

Opening the door to court challenges is part of ongoing efforts by Democratic lawmakers who control the Statehouse to eliminate gun violence, made more complicated by the U.S. Supreme Court's expansion of gun rights a year ago. Pritzker also signed a ban on semi-automatic weapons this year, a law that gun-rights advocates continue to challenge in federal court.

Illinois would be the eighth state to approve legislation that allows such lawsuits against firearms manu-

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facturers or distributors. The legislation comes after the deadliest six months of mass killings recorded since at least 2006 — all but one of which involved guns.

Raoul finds precedent in the 25-year-old settlement with large tobacco companies and more recently with advertising for vaping.

"We've gone after the marketing that has historically driven up the consumption by minors for those products that are harmful to them," Raoul said. "The firearms industry shouldn't be immune to the standards that we put on other industries."

Except that other industries don't produce constitutionally protected products, counters the National Shooting Sports Foundation, an industry trade association that has filed federal lawsuits in nearly every state that has approved a similar law.

"They're infringing on your Second Amendment rights by taking away your First Amendment rights," foundation spokesperson Mark Oliva said.

Without specific legislation, states are largely barred from legal action by a 2005 federal law that prohibits lawsuits blaming manufacturers for the later criminal use of a purchased gun. It sprang from mayors in the late 1990s who sued gun-makers for creating a public nuisance, such as Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley's \$433 million action in 1998, which the Illinois Supreme Court tossed out in 2004.

But the federal law does allow legal action if a state explicitly names firearms and conduct by their manufacturers in state law, which is what Raoul's plan would do. He won over lawmakers by showing them advertising they decided was over the line.

"Some of the ads I've seen are just stomach-turning," Don Harmon, of Oak Park, who sponsored the legislation.

The ad for the JR-15, a smaller, lighter .22-caliber rifle, was among them. An emailed statement from the manufacturer, Wee 1 Tactical, said the gun has safety features found on no other gun.

"The JR-15 .22 youth training rifle is for adults who wish to supervise the safe introduction of hunting and shooting sports to the next generation of responsible gun owners," the statement said. "Parents and guardians wanting to pass on this American tradition have been purchasing small caliber, lighter youth training rifles for decades."

Raoul said he doesn't have any gun-makers "in the so-called crosshairs. ... It's not our interest to go fishing." A violation of the law could draw a \$50,000 fine, but more important to the attorney general is the possibility of a court-ordered injunction. Still, Raoul hopes the law deters questionable practices and no legal action is necessary.

New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Washington, California, Hawaii and Colorado have adopted similar plans. The shooting sports group has filed federal lawsuits in all but Colorado and none has been settled. Despite the court action, the laws are in effect everywhere but New Jersey, which has barred implementation for members of the shooting sports group, according to the Brady Campaign, which has intervened on behalf of defendants in each case.

Connecticut has no exemption from the federal law, but courts decided the state's statutes were written broadly enough to allow a \$73 million lawsuit settlement with Remington early last year for families of the victims of a 2012 mass shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown.

Other campaigns Raoul has tracked see manufacturers linking themselves to the military or law enforcement, claiming they are the Pentagon's top choice for a sidearm or long gun — regardless of whether they are or not. This, he said, suggests such claims attract those with ideas about forming illegal private militias.

That notion — and the question of advertising toward children — were included in an executive order from President Joe Biden in March to stop violence. It included expanded background checks and use of red-flag laws. Biden also encouraged the independent Federal Trade Commission to produce an analysis of how gun-makers "market firearms to minors and ... to all civilians, including through the use of military imagery."

The White House referred questions about the study to the FTC, where spokesperson Douglas Farrar declined to comment.

To the suggestion that advertising is geared toward kids or the militia-minded, Oliva, of the shooting



sports group, pointed out that no one under 18 may own a gun and a minor's access to one must be controlled by a parent. Advertising a gun's suitability for use in combat makes sense because serious gun owners want the most rugged available, he said.

Oliva and other critics mocked the proposal's "reasonable controls" standard, defined as "reasonable procedures, safeguards and business practices." Democrats who have a poor track record winning legislation to stop gun violence are simply asking the courts for help, said Todd Vandermyde, a former lobbyist in Springfield for gun-rights groups.

"They're coming in the back door, attempting to bankrupt the industry by running up their legal bills while they're playing with free money," Vandermyde said.

The bill's House sponsor, Democratic Rep. Jennifer Gong-Gershowitz, of Glenview, emphasized that the measure doesn't cherry pick firearms for business deception or fraud.

"This doesn't single out the firearm industry," Gong-Gershowitz said. "It just makes very clear that the firearm industry is also prohibited just like every other industry from engaging in unfair or deceptive sales and marketing."

## 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."

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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 hospital 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.

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

## Queen Latifah, Chuck D and more rap legends on 'Rapper's Delight' and their early hip-hop influences

By JONATHAN LANDRUM Jr. and GARY GERARD HAMILTON Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Remember the first rap song you heard? Some of your favorite rappers and DJs certainly do. While hip-hop celebrates 50 years of life, The Associated Press asked some of the genre's most popular artists to recall their first memory of hearing rap and how the moment resonated with them.

In interviews with more than two dozen hip-hop legends, Queen Latifah, Chuck D, Method Man, E-40 and eight others cited The Sugarhill Gang's "Rapper's Delight" as the first rap song they heard. But not all were hooked on the new musical style by that track, and their answers reveal the sense of discovery that marked rap's early years. (Watch videos of the artists describing their early hip-hop influences here.)

Hip-hop's roots are traced to 1973 in the Bronx and it took a few years before rap records emerged — "Rapper's Delight" was a major catalyst for introducing the rap music to a much broader audience.

Here are the stories of a dozen hip-hop stars who got hooked on the genre around the time "Rapper's Delight" ruled. In part two, another group of legends and young stars reminisce about connecting with rap by hearing songs by acts like Tupac Shakur, Grandmaster Flash, 2 Live Crew or Run-D.M.C.

CHUCK D

As a sophomore at Adelphi University, Chuck D was about to hit the stage to perform over the melody of Chic's "Good Times" at a party in October 1979.

At least, that's what he thought.

When he stepped behind the microphone, Chuck D heard a different version of the song. It kept going and going for — 15 minutes straight.

"I get on the mic to rock the house. Then all of a sudden, I hear words behind me as I'm rockin'. I lipsync. The words keep going. (Expletive) are rockin' for like 20 minutes," said Chuck D, a member of the rap group Public Enemy who created "Fight the Power," one of hip-hop's most iconic and important anthems.

"After it's all over, cats are giving me high pounds like 'You went on and on to the break of dawn dawg,'" he continued. "Back then, it's about how long you can rap. I went and turned to the DJ and looked at the red label that said 'Sugarhill Gang 'Rapper's Delight.' I was like 'Oh, they finally did it.' They were talking all summer long that rap records were going to happen."

He was stunned: I was, like, 'It's inconceivable. How could a rap be a record?' I couldn't see it. Nobody could see it. And then when it happened, boom."

QUEEN LATIFAH

For Queen Latifah, "Rapper's Delight" was the first rap song she and a lot of others heard and memorized where she grew up in Newark, New Jersey. But the biggest record in her world as a kid was Afrika Bambaataa and the Soul Sonic Force's 1982 song "Planet Rock."

While the Oscar-nominated actor can be seen chasing bad guys on CBS' "The Equalizer," many forget her roots as a rapper, with hits like "U.N.I.T.Y." and "Just Another Day."

"It changed the sound," she said. "It's more of a synthesized, 808s, hi-hats. The whole sound of it was different. Some of hip-hop in the original days was live music. It was live bands playing break records. Like 'Good Times' was the beat to 'Rapper's Delight.' Some of those records took actual disco records, played the music and rhymed to them."



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E-40

While heading to school as a seventh grader in 1979, E-40 heard a new rap tune on a local radio station that normally played R&B and soul music in Northern California.

It was "Rapper's Delight," which interpolated Chic's hit "Good Times." That's when he knew hip-hop was going to be a part of his life forever.

"I was like 'Ohh, this is hard. I'm hooked,'" said E-40, who recalled the moment while driving to Franklin Middle School in Vallejo, California. He and fellow rapper B-Legit used to sport the same kind of fedora hats and big gold rope chains Run-D.M.C. performed in.

"From then on, I loved rap. In 1979, when I first heard The Sugarhill Gang, I wanted to be a rapper. I would play around with it. ... We grew up on New York rap. All of us did. We wanted to be hip-hop. We wanted to breakdance. We did it all.

"But that changed everything after we heard Sugarhill Gang. Next thing you know, you're hearing Grandmaster Flash and the Furious Five, Kurtis Blow and Roxanne, Roxanne."

LIL JON

"Rapper's Delight" was probably the first hip-hop song Lil Jon heard. But he became a "super fan" of the genre as a middle schooler in Atlanta after seeing rap groups the Fat Boys and Whodini. It was his first time seeing professional rappers onstage.

"I might have been a fan of rap before, but I had never been to a rap concert. I've never seen rappers in person," he said. "Maybe just in the magazines. That turned me into like. ... a super fan of hip-hop."

The first hip-hop record Lil-Jon bought was Run D.M.C.'s "Sucker M.C.'s (Krush-Groove 1)."

"I remembered my homeboy that lived in the neighborhood. I had to go through some woods to his house with the album," he said. "We put the album on at his house. We were going crazy over listening to lyrics and beats."

ROXANNE SHANTE

Roxanne Shante's first rap experience didn't come in song form. She was introduced to hip-hop through the late comedian-poet Nipsey Russell.

"He had the ability to rhyme at any time," said Shante, a host for SiriusXM's Rock the Bells Radio. At age 14, she became one of the first female rappers to become popular after her song "Roxanne's Revenge" and gained more notoriety as a member of the Juice Crew. She also took part in Roxanne Wars, which was a series of hip-hop rivalries in the mid-1980s.

Shante said "Rapper's Delight" was the record most parents brought into their home as the "party song." But in her mind, Russell had just as much of an impact.

"That would be my first encounter with loving what would become hip-hop," she continued. "This way of having a certain cadence, this way of being able to do these certain rhymes was just incredible to me. ... He was able to freestyle all day, every day. And that's who I am. That's what I still do today."

TOO SHORT

It's 1979. Too Short was around 13 years old. He normally listened to a variety of funk songs ranging from the Ohio Players' "Love Rollercoaster" and Funkadelic's "Knee Deep." Then one day at his father's house, he heard "Rapper's Delight" blaring through a stereo system.

"I was on my funk stuff, then this 'Rapper's Delight' record came out and it was like 15 minutes long," he recalled. "I'd be at my pop's house just bumping the loud stereo."

As "Rapper's Delight" gained momentum in 1980, Too Short gravitated more toward beatboxing. That led him to hit up the local record store where he would buy the latest hip-hop album then blasted it on his radio for anyone to hear in Oakland.

"I had to get a radio with two speakers. That was mandatory," he said. "I was the guy with the radio who was hitting play going 'You ain't never heard that before.' ... I had the whole room, the whole bus jumping."

DOUG E. FRESH

Hearing "Rapper's Delight" for the first time changed the trajectory of Doug E. Fresh's life.

"I remember when my sister came home and told me about a guy named D.J. Hollywood, who we considered the first real M.C.," he said. "She came home and told me about a rap he had. And the rap

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went, 'Ding, ding, ding, ding, dong, dong, dong the dang, the dang, dang, dang, the ding dong dong. To the hip hop. ...'"

Fresh then added: "I turned around and said, 'Teach me that, show me.' And after that, it's been me and hip-hop since that point."

DJ KID CAPRI

DJ Kid Capri, arguably one of hip-hop's most famous DJs in the '90s, grew up on soul music. His father was a soul singer. His grandfather played the trumpet. And his uncle, Bill Curtis, was the leader of the Fatback Band — which he says made the first hip-hop single "King Tim III (Personality Jock)" before "Rapper's Delight" was released a few months later in 1979.

Capri's uncle gave him the opportunity to hear a rap song for the first time.

"I was right there," Capri said about the Fatback Band, a funk and disco ensemble who became known for their R&B hits including "(Do the) Spanish Hustle," "I Like Girls" and "I Found Lovin'." But it was "King Tim III" that had a strong influence on him — especially since it came from family.

"The world thinks 'Rapper's Delight' was the first rap record, but it was 'Personality Jock,'" he said. "My uncle, he's my family. He's the one that did it. So, I've always been around it. That's what made me be so infectious in it, because I've seen every level to where I'm at right now. I took all those things important to me on stage right now. When you see me on stage, you can see all those things wrapped up in me."

METHOD MAN

Yes, "Rapper's Delight" was the first-ever rap song Method Man ever heard. But the first hip-hop song that really resonated with him was Run-D.M.C.'s "Sucker MCs (Krush-Groove 1 )."

"I had never heard this record and I thought I was up on everything at the time," Method Man said of the 1983 song, which preceded Run-D.M.C.'s first single "It's Like That" from their self-titled album. He said "Sucker MCs" helped pave a way to usher in a new school of hip-hop artists.

"We were on a sixth-grade class trip to Long Island, and everybody was singing it word-for-word," the "Power Book II: Ghost" actor remembered. "They must have played that record 24 times on our class trip."

BIG DADDY KANE

Around age 12, Big Daddy Kane might not have remembered all of his homework assignments, but he certainly could recite every lyric to the late Jimmy Spicer's 1980 song "Adventures of Super Rhymes," one of hip-hop's first songs recorded in a studio.

Kane heard "Rapper's Delight" first, but Spicer's storytelling on the 15-minute song resonated with him the most.

"When this song came out, just the way Jimmy Spicer was styling on them and telling the story about Dracula and a story about Aladdin, I thought it was real slick," he said.

DJ JAZZY JEFF

DJ Jazzy Jeff always had an affinity for music. But when the "Fresh Prince of Bel-Air" star heard "Rapper's Delight" for the first time, he felt like the song spoke to him like no other.

"I think that was the first time I felt like the music was mine," he said. "Before then, I loved the music, but the music was kind of my older brothers and sisters, and I just liked it because it was theirs. This was the one that somebody made just for me."

JERMAINE DUPRI

Jermaine Dupri couldn't have envisioned his successful career without listening to "Rapper's Delight" around the age of 10.

"I remember the lyrics of the song. I remember it like it was yesterday," said Dupri, a rap mogul who was inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame in 2018. "I just started learning the song. I never knew it was going to take me on this journey."

## Democrats see Michigan and Minnesota as guides for what to do with majority power

By STEVE KARNOWSKI and JOEY CAPPELLETTI Associated Press

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) — Fueled by election gains, Democrats in Minnesota and Michigan this year enacted far-reaching policy changes that party leaders in other states are looking to as a potential roadmap for what they could swiftly achieve with similar control.

Gun safety packages, expanded voting rights, free meals for all students, and increased protections for abortion rights and LGBTQ+ people were just some of pent-up policy proposals that Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz and Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer signed into law within months under the new legislative majorities.

"We've definitely paid attention to what they've done," Pennsylvania state Sen. Sharif Street, chair of the state Democratic party, said about the two states. "I've offered to Pennsylvanians that if we could flip the Senate, we could pass similar legislation."

Democrats in four states, including Massachusetts and Maryland, scored victories in the 2022 midterms to gain a "trifecta" — control of the state House, state Senate and the governor's office. Republicans, who held trifectas in 19 more states than Democrats just six years ago, now hold an advantage of 22 states to the Democrats' 17.

Ahead of the 2024 election, Democratic leaders in Pennsylvania, Arizona and New Hampshire are hoping similar election gains can help them achieve trifectas. They're looking to Michigan and Minnesota, where leaders have been unapologetic about quickly rolling back years of Republican measures and implementing their own liberal agendas.

"This is the first time in 40 years that we've had this opportunity," Whitmer said of Michigan Democrats, who last held a trifecta in 1983. "This is a huge step forward that we've taken."

Michigan Democrats were able to flip both chambers with the help of new districts redrawn by a citizens commission instead of ones crafted by Republican lawmakers and a ballot proposal enshrining abortion rights into the state constitution that led to record midterm turnout.

The power shift in Michigan and Minnesota comes as statehouses nationwide have grown even more polarized. In GOP-led states, leaders have focused this year on rolling back LGBTQ+ rights, tightening abortion access, protecting gun rights and waging a war on what some have called "woke" agendas.

Whitmer, who spoke with The Associated Press last week, said she hopes voters in other states see that "you can lead with your brain and also be a kind person in the process." She added an oft-repeated phrase of her second-term that "bigotry is bad for business."

The quick work by Democrats in the two states was due in part to uncertainty over how long the full control will last considering voters could decide to flip state House majorities back to Republican control as soon as next year. Michigan and Minnesota Republicans are already strategizing to regain some power in the 2024 elections by calling out what they say have been overly partisan sessions.

In Michigan, Republican legislators in the House and Senate out-raised Democrats in the first part of 2023, led by the efforts of former Republican Gov. Rick Snyder. Minnesota Republicans, who lost a majority when Democrats won a decisive Senate district by only 321 votes, have criticized Democrats for excluding them from a legislative session that ended in May.

"The issues, I think, are still on the table. It's public safety, it's education, it's tax relief. And the Democrats did not deliver on any of those promises or expectations," said Minnesota GOP Senate Minority Leader Mark Johnson.

The key Democratic leaders in Minnesota — Walz, House Speaker Melissa Hortman and Senate Majority Leader Kari Dziedzic — decided to act swiftly, knowing they might not get another chance for a long time if they hesitated. Their last trifecta, in 2012-13, lasted only two years, but they're betting that this year's successes will prove popular with voters come 2024.

House Democrats, who have a six-seat majority, kept a big checklist on the wall of their caucus room of their top 30 priorities for the session. They started checking them off in January, including a big abor-



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tion rights bill. By the end of the session in May, all 30 had been checked off, including the legalization of recreational marijuana for adults; drivers' licenses for all regardless of immigration status, tax cuts aimed at lower-income workers and spending increases for education, transportation and other infrastructure, affordable housing, child care, and public safety.

Leaders in the state were among those invited to the White House to brief the president's advisers on legislation, including a paid family and medical leave program, that the Biden administration would like to enact nationally if not for a divided government.

"If you need a reminder that elections have consequences, check out what's happening in Minnesota," former President Barack Obama tweeted earlier this year.

National leaders are hoping that the liberal swing in the Midwest continues in 2024. The party is hosting the Democratic convention next year in Chicago and voter sentiment after two years of unchecked liberal policy in Michigan and Minnesota could have an enormous impact on national politics; recent presidential races have hinged on the critical Midwestern "blue wall," which also includes Wisconsin.

President Joe Biden applauded Michigan for "leading" on labor rights after the state became the first in nearly 60 years to repeal a union-restricting law known as "right-to-work" that was passed over a decade ago by a Republican-controlled Legislature.

Major legislation, such as the right-to-work repeal, has only been possible in Michigan due to strong party discipline with Democrats only holding a two-seat majority in each chamber.

State Rep. Joe Tate, who is Michigan's first Black speaker of the House, said the Democratic caucus began the year by finding legislation all members could agree on with.

"This is legislation that we've been talking about for, if not years, decades. So it helped to prioritize where we needed to go at the beginning of this session," said Tate.

Michigan Democrats have already passed many of their top priorities only halfway through this year's legislative session, including a 11-bill gun safety package that had stalled in the Legislature for years.

Winnie Brinks, the first female Senate majority leader in Michigan history, called said it was an "intense six months" and that Democrats don't plan to ease up the rest of the year. Future legislation, Brinks said, will include a focus on climate and the environment in addition to more work on reproductive rights.

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

By WYATTE GRANTHAM-PHILIPS AP Business Writer

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. While a Chapter 11 filing is used to restructure debt while operations continue, Yellow, like other trucking companies in recent years, will liquidate and the U.S. will join other creditors unlikely to recover funds extended to the company.

Yellow fell into severe financial stress after a long stretch of poor management and strategic decisions dating back decades.

In 2019 two trucking companies, Celadon and New England Motor Freight, file for bankruptcy protection and liquidated.

Former Yellow customers and shippers may 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.

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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 gave legal notice for a bankruptcy filing and shut down operations in late July following layoffs of hundreds of nonunion employees.

Teamsters general president Sean O'Brien called the news "unfortunate but not surprising" in a July 31 statement — pointing to the financial chaos at Yellow. "This is a sad day for workers and the American freight industry," he said.

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 a total of \$50 million owed to the Central States Health and Welfare Fund. A Yellow spokesperson said Tuesday that the company previously request a short-term deferral of the pension contributions plus interest, but the funds denied that request.

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. The Teamsters supported the \$700 million loan when it was first announced.

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."

As of June 30, Yellow had paid \$67 million in cash interest on the loan, which is due in 2024, the company said.

The financial chaos at Yellow "is probably two decades in the making," Stifel research director Bruce Chan said ahead of the filing late last month, 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."

## **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, 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

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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."

## Today in History: August 8, Nixon announces his resignation

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, Aug. 8, the 220th day of 2023. There are 145 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Aug. 8, 1974, President Richard Nixon, facing damaging new revelations in the Watergate scandal, announced he would resign the following day.

On this date:

In 1814, during the War of 1812, peace talks between the United States and Britain began in Ghent, Belgium.

In 1815, Napoleon Bonaparte set sail for St. Helena to spend the remainder of his days in exile.

In 1861, biologist William Bateson, founder of the science of genetics, was born in Whitby, Yorkshire, England.

In 1911, President William Howard Taft signed a measure raising the number of U.S. representatives from 391 to 433, effective with the next Congress, with a proviso to add two more when New Mexico and Arizona became states.

In 1942, during World War II, six Nazi saboteurs who were captured after landing in the U.S. were executed in Washington, D.C.; two others who cooperated with authorities were spared.

In 1945, President Harry S. Truman signed the U.S. instrument of ratification for the United Nations



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Charter. The Soviet Union declared war against Japan during World War II.

In 1953, the United States and South Korea initialed a mutual security pact.

In 1963, Britain's "Great Train Robbery" took place as thieves made off with 2.6 million pounds in banknotes.

In 1973, Vice President Spiro T. Agnew branded as "damned lies" reports he had taken kickbacks from government contracts in Maryland, and vowed not to resign — which he ended up doing.

In 1994, Israel and Jordan opened the first road link between the once-warring countries.

In 2000, the wreckage of the Confederate submarine H.L. Hunley, which sank in 1864 after attacking the Union ship Housatonic, was recovered off the South Carolina coast and returned to port.

In 2009, Sonia Sotomayor was sworn in as the U.S. Supreme Court's first Hispanic and third female justice.

Ten years ago: The U.S. sharply escalated its drone war in Yemen, with military officials in the Arab country reporting three strikes that left a dozen dead. Actor Karen Black, 74, who was featured in such counterculture favorites as "Easy Rider," "Five Easy Pieces" and "Nashville," died in Los Angeles. Opera singer Regina Resnik, 90, died in New York.

Five years ago: The United States announced that it would impose new sanctions on Russia for illegally using a chemical weapon in an attempt to kill a former spy and his daughter in Britain. Australian golfer Jarrod Lyle died at the age of 36 after a long battle with cancer. A Montana coroner said the death of "Superman" actor Margot Kidder had been ruled a suicide from a drug and alcohol overdose.

One year ago: Former President Donald Trump said the FBI conducted a search of his Mar-a-Lago estate as the Justice Department investigated the discovery of boxes of records containing classified information that were taken to Mar-a-Lago after Trump's presidency ended. The white father and son convicted of murder in Ahmaud Arbery's fatal shooting after they chased the 25-year-old Black man through a Georgia neighborhood were sentenced to life in prison for committing a federal hate crime. The killing in February 2020 had become part of a larger national reckoning over racial injustice. Olivia Newton-John, the Grammy-winning superstar who reigned on pop, country, adult contemporary and dance charts with such hits as "Physical" and "You're the One That I Want," died at age 73.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Nita Talbot is 93. Actor Dustin Hoffman is 86. Actor Connie Stevens is 85. Country singer Phil Balsley (The Statler Brothers) is 84. Actor Larry Wilcox is 76. Actor Keith Carradine is 74. Movie director Martin Brest is 72. Radio-TV personality Robin Quivers is 71. U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin is 70. Percussionist Anton Fig is 70. Actor Donny Most is 70. Rock musician Dennis Drew (10,000 Maniacs) is 66. TV personality Deborah Norville is 65. Rock musician The Edge (U2) is 62. Rock musician Rikki Rockett (Poison) is 62. Rapper Kool Moe Dee is 61. Middle distance runner Suzy Favor Hamilton is 55. Rock singer Scott Stapp is 50. Country singer Mark Wills is 50. Actor Kohl Sudduth is 49. Rock musician Tom Linton (Jimmy Eat World) is 48. Singer JC Chasez ('N Sync) is 47. Actor Tawny Cypress is 47. R&B singer Drew Lachey (lah-SHAY') (98 Degrees) is 47. R&B singer Marsha Ambrosius is 46. Actor Lindsay Sloane is 46. Actor Countess Vaughn is 45. Actor Michael Urie is 43. Tennis player Roger Federer is 42. Actor Meagan Good is 42. Actor Jackie Cruz (TV: "Orange is the New Black") is 39. Britain's Princess Beatrix of York is 35. Actor Ken Baumann is 34. New York Yankees first baseman Anthony Rizzo is 34. Pop singer Shawn Mendes is 25.