

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Aug. 9, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 046 ~ 1 of 66

- [1- Upcoming Events](#)
- [2- Newsweek Bulletin](#)
- [3- StoryBook Land Theatre Ad](#)
- [4- Chip Seal Project this week](#)
- [5- Motor Cycle Rally Info](#)
- [6- Groton Veterinarians earn state awards](#)
- [7- We the People: Justice James Wilson: Leading Constitutional Architect](#)
- [8- Gov. Noem Signs EO for Spring Flood Relief in Edmunds and Spink Counties](#)
- [9- Getting ballfields ready for game](#)
- [10- Frederick's Losure attended Girls Nation](#)
- [11- SD SearchLight: Traffic counts plummet during motorcycle rally's first four days](#)
- [11- SD SearchLight: It's hard to get stoked about repealing medical marijuana](#)
- [12- SD SearchLight: Commissioners express concerns as carbon pipeline hearing ends](#)
- [14- Weather Pages](#)
- [18- Daily Devotional](#)
- [19- 2023 Community Events](#)
- [20- Subscription Form](#)
- [21- Lottery Numbers](#)
- [22- News from the Associated Press](#)

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.

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

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



Friday, Aug. 11

Senior Menu: Taco salad with chips, Mexican rice with black beans, Mandarin oranges, pineapple, breadstick.
Girls soccer hosts West Central: Varsity at 11 a.m., JV at 1 p.m.
Baseball Golf Tourney Fundraiser at Olive Grove Golf Course

Saturday, Aug. 12

Girls Soccer hosts Dakota Valley: Varsity at 1 p.m., JV at 2:30 p.m.
Boys Soccer at Freeman Academy, 1 p.m.
Common Cents Community Thrift Store, 209 N Main, open 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Catholic: SEAS Confession, 3:45-4:15 p.m.; SEAS Mass, 4:30 p.m.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Aug. 9, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 046 ~ 2 of 66

The Bulletin by Newsweek

World in Brief

A lottery ticket sold in Florida won Tuesday night's \$1.58 billion Mega Millions jackpot, the largest in the lottery's history. The winning numbers were 13, 19, 20, 32, 33, with a gold Mega Ball of 14.

The military junta ruling Niger has appointed civilian economist Ali Mahaman Lamine Zeine as Prime Minister, rejecting calls for mediation from the U.N. and West African bloc ECOWAS.

Forty-one migrants have died in a shipwreck off the Italian island of Lampedusa, south of Sicily, survivors have told local media.

At least nine people were killed and 82 were injured in deadly Russian strikes on the eastern Ukrainian city of Pokrovsk, in the Donetsk Oblast, Ukraine's interior minister said.

Colombian drug trafficker Dairo Antonio Usuga David, more commonly known as Otoniel, has been sentenced to 45 years in jail by a federal judge in the U.S.

In the ongoing war in Ukraine, a number of Wagner Group mercenaries returning from Ukraine have been killed on their home soil, including one who was stoned to death, local media reported, highlighting divisions in Russian society over the war.

..

TALKING POINTS

"We're being very overworked, we're understaffed, the city has disrespected us and we're tired of it. If they continue to disrespect us, we're gonna shut it down," bus operator Dion Cornelious told KTLA-TV while participating in Los Angeles' first city worker strike in decades.

"I think everybody's been hoping that Sen. [Tommy] Tuberville would back down, and I think we have to come to the conclusion that that is not happening and that he is prepared to burn the military down," Sen. Chris Murphy of Connecticut told The Hill of the Alabama Republican's monthslong hold on military promotions.

"So there's only one guy that can convict Donald Trump, and that's Mike Pence. And if Pence goes into the courtroom and says, 'Donald Trump knew the election was not a fraud, but he said it anyway, and I can prove it. And here's the proof.' Donald Trump goes down," former Fox News host Bill O'Reilly said while speaking with WABC's Sid Rosenberg..

WHAT TO WATCH IN THE DAY AHEAD

President Joe Biden is expected to discuss the Inflation Reduction Act's impacts on the U.S. economy while visiting Albuquerque, New Mexico.

The next court hearing for Jack Teixeira, the Massachusetts Air National Guard member accused of posting classified documents on social media, is scheduled to take place this morning.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Aug. 9, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 046 ~ 3 of 66



The Perfect DOG

This search is gonna be ruff!

MUSIC AND LYRICS BY
DAVID ABBINANTI

BOOK BY
JILL ABBINANTI

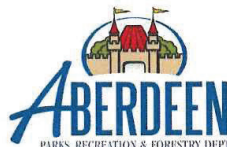
INSPIRED BY THE BOOK
"THE PERFECT DOG"
BY JOHN O'HURLEY

When: Thursday, August 10, 2023

Time: 1:00pm

Where: Groton Community Center – 109 N 3rd St

Entry Fee: \$0

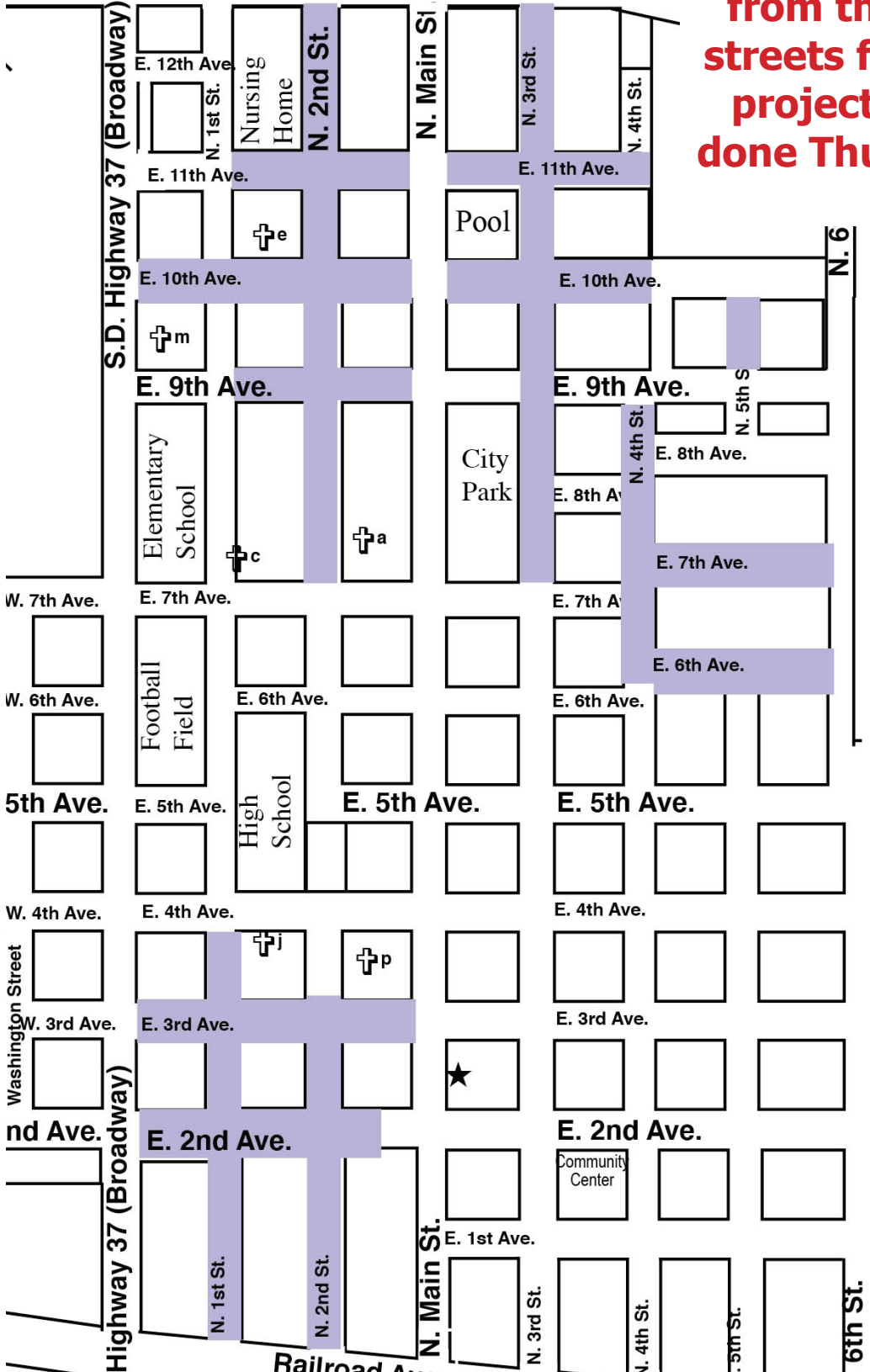


Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Aug. 9, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 046 ~ 4 of 66

U.S. Highway 12

Please remove vehicles from the blue shaded streets for the chip seal project which will be done Thursday or Friday



2023

2023 STREET CHIP SEAL PROJECT

Olive Grove Golf Course

Broton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Aug. 9, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 046 ~ 5 of 66

Highway Patrol Sturgis Rally Daily Information

Compiled from 6 a.m. Saturday August 5, 2023, to 6 a.m. Tuesday August 08, 2023

Fatal Crashes: None to report.

Injury Crashes:

At 8:35am, Monday, US Highway 14A, mile marker 35: A 2012 Harley Davidson motorcycle was traveling westbound on a wet roadway. The driver lost control, tipped, and slid into the north ditch. The driver was not wearing a helmet and received serious non-life-threatening injuries.

At 10:44am, Monday, US Highway 16, mile marker 56: A 2018 Harley Davidson motorcycle was traveling westbound, hit a patch of debris, lost control, and hit the guard rail. The driver was wearing a helmet and received serious non-life-threatening injuries.

At 3:53pm, Monday, Interstate 90, mile marker 53: A 2017 Harley Davidson motorcycle was traveling westbound, lost control, and entered the north ditch. The driver was wearing a helmet and received serious non-life-threatening injuries.

At 11:34pm, Monday, Fort Meade Way and 270th Street: A 1993 Chevy Astro Van was traveling southbound, entered the ditch, and struck a tree. The driver was wearing a seatbelt and received minor injuries.

2023 Sturgis Rally Vehicle Count – Through Day Four

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

Monday, Aug. 7: 50,487 vehicles entered

Down 16.9% from the previous five-year average

2023 Total to Date: 194,851 Vehicles

Previous Five-Year Average to Date: 232,353 Vehicles

Item	Sturgis	Rapid City District	District Total	Last Year to Date
DUI Arrests	44	8	52	61
Misd Drug Arrests	57	24	81	59
Felony Drug Arrests	24	11	35	31
Total Citations	364	226	590	554
Total Warnings	1026	713	1739	1985
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	8	13	21	18
Injury Accidents	9	17	26	22
Fatal Accidents	2	0	2	2
# of Fatalities	2	0	2	2



Groton Veterinarians earn state awards

The South Dakota Veterinary Medical Association Veterinarian of the Year was awarded to Dr. Steve Smith, Groton, of the Groton Vet Clinic. This award is made to an SDVMA member who has contributed significantly to the veterinary profession and to the animals and clients he serves. The award recognizes a member for service and accomplishments benefiting the profession of veterinary medicine.

The SDVMA Outstanding Veterinary Technician was awarded to Paula Maddocks, Hecla, of the Groton Vet Clinic. This award is made to a registered veterinary technician who has provided outstanding support to veterinary medicine through dedication to the care and well-being of animals and professional knowledge and execution in service to the profession. (Courtesy Photo)

We the People

The South Dakota Humanities Council is making available a weekly column -- "We the People" -- that focuses on the U.S. Constitution. It is written by David Adler, who is president of The Alturas Institute, a non-profit organization created to promote the Constitution, gender equality, and civic education.



By David Adler

Justice James Wilson: Leading Constitutional Architect

It was altogether fitting that James Wilson, second in importance only to James Madison as an architect of the Constitution, would be nominated by President George Washington to the original Supreme Court. From this position, Justice James Wilson could defend the Constitution, which he had done so much to shape and define.

As it turned out, Wilson's leading role as a delegate to the Constitutional Convention was his greatest achievement, the high point of his life. Not that such influence is without cause for celebration. Hardly. It's rather that many of Wilson's admirers somehow expected more from one of the most brilliant legal minds of his generation. A Supreme Court docket with a paucity of cases in the early years, however, deprived him of writing many influential opinions that would have enhanced his reputation and imparted, perhaps,

an indelible mark on the development of the Constitution to match his imprint on its drafting.

Instead, the deeply learned scholar, nicknamed "Professor," was content to influence and educate the nation with a series of lectures on the Constitution in 1791 that affirmed the first-rate insights of his legal and rhetorical analyses of English oppression of colonial Americans in the pre-revolutionary era.

Wilson was born September 14, 1742, in rural Scotland, near St. Andrews. With university training under his belt at the peak of the Scottish Enlightenment, a school of thought that worked considerable influence on our nation's founding principles, Wilson emigrated to America when he was 23 years old. He read law in Philadelphia under the tutelage of John Dickinson, who was widely hailed as one of the top lawyers and legal educators in his time. Wilson's brilliance led quickly to fame and fortune. His success in court, combined with his withering critiques of the assertion of parliamentary authority in the colonies, led to political and social prominence.

In 1775, Wilson was elected to the Second Continental Congress. Although not an early advocate of independence from England, given his interest in reconciliation with the Crown, he signed the Declaration of Independence and soon became an ardent supporter of a strong national government that could replace the weak and inefficient government under the Articles of Confederation.

As a delegate from Pennsylvania, he spoke in the Constitutional Convention frequently, and with authority. His contributions to the fundamentals of American Constitutionalism were conspicuous in the areas of separation of powers, judicial review, the presidency, and the doctrine of popular sovereignty. He didn't win all his battles. For instance, he favored direct democracy and direct election of the Senate and the presidency.

Along with other heavyweights in the Convention, Wilson approved of judicial review, which he conceived as the principal means of enforcing constitutional limitations and the rule of law. Critical to the implementation of the rule of law, Wilson explained to his colleagues, was subordination of the president to the law and his amenability to the judicial process.

Wilson dashed any flirtation with the concept of presidential prerogative, which he found utterly incompatible with the principles of republicanism. The president, unlike the English monarch, would have no authority to violate or set aside the law in the face of an emergency.

As a proponent of the rule of law, he believed that the president should enjoy "no privileges not enjoyed by all other citizens." With Alexander Hamilton and James Madison, moreover, he repudiated the idea that the president should possess unilateral authority to declare or otherwise initiate war on behalf of the American people. In the Pennsylvania Ratifying Convention, Wilson declared that "the system is designed to prevent one man from hurrying us into war." Delegates to the Convention unanimously agreed that only Congress should possess authority to commence military hostilities.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Aug. 9, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 046 ~ 8 of 66

Wilson had hoped to be named Chief Justice and, in fact, is known to have asked Washington to nominate him for the post. Washington, however, preferred John Jay to lead the inaugural Court. He was bypassed in 1795 and again in 1796. Wilson's haughty demeanor may have impaired his aspirations. During his nine-year tenure on the Court, Wilson wrote about two dozen opinions, which totaled only 20 pages in the official reports.

In his most notable opinion, *Chisholm v. Georgia* (1793), he dismissed Georgia's claim of state sovereignty and exalted popular sovereignty, which set forth an essential cornerstone of American constitutional and political thought.

Wilson's restless, brilliant mind featured a vaulting ambition. Having successfully led a movement in 1790 to replace the Pennsylvania State Constitution of 1776 with one that reflected his constitutional theories, he hoped, in vain, to be appointed to codify his state's laws and those of the nation. His lengthy, influential *Lectures on Law*, delivered in 1790-1791, reflected his appointment as a Professor in the College of Philadelphia and his vision of American law and constitutionalism.

Like others in the founding generation—Thomas Paine and Robert Morris, for example—Wilson was plagued by financial setbacks. He was forced to flee creditors and was twice sentenced to debtor's prison. He largely abdicated his duties on the Court in the final two years of his life, as he attempted to elude creditors. He died on August 21, 1798, a broken man. History, however, will remember his enduring contributions to the creation of the American Constitution.

Gov. Noem Signs EO for Spring Flood Relief in Edmunds and Spink Counties

PIERRE, S.D. – Governor Kristi Noem signed Executive Order 2023-12, which declares a disaster in Edmunds and Spink Counties, allowing them to receive Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) funding to help repair damages incurred from the severe spring flooding.

On June 2nd, Governor Kristi Noem signed Executive Order 2023-08, which declared a disaster in the counties of Brown, Clark, Codington, Day, Faulk, Grant, Hand, Marshall, Potter, and Roberts, as well as the Lake Traverse Indian Reservation. A Presidential Disaster Declaration then allowed the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to help South Dakota local governments in the impacted counties.

Edmunds and Spink counties incurred damages from severe spring flooding but did not qualify for FEMA relief. However, the two counties do qualify to receive disaster relief funds from the FHWA.

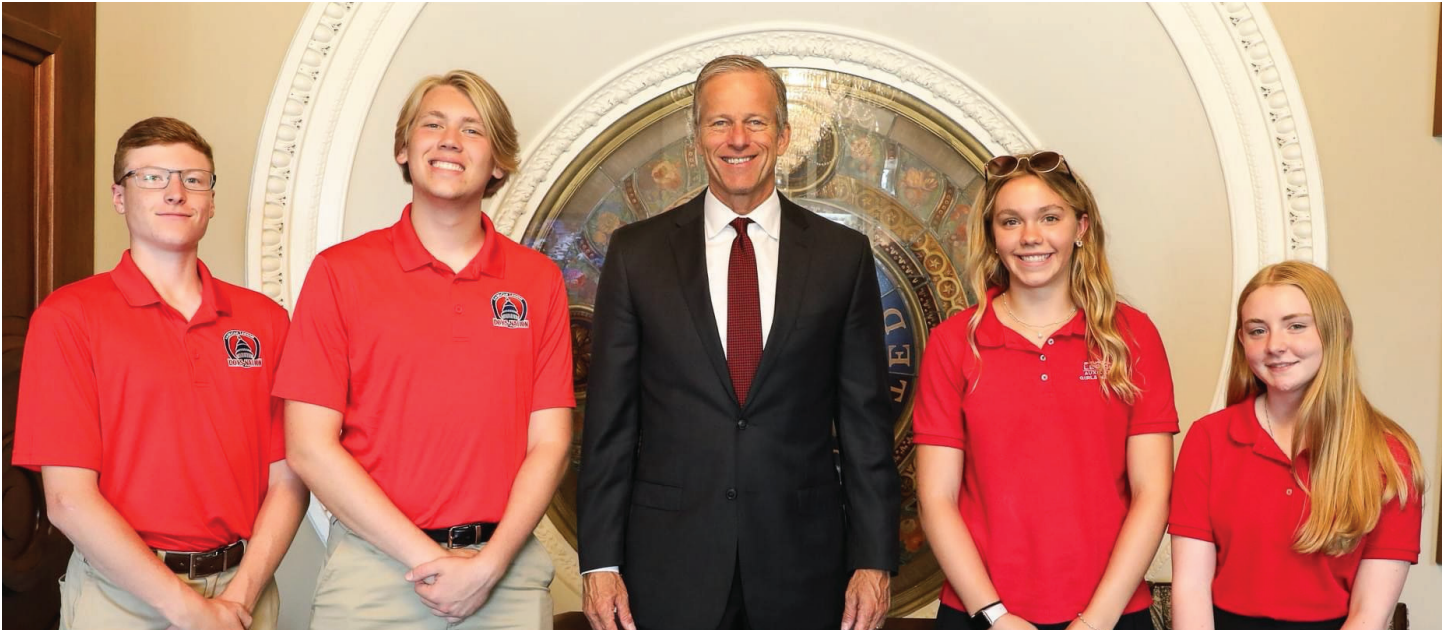
Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Aug. 9, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 046 ~ 9 of 66



When the State Junior American Legion Tournament Baseball Tournament got called off due to field conditions from the rain in Lennox on Sunday, the Groton grounds crew got busy and quickly got Locke-Karst Field ready for a game even after a two inch rain in Groton. David Larson, Brady Keith, Tate Larson and others helped get the field ready. Below is Travis Kurth mowing the infield. The field was prepared while the two teams traveled from Lennox to Groton. Groton played W.I.N. in the fifth place game and won the game. (Courtesy Photos Doug Hamilton)





Frederick's Losure attended Girls Nation

South Dakota High School students, Austin Jenkins, Max Altena, Sofia Losure, and Reagan Blackburn are pictured above with Senator John Thune in Washington D.C.

Austin Jenkins of Forbes (Leola High School) and Max Altena of Sioux Falls (Lincoln High School) arrived at Marymount University in Arlington, Virginia on July 21st and Sofia Losure of Frederick Area High School and Reagan Blackburn of Aberdeen (Central High School) arrived at Bolger Center in Washington D.C. on July 22nd, as selected delegates from The American Legion Boys State of South Dakota and The American Legion Auxiliary Girls State of South Dakota to their respective American Legion Boys and American Legion Auxiliary Girls Nation programs.

Two representatives from each of the 50 Boys State/Girls State Programs can represent their state at Boys/Girls Nation in our Nation's Capital, where the young leaders receive an education on the structure and function of federal government.

The first Boys Nation – then called Boys Forum of National Government – convened at American University in Washington in August 1946. The 1946 American Legion National Convention adopted the event as an official youth activity. Three years later, it became American Legion Boys Nation. Girls Nation was first held in 1947.

The Student Senators learn the proper method of handling bills, according to U.S. Senate rules. Participation in the political process is emphasized throughout the week, including organization of party conventions and nominating and electing a president and vice president.

The week of government training also includes lectures, forums and visits to federal agencies, national shrines, institutions, memorials and historical sites. On Capitol Hill, Boys and Girls Nation senators also meet with elected officials from their home states.



SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

Traffic counts plummet during motorcycle rally's first four days

BY: SEARCHLIGHT STAFF - AUGUST 8, 2023 11:50 AM

Traffic counters recorded a 16% decline from five-year averages during the first four days of this year's Sturgis motorcycle rally, according to the state Department of Transportation.

Counts at nine locations entering Sturgis were down 13% from the five-year average on Friday, and were down 37% from the five-year average on Saturday.

The counts rebounded to a 4% increase from the five-year average on Sunday, but were down again on Monday, by 17% compared to the previous five-year average.

Through Monday, traffic counters had recorded 194,851 vehicles over the rally's first four days, compared to the five-year average of 232,353.

The Department of Transportation's news release did not speculate on the reason for the declining traffic, but weather could be one factor, as unseasonably cool and rainy weather prevailed during the rally's opening days.

The rally began Friday and continues through Sunday, Aug. 13.

COMMENTARY

It's hard to get stoked about repealing medical marijuana

DANA HESS

One feature of South Dakota's citizen ballot initiative process is that it values effort over expertise. Consider the case of Travis Ismay. The Newell man would like the 2024 election to include a ballot initiative repealing the legality of the state's medical marijuana program.

Ismay is full of praise for the Legislative Research Council and its work getting his petition in order. Next came an opinion from Attorney General Marty Jackley saying that the ballot issue, if approved by voters, would do exactly what Ismay wants: make all possession, use, cultivation, sale and manufacture of medical marijuana a crime.

The technical aspects of getting a ballot issue ready are likely the easy part for Ismay. Now comes the effort — collecting 17,509 signatures to get the initiative on the 2024 ballot.

Collecting that many signatures is always difficult, but may prove even tougher for Ismay as the 2020 ballot initiative legalizing medical marijuana was endorsed by 70% of voters. It seems that people in this state liked the idea of using marijuana as a way to ease medical complaints.

The medical marijuana initiative was approved, despite the best efforts of the South Dakota State Medical Association as it campaigned against it. Perhaps the medical marijuana initiative was overshadowed to some extent by a constitutional amendment on the same ballot that not only sought to legalize medical marijuana but recreational marijuana as well. As reticent as South Dakotans can be about changing the state constitution, that amendment, since nullified by the courts, passed with 54% of the vote.

The possible repeal of the medical marijuana program means that three years of legislation and investment would amount to a wasted effort. A quick count from the LRC website shows that from 2021 to 2023 the Legislature considered more than 50 medical marijuana bills. The law that Ismay seeks to repeal is 16 pages long with 95 sections.

While lawmakers worked on getting the medical marijuana regulations just the way they wanted them, entrepreneurs were taking advantage of the new law. According to data from the state's medical cannabis website, state certifications have been approved for 77 dispensaries, 18 manufacturers and 41 cultivators.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Aug. 9, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 046 ~ 12 of 66

Granted, some of these businesses may see their role in medical marijuana as just a foot in the door for the day when the state's voters once again approve recreational marijuana. Still, that's quite a bit of small business investment and quite a few jobs to flush away just three years after the program got started.

Aside from the legislative and administrative work needed to get the program going and the investment by new businesses across the state, a repeal of the program would have its most lasting ramifications on the patients who have come to rely on the relief offered by medical marijuana. According to the state website, as of July the state has issued more than 11,300 approved patient cards.

Despite scoffing from the medical establishment, patients have found real, ongoing relief from their use of medical marijuana. State rules allow the use of medical cannabis for a "debilitating medical condition." This can include "cachexia or wasting syndrome; severe, debilitating pain; severe nausea; seizures; or severe and persistent muscle spasms, including those characteristic of multiple sclerosis." Putting a repeal of the medical marijuana program on the ballot would only add to the anxiety of people who are using cannabis to relieve symptoms of serious medical conditions.

Also overlooked in Ismay's ballot effort is how a repeal would affect the state's tribes, some of which have been quick in the past to set their own rules for the sale and use of marijuana. Should the repeal be approved by voters, as sovereign nations the tribes may claim the ability to keep medical marijuana legal, cornering the market.

Of course, signing a petition is not the same as actually voting for an initiated measure. However, as he begins the arduous task of collecting signatures, Ismay should ask himself if 70% of voters could really be that wrong. And, if he can get his initiated measure on the ballot, can he persuade at least 21% of them to vote to repeal a program they only recently overwhelmingly endorsed.

Dana Hess spent more than 25 years in South Dakota journalism, editing newspapers in Redfield, Milbank and Pierre. He's retired and lives in Brookings, working occasionally as a freelance writer.

Commissioners express concerns as carbon pipeline hearing ends

BY: JOSHUA HAIAR - AUGUST 8, 2023 8:30 PM

Two of the state's publicly elected utility regulators expressed concerns about a proposed carbon dioxide pipeline Tuesday during the 10th and final day of a permit hearing in Pierre.

The Public Utilities Commission is required to make a decision within 12 months of receiving a permit application, which means a decision is due by Sept. 26.

Commissioner Kristie Fiegen questioned a representative of Navigator CO₂, the company proposing the pipeline, on Tuesday about its failures to provide timely notices to some affected landowners and its decision to withhold some findings from modeling about the impacts of a pipeline rupture or leak.

"I can't get that out of my mind," Fiegen said of the company's choice to keep some studies private from counties and emergency responders.

Commissioner Chris Nelson said he wasn't sure how the commission would come down on the issue of the safety information, but if commissioners decide the withheld study findings should be disclosed, it would be an "impasse."

The other commissioner, Gary Hanson, was absent Tuesday while he represented the commission at a utility regulators forum.

The planned \$3 billion, 1,300-mile, five-state Heartland Greenway pipeline would capture carbon dioxide emissions from 21 ethanol and several fertilizer plants, converting the gas into a liquid for transport. The carbon could then be deposited underground in Illinois or sold for industrial and commercial applications, including oil extraction or dry ice production.

The project could qualify for \$1.3 billion annually in federal tax credits for atmospheric carbon reduction, to help fight climate change. It would stretch across 112 miles in five South Dakota counties: Brookings, Moody, Minnehaha, Lincoln and Turner. South Dakota is the initial state to conduct hearings for the project.

So far, the company has secured easements from 30% of impacted landowners, offering an average of \$24,000 per acre, company officials have said. Navigator has not yet exercised eminent domain, which is

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Aug. 9, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 046 ~ 13 of 66

a legal process for gaining access to land when an agreement can't be reached with a landowner.

The hearing on Navigator's permit application started July 25.

"This has been professional, respectful, but very strategic," Fiegen said as the hearing came to a close. "I think we all increased our knowledge on carbon pipelines, and I want to say thank you."

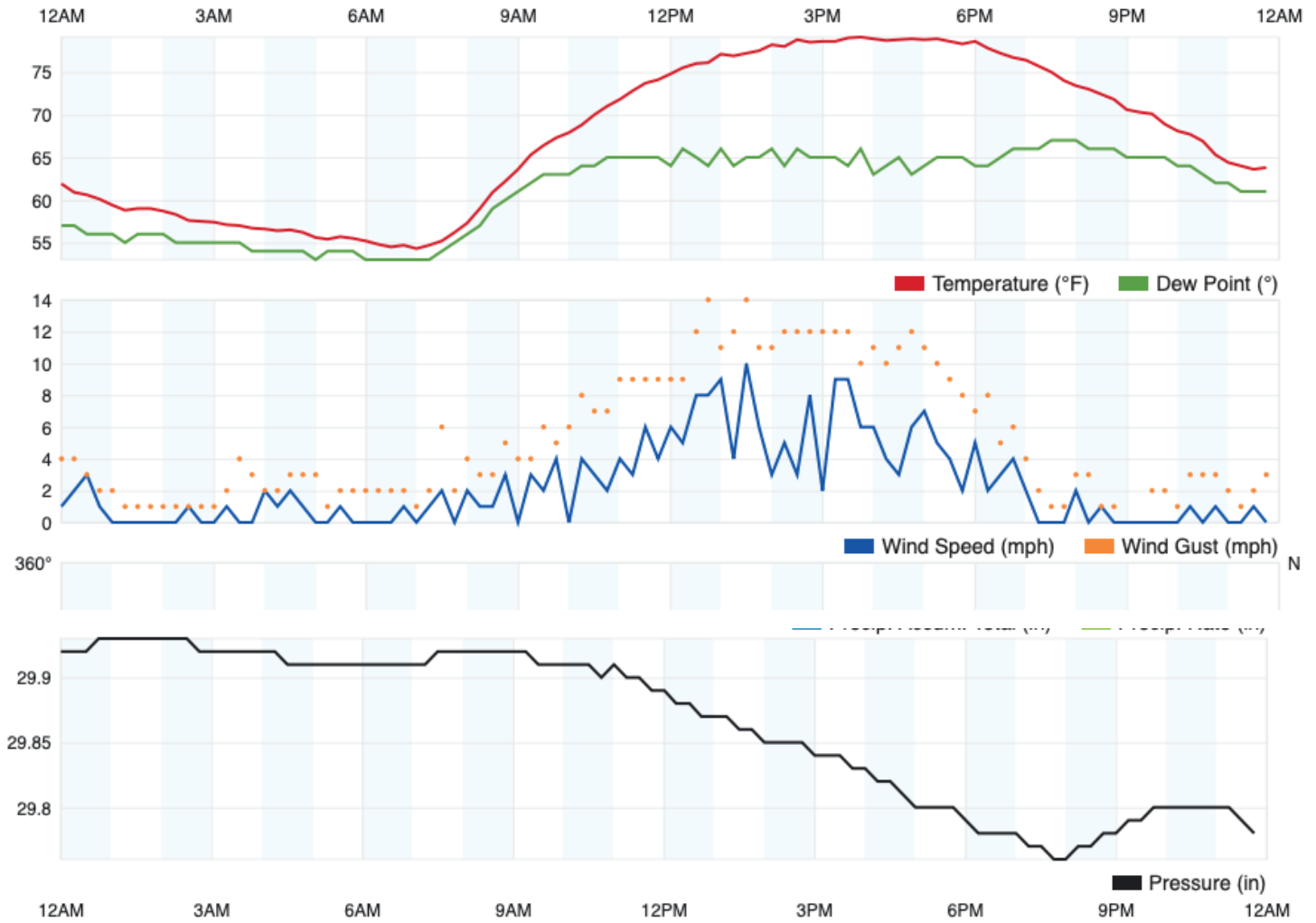
The other carbon pipeline proposed in South Dakota, by Summit Carbon Solutions, which has already begun using eminent domain, is scheduled to have its permit hearing Sept. 11-22. Last week, North Dakota regulators rejected a permit for Summit in that state, and the company indicated it will file a revised application.

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.

Groton Daily Independent




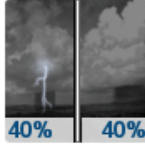



Wednesday, Aug. 9, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 046 ~ 14 of 66


Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



Broton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Aug. 9, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 046 ~ 15 of 66

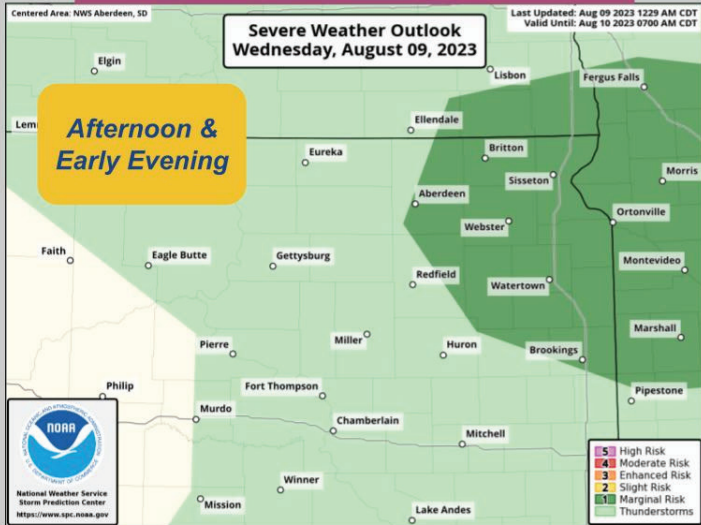
Today	Tonight	Thursday	Thursday Night	Friday	Friday Night	Saturday
						
Sunny then Slight Chance T-storms	Slight Chance T-storms then Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny then Chance T-storms	Chance T-storms then Chance Showers	Sunny then Sunny and Breezy	Clear	Sunny
High: 82 °F	Low: 57 °F	High: 85 °F	Low: 60 °F	High: 85 °F	Low: 56 °F	High: 84 °F



Severe Storms Possible

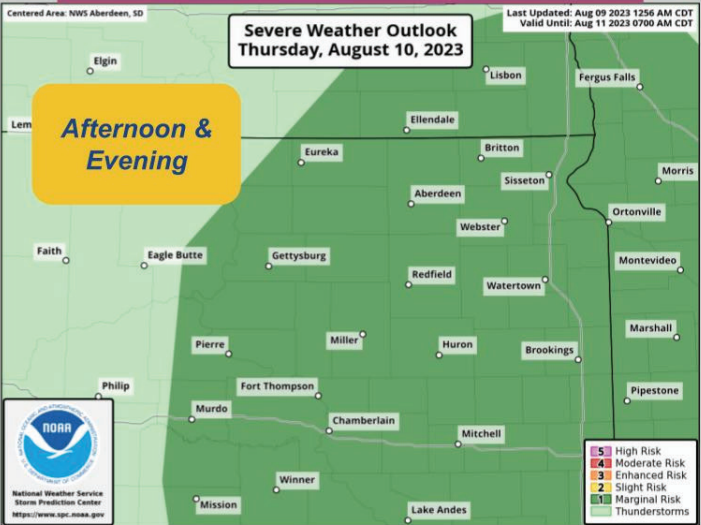
August 9, 2023
1:16 AM

Today's Severe Wx Outlook




Afternoon & Early Evening

Thursday's Severe Wx Outlook



Afternoon & Evening



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

National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

There is a marginal chance for severe storms both this afternoon and Thursday afternoon. Hail and wind would be the main threats. Coverage on Thursday may prove higher vs today.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Aug. 9, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 046 ~ 17 of 66

Today in Weather History

August 9, 1918: An estimated F2 tornado touched down east of Bristol, South Dakota, and moved NNE. The tornado was said to look like a long snake in a spiral, smashing barns into kindling.

August 9, 1992: A tornado packing winds estimated between 113 and 157 mph caused significant damage to the town of Chester, in Lake County. Shortly after 7 pm CDT a tornado tore right through the heart of Chester causing considerable damage. Four businesses were destroyed, three others had significant damage, and five had minor damage. An elevator and new grain bin were leveled, and another bin was heavily damaged. Most of the building housing the fire department was demolished. Also, many houses and vehicles sustained damage, and large trees were uprooted or broken off. In one instance a steel beam was thrust through a garage and into the car inside. One mile north of Chester, an entire house was moved off the foundation. The town had to be evacuated for 19 hours after the tornado because the tornado damaged a 12,000-gallon ammonia tank releasing 4,000 gallons of the liquid gas into the air. The ammonia was a health hazard forcing residents out. To the south of Chester, the storm destroyed a new convenience store and blew two fuel tanks over 100 yards.

1878: The second deadliest tornado in New England history struck Wallingford, Connecticut, killing 34 persons, injuring 100 others, and destroying thirty homes. The tornado started as a waterspout over a dam on the Quinnipiac River. It was 400 to 600 feet wide and had a short path length of two miles. The deadliest New England tornado occurred in 1953 when an F4 killed 90 people in Worcester, Massachusetts.

1969 - A tornado hit Cincinnati OH killing four persons and causing fifteen million dollars property damage. The tornado moved in a southeasterly direction at 40 to 50 mph. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Florida baked in the summer heat. Nine cities reported record high temperatures for the date, including Jacksonville with a reading of 101 degrees. Miami FL reported a record high of 98 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Tropical Storm Beryl deluged Biloxi with 6.32 inches of rain in 24 hours, and in three days drenched Pascagoula MS with 15.85 inches of rain. Afternoon and evening thunderstorms produced severe weather in the Southern Plains Region and over the Central High Plains Region. Thunderstorms in Oklahoma produced wind gusts to 92 mph at Harrah. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Evening thunderstorms in Arizona deluged Yuma with record torrential rains for the second time in two weeks. The rainfall total of 5.25 inches at the Yuma Quartermaster Depot established a state 24 hour record, and was nearly double the normal annual rainfall. Some of the homes were left with four feet of water in them. Seventy-six cities in the south central and eastern U.S. reported record low temperatures for the date. Lake Charles LA equalled their record for August with a low of 61 degrees. Canaan Valley WV was the cold spot in the nation with a low of 32 degrees. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Aug. 9, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 046 ~ 18 of 66

Daily Devotionals

Seeds of Hope

THE GOAL

Florence Chadwick swam across the English Channel from England to France in 13 hours and 20 minutes in 1950. The following year she swam from France to England becoming the first woman to swim the channel in both directions.

Two years later she decided to swim from the Catalina Islands to Palos Verdes, California, a distance of 26 miles. She was surrounded by people in small boats who were concerned for her well-being. They were prepared to help her if she became tired or encountered any danger from sharks. After 15 hours, a thick fog settled in, and she began to doubt her ability to complete her journey. An hour later she was pulled from the water, unable to see the shore. After getting into the boat, she learned that she had stopped one mile short of her goal - the shore.

Two months later she tried again - this time successfully. Even though a thick fog once again came in, she accomplished her goal because she kept a mental image of the coastline in her mind.

Paul said, "Fix your minds on what is true, right, honorable, lovely and admirable." To achieve our goal to live "Christ-like," we must "fix our minds on Christ" and not let the "fog settle in!"

Prayer: Help us, Lord, to keep our eyes focused on You when we are confused and need direction. Help us to see You clearly and trust in Your strength to sustain and protect us. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise. Philippians 4:8-10



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

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Aug. 9, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 046 ~ 19 of 66

2023 Community Events

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

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Aug. 9, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 046 ~ 20 of 66

The Groton Independent Printed & Mailed Weekly Edition

Subscription Form

All prices listed include 6.5% Sales Tax

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

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

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City _____

State, Zip Code _____

E-mail _____

Phone Number _____

Mail Completed Form to:

Groton Independent

P.O. Box 34

Groton, SD 57445-0034

or scan and email to paperpaul@grotonsd.net

Groton Daily Independent

www.397news.com

Subscription Form

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

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

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City _____

State, Zip Code _____

Phone Number _____

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

E-mail _____

Password _____

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

paypal.me/paperpaul



Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Aug. 9, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 046 ~ 21 of 66



WINNING NUMBERS

MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS:

08.08.23

13 19 20 32 33 14

MegaPlier: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$20,000,000

NEXT 2 Days 17 Hrs 46

DRAW: Mins 33 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 17 Hrs 1 Mins 33

DRAW: Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS:

08.08.23

9 11 19 36 45 13

TOP PRIZE:

\$7,000/week

NEXT 17 Hrs 16 Mins 33

DRAW: Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS:

08.05.23

7 12 22 27 31

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$20,000

NEXT 17 Hrs 16 Mins 33

DRAW: Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS:

08.07.23

26 29 37 49 63 22

TOP PRIZE:

\$10,000,000

NEXT 17 Hrs 45 Mins 33

DRAW: 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 17 Hrs 45 Mins 33

DRAW: Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

News from the Associated Press

11 missing in France after fire in holiday home for people with disabilities, authorities say

PARIS (AP) — French authorities say 11 people are missing after a fire broke out early on Wednesday in a holiday home for people with disabilities in eastern France while 17 others have been evacuated.

Interior minister Gerald Darmanin tweeted that “early this morning, a fire broke out in a facility for disabled people” in the small town of Wintzenheim, close to the border with Germany. “Despite the rapid and courageous intervention of the fire department ... several casualties are reported,” he said. Rescue operations were still ongoing.

The local administration of the Haut-Rhin region said the fire broke out at 6:30 a.m. in private accommodation in Wintzenheim. Seventeen people were evacuated, including one person sent to a hospital in a “relative emergency.”

Christophe Marot, the secretary general of the local administration, said on news broadcaster France Info the group includes adults with “slight intellectual disabilities.” He said that 10 disabled people and one person accompanying the group are among the missing.

The group usually lives in the city of Nancy, in eastern France, the statement from the Haut-Rhin prefecture said. “The building was being used ... for their vacation,” it added.

The fire department deployed 76 firefighters, four fire engines and four ambulances to contain the blaze and treat the victims. Forty police officers were also mobilized.

The fire was quickly brought under control, the statement said.

French President Emmanuel Macron wrote on X, formerly known as Twitter: “In the face of this tragedy, my thoughts are with the victims, the injured and their families. Thank you to our security forces and emergency services.”

Prime Minister Elisabeth Borne said on X that she was heading to the site of the fire.

Khanun begins blowing into South Korea with strong winds after dumping rain on Japan for a week

By KIM TONG-HYUNG and YONG JUN CHANG Associated Press

BUSAN, South Korea (AP) — Rains and winds were growing in southern South Korea Wednesday as a tropical storm drew closer to the Korean Peninsula, where it was forecast to slam into major urban areas.

Dozens of flights and ferry services were grounded and tens of thousands of fishing vessels evacuated to ports as government officials raised concern about potentially huge damages from flooding, landslides and tidal waves triggered by the typhoon-strength winds.

The storm, named Khanun, was expected to arrive in South Korea’s southern and eastern regions Wednesday afternoon, the national weather agency said. It is expected to reach the southern resort island of Jeju hours later and then make landfall near the mainland port of Tongyeong Thursday morning.

The agency says Khanun could have a punishing impact as it will likely slice through the center of the country over several hours, with the storm’s eye brushing the capital city of Seoul, while packing winds blowing at 90 to 154 kph (56 to 97 mph).

The storm is expected to dump 10 to 40 centimeters (4 to 16 inches) of rain in southern and central regions and as much as 60 centimeters (24 inches) in the country’s mountainous eastern regions through Friday. It will be weaker as it blows into North Korea early in the day.

The Korean Meteorological Administration measured Khanun at typhoon strength with maximum winds of 126 kph (78 mph) as of 3:10 p.m. Wednesday (6:10 a.m. GMT), as it passed through waters 290 kilometers (180 miles) southeast of Jeju while moving northward at a speed of 12 kph (7.4 mph).

Winds were growing stronger in Jeju as of 3 p.m., blowing at a maximum 86 kph (53 mph) near Jeju

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Aug. 9, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 046 ~ 23 of 66

City on the island's northern side while pouring 11 centimeters (4.3 inches) of rain near Seogwipo City on the island's southern side. Winds were also picking up in some southern mainland areas, including the southwestern port city of Yeosu, where they were measured up to 86 kph (53 mph).

Things were calmer in Busan, a southeastern port city, where people were still walking along a modestly windy Songjeong Beach, holding umbrellas to block light rain.

Japan measured Khanun as a severe tropical storm with sustained winds of 108 kph (67 mph) and higher gusts. Warnings for stormy conditions, potential flooding and other risks were issued for the southwestern part of Japan's southern island of Kyushu and nearby areas.

As a stronger typhoon last week, Khanun lashed Okinawa and other Japanese islands, causing injuries and damage.

South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol has called for officials to be aggressive with disaster prevention measures and evacuations while stressing the perils posed by the storm, which comes just weeks after central and southern regions were pounded by torrential rain that triggered flashfloods and landslides that killed at least 47 people.

The Korea Airport Corporation said at least 144 flights going in and out of Jeju were canceled as of 11 a.m. as Khanun approached. Ferry services connecting the island with mainland ports were also cancelled while authorities shut down at least 39 roads, 26 riverside parking lots and 613 hiking trails nationwide as part of broader preventive measures.

Lee Hak-beom, an official from Korea Coast Guard, said all but 200 of the country's 64,000 registered fishing vessels have evacuated to ports as of Wednesday morning.

Khanun has forced South Korea to evacuate the World Scout Jamboree that had been taking place at a coastal campsite in the southwestern county of Buan. Officials on Tuesday mobilized more than 1,000 buses to transfer 37,000 global scouts to university dormitories, government and corporate training centers and hotels in the capital Seoul and nearby areas.

While South Korean organizers say the Jamboree will continue in the form of cultural events and activities, including a K-Pop concert in Seoul on Friday to go with the closing ceremony, all outdoor activities will be banned from Thursday until the storm passes.

Lee Sang-min, South Korea's Minister of the Interior and Safety, said he was hopeful that the K-Pop concert would be held as planned at a Seoul soccer stadium on Friday evening, when Khanun would have already passed the region. However, he admitted that the storm could complicate preparations.

"If the typhoon still has an influence by then ... and the conditions aren't ideal to support the proceeding of a concert, then we will have to consider cancelling foremost," Lee said during a briefing.

North Korean state media said Wednesday that officials were employing measures to protect factories from possible storm damage, including preparing sandbags, examining pumping systems and setting up emergency plans to evacuate important machinery and workers in case of flooding.

Biden pitching his economic policies as a key to manufacturing jobs revival

By CHRIS MEGERIAN and JOSH BOAK Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — Bringing back factory jobs is one of the most popular of White House promises — regardless of who happens to be the president.

Donald Trump said he'd do it with tariffs. Barack Obama said companies would start "insourcing." George W. Bush said tax cuts would do the trick. But factory jobs seemed to struggle to fully return after each recession.

On Wednesday, President Joe Biden will make the case in a New Mexico speech that his policies of financial and tax incentives have revived U.S. manufacturing. His claim is supported by a rise in construction spending on new factories. But factory hiring has begun to slow in recent months, a sign that the promised boom has yet to fully materialize.

That hasn't stopped the White House from telling voters ahead of the 2024 election that Biden's agenda

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Aug. 9, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 046 ~ 24 of 66

has triggered a "renaissance" in factory work.

"Hundreds of actions coordinated through his entire government are sparking a manufacturing renaissance across the United States," White House climate adviser Ali Zaidi told reporters ahead of the president's New Mexico speech, asking them to picture in their minds a crowded jobs fair in Belen, New Mexico for the 250 workers that Arcosa plans to hire at a factory that makes wind towers.

The president will speak as construction starts on Arcosa's plant, which formerly made Solo cups and later plastics. The White House said that Arcosa had to layoff workers in Illinois and Iowa before the Inflation Reduction Act became law last year, but customers placed \$1.1 billion in wind tower orders with the company afterward. The stock has risen more than 20% in the past 12 months.

Biden's message on jobs is one he's been repeating frequently.

At a Philadelphia shipyard last month, Biden offered his policies to fight climate change by shifting away from fossil fuels as a way to create jobs. It's a sign that he wants voters to process his social and environmental programs as being good for economic growth.

"A lot of my friends in organized labor know: When I think climate, I think jobs," Biden said. "I think union jobs. Not a joke."

Biden's trip to the Southwest is shaded by his reelection campaign and the challenge posed by a majority U.S. adults saying that they believe the economy is in poor shape. The president is trying to break through a deep pessimism that intensified last year as inflation spiked. His trip included a Tuesday speech in Arizona and will end with remarks Thursday in Utah. In 2020, Biden won both Arizona and New Mexico, key states that he likely needs to hold next year in order to secure another term.

The president does have a case to make to the public on employment. As the U.S. economy healed from the pandemic, hiring has surged at factories. Manufacturing jobs have climbed to their highest totals in nearly 15 years. This is the first time since the 1970s that manufacturing employment has fully recovered from a recession.

But the pace of job growth at manufacturers has slowed over the past year. Factories were adding roughly 500,000 workers annually last summer, a figure that in the government's most recent jobs report fell to 125,000 gains over the past 12 months.

Administration officials have said there are more factory jobs coming because of its infrastructure spending, investments in computer chip plants and the various incentives in last year's Inflation Reduction Act.

Their argument is that the incentives encouraged the private sector to invest, leading to \$500 billion worth of commitments to make computer chips, electric vehicles, advanced batteries, clean energy technologies and medical goods. They say that more factories are coming because, after adjusting for inflation, spending on factory construction has climbed almost 100% since the end of 2021.

In April, the Economic Innovation Group, a public policy organization, issued a report that called construction spending for factories a "nationwide boom." The report notes there are signs that manufacturing gains are most prominent outside the Midwest, which has historically identified with the sector, as more plants open in southern and western states. But EIG is less sure that a full-fledged restoration of manufacturing is in the works as the sector has been in decline for decades.

Labor Department figures show that total factory employment peaked in 1979 at nearly 19.6 million jobs. With just under 13 million manufacturing jobs now, the U.S. is unlikely to return to that level because of automation and trade.

Adam Ozimek, chief economist at EIG, said jobs can be a flawed way to measure a manufacturing revival. He said better metrics include an increase in factory output, whether the U.S. can shift to renewable energy to blunt climate change and whether the government can achieve its national security goals of having a stronger supply chain.

"It's way too early to declare anything like a manufacturing renaissance," Ozimek said. "We are decades into structurally declining manufacturing employment. And it's not at all clear yet whether the positive trends are going to outweigh that continuing headwind."

A Mega Millions player in Florida wins \$1.58 billion jackpot, the third largest prize in US history

The Associated Press undefined

Someone in Florida won a \$1.58 billion Mega Millions jackpot Tuesday night, ending a stretch of lottery futility that had stretched for nearly four months.

A Publix grocery store in Neptune Beach sold the winning ticket, according to the Florida Lottery.

The winning numbers drawn were: 13 19 20 32 33 and the yellow ball: 14.

Before the big win Tuesday night, there had been 31 straight drawings since the last time someone won the game's jackpot on April 18. That enabled the prize to steadily grow to be the third-largest ever in U.S. history.

Mega Millions jackpot winners are so rare thanks to odds of one in 302.6 million.

The \$1.58 billion payout would go to the winner if they opt for an annuity, doled out over 30 years. But people usually prefer a lump sum option, which for Tuesday's jackpot is an estimated \$783.3 million.

The prize money is subject to federal taxes. Many states also tax lottery winnings.

Mega Millions is played in 45 states, Washington, D.C., and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Russian officials say 2 drones approaching Moscow were shot down overnight, blame Ukraine

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Russian air defenses shot down two drones aimed at Moscow overnight, officials said Wednesday, in what they described as Ukraine's latest attempt to strike the Russian capital in an apparent campaign to unnerve Muscovites and take the war to Russia.

The drones were intercepted on their approach to Moscow and there were no casualties, Mayor Sergei Sobyenin said. The Russian Defense Ministry described it as a "terrorist attack."

One of the drones came down in the Domodedovo region south of Moscow and the other fell near the Minsk highway, west of the city, according to Sobyenin. Domodedovo airport is one of Moscow's busiest.

It was not clear where the drones were launched from, and Ukrainian officials made no immediate comment. Ukraine usually neither confirms nor denies such attacks.

Flights were halted at Moscow's Vnukovo airport on July 30 and Aug. 1, when drones smashed into the Moscow City business district after being jammed by air defenses in two separate incidents.

In May, Russian authorities accused Ukraine of attempting to attack the Kremlin with two drones in an effort to assassinate President Vladimir Putin.

Recent drone attacks have aimed at targets from the Russian capital to the Crimean Peninsula.

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

Nagasaki marks 78th anniversary of atomic bombing with mayor urging world to abolish nuclear weapons

By MARI YAMAGUCHI Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — Nagasaki marked the 78th anniversary of the U.S. atomic bombing of the city Wednesday with the mayor urging world powers to abolish nuclear weapons, saying nuclear deterrence also increases risks of nuclear war.

Shiro Suzuki made the remark after the Group of Seven industrial powers adopted a separate document on nuclear disarmament in May that called for using nuclear weapons as deterrence.

"Now is the time to show courage and make the decision to break free from dependence on nuclear deterrence," Nagasaki Mayor Shiro Suzuki said in his peace declaration Wednesday, "As long as states are dependent on nuclear deterrence, we cannot realize a world without nuclear weapons."

Russia's nuclear threat has encouraged other nuclear states to accelerate their dependence on nuclear

weapons or enhance capabilities, further increasing the risk of nuclear war, and that Russia is not the only one representing the risk of nuclear deterrence, Suzuki said.

The United States dropped the world's first atomic bomb on Hiroshima on Aug. 6, 1945, destroying the city and killing 140,000 people. A second attack three days later on Nagasaki killed 70,000 more people. Japan surrendered on Aug. 15, ending World War II and its nearly half-century of aggression in Asia.

At 11:02 a.m., the moment the bomb exploded above the southern Japanese city, participants at the ceremony observed a moment of silence with the sound of a peace bell.

Suzuki expressed concern about the tragedy being forgotten as time passed and memories fade. Survivors have expressed frustration about the slow progress of disarmament, while the reality of the atomic bombing and their ordeals are not yet widely shared around the world.

The concern comes after widespread reaction to social media posts about the "Barbenheimer" summer blitz of the "Barbie" and "Oppenheimer" movies that triggered outrage in Japan.

The combination of "Barbie" and a biography of J. Robert Oppenheimer — who helped develop the atomic bomb — sparked memes, including of mushroom clouds. The craze was seen as minimizing the ghastly toll of the Nagasaki and Hiroshima bombings.

Suzuki, whose parents were hibakusha, or survivors of the Nagasaki attack, said knowing the reality of the atomic bombings is the starting point for achieving a world without nuclear weapons. He said the survivors' testimonies are a true deterrence against nuclear weapons use.

Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, who did not attend the memorial in person, acknowledged in his video message that the path toward a nuclear-free world has grown tougher because of rising tensions and conflicts, including Russia's war on Ukraine. Also weighing on the disarmament movement is a deeper division in the international community.

Kishida, who represents Hiroshima in parliament, has sought to showcase the G7 commitment to nuclear disarmament but has angered the survivors for justifying nuclear arms possession for deterrence and for refusing to sign the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

Suzuki demanded Kishida's government and national lawmakers quickly sign and ratify the treaty and attend the upcoming meeting as an observer "to clearly show Japan's resolve to abolish nuclear weapons."

As Washington's ally, Japan is under the U.S. nuclear umbrella and seeks stronger protection as the allies reinforce security cooperation to deal with threats from China and North Korea's nuclear and missile advancement. Under its new national security strategy, Kishida's government is pushing for a military buildup focusing on strike capability.

As of March, 113,649 survivors, whose average age is 85, are certified as hibakusha and eligible for government medical support, according to the Health and Welfare Ministry. Many others, including those known as victims of the "black rain" that fell outside the initially designated areas, are still without support.

Niger's military junta, 2 weeks in, digs in with cabinet appointments and rejects talks

By SAM MEDNICK Associated Press

NIAMEY, Niger (AP) — As a military junta in Niger marked two weeks in power Wednesday, its leaders are appointing a government and rejecting calls for negotiation in what analysts described as an attempt to entrench their power and show that they're serious about governing the West Africa country in the face of an escalating regional crisis.

The junta has named a new prime minister and made a slew of other new cabinet appointments. They also refused to admit mediation teams that planned to come Tuesday from the United Nations, the African Union, and West African regional bloc ECOWAS, citing "evident reasons of security in this atmosphere of menace," according to a letter seen by The Associated Press.

ECOWAS threatened to use military force if the junta didn't reinstate Bazoum by Sunday, a deadline that the junta ignored.

"The establishment of a government is significant, and signals at least to the population, that they have

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Aug. 9, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 046 ~ 27 of 66

a plan in place, with support from across the government," said Aneliese Bernard, a former U.S. State Department official who specialized in African affairs and who is now director of Strategic Stabilization Advisors, a risk advisory group.

On Monday, the junta said that civilian economist Ali Mahaman Lamine Zeine would be prime minister. Zeine is a former minister of economy and finance who left office after his government was ousted by a previous military coup in 2010, and later worked at the African Development Bank.

On July 26, mutinous soldiers overthrew Niger's democratically elected President Mohamed Bazoum, saying they could do a better job at protecting the nation from jihadi violence. Groups linked to al-Qaida and the Islamic State group have ravaged the Sahel region, a vast expanse south of the Sahara Desert.

But most analysts and diplomats say that reason doesn't hold weight and that the takeover was the result of a power struggle between the president and the head of his presidential guard, Gen. Abdourahmane Tchiani, who now says he runs the country.

The coup comes as a blow to many countries in the West, which saw Niger as one of the last democratic partners in the region they could work with to beat back the extremist threat. Niger's partners have threatened to cut off hundreds of millions of dollars in military assistance if it does not return to constitutional rule.

But so far diplomatic efforts have yielded little as the junta tightens its grip on power.

Niger's capital, Niamey, appeared more tense on Tuesday, with security forces checking vehicles. On Monday, the junta shut its airspace, and on Tuesday it temporarily suspended authorization for diplomatic flights from friendly and partner countries, said the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Earlier this week, acting U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Victoria Nuland met with the coup leaders, but said they refused to allow her to meet Bazoum, who has been detained since being toppled. She described the mutinous officers as unreceptive to her appeals to start negotiations and restore constitutional rule.

The U.S. has some 1,100 military personnel in the country and has seen Niger as a strategic and reliable partner in the region.

Nuland made more headway than other delegations. A previous ECOWAS delegation was prevented from leaving the airport.

It's unclear what coordination is taking place between the various mediation attempts. Some experts have worried that if efforts are not coordinated, it could undermine ECOWAS.

Alexander Thurston, assistant professor of political science at the University of Cincinnati, said: "I think the U.S. would come to a modus vivendi with this junta, if the junta proved particularly amenable to U.S. interests, but that doesn't seem to be on the table for now," he said.

In a statement Tuesday after being rejected from visiting Niger, ECOWAS said it was trying to find a peaceful solution to the crisis and will continue to "deploy all necessary measures to ensure the return to constitutional order." ECOWAS is expected to meet again Thursday in Abuja, the capital of neighboring Nigeria, to discuss the situation.

But analysts say the longer it takes to find a solution, the more time the junta has to dig in and the less momentum there will be to oust them. Regional countries are also divided on how to proceed.

Neighboring Mali and Burkina Faso, both of which are run by military regimes, have sided with the junta and warned that an intervention in Niger would be "would be tantamount to a declaration of war" against them. In a joint letter Tuesday to the United Nations, the two countries appealed for the organization to "prevent by all means at its disposal, armed action against a sovereign state."

Mali and Burkina Faso also sent representatives to Niamey this week to discuss military options. Officials from all sides said the talks went well.

While the crisis drags on, Niger's some 25 million people are bearing the brunt. It's one of the poorest countries in the world. Many Nigeriens live hand to mouth and say they're too focused on finding food for their families to pay much attention to the escalating crisis.

Harsh economic and travel sanctions imposed by ECOWAS since the coup have caused food prices to rise by up to 5%, say traders. Erkmann Tchibozo, a shop owner from neighboring Benin who works in Niamey, said it's been hard to get anything into the country to stock his shop near the airport.

If it continues like this, the situation is going to become very difficult, he said.

Scientists look beyond climate change and El Nino for other factors that heat up Earth

By SETH BORENSTEIN AP Science Writer

Scientists are wondering if global warming and El Nino have an accomplice in fueling this summer's record-shattering heat.

The European climate agency Copernicus reported that July was one-third of a degree Celsius (six-tenths of a degree Fahrenheit) hotter than the old record. That's a bump in heat that is so recent and so big, especially in the oceans and even more so in the North Atlantic, that scientists are split on whether something else could be at work.

Scientists agree that by far the biggest cause of the recent extreme warming is climate change from the burning of coal, oil and natural gas that has triggered a long upward trend in temperatures. A natural El Nino, a temporary warming of parts of the Pacific that changes weather worldwide, adds a smaller boost. But some researchers say another factor must be present.

"What we are seeing is more than just El Nino on top of climate change," Copernicus Director Carlo Buontempo said.

One surprising source of added warmth could be cleaner air resulting from new shipping rules. Another possible cause is 165 million tons (150 million metric tons) of water spewed into the atmosphere by a volcano. Both ideas are under investigation.

THE CLEANER AIR POSSIBILITY

Florida State University climate scientist Michael Diamond says shipping is "probably the prime suspect."

Maritime shipping has for decades used dirty fuel that gives off particles that reflect sunlight in a process that actually cools the climate and masks some of global warming.

In 2020, international shipping rules took effect that cut as much as 80% of those cooling particles, which was a "kind of shock to the system," said atmospheric scientist Tianle Yuan of NASA and the University of Maryland Baltimore County.

The sulfur pollution used to interact with low clouds, making them brighter and more reflective, but that's not happening as much now, Yuan said. He tracked changes in clouds that were associated with shipping routes in the North Atlantic and North Pacific, both hot spots this summer.

In those spots, and to a lesser extent globally, Yuan's studies show a possible warming from the loss of sulfur pollution. And the trend is in places where it really can't be explained as easily by El Nino, he said.

"There was a cooling effect that was persistent year after year, and suddenly you remove that," Yuan said.

Diamond calculates a warming of about 0.1 degrees Celsius (0.18 degrees Fahrenheit) by midcentury from shipping regulations. The level of warming could be five to 10 times stronger in high shipping areas such as the North Atlantic.

A separate analysis by climate scientists Zeke Hausfather of Berkeley Earth and Piers Forster of the University of Leeds projected half of Diamond's estimate.

DID THE VOLCANO DO IT?

In January 2022, the Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai undersea volcano in the South Pacific blew, sending more than 165 million tons of water, which is a heat-trapping greenhouse gas as vapor, according to University of Colorado climate researcher Margot Clyne, who coordinates international computer simulations for climate impacts of the eruption.

The volcano also blasted 550,000 tons (500,000 metric tons) of sulfur dioxide into the upper atmosphere.

The amount of water "is so absolutely crazy, absolutely ginormous," said Holger Vomel, a stratospheric water vapor scientist at the National Center for Atmospheric Research who published a study on the potential climate effects of the eruption.

Vomel said the water vapor went too high in the atmosphere to have a noticeable effect yet, but that effects could emerge later.

A couple of studies use computer models to show a warming effect from all that water vapor. One study, which has not yet undergone the scientific gold standard of peer review, reported this week that the

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Aug. 9, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 046 ~ 29 of 66

warming could range from as much as 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) of added warming in some places to 1 degree Celsius (1.8 degrees Fahrenheit) of cooling elsewhere.

But NASA atmospheric scientist Paul Newman and former NASA atmospheric scientist Mark Schoeberl said those climate models are missing a key ingredient: the cooling effect of the sulfur.

Normally huge volcanic eruptions, like 1991's Mount Pinatubo, can cool Earth temporarily with sulfur and other particles reflecting sunlight. However, Hunga Tonga spouted an unusually high amount of water and low amount of cooling sulfur.

The studies that showed warming from Hunga Tonga didn't incorporate sulfur cooling, which is hard to do, Schoeberl and Newman said. Schoeberl, now chief scientist at Science and Technology Corp. of Maryland, published a study that calculated a slight overall cooling — 0.04 degrees Celsius (0.07 degrees Fahrenheit).

Just because different computer simulations conflict with each other "that doesn't mean science is wrong," University of Colorado's Clyne said. "It just means that we haven't reached a consensus yet. We're still just figuring it out."

LESSER SUSPECTS

Lesser suspects in the search include a dearth of African dust, which cools like sulfur pollution, as well as changes in the jet stream and a slowdown in ocean currents.

Some nonscientists have looked at recent solar storms and increased sunspot activity in the sun's 11-year cycle and speculated that Earth's nearest star may be a culprit. For decades, scientists have tracked sunspots and solar storms, and they don't match warming temperatures, Berkeley Earth chief scientist Robert Rohde said.

Solar storms were stronger 20 and 30 years ago, but there is more warming now, he said.

LOOK NO FURTHER

Still, other scientists said there's no need to look so hard. They say human-caused climate change, with an extra boost from El Nino, is enough to explain recent temperatures.

University of Pennsylvania climate scientist Michael Mann estimates that about five-sixths of the recent warming is from human burning of fossil fuels, with about one-sixth due to a strong El Nino.

The fact that the world is coming out of a three-year La Nina, which suppressed global temperatures a bit, and going into a strong El Nino, which adds to them, makes the effect bigger, he said.

"Climate change and El Nino can explain it all," Imperial College of London climate scientist Friederike Otto said. "That doesn't mean other factors didn't play a role. But we should definitely expect to see this again without the other factors being present."

Amazon nations seek common voice on climate change, urge action from industrialized world

By FABIANO MAISONNAVE and DAVID BILLER Associated Press

BELEM, Brazil (AP) — Eight Amazon nations called on industrialized countries to do more to help preserve the world's largest rainforest as they met at a major summit in Brazil to chart a common course on how to combat climate change.

The leaders of South American nations that are home to the Amazon, meeting at a two-day summit in the city of Belem that ends Wednesday, said the task of stopping the destruction of the rainforest can't fall to just a few when the crisis has been caused by so many.

The members of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization, or ACTO, are hoping a united front will give them a major voice in global talks.

"The forest unites us. It is time to look at the heart of our continent and consolidate, once and for all, our Amazon identity," said Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva.

The calls from the presidents of nations including Brazil, Colombia and Bolivia came as leaders aim to fuel much-needed economic development in their regions while preventing the Amazon's ongoing demise "from reaching a point of no return," according to a joint declaration issued at the end of the day. Some scientists say that when 20% to 25% of the forest is destroyed, rainfall will dramatically decline, transform-

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Aug. 9, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 046 ~ 30 of 66

ing more than half of the rainforest to tropical savannah, with immense biodiversity loss.

The summit reinforces Lula's strategy to leverage global concern for the Amazon's preservation. Emboldened by a 42% drop in deforestation during his first seven months in office, he has sought international financial support for forest protection.

The Amazon stretches across an area twice the size of India. Two-thirds of it lie in Brazil, with seven other countries and one territory share the remaining third. Governments have historically viewed it as an area to be colonized and exploited, with little regard for sustainability or the rights of its Indigenous peoples.

All the countries at the summit have ratified the Paris climate accord, which requires signatories to set targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. But cross-border cooperation has historically been scant, undermined by low trust, ideological differences and the lack of government presence.

Aside from a general consensus on the need for shared global responsibility, members of ACTO — convening for only the fourth time in the organization's existence — demonstrated Tuesday they aren't fully aligned on key issues. This week marks the first meeting of the 45-year-old organization in 14 years.

Forest protection commitments have been uneven previously, and appeared to remain so at the summit. The "Belem Declaration," the gathering's official proclamation issued Tuesday, didn't include shared commitments to zero deforestation by 2030. Brazil and Colombia have already made those commitments. Lula has said he hopes the document will be a shared call to arms at the COP 28 climate conference in November.

A key topic dividing the nations on Tuesday was oil. Notably, leftist Colombian President Gustavo Petro called for an end to oil exploration in the Amazon — an allusion to the ambivalent approach of Brazil and other oil-producing nations in the region — and said that governments must forge a path toward "decarbonized prosperity."

"A jungle that extracts oil — is it possible to maintain a political line at that level? Bet on death and destroying life?" Petro said. He also spoke about finding ways to reforest pastures and plantations, which cover much of Brazil's heartland for cattle ranching and growing soy.

Lula, who has presented himself as an environmental leader on the international stage, has refrained from taking a definitive stance on oil, citing the decision as a technical matter. Meanwhile, Brazil's state-run Petrobras company has been seeking to explore for oil near the mouth of the Amazon River.

Despite disagreements among nations, there have been encouraging signs of increased regional cooperation amid growing global recognition of the Amazon's importance in arresting climate change. Sharing a united voice — along with funneling more money into ACTO — could help it serve as the region's representative on the global stage ahead of the COP climate conference, leaders said.

"The Amazon is our passport to a new relationship with the world, a more symmetric relationship, in which our resources are not exploited to benefit few, but rather valued and put in the service of everyone," Lula said.

Bolivian President Luis Arce said the Amazon has been the victim of capitalism, reflected by runaway expansion of agricultural borders and natural resource exploitation. And he noted that industrialized nations are responsible for most historic greenhouse gas emissions.

"The fact that the Amazon is such an important territory doesn't imply that all of the responsibilities, consequences and effects of the climate crisis should fall to us, to our towns and to our economies," Arce said.

Petro argued that affluent nations should swap foreign debt owed by Amazon countries for climate action, saying that would create enough investment to power the Amazon region's economy.

Signed by officials from eight nations, the Belem Declaration also:

— Condemns the proliferation of protectionist trade barriers, which signatories said negatively affects poor farmers in developing nations and hampers the promotion of Amazon products and sustainable development.

— Calls on industrialized nations to comply with their obligations to provide massive financial support to developing nations.

— Calls for the strengthening of law enforcement cooperation. Commits authorities to exchanging best practices and intelligence about specific illicit activities, including deforestation, human rights violations, trafficking of fauna and flora and the sale and smuggling of mercury, a highly toxic metal widely used for illegal gold mining that pollutes waterways.

Colombia's Petro also called for the formation of a military alliance akin to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, saying such a group could be tasked not only with protecting the Amazon, but tackling another major problem for the region: organized crime.

Also attending the summit Tuesday were Guyana's prime minister, Venezuela's vice president and the foreign ministers of Suriname and Ecuador.

On Wednesday, the summit will welcome representatives of Norway and Germany, the largest contributors to Brazil's Amazon Fund for sustainable development, along with counterparts from other crucial rainforest regions: Indonesia, Republic of Congo, and Democratic Republic of Congo. France's ambassador to Brazil will also attend, representing the Amazonian territory of French Guiana.

Hawaii wildfires burn homes and force evacuations, while strong winds complicate the fight

By JENNIFER SINCO KELLEHER Associated Press

HONOLULU (AP) — Wildfires in Hawaii fanned by strong winds burned multiple structures, forced evacuations and caused power outages in several communities late Tuesday as firefighters struggled to reach some areas that were cut off by downed trees and power lines.

The National Weather Service said Hurricane Dora, which was passing to the south of the island chain at a safe distance of 500 miles (805 kilometers), was partly to blame for gusts above 60 mph (97 kph) that knocked out power as night fell, rattled homes and grounded firefighting helicopters.

Acting Governor Sylvia Luke issued an emergency proclamation on behalf of Gov. Josh Green, who is traveling, and activated the Hawaii National Guard.

Fire crews on Maui were battling multiple blazes concentrated in two areas: the popular tourist destination of West Maui and an inland, mountainous region. It wasn't immediately known how many buildings had burned, County of Maui spokesperson Mahina Martin said in a phone interview late Tuesday.

Because of the wind gusts, helicopters weren't able to dump water on the fires from the sky — or gauge more precise fire sizes — and firefighters were encountering roads blocked by downed trees and power lines as they worked the inland fires, Martin said.

About 13,000 customers in Maui were without power, Hawaiian Electric reported Tuesday night.

"It's definitely one of the more challenging days for our island given that it's multiple fires, multiple evacuations in the different district areas," Martin said.

Winds were recorded at 80 mph (129 kph) in inland Maui and one fire that was believed to be contained earlier Tuesday flared up hours later with the big winds, she added.

"The fire can be a mile or more from your house, but in a minute or two, it can be at your house," Fire Assistant Chief Jeff Giesea said.

Hurricane Dora was complicating matters for firefighters in an already dry season.

Hawaii is sandwiched between high pressure to the north and a low pressure system associated with Dora, said Jeff Powell, a meteorologist in Honolulu. The dryness and the gusts "make a dangerous fire situation so that fires that do exist can spread out of control very rapidly," he said.

"It's kind of because of Hurricane Dora, but it's not a direct result," he said, calling the fires a "peripheral result" of the hurricane's winds.

In the Kula area of Maui, at least two homes were destroyed in a fire that engulfed about 1,100 acres (1.7 square miles, or 4.5 square kilometers), Maui Mayor Richard Bissen said. About 80 people were evacuated from 40 homes, he said.

"We're trying to protect homes in the community," Big Island Mayor Mitch Roth said of evacuating about 400 homes in four communities in the northern part of the island. As of Tuesday, the roof of one house

caught on fire, he said.

Fires in Hawaii are unlike many of those burning in the U.S. West. They tend to break out in large grasslands on the dry sides of the islands and are generally much smaller than mainland fires.

Fires were rare in Hawaii and on other tropical islands before humans arrived, and native ecosystems evolved without them. This means great environmental damage can occur when fires erupt. For example, fires remove vegetation. When a fire is followed by heavy rainfall, the rain can carry loose soil into the ocean, where it can smother coral reefs.

A major fire on the Big Island in 2021 burned homes and forced thousands to evacuate.

The island of Oahu, where Honolulu is located, also was dealing with power outages, downed power lines and traffic problems, said Adam Weintraub, communication director for Hawaii Emergency Management Agency.

The weather service had in effect a high wind warning and red flag warnings for dangerous fire weather, Powell said.

These conditions were expected through Tuesday, decreasing throughout the day Wednesday and into Thursday.

Romanian care homes scandal spotlights abuse described as 'inhumane and degrading'

By STEPHEN MCGRATH and VADIM GHIRDA Associated Press

BUCHAREST, Romania (AP) — After receiving distressed text messages from a young man worried about the conditions his friend was living in at a social care home in central Romania, Georgiana Pascu arranged an impromptu visit to inspect the facility.

"In the beginning, we were quite sure there is nothing there," said Pascu, program manager at the Center for Legal Resources, a rights group. She said that a day earlier, state authorities had carried out an inspection of the care home for older and disabled people, and no issues had been flagged.

But what she and her colleagues uncovered at the care home in the village of Bardesti, she said, was "outrageous ... inhuman."

"There was a very young woman who looked malnourished, she didn't move, she didn't speak at all — she was lying on the basement floor," she told The Associated Press. "There was another young woman, she was crying and asking for water."

The nongovernmental organization discovered six residents in late July living in the Little House of Min's cluttered, dingy basement surrounded by construction materials in addition to 23 people living on the floors above. Four residents with severe disabilities were lying on mattresses "soiled with feces, urine, and blood, with flies on them," they said, who "couldn't defend themselves and couldn't ask for help."

The team of three from the Center for Legal Resources immediately called the emergency services, and police and ambulance crews arrived, but even they called for backup, Pascu said. Hours later, a resident directed Pascu to what she describes as a small "secluded room ... with just a bed inside" where two residents lived with "no artificial or natural light."

The NGO's findings triggered a judicial investigation and follow similar discoveries in other private institutions, which has so far forced two Cabinet members to resign over what Romanian media have dubbed the "horror homes" scandal.

The discovery is just the latest in a string of disturbing revelations that have made front-page news in the local media, spotlighting the impact corruption can have on the socially vulnerable in Romania, which joined the European Union member in 2007.

One of the main conditions of Romania's accession to the EU was that it crack down on endemic corruption, but it remains one of the bloc's most corrupt members, according to Transparency International.

In early July, police raids at three separate care homes in Ilfov County near Bucharest also uncovered widespread abuse and neglect of older and disabled people. Images emerged of residents tied to beds in

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Aug. 9, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 046 ~ 33 of 66

filthy rooms, some exhibiting signs of physical abuse and appearing rake-thin.

In those cases, Romania's anti-organized crime agency, DIICOT, said that two organized criminal gangs accused of human trafficking and other charges were formed in 2020 to "exploit people with disabilities or in vulnerable situations." Prosecutors said residents were subjected to unpaid labor via acts of coercion as well as physical violence, and weren't given enough food.

Prosecutors launched a criminal investigation and said there are more than 20 suspects in the case.

DIICOT detained three people after the findings at the Little House of Min, which it alleges formed a criminal gang in 2020 "to commit the crime of human trafficking," and that residents were subjected to "inhumane and degrading treatment" through acts of physical and mental aggression.

Residents were being exploited under the guise of an association that withheld their state benefits payments or sums sent to them by friends and relatives, prosecutors said. Instead of the money going towards the residents' care, it was mainly used "for the benefit of the members of the group."

Two local officials were fired over the findings and the authorities shuttered the home.

The AP contacted the young man who had raised concerns to Pascu about the Little House of Min, but he wasn't authorized to talk because he's considered a victim in the legal case.

Doru Constantin, a spokesperson from Mures County social services, confirmed to the AP that the Little House of Min was checked by inspectors a day before the NGO's discovery, but said they didn't find anything "because they didn't have access to the basement of the building."

"I can't believe even now something like this could happen in our county," he added.

President Klaus Iohannis has called the revelations a "national disgrace" and said measures must be taken to "cut evil from the roots."

One of the Ilfov care home bosses, DIICOT alleges, was squandering residents' money on prostitutes, drugs and parties. He is also being investigated for abuse of office by the National Anti-Corruption Directorate, which is also investigating two social inspectors for corruption who carried out favorable checks on his home in May.

Family Minister Gabriel Firea, who is reported to have close ties to that care home boss, was forced to resign amid the sprawling scandal as was Labor Minister Marius Budai. They both denied knowledge of care homes' woes.

Alin Mituta, a Romanian legislator at the European Parliament, asked the European Commission in July if it planned to investigate Romania's abusive care homes issue, which he said directly violated the bloc's Charter of Fundamental Rights. The responsible Romanian authorities, Mituta said, "were made aware of these issues ... but no action was taken."

The European Commission said it would issue a response on Wednesday.

The recent revelations have also brought back memories of when Romania's communist-era orphanages gained international exposure after communist leader Nicolae Ceausescu was executed in 1989. In the early 1990s, images were broadcast around the world of thousands of children abandoned in orphanages where they existed in squalid conditions.

Bianca Albu, a Romanian investigative journalist who first reported on the Ilfov care homes six months ago along with her colleague Ovidiu Vanghele, said their report didn't initially yield "any attention from the local or national authorities." She fears that "these problems are happening all over" Romania.

"It's like a disease," she said.

Prime Minister Marcel Ciolacu expressed gratitude last week to the NGOs that "exposed abuses in the welfare system."

"It is obvious that the Romanian state needs help," he said. "We need to close this chapter of abuse."

Eritrean festivals have been attacked in Europe, North America. The government blames 'asylum scam'

By CARA ANNA Associated Press

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — Flaming cars, violent clashes, dozens of people detained. As one of the world's most repressive countries marks 30 years of independence, festivals held by Eritrea's diaspora in Europe and North America have been attacked by exiles that the regime dismisses as "asylum scam."

People who fled the Horn of Africa nation say the violence against festivals in Germany, Sweden and Canada are protests against a repressive government that's been described as the "North Korea of Africa." Some allege that proceeds from festivals might support the government.

Hundreds of thousands of people have fled Eritrea over the years, many setting off into the deserts of Sudan and then North Africa in attempts to reach Europe.

President Isaias Afwerki, 77, has led Eritrea since it won independence from Ethiopia in a long guerrilla war. There have been no elections. There's no free press. Exit visas are required. Many young people are forced into military service with no end date, human rights groups and United Nations experts say.

The violence at some Eritrean festivals shows the bitter split in the diaspora between supporters of the government and their children — often protected by foreign passports — and exiles who fear for their loved ones back home.

Eritrea's government speaks harshly about those who flee and accuses the West of trying to weaken the country by depopulating it. On Friday, Information Minister Yemane Gebremeskel asserted that the attacks on the festivals were part of that strategy.

"Complicity in attempts to disrupt decades-old Eritrean festivals using foreign thugs reflects abject failure of asylum scam," he said in a message posted on social media. The minister later criticized the "distorted portrayal" of the community's "joyous events."

Beyene Gerezgiher, a member of the Eritrean community in Europe who leads an organization that seeks regime change in Eritrea, told The Associated Press that a separate group called the Brigade Nhamedu was set up last year to counter what it calls the government's hate speech and war propaganda. The word "Nhamedu" means being ready to fight and sacrifice.

"Our movement helped and participated in recent rallies against the so-called Eritrean festival," he wrote in an email. In pursuit of regime change, the new group plans to act via "lawful democracy," sharing information with the international community and "disturbing the situation."

He called the Eritrean foreign minister's comments "usual and laughable."

Some Eritreans and state-backed media have blamed attacks in Stockholm, Toronto and the German town of Giessen in part on ethnic Tigrayans from northern Ethiopia. That's where Eritrean forces joined Ethiopia's military in fighting a two-year war against Tigray forces until a peace deal was made in November. Eritrean forces were accused of some of the worst atrocities, including gang rapes.

Kassa Hailemariam, a U.S.-based advocate for many Tigrayans, told the AP "it is ridiculous to blame Tigrayans for the global Eritrean movement against the age-long dictator in Asmara," Eritrea's capital. "We are not part of this movement!"

In Giessen last month, German police said at least 22 officers were injured as people throwing smoke bombs and bottles tried to force their way into a festival. Dozens of people were detained.

In Stockholm this month, Swedish media reported that about 1,000 anti-Eritrea protesters stormed the festival, setting booths and cars on fire and using rocks and sticks as weapons, leaving at least 52 people injured. Police said more than 100 people were detained.

"This is not a festival. They are teaching their children hate speech," one protester, Michael Kobrab, told Swedish broadcaster TV4.

And last weekend, authorities in Toronto canceled the Eritrean festival after clashes sent several people to the hospital.

Other festivals have been held without incident, and some Eritreans continue to share videos showing crowds dancing and waving the national flag, along with messages of defiance and peace.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Aug. 9, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 046 ~ 35 of 66

Eritrea's government openly encourages members of the diaspora to contribute funds to its activities back home. On Monday, the information ministry published a story about Eritreans in Austria being urged by diplomats to "shoulder the timely responsibility of participating and contributing to the success of the national development drives."

But citizens living overseas must show the government evidence of paying a 2% tax on income earned abroad if they want to obtain services such as passport renewals, which has been criticized. People who flee Eritrea without exit visas and wish to return must pay the tax and sign a "regret form," according to the U.S. State Department's human rights report on the country.

Eritrea, with a population estimated at less than 5 million, is one of the world's poorest countries, and one of the most secretive. The World Bank says poverty appears to be widespread but updated information is lacking: "The most recent available survey data from 1996/97 indicate a 70% poverty rate."

Rights groups say Eritrean authorities constantly keep the country's citizens in a state of war preparedness, despite making peace with Ethiopia in 2018.

A U.N. independent investigator on human rights in a report circulated on Monday said some families are left destitute as Eritrean authorities use eviction and confiscations to force people into military service and punish draft evaders.

Mohamed Babiker's report said Eritrean refugees and asylum seekers alleged torture, sexual violence, forced labor and other abusive conditions during compulsory national service.

Eritrea's government, he said, maintains its national service program is "unfairly judged."

From upsets to record attendance, these are the trends that have emerged at the Women's World Cup

By JAMES ROBSON AP Soccer Writer

SYDNEY (AP) — The traditional elite have been cut down to size at the Women's World Cup.

That has been the standout theme as a tournament that has already set records for attendance and goals scored enters the quarterfinals stage, and it has made for high drama.

"It's been absolutely incredible and a great testament to some of the work that is happening around the world," FIFA's head of women's football, Sarai Bareman, told The Associated Press. "To see the results of this World Cup brings so much meaning to the work that we do."

"It's really special, not only for the players and the teams, but for those of us who are working on the game day in and day out."

Soccer's world governing body FIFA is trying to grow the women's game at pace, and it seems to be having an impact.

Established nations have fallen one by one over the past two weeks, with the back-to-back defending champion U.S. team joining No. 2-ranked Germany, Brazil and Olympic gold medalist Canada by going home early.

The tournament, being co-hosted by Australia and New Zealand, has produced one upset after another.

The U.S. team's penalty shootout loss to Sweden in the round of 16 ended its bid for an unprecedented three-peat of World Cup titles.

Lina Hurtig's spot kick crossed the line by a tiny fraction and that was enough to send the pre-tournament favorites packing, and prompting questions about the future of U.S. soccer.

Two-time champion Germany opened with a thumping 6-0 win over Morocco but was beaten by Colombia and held to a draw by South Korea in the group stage. Brazil started off with a 4-0 win over Panama before losing to France and drawing with Jamaica. Both Germany and Brazil were gone before the knockouts.

Tournament newcomer Morocco, as well as South Africa, Jamaica and Colombia all advanced. The Colombians, the only team from the Americas still in contention, face England in the quarterfinals after edging Jamaica 1-0 in the round of 16.

"This World Cup has been amazing. As you can see, the gap is closing (between) the smaller teams and

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Aug. 9, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 046 ~ 36 of 66

the bigger countries," Jamaica's Manchester City forward Bunny Shaw said. "Women's football is growing. We've got to keep moving forward and keep pushing."

What remains to be seen is whether the upsets are a quirk of this year's tournament in the Southern Hemisphere, or a more permanent trend.

The Associated Press takes a look at some other trends from the opening weeks:

IMPROVEMENTS IN GOALKEEPING

There have been standout performances by goalkeepers so far, with the Americans repeatedly frustrated by Sweden's Zecira Musovic in the round of 16. The Chelsea keeper produced a string of saves and was voted player of the match as the U.S. dominated but couldn't find a breakthrough in the game that ended 0-0 through extra time.

Netherlands keeper Daphne van Domselaar was player of the match as the Dutch advanced to the quarterfinals by beating South Africa 2-0.

While that game saw South Africa keeper Kaylin Swart make an error to allow Lineth Beerensteyn to score, she also pulled off a string of saves to keep the Netherlands at bay.

Nigeria's captain Chiamaka Nnadozie's made a crucial save to deny Canada's Christine Sinclair a place in history in a scoreless opening draw, earning her player of the match accolades.

"Of course everything is not perfect, but I think we are going in the right direction," said former Germany keeper Nadine Angerer, who is part of FIFA's technical study group at the World Cup.

"What we've seen so far in general is that there are way better goalkeeping performances."

Angerer said the save percentage in the group stage improved from 70% in 2019 to 77%.

IT'S NOT ALL ABOUT POSSESSION

The tactical improvement of less-established teams has been as highlight.

While teams with fewer outright stars have had to cede possession, they have still managed to be effective.

Jamaica's tactical approach saw it advance from a group that included France and Brazil without conceding a goal. It was eventually eliminated by Colombia 1-0.

"Sometimes the decision when you go into a game is 'Do I want the ball or do I want the opponent to have the ball?' said Jill Ellis, who coached the U.S. to two World Cup titles. "But if I want my opponent to have the ball, I want them to have it because I want them to open up because my strengths are in the transition."

So while Japan and Spain have dominated possession, Colombia's counter-attacking threat has also been effective.

"You're seeing the personality or the strengths of nations come to the forefront," Ellis said. "It's not trying to take this style for this team., it is: 'What is my team really good at and how can I exploit that?' I see that a lot more in this World Cup."

TIME ADDED ON

It was a feature of the men's World Cup in Qatar last year and FIFA is continuing to clamp down on time-wasting.

Lengthy periods of stoppage time have been played, seeing games go well beyond 90 minutes during regulation time.

While that initiative wasn't continued by major domestic leagues after Qatar, the Premier League appears set to follow it up this season.

Arsenal scored an equalizer in the 11th minute of stoppage time against Manchester City in the Community Shield on Sunday before going on to win on penalty kicks.

GROWING INTEREST

The Women's World Cup has been pulling in the fans.

Australia has twice played in front of crowds exceeding 75,000 in Sydney, limited only by the capacity of the stadium.

The attendance of 1,533,545 fans so far in the first two rounds has exceeded the previous record total of 1,353,506 when the World Cup was staged in Canada in 2015.

More than 500,000 people have attended fan zones in host cities to watch games on giant screens. While this tournament has been expanded to 32 teams, up from 24, the fact that 14 games in the first two rounds have had crowds of more than 40,000 people points to the popularity of the event.

"This World Cup has shifted from being a team-supported tournament to a globally-followed event," FIFA president Gianni Infantino said. "This is why we are witnessing the greatest Women's World Cup ever — and a record-breaking one."

Tory Lanez gets 10 years in prison for shooting Megan Thee Stallion

By ANDREW DALTON AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A judge sentenced rapper Tory Lanez to 10 years in prison Tuesday for shooting and wounding hip-hop superstar Megan Thee Stallion in the feet, bringing a conclusion to a three-year legal and cultural saga that saw two careers, and lives, thrown into turmoil.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge David Herriford handed down the sentence to the 31-year-old Lanez, who was convicted in December of three felonies: assault with a semiautomatic firearm; having a loaded, unregistered firearm in a vehicle and discharging a firearm with gross negligence.

From the initial incident in the Hollywood Hills in July of 2020, to the marathon two-day sentencing hearing, the case created a firestorm in the hip-hop community, churning up issues including the reluctance of Black victims to speak to police, gender politics in hip-hop, online toxicity, protecting Black women and the ramifications of misogynoir, a particular brand of misogyny Black women experience.

Herriford said it was "difficult to reconcile" the portrait Lanez's friends and family painted during the hearing of a kind, charitable person and good father to a 6-year-old son with the person who fired the gun at Megan.

"Sometimes good people do bad things," Herriford said. "Actions have consequences, and there are no winners in this case."

Megan testified during the trial that Lanez 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, after leaving a pool party at Kylie Jenner's home. She had to have surgery to remove bullet fragments. She revealed who had fired the gun only months later.

"Since I was viciously shot by the defendant, I have not experienced a single day of peace," Megan said in a statement read in court by a prosecutor on Monday. "Slowly but surely, I'm healing and coming back, but I will never be the same."

Lanez asked Herriford for mercy just before the judge delivered his sentence, requesting either probation or a minimal prison sentence.

"If I could turn back the series of events that night and change them," I would, Lanez continued. "The victim was my friend. The victim is someone I still care for to this day."

He added, "Everything I did wrong that night, I take full responsibility for."

Lanez appeared stunned while the sentence was read, but had no audible reaction. His family and fans in the courtroom also remained quiet after the sentence.

The rapper was given about 10 months of credit for time he's served, most of it spent in jail since his conviction in December.

"We're extremely disappointed," Lanez's lead attorney Jose Baez said outside the courthouse. "I have seen vehicular homicide and other cases where there's death, and the defendant still gets less than 10 years."

Baez called the sentence "really just another example of someone being punished for their celebrity status and someone being utilized to set an example. And he's not an example. He's a human being."

Lanez's lawyers plan to appeal the verdict, and to attempt to have him released on bail while they do.

Megan, whose legal name is Megan Pete, was repeatedly praised by prosecutors for her courage in testifying during the case and enduring online campaigns of hatred directed at her.

"I hope that Miss Pete's bravery gives hope to those who feel helpless," said Los Angeles County District

Attorney George Gascón of Megan at a news conference after the sentencing.

Prosecutors had sought a 13-year prison sentence. Legally, Lanez had been eligible for up to 22.

During Monday's session, Lanez's father, Sonstar Peterson, choked back tears as he talked about how the rapper's mother died when he was 11, just days after she first showed symptoms of the rare blood disorder that would lead to her death.

"I don't think anybody ever gets over that," he said of their youngest child, whose legal name is Daystar Peterson. "But his music became his outlet."

Lanez began releasing mixtapes in 2009 and saw a steady rise in popularity, moving on to major-label albums. His last two reached the top 10 on Billboard's charts.

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 she had No. 1 singles with "Savage," featuring Beyoncé, and as a guest on Cardi B's "WAP."

The elder Peterson, who is a Christian minister, was one of several people who gave statements on Lanez's character and charitable giving — as did the mother of Lanez's son. 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."

Herriford said Lanez's 6-year-old also sent in a handwritten letter, but the judge did not describe it further.

Lanez's family and supporters have packed the courtroom; during the trial, they contended his prosecution was unjustly brought on by Megan and powerful figures in music. After the verdict was read in December, Lanez's father denounced the "wicked system" that led to his son's conviction; on Monday, Sonstar Peterson apologized to Herriford for the outburst.

The judge had handed several small victories to each side during the sentencing hearing.

He found that Megan, who was in an isolated area wearing only a bathing suit with no shoes, was an especially vulnerable victim when she was shot, but that Lanez was not overly cruel or callous in firing at her.

The judge found that Lanez posed no threat to public safety and that his lack of a criminal record should work in his favor.

Lanez's lawyers argued that he suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder from his mother's death and other childhood difficulties. That stress led to serious alcohol abuse as an adult, they said.

But the judge agreed with prosecutors that those mental illnesses should not be considered in the sentencing, and in the end gave prosecutors most of what they wanted.

Under California law, Lanez was only allowed probation in the case if the judge found unusual circumstances.

The judge found that the case was only unusual because of the two famous people involved, which he said was not a factor.

"He should not be treated severely because he's a celebrity," Hereford said, "nor should he be treated with leniency because he's a celebrity."

Voters in Ohio reject GOP-backed proposal that would have made it tougher to protect abortion rights

By JULIE CARR SMYTH and SAMANTHA HENDRICKSON Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Ohio voters on Tuesday resoundingly rejected a Republican-backed measure that would have made it more difficult to change the state's constitution, setting up a fall campaign that will become the nation's latest referendum on abortion rights since the U.S. Supreme Court overturned nationwide protections last year.

The defeat of Issue 1 keeps in place a simple majority threshold for passing future constitutional amendments, rather than the 60% supermajority that was proposed. Its supporters said the higher bar would protect the state's foundational document from outside interest groups.

Voter opposition to the proposal was widespread, even spreading into traditionally Republican territory. In fact, in early returns, support for the measure fell far short of former President Donald Trump's perfor-

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Aug. 9, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 046 ~ 39 of 66

mance during the 2020 election in nearly every county.

Dennis Willard, a spokesperson for the opposition campaign One Person One Vote, called Issue 1 a “deceptive power grab” that was intended to diminish the influence of the state’s voters.

“Tonight is a major victory for democracy in Ohio,” Willard told a jubilant crowd at the opposition campaign’s watch party. “The majority still rules in Ohio.”

President Joe Biden hailed Tuesday’s result, releasing a statement saying: “This measure was a blatant attempt to weaken voters’ voices and further erode the freedom of women to make their own health care decisions. Ohioans spoke loud and clear, and tonight democracy won.”

A major national group that opposes abortion rights, Susan B. Anthony Pro-Life America, called the result “a sad day for Ohio” while criticizing the outside money that helped the opposition — even though both sides relied on national groups and individuals in their campaigns.

Republican lawmakers who had pushed the measure — and put it before voters during the height of summer vacation season — explained away the defeat as a result of too little time to adequately explain its virtues to voters. A main backer, Republican Senate President Matt Huffman, predicted lawmakers would try again, though probably not as soon as next year.

“Obviously, there are a lot of folks that did not want this to happen — not just because of the November issues, but for all of the other ones that are coming,” he said, expressing disappointment that Republicans didn’t stick together. In a statement, Republican House Speaker Jason Stephens advised supporters to move past Tuesday’s results to focus on trying to defeat the abortion rights measure: “The people of Ohio have spoken.”

While abortion was not directly on the special election ballot, the result marks the latest setback for Republicans in a conservative-leaning state who favor imposing tough restrictions on the procedure. Ohio Republicans placed the question on the summer ballot in hopes of undercutting the citizen initiative that voters will decide in November that seeks to enshrine abortion rights in the state.

Other states where voters have considered abortion rights since last year’s Supreme Court ruling have protected them, including in red states such as Kansas and Kentucky.

Dr. Marcela Azevedo, one of the leaders of a coalition advancing the fall abortion question, said Tuesday that Issue 1’s defeat should allow the measure to pass in November.

Interest in Tuesday’s special election was intense, even after Republicans ignored their own law that took effect earlier this year to place the question before voters in August. Voters cast nearly 700,000 early in-person and mail ballots ahead of Tuesday’s final day of voting, more than double the number of advance votes in a typical primary election. Early turnout was especially heavy in the Democratic-leaning counties surrounding Cleveland, Columbus and Cincinnati.

One Person One Vote represented a broad, bipartisan coalition of voting rights, labor, faith and community groups. The group also had as allies four living ex-governors of the state and five former state attorneys general of both parties, who called the proposed change bad public policy.

In place since 1912, the simple majority standard is a much more surmountable hurdle for Ohioans for Reproductive Rights, the group advancing November’s abortion rights amendment. It would establish “a fundamental right to reproductive freedom” with “reasonable limits.”

Voters in several states have approved ballot questions protecting access to abortion since the Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade*, but typically have done so with less than 60% of the vote. AP VoteCast polling last year found that 59% of Ohio voters say abortion should generally be legal.

Eric Chon, a Columbus resident who voted against the measure, said there was a clear anti-abortion agenda to the election. Noting that the GOP voted just last year to get rid of August elections entirely due to low turnout for hyperlocal issues, Chon said, “Every time something doesn’t go their way, they change the rules.”

The election result came in the very type of August special election that Republican Secretary of State Frank LaRose, a candidate for U.S. Senate, had previously testified against as undemocratic because of historically low turnout. Republican lawmakers just last year had voted to mostly eliminate such elections,

a law they ignored for this year's election.

Al Daum, of Hilliard, just west of Columbus, said he didn't feel the rules were being changed to undermine the power of his vote and said he was in favor of the special election measure. Along with increasing the threshold to 60%, it would mandate that any signatures for a constitutional amendment be gathered from all of Ohio's 88 counties, not just 44.

It's a change that Daum said would give more Ohio residents a chance to make their voices heard.

Voters' rejection of the proposal marked a rare rebuke for Ohio Republicans, who have held power across every branch of state government for 12 years. GOP lawmakers had cited possible future amendments related to gun control, minimum wage increases and more as reasons a higher threshold should be required.

Protect Ohio Women, the campaign working to defeat the fall abortion rights amendment, vowed to continue fighting into the fall.

"Our pro-life, pro-parent coalition is more motivated than ever," the group said in a statement.

Ailing and baby hummingbirds nursed to health at woman's apartment-turned-clinic in Mexico City

By FABIOLA SÁNCHEZ Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Gently holding a baby hummingbird between her hands, Catia Lattouf says, "Hello, cute little guy. Are you very hungry?" It's the newest patient at her apartment in a toney section of Mexico City where she has nursed hundreds of the tiny birds back to health over the past decade.

Under Lattouf's caress, the bird relaxes little by little, allowing her to evaluate it. A young man who rescued it after it fell from a nest onto his patio watched attentively.

"It is a broad-billed hummingbird," the 73-year-old Lattouf said, as she moved an eyedropper to its beak. "Oh, mama, you want to eat!"

This is often how Lattouf's days have gone since she turned her apartment in Mexico City's Polanco neighborhood into a clinic for sick, injured or infant hummingbirds, about 60 of which currently flit around.

Lattouf, who studied French literature, has become a reference source for bird lovers, amateur and professional alike, across Mexico and other parts of Latin America.

Her improvised clinic also supports more formal institutions like the Iztacala campus of Mexico's National Autonomous University, which sometimes refers cases to her due to a lack of resources, time and space, said one of its researchers, the ornithologist María del Coro Arizmendi.

Arizmendi said there are 22 species of hummingbird in Mexico's sprawling capital, of which the broad-billed and the berylline hummingbird are the most common. In Mexico, there are some 57 species and around 350 across the Americas.

With dozens of the tiny birds buzzing overhead, along walls and the window of her bedroom, Lattouf explained that she began caring for them a year after surviving colon cancer in 2011. It started with one hummingbird that had an eye injured by another bird.

A veterinarian friend encouraged her to try to help it. She named it Gucci after the brand of the glasses case she kept it in. The bird became her inseparable companion, perching on her computer screen while she worked.

"It wrote me a new life," she said of the nine months the bird lived with her.

It helped pull Lattouf out of the sadness and loneliness she had experienced after her husband's 2009 death followed by her own bout with cancer. Her illness had pushed her to sell her five high-end boutiques to focus on her recovery.

Later, friends and acquaintances began bringing her more hummingbirds. She began studying how to better care for the birds that are native to the Americas and usually weigh just 4 to 6 grams (a fifth of an ounce or less) and are about 10 to 12 centimeters long (4 to 5 inches long).

"Most come to me as babies. Many come to me broken," she said.

Some have injuries to wings after colliding with things or falling from nests. Some have infections from

drinking contaminated water from hummingbird feeders, which are popular in the city.

Since May, the demand for her services has jumped. Someone put a video about her work on the social platform TikTok that has been viewed more than 1.5 million times.

Lattouf says she never turns away a bird. Together with her collaborator Cecilia Santos, who she calls the "hummingbird nanny," they care for the birds in long days that stretch from 5 a.m. into the night.

Most of the hummingbirds are in the bedroom where Lattouf sleeps. They stay there until they are strong enough to fly and feed themselves. Then she moves them to a neighboring room to prepare them to eventually be freed. Their release comes in a wooded area on the city's southside.

Many of them do manage to return to the wild, but the ones who die under Lattouf's care are buried near her building between small plants.

The city is filled with threats to hummingbirds. There are the sleek black grackles that attack the birds and destroy their nests, as well as constant construction projects that replace flower gardens with concrete.

But Lattouf remains optimistic and is betting on other bird lovers planting more flowers to feed the great pollinators.

"Nothing is guaranteed," she said. "I believe God gives life and God takes it, but we do everything possible."

After a glacial dam outburst destroyed homes in Alaska, a look at the risks of melting ice masses

By BECKY BOHRER Associated Press

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP) — People in Alaska's capital have lived for more than a decade with periodic glacial dam outbursts like the one that destroyed at least two homes over the weekend.

But the most recent flood was surprising for how quickly the water moved as the surging Mendenhall River devoured riverbanks, undermining and damaging homes, and prompted some residents to flee.

Here are some issues surrounding glaciers and the floods that result from the bursting of snow-and-ice dams.

WHAT CAUSED THE FLOODING IN JUNEAU?

The water came from a side basin of the spectacular but receding Mendenhall Glacier that is known as the Suicide Basin. The glacier acts as a dam for precipitation and melt from the nearby Suicide Glacier that collects in the basin during the spring and summer. Eventually the water gushes out from under the Mendenhall Glacier and into Mendenhall Lake, from which it flows down the Mendenhall River.

Such glacial dam outbursts have been occurring in the area since 2011, but often the water releases more slowly, typically over a few days, said Eran Hood, a University of Alaska Southeast professor of environmental science.

Lake and streamflow levels reached record highs during Saturday's flooding in Juneau, which is home to about 30,000 people and has numerous homes and popular hiking trails near the meandering Mendenhall River.

IS CLIMATE CHANGE TO BLAME?

Climate change is melting glaciers. A study released this year suggested significant melting by the end of this century amid current climate change trends, and a separate report indicated that glaciers in parts of the Himalayas are melting at unprecedented rates.

But the relationship between the changing climate and glacial outburst floods like the one in Juneau is complicated, scientists say.

The basin where the rain and meltwater collect was formerly covered by Suicide Glacier, which used to contribute ice to the Mendenhall Glacier. Smaller glaciers, like Suicide Glacier, respond more rapidly to changes in climate and the retreat of Suicide Glacier exposed the basin, Hood said.

But the floods that occur "really have nothing to do with climate change and glacier melt directly," he said.

"The phenomenon itself is caused by climate, but the individual floods don't have anything to do with climate because they're basically just the case where water is filling up a basin and then draining at some

point during the summer," he said.

HOW UNUSUAL ARE THESE FLOODS?

These events aren't new and happen in places around the world, threatening about 15 million people globally, according to researchers. There's an Icelandic term for them, jökulhaups.

But they're not something many in the U.S. think about — even in Alaska, which is home to the bulk of U.S. glaciers, many of them remote.

One challenge with glacial dam outbursts is that the severity and timing can vary from year to year, researchers said.

Celeste Labeledz, an environmental seismologist at the University of Calgary, said glaciers are dynamic. For example, as the long-retreating Mendenhall Glacier continues to melt, a process aided by the warming climate, it's possible it will someday no longer block the basin and flooding from that basin will no longer be a concern. But there's also potential for new basins to form, she said.

"As a glacier is thinning and retreating and changing, you can see some floods are going to stop happening and new ones are going to start happening. It's a variable system," Labeledz said.

WHAT HAPPENS AS GLACIERS MELT?

In addition to flooding risks, glacial loss can mean diminished water supplies in parts of the world and could affect such things as agriculture and tourism.

Alaska is a bucket-list destination for visitors drawn by wild landscapes such as mountains and craggy glaciers that spectacularly calve into lakes or the ocean.

Glaciers cover about 33,000 square miles (85,000 square kilometers) of the state, and annual ice loss from glaciers in Alaska would be enough to cover Texas in 4 inches (10 centimeters) of water, said Christian Zimmerman, director of the U.S. Geological Survey's Alaska Science Center.

Retreat of glaciers can also affect ecosystems, including salmon habitat, something researchers are hoping to better understand.

Massachusetts governor declares state of emergency amid influx of migrants seeking shelter

By STEVE LeBLANC Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — Massachusetts Gov. Maura Healey declared a state of emergency Tuesday, citing an influx of migrants seeking shelter at a time when the cost of housing — already in short supply — continues to rise.

There are nearly 5,600 families or more than 20,000 people — many of whom are migrants — currently living in state shelters, including infants, young children and pregnant women. That is up from around 3,100 families a year ago, about an 80% increase, Healey said.

Many of the migrants are arriving by plane from other states. In the past 48 hours alone, she said, 50 migrant families have landed in the state in need of shelter.

"It's exponentially more than our state has ever served in our emergency assistance program," she said. "These numbers are being driven by a surge in new arrivals in our country who have been through some of the hardest journeys imaginable."

The migrants arriving in Massachusetts are the face of the international migrant crisis and are coming at a time when the state is already experiencing a housing crunch, Healey said.

She called on the federal government for financial help, and more urgently, expedited work authorizations to allow the new arrivals to more quickly find jobs and start earning a living, she wrote in a letter to U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas.

In the letter, Healey pointed to work authorizations as a primary driver of the crisis. Currently, she said, it can take weeks, months or more than a year to receive the authorizations.

"Our new arrivals are most eager to work. The last thing they want is to be dependent," she said.

As part of the emergency declaration, Healey said she is renewing a call to local organizations that can assist those seeking shelter as well as to people interested in sponsoring a family in their home.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Aug. 9, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 046 ~ 43 of 66

The state has also launched a new migrant relief fund to help raise money to aid migrants.

The contributions will be used to help pay for a range of goods and services for migrants, including food, clothing, diapers and transportation as well as health screenings, translation services, legal assistance and English classes.

As a right-to-shelter state, Massachusetts is legally required to provide eligible families shelter through its emergency assistance program.

Geralde Gabeau, executive director of the Immigrant Family Services Institute, has worked with immigrants arriving from Haiti and said they are ready to get to work.

"The new families coming to our communities are wonderful human beings," she said. "They are ready to work. They are ready to contribute to our economies."

Healey and state lawmakers should rescind the state's right-to-shelter policy, said Paul Diego Craney of the Massachusetts Fiscal Alliance, a conservative group.

"Perhaps it is time for the governor to take a trip to the southern border to see firsthand the open southern border crisis," he said in a statement.

More than 80 cities and towns across the state have already felt the impact of new migrants and support the emergency declaration, said Geoff Beckwith, executive director of the Massachusetts Municipal Association.

"Community leaders want state and federal agencies to step in to provide these families with the services and support they need to be safe and healthy," he said.

Other states have faced challenges with soaring numbers of migrants.

On Monday, New York Mayor Eric Adams announced a plan to house as many as 2,000 migrants on an island in the East River where a migrant center was set up last year and then taken down weeks later.

Some states led by Republicans — including Texas and Florida — have bused or flown immigrants to states and cities led by Democrats, including California, Massachusetts, New York and Chicago.

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis last year flew 49 Venezuelan migrants to the upscale Massachusetts enclave of Martha's Vineyard.

Supreme Court reinstates regulation of ghost guns, firearms without serial numbers

By MARK SHERMAN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court is reinstating a regulation aimed at reining in the proliferation of ghost guns, firearms without serial numbers that have been turning up at crime scenes across the nation in increasing numbers.

The court on Tuesday voted 5-4 to put on hold a ruling from a federal judge in Texas that invalidated the Biden administration's regulation of ghost gun kits. The regulation will be in effect while the administration appeals the ruling to the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans — and potentially the Supreme Court.

Chief Justice John Roberts and Justice Amy Coney Barrett joined with the court's three liberal members to form the majority. Justices Samuel Alito, Neil Gorsuch, Brett Kavanaugh and Clarence Thomas would have kept the regulation on hold during the appeals process. Neither side provided an explanation.

The Justice Department had told the court that local law enforcement agencies seized more than 19,000 ghost guns at crime scenes in 2021, a more than tenfold increase in just five years.

"The public-safety interests in reversing the flow of ghost guns to dangerous and otherwise prohibited persons easily outweighs the minor costs that respondents will incur," Solicitor General Elizabeth Prelogar, the administration's top Supreme Court lawyer, wrote in a court filing.

The new rule was issued last year and changed the definition of a firearm under federal law to include unfinished parts, like the frame of a handgun or the receiver of a long gun, so they can be tracked more easily. Those parts must be licensed and include serial numbers. Manufacturers must also run background checks before a sale — as they do with other commercially made firearms. The requirement applies re-

ardless of how the firearm was made, meaning it includes ghost guns made from individual parts or kits or by 3D printers.

The rule does not prohibit people from purchasing a kit or any type of firearm.

U.S. District Judge Reed O'Connor, in Fort Worth, Texas, struck down the rule in late June, concluding that it exceeded the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives' authority. O'Connor wrote that the definition of a firearm in federal law does not cover all the parts of a gun. Congress could change the law, he wrote.

Lawyers for individuals, businesses and advocacy groups challenging the rule told the Supreme Court that O'Connor was right and that the ATF had departed from more than 50 years of regulatory practice in expanding the definition of a firearm.

"We're deeply disappointed that the Court pressed pause on our defeat of ATF's rule effectively redefining 'firearm' and 'frame or receiver' under federal law," Cody J. Wisniewski, general counsel of the Firearms Policy Coalition Action Foundation, said in a statement. "Regardless of today's decision, we're still confident that we will yet again defeat ATF and its unlawful rule at the Fifth Circuit when that Court has the opportunity to review the full merits of our case."

The Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence, which has long supported regulation of ghost guns, praised the Supreme Court's action. "The challenged rule simply requires that ghost gun kits are regulated like the guns that they are. It will save lives," David Pucino, the group's deputy chief counsel, said in a statement.

Biden creates new national monument near Grand Canyon, citing tribal heritage, climate concerns

By CHRIS MEGERIAN and TERRY TANG Associated Press

GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK, Ariz. (AP) — Declaring it good "not only for Arizona but for the planet," President Joe Biden on Tuesday signed a national monument designation for the greater Grand Canyon, turning the decades-long visions of Native American tribes and environmentalists into reality.

Coming as Biden is on a three-state Western trip, the move will help preserve about 1,562 square miles (4,046 square kilometers) just to the north and south of Grand Canyon National Park. It encompasses canyons, plateaus and tributaries that feed a range of plants and wildlife, including bison, elk, desert bighorn sheep and rare species of cactus, and it is Biden's fifth monument designation.

Tribes in Arizona have been pushing the president 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.

"Preserving these lands is good, not only for Arizona but for the planet," said Biden, who spoke with a mountain vista behind him using a handheld mic to counter the wind and wearing a baseball cap and sunglasses to shield him from the sunshine. "It's good for the economy. It's good for the soul of the nation."

The president tied the designation to his administration's larger push to combat climate change and noted this summer's extreme heat, which has been especially punishing in places like Phoenix. He said extreme heat was responsible for more deaths than other natural disasters like floods and hurricanes but added, "None of this need be inevitable."

Biden also criticized adherents of former President Donald Trump's "Make America Great Again" movement for opposing efforts to promote green energy and expand federal environmental protections. He spoke near Red Butte, a site culturally significant to the Havasupai and Hopi tribes, to an audience that included a number of people in traditional native dress, including feathered headbands.

Biden said the new designation would see the federal government live up to its treaty obligations with Native American tribes after many were forced in decades past from their ancestral homes around the Grand Canyon as officials developed the site of the national park.

"At a time when some seek to ban books and bury history, we're making it clear that we can't just choose to learn what we want to learn," Biden said, a reference to his frequent criticism of some top Republicans

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Aug. 9, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 046 ~ 45 of 66

who have sought to impose limits on school libraries, citing parental complaints about explicit material.

The political stakes are high since Arizona is a key battleground state that Biden won narrowly in 2020. It is one of only a few genuinely competitive states heading into next year's election, making winning Arizona a critical part of Biden's efforts to secure a second term.

Later Tuesday, the president flies to New Mexico, considered safe for Democrats in 2024, and he will visit the Republican stronghold of Utah after that.

Invitees at Tuesday's event included 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.

Carletta Tilousi, a former Havasupai councilwoman and spokesperson for the Grand Canyon Tribal Coalition, was moved as she first watched her daughter introduce Biden, and then saw the president sign the designation.

"I've had a lot of mixed emotions leading up to this day," Tilousi said. "One, missing my elders that started this campaign. They've all passed away. ... They weren't here to witness this special moment physically but I know they're here in the clouds, in the wind."

Noting Biden's reference to past mistreatment of Native Americans, she added, "I never thought I'd hear a president say that in a lifetime."

Republican lawmakers and the uranium mining industry that operates in the area had opposed the designation, touting the economic benefits for the region while arguing that the mining efforts are a matter of national security.

Reps. Bruce Westerman, chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee, and Paul Gosar, an Arizona Republican who also holds a leadership position on the committee, released a letter to Biden on Tuesday, suggesting the designation "would permanently withdraw the richest and highest-grade uranium deposits in the United States from mining—deposits that are far outside the Grand Canyon National Park."

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. Still, existing mining claims will not be affected by the designation, senior Biden administration officials say.

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.

Arizona Gov. Katie Hobbs said Tuesday that "the Grand Canyon is known as one of the seven natural wonders of the world, but we know it for so much more." In his own remarks, Biden mistakenly referred to the nine wonders of the world, but corrected himself.

"There's no national treasure, none, that is grander than the Grand Canyon," the president said.

Other 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.

In 2017, 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.

The landscape of Arizona's political delegation has since changed considerably. Hobbs, Democratic Sen. Mark Kelly and Sen. Kyrsten Sinema, an independent, all endorsed the move.

Mining companies and the areas that would benefit from their business nonetheless remained opposed. Buster Johnson, a Mohave County supervisor, said 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.

After Arizona, Biden will go on to Albuquerque on Wednesday, where he will talk about how fighting climate change has created new jobs. During a visit to Salt Lake City on Thursday, the president will mark the first anniversary of the PACT Act, which provides new benefits to veterans who were exposed to toxic substances.

Trump vows to keep talking about criminal cases despite prosecutors pushing for protective order

By MICHELLE L. PRICE and HOLLY RAMER Associated Press

WINDHAM, N.H. (AP) — Former President Donald Trump on Tuesday kept up his attacks on special counsel Jack Smith and vowed to continue talking about his criminal cases even as prosecutors sought a protective order to limit the evidence that Trump and his team could share.

In the early voting state of New Hampshire, Trump assailed Smith as a “thug prosecutor” and a “de-ranged guy” a week after being indicted on felony charges for his efforts to overturn the results of the 2020 election in the run-up to the insurrection at the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021.

The former president lobbed the insults at Smith just days after the Department of Justice asked a judge to approve a protective order stopping Trump from publicly disclosing evidence. Federal prosecutors contend that Trump is seeking to “try the case in the media rather than in the courtroom.”

The judge overseeing the case has scheduled a hearing over the protective order for Friday morning. Trump, after his rally on Tuesday, made a post on his social media network attacking the judge, U.S. District Judge Tanya Chutkan.

Trump’s lawyers have argued that the prospective order is too broad and would restrict his First Amendment rights of free speech, something Trump echoed on stage Tuesday.

“I will talk about it. They’re not taking away my First Amendment,” Trump said, speaking to supporters during a rally at a high school in the southeastern New Hampshire town of Windham.

The former president said he needs to be able to respond to reporters’ questions about the case on the campaign trail — something he has not made a practice of doing — and cited the movie “2000 Mules,” which made various debunked claims about mail ballots, drop boxes and ballot collection in the 2020 presidential election.

“All of this will come up during this trial,” Trump said.

In the four-count indictment filed against Trump last week, the Justice Department accused him of orchestrating a scheme to block the peaceful transfer of power. He was told by multiple people in trusted positions that his claims were false, prosecutors said, but he spread them anyway to sow public mistrust about the election.

Trump, who pleaded not guilty to the charges, repeated his lies about the election on Tuesday, despite the fact that numerous federal and local election officials of both parties, a long list of courts, top former campaign staffers and even his attorney general have all said there is no evidence of the fraud he alleges.

“There was never a second of any day that I didn’t believe that that election was rigged. It was a rigged election, and it was a stolen disgusting election and this country should be ashamed,” Trump said.

Trump, who is also facing charges in Florida and New York, is gearing up for a possible fourth indictment, in a case out of Fulton County, Georgia, over alleged efforts by him and his allies to illegally meddle in the 2020 election in that state. The county district attorney, Fani Willis, has signaled that any indictments in the case would likely come this month.

Trump alluded to that Tuesday, predicting that when it comes to indictments, “I should have four by sometime next week.” He also launched into a highly personal attack on Willis, who is Black, calling the 52-year-old prosecutor “a young woman, a young racist in Atlanta.”

“She’s got a lot of problems. But she wants to indict me to try to run for some other office,” he said.

A spokesperson for Willis declined to comment.

Beyond his criminal cases, Trump faces several civil cases that are working their way through the courts.

Although he usually boasts that his legal problems only help his campaign prospects, he made a rare admission Tuesday of the toll they are taking. His political operation spent more than \$40 million on legal fees so far this year, according to recent campaign finance disclosures.

Trump, who has portrayed the investigations as politically motivated, said they are forcing him "to spend time and money away from the campaign trail in order to fight bogus made-up accusations and charges."

"That's what they're doing. I'm sorry, I won't be able to go to Iowa today. I won't be able to go to New Hampshire today," he said. "Because I'm sitting in a courtroom on bull—."

The crowd cheered and broke into chants of "bull—!"

Trump smiled and shook his head while he watched the crowd chant.

"Thank you very much," he said.

Ukraine accuses Russia of targeting rescue workers with consecutive missile strikes

By HANNA ARHIROVA Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Ukrainian officials on Tuesday accused the Kremlin's forces of targeting rescue workers by hitting residential buildings with two consecutive missiles — the first one to draw crews to the scene and the second one to wound or kill them.

The strikes Monday evening in the downtown district of the city of Pokrovsk killed nine people and wounded more than 80 others, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said in his nightly address. According to Ukrainian authorities, one of those killed was an emergency official, and most of those wounded were police officers, emergency workers and soldiers who rushed to assist residents.

The Russian missiles slammed into the center of Pokrovsk in the eastern Donetsk region, which is partially occupied by Russia. Emergency crews were still removing rubble on Tuesday. The Iskander missiles, which have an advanced guidance system that increases their accuracy, hit within 40 minutes of each other, according to Donetsk Gov. Pavlo Kyrylenko said.

Since the start of the war, Russia has used artillery and missiles to hit targets and then struck the exact same spot around 30 minutes later, often hitting emergency teams responding to the first blast. The tactic is called a "double tap" in military jargon. Russians used the same method 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 Vyhivskiy, 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."

Russia's Ministry of Defense claimed it hit a Ukrainian army command post in Pokrovsk. Neither side's claims could be independently verified.

Among those injured was Volodymyr Nikulin, a police officer originally from the now Russian-occupied port city of Mariupol.

Arriving at the scene after the first missile strike, Nikulin was wounded in the second strike when shrapnel pierced his left lung and left hand.

"Today is not my happy day because Russian criminals committed another awful crime in Pokrovsk," he said in a video he sent to The Associated Press from a hospital ward.

In the video, he is seen lying on a bed shirtless, with dried blood on his side and covering his left hand. He moves with pain to show his wounds.

Pointing his camera to show other wounded security forces in the ward, he says: "Look, these are Ukrainian heroes who helped (injured) people."

He told the National Police in a video that he feared a second strike but went to help anyway.

There were so many injured at the hospital that Nikulin was still waiting for surgery on Tuesday morning. He was later transported to a hospital in Dnipro, where he was to have the shrapnel removed.

Nikulin had already witnessed some of the war's horrors. He helped an AP team escape after Russian troops that besieged Mariupol entered the downtown area and searched for them.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Aug. 9, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 046 ~ 48 of 66

He was featured in the award-winning documentary "20 Days in Mariupol," a joint project between The Associated Press and PBS "Frontline" about the earliest phase of the invasion of Mariupol.

In a statement, the U.N. humanitarian coordinator in Ukraine, Denise Brown, described the latest attack as "absolutely ruthless" and said it was "a serious breach" of international law and violated "any principle of humanity."

Since the beginning of Russia's invasion in February 2022, 78 employees of Ukraine's State Emergency Service have been killed and 280 have been wounded while responding to Russian missile strikes, according to agency spokesperson Col. Oleksandr Khorunzhyi.

Ukrainian officials say rescuers are protected by international conventions as they are providing humanitarian assistance and are not engaged in combat operations.

The head of the Pokrovsk city administration, Serhii Dobriak, described the attacks as "a typical Russian scenario," with 30 to 40 minutes between missiles.

"When rescuers come to save people's lives, another rocket arrives. And the number of casualties increases," he said in a video comment to local media.

Kyrylenko, the regional governor, said that 12 multistory buildings were damaged in Pokrovsk, as well as a hotel, a pharmacy, two stores and two cafes.

The roof of one building was partially demolished, and rubble filled the sidewalk outside. Across the road, a children's playground was wrecked.

Russian missiles, drones and artillery have repeatedly struck civilian areas in the war. The Kremlin says its forces target only military assets and claims other damage is caused by debris from Ukrainian air defenses.

Meanwhile, an overnight attack on the town of Kruhliakivka, in the northeastern Kharkiv region, killed three 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 wounded, it said.

Also on Tuesday, Russian-installed authorities of the Donetsk region accused Kyiv's forces of shelling the region's namesake capital and killing three people. The Moscow-appointed leader of the Donetsk region, Denis Pushilin, said Ukrainian shelling of the Russian-held city of Donetsk also wounded 11.

US east cleans up after deadly storms as New England braces for flooding

By SARAH BRUMFIELD Associated Press

SILVER SPRING, Md. (AP) — Crews across the eastern U.S. worked Tuesday to clear downed trees and power lines and restore electricity following severe storms that killed at least two people, cut power to more than a million customers at their peak, and forced thousands of flight delays and cancellations.

The storms that pounded a swath of the country stretching from Alabama and Tennessee to the Carolinas and New York on Monday continued to lash northern New England with wind and rain a day later.

The National Weather Service confirmed that a tornado touched down Tuesday in the Atlantic Coast town of Mattapoisett, Massachusetts, though a survey team was still determining its strength.

The twister damaged homes and vehicles, downed trees and power lines, and may have damaged the water treatment plant, which remained operational, according to a statement from the town's Select Board. There were no reports of injuries.

Rain also pounded Vermont, which experienced historic flooding last month that inundated its capital city and damaged thousands of homes, businesses and roads. Vermont Public Safety Commissioner Jennifer Morrison said swift rescue teams were ready if needed in the west of the state.

Flash flood warnings were issued in Maine, where storms dumped 4 to 5 inches (10 to 13 centimeters) in an area around New Gloucester and Lewiston-Auburn, in the southwest of the state, said weather service meteorologist Sarah Thunberg.

Monday's storms spawned tornado watches and warnings in 10 states, with around 30 million people

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Aug. 9, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 046 ~ 49 of 66

under a tornado watch in the afternoon. Forecasters received more than 900 reports of wind damage, including nearly 300 from North Carolina and South Carolina, according to the Storm Prediction Center.

A preliminary assessment of damage in Knoxville, Tennessee, found that an EF-2 tornado touched down Monday, with winds up to 130 mph (209 kph) and a path as wide as 200 yards (183 meters), said the weather service's office in Morristown, Tennessee.

An EF-0 tornado with peak winds of 85 mph (137 kph) uprooted trees and damaged the outside of buildings near Lake Norman in North Carolina, the weather service's office in Greenville-Spartanburg confirmed.

"My rocking chairs flew off of my front porch and I had a couple of pots break and stuff," Jacob Jolly said at his home in Mooresville, a Charlotte suburb that sits along the lake. "And then about 20 minutes later during the storm, I heard the transformer right here on this pole. It exploded and all the power went out immediately. And it's about lunchtime today and still no power."

In Westminster, Maryland, about 30 miles (48 kilometers) northwest of Baltimore, dozens of vehicles were trapped by power lines that had fallen onto a highway. No injuries were reported, and utility workers turned off the electricity, allowing the 33 adults and 14 children in the vehicles to get out safely, Maryland State Police Superintendent Col. Roland Butler said at a news conference Tuesday.

Nick Alexopoulos, a spokesperson for Maryland's largest power utility, BGE, called the destruction "catastrophic."

"This is damage that if you worked in electric distribution at BGE for your entire career, you may see it once," Alexopoulos said at a news conference.

First responders and others worked as a team and saved lives Monday night, Maryland Gov. Wes Moore said.

"There were people who were stuck and stranded in cars who were able to sleep in their own beds last night," the governor said.

More than 1.1 million customers were without power Monday evening across Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Maryland, Delaware, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, West Virginia and Virginia, according to poweroutage.us. But by mid-Tuesday afternoon, power had been restored to all but about about 200,000 customers in Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Maryland, Georgia and Tennessee.

By Monday night, more than 2,600 U.S. flights had been canceled and nearly 7,900 had been delayed, according to flight tracking service FlightAware. The trouble continued Tuesday with hundreds of delays and dozens of cancellations. The Federal Aviation Administration, which rerouted planes around storms on Monday, warned Tuesday that low clouds and wind could affect airports in New York, Philadelphia, Washington, D.C., Las Vegas and San Francisco, and that thunderstorms could cause delays in Boston, Atlanta, Florida and Chicago.

At least two deaths have been blamed on the storms.

In Anderson, South Carolina, a large tree was uprooted and fell on a 15-year-old boy Monday, according to the Anderson County Office of the Coroner. The high school sophomore's death was classified as resulting from a severe weather event, officials said.

In Florence, Alabama, a 28-year-old worker in the parking lot of an industrial park was struck by lightning Monday and died, police said in a social media post.

COVID-19 hospitalizations in the US are on the rise again, but not like before

By CARLA K. JOHNSON AP Medical Writer

Here we go again: COVID-19 hospital admissions have inched upward in the United States since early July in a small-scale echo of the three previous summers.

With an updated vaccine still months away, this summer bump in new hospitalizations might be concerning, but the number of patients is far lower than before. A look at what we know:

HOW BAD IS THE SPIKE?

For the week ending July 29, COVID-19 hospital admissions were at 9,056. That's an increase of about

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Aug. 9, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 046 ~ 50 of 66

12% from the previous week.

But it's a far cry from past peaks, like the 44,000 weekly hospital admissions in early January, the nearly 45,000 in late July 2022, or the 150,000 admissions during the omicron surge of January 2022.

"It is ticking up a little bit, but it's not something that we need to raise any alarm bells over," said Dr. David Dowdy, an infectious disease epidemiologist at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

It's likely that infections are rising too, but the data is scant. Federal authorities ended the public health emergency in May, so the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and many states no longer track the number of positive test results.

WHAT ABOUT DEATHS?

Since early June, about 500 to 600 people have died each week. The number of deaths appears to be stable this summer, although past increases in deaths have lagged behind hospitalizations.

HOW ARE WE TRACKING THE VIRUS?

The amount of the COVID-19 virus in sewage water has been rising since late June across the nation. In the coming weeks, health officials say they'll keep a close eye on wastewater levels as people return from summer travel and students go back to school.

Higher levels of COVID-19 in wastewater concentrations are being found in the Northeast and South, said Cristin Young, an epidemiologist at Biobot Analytics, the CDC's wastewater surveillance contractor.

"It's important to remember right now the concentrations are still fairly low," Young said, adding it's about 2.5 times lower than last summer.

And while one version of omicron — EG.5 — is appearing more frequently, no particular variant of the virus is dominant. The variant has been dubbed "eris" but it's an unofficial nickname and scientists aren't using it.

"There are a couple that we're watching, but we're not seeing anything like delta or omicron," Young said, referencing variants that fueled previous surges.

And mutations in the virus don't necessarily make it more dangerous.

"Just because we have a new subvariant doesn't mean that we are destined to have an increase in bad outcomes," Dowdy said.

WHEN IS THE NEW VACCINE COMING?

This fall, officials expect to see updated COVID-19 vaccines that contain one version of the omicron strain, called XBB.1.5. It's an important change from today's combination shots, which mix the original coronavirus strain with last year's most common omicron variants.

It's not clear exactly when people can start rolling up their sleeves for what officials hope is an annual fall COVID-19 shot. Pfizer, Moderna and smaller manufacturer Novavax all are brewing doses of the XBB update but the Food and Drug Administration will have to sign off on each, and the CDC must then issue recommendations for their use.

Dr. Mandy Cohen, the new CDC director, said she expects people will get their COVID-19 shots where they get their flu shots — at pharmacies and at work — rather than at dedicated locations that were set up early in the pandemic as part of the emergency response.

"This is going to be our first fall and winter season coming out of the public health emergency, and I think we are all recognizing that we are living with COVID, flu, and RSV," Cohen told The Associated Press last week. "But the good news is we have more tools than ever before."

In Mexico, accusations of 'communism' and 'fascism' mark school textbook debate

By MARK STEVENSON and LEON RAMÍREZ Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — There are few places where the debate over school textbooks has gone so ballistic in such a short time as in Mexico, where opponents are hurling cries of "communist" and "fascist" at each other.

The series of about three dozen government-written, free textbooks will be required reading for first

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Aug. 9, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 046 ~ 51 of 66

through ninth grades in every school nationwide, starting on Aug. 28.

News anchor Javier Alatorre claimed the new schoolbooks written by the administration of President Andrés Manuel López Obrador are trying to inject “the virus of communism” into kids.

Government supporters, meanwhile, have compared the opposition to Hitler, after opposition party leader Marko Cortes suggested some of the texts should be destroyed. Temperatures have run so high that López Obrador has instructed officials to hold a series of news conferences to answer questions about the new texts.

The debate reveals how starkly divided Mexico is between die-hard supporters of López Obrador, and those who hate him.

“What is really being revealed in this conflict, this debate, is how polarized Mexican society is,” said National University sociologist Ishtar Cardona Cardona, who has reviewed most of the textbooks available so far.

And the ideological debate has obscured the bigger fact that the new texts introduce a whole new teaching method, something never before done in Mexico, where in the past, each administration updated the texts but kept the subjects largely the same.

No longer will there be separate lessons — or textbooks — on subjects like math, reading or social studies. It’s all mixed together, into multi-subject stories or projects, intended to give a more hands-on “experiential” learning process.

There are some embarrassing errors; one grade-school textbook suggested $\frac{3}{4}$ is greater than \square and shows an incorrect date of birth of the national hero Benito Juárez. Yet another diagram suggests Mars is closer to the Sun than the Earth is.

And there is a strong anti-capitalist tint to some of the lessons.

There is little doubt that the officials in charge of compiling the textbooks do wax nostalgic for the old Soviet Union. One of the two officials proudly bears the first name “Marx,” and the other previously worked for Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro.

“The Rabfak, the schools for workers in the former Soviet Union, were considered spaces of knowledge. The dream is that Mexican middle schools and their textbooks can achieve that quality,” according to the forward to the seventh grade language arts book.

But Cardona notes that those references “really say more about the I-don’t-want-to-grow-up ideological nostalgia” of the officials, than any real call to revolution.

Some parents agree, like Juan Angoa, who sells belts and wallets at a Mexico City street market.

“This is just pure politics,” said Angoa.

Angoa, whose kids have already graduated from high school, thinks the debate distracts from the bigger problem, which is that while textbooks are free, uniforms, supplemental books and activities aren’t, representing a challenge for low-income parents.

For Luz de Teresa Oteysa, researcher at the Institute of Mathematics of the UNAM, the books seemed to have been created without much care, lacking the necessary content for kids, and were poorly proofread, despite any potential new method or approach used.

“Regardless of the government’s ideology or the type of government we have, mathematics must be taught, and even more so, a government that claims to be left-wing,” she said.

But it is true that you can find plenty of references to capitalism being bad in the textbooks, as early as the fourth grade.

One chapter in the fourth grade sciences-math-history textbook is titled “The deterioration of nature and society under capitalist culture.”

Multinational corporations, consumerism and imported food are all depicted as inherently bad.

That is a concern for parents like Husim Pérez Valladares, whose daughter is entering kindergarten this year.

“There has never been so much concern about textbooks,” Pérez Valladares said as her daughter played on a bench next to her. “They’re saying there are a lot of subliminal, pro-communist messages” in the books.

What is perhaps more significant is that the texts tend to rewrite history and include the political stances

of López Obrador's administration as gospel.

For example, most historians agree that Mexico's "Dirty War" — a counterinsurgency effort by Mexican soldiers and police against leftist rebels — ran from about 1965 to 1995. By 2000, Mexico's presidents began investigating crimes of the past.

But the new textbooks say it ran from the 1950s to 2016, just two years before López Obrador took office. (While López Obrador often invokes Cuba and rebel movements of the past, he has done very little that is overtly leftist during his tenure.)

López Obrador dislikes mainstream media outlets, and it shows. One textbook tells children "if you are looking (for reliable information) on the internet, the webpage's address should end in .edu, .gob or .org." That excludes most newspapers in Mexico, which use ".com" addresses for their online editions.

Cardona says this is not the first time an administration's biases have crept into mandated school textbooks.

"I grew up with free textbooks that talked about the current president or the one before," said Carmona. "This is a defect of Mexico as a country. Putting yourself in the textbooks is nothing new."

The more serious problem, Cardona says, was the rush to get the error-prone textbooks finished before López Obrador leaves office in September 2024.

"The problem is that these books were done in a hurry," she said. "Why did they try to do it so quickly, so carelessly? Because we're nearing the end of the administration ... it's now or never."

DeSantis replaces his campaign manager as he resets his faltering 2024 presidential bid

By MICHELLE L. PRICE Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Republican presidential candidate Ron DeSantis is replacing his campaign manager as the Florida governor resets his sluggish presidential campaign.

DeSantis is bringing on James Uthmeier, his chief of staff from his state office, to serve as his campaign manager, replacing Generra Peck, who led DeSantis' reelection campaign last year before jumping into the same role on his presidential bid.

Peck will stay on as a strategist.

The changes come after DeSantis made two big staff cuts in the past few weeks, laying off about a third of his staff in late July as the campaign faced financial trouble.

"James Uthmeier has been one of Governor DeSantis' top advisers for years, and he is needed where it matters most: working hand in hand with Generra Peck and the rest of the team to put the governor in the best possible position to win this primary and defeat Joe Biden," campaign spokesman Andrew Romeo said in a statement.

DeSantis has been Donald Trump's strongest rival in the crowded GOP presidential field, but the former president has kept a commanding lead in polls. Trump, who regularly needles DeSantis, declared on his social media network Tuesday, "DeSanctimonious is CRASHING! Perhaps Party should come together???"

As expected for someone still running a state, DeSantis has kept in contact with his chief of staff while campaigning, with a call to Uthmeier regularly being among the few items on the daily public schedule released by the governor's office.

Politico in October obtained text messages that showed Uthmeier was involved in Florida's program to fly migrants from Texas to Martha's Vineyard last year.

NBC News reported in June that while Uthmeier remained in DeSantis' government office, he was also working as a political fundraiser for the governor's presidential campaign. The arrangement was unusual, and government watchdog groups said it raised ethical questions.

Before he worked for DeSantis, Uthmeier worked in the Trump administration for U.S. Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross. His work on the efforts to add a citizenship question to the 2020 census later became part of a congressional committee investigation.

Uthmeier will be on a leave of absence from the governor's office. Florida's Secretary of Commerce Alex

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Aug. 9, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 046 ~ 53 of 66

Kelly will serve as acting chief of staff and work with senior adviser David Dewhirst, office spokesman Jeremy Redfern said.

DeSantis is also hiring an operative who was working on a super PAC that had been supporting his campaign. David Polyansky, who had been advising Never Back Down, will join the campaign as a deputy campaign manager.

Romeo said Polyansky will be a critical addition to the team given his previous experience working in early voting Iowa, which has become a proving ground for the DeSantis campaign.

Polyansky worked on the presidential campaigns of Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker and Texas Sen. Ted Cruz in 2016 and Minnesota Rep. Michele Bachmann in 2012. In Iowa, he helped Joni Ernst win election to the U.S. Senate in 2014 and helped Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee win in the Iowa Republican presidential caucuses in 2008.

Polyansky was traveling with DeSantis in Iowa to events Saturday sponsored by Never Back Down, which as a super PAC, can receive unlimited sums from donors but is barred under federal rules from coordinating with campaigns on how their money is spent.

Polyansky is listed as the chief strategy officer for Axiom Strategies, a political consulting firm whose founder, Jeff Roe, and other staffers are working for Never Back Down.

Brett Kappel, a campaign finance lawyer who has advised Republicans and Democrats, said it's not unusual for a consulting firm to have employees advising both a super PAC and a campaign, but such a person typically takes a leave of absence or signs document establishing a firewall against restricted coordination.

The DeSantis campaign did not respond to a message about whether Polyansky is staying at his firm or signing a firewall agreement.

The staff shakeup was first reported by The Messenger on Tuesday.

Neighbors say a Chicago man charged with killing a 9-year-old girl was upset over noise

CHICAGO (AP) — A man was charged with first-degree murder Monday after witnesses said a 9-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 Serabi 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 Serabi'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.

Mourners in Ireland pay their respects to singer Sinéad O'Connor at funeral procession

By BRIAN MELLEY Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Sinéad O'Connor was remembered Tuesday for bringing "joy to countless people the world over" and then honored by emotional fans who thronged the streets of the Irish coastal town she had called home. They sang "Nothing Compares 2 U" as a hearse passed by carrying the singer's casket to its final resting place.

The funeral held for loved ones and friends reflected her spirituality and the impact she had on her homeland and the music world. Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar and President Michael Higgins attended along with musical luminaries such as Bono of U2 and Bob Geldof of the Boomtown Rats.

But the procession to a cemetery for a private burial reflected the broader impact of her life on devotees moved by her pure voice and emotional depth and touched by her sometimes troubled life.

Hundreds of people made the pilgrimage to her former home in Bray, the seaside village south of Dublin where O'Connor lived for 15 years before she recently moved to London, where she was found dead in her home last month.

They sang, they cried, they tossed flowers on the hearse and laid their hands on the vehicle when it came to a stop outside the white house with its distinctive pink entrance and a corner painted in the alternating green, yellow and red of the Rastafarian flag. Bouquets of flowers and written tributes were laid against the stone wall outside.

"She was adored by everyone in all her talent and beauty, and the voice she gave to us when we weren't able to say the things that were happening to us," said Simone George, who had listened to O'Connor since she was a girl. "She was able to be brave and I think that's why this is really painful for people in a way: that it isn't just a celebrity, it isn't any other artist. I think she symbolizes something very different for Irish people."

A vintage VW camper van with rooftop speakers blasting some of the singer's best-known songs led the hearse at walking pace through the thick crowd of admirers in the town. It was playing "Natural Mystic," by Bob Marley, her hero, as the procession stopped outside her former home and was greeted with lengthy applause.

O'Connor, who was raised Catholic and became a controversial figure after she tore up a photo of Pope John Paul II on Saturday Night Live in 1992, later converted to Islam. An imam delivered a eulogy that bridged both worlds.

Shaykh Dr. Umar Al-Qadri of the Islamic Center of Ireland said O'Connor had "brought diverse souls together through her art" as he "bid farewell to a remarkable soul who touched us all."

"Gifted with a voice that moved a generation of young people, she could reduce listeners to tears by her otherworldly resonance," he said in the eulogy posted online. "The Irish people have long found solace in song from the sufferings of this lower abode, and Sinéad was no exception, and in sharing that solace, she brought joy to countless people the world over."

A group that had been waiting well over an hour outside O'Connor's former home, singing her songs at times, snapped photos through the windows of the hearse where her coffin was dwarfed by a pile of blue hydrangeas and pink roses. A black and white photo of the younger singer smiling with her trademark shaven head and her large eyes could be seen through the rear window.

Ruth O'Shea, who had come to Bray 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 Sinéad O'Connor, she's obviously had a rough day.' She just gave me hope. And I just 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.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Aug. 9, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 046 ~ 55 of 66

O'Connor's family had invited the public to pay their respects during the funeral procession.

"Sinéad 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 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.

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

By SETH BORENSTEIN AP Science Writer

Now that last month'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 announced Tuesday. Normally global temperature records are broken by hundredths or a tenth of a degree, so this margin is unusual.

The United States is now at a record 15 different weather disasters that caused at least \$1 billion in damage this year, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration announced Tuesday. It's the most mega-disasters through the first seven months of the year since the agency tracked such things starting in 1980, with the agency adjusting figures for inflation.

"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.

The previous single-day heat record was set in 2016 and tied in 2022. From July 3, each day has exceeded that record. It's been so warm that Copernicus and the World Meteorological Organization made the unusual announcement that it was likely the hottest month days before it ended. Tuesday's calculations made it official.

"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."

The global average temperature last 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)

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Aug. 9, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 046 ~ 56 of 66

heit) hotter than average. Antarctica set record lows for sea ice, 15% below average for this time of year. Copernicus, a division of the European Union's space program, has records going back to 1940. July's 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 10,000 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.

While much of the world broiled in July, the United States only had its 11th hottest July in its 129-year record, according to NOAA. But Arizona, Florida, Maine and New Mexico had their warmest Julys on record.

Arizona broke its record by nearly 2 degrees Fahrenheit (1.1 degrees Celsius) and Phoenix averaged 102.8 degrees for the entire month making it the hottest month for any city in the United States, according to NOAA. Death Valley reported its hottest midnight temperature on record with 120 degrees Fahrenheit (48.9 degrees Celsius) on July 17.

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."

Soaring sales of diabetes drug Mounjaro, widely used for weight loss, sends Eli Lilly to new heights

By TOM MURPHY AP Health Writer

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Eli Lilly's diabetes treatment Mounjaro, which is widely used for weight loss, raked in nearly \$1 billion in second-quarter sales, or more than \$200 million above what Wall Street had expected.

Shares of the drugmaker soared 17% to an all-time-high Tuesday after Lilly said Mounjaro sales swelled more than 70% since the first quarter to \$980 million. Almost all of that came from the U.S., and the company said significant demand was leading to delays in filling orders for some doses.

Analysts expected the drug to bring in about \$740 million during the quarter, according to FactSet.

Executives said Tuesday that they expect tight supplies will lead to some spot shortages of Mounjaro through year's end. Lilly is building a new manufacturing plant in North Carolina and expanding at another location there.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved Mounjaro at the end of last year's second quarter to treat type 2 diabetes, but analysts see a lot of potential for it in the booming market for weight-loss treatments, and doctors have already been prescribing it off-label for that.

Regulators are currently deciding whether to also make weight loss an approved use. Lilly said earlier this year that the injectable treatment helped people with type 2 diabetes who were overweight or obese to lose up to 16% of their body weight, or more than 34 pounds, over nearly 17 months.

If approved, Lilly's drug would compete with Novo Nordisk's popular weight loss drug Wegovy — also sold to manage diabetes under the brand Ozempic — in a wave of new options that is changing the treatment of obesity.

Separately, Novo said Tuesday that early results from a large, late-stage study of Wegovy showed that it cut the risk of serious heart problems by 20%. That was better than expected.

The Danish drugmaker said weekly injections of the highest dose of the medication known generically

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Aug. 9, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 046 ~ 58 of 66

as semaglutide slashed the risk of heart attack, stroke and heart disease-related deaths in people who were overweight or obese and had known cardiovascular disease, but not type 2 diabetes.

Results from the trial, conducted on more than 17,000 people in 41 countries, could bode well for all drugs in Wegovy's class because it may make insurers and other health care bill payers more likely to cover them, Leerink analyst David Risinger said in a research note.

It also could pave the way for wider use beyond weight loss, doctors said.

Analysts have predicted that Lilly's drug, known generically as tirzepatide, could become one of the top-selling drugs ever, with annual sales topping \$50 billion.

In the recently completed second quarter, Mounjaro sales helped lift Indianapolis-based Eli Lilly and Co. to a better-than-expected performance.

Overall, Lilly's profit jumped 85% in the second quarter to more than \$1.76 billion. Revenue rose 28% to \$8.31 billion. Adjusted earnings totaled \$2.11 per share.

Analysts expected, on average, earnings of \$1.98 per share on \$6.86 billion in revenue.

Shares of Lilly jumped more than 17%, or nearly \$80, to \$533.83 in midday trading. Broader indexes slipped.

That eclipsed the stock's previous all-time-high price of \$469.87, which Lilly hit at the end of June.

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 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 Saemangeum, a huge area reclaimed from the sea in the southwestern county of Buan, after forecasters raised alarms that Tropical Storm Khanun was heading toward the Korean Peninsula.

As of Tuesday evening, Khanun was passing through waters 60 kilometers (36 miles) south of Japan's Yakushima island, which is south of the southern main island of Kyushu. Japan's weather agency issued warnings for heavy rain and high winds in the southern regions of Kyushu and parts of Shikoku island, east of Kyushu.

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 that began Tuesday morning. The World Organization of the Scout Movement said all youth participants had safely departed from the Jamboree campsite as of Tuesday evening.

Most of the Scouts will be accommodated in Seoul and the surrounding area.

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

Matt Hyde, the chief executive of UK Scouts, said the organization will need to use more than £1 million from its reserves to cover the cost of moving 4,500 Scouts and adult volunteers, an expense that could impact its activities for the next five years.

UK Scouts had become increasingly concerned about sanitation, the availability of food, medical services and the "punishing heat."

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Aug. 9, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 046 ~ 59 of 66

"We feel let down by the organizers because we repeatedly raised some of these concerns before we went, and during, and we were promised things were going to be put in place and they weren't," Hyde told the BBC.

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 1,500-member Swedish contingent was transferred to three university dormitories in the central city of Cheonan.

Northern European nations are dealing with their own extreme weather, with strong winds and rains causing floods, damaging buildings and knocking out electricity at thousands of homes in Norway and Sweden, Denmark, Lithuania, Finland, Estonia and Latvia.

The North Jeolla provincial government, which governs Buan, had hoped that the Jamboree 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 the 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 remains 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 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 on Tuesday, 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 up 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 Wednesday evening through Thursday morning. Flights and ferries in and out of Kagoshima in southern Kyushu also were suspended Tuesday, according to the prefecture.

South's weather agency, which measured the storm at typhoon strength with max winds of 126 kph (78 mph) as of 9 p.m. Tuesday, 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

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Aug. 9, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 046 ~ 60 of 66

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 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

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Aug. 9, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 046 ~ 61 of 66

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."

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 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."

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.

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

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Aug. 9, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 046 ~ 64 of 66

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.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Aug. 9, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 046 ~ 65 of 66

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.

Today in History: August 9, US drops second atomic bomb on Japan

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Wednesday, Aug. 9, the 221st day of 2023. There are 144 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Aug. 9, 1974, Vice President Gerald R. Ford became the nation's 38th chief executive as President Richard Nixon's resignation took effect.

On this date:

In 1854, Henry David Thoreau's "Walden," which described Thoreau's experiences while living near Walden Pond in Massachusetts, was first published.

In 1934, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed an executive order nationalizing silver.

In 1936, Jesse Owens won his fourth gold medal at the Berlin Olympics as the United States took first place in the 400-meter relay.

In 1944, 258 African-American sailors based at Port Chicago, California, refused to load a munitions ship following a cargo vessel explosion that killed 320 men, many of them Black.

In 1945, three days after the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, Japan, a U.S. B-29 Superfortress code-named Bockscar dropped a nuclear device over Nagasaki, killing an estimated 74,000 people.

In 1969, actor Sharon Tate and four other people were found brutally slain at Tate's Los Angeles home; cult leader Charles Manson and a group of his followers were later convicted of the crime.

In 1982, a federal judge in Washington ordered John W. Hinckley Jr., who'd been acquitted of shooting President Ronald Reagan and three others by reason of insanity, committed to a mental hospital.

In 1988, President Ronald Reagan nominated Lauro Cavazos to be secretary of education; Cavazos became the first Hispanic to serve in the Cabinet.

In 1995, Jerry Garcia, lead singer of the Grateful Dead, died in Forest Knolls, California, of a heart attack at age 53.

In 2004, Oklahoma City bombing conspirator Terry Nichols, addressing a court for the first time, asked victims of the blast for forgiveness as a judge sentenced him to 161 consecutive life sentences.

In 2014, Michael Brown Jr., a Black 18-year-old, was shot to death by a police officer following an altercation in Ferguson, Missouri; Brown's death led to sometimes-violent protests in Ferguson and other U.S. cities, spawning a national "Black Lives Matter" movement.

In 2016, at the Rio Games, Michael Phelps earned the 20th and 21st Olympic gold medals of his career as he won the 200-meter butterfly and anchored the United States to victory in the 4x200 freestyle relay. Katie Ledecky earned her second gold in Rio by winning the 200-meter freestyle. The U.S. women's gymnastics team won gold for a second consecutive Olympics.

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama promised to work with Congress on "appropriate reforms" for the domestic surveillance programs that stirred criticism at home and abroad. President Obama signed into law a measure restoring lower interest rates for student loans. Infamous drug lord Rafael Caro Quintero walked free after 28 years in prison when a Mexican court overturned his 40-year sentence for the 1985 kidnap and killing of U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency agent Enrique Camarena.

Five years ago: Vice President Mike Pence announced plans for a new, separate U.S. Space Force as a

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Aug. 9, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 046 ~ 66 of 66

sixth military service by 2020. The parents of first lady Melania Trump were sworn in as U.S. citizens; they had been living in the country as permanent residents. Player demonstrations again took place at several early NFL preseason games, with two Philadelphia Eagles players raising their fists during the national anthem. Evacuation orders expanded to 20,000 as a wildfire that had been intentionally set moved perilously close to homes in Southern California.

One year ago: Powerful explosions rocked a Russian air base in Crimea and sent towering clouds of smoke over the landscape in an escalation of the war in Ukraine. Authorities said at least one person was killed and several others were wounded. Police detained what they called a primary suspect in the killings of four Muslim men in Albuquerque, New Mexico, whose deaths sparked fear in Muslim communities nationwide. Mario Fiorentini, Italy's most decorated resistance fighter during World War II, died at age 103.

Today's Birthdays: Basketball Hall of Famer Bob Cousy is 95. Tennis Hall of Famer Rod Laver is 85. Jazz musician Jack DeJohnette is 81. Comedian-director David Steinberg is 81. Actor Sam Elliott is 79. Singer Barbara Mason is 76. College Football Hall of Famer and former NFL player John Cappelletti is 71. College Football Hall of Famer and former NFL player Doug Williams is 68. Actor Melanie Griffith is 66. Actor Amanda Bearse is 65. Rapper Kurtis Blow is 64. Sen. Roger Marshall, R-Kan., is 63. Hockey Hall of Famer Brett Hull is 59. TV host Hoda Kotb (KAHT'-bee) is 59. Pro and College Football Hall of Famer Deion Sanders is 56. Actor Gillian Anderson is 55. Actor Eric Bana is 55. Producer-director McG (aka Joseph McGinty Nichol) is 55. NHL player-turned-coach Rod Brind'Amour is 53. TV journalist Chris Cuomo is 53. Actor Thomas Lennon is 53. Rapper Mack 10 is 52. Actor Nikki Schieler Ziering is 52. Latin rock singer Juanes is 51. Actor Liz Vassey is 51. Actor Kevin McKidd is 50. Actor Rhona Mitra (ROH'-nuh MEE'-truh) is 48. Actor Texas Battle is 47. Actor Jessica Capshaw is 47. Actor Ashley Johnson is 40. Actor Anna Kendrick is 38.