

# Groton Daily Independent

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Volleyball at Webster (7th/C at 5 p.m., 8th/JV at 6 p.m. with varsity to follow)

United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.

Groton unit 39 will have their its meeting at the post home. Meal at 6 and meeting begins at 6:30. At this meeting you can pay your membership dues and help make a plan for our new Auxiliary year.

## Monday, Sept. 4

No Senior Menu

No School

CLOSED: The Pantry at Groton Community Center

## Tuesday, Sept. 5

Senior Menu: Ranch chicken breast, rice pilaf, cauliflower and pea salad, cookie, fruit, whole wheat bread.

St. John's Lutheran LWML Ladies Aid, 1 p.m.

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

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

City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.

Cross country at Britton, 4 p.m.

Boys soccer at James Valley Christian, 4 p.m.

## Wednesday, Sept. 6

Senior Menu: Baked cod, parsley buttered potatoes, coleslaw, fruit cocktail, whole wheat bread.

St. John's Lutheran Bible Study, 2:45 pm.; Confirmation, 3:45 p.m.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Sarah Circle, 5 p.m.; Confirmation, 6 p.m.; League, 6:30 p.m., Youth Gathering meeting, 7 p.m.

Groton Chamber meeting, noon, at City Hall

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

Groton Chamber meeting, noon, at City Hall

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

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

**OPEN:** **Recycling Trailer in Groton**  
The recycling trailer is located west of the city shop. It takes cardboard, papers and aluminum cans.  
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## Butte County Fatal Crash

What: Two vehicle fatal crash  
Where: McCoy Road and Eaton Lane, 1 mile east of Belle Fourche, S.D.  
When: 8:54 p.m., Saturday, September 2, 2023  
Driver No. 1: Male, 77, Fatal injuries  
Vehicle No. 1: 2017 Dodge Grand Caravan  
Passenger: Female, 71, Not injured  
Driver No. 2: Male, 19, Not injured  
Vehicle No. 2: 2003 Ford Ranger  
Passenger No. 2: Male, 20, Minor injuries

BUTTE COUNTY, S.D.- One person died Saturday night in a two vehicle crash one mile east of Belle Fourche, S.D.

The names of the persons involved have not been released pending notification of family members.

Preliminary crash information indicates a 2017 Dodge Grand Caravan was traveling south on McCoy Road near its intersection with Eaton Lane. The Grand Caravan pulled to the east shoulder, partially in the northbound lane and partially off the road. The 77-year-old male driver got out of the vehicle to check his mail which was on the east side of the road.

A 2003 Ford Ranger was traveling north on McCoy Lane. As the 19-year-old male driver of the Ranger approached the Grand Caravan he realized it was on the wrong side of the road, swerved to the right, but was unable to avoid collision. The Ranger struck the driver door of the Caravan, the group of mailboxes, and the 77-year-old male driver of the Caravan. The Ranger and the Caravan driver came to rest in the east ditch.

The 77-year-old male driver of the Grand Caravan sustained fatal injuries.

The 71-year-old female passenger of the Grand Caravan was not injured.

She was wearing a seatbelt.

The 19-year-old male driver of the Ford Ranger was not injured.

He was wearing a seatbelt.

The 20-year-old male passenger of the Ford Ranger had minor injuries.

He was wearing a seatbelt.

The South Dakota Highway Patrol is investigating the crash. All information released so far is only preliminary.

## Mellette County Fatal Driving Incident

What: Fatal Driving Incident  
Where: Rodeo Road in White River, S.D.  
When: 1:36 a.m., Saturday, September 2, 2023  
Driver 1: Female, 30, Not injured  
Vehicle 1: 2016 Chevrolet Suburban  
Passenger 1: Male, 33, Fatal injuries

Mellette County, S.D.- One person died early Saturday morning on Rodeo Road in White River, S.D.

The names of the persons involved have not been released pending notification of family members.

Preliminary crash information indicates a 2016 Chevrolet Suburban was traveling eastbound on Rodeo Road. For unknown reasons, the passenger left the Suburban while it was still in motion.

The 30-year-old female driver of the Chevrolet Suburban was not injured.

The 33-year-old male passenger of the Chevrolet Suburban sustained fatal injuries and was pronounced deceased at the scene.

South Dakota's Highway Patrol is investigating the crash. All information released so far is only preliminary.

## Rapid City Fatal Crash

What: Two vehicle fatal crash  
Where: Haines Avenue/Patton Street, Rapid City  
When: 12:27 a.m., Sunday, September 3, 2023

Driver 1: Male, 26, Serious non-life-threatening injuries  
Vehicle 1: 2003 Volkswagen Jetta  
Passenger 1: Female, 27, Fatal injuries  
Driver 2: Male, 25, Minor injuries  
Vehicle 2: 2021 Dodge Durango/Rapid City Police Department patrol car

Pennington County, S.D.- One person died early this morning in a two vehicle crash in Rapid City. The names of the persons involved have not been released pending notification of family members. Preliminary crash information indicates a 2003 Volkswagen Jetta was traveling southbound on Haines Avenue toward Patton Street. The Volkswagen Jetta was traveling at a high rate of speed with its headlights off. A marked Rapid City Police Department Dodge Durango was making a left turn into a parking lot and was struck by the Jetta.

The 26-year-old male driver of the Volkswagen Jetta sustained serious non-life-threatening injuries and was taken by ambulance to Monument Health Rapid City.

He was not wearing a seatbelt.

The 27-year-old female passenger of the Jetta sustained fatal injuries and was deceased at the scene. She was not wearing a seatbelt.

The 25-year-old male driver of the RCPD Dodge Durango patrol car sustained minor injuries.

The South Dakota Highway Patrol is investigating the crash. All information released so far is only preliminary.

## Name Released in Lawrence County Fatal Crash (August 24)

What: One Motorcycle Fatal Crash  
Where: Nemo Road and Job Corps Place, 3 miles northwest of Nemo, S.D.  
When: 1:55 p.m., Thursday, August 24, 2023  
Driver No. 1: Susanne Uhrig, 59, Scottsdale, AZ, Fatal injuries  
Vehicle No. 1: 1998 Harley Davidson FLSTS Heritage

LAWRENCE COUNTY, S.D.- A Scottsdale, AZ woman has been identified as the person who died Monday evening from injuries sustained in a single motorcycle crash Thursday afternoon (August 24), 3 miles northwest of Nemo, S.D.

Preliminary crash information indicates a 1998 Harley Davidson was traveling northbound on Nemo Road and attempted to pass a road grader in a no passing zone at Nemo Road and Job Corps Place. A car came around the corner from the opposite direction.

The driver of the motorcycle lost control and came to a final rest behind the road grader along the right shoulder of the road. She became separated from the motorcycle and received life threatening injuries.

The driver of the Harley Davidson, Susanne Uhrig, age 59, was life-flighted to Rapid City Monument Health Hospital. She passed away from injuries sustained in the crash on Monday evening August 28.

She was not wearing a helmet.

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**Moon rise on Pickerel Lake last night by Bruce Babcock.**

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## Weekly Vikings Recap - 53 Man Roster Review and Week 1 Preview

By Jack & Duane Kolsrud

### The Final 53-Man Roster is Set

It was a busy week for the Minnesota Vikings, as the team had to trim the roster down to the final 53 spots before the Tuesday deadline. For the first time in many years, the Vikings decided to keep three quarterbacks on the roster: Kirk Cousins, Nick Mullens, and Jaren Hall. The decision to keep Hall on the active roster might be evidence that the Vikings think he may have long-term potential to be a starting quarterback in this league.

What was also unique about the final 53-man roster for the Vikings was the fact that three undrafted rookies made the final cut: Andre Carter II, Ivan Pace Jr., and NaJee Thompson. Pace and Thompson were not surprises for many as they shined throughout training camp and preseason. Both seem poised to be major contributors to the Vikings this season, Pace as the potential starting linebacker next to Jordan Hicks, and Thompson as the team's best special teams player. On the other hand, it was a bit of a surprise that Carter made the final roster. Although the Vikings invested a lot of money signing him as an undrafted rookie after the draft, Carter was a relatively quiet player throughout training camp and preseason. Despite his lack of early success, the Vikings must look at Carter the same way they do quarterback Jaren Hall, as a long-term investment.

The tough thing every year about the final 53-man roster being announced is how quickly things change the next day. Not only do the Vikings have to release a significant number of players but so does every NFL team. Because of this, a lot of players that the Vikings might covet from other teams become available the following day. To acquire these players, the Vikings need to make even more cuts to players who might have thought they cleared the final hurdle and had a spot on the final roster. For this year, Jalen Reagor was that guy as the Vikings released him on Wednesday to make room for running back Myles Gaskin. Reagor's short tenure with the Vikings is officially over as he cleared waivers and signed with the New England Patriots.

The Vikings made another move on Wednesday by signing offensive tackle David Quessenberry. However, unlike the Gaskin move, no Vikings player needed to be released for this move as the Vikings placed Kene Nwangwu on the injured reserve to make room. Nwangwu will miss the first four weeks of the Vikings season and Ty Chandler will take over kick returning duties in his absence.

### TJ Hockenson Extension

In other news, the Vikings finally reached an agreement on a contract extension with star tight end, TJ Hockenson. The final terms of the contract come out to be a 4-year, \$68.5 million contract, with \$42.5 million guaranteed. Hockenson's \$17.125 million annual average salary makes him the highest-paid tight end in NFL history. This was an important move for the Vikings as Kirk Cousins' productivity last year jumped up immensely after the Hockenson trade. With Jefferson likely to be extended here soon, the Vikings will have two superstar pass-catchers locked up for many years to come. If and when the Vikings decide to move on from Cousins and go with a younger quarterback, that quarterback's job will be a lot easier with the talent that this Vikings team has on offense.

### Week 1 Preview

The Vikings will open the regular season next Sunday against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. The Buccaneers, who lost Tom Brady this offseason, now have Baker Mayfield leading them as the starting quarterback and seem determined to begin a rebuild. The Vikings are currently 6-point favorites over the Buccaneers and will need to secure a win in these easy games if they want to repeat as NFC North champions this year. Let's just hope the game is a little less stressful than all the games last year were.

## “With New Knowledge comes New Discoveries”

My son is a Boy Scout. Hopefully, he will become an Eagle Scout like his dad, his grandpa, his uncle, and not to mention eleven of the twelve men that walked on the moon. Whether he does or not, it has been an honor seeing the program help him and other boys mature into responsible young men.



Based on Science, Built on Trust



**Andrew Ellsworth, MD.**

This summer, our troop took our canoes along the 108 miles on the Missouri River in Montana, in the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument. That stretch of the Missouri, where the river has carved impressive rock formations that create “breaks” in the land, is largely untouched and flows as it did for Lewis and Clark’s expedition in 1804 to 1806.

Canoeing and camping along the same places as the Corps of Discovery was an amazing experience, and provided ample time to ponder the immense changes our nation has made in 200 years.

Medicine has also made immense changes and progress in the last two centuries. For instance, blood-letting, which had been used for thousands of years, was still in practice at the time of Lewis and Clark, although some physicians were doing studies that showed its harms and limited benefit. Contrast that to advances today in germ theory, insulin for diabetes, surgical advances, tiny stents that can open up blood vessels in the heart and brain, x-rays, CTs and MRIs, amazing new drugs, the list is exponential.

Dr. Benjamin Rush was a leading American physician at the time of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. A big proponent of bloodletting and purging, he convinced Meriweather Lewis to bring 600 of his “Rush’s Thunderbolts” pills along the journey. Containing mercury and other strong purgatives, they were used for about anything. They cleared your bowels if nothing else. Higher levels of mercury in the soil have helped identify where Lewis and Clark camped.

As “Prairie Docs” we know we do not have all the answers, and some of our answers, because of science and research, can and do change with time. That is one reason we invite other medical experts to write articles and be on the “On Call with the Prairie Doc” shows. We are dedicated to enhancing health and diminishing suffering by communicating useful information, based on honest science, provided in a respectful and compassionate manner. We want to highlight the changes and progress in medicine, while also stressing the importance of good old preventative care, a healthy diet, and exercise. We do this as volunteers, because we all know the importance of providing trusted health information free to our audience. We are funded by you, our readers and viewers. Thank you for your support and trust as we begin our 22nd season.

Andrew Ellsworth, M.D. is part of The Prairie Doc® team of physicians and currently practices family medicine in Brookings, South Dakota. Follow The Prairie Doc® at [www.prairiedoc.org](http://www.prairiedoc.org) and on Facebook and instagram featuring On Call with the Prairie Doc® a medical Q&A show celebrating its 22nd season of health information based on science, built on trust, broadcast on SDPB and streaming live on Facebook most Thursdays at 7 p.m. central.

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**Repairs have begun to the pickleball/tennis courts. The crew arrived last week, tearing off the seams and replacing it with a fill over the cracks.** (Photos by Paul Kosel)

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**An 80-year old landmark was removed last week. These pictures were taken by Joe Foertsch as he tore down and removed the structure for Larry Schelle.**



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## Groton Community Transit

P.O. Box 693  
205 E. 2nd Ave.  
Groton, SD 57445

Dear Groton family,

Thank you, Thank you, for your loyalty and support through all of these years! We appreciate everyone of you!!

Although we have tried our best to keep the expenses low, our operating costs have increased significantly due to global factors in recent times. After carefully reviewing the finances, we have made a tough decision of increasing our transportation prices.

The change will take effect on Oct. 1, 2023 our rides within the town of Groton will be \$2 per ride, \$4 roundtrip. And, medical rides to Aberdeen from Groton will be \$20 roundtrip. Until then, you can take benefit of the old prices. We will honor old prices till Sept. 30, 2023!

We also offer a discounted pass for \$30 which includes 22 one way rides within Groton area!

We are a non-profit transportation service for the needs of all age groups of people!

As always, thank you for your loyalty and we thank you for your understanding and continued support!

Sincerely,

*Dam Hansen & Eugenia Strom*

Groton Transit

Steve Smith, Sherry Koehler, Topper Tostad, Dick Kolker

## EARTHTALK ™

Dear EarthTalk: Is New York City really sinking? If so, is it a problem and is it a natural or human-caused phenomenon? Can anything be done about it?-- Jane B., Newark, NJ

The sea level surrounding New York City (NYC) is nine inches higher today than it was in 1950. Put differently, while it took 48 years for the sea level around NYC to rise by six inches, the next three inches took less than 20 years. Scientists forecast that in the next 14 years the waters around NYC will rise another six inches. With all five boroughs of the city surrounded by water, the sinking of NYC puts its 8.4 million residents, its economy, and its property worth billions of dollars at risk.

The sinking or settling of Earth's surface is known as subsidence—a geological process that can be either natural or human-caused. For NYC, the main cause of subsidence is the sheer weight of the more than one million structures built on it. The United States Geological Survey estimates that structures in NYC weigh 1.68 trillion pounds—the equivalent of 1.9 million Boeing 747s. The pressure exerted by this extraordinary weight causes NYC to sink 0.04 to 0.08 inches every year.

There are other reasons, too, that NYC is sinking. Global warming, caused by the high level of human-made carbon emissions, is steadily increasing sea levels. Warmer temperatures melt ice sheets and glaciers, adding water to the oceans. And as ocean waters warm up, it causes oceans to expand. Climate change is also contributing to NYC's sinking by increasing the frequency of hurricanes. As the world heats up, more evaporation from water bodies takes place, causing heavier precipitation and more flooding along the shores. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has found that because of climate change, coastal flooding has become 40 percent more likely and 10 percent more intense.

Yet another human-made contributor to the sinking of NYC is the extraction of groundwater from underground aquifers, which is used to supply a third of the city's drinking needs. Years of pumping these aquifers has caused the soil to compact by reducing the size and number of open pores in the soil that previously held water. This, too, has led to subsidence in NYC.

This is not to say that all causes of NYC's sinking are human made. The natural erosion and deposit of sediment can cause soil to shift from one area to another leading to uneven subsidence. Volcanic activity beneath the ground can force tectonic plates to move in ways that also make the land above it sink.

To minimize subsidence, NYC could halt the construction of new buildings. But this is unrealistic given the needs of its growing population. It could limit extraction of groundwater, but that would threaten the availability of safe drinking water. NYC could build defenses such as seawalls and flood gates. These can be helpful, but they are expensive to construct and do not address the source of the problem.

Alternately, the NYC government could adopt more creative urbanization plans that build away from areas vulnerable to subsidence, and consider the construction of new pipe systems to transport water from regional aqueducts instead of extracting local groundwater. And most important, they can support policies that mitigate global warming, such as carbon taxation, and provide incentives for clean energy adoption.



**The sheer weight of all the human infrastructure and development is causing Manhattan to sink, and sea level rise isn't helping.** Credit: Roddy Scheer



## SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

### **Not all livestock operations in South Dakota have to manage waste equally**

**BY: JOSHUA HAIAR - SEPTEMBER 4, 2023 7:00 AM**

A large feedlot near Watertown with about 10,000 cattle was recently disciplined for not properly managing its manure.

But not by the state.

It was the Codington County Board of Adjustment that responded to public complaints. The board found the operation violated 25 zoning ordinances or permit requirements. As a result, the board decided to implement a range of sanctions — including mandatory downsizing to 7,500 cattle in hopes of lessening the strain on waste management systems, according to Luke Muller, the county zoning officer.

“There were several violations of spreading manure too close to water sources, roads and property lines, and stockpiling it improperly in an unauthorized area,” Muller said. “And the county can modify that permit.”

The Zoning Office’s staff report says the county will consider re-expanding the cattle feedlot’s permitted herd size in June 2024.

Muller said the county decided to take action rather than forwarding the findings to the state, because the operation was in violation of specific county rules.

“Had the complaints been in regard to pollution of waters of the state or wetlands, those complaints would have been forwarded on to the SDDANR office for their interpretation,” Muller said in a written statement, in reference to the South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources. “In this case, there was no need to get an interpretation from the state on whether the county’s rules were being violated prior to addressing the violations.”

Muller added that the Board of Adjustment did forward a report to ensure the state is aware of the violations and to request assistance in reviewing whether waste is being managed in accordance with state rules, specifically in reference to water quality.

DANR spokesperson Brian Walsh said the department “will investigate as needed to determine compliance with their general permit and applicable state laws and rules.”

#### **Regulation by size**

Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations — often referred to by the acronym “CAFO” — are required by state law to operate under a water pollution control permit once they reach a certain size.

South Dakota law says state environmental regulations cannot be more strict than federal regulations. That means what federal agencies regulate is what the state regulates.

Therefore, state regulations primarily focus on large concentrated animal feeding operations, which all need a permit. Those thresholds include 700 dairy cows, 1,000 cattle, 2,500 pigs and 125,000 chickens.

The permits include several requirements, such as proper waste collection, storage and disposal, and opening up to inspections. Permit holders must keep records of manure handling and any discharges, and must report to authorities.

Medium CAFOs only need a permit if their waste is discharged into a body of water regulated by the state (think rivers, lakes and other waterbodies named on a map). Those operations include 200- to 699-cow dairies, 300- to 999-cattle feedlots, 750- to 2,499-pig swine barns, and 37,500- to 124,999-chicken poultry barns.

Small CAFOs need a permit only if required by the secretary of the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources. Those operations include dairies with less than 200 cows, feedlots with less than 300 cattle, swine barns with less than 750 pigs, and poultry barns with less than 37,500 chickens.

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Walsh said in a written statement that there are currently three small animal feeding operations that have been required to obtain a water pollution control permit. He said the secretary sometimes decides to require a permit after receiving a complaint about a small facility.

Frank James is the staff director of Dakota Rural Action. The organization helps rural communities deal with an unwanted or mismanaged CAFO. He said regulations are lacking.

"Those animal limits are being taken advantage of by some to avoid regulation," James said.

He finds it foolish that an operation with one less pig, cow or chicken than the regulatory threshold does not need a permit. He also thinks the state should be more proactive with enforcement.

"It's a complaint-based system," James said. "The only way the state hears about a problem is if someone in the public complains. It's all just paperwork in the state's eyes."

At a public hearing during the most recent legislative session at the Capitol in Pierre, Hunter Roberts, the secretary of the state Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources, acknowledged that manure from some small, unregulated operations may be polluting waterways.

"We have dozens of these facilities that are within a mile of the Big Sioux River or a tributary and they're not managing their waste," Roberts said.

Complaining about such facilities became harder during the most recent legislative session. Legislators passed a law that says only the owner or lessee of an affected property can file a nuisance action against an agricultural operation such as a CAFO, and only if the affected property is within 1 mile of the operation.

## Numbers growing

The number of hogs in CAFOs the state regulates climbed from about 605,000 in 2012 to 841,000 in 2023. The number of dairy cows in regulated CAFOs more than doubled in the last decade, and the number of poultry rose from about 4.4 million to 5.7 million.

Some of those increases may be attributable to legislation championed by former Rep. Mark Mickelson, R-Sioux Falls.

In 2015, he sponsored a bill that made it easier for CAFOs to get approval from counties. The following year, he got a bill passed that opponents argued would limit the public's ability to appeal a county's approval of a CAFO.

Dakota Rural Action and the South Dakota Farmers Union lobbied against those efforts, arguing they made it harder for rural communities to address concerns with a CAFO.

Mickelson and other proponents — like the Farm Bureau and livestock groups — argued CAFOs deserve greater protection from frivolous lawsuits and opponents hostile to the industry. They argued bringing more CAFOs to South Dakota was good for two primary reasons: giving South Dakota ag producers another revenue stream and establishing a greater local supply of livestock and poultry for the state's major processors.

The increase in CAFOs is positive news to Bob Thaler, a South Dakota State University distinguished professor and swine specialist. He said CAFOs can and do contribute to pollution through runoff that contaminates water sources, but regulations on larger operations prevent a lot of that environmental damage.

"They have to do a lot of things that smaller operations do not have to do," he said, adding, "because they are so heavily regulated, they're very well managed."

Thaler said large operations can create jobs, increase local tax revenues and grow profits for operators.

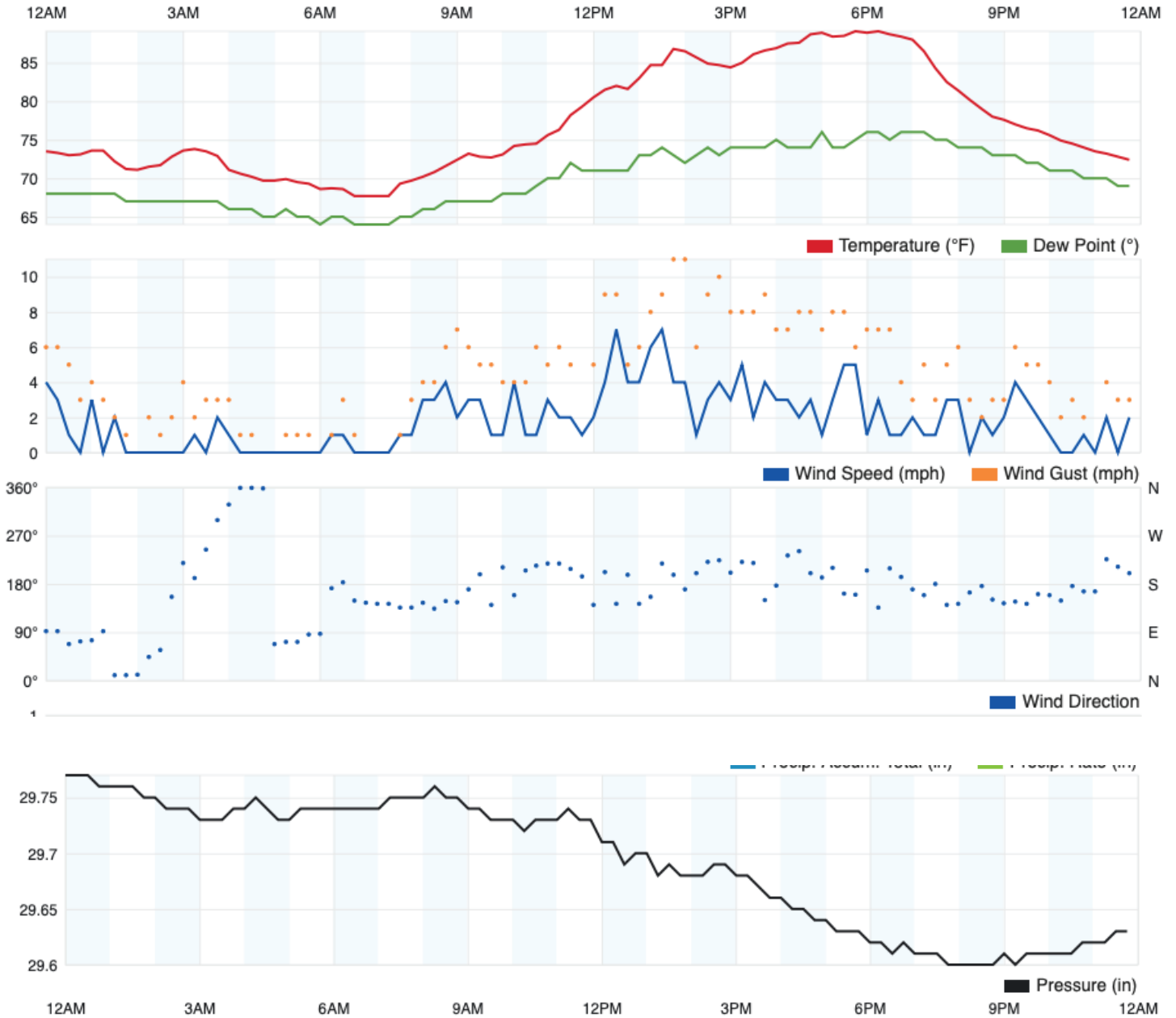
"If you can triple the size of a family farm and that's OK, why can't you triple the size of your livestock operation and take advantage of the same purchasing power and efficiencies that you can on the agronomy side?" he said.

Critics of CAFO expansion in the state point out they are a source of greenhouse gas emissions. Additionally, some research says raising livestock and poultry in dense concentrations — instead of more expansive, open-air settings — can facilitate the spread of antibiotic-resistant bacteria due to the overuse of antibiotics. And animal rights groups criticize the operations as an inhumane treatment of animals, which are sometimes kept in crowded conditions.

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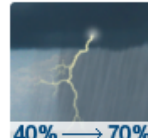




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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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Labor Day	Tonight	Tuesday	Tuesday Night	Wednesday	Wednesday Night	Thursday
						
20%	30%	40% → 70%	30%   30%			
Slight Chance T-storms and Breezy	Chance T-storms	Breezy. Chance T-storms then T-storms Likely	Breezy. Chance T-storms then Chance Showers	Sunny	Mostly Clear	Sunny
High: 96 °F	Low: 63 °F	High: 71 °F	Low: 49 °F	High: 71 °F	Low: 45 °F	High: 75 °F

 **One More Hot Day Today, Followed By Much Cooler Temperatures** September 4, 2023  
4:54 AM

**Precipitation Timing This Evening Through Early Wednesday**

	Maximum Temperature Forecast						
	9/4	9/5	9/6	9/7	9/8	9/9	9/10
	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
Aberdeen	97	75	72	76	79	76	75
Britton	94	76	69	73	77	73	72
Brookings	97	81	72	76	80	78	76
Chamberlain	102	74	76	84	85	81	79
Clark	96	79	70	74	78	76	74
Eagle Butte	94	63	73	79	79	76	74
Ellendale	93	72	70	74	78	74	73
Eureka	94	69	70	75	77	72	72
Gettysburg	94	66	71	78	78	75	74
Huron	101	76	75	80	83	81	78
Kennebec	99	72	76	84	83	81	79
McIntosh	90	62	70	75	74	73	71
Milbank	97	81	71	74	79	76	74
Miller	97	76	71	76	79	76	74
Mobridge	95	68	73	79	79	76	74
Murdo	98	69	76	86	83	81	78
Pierre	101	72	78	86	85	82	80
Redfield	99	77	71	76	79	76	75
Sisseton	95	77	70	72	77	74	72
Watertown	97	79	72	76	79	77	75
Webster	93	78	68	72	76	73	71
Wheaton	97	80	70	72	77	75	73

\*Table values in °F

	Probability of Precipitation Forecast														
	9/4			9/5						9/6					
	Mon	Tue	Wed	Tue		Wed		Wed		Thu					
	12pm	3pm	6pm	9pm	12am	3am	6am	9am	12pm	3pm	6pm	9pm	12am	3am	6am
Aberdeen	0	5	15	25	25	30	45	45	65	65	65	30	30	5	5
Britton	5	5	10	15	20	30	40	40	60	60	60	40	40	15	15
Brookings	0	0	0	5	10	15	15	20	25	35	35	35	35	25	25
Chamberlain	5	10	15	25	30	20	15	15	40	40	35	15	15	5	5
Clark	0	0	5	10	15	20	25	20	50	50	50	35	35	10	10
Eagle Butte	0	5	60	80	45	30	80	80	80	50	50	5	5	0	0
Ellendale	5	5	15	30	35	40	65	65	65	65	65	25	25	5	5
Eureka	5	5	35	55	50	50	80	80	80	70	70	15	15	0	0
Gettysburg	0	10	40	45	30	20	65	65	70	70	70	15	15	0	0
Huron	0	5	10	15	20	20	20	20	45	45	45	25	25	5	5
Kennebec	5	5	35	40	35	20	25	25	45	45	45	10	10	0	0
McIntosh	0	10	60	75	70	75	80	80	80	35	35	5	5	0	0
Milbank	0	0	0	0	5	10	20	20	50	50	50	50	50	35	35
Miller	0	0	20	25	25	20	25	25	55	55	55	25	25	5	5
Mobridge	0	5	45	65	50	45	80	80	80	60	60	5	5	0	0
Murdo	0	5	55	60	35	15	50	50	50	50	50	10	10	0	0
Pierre	0	10	30	50	40	15	45	45	65	65	65	10	10	0	0
Redfield	0	0	10	10	15	25	25	25	55	55	55	25	25	5	5
Sisseton	5	0	5	5	10	15	30	30	55	55	55	50	50	25	25
Watertown	0	0	0	5	10	15	20	20	45	45	45	45	45	20	20
Webster	5	0	5	10	10	25	25	25	55	55	55	45	45	15	15
Wheaton	5	0	0	5	5	10	30	30	55	55	55	55	55	35	35

\*Table values in %

Another hot day is on the way for most locations this Labor Day. Widespread afternoon temperatures in the 90s will be possible with some locations nearing the century mark. By this evening, increasing chances for showers and thunderstorms will be possible in central South Dakota. Some storms could be severe with damaging wind gusts and large hail. Rain chances will shift east overnight and persist through Tuesday. Much cooler temperatures will begin to move in on Tuesday and stick around through the rest of the week.

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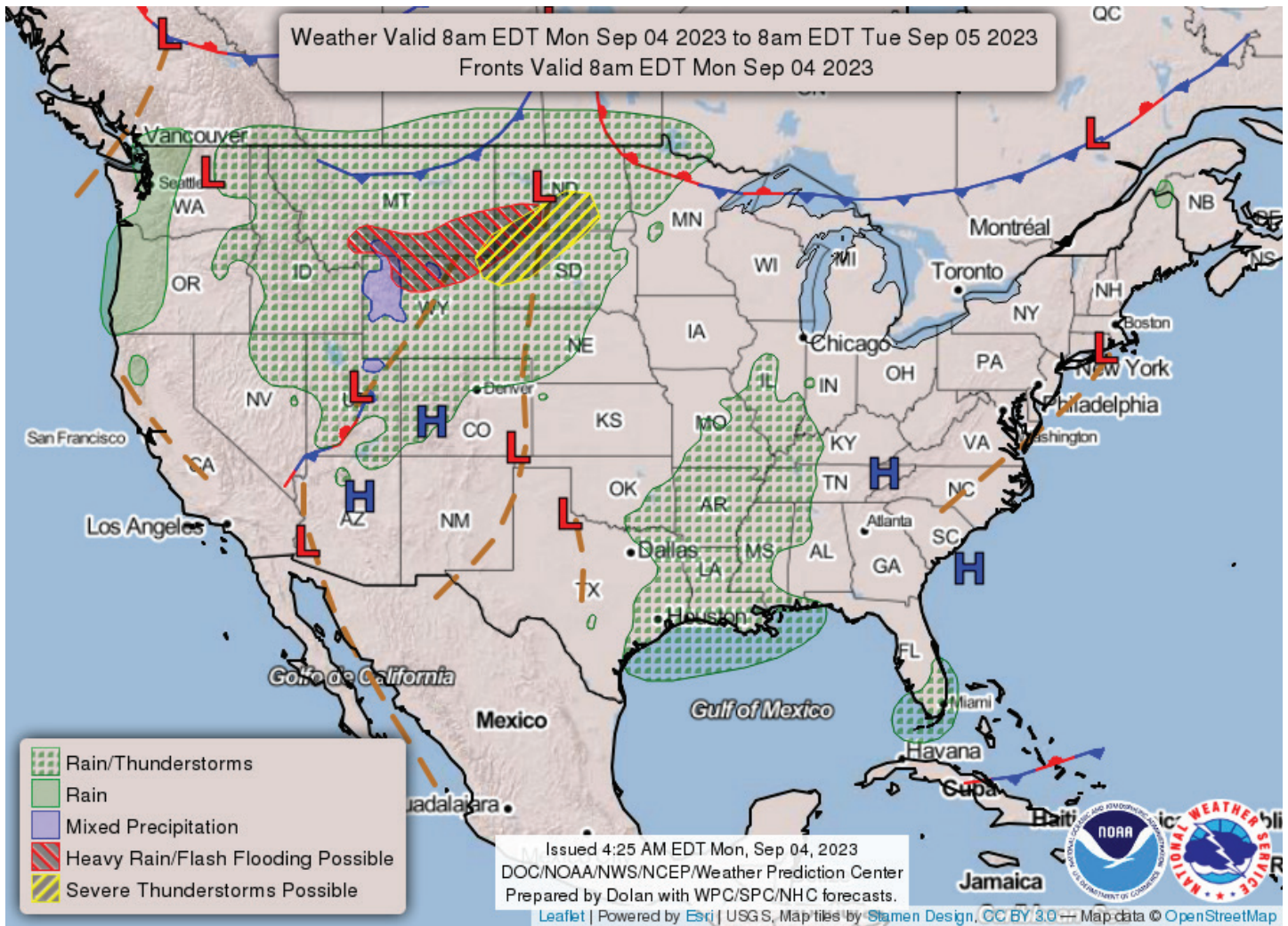
## Yesterday's Groton Weather

**High Temp: 96.2°F at 3:00 PM**  
**Low Temp: 65.3 °F at 7:15 AM**  
**Wind: 12 mph at 10:00 PM**  
**Precip: : 0.00**

Day length: 13 hours, 10 minutes

## Today's Info

Record High: 100 in 1931  
Record Low: 30 in 1961  
Average High: 79  
Average Low: 51  
Average Precip in Sept.: .27  
Precip to date in Sept.: 0.00  
Average Precip to date: 16.61  
Precip Year to Date: 18.59  
Sunset Tonight: 8:06:43 PM  
Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:57:19 AM



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## Today in Weather History

September 4, 2001: Near record or record heat hit central and north-central South Dakota on this day in 2001. High temperatures during the afternoon were in the upper 90s to around 105 degrees. Pierre and Kennebec set record highs of 105 and 106, respectively. Mobridge rose to a high of 96, and Timber Lake topped out at 98 degrees on this day in 2001.

1766: A hurricane made landfall at modern-day Galveston, Texas. The following is from David Roth of the Weather Prediction Center. "A mission, named San Augustine de Ahumado was located in what is now-days known as Chambers County. This mission was destroyed and subsequently abandoned. A seven-foot storm surge put the area under water. A richly-laden treasure fleet of 5 galleons en route from Vera Cruz to Havana was driven ashore and had to wait many weeks for assistance to come. La Caraqueña wrecked on Galveston Island while El Nuevo de Constante sank along the western Louisiana coast. Fortunately, much of the treasure and people aboard were saved."

1939 - A thunderstorm deluged Washington D.C. with 4.4 inches of rain in two hours. September of that year was very dry across much of the nation, and Washington D.C. received more rain in that two hour period than most other places in the country that entire month. (David Ludlum)

1941: A violent tornado ripped through Northeast and North Minneapolis shortly afternoon on this day. The hardest-hit location was the Soo Line Railroad's Shoreham Yards where four people died, and at least 50 were injured. The death toll at Soo Line could have been higher, but the tornado struck five minutes after the lunch bell went off, meaning 100 men left the shops. Click [HERE](#) for photos from Historic Minneapolis.

1970 - The greatest natural disaster of record for Arizona occurred. Unprecedented rains caused rivers in central Arizona to rise five to ten feet per hour, sweeping cars and buildings as far as 30 to 40 miles downstream. Flooding claimed the lives of 23 persons, mainly campers, and caused millions of dollars damage. Water crested 36 feet above normal near Sunflower AZ. Workman's Creek was deluged with 11.40 inches of rain in 24 hours to establish a state record. Moisture from Pacific Tropical Storm Norma led to the severe flooding. (4th-6th) (The Weather Channel)

1986 - An unusually strong dust devil moved across the Flagstaff Pulliam Airport. The dust devil blew open the doors of the National Weather Service office scattering papers and bringing down a ceiling-mounted light fixture. (Storm Data)

1987 - Thunderstorms developing along a stationary front produced heavy rain across the Southern Atlantic Coast States. Up to eight inches was reported north of Charleston SC. Serious flooding was reported in Monks Corner SC. Seven cities in the northeastern U.S. reported record low temperatures for the date. Houlton ME dipped to 32 degrees. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

2000: Houston and College Station, Texas recorded their hottest day on record when highs reached 109° and 112° respectively. Houston has tied their record on August 27th, 2011. Other daily record highs included: Wichita Falls, TX: 111°, Waco, TX: 111°, Dallas, (DFW), TX: 111°, Austin, (Bergstrom), TX: 110°, Austin (Camp Mabry), TX: 110°, Dallas, TX: 110°, Victoria, TX: 110°, San Antonio, TX: 109°, Shreveport, LA: 108°, Corpus Christi, TX: 107 °F.

2007: Hurricane Felix came ashore in the pre-dawn hours as a Category 5 storm on the northeastern coast of Nicaragua. At the time of its landfall, the maximum sustained surface winds were approximately 160 mph. Felix killed at least 130 people along the coast, with damage in Nicaragua totaling \$46.7 million. 2011: The center of Tropical Storm Lee moved ashore around sunrise. However, it would be a while before Lee would weaken to a depression as it remained nearly stationary while the southern half of the circulation was over water where it could continue to derive additional energy from the warm ocean. Lee brought torrential rains to Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama.

2016: An EF1 tornado developed in the open country area north of Merna, Wyoming. The tornado caused tree damage along its 2.45-mile path. At its widest, the tornado produced sporadic tree damage approximately 300 yards across. The trees fell on some fence line but otherwise caused no property damage.



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Daily Devotionals

## Seeds of Hope

### COMPLETELY COVERED

According to Greek legend, Achilles was the greatest warrior who ever lived. In Homer's Iliad, he was the hero of the Trojan Wars. When he was a baby, his mother wanted him to be invulnerable to injury. So, early in his life she took him to the River Styx, believing that it had miraculous powers, held him by his heels, and dipped him in the water. Only his heels were not covered by the water.

Eventually, he became a greatly respected and feared warrior! Unfortunately, he was killed in battle by an arrow that pierced his heel - the only spot that was not covered by the water from the River Styx. It is from this legend that we talk of "our Achilles heel."

Although it is only a legend, it teaches us a significant fact: Our surrender to Christ must be complete - it must include all of us: our hearts, minds, and bodies. Paul advises us that we are not "to let any part of our body become a tool of wickedness to be used for sinning...instead...let your whole body be as a tool to do what is right for the glory of God."

Surrender is often difficult for some of us for fear that we will fail our Lord. Does this come from the idea that we think we are responsible for the victory over sin? We are not! It is God working in us and through us and for us that gives us victory over sin through Christ. Whatever we do not surrender to God is our "Achilles heel" and will be targeted by Satan and bring about our death.

Prayer: Help us, Father, to remember that the battle and the victory are in Your hands. We know that if we surrender our "all" to You we will survive the attacks of Satan. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Sin is no longer your master, for you no longer live under the requirements of the law. Instead, you live under the freedom of God's grace. Romans 6:12-14



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

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## 2023 Community Events

- 01/29/2023 Groton Robotics Pancake Feed, 10am-1pm, Community Center
- 01/29/2023 85th Carnival of Silver Skates 2pm & 6:30pm (Last Sunday of January)
- 01/31/2023-02/03/2023 Lion's Club Prom & Formal Dress Consignment Drop Off 6-9pm, Community Center
- 02/04/2023-02/05/2023 Lion's Club Prom & Formal Dress Consignment Sale 1-5pm, Community Center
- 02/25/2023 Littles and Me, Art Making 10-11:30am, Wage Memorial Library
- 03/25/2023 Spring Vendor Fair, 10am-3pm, Community Center
- 04/01/2023 Dueling Duo Baseball/Softball Fundraiser at the Legion Post #39 6-11:30pm
- 04/06/2023 Groton Career Development Event
- 04/08/2023 Lion's Club Easter Egg Hunt 10am Sharp at the City Park (Saturday a week before Easter)
- 04/22/2023 Firemen's Spring Social at the Fire Station 7pm-12:30am (Same Saturday as GHS Prom)
- 04/23/2023 Princess Prom 4:30-8pm (Sunday after GHS Prom)
- 05/06/2023 Lion's Club Spring Citywide Rummage Sale 8am-3pm (1st Saturday in May)
- 05/29/2023 Legion Post #39 Memorial Day Services (Memorial Day)
- 06/16/2023 SDSU Alumni and Friends Golf Tournament
- 06/17/2023 Groton Triathlon
- 07/04/2023 Couples Firecracker Golf Tournament
- 07/09/2023 Lion's Club Summer Fest/Car Show at the City Park 9am-4pm (Sunday Mid-July)
- 07/26/2023 GGA Burger Fundraiser Lunch at Olive Grove Golf Course
- 08/04/2023 Wine on Nine 6pm
- 08/10/2023 Family Fun Fest, 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
- 08/11/2023 GHS Basketball Golf Tournament
- 09/08/2023 Family Fun Fest 3:30-5:30pm
- 09/09/2023 Lion's Club Fall Citywide Rummage Sale 8am-3pm
- 09/09-10/2023 Groton Airport Fly-In/Drive-In, Groton Municipal Airport
- 09/10/2023 Couples Sunflower Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course 10am
- 09/10/2023 Emmanuel Lutheran Church Sunday School Rally 9:00am
- 09/10/2023 7th Annual Doggie Day at the Swimming Pool 4-6pm
- 09/15/2023 Homecoming Parade
- 10/13/2023 Lake Region Marching Band Festival 10am
- 10/14/2023 Pumpkin Fest at the City Park 10am-3pm
- 10/31/2023 Downtown Trick or Treat 4-6pm
- 10/31/2023 United Methodist Church Trunk or Treat 5:30-7pm
- 11/23/2023 Community Thanksgiving at the Community Center 11:30am-1pm
- 12/02/2023 Tour of Homes, Live & Silent Auctions at Olive Grove Golf Course 4pm-close
- 12/09/2023 Santa Claus Day at Professional Management Services 9-11am

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## WINNING NUMBERS

### MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS:  
09.01.23

10 31 42 43 55 8

MegaPlier: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:  
**\$101,000,000**

NEXT 1 Days 14 Hrs 12  
DRAW: Mins 47 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS:  
09.02.23

3 17 36 37 44 8

All Star Bonus: 4x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:  
**\$9,350,000**

NEXT 13 Hrs 27 Mins 47  
DRAW: Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS:  
09.03.23

9 22 26 35 41 17

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

NEXT 13 Hrs 42 Mins  
DRAW: 46 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS:  
09.02.23

2 9 28 30 35

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:  
**\$32,000**

NEXT 2 Days 13 Hrs 42  
DRAW: Mins 46 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS:  
09.02.23

3 7 14 26 52 21

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

NEXT 14 Hrs 11 Mins 47  
DRAW: Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS:  
09.02.23

25 38 42 66 67 19

Power Play: 4x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:  
**\$435,000,000**

NEXT 14 Hrs 11 Mins 47  
DRAW: Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

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## News from the Associated Press

### **There's no age limit for politicians – as people live longer, should that change?**

Nancy S. Jecker University of Washington  
(The Conversation is an independent and nonprofit source of news, analysis and commentary from academic experts.)

#### **Nancy S. Jecker, University of Washington**

(THE CONVERSATION) President Joe Biden was “fine,” according to White House Communications Director Ben LaBolt, after tripping over a sandbag at a U.S. Air Force graduation ceremony on June 1, 2023.

But his fall was caught on live camera – and people on social media speculated about what was behind it.

Biden, approaching his 81st birthday in November 2023, is the oldest serving U.S. president. He shares the distinction of old age with a growing number of politicians, including 81-year-old U.S. Senator Mitch McConnell.

On Aug. 30, 2023 81-year-old Sen. Mitch McConnell froze after a reporter asked him about his re-election plans. He remained silent for more than 20 seconds, his gaze distant, including after a political aide asked him if he heard the question.

“We’re going to need a minute,” the aide said, and a few moments later ushered the senator away from the lectern.

This followed a similar incident with McConnell in July 2023.

Some people – from fellow Democrats to The New York Times editorial board – have questioned whether McConnell and other colleagues, including 90-year-old Dianne Feinstein, can fulfill the duties of their jobs. With Feinstein, there have been incidents in which she stumbled over words. She began reading prepared remarks during a Senate appropriations hearing vote on July 27, 2023, until her democratic colleague, Sen. Patty Murray, whispered to her, “Just say aye.”

Such incidents prompt the question: Can politicians be too old to serve in office? Should society make retiring at a certain age mandatory for elected officials who run the country – like presidents and senators?

I am a philosopher and bioethicist who studies ethics related to individual and societal aging, and these questions are at the forefront of what I think about. Whatever view one takes on the ethics of age limits for politicians, voting remains the primary way to put one’s views into practice.

#### **Minimum age requirements**

Requirements for U.S. presidential candidates haven’t changed since 1789, when the Constitution was written. In that era, the average life expectancy was about 34 years – but varied greatly for people who were slaves or free.

Today, the life span for the average American is 79 years. But it tends to be much higher for people like politicians, who are relatively wealthy and receive good health care.

In the U.S., a person needs to be 35 years old or older in order to be president. A person must be at least 25 years old in order to serve in the House of Representatives, while the minimum age rises slightly to 30 years old for serving in the Senate.

#### **A question of maximum age limits**

The U.S. banned age discrimination in workplaces in 1967.

Should politicians who lead the country be an exception to this law?

A 2022 YouGov poll reported that 58% of Americans want a maximum age for politicians. Those who support age limits usually say that politicians holding office should be no more than 70 years old. That would make 71% of current U.S. senators ineligible to hold office. It is unclear how age limits like that could be implemented.

Increasingly, people everywhere will be forced to confront questions about whether a person can be too old to hold public office. People are living longer lives in the U.S., but the same is true across the world.

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## Ethical arguments for age limits

Considering age limits for high-ranking politicians poses certain ethical questions that do not have a clear answer.

Staying in office despite health problems can threaten public safety. An American president holds immense power – including the ability to launch nuclear weapons. Members of Congress are responsible for making laws, declaring war and controlling taxes and spending.

Defenders of mandatory retirement say older people have had their turn.

Yet, if giving everyone a fair turn is the goal, why not cap the number of years worked? Like age limits, however, capping years would disproportionately affect older workers – and some say that's unjustly discriminatory.

Even without age cutoffs, age could still be a way to flag other relevant factors, like health.

As people age, they face heightened risk of chronic disease and of having multiple chronic conditions. Chronic health problems can interfere with daily functioning and put older politicians at higher risk of performing poorly on the job -- for example, falling.

Testing health – or, even better, job performance – is another option. Testing workers of all ages at regular intervals avoids ageist stereotypes.

Biden undergoes an annual health screening and has been deemed "fit for duty." Should Feinstein and McConnell be held to the same standard? That raises the thorny question, what if physicians disagree about a politician's health and ability to remain in office?

## Ethical arguments against age limits

Health checks differ from compulsory retirement.

In rich Western countries, people do not retire because they can no longer work –retirement is not correlated with an actual reduction in physical or intellectual capabilities.

Instead, people's health tends to decline after retiring.

Those who oppose compulsory retirement, myself included, say that mandating retirement generates ageism, or negative stereotypes based on age.

Experts have shown that older people are diverse, and they separate biological aging – like physical wear and tear on the body – from chronological aging.

In addition to stereotyping older people, forced retirement violates principles of equality. People equally able to perform a job deserve equal chances to continue to work, independent of factors unrelated to job performance, such as age, race or gender identity.

Supporters of age-based retirement, meanwhile, say that this policy treats people equally over time, since all young people eventually become old. Yet others disagree, insisting that the point of equality is creating a community of equals, and discriminating against older adults falls short.

## The people decide

People supporting a maximum age limit for the president and members of Congress have launched online signature campaigns on Change.org. But these efforts would require a constitutional amendment and have not gained major traction.

Two Republican senators also introduced an amendment to the U.S. Constitution in 2023 that would allow senators to serve only two six-year terms and Congress members to serve three two-year terms. Congress has voted down previous proposals to set term limits.

At the state level, 16 states limit terms for legislators – but not necessarily because of age concerns. Direct age limits are under consideration in South Dakota, which will vote in 2024 on a ballot measure to amend the state's constitution and establish an upper age limit of 80 years for congressional candidates.

Since the government sets age minimums for Congress and the presidency, should there be maximum limits, too? This question remains open. In a democracy, we the people decide by voting.

This article is republished from The Conversation under a Creative Commons license. Read the original article here: <https://theconversation.com/theres-no-age-limit-for-politicians-as-people-live-longer-should-that-change-211318>.

## Turkey's president meets Russia's Putin and aims to revive the wartime Ukraine grain export deal

By The Associated Press undefined

Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Monday sought to persuade Russian President Vladimir Putin to revive an agreement that allowed Ukraine to export grain and other commodities from three Black Sea ports despite the war with Russia.

Putin in July refused to extend the agreement, which was brokered by Turkey and the United Nations a year earlier and was seen as vital for global food supplies, especially in Africa, the Middle East and Asia. Ukraine and Russia are major suppliers of wheat, barley, sunflower oil and other goods that developing nations rely on.

Erdogan said the grain deal was the headline issue at the daylong talks between the two leaders in Russia's Black Sea resort of Sochi, where the Russian president has a residence.

"Everyone is looking at the grain corridor issue," Erdogan said in opening remarks.

Putin acknowledged that "issues related to the Ukraine crisis" would be discussed between them.

"I know that you intend to raise questions about the grain deal. We're open to negotiations on that subject," he told Erdogan, repeating what has been the Kremlin's official position on international efforts to resurrect the agreement.

Russia broke off the deal, complaining that a parallel deal promising to remove obstacles to Russian exports of food and fertilizer hadn't been honored. It said restrictions on shipping and insurance hampered its agricultural trade even though it has shipped record amounts of wheat since last year.

A lot is riding on the talks for the world food supply. "I believe that the message we will give after our meeting will constitute an important step for the world, especially for the underdeveloped African countries," Erdogan said.

Since Putin withdrew from the grain initiative, Erdogan has repeatedly pledged to renew arrangements that helped avoid a food crisis in parts of Africa, the Middle East and Asia.

The meeting took place against a backdrop of Ukraine's recent counteroffensive against the Kremlin's invasion forces.

In the latest development, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Sunday that Defense Minister Oleksii Reznikov would be replaced this week. The job requires "new approaches," Zelenskyy said, without elaborating. Reznikov on Monday published a photo of his resignation letter.

Analysts expect tough negotiations in Sochi.

"My gut feeling is that Putin recognizes the leverage he has by using food as an economic weapon, and thus will fight for all he can get in terms of concessions on his wish-list," said Tim Benton, a food security expert at the Chatham House think tank.

Those may include Russia's grains, or fertilizer exports, or wider issues, he said.

Data from the Joint Coordination Center in Istanbul, which organized the Ukraine shipments, shows that 57% of the grain from Ukraine went to developing nations, with the top destination being China, which received nearly a quarter of the food.

Russia has repeatedly attacked the Odesa region, Ukraine's main Black Sea port area. On Monday, the Ukrainian air force said it intercepted 23 of 32 drones that targeted the Odesa and Dnipropetrovsk regions but did not specify damage caused by the drones that got through.

The Turkish president has maintained close ties with Putin during the 18-month war in Ukraine. Turkey hasn't joined Western sanctions against Russia following its invasion, emerging as a main trading partner and logistical hub for Russia's overseas trade.

Opening the talks, Putin mentioned various areas of bilateral cooperation, such as a proposed Russian gas hub in Turkey and the construction of the first nuclear power plant there, in which Moscow is actively involved.

NATO member Turkey, however, has also supported Ukraine, sending arms, meeting Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and backing Kyiv's bid to join NATO.

Erdogan angered Moscow in July when he allowed five Ukrainian commanders to return home. The soldiers had been captured by Russia and handed over to Turkey on condition they remained there for the duration of the war.

Putin and Erdogan — authoritarian leaders who have both been in power for more than two decades — are said to have a close rapport, fostered in the wake of a failed coup against Erdogan in 2016 when Putin was the first major leader to offer his support.

The Sochi summit follows talks between the Russian and Turkish foreign ministers on Thursday, during which Russia handed over a list of actions that the West would have to take in order for Ukraine's Black Sea exports to resume.

Erdogan has indicated sympathy with Putin's position. In July, he said Putin had "certain expectations from Western countries" over the Black Sea deal and that it was "crucial for these countries to take action in this regard."

U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres recently sent Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov "concrete proposals" aimed at getting Russian exports to global markets and allowing the resumption of the Black Sea initiative. But Lavrov said Moscow wasn't satisfied with the letter.

Describing Turkey's "intense" efforts to revive the agreement, Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan said it was a "process that tries to better understand Russia's position and requests, and to meet them."

## **UN nuclear watchdog report seen by AP says Iran slows its enrichment of near-weapons-grade uranium**

By STEPHANIE LIECHTENSTEIN Associated Press

VIENNA (AP) — Iran has slowed the pace at which it is enriching uranium to nearly weapons-grade levels, according to a report by the United Nations' nuclear watchdog seen by The Associated Press on Monday. That could be a sign Tehran is trying to ease tensions after years of strain between it and the U.S.

The confidential report comes as Iran and the United States are negotiating a prisoner swap and the release of billions of dollars in Iranian assets frozen in South Korea. However, international inspectors also noted new challenges in trying to monitor Iran's program.

In an effort to ensure Iran could not develop atomic weapons, world powers struck a deal with Tehran in 2015 under which it agreed to limit enrichment of uranium to levels necessary for nuclear power in exchange for the lifting of economic sanctions. U.N. inspectors were tasked with monitoring the program.

Then-President Donald Trump unilaterally pulled the U.S. out of the accord in 2018, saying he would negotiate a stronger deal, but that didn't happen. Iran began breaking the terms a year later.

The International Atomic Energy Agency said in its report that Iran has 121.6 kilograms (268 pounds) of uranium enriched up to 60%. That means its stockpile of the fuel is growing at its slowest pace since 2021. A report in May put the stockpile at just over 114 kilograms (250 pounds). It had 87.5 kilograms (192 pounds) in February.

Uranium enriched at 60% purity is just a short, technical step away from weapons-grade levels of 90%.

Iran has long denied ever seeking nuclear weapons and continues to insist that its program is entirely for peaceful purposes, though the IAEA's director-general has warned Tehran has enough enriched uranium for "several" nuclear bombs if it chose to build them.

Iran's mission to the United Nations in New York did not immediately respond to a request for comment Monday.

Tehran likely would still need months to build a weapon. U.S. intelligence agencies said in March that Iran "is not currently undertaking the key nuclear weapons-development activities that would be necessary to produce a testable nuclear device." The IAEA, the West and other countries say Iran had a secret military nuclear program it abandoned in 2003.

Overall, the IAEA report estimated Iran's total enriched uranium stockpile at 3,795.5 kilograms (8,367 pounds). That's a drop from the last IAEA report, which put the stockpile at 4,744.5 kilograms (10,459 pounds). The stockpile reportedly declined because Iran diluted some of its enriched uranium.



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U.S. President Joe Biden has said he'd be willing to re-enter a nuclear deal with Iran, but formal talks to try to find a roadmap to restart the deal collapsed in August 2022. In the time since, Oman and Qatar have mediated indirect talks between Iran and the U.S. that led to the current planned prisoner swap and asset release.

Under that proposal, anywhere from \$6 billion to \$7 billion, depending on exchange rates, would be changed from South Korean won into euros. The cash represents money South Korea owed Iran — but had not yet paid — for oil purchased before the Trump administration imposed sanctions on such transactions in 2019.

The U.S. maintains that, once in Qatar, the money will be held in restricted accounts and Iran will only be able to use it for humanitarian goods, such as medicine and food. Those transactions are currently allowed under American sanctions targeting the Islamic Republic over its nuclear program.

In exchange, Iran would release five Iranian-American prisoners now under house arrest. The U.S. likely will release Iranian prisoners as well, though those details remain murky. If that deal goes through, it could improve the chances of overall talks on the nuclear deal resuming — though Biden already faces strident criticism from Republicans and others over the prisoner swap.

While Iran has slowed enrichment, the IAEA reported other problems with trying to monitor its program. The report from the watchdog seen by the AP said Iran had denied visas for agency officials and affected their ability to work in other ways as well.

Iran has not acknowledged the visa denials.

The IAEA also hasn't been able to access surveillance camera footage since February 2021 under Iranian restrictions, while the only recorded data since June 2022 has been from cameras at a workshop in the Iranian city of Isfahan.

The watchdog also said that no progress has been made on its request that Iran explain the origin and current location of manmade uranium particles found at two locations that Tehran has failed to declare as potential nuclear sites.

## **UAW's clash with Big 3 automakers shows off a more confrontational union as strike deadline looms**

By TOM KRISHER AP Auto Writer

DETROIT (AP) — A 46% pay raise. A 32-hour week with 40 hours of pay. A restoration of traditional pensions.

The demands that a more combative United Auto Workers union has pressed on General Motors, Stellantis and Ford — demands that even the UAW's own president calls "audacious" — are edging it closer to a strike when its contract ends Sept. 14.

The automakers, which are making billions in profits, have dismissed the UAW's wish list. They argue that its demands are unrealistic at a time of fierce competition from Tesla and lower-wage foreign automakers as the world shifts from internal combustion engines to electric vehicles. The wide gulf between the sides could mean a strike against one or more of the automakers, which could send already-inflated vehicle prices even higher.

A potential strike by 146,000 UAW members comes against the backdrop of increasingly emboldened U.S. unions of all kinds. The number of strikes and threatened strikes is growing, involving Hollywood actors and writers, sizable settlements with railroads and major concessions by corporate giants like UPS.

Shawn Fain, the pugnacious new leader of the UAW, has characterized the contract talks with Detroit's automakers as a form of war between billionaires and ordinary middle class workers. Last month, in an act of showmanship during a Facebook Live event, Fain condemned a contract proposal from Stellantis as "trash" — and tossed a copy of it into a wastebasket, "where it belongs," he said.

Over the past decade, the Detroit Three have emerged as robust profit-makers. They've collectively posted net income of \$164 billion over the past decade, \$20 billion of it this year. The CEOs of all three

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major automakers earn multiple millions in annual compensation.

Speaking last month to Ford workers at a plant in Louisville, Kentucky, Fain complained about one standard for the corporate class and another for ordinary workers.

"They get out-of-control salaries," he said. "They get pensions they don't even need. They get top-rate health care. They work whatever schedule they want. The majority of our members do not get a pension nowadays. It's crazy. We get substandard health care. We don't get to work remotely."

UAW members have voted overwhelmingly to authorize its leaders to call a strike. So, too, have Canadian auto workers, whose contracts ends four days later and who have designated Ford as their target.

The UAW hasn't said whether it will select one target automaker. It could strike all three, though doing so could deplete the union's strike fund in under three months.

On the other hand, if a strike lasted even just 10 days, it would cost the three automakers nearly a billion dollars, the Anderson Economic Group has calculated. During a 40-day UAW strike in 2019, GM alone lost \$3.6 billion.

Last week, the union filed charges of unfair labor practices against Stellantis and GM, which it said have yet to offer counterproposals. As for Ford, Fain asserted that its response, by rejecting most of the union's demands, "insults our very worth."

All three automakers have countered that the union's charges are baseless and that they're seeking a fair deal that would allow them to invest in the future.

Marick Masters, a business professor at Wayne State University in Detroit, suggested that the strong U.S. job market and the companies' outsize profits have given Fain leverage in negotiations. In addition, he noted, the automakers are poised to release a slew of new electric vehicles that would be delayed by a strike. And they have only a limited supply of vehicles to withstand a prolonged walkout.

"They are vulnerable," Masters said.

"The question really is," he said, "are the parties willing to move on some of these things at the table? That hasn't been evident yet."

Fain, who won the UAW's presidency this spring in the first direct election by members, has set expectations high. He has assured the workers that they can achieve significant gains if they're willing to walk picket lines.

Yet even Fain has described the union's proposals as "audacious" in demanding the restoration of traditional defined-benefit pensions for new hires; an end to tiers of wages; pension increases for retirees; and — perhaps most audaciously — a 32-hour week for 40 hours of pay.

Currently, UAW workers who were hired after 2007 don't receive defined benefit pensions. Their health benefits are less generous, too. For years, the union gave up general pay raises and lost cost-of-living wage increases to help the companies control costs. Though top-scale assembly workers earn \$32.32 an hour, temporary workers start at just under \$17. Still, full-time workers have received profit-sharing checks ranging this year from \$9,716 at Ford to \$14,760 at Stellantis.

Chris Lindsey, a union member who builds Ford trucks at a Louisville plant, argues that workers deserve a larger share of Ford's sizable profits.

"We keep giving up, but nothing in return," Lindsey said. "We just want something fair."

Perhaps the biggest issue blocking a contract agreement is union representation at 10 EV battery plants that the companies have proposed. Most of these plants are joint ventures with South Korean battery makers, which want to pay less.

"These battery workers deserve the same wage and salary standards that generations of auto workers have fought for," Fain told members.

The union fears that because EVs are simpler to build, with fewer moving parts, fewer workers will be needed to assemble them. In addition, workers at combustion engine and transmission plants will likely lose jobs in the transition; they'll need a place to go.

Fain, a 54-year-old electrician who came out of a Chrysler factory in Kokomo, Indiana, is among several labor leaders across the economy who have been escalating their demands and flexing their muscles. So far this year, 247 strikes have occurred involving 341,000 workers — the most since Cornell University

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began tracking strikes in 2021, though still well below the numbers during the 1970s and 1980s.

Masters suggested that the automakers wouldn't be able to quickly replace striking workers. The tight job market, diminished interest in manufacturing jobs and comparatively modest wages would make it difficult to hire enough workers.

Some auto workers regard the UPS contract, with a \$49-an-hour top wage for experienced drivers, as a benchmark for their negotiations. Others say they're just hoping to get near that figure.

But automakers say a generous settlement would stick them with costs far above their competitors' just as they start producing more EVs. The inability to bring Hyundai-Kia, Nissan, Volkswagen, Honda and Toyota factories into the union has weakened the UAW's leverage, said Harry Katz, a labor professor at Cornell.

If you include the value of their benefits, workers at the Detroit 3 automakers receive around \$60 an hour. The corresponding figure at foreign-based automakers with U.S. factories is just \$40 to \$45, Katz said. Much of the disparity reflects pensions and health care.

If the Detroit companies end up with higher labor costs, they'll pass them on to consumers, making vehicles more expensive, said Sam Fiorani, an analyst with AutoForecast Solutions, a consulting firm.

"More than half of the vehicles built in the U.S. are in nonunion plants," he said. "So if you raise the price to build a unionized vehicle, you could price yourself out of competition with vehicles already built in North America."

A strike of more than a couple of weeks would reduce still-tight supplies of vehicles on Detroit automakers' dealer lots. With demand still strong, prices would rise.

The UAW's members are "reminding management that management can't operate those factories without a settlement," Katz said.

Masters and Katz say there's still time to settle without a strike. Katz predicts a settlement short of UPS numbers, possibly with 3% general pay raises plus cost-of-living adjustments, increased company contributions to 401(k) accounts for newer workers and faster transitions to top pay.

That said, Katz suggested, Fain has to back up his tough talk: "He's got to prove himself."

## **Gabon's military leader is sworn in as head of state after ousting the president last week**

By SAM MEDNICK and YVES LAURENT GOMA Associated Press

LIBREVILLE, Gabon (AP) — Gabon's new military leader was sworn in as the head of state Monday less than a week after ousting the president whose family had ruled the Central African nation for more than five decades.

Gen. Brice Clotaire Oligui Nguema, took the oath in the presidential palace in front of a packed, boisterous room of government officials, military and local leaders in Gabon's capital, Libreville. Oligui is a cousin of the ousted President Ali Bongo Ondimba, served as a bodyguard to his late father and is head of the republican guard, an elite military unit.

Speaking to applause and standing ovations Monday, Oligui said the military had seized power without bloodshed and promised to return power to the people by organizing free, transparent and credible elections.

"With the new government, made up of experienced people, we're going to give everyone a chance to hope," he said.

The mutinous soldiers who toppled Bongo last week said he risked leading the country into chaos and they then "unanimously" designated Oligui president of the transitional committee. Bongo, who had been president for 14 years, was ousted hours after being declared the winner of a vote that was widely seen as rife with irregularities and lacking transparency.

The speedy swearing-in of Oligui will create perceptions of legitimacy and consolidate his power to deter potential opponents from challenging his rule, said Maja Bovcon, senior analyst at Verisk Maplecroft, a risk assessment firm.

"It is also likely intended as a means to restore investor confidence by conveying the message that he will not waste time in returning to business-as-usual and democratic rules," she said. However, the fact

that he plans to rewrite the constitution and electoral code means that the transition period will likely take months, if not years.

Bongo had served two terms since coming to power in 2009 after the death of his father, who ruled the country for 41 years, and there was widespread discontent with his family's reign. Another group of mutinous soldiers attempted a coup in 2019 but was quickly overpowered.

Nine members of the Bongo family, meanwhile, are under investigation in France, and some face preliminary charges of embezzlement, money laundering and other forms of corruption, according to Sherpa, a French NGO dedicated to accountability. Investigators have linked the family to more than \$92 million in properties in France, including two villas in Nice, the group says.

The idea of a long transition isn't something that appeared to bother Gabonese who attended the inauguration Thursday.

"We are turning the page of 55 years of an oligarchy. For Gabon it is a new start, the end of a one political party governance without real benefits for the Gabonese people," said Desire Ename publisher for a local media outlet. It would be acceptable for the junta to transition within three years, he said.

Gabon's opposition candidate, Albert Ondo Ossa, wouldn't comment on the inauguration but told The Associated Press last week that the government needed to return to constitutional rule and he didn't consider the president's ousting to be a coup but rather a "palace revolution" in order to continue the Bongo's family's reign.

The former French colony is a member of OPEC, but its oil wealth is concentrated in the hands of a few — and nearly 40% of Gabonese aged 15 to 24 were out of work in 2020, according to the World Bank. Its oil export revenue was \$6 billion in 2022, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration. \_\_\_\_

Mednick reported from Dakar, Senegal.

## **The first Africa Climate Summit opens as hard-hit continent of 1.3B demands more say and financing**

By CARA ANNA and EVELYNE MUSAMBI Associated Press

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — The first African Climate Summit is opening with heads of state and others asserting a stronger voice on a global issue that affects the continent of 1.3 billion people the most, even though they contribute to it the least.

Kenyan President William Ruto's government and the African Union launched the ministerial session on Monday while more than a dozen heads of state began to arrive, determined to wield more global influence and bring in far more financing and support. The first speakers included young people, who demanded a bigger voice in the process.

"For a very long time we have looked at this as a problem. There are immense opportunities as well," Ruto said of the climate crisis, speaking of multibillion-dollar economic possibilities, new financial structures, Africa's huge mineral wealth and the ideal of shared prosperity. "We are not here to catalog grievances."

And yet there is some frustration on the continent about being asked to develop in cleaner ways than the world's richest countries — which have long produced most of the emissions that endanger climate — and to do it while much of the support that has been pledged hasn't appeared.

"This is our time," Mithika Mwenda of the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance told the gathering, claiming that the annual flow of climate assistance to the continent is a tenth or less of what is needed and a "fraction" of the budget of some polluting companies.

"We need to immediately see the delivery of the \$100 billion" of climate finance pledged annually by rich countries to developing ones, said Simon Stiell, executive secretary of the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change. More than \$83 billion in climate financing was given to poorer countries in 2020, a 4% increase from the previous year but still short of the goal set in 2009.

"We have an abundance of clean, renewable energy and it's vital that we use this to power our future prosperity. But to unlock it, Africa needs funding from countries that have got rich off our suffering," Mohamed Adow of Power Shift Africa said ahead of the summit.

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Outside attendees to the summit include the U.S. government's climate envoy, John Kerry, and United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, who has said he will address finance as one of "the burning injustices of the climate crisis."

"Of 20 countries most affected by the climate crisis, 17 are here in Africa," Kerry said.

As Kenya's president spoke, hundreds of people joined a "people's march" on climate in Nairobi holding signs demanding the targeting of fossil fuels. Ruto in the past has said the "addiction" to them must end. One project being protested is the TotalEnergies-funded 897-mile (1,443-kilometer) East Africa Crude Oil Pipeline in Uganda and Tanzania.

The U.N. has estimated that loss and damage in Africa due to climate change are projected to be between \$290 billion and \$440 billion, depending on the degree of warming.

Ruto's video welcome released before the summit was heavy on tree-planting but didn't mention his administration's decision this year to lift a yearslong ban on commercial logging, which alarmed environmental watchdogs. The decision has been challenged in court, while the government says only mature trees in state-run plantations would be harvested.

"When a country is holding a conference like we are, we should be leading by example," said Isaac Kalua, a local environmentalist.

Kenya derives 93% of its power from renewables and has banned single-use plastic bags, but it struggles with some other climate-friendly adaptations. Trees were chopped down to make way for the expressway that some summit attendees used to travel from the airport, and bags of informally made charcoal are found on some Nairobi street corners.

Ruto made his way to Monday's events in a small electric car, a contrast to the usual government convoys, on streets cleared of the sometimes poorly maintained buses and vans belching smoke.

Elsewhere, nearly 600 million Africans lack access to electricity despite the vast potential for solar and other renewable power.

Other challenges for the African continent include simply being able to forecast and monitor the weather in order to avert thousands of deaths and billions of dollars in damages that, like climate change itself, have effects far beyond the continent.

"When the apocalypse happens, it will happen for all of us," Ruto warned.

## China's Xi will skip G20 summit in India during a period of soured bilateral relations

BEIJING (AP) — Chinese President Xi Jinping is apparently skipping this week's Group of 20 summit in India as bilateral relations remain icy.

Instead, Premier Li Qiang will represent China at the Sept. 9-10 gathering, the Foreign Ministry said Monday in a one sentence notice on its website.

Relations between China and India have grown frosty over their disputed border, and three years ago the tensions resulted in a clash in the Ladakh region that killed 20 Indian and four soldiers. It turned into a long-running standoff in the rugged mountainous area, where each side has stationed tens of thousands of military personnel backed by artillery, tanks and fighter jets.

Frictions have also risen over trade and India's growing strategic ties with China's main rival the United States. Both India and China have expelled the other's journalists.

India recently overtook China as the world's most populous nation and the two are rivals in technology, space exploration and global trade.

Asked why Xi would not be attending the summit, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning declined to answer.

"The G20 is a major forum for international economic cooperation. China has always attached great importance to and actively participated in relevant activities," Mao told reporters at a daily briefing.

"Premier Li Qiang will elaborate on China's views and propositions on G20 cooperation, promote the G20

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to strengthen solidarity and cooperation and work together to address global economic and development challenges," she said.

She said China is ready to work with all parties "to jointly promote the success of the G20" summit and "make positive contributions to promoting the stable recovery of the world economy and promoting sustainable development."

Chinese and Indian military commanders met just last month and pledged to "maintain the peace and tranquility" along their disputed border, in an apparent effort by the sides to stabilize the situation.

The Line of Actual Control separates Chinese- and Indian-held territories from Ladakh in the west to India's eastern state of Arunachal Pradesh, which China claims in its entirety. India and China fought a war over their border in 1962. As its name suggests, the line divides the areas of physical control rather than territorial claims.

According to India, the de facto border is 3,488 kilometers (2,167 miles) long, but China promotes a considerably shorter figure.

In all, China claims some 90,000 square kilometers (35,000 square miles) of territory in India's northeast, including Arunachal Pradesh with its mainly Buddhist population.

India says China occupies 38,000 square kilometers (15,000 square miles) of its territory in the Aksai Chin Plateau, which India considers part of Ladakh, where the current faceoff is happening.

China, in the meantime, began cementing relations with India's archrival Pakistan and backing it on the issue of disputed Kashmir.

Firefights broke out again in 1967 and 1975, leading to more deaths on both sides. They've since adopted protocols, including an agreement not to use firearms, but those protocols have fractured.

Other than the potential effects on China-India relations, Xi's absence at the summit will also eliminate the possibility of an interaction with U.S. President Joe Biden. China-U.S. relations remain at a historic low despite recent visits by U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken and other officials to Beijing.

Xi has accumulated more power at home than any Chinese leader since Mao Zedong, and has adopted an increasingly aggressive approach to what he views as China's territorial interests in the South China Sea and toward self-governing Taiwan, which China threatens to annex by force if necessary.

At the same time, China has struggled to recover economically from the hard-line policies it took to control COVID-19. Foreign businesses also have complained of an increasingly difficult environment in which to invest in and trade with the country.

Xi will not be the only foreign head of state absent from the summit. Russian President Vladimir Putin, who faces war crimes charges over Russia's invasion of Ukraine, will also be skipping the summit, although he does plan to visit close partner China next month.

## **New Delhi got a makeover for the G20 summit. The city's poor say they were simply erased**

By RISHI LEKHI and PIYUSH NAGPAL Associated Press

NEW DELHI (AP) — New Delhi's crowded streets have been resurfaced. Streetlights are illuminating once dark sidewalks. City buildings and walls are painted with bright murals. Planted flowers are everywhere.

Many of the city's poor say they were simply erased, much like the stray dogs and monkeys that have been removed from some neighborhoods, as India's capital got its makeover ahead of this week's summit of the Group of 20 nations.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government hopes the elaborate effort to make New Delhi sparkle — a "beautification project" with a price tag of \$120 million — will help showcase the world's most populous nation's cultural prowess and strengthen its position on the global stage.

But for many street vendors and those crammed into New Delhi's shantytowns, the makeover has meant displacement and loss of livelihood, raising questions about the government's policies on dealing with poverty. In a city of more than 20 million people, the 2011 census had the homeless at 47,000 but activists say that was a vast underestimate and that the real number is at least 150,000.

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Since January, hundreds of houses and roadside stalls have been demolished, displacing thousands of people. Dozens of shantytowns were razed to the ground, with many residents getting eviction notices only a short while before the demolitions got underway.

Authorities say the demolitions were carried out against "illegal encroachers," but right activists and those evicted question the policy and allege that it has pushed thousands more into homelessness.

Similar demolitions have also been carried out in other Indian cities like Mumbai and Kolkata that have hosted various G20 events leading up to this weekend's summit.

Activists say it was more than just a case of out of sight, out of mind.

Abdul Shakeel, with the activist group Basti Suraksha Manch, or Save Colony Forum, says that "in the name of beautification, the urban poor's lives are destroyed."

"The money used for G20 is taxpayers' money. Everyone pays the tax. Same money is being used to evict and displace them," he said. "It doesn't make any sense."

The two-day global summit will take place at the newly constructed Bharat Mandapam building, a sprawling exhibition center in the heart of New Delhi near the landmark India Gate monument — and many world leaders are expected to attend. The G20 includes the world's 19 wealthiest countries plus the European Union. India currently holds its presidency, which rotates annually among the members.

In July, a report by the Concerned Citizens Collective, a rights activist group, found that the preparations for the G20 summit resulted in the displacement of nearly 300,000 people, particularly from the neighborhoods that foreign leaders and diplomats will visit during various meetings.

At least 25 shantytowns and multiple night shelters for the homeless were razed to the ground and turned into parks, the report said, adding that the government failed to provide alternative shelters or places for the newly homeless.

Last month, Indian police intervened to stop a meeting of prominent activists, academics and politicians critical of Modi and his government's role in hosting the G20 summit and questioning whose interests the summit would benefit.

"I can see the homeless on the streets ... and now the homeless are not allowed to live on the streets either," said Rekha Devi, a New Delhi resident who attended the Aug. 20 gathering.

Devi, whose home was demolished in one of the drives, said authorities refused to consider documents she showed as proof that her family had lived in the same house for nearly 100 years.

"Everyone is behaving as if they are blind," Devi said. "In the name of the G20 event, the farmers, workers and the poor are suffering."

Home to 1.4 billion people, India's struggle to end poverty remains daunting, even though a recent government report said that nearly 135 million — almost 10% of the country's population — moved out of so-called multidimensional poverty between 2016 and 2021. The concept takes into consideration not just monetary poverty but also how lack of education, infrastructure and services affect a person's quality of life.

Indian authorities have been criticized in the past for clearing away homeless encampments and shantytowns ahead of major events.

In 2020, the government hastily erected a half-kilometer (1,640-foot) brick wall in the state of Gujarat ahead of a visit by then-President Donald Trump, with critics saying it was built to block the view of a slum area inhabited by more than 2,000 people. Similar demolitions were also carried out during the 2010 Commonwealth Games in New Delhi.

Some street vendors say they are helpless, stuck between sacrificing their livelihoods for India's pride and wanting to earn a living.

Shankar Lal, who sells chickpea curry with fried flatbread, said authorities told him three months ago to move away. These days, the only time he gets to open his stall along a busy New Delhi road near the G20 summit venue is on Sundays, when police pay less attention to the street vendors.

It's not enough to eke out a living.

"These are government rules, and we'll do what we are told," Lal said. "The government doesn't know whether we are dying of hunger or not."

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to conservative monarchies, but have also restrained the bloc from taking punitive actions against state-sanctioned atrocities.

The bloc currently groups Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

Natalegawa said ASEAN's failure to effectively rein in Myanmar's military government from committing human rights atrocities and its "deafening silence" when a Chinese coast guard ship recently used a water cannon to block a Philippine supply boat in the disputed South China Sea underscore why the group's aspiration to be in the center of Asian diplomacy has been questioned. Member states have turned to either the U.S. or China for security, he said.

"Absenteeism by ASEAN is leading to unmet needs, and those needs are being met elsewhere," he said.

Myanmar's civil strife, which has dragged on for more than two years after the army ousted the democratically elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi, and the South China Sea disputes were again expected to overshadow the Jakarta summit agenda, as in previous years. Indonesia tried to swing the focus to boosting regional economies with an upbeat theme this year — "ASEAN Matters: Epicentrum of Growth" — but the geopolitical and security issues have continued to pester and spark diplomatic fallout.

The European Union has warned that its relations with ASEAN may be affected if it has to deal with Myanmar in any leadership role. Following the EU warning, Myanmar's military-led government, which has not been recognized by — but remains a member of — ASEAN, gave notice that it may not be able to chair the regional bloc as scheduled in 2026, three Southeast Asian diplomats told the AP.

ASEAN leaders would have to decide in Jakarta whether to ask the Philippines to replace Myanmar as host for that year, said the diplomats, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of a lack of authority to publicly discuss the issues.

Myanmar could also not assume a three-year role starting next year as coordinator of ASEAN-EU relations, according to the two diplomats.

Myanmar's generals and their appointees have been barred from attending ASEAN's leaders and foreign ministerial meetings, including this week's summit meetings, after the military government failed to fully comply with a five-point peace plan that called for an immediate end to violence and the start of dialogue between contending parties, including Suu Kyi and other officials, who have been locked up in jail since they were overthrown.

In a crucial reform that would allow ASEAN to respond faster and prevent such crises from degenerating into deadly disasters, its member states have discussed proposed rules that would allow the group to make a decision even in the absence of consensus from all member states, one of the three diplomats said.

Dinna Prapto Raharja, a Jakarta-based analyst and professor on international relations, said ASEAN's credibility is on the line if the Myanmar crisis drags on. While the bloc has no conflict-resolution mechanism for such domestic strife, it should be flexible enough to harness its clout and connections to help address such problems.

Marsudi acknowledged such grim outlook and the pressure for the regional bloc to make a difference.

"The eyes of our peoples are on us to prove ASEAN still matters," she told fellow foreign ministers.

## Upward of 20,000 Ukrainian amputees face trauma on a scale unseen since WWI

By EVGENIY MALOLETKA Associated Press

LVIV, Ukraine (AP) — The small band of soldiers gather outside to share cigarettes and war stories, sometimes casually and sometimes with a degree of testiness over recollections made unreliable by their last day fighting, the day the war took away their limbs.

Some clearly remember the moment they were hit by anti-tank mines, aerial bombs, a missile, a shell. For others, the gaps in their memories loom large.

Vitaliy Bilyak's skinny body is a web of scars that end with an amputation above the knee. During six



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weeks in a coma, Bilyak underwent over 10 surgeries, including his jaw, hand, and heel, to recover from injuries he received April 22 driving over a pair of anti-tank mines.

"When I woke up, I felt like I was born again and returned from the afterlife," said Bilyak, who is just beginning his path to rehabilitation. He does not yet know when he'll receive a prosthesis, which must be fitted individually to each patient.

Ukraine is facing a future with upward of 20,000 amputees, many of them soldiers who are also suffering psychological trauma from their time at the front. Europe has experienced nothing like it since World War I, and the United States not since the Civil War.

Mykhailo Yurchuk, a paratrooper, was wounded in the first weeks of the war near the city of Iziom. His comrades loaded him onto a ladder and walked for an hour to safety. All he could think about at the time, he said, was ending it all with a grenade. A medic refused to leave his side and held his hand the entire time as he fell unconscious.

When he awoke in an intensive care unit the medic was still there.

"Thank you for holding my hand," Yurchuk told him.

"Well, I was afraid you'd pull the pin," the medic replied. Yurchuk's left arm was gone below the elbow and his right leg above the knee.

In the 18 months since, Yurchuk has regained his equilibrium, both mentally and physically. He met the woman who would become his wife at the rehabilitation hospital, where she was a volunteer. And he now cradles their infant daughter and takes her for walks without the slightest hesitation. His new hand and leg are in stark black.

Yurchuk has himself become the chief motivator for new arrivals from the front, pushing them as they heal from their wounds and teaching them as they learn to live and move with their new disabilities. That kind of connection will need to be replicated across Ukraine, formally and informally, for thousands of amputees.

"Their whole locomotive system has to be reoriented. They have a whole redistribution of weight. That's a really complicated adjustment to make and it needs to be made with another human being," said Dr. Emily Mayhew, a medical historian at Imperial College who specializes in blast injuries.

There are not nearly enough prosthetic specialists in Ukraine to handle the growing need, said Olha Rudneva, the head of the Superhumans center for rehabilitating Ukrainian military amputees. Before the war, she said, only five people in all of Ukraine had formal rehabilitation training for people with arm or hand amputations, which in normal circumstances are less common than legs and feet as those sometimes are amputated due to complications with diabetes or other illnesses.

Rudneva estimated that 20,000 Ukrainians have endured at least one amputation since the war began. The government does not say how many of those are soldiers, but blast injuries are among the most common in a war with a long front line.

Rehabilitation centers Unbroken and Superhumans provide prostheses for Ukrainian soldiers with funds provided by donor countries, charity organizations and private Ukrainian companies.

"Some donors are not willing to provide military aid to Ukraine but are willing to fund humanitarian projects," said Rudneva.

Some of the men undergoing rehabilitation regret they're now out of the war, including Yurchuk and Valentyn Lytvynchuk.

Lytvynchuk, a former battalion commander, draws strength from his family, especially his 4-year-old daughter who etched a unicorn on his prosthetic leg.

He headed recently to a military training ground to see what he could still do.

"I realized it's unrealistic. I can jump into a trench, but I need four-wheel drive to get out of it. And when I move 'fast' a child could catch me," he said. Then, after a moment, he added: "Plus, the prosthesis falls off."

The hardest part for many amputees is learning to live with the pain — pain from the prosthesis, pain from the injury itself, pain from the lingering effects of the blast shockwave, said Mayhew, who has spoken with several hundred military amputees over the course of her career. Many are dealing with disfigurement

and the ensuing cosmetic surgeries.

"That comorbidity of PTSD and blast injury and pain — those are very difficult to unpick," she said. "When people have a physical injury and they have a psychological injury that goes with it, those things can never be separated."

For the severely injured, rehabilitation could take longer than the war ultimately lasts.

The cosmetic surgeries are crucial to allowing the soldiers to feel comfortable in society. Many are so disfigured that it's all they believe anyone sees in them.

"We don't have a year, two," said Dr. Natalia Komashko, a facial surgeon. "We need to do this as if it was due yesterday."

Bilyak, the soldier who drove over anti-tank mines, still sometimes finds himself dreaming of battle.

"I'm lying alone in the ward on the bed, and people I don't know come to me. I realize they're Russians and they start shooting me point-blank in the head with pistols, rifles," he recounted. "They start getting nervous because they're running out of bullets, and I'm alive, I show them the middle finger and laugh at them."

## Endangered red wolves need space to stay wild. But there's another predator in the way — humans

By ALLEN G. BREED AP National Writer

ALLIGATOR RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, N.C. (AP) — Jeff Akin had to bite his tongue.

He was chatting with a neighbor about efforts to protect and grow the area's red wolf population. The endangered wolves are equipped with bright orange radio collars to help locals distinguish the federally protected species from invasive, prolific coyotes.

"If I see one of those wolves with a collar on, I'm going to shoot it in the gut, so it runs off and dies," Akin says the neighbor told him. "Because if it dies near you, and they come out and find the collar, they can arrest you."

Akin is a hunter and the walls of his country house are lined with photos of the animals he's killed. But what he heard made him sick.

"I wouldn't shoot a squirrel in the stomach if I was hungry," he says. "It's just not humane."

In a way, the anecdote sums up the plight of this uniquely American species.

Once declared extinct in the wild, *Canis rufus* — the only wolf species found solely in the United States — was reintroduced in the late 1980s on the Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge, just across the sound from eastern North Carolina's famed Outer Banks. Over the next quarter century, it became a poster child for the Endangered Species Act and a model for efforts to bring back other species.

"The red wolf program was a tremendous conservation success," says Ron Sutherland, a biologist with the Wildlands Network. "It was the first time that a large carnivore had been returned to the wild after being driven extinct, anywhere in the world."

But the wild population is now back to the brink of oblivion, decimated by gunshots, vehicle strikes, suspected poisonings and, some have argued, government neglect.

For the first time in nearly three decades, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is poised to release an updated recovery plan for the red wolf. According to a draft, the agency proposes spending a quarter billion dollars over the next 50 years to rebuild and expand the wild wolf population.

"It was done once before," says Joe Madison, North Carolina manager for the Red Wolf Recovery Program. "And we can do it again."

But the effort depends heavily on cooperation from private landowners. And the passage of 36 years seems to have done little to soften locals' hearts toward the apex predator.

Out here, farming and leasing land to hunters are big business. The red wolf is seen by some as competition, and a threat to a way of life on a fragile landscape already imperiled by climate change.

"They don't belong here!" a woman shouted at agency staff during a recent public meeting on the

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program.

Add to that a widespread mistrust of government and the road ahead looks long and perilous for "America's wolf." But allies like Akin and Sutherland say they have to try.

"The red wolf, it's ours," Sutherland says. "It's ours to save."

On a recent visit to Alligator River, Madison parks his truck beside a canal, climbs out and hoists an H-shaped antenna into the air. Faint beeps emanate from a radio in his left hand as he slowly swivels from side to side.

"Based on the radio telemetry, there are six red wolves hunkered down in there," says Madison, motioning to a patch of brush between two cleared farm fields. His bushy red-and-grey beard lends him an uncanny resemblance to his quarry.

That's roughly half of the world's total known wild red wolf population.

The red wolf once roamed from central Texas to southern Iowa and as far northeast as Long Island, New York. But generations of persecution, encroachment and habitat loss reduced them to just a remnant clinging to the ragged Gulf coast along the Texas-Louisiana border.

Starting in 1973, the year Congress passed the Endangered Species Act, the last wolves were pulled from the wild and placed in a captive-breeding program.

"By 1980," Madison says, "they had declared red wolves extinct in the wild."

But the captive breeding program did so well that, after just a few years, officials felt it was time to try restoring the red wolf to the wild.

They chose Alligator River, a 158,000-acre (63,940-hectare) expanse of upland swamp on North Carolina's Albermarle Peninsula, not far from Sir Walter Raleigh's doomed "lost colony" of Roanoke.

The program started in 1987 with four breeding pairs. Five years later, a second group was placed in Great Smoky Mountains National Park — 522,427 acres (211,418 hectares) of forest straddling the border of North Carolina and Tennessee.

The inland experiment was ended in 1998, due to "low prey availability, extremely low pup survival, disease, and the inability of red wolves to maintain stable territories within the Park," the government said at the time.

But with the releases of adults and fostering of captive-born pups into wild family groups, the Alligator River population thrived.

"It was the model for how gray wolves were returned to Yellowstone," Sutherland says of the Western species, which has since been taken off the endangered list. "And it's been the model since then for all kinds of re-wilding of projects all over the world."

By 2012, the population in the five-county restoration area reached a peak of about 120 animals. Then the bottom fell out.

Shootings and vehicle strikes — busy U.S. 64 to the Outer Banks runs through the middle of the refuge — were the leading causes of death.

Meanwhile, coyotes moved into the area and began mating with the depleted wolf stock. Around the same time, the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission allowed nighttime spotlight hunting of coyotes, which are much smaller, but look similar to red wolves.

In January 2015, the state commission asked Fish and Wildlife to end the program and once again declare the red wolf extinct in the wild. The federal agency suspended releases from the captive population while it re-evaluated the "feasibility" of species recovery.

A 2018 species status assessment declared the wild population would likely disappear within six years "without substantial intervention."

With no new releases, the wild population eventually dipped to just seven known animals.

In 2020, conservationists sued the agency, alleging the suspension of captive releases violated the Endangered Species Act. Releases and pup fostering resumed the following year.

In early August, the agency settled with the groups, promising regular releases from the captive popu-

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lation, which currently stands at around 270, over the next eight years. Meanwhile, a new recovery plan and population viability analysis are due out this fall.

The most recent draft called for spending of more than \$256 million over the next 50 years. The red wolf could be delisted by 2072, the agency concluded, providing "all actions" are fully funded and implemented" and with "full cooperation of all partners."

The service has yet to identify suitable locations for other wild populations and it's unclear whether the North Carolina wolves have a half century.

If Greenland continues to melt at the current rate, the East Coast could see more than 3 feet (0.9 meters) of sea level rise in the next 50 years, says Jeffress Williams, a senior scientist emeritus with the U.S. Geological Survey. The average elevation at Alligator River: about 3 feet (0.9 meters).

"They ought to be factoring that in," says Williams, who works at the Woods Hole Coastal and Marine Science Center in Massachusetts. "Because within 50 years, a lot of the habitat areas that they're looking at will very likely be underwater due to sea level rise or, certainly, underwater during the storm surge events such as such as hurricanes."

So, the wolves will have to roam farther and farther inland, into more densely populated areas. And that is only going to put them in more competition with what Akin calls the real "apex predator" — Homo sapiens.

One of the big complaints around here is that the wolves will gobble up all the game, especially white-tailed deer, the main food source of *Canis rufus*. And that would eat into landowner profits.

Although exact numbers for the recovery zone are hard to come by, the wildlife commission says hunting generated \$1 billion statewide last year. Recent hunting leases posted online ranged from \$861 for a 22-acre (8.9-hectare) property to \$3,050 on 167 acres (67.5 hectares) with "everything deer need," the site boasted.

Sutherland believes fears of "a wildlife disaster" are unfounded, and he's out to prove it.

Braving snakes and brushing feeder ticks from his clothes and gear, he kneels beside a pine tree on the Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge and starts drilling holes. He bolts a wildlife camera about a foot up the trunk, secures it with a lock and cable, then uses pruning shears to cut down any brush that might obscure the camera's view.

"The animals the wolves eat, like rabbits and rats and deer and things and species like that, they like this kind of habitat," he says. "Our job is to document whether this fire break is ... creating more local abundance of these different wildlife species."

As for the wolves, their numbers are in constant flux.

Two litters of four pups each were born in April at Pocosin Lakes, followed in May by five pups at Alligator River. Coupled with recent releases of captive-bred adults and the fostering of pups, one might assume the population is growing.

But as of August, Fish and Wildlife said the known/collared wild population was 13, with a total estimated wild population of 23 to 25. That's down from June, when the numbers were 16 and 32 to 34.

"It's certainly trending in the right direction," says Ramona McGee, an attorney with the Southern Environmental Law Center, which filed the lawsuit to restart the captive release program. "Although the population remains in dire straits."

"We've got a long way to go," Madison concedes.

Fish and Wildlife has launched numerous initiatives to cut down on human-caused deaths. Gunshots are top of the list.

The wolves are outfitted with orange, reflective collars to make them more visible at night.

"Most hunters and the general public know that bright orange, hunter orange, means, 'Don't shoot,'" says Madison. "It's a safety color."

He also reminds people at public meetings it's illegal to intentionally kill an endangered wolf that is not threatening humans, pets or livestock. The death must be reported to Fish and Wildlife within 24 hours.

The agency enlists landowners to help trap, but preferably not shoot, coyotes.

"You can't kill your way out of a coyote problem," Madison says.

## **Southeast Asian leaders are besieged by thorny issues as they hold an ASEAN summit without Biden**

By NINIEK KARMINI and EDNA TARIGAN Associated Press

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — Southeast Asian leaders led by Indonesian host President Joko Widodo are gathering in their final summit this year, besieged by divisive issues with no solutions in sight: Myanmar's deadly civil strife, new flare-ups in the disputed South China Sea, and the longstanding United States-China rivalry.

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations meetings will open Tuesday in the Indonesian capital Jakarta under tight security. The absence of U.S. President Joe Biden, who typically attends, adds to the already somber backdrop of the 10-state bloc's traditional show of unity and group handshakes.

ASEAN foreign ministers gathered Monday ahead of the leaders' summit. Mohammad Mahfud, Indonesia's coordinating minister in charge of political, legal and security affairs, told the region's top diplomats that their "community's strength is being challenged by one crisis after another."

A lack of progress in efforts to resolve the Myanmar crisis "left a negative mark on ASEAN," he said and warned that accelerating geopolitical tension and rivalries "could lead to open conflict that our region will be forced to face."

Indonesian Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi said a five-point plan crafted by the leaders in 2021 to help bring Myanmar back to normalcy will be reviewed.

After discussions Tuesday, the ASEAN heads of state would meet Asian and Western counterparts from Wednesday to Thursday, providing a wider venue than the U.S. and China, and their allies, have used for wide-ranging talks on free trade, climate change and global security. It has also become a battleground for their rivalries.

Chinese Premier Li Qiang was set to join the meetings, including the 18-member East Asia Summit. There, he would meet U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris — who will fly in lieu of Biden — and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov.

While skipping ASEAN, Biden will fly to Asia for the G20 summit in India, then visit Vietnam to elevate ties. Washington says Biden was not relegating the bloc to a lower rung of geopolitical priorities and cited the U.S. president's effort to deepen America's engagement with the region.

"It's hard to look at what we've done as an administration, since the very beginning, and come away with a conclusion that we are somehow not interested in the Indo-Pacific or that we are deprioritizing the Southeast Asia nations and those relationships," John Kirby, a national security spokesperson, said at a news briefing Friday in Washington.

In November, Biden attended the ASEAN summit meetings in Cambodia and in May 2022 hosted eight of the bloc's leaders at the White House to demonstrate his administration's commitment to their region while dealing with Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

The Biden administration has also been strengthening an arc of security alliances in the Indo-Pacific, including in Southeast Asia, alarming China.

Marty Natalegawa, a respected former foreign minister of Indonesia, expressed disappointment over Biden's non-appearance, but said such red flags were more alarmingly emblematic of ASEAN's declining relevance.

"The absence of the U.S. president, while it is disappointing and symbolically significant, is for me the least of the worry because what's more worrisome actually is the more fundamental structural tendency for ASEAN to become less and less prominent," Natalegawa told The Associated Press in an interview.

Founded in 1967 in the Cold War era, ASEAN has a principle of non-interference in each member state's domestic affairs. It also decides by consensus, meaning even one member can shoot down any unfavorable decision or proposal.

Those bedrock rules have attracted a starkly diverse membership, ranging from nascent democracies

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The coyotes are sterilized, but left hormonally intact. That way, they can act as “placeholders” for the wolves, Madison says.

“They will continue to defend their territory,” he says. “They’ll hold that space for the rest of their lives and they won’t allow other coyotes to move in, but they also can’t reproduce.”

Those coyotes get white collars, to further differentiate them from the wolves.

To cut down on road kills, officials have placed flashing signs at both ends of the Alligator River preserve to warn motorists on US 64 to watch out for endangered wolves and “drive with caution.”

But the biggest hurdle to red wolf recovery is space.

The two refuges’ combined 270,000 acres (109,265 hectares) — roughly 422 square miles (1,093 kilometers) — of federal land might sound like a lot. But Madison says a single pack’s territory can be as much as 80 square miles (207 square kilometers), depending on prey availability.

“There’s not a large enough land mass of public land in the Southeast within the historic range that can fully support a viable red wolf population,” he says. “We’re going to have to rely somewhat on private land for reintroduction.”

That’s where Prey for the Pack comes in.

Started in 2020, the program offers landowners incentives to make habitat improvements. The government will reimburse people up to 80% of the cost of thinning woods and planting the kinds of vegetation that will attract the types of prey red wolves prefer, says Luke Lokies, who runs the program.

In exchange, Fish and Wildlife gets access to do such things as install wildlife cameras or come onto their land to capture coyotes.

Basically, Lokies says, “They allow red wolves to peacefully live on their property.”

But if a recent public meeting is any indication, Lokies and the wolves are facing an uphill battle.

A crowd of about 60 braved thunderstorms and torrential rains to gather in the gymnasium of Mattamuskeet High School in Swanquarter, North Carolina.

They listened politely as Madison and others gave an update on the program. But no sooner had the floor been opened to questions than things got heated.

One man referred to the wolves as a “hybrid predator,” repeating a common belief here that all the animals are now mixed with coyotes. That’s despite a 2019 National Academy of Sciences report confirming the red wolf was a “distinct” and “taxonomically valid” species.

Madison noted two hybrid litters were discovered last year and euthanized.

Another concern was safety for humans and animals.

There has never been a documented attack by a red wolf on a human, Madison says. And a “depredation fund” set up by the Red Wolf Coalition to reimburse people for animals killed by a wolf has only paid out one claim, coalition director Kim Wheeler says.

A bearded man in a camouflage jacket questioned the program’s costs versus the number of jobs created in the five counties. Another wondered how landowners who make money off hunting would be compensated for all the game the wolves will eat.

“If you do not get landowner cooperation in the five-county area, will you stop the program?” asked one man, who farms 15,000 acres (6,070 hectares) in the wolf-recovery area.

An exasperated Madison says it wasn’t for him to say.

“We all know what the answer is,” the farmer replies sarcastically. “You just can’t say it out loud.”

Aspen Stalls, who recently started a wildlife guiding business in the area, says the wolves can benefit the local economy, but that’s not the point.

“They have been here for a very, very, very long time, long before us,” says Stalls, who studied canid ecology in college and sports a wolf tattoo on her left arm. “And they are a vital part of keeping this ecosystem balanced.”

The five-county wolf recovery area covers 2,765 square miles (7,161 square kilometers), which is nearly 1.8 million acres (728,434 hectares). But in three years, Prey for the Pack has managed to sign up only four landowners, for a total of just 915 acres (370 hectares).

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Of the four Prey participants, only one agreed to be identified: Jeff Akin.

About eight years ago, the retired Raleigh real estate developer built a hunting and fishing getaway on 80 acres (32 hectares) of what he calls "Hyde County thicket: Sucker pines, loblolly pines, wax myrtles and briers."

"I had to use a machete to walk through it the first time to find the edges," he says. "Snakes and mosquitoes love it."

With help from Lories and his staff, he hopes the wolves will love it, too.

Riding through the woods on an all-terrain vehicle, he points to areas of scorched scrub and tree stumps. "This has been thinned and burned," he says. "And the burning should release the seeds, and the sunlight will grow the types of grass and plants that'll bring in small mammals and game animals that would be ultimately prey for a pack of wolves."

New grasses and wildflowers are already coming up. Recently planted blackberry bushes are ready to bear fruit.

A white sign bolted to a tree along the main road declares Akin a member of "Partners for Fish & Wildlife." He suspects his neighbors aren't too happy about it.

Lee Williams, who lives just down the road, can't believe the government is spending millions of taxpayer dollars to protect what he considers "a mongrel."

"I never had it around here when I was growing up, and I really didn't miss it," the 74-year-old retired state marine patrol officer says. "I didn't miss a dinosaur and I wouldn't miss them."

About a week after the public meeting, a red wolf was found dead along a fence line in neighboring Washington County, shot in the torso.

After witnessing the hostility in the school gym, Akin got together with another wolf supporter to try to develop a better "sales pitch" for fellow landowners.

"We need to break down some resistance to wolf recovery and some existing fears about putting your land in a government program of any kind," he says.

He knows his 80 acres (32 hectares) are just "a drop in the bucket." But he can't just do nothing.

"It's not nature that's taken the red wolf out," he says. "It's us. So, we are the ones to help them get back."

## Coco Gauff is the 1st US teen since Serena Williams to reach consecutive US Open quarterfinals

By HOWARD FENDRICH AP Tennis Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Coco Gauff is the first American teen since Serena Williams more than two decades ago to reach the U.S. Open quarterfinals two years in a row, so the 19-year-old from Florida knows her way out of trouble on a tennis court.

As the second set slipped away against Caroline Wozniacki in the fourth round Sunday at Arthur Ashe Stadium, Gauff needed a chance to think things through after handing over a break with a pair of double-faults and a stumble that left her doing the splits.

So Gauff turned in the direction of the near-constant chatter coming from Brad Gilbert, one of her two coaches sitting in a front-row seat, and said, "Please stop." A couple of minutes later, Gauff said, "Stop talking."

That was while Wozniacki was grabbing four consecutive games to go up a break in the third set. And then, just as the match seemed to be slipping away thanks in part to a slew of unforced errors, Gauff straightened out her strokes and pulled away. She collected the last six games for a 6-3, 3-6, 6-1 victory over Wozniacki, the 33-year-old mother of two who recently came out of retirement.

"I was getting frustrated. It wasn't really directed at him. It was just that I needed to reset," the sixth-seeded Gauff said. "In that moment, I just didn't want to hear anything. I just wanted to think about what

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I was doing.”

Her next opponent will be No. 20 seed Jelena Ostapenko, the 2017 French Open champion. Ostapenko beat defending champion Iga Swiatek 3-6, 6-3, 6-1 on Sunday night, after 23-time Grand Slam champion Novak Djokovic picked up a 6-2, 7-5, 6-4 victory over qualifier Borna Gojo.

Djokovic faces No. 9 Taylor Fritz of the U.S. on Tuesday. It'll be Djokovic's 13th quarterfinal at Flushing Meadows, and Fritz's first.

Gauff, whose best showing at a major was reaching the final at the 2022 French Open before losing to Swiatek, has now won 15 of her past 16 matches.

That run follows a first-round exit at Wimbledon in July and includes the two biggest titles of her career, at the DC Open and in Cincinnati. It also coincides with the additions of Pere Riba as her full-time coach and Gilbert in a role that's been described as a temporary consultant.

TV microphones have been picking up Gilbert repeatedly offering his thoughts to Gauff during matches over the past week.

Against Wozniacki, the 2018 Australian Open champion and twice the runner-up in New York, Gauff was trying to find the right balance between being the aggressor (what she wanted) and not going for too much (what Gilbert wanted).

Gilbert's "scouting reports are quite accurate," Gauff said. "Sometimes you have to change things up. Today I had to change things up."

It was the hottest day of the event so far, with the temperature reaching 90 degrees Fahrenheit (32 Celsius), and Gauff kept missing the mark in the second set, to the tune of 22 unforced errors. But she cleaned that up considerably down the stretch, with just eight miscues in the last set. Also key in the third: Gauff compiled an 11-2 edge in winners.

"She's always been a great athlete. She's always had the backhand, the serve, the fighting spirit," Wozniacki said. "I feel like right now, it's all kind of coming together for her."

In the third set, with the playing surface covered in shadows, Wozniacki told chair umpire Louise Azemar Engzell it was difficult to see the ball and requested that the stadium lights be turned on.

"I would really appreciate it," Wozniacki said.

Didn't happen.

"She's back and it's like she never left," Gauff said, "To be out here on the court with her today was an honor."

Another women's quarterfinal matchup will be No. 10 Karolina Muchova against No. 30 Sorana Cirstea.

There is guaranteed to be at least one American man in the semifinals for the second year in a row. That's because No. 10 Frances Tiafoe, who got to that stage 12 months ago, and unseeded Ben Shelton set up a quarterfinal meeting with wins Sunday.

Fritz made it three men from the United States in the quarterfinals — the most since Andre Agassi, James Blake and Robby Ginepri got there in 2005 — by overwhelming Swiss qualifier Dominic Stricker 7-6 (2), 6-4, 6-4.

In the day's first match in Ashe, the 20-year-old Shelton hit a pair of aces at 149 mph (240 kph) — the fastest by anyone all tournament — in a single game and earned a debut trip to the quarterfinals at Flushing Meadows by eliminating No. 14 Tommy Paul 6-4, 6-3, 4-6, 6-4.

When the match ended, the muscle-shirt-wearing Shelton flexed his left biceps while standing under the section of seats where his father, a former touring pro who now coaches Ben, mother and sister were.

"Straight adrenaline," Shelton said about those big lefty serves.



## Security in Ecuador has come undone as drug cartels exploit the banana industry to ship cocaine

By REGINA GARCIA CANO Associated Press

GUAYAQUIL, Ecuador (AP) — Men walk through a lush plantation between Ecuador's balmy Pacific coast and its majestic Andes, lopping hundreds of bunches of green bananas from groaning plants twice their height.

Workers haul the bunches to an assembly line, where the bananas are washed, weighed and plastered with stickers for European buyers. Owner Franklin Torres is monitoring all activity on a recent morning to make sure the fruit meets international beauty standards — and ever more important, is packed for shipment free of cocaine.

Torres is hypervigilant because Ecuador is increasingly at the confluence of two global trades: bananas and cocaine.

The South American country is the world's largest exporter of bananas, shipping about 6.5 million metric tons (7.2 tons) a year by sea. It is also wedged between the world's largest cocaine producers, Peru and Colombia, and drug traffickers find containers filled with bananas the perfect vehicle to smuggle their product.

Drug traffickers' infiltration of the industry that is responsible for about 30% of the world's bananas has contributed to unprecedented violence across this once-peaceful nation. Shootings, homicides, kidnappings and extortions have become part of daily life, particularly in the Pacific port city and banana-shipping hub of Guayaquil.

"This is everyone's responsibility: the person who transports it, the person who buys it, the person who consumes it," vendor Dalia Chang, 59, a lifelong resident of Guayaquil, said of the cocaine trade. "They all share responsibility. They have ruined our country."

The country, which is not a major cocaine producer, was especially rattled when a presidential candidate known for his tough stance on organized crime and corruption — Fernando Villavicencio — was fatally shot at the end of an Aug. 9 campaign rally. He had accused the Ecuadorian Los Choneros gang and its imprisoned leader, whom he linked to Mexico's Sinaloa cartel, of threatening him and his campaign team days before the assassination.

In addition to its proximity to cocaine production, cartels from Mexico, Colombia and the Balkans have settled in Ecuador because it uses the U.S. dollar and has weak laws and institutions, along with a network of long-established gangs like Los Choneros that are eager for work.

Authorities say Ecuador also gained prominence in the global cocaine trade after political changes in Colombia last decade. Coca bush fields in Colombia have been moving closer to the border with Ecuador due to the breakup of criminal groups after the 2016 demobilization of the rebel group Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, better-known by their Spanish acronym FARC.

A record 2,304 metric tons of cocaine was manufactured in 2021 around the world, mostly in Colombia, Peru and Bolivia. That year, nearly a third of the cocaine seized by customs authorities in Western and Central Europe came from Ecuador, double the amount reported in 2018, according to a United Nations report citing data from the World Customs Organization. Large drug busts have become more frequent and within the past month, European authorities have made record-setting busts after inspecting containers carrying bananas from Ecuador.

Authorities on Aug. 25 announced Spain's biggest cocaine haul yet: 9.5 metric tons hidden among cardboard boxes of bananas from Ecuador in a refrigerated container. Dutch officials also made their country's largest-ever cocaine seizure last month — nearly 8 metric tons — in a container of Ecuadorian bananas. Authorities in Greece and Italy also announced seizures of cocaine hidden in Ecuadorian bananas this year.

Bananas headed to Europe are boxed at plantations, loaded into trucks that take them to massive warehouses in and around Guayaquil and transferred to maritime containers driven to an area port.

Then the ships head northeast to the Panama Canal, cross to the Caribbean Sea, and go east across the Atlantic.

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Knowingly or not, banana growers, exporters, shipping corporations, port operators, private security companies, customs agents, agriculture officials, police, and buyers offer opportunities that drug traffickers have exploited.

Some traffickers have created front companies to mimic legitimate banana exporters, while others have acquired legitimate businesses, including plantations. They have found companies willing to be complicit in trafficking. They also have paid off, threatened or kidnapped truck drivers and other workers to help get cocaine into shipments.

Other traffickers have corrupted or intimidated police, customs agents, security guards and port workers to assist with — or ignore — tampering with containers at the ports.

Drug trafficking has contributed to the number of violent deaths in Ecuador, which doubled from 2021 to 2022, when 4,600 died, the most ever recorded in a year. The country is on track to break the annual record again, with 3,568 violent deaths tallied in the first half of 2023.

In Guayaquil, where maritime shipping containers are part of the landscape, people live in fear these days. Pedestrians don't dare take their phones out of their pockets. Convenience stores have floor-to-ceiling metal bars that prevent customers from entering from the sidewalk. Restaurants that survived the pandemic close early.

Along with the rise in homicides, the amount of cocaine seized at the country's ports has increased, too, reaching 77.4 metric tons last year. That is more than three times the amount seized in 2020.

National Police Gen. Pablo Ramírez, Ecuador's national director of anti-drug investigations, attributed the change to increased smuggling, not better enforcement.

Police data also show that of last year's total, a record 47.5 metric tons of cocaine were found in shipments of bananas, even though the fruit's exports dropped 6.4% compared to 2021.

No more than 30% of containers is currently inspected at Ecuadorian ports, a process done manually or with drug-sniffing dogs. President Guillermo Lasso's government says it wants to use scanners on entire containers. Twelve of those machines were supposed to be operating already but Ramírez said that has not happened yet.

Ramírez said he expects all ports to have operational scanners by mid-2024. He said two ports have tested the scanners to smooth out internal procedures and train the people who will be working with the machines.

The operator of the largest port in Guayaquil, Contecon Guayaquil S.A., turned down Associated Press requests for an interview and access to the port to see existing security procedures. In response to written questions about the measures, spokeswoman Alexandra Pacheco said in a statement that the operator entered into an agreement with the National Police in 2022 to among other things "reinforce operations in the port." She added that the operator plans to spend about \$15 million on the scanners.

Jose Hidalgo, executive director of the Association of Banana Exporters of Ecuador, said the industry faces greater exposure to trafficking than other commodity exports because of the volume of containers that it uses.

"It is because of bananas that there are so many ports," Hidalgo said. "It opens routes to other export products."

He explained that exporters spend about \$100 million annually on security measures, which include surveillance cameras at plantations, GPS monitoring of trucks and the identification of land routes that require police patrols to keep criminals away.

Nonetheless, some exporters have been accused of being complicit or directly involved in trafficking cocaine.

Torres, the plantation owner, would like to see that type of exporter kicked out of the industry. But there is no regulation that can be used to revoke a company's banana-exporting permission when the business is tied repeatedly to drug trafficking.

"It bothers me so much," Torres said. "My people work with bananas, they don't work with drugs. It's a flagship product, the best in the world, and to see it tainted like that is unfortunate."

## In the pivotal South Carolina primary, Republican candidates search for a path against Donald Trump

By MEG KINNARD and MICHELLE L. PRICE Associated Press

ANDERSON, S.C. (AP) — A microphone in hand, Sen. Tim Scott left the podium at a recent barbecue event in South Carolina and made his way through tables draped in red, white and blue as attendees finished plates of pulled pork and baked beans.

As he talked about his campaign, Scott passed Casey DeSantis, the first lady of Florida, who looked ahead at the empty stage from which she would soon speak. She was there in place of her husband, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, who was overseeing the response to Hurricane Idalia.

Several hours earlier, former Gov. Nikki Haley packed an event hall about 130 miles to the northeast. An overflow crowd spilled out into the back hallways, with some people having to watch her remarks on a video monitor.

The flurry of activity showed the priority these three campaigns are placing on South Carolina, where the Republican primary is traditionally the last chance for many White House hopefuls to break through before Super Tuesday. If former President Donald Trump maintains his front-runner status here and in the other early voting states, his path to the GOP nomination may be nearly impossible to stop.

In all but one primary since 1980, the Republican winner in South Carolina has gone on to be the party's nominee.

Both in the state and nationally, Trump is far ahead in the Republican field. Battling for a distant second place are the two home-state candidates — Scott and Haley — and DeSantis. A July poll from Fox Business found that Scott, Haley and DeSantis each drew double digits, but Trump still led by more than 30 points.

Scott and Haley face added pressure given the traditional expectation for a presidential candidate to win their home state. But they may also splinter any traditional home turf edge in South Carolina, which could allow DeSantis to relegate them to a potentially embarrassing third or even fourth place.

"In a split vote like this, you can't help but think that Donald Trump has the natural advantage over everybody else because he just has to win one more vote than second place," said Dave Wilson, a conservative political strategist in the state.

Several voters considering their options variously praised and criticized the three second-place contenders, reflecting how splintered the field is.

"We've got a lot of good ones," said Debra Donnan, a 52-year-old former postal worker from the city of Laurens. "I don't exactly know. I'm just watching and learning."

Donnan said she thinks both Trump and DeSantis have a great shot, but that Scott does, too.

"Don't discount him," she said of Scott. "He is a great American. He is very strong in his belief system, and he is not a wimpy person."

Haley, meanwhile, drew praise from Irene Gatton, a 78-year-old retired nurse, as "very down to earth" and "intelligent."

South Carolina's institutional support is behind Trump. He's locked up endorsements from Sen. Lindsey Graham and Gov. Henry McMaster, who was lieutenant governor before Trump picked Haley as his United Nations ambassador — something Trump has claimed McMaster asked him to do.

On the July 4 weekend, Trump drew a massive crowd of tens of thousands to tiny Pickens, South Carolina, a feat no other candidate has matched.

He has done far fewer events overall and skipped the first presidential debate, a decision criticized by voters at other candidates' events. But Trump remains the top political figure in the party and has kept a strong standing with Republicans, even as he faces four criminal indictments.

Speaking at the "Faith & Freedom BBQ" last week in South Carolina's Upstate region — invited to speak not as a White House hopeful but as a sitting home state senator — Scott said his campaign was "focusing on restoring hope, creating opportunity and protecting the America we all love." He said that includes supporting law enforcement, finishing the U.S.-Mexico border wall and giving parents more choices in their children's education.

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He was followed by Casey DeSantis. From Florida — where he remained, in lieu of delivering the keynote address as had been planned, to help his state prepare for Hurricane Idalia — Ron DeSantis recorded a three-minute introduction video that got roars from the crowd. Casey DeSantis gave familiar one-liners about her children and raising a family in the Florida governor's mansion.

But she also hit hard at President Joe Biden. She pledged that her husband would be a president "who helps the children in the White House with homework instead of cocaine." That was a reference to the drugs found earlier this year in the White House, as well as the public substance abuse struggles of Biden's son, Hunter.

Haley didn't appear at the barbecue but instead packed an earlier event in Indian Land, a small community near Charlotte, North Carolina. She seemed to be in an especially good mood as she spoke, buoyed by her first debate performance, in which she sharply criticized rival Vivek Ramaswamy on foreign policy and pointedly noted on an otherwise all-male stage that "if you want something done, ask a woman."

At her town hall, she went after Ramaswamy again with a double-edged Southerner's barb that drew appreciative laughter: "Bless his heart."

"I know I wear a skirt," she said. "But y'all see me at work. If you say something that is totally off the wall, I'm going to call you out on it every single time."

During their overlapping years as Republican officeholders in South Carolina, Haley and Scott largely appealed to many of the same voters. They've both won every statewide race in which they've competed, although Scott has not ever faced significant Democratic opposition in the state, which hasn't elected a Democrat statewide in almost two decades.

"I think Tim Scott could be a good vice president, but he said he didn't want to," said retired engineer Huley Shumpert from Pelion.

The 76-year-old was with his wife, Brenda Shumpert, at the barbecue. The couple were undecided about who they would support as the GOP nominee, but both said they preferred Scott to stay in the Senate.

Shumpert said she could envision Haley as a running mate for Trump or DeSantis, but the retired media specialist said she wouldn't support Haley for president because of a high-profile decision dating back to her second term as governor.

Haley had long resisted calls to remove the Confederate battle flag from the statehouse grounds — even casting a rival's push to do so as a desperate stunt. But she reversed course in 2015 and advocated that the flag come down following the racist slaying of nine Black churchgoers during a Bible study in Charleston.

"Nikki was our governor, and she took down the Confederate flag, which to us is important," Brenda Shumpert said. "(There's) historical significance in that."

Haley won over several locals who attended her event, including Gail Peplinski, a 71-year-old retired executive assistant. Before the Aug. 23 debate, Peplinski had been leaning toward supporting Trump.

But Haley is "no-nonsense" and "doesn't just talk a lot of fluff," she said.

Rick Satterfield was walking out with Peplinski and said he thinks Haley won the debate though DeSantis did well. But in praising Haley, Satterfield also captured a dynamic Haley and Scott are running to change — to be seen as the front-runner and not a runner-up.

"Even if she doesn't make president, I think she'd be a great vice president, because then she could run in four years if it's Trump," he said.

## **Burning Man flooding strands tens of thousands at Nevada site; authorities are investigating 1 death**

BLACK ROCK DESERT, Nev. (AP) — An unusual late-summer storm turned a week-long counterculture fest into a sloppy mess with tens of thousands of partygoers stuck in foot-deep mud and with no working toilets in the northern Nevada desert. But some Burning Man revelers said Sunday that their spirits remained unbroken.

Organizers closed the festival to vehicles after one death was reported. Officials provided no details of the fatality.

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The annual gathering in the Black Rock Desert about 110 miles (177 kilometers) north of Reno attracts nearly 80,000 artists, musicians and activists for a mix of wilderness camping and avant-garde performances. Disruptions are part of the event's recent history: Organizers had to temporarily close entrances to the festival in 2018 due to dust storms, and the event was twice canceled altogether during the pandemic.

More than a half an inch (1.3 centimeters) of rain fell at the festival site on Friday, disrupting this year's festival.

"We are a little bit dirty and muddy but spirits are high. The party still going," said Scott London, a Southern California photographer, adding that the travel limitations offered "a view of Burning Man that a lot of us don't get to see."

More than half an inch (1.3 centimeters) of rain and possibly close to 1 inch (2.5 centimeters) fell this weekend in parts of northwest Nevada, which includes the area where the Burning Man festival was being held, said Mark Deutschendorf, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Reno.

For the Reno area, which is about 141 miles (227 km) south of the festival, the average rainfall for the whole month of September would be 0.21 inches (0.53 centimeters), Deutschendorf said.

"Already, everywhere from Reno up to the Burning Man area, Black Rock, we've already exceeded that — and it's only three days into the month," he said. Rainfall for the area around the festival was ending on Sunday, he said.

The road closures came just before a large wooden effigy was supposed to have been burned Saturday night. Organizers said that all burning had been postponed, and authorities were working to open exit routes by the end of the Labor Day weekend.

Officials said late Saturday they didn't yet know when the roads would "be dry enough for RVs or vehicles to navigate safely," but they were hopeful vehicles could depart by late Monday if weather conditions improved.

President Joe Biden told reporters in Delaware on Sunday that he is aware of the situation at Burning Man, including the death, and the White House is in touch with local officials. Biden said he did not know the cause of death.

With their party closed to motorized traffic, attendees trudged through mud, many barefoot or with plastic bags on their feet. Revelers were urged to conserve supplies of food and water, and most remained hunkered down at the site.

A few, however, managed to walk several miles to the nearest town or catch a ride there.

Celebrity DJ Diplo posted a video to Instagram on Saturday evening showing him and comedian Chris Rock riding in the back of a fan's pickup truck. He said they had walked six miles through the mud before hitching a ride.

"I legit walked the side of the road for hours with my thumb out," wrote Diplo, whose real name is Thomas Wesley Pentz.

The event is remote on the best of days and emphasizes self-sufficiency — meaning most people bring in their own food, water and other supplies.

Those who remained Sunday described a resilient community making the most of the mucky conditions: Many posted selfies of themselves covered in mud, dancing or splashing in the makeshift lakes.

"We have not witnessed any negativity, any rough times," organizer Theresa Galeani said. "Some people ... were supposed to leave a few days ago, so they're out of water or food. But I am an organizer, so I went around and found more water and food. There is more than enough here for people. We just have to get it to everyone."

London, the Southern California photographer who was attending his 20th Burning Man and just published a book on the festival, "Burning Man: Art On Fire," spent much of Saturday walking barefoot across the site, which is about 5 square miles. He said that the biggest challenge was logistics because no vehicles could traverse the site, supplies could not be brought in and most people could not leave.

"Usually it's very crowded with art cars, bikes and people all over the place. But yesterday it was like an abandoned playground," he added.

Rebecca Barger, a photographer from Philadelphia, arrived at her first Burning Man on Aug. 26 and was

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determined to stick it out through the end.

"I'm not leaving until both 'The Man' and 'The Temple' burn," Barger said, referring to the wooden effigy and wooden structure that are traditionally torched during the event's last two nights.

She said one of the biggest concerns has been the lack of toilet options because the trucks that normally arrive to clean out the portable toilets multiple times a day haven't been able to reach the site since Friday's rainstorm. Some revelers said trucks had resumed cleaning on Sunday.

To prevent her shoes from getting stuck in the muddy clay, Barger says she put a plastic bag over each of her shoes and then covered each bag with a sock. Others were just barefoot.

"Everyone has just adapted, sharing RVs for sleeping, offering food and coffee," Barger said. "I danced in foot-deep clay for hours to incredible DJs."

Ed Fletcher of Sacramento, a longtime Burning Man attendee, arrived in Black Rock City over a week ago to start setting up. When the rain hit, he and his campmates threw a party and "danced the night away" in their muddy shoes.

"Radical self-reliance is one of the principles of Burning Man," he said. "The desert will try to kill you in some way, shape or form."

The Pershing County Sheriff's Office did not release the identity of the deceased person or the suspected cause of death but said it is being investigated.

On their website, organizers encouraged participants to remain calm and suggested that the festival is built to endure conditions like the flooding. They said cellphone trailers were being dropped in several locations Saturday night and that they would be briefly opening up internet overnight. Shuttle buses were also being organized to take attendees to Reno from the nearest town of Gerlach, a walk of about five miles (eight kilometers) from the site.

The event began on Aug. 27 and had been scheduled to end Monday, according to the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, which oversees the Black Rock Desert, where the festival was held.

John Asselin, a spokesperson for the Bureau of Land Management, said he had seen "a steady stream" of vehicles leaving the festival site.

"People are getting out," he said.

## **Grand Slam tournaments are getting hotter. US Open players and fans may feel that this week**

By HOWARD FENDRICH, MARY KATHERINE WILDEMAN and BRIAN MAHONEY Associated Press Writers  
NEW YORK (AP) — Andy Murray prepared for the steamy conditions often found at the U.S. Open by simulating the "brutal heat and humidity" in New York this time of year with the help of, well, an actual steam room at his home.

The 36-year-old British tennis star set the humidity in there at 70% and spent hours riding a stationary bike nearby with the thermostat cranked up to 95 degrees Fahrenheit (35 Celsius), making the air feel as muggy as it does every summer around Flushing Meadows, where the year's last Grand Slam tournament entered its second week on Monday. "Just to try and help with the heat adaptation," explained Murray, who claimed the title in New York in 2012 but lost in mild conditions in the second round this time.

If the start of competition at the 2023 U.S. Open offered a bit of a reprieve for athletes, ball crews and spectators alike, thanks to highs mostly in the 70s F (20s C) — "It is a little cooler than usual; that's definitely easier to play in," Belgian player Elise Mertens said last week — that changed Sunday, when it hit 90 F (32 C). The temperature was forecast to soar even more in the coming days.

That's not a surprise: An Associated Press analysis shows the average high temperatures felt during the U.S. Open and the three other major tennis tournaments steadily have gotten higher and more dangerous in recent decades, reflecting the climate change that created record heat waves around the globe this summer. For athletes, it can keep them from playing their best and, worse, increases the likelihood of heat-related illness.

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The AP tracked the thermal comfort index, which measures air temperature in degrees while also taking into account humidity, radiation, wind and other factors that affect how the body responds. It looked at each Grand Slam event dating to 1988, the first year all four had 128-player fields for women and men. Collectively, the maximum temperatures at those tournaments has risen by nearly 5 degrees F (nearly 3 C).

"People hear that and they don't think it's very much. It doesn't necessarily register as alarming. Sometimes that 3- or 4-degree change can cause a doubling or even tripling of the number of hot days we experience," said Daniel Bader, a climate scientist at Columbia University. "New York City's temperatures have been rising, and that trend is projected to continue into the future."

Other AP findings:

— From 1988 to 1992, daily highs in the thermal comfort index passed the threshold for strong heat stress, which is 90 F (32 C), on 7% of days with Grand Slam matches. From 2018 to 2022 that figure was 16%.

— The U.S. Open's overall rise of nearly 3 F (1.5 C) since 1988 means it isn't even the Grand Slam site where the heat is increasing most rapidly. That's the Australian Open, where the average high temperatures jumped by more than 6 F (about 3.5 C).

Still, the U.S. Open often was the hottest of the four majors in any given year.

Players can tell.

"I remember the year I won, the last four days it was super hot and super humid," said 2016 U.S. Open champion Stan Wawrinka of Switzerland. "It's one of the toughest tournaments, fitness-wise. ... Your body really loses a lot of energy."

The U.S. Open's spot late in the tennis season creates an accumulation of wear-and-tear and general fatigue, but the sweltering conditions at Flushing Meadows likely deserve some blame for a high number of in-match retirements there.

Since 1988, there have been 17 occasions in which at least 10 players at one Slam stopped during matches, more than half of them at the U.S. Open. The three highest totals came in New York: 16 in 2015, 15 in 2011, and 14 in 2018, when a half-dozen men stopped on Day 2 because of heat issues.

"We're seeing a lot more heat-related illnesses across all sports," said Elan Goldwaser, a sports medicine physician at Columbia University Medical Center who works with athletes on the U.S. ski team and at Fordham University.

The blue hard courts at the U.S. Open absorb heat more than the grass at Wimbledon or the clay at the French Open, making it feel as much as 15 degrees F (about 8 C) hotter than the air temperature, according to the U.S. Tennis Association. Athletes "are essentially playing on a hot plate," Goldwaser said.

"Their ability to hit the ball as hard starts to go down. Their reaction time starts to go down," said Jon Femling, the clinical vice chair of emergency medicine at the University of New Mexico. "Getting heated up, your body's first response is to try and cool down, and the way it does that is by pumping blood to all of your skin. ... Your heart just has to immediately start working harder."

The fans in the stands need to be careful, too, especially if alcohol is involved.

On one cooler-than-usual yet sunny day during qualifying rounds ahead of the Aug. 28 to Sept. 10 main draw in New York, spectators grabbed free sunscreen samples and cooled off near misting fans.

"I have empathy, sympathy ... for tennis players," said Ola Yinka, a 45-year-old filmmaker from Chicago. "I used to play tennis as a kid, so I remember I would have fun with my dad. But at the same time, after like 10 minutes, I was like, 'I don't even want to play.'"

At the U.S. Open, players get 75 seconds to rest between games and two minutes between sets. That's time enough to hydrate with water or electrolyte-packed drinks, enjoy cold air pushed through a tube or wrap an ice-filled towel around their neck.

It's not enough time, though, to lower the body's core temperature.

So physiotherapists watch for dizziness, cramping and other signs of heat illness.

"We might suggest that they're not safe to play," said Reshma Rathod, a WTA physiotherapist. "They may not want to stop."

U.S. Open tournament referee Jake Garner said chair umpires serve as "the first line of defense" if

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someone is in real danger, but "in general, we leave (it up to) the players."

While some athletes, like Murray, find unusual ways to train, others figure the acclimatization that comes from dealing with heat and humidity at tournament after tournament, week after week, year after year, or from living in places like Florida — a favorite base for many — will help.

"For a recreational player who may be watching on TV, to think about playing a tennis match when it's 92 degrees out and 95% humidity — they might think that's just unfathomable," said Todd Ellenbecker, the ATP vice president for medical services. "But our players ... play in that kind of heat throughout the entire year."

## **Biden says he went to his house in Rehoboth Beach, Del., because he can't go 'home home'**

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE Associated Press

REHOBOTH BEACH, Del. (AP) — There may be no place like home but President Joe Biden says he cannot go to his.

Unprompted, Biden approached reporters Sunday in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, after he went to Mass at St. Edmond Roman Catholic Church to say he was not on vacation.

"I have no home to go to," said Biden, who lives at the White House on weekdays and spends most weekends in Delaware, where he has two homes.

The U.S. Secret Service has been doing work on his longtime primary residence in Wilmington, Delaware, to make it more secure "in a good way," he said.

It has been at least a few months since he last spent a night there.

"So I have no place to go when I come to Delaware, except here, right now," he said, speaking of his other home, in Rehoboth Beach. "I'm only here for one day."

Biden arrived on the Delaware coast on Saturday night after he spent the early part of the day in Florida surveying damage from Hurricane Idalia. He had been scheduled to spend Labor Day weekend here, but changed his plans after the storm.

He travels to Philadelphia on Monday to speak at an AFL-CIO rally.

Two weeks ago, he and his family spent a week on vacation in Nevada's Lake Tahoe region. The Republican National Committee regularly criticizes Biden for vacating the White House on weekends.

He first told reporters about the security upgrades to his Wilmington home in April, when he went to the beach house after returning from a trip to Ireland.

Asked Sunday if he was saying that he's homeless, Biden said that was not the case.

"No, I'm not homeless," he said. "I just have one home. I have a beautiful home. I'm down here for the day because I can't go home home."

## **As G20 leaders prepare to meet in recently flooded New Delhi, climate policy issues are unresolved**

By PIYUSH NAGPAL, ALTAF QADRI and SIBI ARASU Associated Press

NEW DELHI (AP) — Rekha Devi, a 30-year-old farm worker, is dreading the moment when her family will be ordered to leave their makeshift tent atop a half-built overpass and return to the Yamuna River floodplains below, where their hut and small field of vegetables is still under water from July's devastating rains.

Devi, her husband and their six children fled as the record monsoon rains triggered flooding that killed more than 100 people in northern India, displaced thousands and inundated large parts of the capital, New Delhi. The waters took her husband's work tools, the children's school uniforms and books and everything else the family had accumulated over 20 years, forcing them and thousands of others into makeshift relief camps.

Their temporary perch is less than 10 kilometers (6 miles) from the site of this weekend's Group of 20 summit at which leaders will have a final chance to decide how to better protect people like Devi when the



next extreme weather event batters the city. But she expects little — except eviction as part of security measures for the meetings.

“If the leaders lived here, would they have taken their kids into the deep waters to live? Right now, no one is doing anything for us. We will see when they do something,” she said.

Despite cyclones, extreme rains, landslides and extreme heat affecting India and the rest of the world in the last few months, climate ministers of the G20 nations — the world’s largest economies and producers of most of its greenhouse gases — ended their last meeting for the year in July without resolving major disagreements on climate policies.

Energy experts said key bottlenecks include nations failing to agree on proposals to cap global emissions of carbon dioxide by 2025, set up a carbon border tax, scale up renewable energy, phase down all fossil fuels and increase aid to nations hit hardest by climate change.

Shayak Sengupta, an energy and research fellow at the Observer Research Foundation America, conceded there were no broad agreements on reducing fossil fuels or increasing renewables.

“However, I was encouraged to see that there were initiatives on specific sectors like green hydrogen, critical minerals, energy efficiency, finance for the energy transition and energy access,” said Sengupta, based in Washington.

The G20’s top leaders will have a last chance to send a strong message of climate action at their meetings on Saturday and Sunday.

The hope is they “will be able to come out with an ambitious agenda that can not only show that the G20 can act but will also bolster confidence going into the global climate meetings in December,” said Madhura Joshi, energy analyst at the climate think tank E3G.

The annual global climate conference, COP28, will be held in Dubai this year. Joshi said she is hopeful because “writing off the world’s 20 largest economies completely would mean that there are more concerns for the world as a whole.”

Experts say one reason the talks among climate ministers haven’t produced concrete results is that the decisions necessary are bigger than those ministers can take.

“We need to ask if climate ministers have the mandate to negotiate now on these big issues like climate and energy,” said Luca Bergamaschi, CEO of Italian climate think tank Ecco Climate and former head of the Italian government’s climate team.

Bergamaschi said India Prime Minister Narendra Modi, whose nation holds the G20 presidency through November, has an opportunity step up as a global leader and “broker for international commitment between the West and the rest of the world,” especially in relation to climate and energy negotiations.

“We need leaders to say we need to do more” on climate change, Bergamaschi said. “More on moving away from fossil fuels and increase renewable energy, I think that sends a really strong message.”

## **Ukraine President Zelenskyy says defense minister Oleksii Reznikov will be replaced this week**

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Sunday that defense minister Oleksii Reznikov will be replaced this week with Rustem Umerov, a Crimean Tatar lawmaker.

Zelenskyy made the announcement on his official Telegram account, writing that new leadership was needed after Reznikov went through “more than 550 days of full-scale war.”

Later in his nightly address, Zelenskyy said he believes “that the Ministry needs new approaches and different formats of interaction both with the military and with society.”

“The Verkhovna Rada (parliament) of Ukraine is well acquainted with this person, and Umerov does not require additional introductions. I expect support for this candidacy from parliament,” the president told the nation.

Umerov, 41, a politician with the opposition Holos party, has served as head of the State Property Fund of Ukraine since September 2022. He was involved in the exchange of prisoners of war, political prisoners, children and civilians, as well as the evacuation of civilians from occupied territories. Umerov was also part

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of the Ukrainian delegation in negotiations with Russia over the U.N.-backed grain deal.

Resnikov's removal comes after a scandal around the Ministry of Defense's procurement of military jackets. In August, Ukrainian investigative journalists reported that the materials were purchased at a price three times higher than normal and that instead of winter jackets, summer ones were ordered. In the customs documents from the supplier, the jackets were priced at \$29 per unit, but the Ministry of Defense paid \$86 per unit. Reznikov denied the allegations during a news conference last week.

U.S. President Joe Biden told reporters in Delaware on Sunday that he was aware Zelenskyy had replaced his defense chief. Asked if he had any comment, Biden said, "Not publicly." The U.S. Department of Defense also declined to comment.

Zelenskyy's announcement came after two people were hospitalized following a 3½-hour Russian drone barrage on a port in Ukraine's Odesa region on Sunday, officials said.

The attack on the Reni seaport comes a day before Russian President Vladimir Putin is due to meet with his Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan to discuss the resumption of food shipments from Ukraine under a Black Sea grain agreement that Moscow broke off from in July.

Russian forces fired 25 Iranian-made Shahed drones along the Danube River in the early hours of Sunday, 22 of which were shot down by air defenses, the Ukrainian air force said on Telegram.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's chief of staff, Andriy Yermak, described the assault as part of a Russian drive "to provoke a food crisis and hunger in the world."

Russia's Defense Ministry said in a statement that the attack was aimed at fuel storage facilities used to supply military equipment.

Putin and Erdogan's long-awaited meeting is due to take place in Sochi on Russia's southwest coast on Monday.

Turkish officials have confirmed that the pair will discuss renewing the Black Sea grain initiative, which the Kremlin pulled out of six weeks ago.

The deal — brokered by the United Nations and Turkey in July 2022 — had allowed nearly 33 million metric tons (36 million tons) of grain and other commodities to leave three Ukrainian ports safely despite Russia's war.

However, Russia broke away from the agreement after claiming that a parallel deal promising to remove obstacles to Russian exports of food and fertilizer hadn't been honored.

Moscow complained that restrictions on shipping and insurance hampered its agricultural trade, even though it has shipped record amounts of wheat since last year.

The Sochi summit follows talks between the Russian and Turkish foreign ministers on Thursday, during which Russia handed over a list of actions that the West would have to take in order for Ukraine's Black Sea exports to resume.

Erdogan has indicated sympathy with Putin's position. In July, he said Putin had "certain expectations from Western countries" over the Black Sea deal and that it was "crucial for these countries to take action in this regard."

Elsewhere in Ukraine, three people were killed in two separate attacks by Russian shelling in the Donetsk area Sunday. An 85-year-old man was named among the victims after being crushed by the rubble of his own home, Ukraine's Prosecutors' Office reported.

A 36-year-old man was also killed in another Russian attack on Ukraine's Kherson region.

Ukrainian prosecutors announced Sunday that they had opened a war crimes investigation into the death of a police officer killed by Russian shelling on the town of Seredyna-Buda on Saturday afternoon.

Two other police officers and one civilian were wounded during the attack, which hit Ukraine's north-eastern Sumy region.

## Students transform their drab dorm rooms into comfy living spaces

By ANNE D'INNOCENZIO AP Retail Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — From \$300 studded headboards and \$100 coffee table books to custom-made cabinets to disguise your mini-fridge, students are spending big bucks to decorate their dorm rooms, adding yet another layer to the soaring costs of college.

Some are even going so far as to hire interior designers to beautify their 12 feet by 20 feet of space.

Lesley Lachman, 18, planned her furnishings for her dorm room with her roommate immediately after deciding to attend the University of Mississippi back in May. The Rye, New York resident scoured websites like Pinterest and designed her room herself — with hues of pink, purple and green culled from a mix of pricey brands like Essentials with Eden as well as less expensive items from Ikea and Facebook Marketplace. Total cost for the design? About \$3,000, covered by her parents.

"There's so much work that had to be done because it felt lackluster. It didn't feel homey," said Lachman, who posted a "before" and "after" video of her room on TikTok.

The "before" video shows stark yellow cinderblock walls, a mustard-colored built-in desk and an open closet. The "after" video shows a complete makeover, with lacey curtains to cover the closet, embroidered pillows and a cushy white headboard to dress up her bed, and customized framed art of hearts.

"I'm so in love with the room," Lachman said after her redesign. "I want to leave the door open and want everyone to stop by and admire it."

Overall, the back-to-college season is big business, with families expected to spend an average of about \$1,367 per person, up 14% from a year ago, according to an annual survey conducted this summer by the National Retail Federation and market researcher Prosper Insights & Analytics. Spending on big-ticket items such as electronics and dorm furnishings as well as necessities like food accounted for more than half of the increase, NRF said.

Meanwhile, the total cost of college — including tuition, fees, room and board — almost doubled between 1992 and 2022, rising from an inflation-adjusted average of \$14,441 per year to \$26,903 across all types of universities, according to National Center for Education Statistics, the statistical branch of the Education Department. Dorm costs saw a similar spike over the same time span, rising from \$3,824 to \$7,097.

Sara Hunt, 19, a sophomore at New York University from Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, wanted her dorm room to look cozy but her budget was \$100. That's because she's footing 30% — or nearly \$30,000 a year — of NYU's annual college bill. Financial aid picks up the rest.

"I definitely try to work on being positive and not comparing myself to other people because I'm so lucky for what I have. But it is really stressful," said Hunt, who worked more than 60 hours per week last school year and took a job as a pastry chef this summer to help pay for her college expenses.

For her dorm décor, Hunt scoured Goodwill stores, Dollar Tree, T.J. Maxx and Five Below for deals on neon lights, wall paper decals and beddings. She also rummaged through bins of returned items from major retailers at a discount bazaar in her hometown.

Jamel Donnor, a professor at William & Mary College in Williamsburg, Virginia, and a leading expert on inequity in education, said the big divide in dorm furnishings marks an "unspoken reality of the have and have nots." He noted that the stark differences in dorm decorating between those who have money and those who don't can make some students wonder if they should even be at their college.

"There's this imposter syndrome," he said.

Dorm supplies e-tailer Dormify is playing to both ends of the budget. For the first time this fall, it's offering various bundles of essentials including a pack of 19 items for \$159 that includes bath towels and a comforter for those who are more price conscious. For the big spenders, Dormify unveiled an interior designer service for \$450 with interior decorator Jen Abrams; it plans to roll out the offering with other designers next year.

Amanda Zuckerman, co-founder and president of Dormify, noted TikTok has raised the bar in dorm furnishings, creating "the ability to become TikTok famous or go viral because of how well decorated your room is." Average orders are up 15% this fall, she said.

Dawn Thomas launched an interior design service — After Five Designs — in Jackson, Mississippi 20 years ago for college students after designing dorm rooms for her own children who were going away to school. She said in the past few years, she has seen plenty of other designers now working with students.

Thomas noted parents spend as much as \$10,000. One of the more popular items is a custom-made \$1,900 cabinet that covers the refrigerator in the dorm.

But she's also noticing parents are starting to hold back on certain items.

"The economy hasn't been that great this year," she said. "And I've noticed the sky is not the limit."

Emma Kirk, who is from Grenada, Mississippi and a freshman at University of Mississippi, tapped into Thomas's services and bought a gold studded headboard, custom-made pillows and bedspread among other items. She didn't know what the total bill was since her parents paid for it. But she said her parents reined her in whenever she picked out something too expensive.

"(Thomas) would work out something where we could get something similar," she said.

Even on her tight budget, Hunt — the NYU student — says she is happy with her dorm room décor.

"At NYU, so many parents pay for everything. But I'm not here to judge," she said. "The truth is, even if I had all the money in the world, I probably would still decorate my room the way that I have it now."

## **Tim Scott is the top Black Republican in the GOP presidential primary. Here's how he discusses race**

By THOMAS BEAUMONT Associated Press

OSKALOOSA, Iowa (AP) — Tim Scott seldom specifically brings up race in Iowa. Nor does the Republican presidential candidate have to.

He is often the only Black person at his campaign events in the state. The South Carolina senator introduces himself as the product of early-life mentors who taught him not to be bitter.

When race comes up, he often says the United States is not fundamentally racist.

"We don't have Black poverty or white poverty. We have poverty," he told an all-white audience Thursday in Oskaloosa after being asked about race. He earlier had spoken about his poor Southern upbringing and his late grandfather, born into Jim Crow-era South Carolina.

"The brilliance of this nation is that we keep moving forward, even though there are lots of forces who want us to think the problem is that someone doesn't look like you," Scott said.

Scott, the only Black GOP presidential candidate campaigning aggressively in the early-voting state, is betting that his upbeat message of personal responsibility, wrapped in the Christian faith he comfortably cites, is a good fit for Iowa Republicans who might split from former President Donald Trump. So far, Scott and others in the White House race remain far behind Trump, and the senator did not achieve a breakout moment during the first GOP presidential debate.

Scott has been criticized by scholars who say his rejection of systemic racism, especially in light of the recent racist killings in Florida, plays down larger social and political obstacles facing African Americans.

But dozens of Iowa Republicans interviewed over the past several months say his position, common in the 2024 GOP field, resonates more coming from Scott than from others.

"It definitely means more from him," said Mary Rozenboom, a 77-year-old retired hospital employee from Oskaloosa who is white. "He's saying, 'This is me. I'm Black. But I succeeded because I worked hard, and those opportunities remain in America.'"

Recent polls suggest Scott's support in the state hovering around 1 in 10 among likely participants in Iowa's first-in-the-nation caucuses, still four months away.

That is significantly behind Trump and slightly behind Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis. Still, it suggests Scott's position in Iowa is slightly stronger than it is nationally, where his support in most recent polls hovers in the low single digits.

Scott may have unique advantages among Republican voters on race issues, according to political experts, even if his argument may be out of step with more diverse voters or in a general election.

Among voters for Republican candidates in the 2022 midterm elections, just 18% said racism is a very

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serious problem in U.S. society, compared with 61% of voters for Democratic candidates, according to AP VoteCast data.

"He's a Black man who rejects the idea of systemic racism, which is very popular in Republican circles," said Christine Matthews, a national political pollster who has worked for Republican candidates. "It absolutely resonates more."

But Yohuru Williams, founding director of the Racial Justice Initiative at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota, said Scott is deliberately trying to appeal to voters who want to believe that racism is not a serious problem.

"He's glossing it over and saying he's achieved all these things because he's taken advantage of every opportunity and worked hard," Williams said. "It creates this kind of powerful, yet flawed, narrative that it's grievance politics on the left that are solely responsible for economic inequality, for continued police brutality, for housing inequality."

"But it buys him points with that GOP base that says, 'Finally, someone who sounds like me who is a Black person which proves I'm not racist,'" he said.

Scott argues that racism is one of many forms of hatred that exist in the U.S. and that American society has improved over time.

He was asked to comment this summer on the accusation by Joy Behar, a host of the ABC talk show "The View," that he failed to understand systemic racism.

"I said America is not a racist country," he said. "Because it's not."

He achieved his political rise in South Carolina, once the cradle of the Confederacy. As in Iowa, the Republican primary vote there is vastly white.

When he won a seat in the U.S. House in 2010, Scott became the first Black Republican elected to Congress from South Carolina since the 1890s, during an era when white Democrats ousted many Republican officeholders after Reconstruction and disenfranchised Black people through state-sponsored violence, including lynching.

Scott won the House primary by beating Paul Thurmond, the son of longtime South Carolina Sen. Strom Thurmond, a segregationist who fought against civil rights legislation. Scott was later appointed to the U.S. Senate and has been reelected twice to six-year terms.

"I think it is important that, in the history of eternity, that I had the good fortune of being born in the place where the Civil War started, being elected in the seat that Strom Thurmond used to hold, to be in a position to have this serious conversation that confronts racial outcomes in this nation," he told The Associated Press in 2020.

Bonnie Boyle, upon leaving a June event, compared Scott to the late former Secretary of State Colin Powell and Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas, Black figures popular among Republicans.

"I don't think I'm prejudiced, but I know a lot of people who are, and I don't think the color of your skin should matter," said Boyle, who is white. "Tim Scott says you can rise above the perception that you're stuck, and you can make it, and I like that a lot."

Most of the Republican presidential candidates deny the U.S. faces systemic racism. And the study of race in American society has animated core Republican audiences. Several Republican-controlled states have invoked critical race theory in legislation restricting how race can be taught in public schools. GOP lawmakers in some states have also tried to outlaw or defund diversity and equity programs intended to address disparities in racial representation.

Scott was a key spokesman for the party and involved in legislation in Congress aimed at reducing police violence after the murder of George Floyd, a Black man, by Minneapolis police in May 2020.

The senator seldom mentions that legislative work in Iowa. The legislation would have, among other measures, established a commission to study race and law enforcement. Republicans and Democrats were unable to reach a compromise package and legislative efforts fell apart.

Already in this campaign, Scott has faced unique expectations to respond when Florida issued new state education guidelines on slavery. DeSantis repeatedly defended the guidelines, which require teachers to

instruct students that enslaved people learned skills “could be applied for their personal benefit.”

“What slavery was really about was separating families, about mutilating humans and even raping their wives. It was just devastating,” Scott told reporters in Iowa. “So I would hope that every person in our country — and certainly running for president — would appreciate that.”

Scott’s success has not come by ignoring America’s legacy of slavery and segregation, said Stephen Gilchrist, a Black man who is a Republican and chairman and CEO of the South Carolina African American Chamber of Commerce.

“He tries to live up to the creed of Dr. Martin Luther King, where we shouldn’t be judged by the color of our skin but by the content of our character,” said Gilchrist, who has not endorsed a candidate for 2024. “He’s inspired many of us who are African American Republicans.”

But Frederick Gooding Jr., an African American studies professor at Texas Christian University, said untold more Black Americans have worked just as hard as Scott but struggled against invisible barriers.

“He did work hard,” he said. “But it’s not quite that simplistic.”

## **Biden and Trump are keeping relatively light campaign schedules as their rivals rack up the stops**

By JILL COLVIN and WILL WEISSERT Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Their rivals are busy answering voters’ questions at town halls across South Carolina, glad-handing with business owners in New Hampshire and grinding to hit every one of Iowa’s 99 counties.

But the front-runners for their party’s nomination, former President Donald Trump and President Joe Biden, are barely campaigning in crucial early-voting states as the primary season enters the fall rush.

Biden is attending a union parade in Philadelphia on Monday. But he has held just one campaign rally in the four-plus months since he formally launched his 2024 reelection bid. Trump, who complained of his Biden’s “basement strategy” in 2020, has not campaigned for three weeks now, last appearing at the Iowa State Fair on Aug. 12.

The schedules underscore the reality that Democrat Biden and Republican Trump, despite underwater approval ratings nationally, are the dominant front-runners. Biden faces only token opposition in anti-vaccine activist Robert F. Kennedy Jr., who is viewed more favorably by Republicans than Democrats, while Trump is currently beating his closest rival by large margins, according to recent polls.

“When you have a massive lead over your primary opponents, it doesn’t seem like a lot of point,” said veteran Republican pollster Whit Ayres, speaking about the early-state campaigning typical at this stage of a race.

Biden and Trump have worked to project an air of inevitability four months before voting begins in 2024. Biden has focused on governing and traveling the country to promote his policy accomplishments. Trump repeatedly skips events with other candidates and passed on the first Republican primary debate last month.

But both have different reasons for their relative absence from campaigning.

Trump’s team has been consumed by the criminal charges he now faces in four separate jurisdictions accusing him of illegally trying to overturn the results of the 2020 election, improperly classifying hush money payments in business records, mishandling classified documents after leaving office and trying to obstruct that investigation.

Trump has complained that the looming trials will force him from campaigning.

“I’m sorry, I won’t be able to go to Iowa today, I won’t be able to go to New Hampshire today because I’m sitting in a courtroom on bull——,” he said during his last visit to New Hampshire, in August.

For now, Trump’s bookings and arraignments have actually served as his highest-profile campaign events.

His trips to jails and courthouses in New York, Miami, Washington and Atlanta have dominated coverage of the race, with his movements tracked by news helicopters and broadcast live on television and across the internet. His historic mug shot, now featured on T-shirts, mugs and posters, helped his campaign raise more than \$20 million in August alone.

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Aides say his schedule will ramp up after the Labor Day weekend, with trips this coming week to Iowa and South Dakota — neither is a key primary or general election state — and California after that. He has also been busy behind the scenes. Beyond golfing and meetings with his lawyers, Trump has called into conservative podcasts, taped videos he releases on his Truth Social network and attended fundraisers, both at his club in Bedminster, New Jersey, and in other states.

Last month, he traveled to Nashville, Tennessee, for a fundraiser that drew several hundreds, including musicians Kid Rock and John Rich and the former NASCAR driver Darrell Waltrip, according to a person who attended but asked to remain anonymous to discuss the private gathering at the the Four Seasons hotel.

This past week, Trump hosted the families of members of the military who died during the chaotic withdrawal from Afghanistan. The week before, he held a fundraiser for the Patriot Freedom Project, a group that supports those who attacked the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021.

Aides say he has also focused on relationship building, calling party officials and recording videos for state and county party events. Such efforts, they say, have helped him earn him earn endorsements from senators, members of Congress and statewide officials.

"We do a lot of fundraising out of state, at Bedminster, calls. There's a lot that goes into running a campaign that's not in front of the camera," said Trump senior adviser Chris LaCivita.

They have also acknowledged the large-scale rallies that were the signature of his past campaigns — and which he was doing weekly at this point in 2015 — are expensive, especially as the former president's political operation has been diverting tens of millions of dollars to spend on legal fees defending him and his allies. In places of the rallies, Trump has given speeches at events organized — and paid for — by state parties, and made unadvertised stops at local restaurants, where he interacts with supporters.

In early-voting New Hampshire, Mike Dennehy, a veteran Republican strategist, said he thinks Trump "is doing the bare minimum necessary for him to maintain his lead." At the same time, Trump's broader campaign "is working very hard, harder than they have have worked in the history of Donald Trump campaigns," Dennehy said.

"The contenders in the Republican primary are not giving Donald Trump much of a contest. So he has the luxury of just doing enough to maintain his lead," he said.

Biden has campaigned even less.

The president championed a Democratic National Committee effort to make South Carolina the party's leadoff state in its 2024 presidential primary, breaking with Republicans who are still starting in Iowa. But Biden has not visited South Carolina as a 2024 candidate.

Biden's reelection campaign says his approach mirrors that of past incumbents, including Presidents Barack Obama and George W. Bush. Biden is frequently promoting his policy achievements but keeping campaign costs low, while working with national and state Democrats to bolster staff and data operations so that they will be in place when the race heats up next year.

The president has attended fundraisers around the country for his reelection campaign and visited battleground states such as Arizona on official business. Sometimes, he has gone to Republican bastions, including Utah, Texas and Alabama.

Once there, he often blurs the line between politics and the presidency, celebrating things such as the bipartisan infrastructure law approved by Congress last year, while chiding Republicans for opposing a green energy and health care package that he argues is creating jobs and lower costs for Americans.

"You get great credit for doing your job and people tend to listen to you more when you're not talking about your own reelection but you're just talking about enacting something that's good for the country," said Ed Rendell, a former Democratic governor of Pennsylvania. "That's a real advantage. The incumbent can just go on being the incumbent."

Biden's Labor Day travels are taking him back to Philadelphia, site of his lone campaign rally. It was at the city's convention center, where some of the country's largest unions paid for a June event after announcing that they had banded together for the first time to offer a joint endorsement of Biden.

A return to Pennsylvania recalls the pandemic-marred 2020 campaign, when Biden visited the state more

than any other. Even though he was a senator from Delaware, Biden was born in Scranton, Pennsylvania, and still frequently talks about his Keystone State roots.

"I think it's indicative of a campaign that is not forgetting the lessons that were learned in 2020, when Pennsylvania got so much attention – even in the limited campaigning," said Mike Mikus, a longtime Democratic consultant based in Pittsburgh. "If you take it for granted you could lose it."

Of course, focusing too much on one state can create gaps elsewhere. The most glaring example was Hillary Clinton not campaigning in Wisconsin after the 2016 Democratic primary and narrowly losing the state to Trump. But Ben Wikler, chair of the Wisconsin Democratic Party, noted that Biden's first trip as president was to Wisconsin.

"This election cycle feels like the exact opposite of 2016," Wikler said. Referring to the traditional Democratic "blue wall" of Wisconsin, Michigan and Pennsylvania, he added, "This is an administration that understands to its core that bolstering the blue wall is the path to reelection in 2024."

## Florida fishing village Horseshoe Beach hopes to maintain its charm after being walloped by Idalia

By REBECCA BLACKWELL and JAMES POLLARD Associated Press

HORSESHOE BEACH, Fla. (AP) — This remote seaside enclave known as "Florida's Last Frontier" took much of the pounding from Hurricane Idalia when it struck the state's west coast as a Category 3 storm last week.

The damage left behind in the fishing village of Horseshoe Beach is exposing a gulf between haves and have-nots as cash-strapped residents could be forced to leave the quaint, remote community rivaled by few others along the Florida shoreline.

With emergency crews still working to restore electricity and provide temporary housing, locals worry that those unable to afford insurance will struggle to reconstruct homes that must comply with modern, more expensive building codes. Longtime residents share varying degrees of bullishness that the charm — and business — will return to the quiet town of less than 200 people.

"We have all of old Florida here," said Tammy Bryan, the song director of First Baptist Church, "and today we feel like it's been taken away."

Horseshoe Beach largely escaped the worst of previous storms that battered the state, but Idalia roared ashore with winds of 125 mph (200 kph) and a storm surge that flattened some houses and knocked others off their foundations and into canals.

When asked at a news conference Sunday whether climate change was to blame for Idalia's fierceness, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis said other more powerful hurricanes had hit the state decades earlier. Climate scientists have said that Gulf waters warmed by climate change helped Idalia intensify rapidly.

"The notion that hurricanes are something new, that's just false," said DeSantis, a candidate for the 2024 GOP presidential nomination. "The notion that somehow, if we just adopt very left-wing policies at the federal level, that somehow we will not have hurricanes, that is just a lie."

Most residents of Horseshoe Beach cannot afford insurance, according to Jimmy Butler, a realtor who has been doing business in the town since 2000. He predicted that the debris may be cleared in a couple of months but a return to normal will take years.

Idalia is "the worst thing" Horseshoe Beach has ever had to handle, Butler said.

Tina Brotherton, 88, worries that the hurricane will accelerate changes that began with 1993's so-called Storm of the Century, an unnamed, out-of-season March hurricane that pummeled the Florida Panhandle. A resident of Horseshoe Beach since 1978, she lost her marina and the cafe next door in that disaster and had to replace the floors and beds at Tina's Dockside Inn.

Now the hotel, which she has owned for 52 years, is destroyed in Idalia's wake. So is her home. She had no flood insurance, because her low-lying buildings made it too expensive.

Modern building codes require that houses be elevated to certain heights to protect against storms, and lifting a house can cost tens of thousands of dollars. Brotherton said that brought "a different type



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of people" with "more money" and pricier homes.

"It's not a fishing village anymore," she said as she searched the wreckage for a stool that belonged to her mother. "We're loaded up with golf carts and ATVs and airboats."

Brotherton does not intend to leave the community and plans to remain close by, living with her son about 5 miles (8 kilometers) inland.

Tourism in Horseshoe Beach is fueled by the more adventurous type of visitors, drawn by its natural beauty rather than the massive, commercial developments found in many other tropical destinations. Fishing charters and shrimpers are an economic engine, and many residents are working-class people living in modest trailers or retirees in tranquil homes.

Stephanie Foley, a 41-year-old teacher whose husband and brother hope to take over her father's crabbing business, described Horseshoe Beach as a closely knit community where folks don't feel they have to lock their doors.

"I feel extremely safe down here, and we live right, to many, in paradise," Foley said. "We wake up — we can go fishing any time we want."

But she too fears that the traits that make the place special could vanish, with rebuilding prohibitively expensive for many.

"Slowly the laws regarding all of that have made it difficult to make our living on the water," Foley said. "I think a way of life that's treasured is going to be lost."

Brent Woodard, the 34-year-old owner of Reel Native Fishing Charters in Horseshoe Beach, said locals figured it was only a matter of time before the area took a hit — hurricanes can only be avoided for so long in Florida.

Now his biggest concern is ensuring that the fishing industry can quickly get back to business. Storms can damage the flats where fishers and crabbers make their living, ripping up the grass where fish hide, feed and spawn.

Most locals live paycheck to paycheck, Woodard said, he wonders how many lots will pop up for sale.

Fishing "pays the bills," he said, but, "Let's be honest, you're not going to become a millionaire going out and blue crabbing. You're not going to become a millionaire going out and getting oysters or being a fishing guide."

"They're hard-working people," said Jimmy Patronis, Florida's chief financial officer. "Mother Nature's going to wipe them off the map and they're going to say, 'You know what? Maybe this is a sign for us to cash out.'"

Timmy Futch, 63, who owns the Florida Cracker Shrimp & Bait Co. with his wife, had never before experienced a hurricane more powerful than a low-level Category 1. But he said he has noticed that storms have been growing "bigger" and "meaner."

While Idalia pumped 3 feet (nearly 1 meter) of water into their shop, the structure remains sound. Thankfully the couple installed electrical sockets about waist-high in anticipation of possible flooding. They will have to repaint and replumb the place, however.

The docks were destroyed, but he saved his two boats by moving them about 85 miles (140 kilometers) away before the storm's arrival, driving 14 hours one-way while towing a friend's boat as well.

A fourth-generation resident and longtime shrimper, boat captain and owner, Futch hopes to reopen their business within a month and is confident the tourists will return.

"When them fish get to biting, it don't matter what happened, six months or eight months down the road," he said. "They're going to come catch them some fish."

"We're born Floridians, and this is just kind of like a snowstorm for somebody up north. We just hunker down," Futch said. "I guess we're too hard-headed to quit."

## 'Equalizer 3' cleans up, while 'Barbie' and 'Oppenheimer' score new records

By LINDSEY BAHR AP Film Writer

The third installment in the Denzel Washington-led "Equalizer" franchise topped the domestic box office this weekend with \$34.5 million according to studio estimates Sunday. By the end of the Monday holiday, Sony expects that total will rise to \$42 million.

Labor Day signals the end of Hollywood's summer movie season, which will surpass \$4 billion in ticket sales for the first time since the pandemic thanks in no small part to "Barbie" and "Oppenheimer," which are still netting records even after seven weeks in theaters. This weekend, Greta Gerwig's "Barbie" officially became the biggest movie of 2023 with over \$1.36 billion globally, surpassing "The Super Mario Bros. Movie," while Christopher Nolan's "Oppenheimer" sailed past \$850 million globally to become the No. 3 movie of the year and Nolan's third highest grossing.

"The Equalizer 3" arrived at a fraught time for Hollywood, with actors seven weeks into a strike for fair contracts with major entertainment companies and movie theaters bracing for a somewhat depleted fall season as a result.

The ongoing SAG-AFTRA strike meant Washington was unable to stump for the movie, which was directed by his frequent collaborator Antoine Fuqua and brings his vigilante character Robert McCall to Italy's Amalfi coast. While the lack of a major star on a promotional tour would normally be considered a liability for a film's box office potential, "Equalizer 3" may be the rare exception that could withstand a rollout without Washington's help simply because it's a recognizable franchise.

"One of the biggest movie stars in the world took us out on a high note," said Paul Dergarabedian, the senior media analyst for Comscore. "Studios often coast to Labor Day, but Sony was smart to choose this weekend to open 'The Equalizer 3.'"

Sony opened the R-rated "Equalizer 3" in over 3,900 locations in North America, including on IMAX and premium large format screens, where it opened in line with the previous two films which both went on to make over \$190 million globally. With co-financing from TSG and Eagle Pictures, the film carried a \$70 million production price tag. The film received generally positive reviews from critics (76% on Rotten Tomatoes) and overwhelmingly positive reviews from audiences, who gave it an A on CinemaScore and a five-star PostTrak rating.

"It's uncanny the consistency of the Equalizer franchise," Dergarabedian said.

Overseas, it made \$26.1 million, contributing to a \$60.6 million global debut.

In second place, "Barbie" added \$10.6 million over the weekend in the U.S. and Canada, pushing its domestic total to \$609.5 million. Warner Bros.' other main theatrical offering, "Blue Beetle" added \$7.3 million to take third. The DC superhero film has grossed \$56.6 million in three weekends in North America. Fourth place went to Sony's "Gran Turismo: Based on a True Story," which is projecting \$6.6 million through Sunday, down 62% from its first place opening weekend, and \$8.5 million including Monday.

"Oppenheimer" landed in fifth place on the domestic charts with an estimated \$5.5 million (\$7.4 million including estimates for Monday) from 2,543 theaters. This brings its domestic total to \$310.3 million and its global take to \$851 million.

The Universal film opened in China on Wednesday, playing on 35,000 screens, where it is estimated to have made \$30.3 million in its first five days. A significant portion of that (\$9.3 million through Sunday) came from 736 IMAX screens.

IMAX CEO Rich Gelfond said in a statement that "Oppenheimer's" China debut showed that "it's nowhere near finished dazzling audiences worldwide." Gelfond added that its success also offers "a powerful demonstration of our surging market share around the world."

That the 18-week summer movie season hit \$4 billion is significant for an industry still recovering from the pandemic and facing uncertainty in the fall if the actors and writers strikes continue. Before the pandemic, \$4 billion summers had become the standard for the industry and generally accounted for at least

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40% of the total box office for the year. Last summer netted out with \$3.4 billion.

And this summer had its share of hits, flops and surprises, with "Barbenheimer" accounting for over \$900 million of the \$4 billion haul.

"The summer box office is vitally important and a strong indicator of the health of the industry," Dergarabedian said. "Many were really skeptical that we could get to \$4 billion. We're hitting it literally in the final days of the summer. It's a reminder that any hit or miss makes a profound impact on the bottom line."

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

1. "The Equalizer 3," \$34.5 million.
2. "Barbie," \$10.6 million.
3. "Blue Beetle," \$7.3 million.
4. "Gran Turismo: Based on a True Story," \$6.6 million.
5. "Oppenheimer," \$5.5 million.
6. "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Mutant Mayhem," \$4.8 million.
7. "Bottoms," \$3 million.
8. "Meg 2: The Trench," \$2.9 million.
9. "Straits," \$2.5 million.
10. "Talk to Me," \$1.8 million.

## Sweet emotion in Philadelphia as Aerosmith starts its farewell tour, and fans dream on

By WAYNE PARRY Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Aerosmith is one of the best things to come out of Boston, and soon it will exist only in memories and playbacks — like Tom Brady, "Cheers" and Larry Bird.

The quintet has given the world 50 years of classic rock and some of the most enduring songs of all time, including "Dream On," "Walk This Way" and "Sweet Emotion."

Aerosmith began its farewell "Peace Out" tour Saturday in Philadelphia with a two-hour set spanning its voluminous catalog — giving the world one last chance to see what earned these skinny guys from New England an exalted place in the pantheon of rock's all-time greats.

Singer Steven Tyler, guitarists Joe Perry and Brad Whitford, and bassist Tom Hamilton all wore black cowboy hats as they ripped into "Back In The Saddle," the song that has opened Aerosmith shows for decades as a giant Aerosmith logo folded down from the rafters, flanked by an even bigger set of wings.

Tyler and Perry sang from either side of a microphone stand draped in Tyler's trademark scarves, recreating one of rock's most iconic poses. Tyler nailed the extreme high note at the end of the song, proving that even at age 75 and after a life filled with pharmaceutical misadventures, he can still bring it.

"Love In an Elevator" and "Cryin'," two major radio hits from the late '80s and early '90s, followed, setting up the band's controversial hit "Janie's Got A Gun," a song about a girl who was sexually abused by her father.

The band also tossed fans some rare chestnuts like "No More, No More," on which Tyler forgot several of the words; "Adam's Apple," "Seasons Of Wither" and the Mississippi Delta blues-inspired "Hangman Jury."

But there's only room for so many songs in a two-hour show, and with a catalog as deep as Aerosmith's, some of the biggest hits got cut, including "Dude (Looks Like A Lady)" and "Train Kept A-Rollin'," which often closed the show on previous tours.

That Aerosmith even played Philadelphia is amazing, given its fans' history of injuring band members. In Oct. 1977, someone threw an M80 explosive onstage that went off in Tyler's face, burning his cornea and opening a bloody wound on Perry's arm. A year later, at another Philadelphia show, someone threw a bottle that shattered against an onstage speaker, sending glass shards into Tyler's face and mouth.

Tyler referenced those assaults during Saturday's show, recalling them as "the big bang theory" before

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Perry shushed him. Tyler quickly changed the subject to the fact that his mother's family came from Philadelphia.

Saturday's show was the 40th that Aerosmith has played in the City of Brotherly Love, and ended without anyone needing paramedics.

There were the typical opening-night glitches. Tyler started singing the chorus of "Dream On" a verse too soon before catching himself. Perry's guitar died a few notes into the iconic opening riff to "Walk This Way." And after a masterful harmonica solo on "Hangman Jury," Tyler tossed the small instrument backwards over his shoulder, only to realize he'd need it again at the end of the song. A roadie was summoned to hand it back to him.

But so much more went right than went wrong, and it's been that way for decades at Aerosmith concerts. Perry was positively brilliant on vocals and guitar during a cover of Fleetwood Mac's 1968 three-chord blues jam "Stop Messin' Round," during which he and Whitford traded solos, and Tyler gave the harmonica another workout.

Perry even played a guitar that the wife of the late guitar legend Jeff Beck gave him — keeping Beck's presence onstage for a bit longer — and "Rats In The Cellar," a song about the filthy environs of drug use in New York in the 1970s, was as hard, fast and tight as it ever was.

Drummer Joey Kramer opted out of the farewell tour "to focus his full attention on his family and health," according to the band. John Douglas, a drummer, artist and drum kit customizer for acts including Van Halen, ZZ Top and Guns 'N' Roses, filled in admirably.

Bassist Tom Hamilton got a huge ovation while playing the opening notes of "Sweet Emotion," possibly the most famous bass intro to a song in rock history. And a giant elephant, frog, gnome and teddy bear descended from the ceiling on "Toys In The Attic."

"Walk This Way" was a huge worldwide hit for more than a decade, before taking on added significance in 1986 when rap group Run-D.M.C. teamed up with Aerosmith on a version of the song that is widely credited with helping break down the barriers that had separated fans of rock and rap. (In case the significance of the breakthrough was lost on anyone, the video for the collaboration shows the two acts literally kicking down a wall that separated them in adjacent recording studios, and finally playing together.)

During the song's performance to close the show Saturday night, confetti and streamers cascaded down from the ceiling; Tyler grabbed a piece of confetti from the air and ate it.

The opening act, The Black Crowes, presumably had a lead singer onstage. But vocalist Chris Robinson was so thoroughly drowned out by his brother Rich's guitar for most of their hour-long set that it was hard to tell. I've got a remedy: turn the guitars down and turn the vocals up. That shouldn't be too hard to handle.

## **Corgis parade outside Buckingham Palace to remember Queen Elizabeth II a year since her death**

By KWIYEON HA Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — The changing of the guard at Buckingham Palace may draw tourists from far and wide, but on Sunday visitors to the landmark were treated to a different sort of spectacle: a parade of corgis dressed up in crowns, tiaras and royal outfits.

Around 20 royal fans and their pet corgis gathered to walk their dogs outside the palace in central London to remember Queen Elizabeth II a year since her death.

Corgis were the late queen's constant companions since she was a child, and Elizabeth owned around 30 throughout her life. Generations of the dogs descended from Susan, a corgi that was given to the queen on her 18th birthday.

Agatha Crerer-Gilbert, who organized Sunday's event, said she would like the corgi march to take place every year in Elizabeth's memory.

"I can't see a better way to remember her than through her corgis, through the breed that she loved and cherished through her life," she said.

"You know, I can't still get used to the fact that she's not physically around us, but she's looking at us. Look, the sun is shining, I thought it would shine on us today," she added.

Aleksandr Barmin, who owns a corgi named Cinnamon and has taken the pet to attend past royal-related events, said the parade was a poignant reminder that Elizabeth is no longer around.

"It's a really hard feeling, to be honest ... it's really sad that we don't have (the queen) among us anymore," he said. "But still, Her Majesty the Queen is still in our hearts."

Sept. 8 will be the first anniversary of the death of the 96-year-old queen at her Balmoral castle estate in Scotland. She was queen for 70 years and was Britain's longest-reigning sovereign.

## Israel's Netanyahu says he wants Eritrean migrants involved in violent clashes to be deported

By TIA GOLDENBERG Associated Press

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Sunday he wants Eritrean migrants involved in a violent clash in Tel Aviv to be deported immediately and has ordered a plan to remove all of the country's African migrants.

The remarks came a day after bloody protests by rival groups of Eritreans in south Tel Aviv left dozens of people injured. Eritreans, supporters and opponents of Eritrea's government, faced off with construction lumber, pieces of metal and rocks, smashing shop windows and police cars. Israeli police in riot gear shot tear gas, stun grenades and live rounds while officers on horseback tried to control the protesters.

The violence on Saturday returned to the fore the issue of migrants, which has long divided Israel. Its resurgence comes as Israel is torn over Netanyahu's judicial overhaul plan, and supporters cite the migrant issue as a reason why the courts should be reined in, saying they have stood in the way of pushing the migrants out.

"We want harsh measures against the rioters, including the immediate deportation of those who took part," Netanyahu said in a special ministerial meeting called to deal with the aftermath of the violence.

He requested that the ministers present him with plans "for the removal of all the other illegal infiltrators," and noted in his remarks that the Supreme Court struck down some measures meant to coerce the migrants to leave.

Under international law, Israel cannot forcibly send migrants back to a country where their life or liberty may be at risk.

Ahead of an official visit to Cyprus, Netanyahu said the ministerial team was seeking to deport 1,000 supporters of the Eritrean government who were involved in Saturday's violence.

"They have no claim to refugee status. They support this regime," Netanyahu said. "If they support the regime so much, they would do well to return to their country of origin."

About 25,000 African migrants live in Israel, mainly from Sudan and Eritrea, who say they fled conflict or repression. Israel recognizes very few as asylum seekers, seeing them overwhelmingly as economic migrants, and says it has no legal obligation to keep them.

The country has tried a variety of tactics to force them out, including sending some to a remote prison, holding part of their wages until they agree to leave the country or offering cash payments to those who agree to move to another country, somewhere in Africa. Critics accuse the government of trying to coerce the migrants into leaving.

Migrants' supporters say Israel, a country founded upon the ashes of the Holocaust and built up by Jewish refugees, should welcome those seeking asylum. Opponents claim migrants have brought crime to the low-income southern Tel Aviv neighborhoods where they have settled.

On Sunday, Israel's far-right national security minister, Itamar Ben-Gvir, visited the site of the unrest, voicing his support for the police and calling for those who broke the law to be placed in detention until they are deported. "They don't need to be here. It's not their place," he said.

Some people heckled Ben-Gvir as he walked with a police escort, telling him to "go home."

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Saturday's clashes came as Eritrean government supporters marked the 30th anniversary of the current ruler's rise to power, an event held near the Eritrean embassy in south Tel Aviv. Eritrea has one of the world's worst human rights records and migrants in Israel and elsewhere say they fear death if they were to return.

Critics see Netanyahu's judicial overhaul plan as a power grab meant to weaken the courts and limit judicial oversight on government decisions and legislation. Supporters say it is meant to restore power to elected legislators and rein in what they say is an interventionist and liberal-leaning justice system.

Similar protests involving rival Eritrean groups have been also popping up in other countries.

On Saturday, Norway's second-largest city Bergen, witnessed clashes between supporters and opponents of the Eritrean government during a rally commemorating the country's independence day. Norwegian authorities said government opponents threw bottles and stones at rally participants.

Large numbers of police forces with shields and visors fanned out on the streets, and parts of Bergen's city center were cordoned off because of the violence. Over 100 people were involved in the clashes and at least three people were detained, while one person was injured, Norwegian authorities said.

In early August, Swedish media reported that about 1,000 protesters stormed an Eritrean festival in Stockholm, the capital, setting booths and cars on fire and using rocks and sticks as weapons, leaving at least 52 people injured and more than 100 people detained.

Eritrea's President Isaias Afwerki, 77, has been in power since 1993 after the country won independence from Ethiopia following a long guerrilla war. There have been no elections and no free media, and exit visas are required for Eritreans to leave the country. Many young people are forced into military service with no end date, human rights groups and United Nations experts say.

## US falls to Lithuania at Basketball World Cup but still qualifies for Paris Olympics

By TIM REYNOLDS AP Basketball Writer

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — The U.S. is assured of going to the Paris Olympics. That's good. It also has a quarterfinal game at the World Cup awaiting Tuesday. That's also good.

Thing is, the only celebrating in Manila on Sunday night was done by the guys in the other locker room.

It will not be an undefeated summer for the Americans, not after Lithuania — with a mix of pizzazz from outside and power down low — led for all but a few very early moments against the only World Cup team composed entirely of NBA players.

The final score: Lithuania 110, U.S. 104. The winners went a staggering 9 for 9 from 3-point range to open the game and set a tone, bullied their way to a 43-27 rebounding edge and had seven players in double figures with two others just one point shy of joining that club.

"We're fortunate that the loss doesn't hurt us in terms of our goal, which is to win the gold medal," U.S. coach Steve Kerr said. "But it's a great game for us to experience because this is FIBA. There's some great teams that have continuity, that understand what they're doing, that execute and I thought Lithuania was brilliant tonight. They deserved to win."

Vaidas Kariniauskas scored 15 points, Mindaugas Kuzminskas added 14 and Lithuania (5-0) wound up winning its second-round group, which really only matters for seeding purposes. Lithuania gets Serbia in Tuesday's quarterfinals, while the U.S. will face Italy.

The other quarterfinals are Wednesday: Germany vs. Latvia and Canada vs. Slovenia.

"In (the) locker room, I said to our guys to celebrate shortly and save all the energy and emotions also for the upcoming game," Lithuania coach Kazys Maksvytis said. "It's very hard. We got one of the biggest wins in our career, but we don't have time to celebrate this. Serbia's waiting and they're not waiting for us with flowers and the red carpet."

The loss — the first for the U.S. in 10 games this summer, counting five exhibitions on the way to the World Cup — came on a night when the Americans officially clinched a berth in the Paris Games.

And the loss won't change the mission going forward in the World Cup medal chase, either. Win Tues-

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day, win Friday and win next Sunday, and the Americans are gold medalists. Sounds simple. But Lithuania showed it won't be.

"Got to give them credit," U.S. point guard Jalen Brunson said. "They came out ready to play. Lot of respect to them."

But it was a still a shocker, especially for a U.S. team that was the overwhelming favorite to win the gold. Anthony Edwards led the U.S. with 35 points, his high of the summer, while Brunson and Mikal Bridges each added 14.

"We'll get to play again," Edwards said. "That's all I'm thinking about is the next game."

For Lithuania (5-0), it became another night to remember against USA Basketball. And the nation once famous for the tie-dyed T-shirts — some of them were worn by fans in the building Sunday night, who chanted and waved flags from the moment they entered until long after the final buzzer — sent a clear message to the Americans and anyone else still in this World Cup.

Lithuania has pushed the U.S. to the limit, and beyond, more than a few times. Lithuania lost to the Americans by nine in a preliminary game at the 2000 Sydney Olympics, then escaped with a two-point win in the semifinals — and remained unbeaten in the Dream Team Olympic era — when Sarunas Jasikevicius' 3-point try as time expired fell short.

Those weren't the only close calls or worse. Lithuania beat the U.S. at the 1998 world championships (what the World Cup was called then) and in the early rounds of the 2004 Athens Olympics. It also gave the Americans all they wanted in the 2012 London Olympics, falling 99-94 in a preliminary round matchup where the U.S. briefly trailed in the fourth quarter.

"It's a big win for our country, for players, for coaches, to play against the best in the world," Kariniauskas said. "I'm happy for my country ... and we don't need to stop now."

In a game that didn't matter much as far as medal hopes, considering both teams came into Sunday with spots secured for the quarterfinals, there was a lot to unpack.

Lithuania rode that 9-for-9 start from 3-point range on the way to an early 21-point lead, and the U.S. became Paris-bound in the third quarter when Serbia's win over the Dominican Republic clinched an Olympic berth for the Americans.

And right around the time Serbia closed out its win, the U.S. kicked into high gear.

It took the Americans less than half of the third quarter — 4 minutes and 16 seconds — to cut what was a 17-point halftime deficit down to four, and the comeback attempt was on. But Lithuania never lost the lead, no matter what the U.S. tried.

The Americans secured an automatic berth into the Paris Games as one of the two highest finishers from the Americas Region at the Basketball World Cup. Canada got the other berth later Sunday when it ousted defending World Cup champion Spain from this tournament.

"It doesn't ease the pain of the loss that we had tonight for us," Kerr said. "But to be honest, I'm not worried about this Olympics. I'm worried about this. We want to win the World Cup. That's our focus."

## TIP-INS

Lithuania: Kariniauskas had a viral moment when he wagged his tongue at U.S. guard Austin Reaves after a first-half score. Turns out, it was planned. Kariniauskas played this past season with Reaves' brother Spencer — and Austin's brother encouraged his teammate to talk trash. "That's it. Nothing special," Kariniauskas said. ... Lithuania has won its last six World Cup games, the second-longest active streak behind Germany's eight in a row.

USA: Edwards was 14 for 26 from the field. ... The U.S. is averaging 101.8 points in the tournament and bidding to average at least 100 points per game for the sixth time in its 19 World Cup appearances. ... The U.S. fell to 133-30 all-time in World Cup play.

## UP NEXT

Lithuania: Faces Serbia in a quarterfinal game Tuesday in Manila.

USA: Faces Italy in a quarterfinal game Tuesday in Manila.

## Americans have long wanted the perfect endless summer. Jimmy Buffett offered them one

By TED ANTHONY AP National Writer

It seemed wistfully appropriate, somehow, that news of Jimmy Buffett's death emerged at the beginning of the Labor Day weekend, the demarcation point of every American summer's symbolic end. Because for so many, the 76-year-old Buffett embodied something they held onto ever so tightly as the world grew ever more complex: the promise of an eternal summer of sand, sun, blue salt water and gentle tropical winds.

He was the man whose studied devil-may-care attitude became a lifestyle and a multimillion-dollar business — a connecting filament between the suburbs and the Florida Keys and, beyond them, the Caribbean. From Margaritaville to the unspecified tropical paradise where he just wanted to eat cheeseburgers ("that American creation on which I feed"), he became a life's-a-beach avatar for anyone working for the weekend and hoping to unplug — even in the decades before "unplugging" became a thing.

"It's important to have as much fun as possible while we're here. It balances out the times when the minefield of life explodes," he posted last year.

The beach has stood in for informality and relaxation in American popular culture for more than a century, propelled by the early Miss America pageants on the Atlantic City boardwalk and the culturally appropriative "tiki" aesthetic that GIs brought back from the South Pacific after World War II. It gained steam with the Frankie Avalon and Annette Funicello "Beach Blanket Bingo" years, the mainstreaming of surfing and beach-motel culture and the Beach Boys' "California Girls." And it continues unabated — just look to the dubious stylings of MTV's "Jersey Shore."

That train arrived at Margaritaville in the 1970s, and Buffett jumped aboard and became the conductor and chief engineer of its gently rebellious counterculture. He was hardly a critical darling, but he was, as he sang, "a pirate, 200 years too late" who believed that latitude directly impacted attitude. That accounted for a lot of the mass appeal.

These days, for every piece of the culture that made the shoreline or the tropical island a potentially dispiriting place to become unanchored — "The Beach" or "Lost" or even, heaven help us, "Gilligan's Island" — there is a counterbalancing Buffett song right there to tell you that at the edge of the land you can find peace, or at least a chance at it.

There was of course "Margaritaville," the song that launched a "Parrothead" empire, the one that prescribed taking time "watching the sun bake" and invoked "booze in the blender" and shrimp "beginnin' to boil" (from which you can draw a direct line to the sensibility of seafood restaurant chains like Joe's Crab Shack).

There was "Last Mango in Paris," in which the singer had to "get out of the heat" to meet his hero, who told him to inhale all that life offers, and that even after that, "Jimmy, there's still so much to be done." There was "Bama Breeze," an ode to a bar along the Gulf Coast where "you're one of our own" and, says the protagonist, "Good God, I feel at home down there."

And there was "Come Monday," in which a trip to do a gig in San Francisco — on Labor Day weekend, no less — became a meditation on city ("four lonely days in that brown LA haze") vs. paradise ("that night in Montana") and which he liked better.

Here was the funny thing, though: In that song, the unrepentantly inland Montana became his beach, his paradise of the moment. That was part of why he resonated: because the metaphorical Buffett beach could be pretty much anywhere that contained people looking for a bit of peace.

Just as country music spent decades building "country" from an actual geography into an entire state of mind, Buffett — whose roots were in country and folk — did the same thing with the beach. In his hands, it became an aesthetic as much as a place — the anti-city, where the backbreaking labor and the cubicle blues could be left behind for a realm where real people roamed. That's been a deeply American trope from the beginning.

Americans have always romanticized the frontier — the edge of civilization, the place whose exploration defined them. But the frontier was, of course, a lonely and dangerous place. As Buffett rhapsodized, the



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sand-covered edge of the land that he so adored was also the edge of civilization — but only in the most appealing (and, not coincidentally, mostly apolitical) ways possible. In the universe of his songs, the beach was a safe frontier that you could explore if you wanted to. But you could also sit back in a straw hut and hat, sip a Corona, contemplate your navel and your sins — and be left alone.

In their 1998 book “The Beach: The History of Paradise on Earth,” Lena Lenček and Gideon Bosker trace the emergence of the beach as “a narcotic for holiday masses.” They write: “Before it could be transformed into a theater of pleasure, it had to be discovered, claimed and invented as a place apart from the messy business of survival.”

Buffett and his music — and the empire they begat — became pivotal figures in that claiming and invention. Through them, the off-the-grid sensibility and the loud-shirt aesthetic were vigorously mainstreamed and popularized.

All of his imagery, beach and beach-adjacent, shouted to us that there was a better, more relaxing way than regular daily life. It said that all those characters and people were waiting there for us with bare, sandy feet and cold beers and a bit of melancholy, and that we could jack into that sunny world and escape the monotony — for a long weekend or forever.

And therein lies a rub.

These days, summer ain’t what it used to be. With apologies to Buffett and the Beach Boys, the notion of an “endless summer” has a different, more unsettling connotation after these climate-change-inflected months of dangerous heat and devastating wildfires in places like Maui. Five years ago, even Paradise burned. And the sun-saturated Buffett himself, according to his official website, died of a rare form of skin cancer. So “watching the sun bake” has become a statement with multiple layers, and some of them are more rueful than relaxing.

Jimmy Buffett’s work was big on not reading too much into things. You could say, fairly, that his musical aesthetic was built around a three-word statement: Don’t overthink it. “Never meant to last,” he once sang. But as with most artists who echo resoundingly in the culture, his work — and, not incidentally, the legions of Parrotheads whose lifestyles he inspired — takes on additional dimensions when you pull the lens back and consider the broader shoreline.

That was true especially when the flip-flop fantasy collided with the reality that most people live. That collision took place at the intersection where Buffett was the most memorable, where the summer of the mind met the reality of the rest of the year. As he put it in “Son of a Son of a Sailor”: “The sea’s in my veins, my tradition remains. I’m just glad I don’t live in a trailer.”

## **A building marked by fire and death shows the decay of South Africa’s ‘city of gold’**

By MOGOMOTSI MAGOME and GERALD IMRAY Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — One of the few things that survived the fire and smoke that caused at least 76 horrific deaths in a rundown apartment block in Johannesburg is a circular plaque hanging on the brown brick exterior. It has a five-sentence inscription outlining the building’s history.

No. 80 Albert Street - the scene of one of South Africa’s worst inner-city tragedies - was a central pass office during the apartheid era of racial segregation, a checkpoint for enforcing a despised law that controlled the movement of Black people nearly everywhere in the country.

Without a pass from the apartheid government to work there, people were “denied a place” in Johannesburg, the inscription reads.

What it doesn’t say is that the building still saw people excluded up until last Thursday, nearly 30 years after apartheid ended, when a fire swept through it and killed dozens of South Africans and poor foreign migrants clinging on at the fringes of society in a city claiming to be Africa’s richest.

The approximately 200 families living there were desperate for some form of accommodation and found a five-story block that had been left derelict and abandoned by authorities. They were paying rent to unofficial “landlords,” who had illegally taken over the building.

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It's what is known in Johannesburg as a "hijacked building." There are hundreds of them in the crumbling city center.

They've come to embody the decay of South Africa's most important city and, beyond that, what so many view as the larger failure of a post-apartheid government to provide a dignified life for many of the poor Black majority.

What appeared to anger South Africans in the aftermath of the nighttime fire that killed entire families was the admission by city officials that it was a city-owned building. Yet they hadn't taken responsibility for it or for its inhabitants, who lived in shacks crammed into every corner, even the parking garage.

"This has been a long time coming and it will keep happening until the city wakes up. It's devastating," said Angela Rivers, general manager of the Johannesburg Property Owners and Managers Association. Rivers said that numerous government departments were aware of the appalling conditions of hijacked buildings across the city center, but "they don't take it seriously."

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa visited the scene of the fire, put himself among the poor of downtown Johannesburg, and tried to reassure them.

"We are a caring government," Ramaphosa said. "It may fall short, but the determination to care for the people of South Africa is a priority."

The promises are wearing thin from the government of the ruling African National Congress party, which led South Africa out of apartheid and has been in power since the first democratic elections in 1994.

Johannesburg is a focal point for the perceived failures. The infrastructure of the city is in deep trouble almost everywhere, from burst water pipes, cracked roads, a malfunctioning electricity supply, and trash piling up on street corners.

Founded on a huge gold reef little more than 100 years ago, Johannesburg was always a destination for Black South Africans, initially men who left their wives and children to board steam trains to the city to work in the gold mines, a journey jazz great Hugh Masekela sang about in "Stimela." It is one of the most vivid songs of South Africa.

The city saw rapid and recent urbanization after apartheid and its pass laws were dismantled, going from a population of 1.8 million in 1990 to an estimated 6 million now. People keep coming to the "city of gold."

What they find now is the surrounding Gauteng province's unemployment rate of 36% — even higher than South Africa's national figure of 33%, itself the worst in the world. Around 1.2 million people in the province don't have housing, officials said, with much of the crisis playing out in Johannesburg.

"The general sense is that things have gotten worse with time," said Lebogang Lechuba of the South African Cities Network, which analyses urban development. "(But) there are more people coming to the city. That does not change."

The warning signs for Johannesburg began in the late 1990s as the big companies left downtown for the new financial district of Sandton, about 10 miles (16 kilometers) to the north. Johannesburg still has more millionaires than any other city on the continent, according to this year's World's Wealthiest Cities Report. But the chasm between the silver high-rises of Sandton and the old heart of Johannesburg underlines why South Africa is one of the most unequal countries in the world.

As the money seeped away, the degradation of central Johannesburg initially was slow, said Volker von Widdern, a risk analyst for businesses, until it reached a tipping point.

"One domino falls, maybe. We don't fully appreciate what the full effect of 20 dominoes falling may be," von Widdern told the Moneyweb financial news website. "It has a cumulative impact and then, unfortunately, it has a catastrophic impact."

Johannesburg voters have turned away from the ruling ANC recently, but that has done nothing to enhance the city's prospects and has only led to a series of political coalitions that have failed. The city has had six mayors in less than two years.

The failure of basic infrastructure also brings a much greater threat to the social foundation of a country, said professor Yunus Ballim of Johannesburg's University of the Witwatersrand. Ballim, a civil engineering expert, went on national television last month following an underground gas explosion in Johannesburg about a mile from Albert Street that was blamed on poorly maintained pipes.

But what he started to speak about was that every failure to provide a house, running water, and electricity for South Africans eroded their faith in their post-apartheid democracy, which has guaranteed freedom for every citizen and no more pass laws, but hasn't yet delivered housing or jobs for millions.

Ballim posed a question on why frustrated, poor protesters sometimes burn clinics or schools.

"Perhaps ... they've lost their confidence in the ability of the clinic to do what it was meant to do," he said.

Rivers, whose association works with derelict buildings in Johannesburg, said one of the most desperate situations she came across was a pregnant woman going into labor alone in the wet, cold basement of a hijacked property that had no electricity or running water.

The woman, Rivers said, refused to go to a hospital because she was so scared she'd lose her place to live in the building and had no faith there'd be another home for her and her child.

"This baby was born in the dark," Rivers said.

## **Bavaria's governor leaves his deputy in office despite a furor over antisemitism allegations**

By GEIR MOULSON Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — The governor of the German state of Bavaria said Sunday that he will let his deputy stay in office despite a furor that started with allegations he was responsible for an antisemitic flyer when he was a high school student 35 years ago.

Governor Markus Soeder, a leading figure in Germany's center-right opposition, said he had concluded that it would be "disproportionate" to fire Hubert Aiwanger, his deputy and coalition partner, but Aiwanger needs to rebuild confidence with the Jewish community and others.

Bavaria is holding a state election in just over a month. Soeder's decision drew sharp criticism from political opponents and a cautious response from a Jewish leader.

On Aug. 25, the daily Sueddeutsche Zeitung reported that, when Aiwanger was a teenager, he was suspected of producing a typewritten flyer calling for entries to a competition titled "Who is the biggest traitor to the fatherland?"

It listed, among other things, a "1st prize: A free flight through the chimney at Auschwitz."

Aiwanger, 52, said last weekend that one or more copies of the flyer were found in his school bag but denied that he wrote it. His older brother came forward to claim that he had written it.

Aiwanger has acknowledged making unspecified mistakes in his youth and offered an apology but also portrayed himself as the victim of a "witch hunt." He stuck to that tone on Sunday, saying at a campaign appearance that his opponents had failed with a "smear campaign" meant to weaken his conservative party.

The deputy governor's crisis management has drawn widespread criticism, including from Soeder.

On Tuesday, Soeder demanded that Aiwanger answer a detailed questionnaire, and his deputy delivered the answers Friday. Soeder said he had a long conversation with Aiwanger on Saturday evening.

Over the past week, there was a steady drip of further allegations about Aiwanger's behavior in his youth, including claims that he gave the Hitler salute, imitated the Nazi dictator and had Hitler's "Mein Kampf" in his school bag. Aiwanger described the latter as "nonsense," said he didn't remember ever giving the Hitler salute and did not rehearse Hitler's speeches in front of the mirror.

On Thursday, Aiwanger said: "I deeply regret if I have hurt feelings by my behavior in relation to the pamphlet in question or further accusations against me from my youth. My sincere apologies go first and foremost to all the victims of the (Nazi) regime."

Soeder told reporters in Munich that the apology was "overdue, but it was right and necessary." He said that Aiwanger's answers to his questions "weren't all satisfactory," but that he had distanced himself again from the flyer and given repeated assurances he didn't write it.

"In the overall assessment — that there is no proof, that the matter is 35 years ago, and that nothing comparable has happened since — a dismissal would be disproportionate, from my point of view," Soeder said.

But leaders of Bavaria's governing coalition agreed "it is important that Hubert Aiwanger work on win-

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ning back lost trust," and should hold talks with Jewish community leaders, Soeder added. He said that was discussed Sunday with Bavarian and German Jewish leaders.

One of them, Munich Jewish community leader Charlotte Knobloch, said in a statement that Aiwanger "must restore trust and make clear that his actions are democratically and legally steadfast." She said recent days had been "an enormous strain."

The allegations put Soeder, who is widely considered a potential candidate to challenge center-left Chancellor Olaf Scholz in the 2025 national election, although he has denied such ambitions, in an awkward position.

Aiwanger leads the Free Voters, a party that is a conservative force in Bavaria but has no seats in Germany's national parliament. He has been the state's deputy governor and economy minister since 2018, when his party became the junior partner in a regional government under Bavaria's long-dominant center-right Christian Social Union.

Soeder, the CSU leader, made clear again Sunday that he wants to continue the coalition with the Free Voters, a more or less like-minded party, after the Oct. 8 state election. He dismissed the idea of switching to a coalition with the environmentalist Greens.

German Interior Minister Nancy Faeser accused Soeder of putting political tactics first.

"Mr. Aiwanger has neither apologized convincingly nor been able to dispel the accusations convincingly," she told the RND newspaper group. Instead, she said, he has styled himself as a victim "and doesn't think for a second of those who still suffer massively from antisemitism."

"That Mr. Soeder allows this damages the reputation of our country," she added.

## **AP Top 25 Takeaways: Believe the hype! Coach Prime delivers a thrilling upset in his Colorado debut**

By RALPH D. RUSSO AP College Football Writer

Believe the hype.

Deion Sanders' debut as Colorado coach was billed as a big deal, but there was plenty of skepticism about just how good the Buffaloes could be after an unprecedented roster makeover in Boulder.

"We told you we were coming. You thought we were joking. We keep receipts," Sanders said after Colorado upset No. 17 TCU 45-42 on Saturday in a performance that exceeded even the most lofty expectations.

The team with nearly 90 new players beat the team that played for the national championship last season. Where to begin?

Sanders' son, Shedeur, set a school record with 510 yards passing in his first major college football game after transferring with his father from Jackson State.

Receiver/cornerback Travis Hunter played 129 snaps and had 11 catches for 119 yards, but his best and biggest play was an interception with TCU in the red zone.

"No, I'm not tired, I'm ready to go back in," said Hunter, who wore a T-shirt with an image of his Hall of Fame coach on it during postgame.

Freshman Dylan Edwards, whom Coach Prime lured away from Notre Dame, had 159 yards from scrimmage on 11 touches and scored four touchdowns, including the winner late in the fourth quarter.

Colorado snapped a 27-game losing streak against ranked teams on the road.

And when it was over, Sanders called out the doubters.

He asked one reporter: "Do you believe now? I read through that bull junk you wrote. Do you believe?"

It's only one game, but it's hard not to believe that Colorado is going to be fun and relevant and that Sanders did a heck of a job not just reconstructing a roster almost from scratch but getting it ready to play Power Five football.

Offensive coordinator Sean Lewis, who left a head coaching job at Kent State to join Sanders' staff, seems to have been a particularly good hire.

Next week Colorado plays its first home game against Nebraska, another team with a much-hyped new coach, but one coming off a very different debut.

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The Cornhuskers lost under Matt Rhule at Minnesota on a walk-off field goal Thursday. Folsom Field should be in a frenzy for the old Big Eight rivalry renewed.

So what's the ceiling for the Buffs?

The defense left a lot to be desired against TCU and the offense probably is going to need to run the ball better to take some of the pressure off Shedeur Sanders. But that makes Colorado look like a lot of teams in the Pac-12 this season.

And Hunter playing 120 plays per game seems unsustainable.

But add an explosive CU team to a league that also includes No. 6 USC and Heisman winner Caleb Williams; No. 10 Washington and Michael Penix Jr.; and No. 15 Oregon and Bo Nix — along with No. 14 Utah and No. 18 Oregon State — and the Pac-12 just got even more exciting.

If you're already growing a little weary of Coach Prime, be prepared: You're going to see a lot of CU this September.

Fox is giving next week's home opener the Big Noon treatment again. That's a 10 a.m. local kickoff.

After facing rival Colorado State the next week, the Buffaloes end September with back-to-back games against Oregon and USC.

You have our attention, Coach Prime.

## PAC-12 SWAN SONG

What might be the final season of Pac-12 football is off to a great start on the field.

With No. 18 Oregon State still to play Sunday at San Jose State, the Pac-12 is the only unbeaten league in the country. Every other conference has at least two losses.

Off the field, there are only two schools left committed to the Pac-12 beyond this school year, Oregon State and Washington State.

The rest will be dispersed to other Power Five conferences, including Colorado as one of four Pac-12 teams heading to the Big 12 next year.

Failures in leadership and poor decision-making by those in charge have put the onetime Conference of Champions on life support. Even if it does survive in some patchwork form, it will never be the same.

It's sad and made sadder by just how entertaining and competitive the conference has a chance to be.

The opening weekend provided a taste.

It started Thursday night when Utah roughed up Florida of the SEC in Salt Lake City without its starting quarterback.

On Friday, Stanford won at Hawaii in its first game under coach Troy Taylor.

Saturday brought CU's upset of TCU; Washington overwhelming Boise State; California romping at North Texas; UCLA unveiling five-star freshman quarterback Dante Moore against Coastal Carolina; and Oregon dropping 80 on an FCS opponent.

Meanwhile, Washington State went to Colorado State of the Mountain West — which could be a future conference trip for the Cougars — and put up 50 on the Rams.

## NEW QBs

No. 3 Ohio State's quarterback competition might not be over. No. 4 Alabama seemed to gain clarity at the position.

Kyle McCord and the Buckeyes' offense were uninspiring in a workmanlike victory against Indiana that was also the debut of the Big Ten on CBS.

McCord was 20 for 32 for 239 yards and an interception. Backup Devin Brown, who Ohio State coach Ryan Day insisted was neck and neck with McCord most of the offseason, only got a taste of action.

Brown was 1 for 3 and ran once for a total of minus-5 yards. Day said he didn't play Brown as much he wanted.

"I didn't want to run the risk of putting ourselves in a bad spot by continuing to move those guys in and out," Day told reporters. "But going in, really wanted to play Devin some more, would like to do that moving forward."

The Buckeyes have home games against Youngstown State and Western Kentucky to get things sorted out before a trip to No. 13 Notre Dame on Sept. 23.

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Alabama doesn't have that luxury with No. 11 Texas coming to Tuscaloosa next week, but Jalen Milroe might have eased some worries for Nick Saban.

The 71-year-old coach wasn't in the mood to speculate about what's next for his quarterbacks.

"This is a Coke bottle, not a crystal ball," Saban said, holding up the ever-present soft drink on his post-game podium.

Milroe, the third-year quarterback who filled in for Bryce Young last season, had three touchdown passes and two TD runs in a rout against Middle Tennessee State.

No. 1 Georgia had the easiest opener among top-five teams against Tennessee-Martin. Carson Beck, Stetson Bennett's replacement, was 21 for 31 for 294 yards and a touchdown.

The most impressive performance among the new starting quarterbacks for highly ranked teams came in Happy Valley.

Drew Allar looked very much like a former five-star recruit, passing for 325 yards and three touchdowns as No. 7 Penn State cruised past West Virginia.

AROUND THE COUNTRY: Fresno State, Northern Illinois and Texas State pulled off the sweetest upsets against Power Five opponents: ones that come with a big check. Fresno State won at Purdue in coach Ryan Walters' debut, a trip the Bulldogs were paid \$1.35 million to make. Northern Illinois knocked off Boston College in overtime and received \$1.1 million for its time. Texas State beat Baylor for its first victory against a Power Five team and got \$375,000 for making the 2-hour drive to Waco. Quite a debut for Bobcats coach G.J. Kinne. ... The day's most notable Group of Five over P5 upset came in Wyoming, where the Cowboys knocked off Texas Tech in overtime. ... Iowa offensive coordinator Brian Ferentz needs the 25th-ranked Hawkeyes to average 25 points per game this season to keep his job. So far, he's a little behind. Iowa jumped out to 14-0 lead in the first quarter against Utah State before settling into a very Hawkeye-like performance. ... No. 19 Wisconsin's first game with a new Air-Raid-ish offense: 312 yards rushing and four touchdowns in a victory against Buffalo.

## For small biz reliant on summer tourism, extreme weather is the new pandemic -- for better or worse

By MAE ANDERSON AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — For small businesses that rely on summer tourism to keep afloat, extreme weather is replacing the pandemic as the determining factor in how well a summer will go.

The pandemic had its ups and downs for tourism, with a total shutdown followed by a rush of vacations due to pent-up demand. This year, small businesses say vacation cadences are returning to normal. But now, they have extreme weather to deal with — many say it's hurting business, but more temperate spots are seeing a surge.

Tourism-related businesses have always been at the mercy of the weather. But with heat waves, fires and storms becoming more frequent and intense, small businesses increasingly see extreme weather as their next long-term challenge.

For Jared Meyers, owner of Legacy Vacation Resorts, with eight locations, including four in Florida, Hurricane Idalia's landfall Wednesday as a Category 3 storm led to a loss in revenue as he temporarily closed one resort and closed another to new guests. It also means a lengthy cleanup period to fix gutter and other damage and beach cleanup, including replanting of sea grass, sea grapes and other plants to protect against the next storm.

"Even when the hurricane doesn't hit directly, it wreaks havoc economically, emotionally — to those that have suffered previous losses — and to our way of life," he said.

A lifelong Florida resident, he's used to hurricanes, but fears their intensity is getting worse. In fact, the number of storms that intensify dramatically within 240 miles (385 kilometers) of a coastline across the globe grew to 15 a year in 2020 compared to five a year in 1980, according to a study published in Nature Communications.

"It does feel like and probably will continue to feel like we're just hopping from one emergency to another

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based on climate change," Meyers said.

For Steve Silberberg in Saco, Maine, who runs Fitpacking, a company that guides people on wilderness backpacking trips in national and state parks and forests, extreme weather is becoming a serious obstacle. National Park Service Research has shown that national parks are experiencing extreme weather conditions at a higher rate than the rest of the country because of where they're located.

Historic snowfall in March at Yosemite -- followed by a wildfire -- affected one hike Silberberg had planned. Another hike was canceled due to unusually large snowfall rendering the Narrows — part of Zion Canyon in Zion National Park in Utah — impassable due to a high volume of meltwater. He had to cancel a trip to the Los Padres National Forest in California due to wildfires and subsequent flooding, which destroyed trails and made them impassable.

"We are quickly approaching a crossroads as to how to keep the business viable," he said. "It seems that almost half of our trips are affected in some way by increasingly extreme weather events."

Silberberg is trying to find ways to make climate change work for him, however. He is thinking about starting a company that helps people visit places that may disappear due to climate change, such as Glacier National Park in Montana or the Everglades in Florida, which is threatened by rising sea levels.

In Southern California this summer, businesses faced sweltering heat, followed by Tropical Storm Hilary, the first tropical storm the region had seen in 84 years.

"Definitely extreme weather is here to stay," said Shachi Mehra executive chef and partner at Adya, Indian restaurant in Anaheim, California. The restaurant is located in the Anaheim Packing House, a food hall in a historic 1919 citrus-packing house near Disneyland.

The restaurant closed for a day proactively during Tropical Storm Hilary, losing a day of sales. Heat has been more of an issue, as business slowed in late July this summer during a surge in temperatures. Mehra said she suspects the heat is behind the slowdown since typically things start to slow in late August or September.

Media focus on extreme weather can hurt business, too. Dan Dawson, owner of Horizon Divers in Key Largo, Florida, saw business boom during the pandemic. Now it's back to pre-pandemic levels. But when storms like Idalia close in, tourists flee — even though Dawson's spot in Key Largo was 300 miles (480 kilometers) from where Idalia hit.

"Once a storm is coming close we stop diving and once it goes by it can take up to two weeks for tourists to come back, and that is if we don't have any damage," he said.

Still, in some places that offer a respite from the heat and storms, businesses are getting an unexpected bump.

At Little America Flagstaff, a hotel set in 500 acres (202 hectares) of private forest celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, temperatures in the 90s felt pleasant compared to the record-breaking heat in Phoenix, a two-hour drive to the south, which had temperatures of over 110 degrees Fahrenheit-plus (43.4 degrees Celsius) for 31 straight days.

"When you see temperatures rising to the amount they were in Phoenix you immediately saw, not just with our hotel but all the hotels in the area, our occupancies all went up," said Fred Reese, the hotel's general manager.

Similarly, at Mission Point Resort on Mackinac Island, a historic island in Lake Michigan that doesn't allow cars, temperatures have hovered in the temperate 70s while other places around the country have seen triple-digit heat. That leaves Michigan tourists often rubbing elbows with visitors from other states.

"It has been brutally hot in most of the country and it has been very, very nice up here in northern Michigan," said Liz Ware, sales and marketing executive and part of the family that owns Mission Point. "And so we have seen a lot of people from the Texas, Florida, Georgia area coming up north to northern Michigan because it is so temperate up here."

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## Today in History:

### September 4, Mother Teresa is canonized by Pope Francis

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Monday, Sept. 4, the 247th day of 2023. There are 118 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Sept. 4, 2016, elevating the "saint of the gutters" to one of the Catholic Church's highest honors, Pope Francis canonized Mother Teresa, praising her radical dedication to society's outcasts and her courage in shaming world leaders for the "crimes of poverty they themselves created."

On this date:

In 1781, Los Angeles was founded by Spanish settlers under the leadership of Governor Felipe de Neve.

In 1862, during the Civil War, Confederate forces led by Gen. Robert E. Lee began invading Maryland.

In 1888, George Eastman received a patent for his roll-film box camera, and registered his trademark: "Kodak."

In 1944, during World War II, British troops liberated Antwerp, Belgium.

In 1957, Arkansas Gov. Orval Faubus used Arkansas National Guardsmen to prevent nine Black students from entering all-white Central High School in Little Rock.

In 1969, the Food and Drug Administration issued a report calling birth control pills "safe," despite a slight risk of fatal blood-clotting disorders linked to the pills.

In 1972, U.S. swimmer Mark Spitz won a seventh gold medal at the Munich Olympics in the 400-meter medley relay.

In 1974, the United States established diplomatic relations with East Germany.

In 1999, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat signed a breakthrough land-for-security agreement during a ceremony in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt.

In 2005, six days after Hurricane Katrina left a devastated New Orleans in chaos, police stormed the Danziger Bridge, shooting and killing two unarmed people and wounding four others.

In 2006, "Crocodile Hunter" Steve Irwin died at age 44 after a stingray's barb pierced his chest.

In 2018, the Senate Judiciary Committee began confirmation hearings for future Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh on a day that saw rancorous exchanges between Democrats and Republicans.

In 2021, Willard Scott, the longtime weatherman on NBC's "Today" show who was known for his self-deprecating humor and daily happy birthdays to viewers turning 100 years old, died at age 87.

In 2022, a man killed 11 people and injured 18 more in stabbings in and around Weldon, Saskatchewan, Canada.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Mitzi Gaynor is 92. Soul singer Sonny Charles is 83. Actor Kenneth Kimmins is 82. Singer Merald "Bubba" Knight (Gladys Knight & The Pips) is 81. TV personality and veterinarian Dr. Jan (yahn) Pol (TV: "The Incredible Dr. Pol") is 81. World Golf Hall of Famer Raymond Floyd is 81. Actor Jennifer Salt is 79. World Golf Hall of Famer Tom Watson is 74. R&B musician Ronald LaPreard is 73. Actor Judith Ivey is 72. Rock musician Martin Chambers (The Pretenders) is 72. Actor Lawrence Hilton-Jacobs is 70. Actor Khandi Alexander is 66. Actor-comedian Damon Wayans Sr. is 63. Rock musician Kim Thayil is 63. Actor Richard Speight Jr. is 54. Actor Noah Taylor is 54. Actor Ione (eye-OH'-nee) Skye is 53. Actor-singer James Monroe Iglehart is 49. Pop-rock singer-DJ-musician-producer Mark Ronson is 48. R&B singer Richard Wingo (Jagged Edge) is 48. Rock musician Ian Grushka (New Found Glory) is 46. Actor Wes Bentley is 45. Actor Max Greenfield is 44. Country singer Granger Smith is 44. Singer Dan Miller (O Town) is 43. Singer Beyoncé is 42. Actor-comedian Whitney Cummings is 41c. Actor-comedian Kyle Mooney (TV: "Saturday Night Live") is 39. Folk-rock musician Neyla Pekarek (NEE'-lah peh-KAYR'-ehk) (formerly with The Lumineers) is 37. Pop-rock singer-songwriter James Bay is 33. Actor Carter Jenkins is 32. Actor Trevor Gagnon is 28.