

Groton Daily Independent

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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.

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.

Wednesday, Sept. 6

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

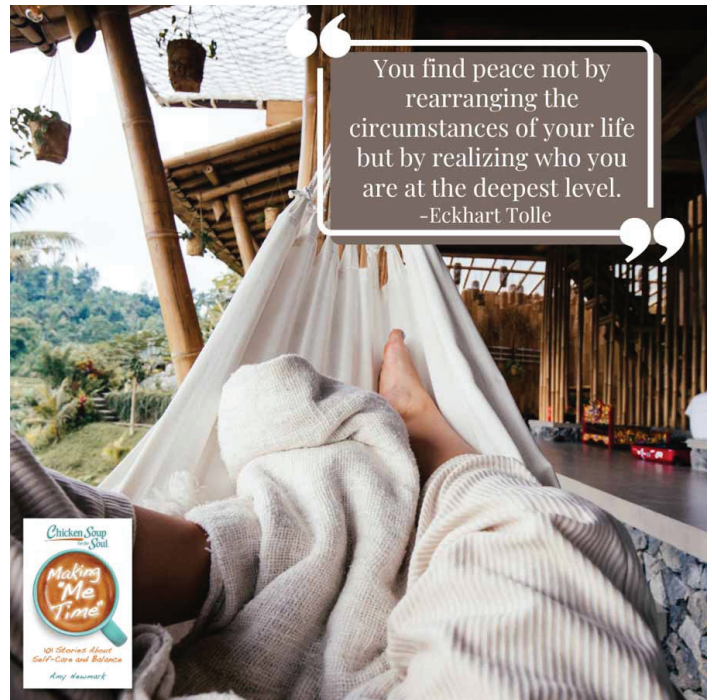
St. John's Lutheran Bible Study, 2:45 pm.; Confirmation, 3:45 p.m.

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 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.



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.

Thursday, Sept. 7

Senior Menu: Spaghetti with meatsauce, tossed salad with dressing, pears, garlic bread.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Nigeria Circle, 2 p.m.

Boys golf invitational at Olive Grove Golf Course.

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

Friday, Sept. 8

Senior Menu: Ham salad croissant, tomato spoon salad, pineapple tidbits, cookie, peas.

Youth Football, hosts Clark, 5 p.m.

Football hosts Clark/Willow Lake, 7 p.m.

Family Fun Fest, 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., downtown Groton

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GDILIVE.COM

6:00

GT Groton Area
Tigers

**JV Sponsored by
Adam & Nicole Wright**

Varsity match to follow



**Webster Area
Bearcats**

**Tuesday, Sept. 5, 2023
at Webster**

Dress-up Day Themes for Homecoming Week Next Week

Week Theme: Cities

	MS/HS.....	Elementary
Monday:	Pajama Day.....	Pajama Day
Tuesday:	Nursing Home.....	Inside Out Day
Wednesday:	Camo vs. Pink.....	Sports/Jersey Day
Thursday:.....	Class Color Day	Neon Day
Friday:	Spirit Day.....	Spirit Day

GDILIVE.COM

Groton City Council Meeting Agenda

September 5, 2023 – 7:00pm

City Hall – 120 N Main Street

(IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO CALL IN TO THIS MEETING, PLEASE MAKE PRIOR ARRANGEMENTS TO DO SO BY CALLING CITY HALL 605-397-8422)

- Approval of Agenda
- Public Comments - pursuant to SDCL 1-25-1

(Public Comments will offer the opportunity for anyone not listed on the agenda to speak to the council. Speaking time will be limited to 3 minutes. No action will be taken on questions or items not on the agenda.)

- Department Reports
- Discussion Regarding Wastewater Project(s)
- Surplus of Various Items
- Boulevard Trees
- Pickleball/Basketball Court Fence
- Airport Discussion – Darrell Hillestad
- Park Saferoom – Dean Marske from HKG Architects
- First Reading of Ordinance No. 770 Certifying 2024 City of Groton Property Tax Levy to Brown County
- Authorization for Cash Fund Transfer
- Minutes
- Bills
- Announcement:
Family Fun Fest on September 8, 2023 from 3:30pm to 5:30pm on Main Street
- Executive session personnel & legal 1-25-2 (1) & (3)
- Adjournment

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That's Life by Tony Bender

They're eating your lunch

I doubt many of us consider what Labor Day is about or think about what the labor movement did to build the middle class. It astonishes me that people who've unwittingly benefitted from unions spend so much time demonizing them. Government statistics will tell you that a union worker's family gets 10-15% higher wages, and they bring non-union members along. Divided we fall.

Some of my proudest moments have come from my brothers, one of who helped unionize Wall Street Journal print plants, the other who was active in a teachers union, trying to bring a measure of financial and workplace respect to these valuable public services. As goes education, so goes our country.

I search and can't find a political memory from my middle class upbringing. Six kids. A father who in some ways I think worked himself to death. To this day, I don't know how my parents voted. But we learned through their example to do the right thing and to stick up for "the little guy."

There's a split in America between political parties but the vast majority—the workers in these parties—are fighting the wrong fight. Slowly but surely, the rewards for their labors have been appropriated by ever-increasing consolidated monopolies. Powerful companies who lobby to strengthen their position and profits.

We've seen immense tax cuts for corporations and the wealthiest families which puts pressure on the safety nets that help the poor, sick, and elderly. It's like clockwork. Big tax cuts, a deficit, and then an attack of Social Security, Medicaid, and Medicare, programs that the wealthy don't care about because they don't need them.

They've got the clout to manipulate the system. When the corrupt investment banking industry nearly destroyed the global economy with a manipulated housing bubble, taxpayers bailed them out. The very taxpayers who lost homes in the Great Recession. Investment banks—not the small town banks on Main Street who traditionally build communities—got bigger and more profitable. They defrauded the country en masse. One, just one, banker went to jail.

There's been attrition, and anyone with kids just starting out, understands that this generation has it tougher. College loans are predatory. College educations out of reach for many. We'll bail out criminal bankers but not students. Families are working multiple jobs for less and are losing ground. The percentage of American adults who live in middle-income households decreased from 61% in 1971 to 51% in 2019. The trend continues.

According to Pew Research, "From 2007 to 2016, the median net worth of the richest 20% increased 13%, to \$1.2 million. For the top 5%, it increased by 4%, to \$4.8 million. In contrast, the net worth of families in lower tiers of wealth decreased by at least 20% from 2007 to 2016. The greatest loss – 39% – was experienced by the families in the second quintile of wealth, whose wealth fell from \$32,100 in 2007 to \$19,500 in 2016." Today, the top 1% has an annual income of \$43 million, 1,807 times more than the bottom 20%.

The last time that happened was in the Gilded Age. Trust-busting and unions helped level the playing field and ushered in the middle class. But, once again, the deck is systematically stacked against "the little guy." Globally, 81 billionaires own half of the wealth. Half. And they're paying just 4¢ in taxes on the dollar.

That kind of imbalance is unnatural in any eco-financial system and it creates infighting. The thing is though, we've got distracted, ill-informed working families fighting over the last cookie. I don't know how long Americans will be placated by big screens and cell phones before they realize that what's good for billionaires isn't necessarily good for them. It ain't trickling down, folks.

Warren Buffett pointed out that the system is rigged in such a way that his secretary pays a larger percentage of her income in taxes than he does.

There's abundance enough, but greed has created classes of economic slaves and economic royalty. Hamsters on a treadmill too busy and distracted to understand that their rainbow flag flying neighbor isn't the problem. They're not the ones eating your lunch. Heck, if you're sick, they'll bring you a hot dish.

People are generally good. Our differences are artificially amplified in the media. We need to remember that we don't inhabit that big-screen hyperbolic world. Our reality is the neighborhood, the grocery store, and the pantry. It's not about hard and fast economic theories—capitalism, socialism, or any other "ism." It's about the human condition. About fairness.

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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

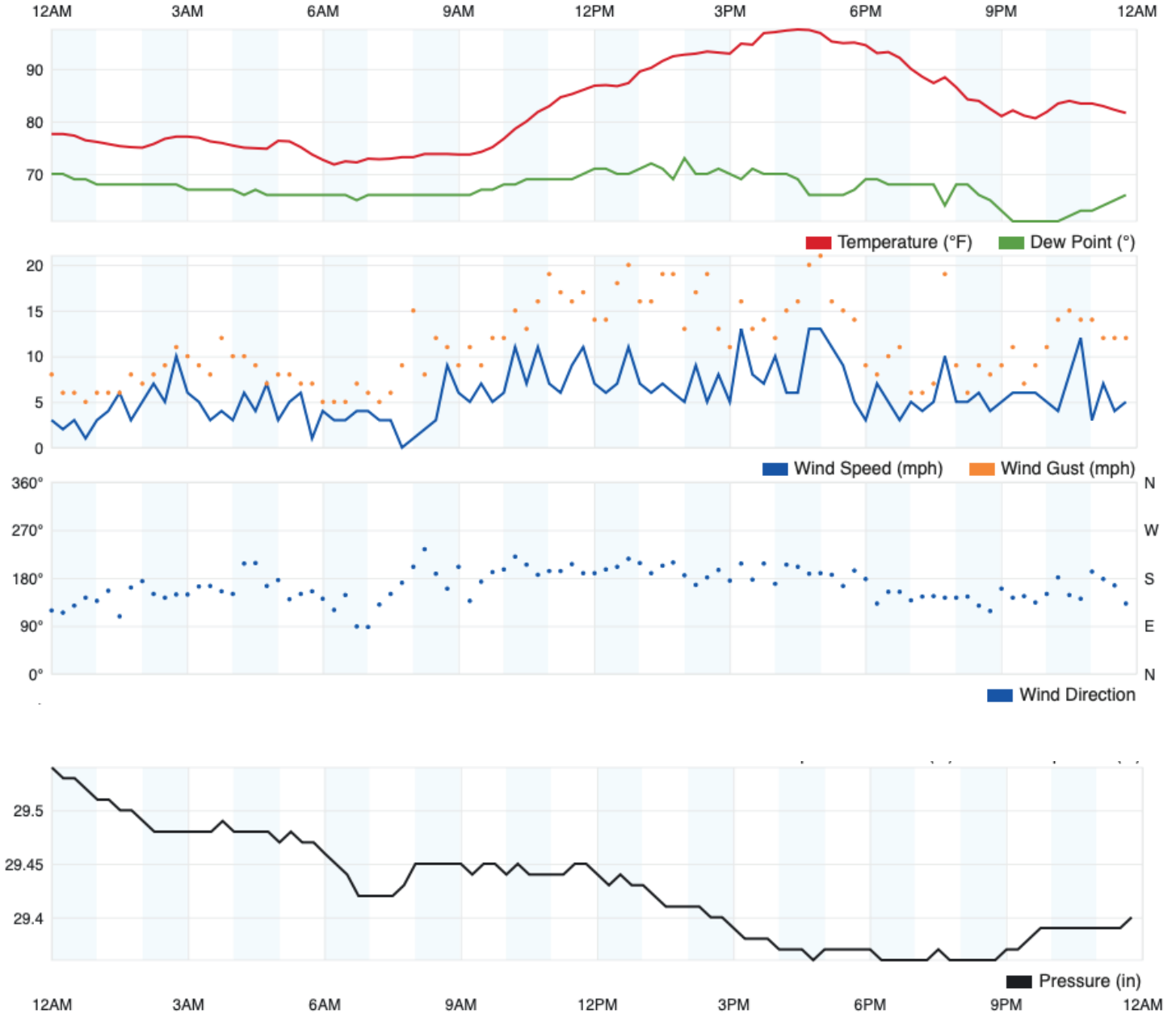
Groton Transit

Steve Smith, Sherry Koehler, Topper Tostad, Dick Kolker

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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Tuesday	Tuesday Night	Wednesday	Wednesday Night	Thursday	Thursday Night	Friday
						
40% → 80%	60%					
Chance Showers then Showers and Breezy	Showers Likely and Breezy then Patchy Smoke	Patchy Smoke	Patchy Smoke then Mostly Clear	Sunny	Mostly Clear	Sunny
High: 71 °F	Low: 47 °F	High: 74 °F	Low: 45 °F	High: 78 °F	Low: 52 °F	High: 81 °F

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE **Much Cooler Temperatures For The Rest Of This Week** **September 4, 2023 3:23 PM**

Most Notable Precipitation Chances Tonight And Saturday Night

	Maximum Temperature Forecast							Minimum Temperature Forecast							Probability of Precipitation Forecast															
	9/5 Tue	9/6 Wed	9/7 Thu	9/8 Fri	9/9 Sat	9/10 Sun	9/11 Mon	9/5 Tue	9/6 Wed	9/7 Thu	9/8 Fri	9/9 Sat	9/10 Sun	9/11 Mon	12am 12pm	12am 12pm	12am 12pm	12am 12pm	12am 12pm	12am 12pm										
Aberdeen	72	73	80	83	76	72	73	Aberdeen	57	46	46	52	53	55	53	Aberdeen	10	40	10	0	0	5	5	0	5	15	30	20	20	15
Britton	76	70	77	80	74	72	70	Britton	56	46	46	51	51	54	49	Britton	15	30	20	0	0	0	5	0	5	10	30	20	20	15
Brookings	82	72	77	82	78	73	71	Brookings	60	53	45	51	53	53	54	Brookings	0	25	25	0	0	0	10	0	0	5	20	30	25	20
Chamberlain	73	78	86	86	80	75	74	Chamberlain	58	48	52	55	56	58	56	Chamberlain	20	30	5	0	0	10	10	0	0	25	30	25	25	15
Clark	75	70	77	81	75	72	70	Clark	57	47	47	53	55	57	52	Clark	5	20	20	0	0	0	10	0	0	15	30	25	25	15
Eagle Butte	65	73	80	82	76	69	70	Eagle Butte	52	47	52	54	54	55	51	Eagle Butte	45	45	0	0	0	5	5	5	5	30	35	25	20	15
Ellendale	73	70	77	81	73	71	70	Ellendale	55	45	45	52	51	50	52	Ellendale	15	60	10	0	0	5	0	0	5	15	25	20	15	15
Eureka	66	70	76	79	73	68	69	Eureka	53	44	48	52	52	50	49	Eureka	55	75	5	0	0	5	5	0	5	20	30	20	15	15
Gettysburg	67	73	80	81	75	69	70	Gettysburg	53	45	50	53	53	55	50	Gettysburg	45	70	5	0	0	5	5	5	5	25	35	20	20	20
Huron	77	75	83	86	80	76	75	Huron	60	48	48	53	56	55	57	Huron	10	25	15	0	0	5	10	0	0	20	25	30	25	20
Kennebec	71	76	86	84	80	74	73	Kennebec	56	48	52	54	56	58	52	Kennebec	35	40	5	0	0	10	5	0	0	30	30	25	25	15
McIntosh	62	70	76	78	72	65	67	McIntosh	53	47	51	54	53	50	50	McIntosh	75	45	0	0	0	5	5	5	5	25	30	20	15	15
Milbank	80	73	77	82	78	75	72	Milbank	57	53	45	50	53	55	54	Milbank	5	30	35	5	0	0	5	0	0	5	20	25	20	15
Miller	72	72	80	81	75	71	70	Miller	55	48	50	53	55	57	51	Miller	15	35	15	0	0	10	10	0	0	25	40	30	30	20
Mobridge	66	73	81	82	75	70	73	Mobridge	55	47	52	55	54	56	51	Mobridge	50	65	5	0	0	5	5	0	5	25	25	15	15	15
Murdo	68	78	87	85	81	74	74	Murdo	54	46	54	55	56	58	52	Murdo	60	45	5	0	0	10	5	0	0	30	35	25	30	15
Pierre	69	79	87	87	82	75	76	Pierre	57	49	54	55	57	55	54	Pierre	55	50	5	0	0	10	5	0	5	30	40	25	25	15
Redfield	74	73	80	82	77	73	73	Redfield	57	47	47	52	55	57	51	Redfield	10	25	15	0	0	5	5	0	0	20	30	25	20	20
Sisseton	77	71	77	81	75	73	70	Sisseton	57	51	46	52	53	55	51	Sisseton	10	20	30	5	0	0	5	0	0	5	30	20	20	15
Watertown	79	73	79	82	78	74	71	Watertown	57	51	45	51	53	55	54	Watertown	5	25	30	0	0	0	10	0	0	10	30	25	25	15
Webster	74	69	75	79	73	71	68	Webster	57	48	48	53	54	53	52	Webster	10	20	25	0	0	0	5	0	5	10	35	20	25	15
Wheaton	79	73	77	81	77	75	71	Wheaton	57	52	45	49	51	50	49	Wheaton	10	35	40	5	0	0	5	0	0	5	25	20	20	10

Much cooler for the rest of the week into the weekend. Best chances for precipitation are tonight through Tuesday evening and then again during the upcoming weekend.

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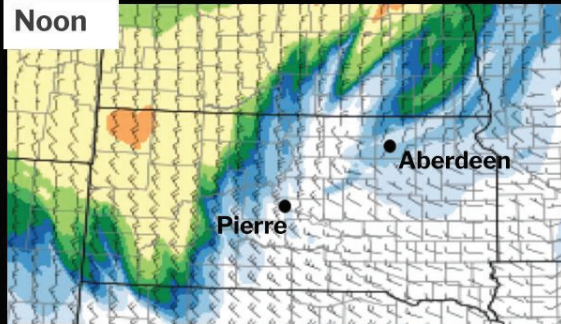
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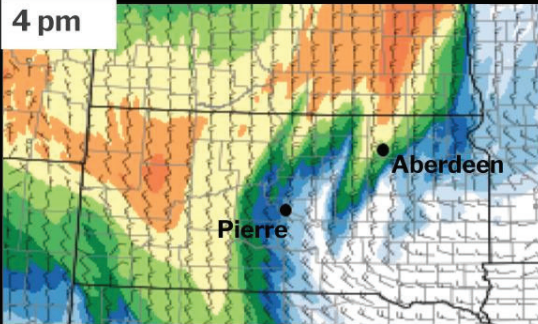
Smoke Potential For The Dakotas

September 5, 2023
4:34 AM

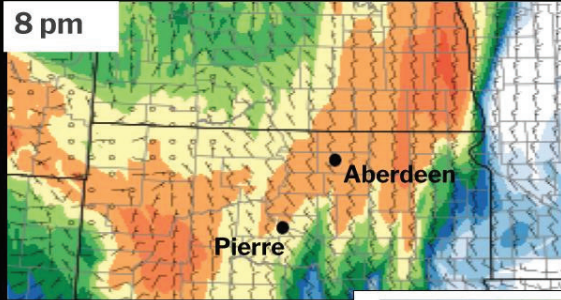
Noon



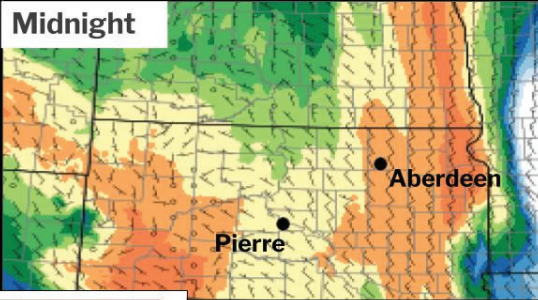
4 pm



8 pm



Midnight



Map Key

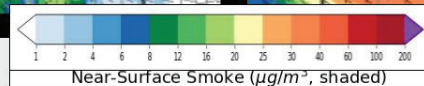
**This map shows model near-surface smoke*

**Reds, oranges and yellows represent a higher concentration of smoke*

**Greens and blues represent a lower concentration of smoke*

**White: no smoke*

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



National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

While its nice to get cooler air from Canada and the western US, unfortunately these days it comes with the risk of smoke from the persistent wildfires.

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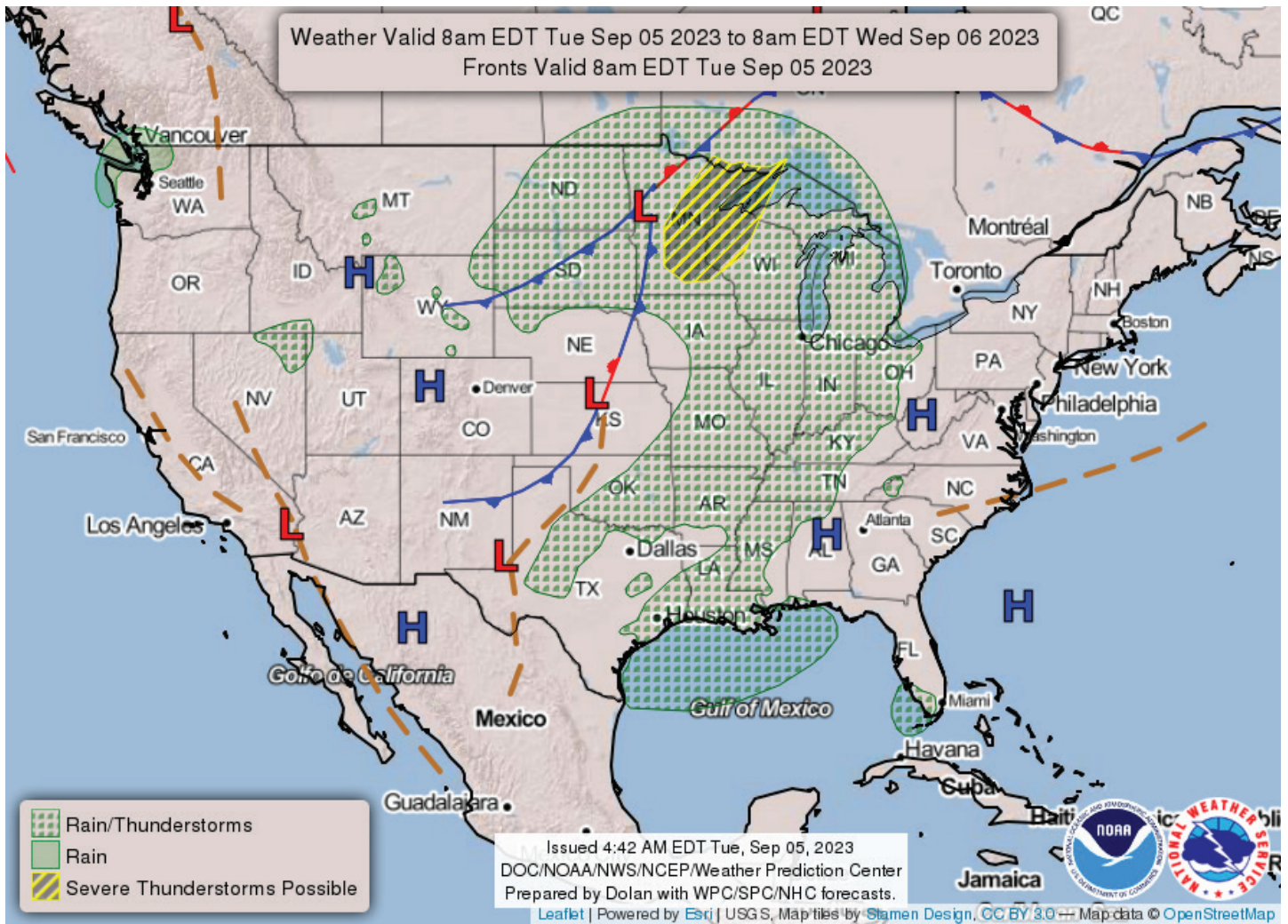
Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 97.4°F at 4:45 PM
Low Temp: 71.8 °F at 6:15 AM
Wind: 21 mph at 5:00 PM
Precip: : 0.00

Day length: 13 hours, 7 minutes

Today's Info

Record High: 102 in 1945
Record Low: 32 in 1962
Average High: 79
Average Low: 51
Average Precip in Sept.: .34
Precip to date in Sept.: 0.00
Average Precip to date: 16.68
Precip Year to Date: 18.59
Sunset Tonight: 8:04:50 PM
Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:58:32 AM



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Today in Weather History

September 5, 1983: In the late afternoon and early evening, hail up to 2, and ½ inches in diameter pounded crops, trees, buildings, and windows resulting in extensive damage in Spink, Beadle, Turner, and Clay Counties. Trees were stripped of numerous branches broken off.

1666: The Great Fire of London started on September 2nd and continued through September 5th. The fire spread rapidly due to strong westerly winds. This fire consumed 13,200 homes, 87 parish churches, and St. Paul's Cathedral.

1925 - The temperature at Centerville, AL, soars to 112 degrees to establish a state record. Every reporting station in Alabama was 100 degrees or above that afternoon. (The Weather Channel)

1929: Early season snowfall occurred in the mountains of Wyoming and the Black Hills of South Dakota on September 5th and 6th. The highest snowfall amount was 16 inches in Fox Park, Wyoming.

1933: A Category 3 hurricane made landfall on South Padre Island, Texas during the late evening hours on September 4th, or Labor Day. The storm caused 40 fatalities and nearly \$17 million in damages. With the storm making landfall during a holiday weekend, fatalities could have been much higher. The following is from the report of the official in charge at Corpus Christi, Texas: "Probably never before in the history of Texas hurricanes have such widespread and early warnings been given as were received from Washington in advance of this one. The telegram of Saturday, September 2, warning all persons to avoid inaccessible places over the weekend probably saved thousands of lives."

1950: Hurricane Easy was an erratic and unpredictable hurricane that lingered over the Tampa Bay area for days, dropping torrential rains and causing damage especially in Cedar Key, Florida where the storm eventually made landfall. This hurricane dumped 38.7 inches of rain in 24 hours in Yankeetown, a record for the U.S. at the time, and caused \$3.3 million in damage. Total rainfall amounts in Yankeetown was 45.20 inches.

1975 - Strong winds reduced visibilities to near zero in blowing dust resulting in a 22-car chain reaction accident on Interstate 10 near Toltec AZ. Two persons were killed, and 14 others were injured. (The Weather Channel)

1978: Tropical Depression Norman became the most recent tropical system to make landfall in California near Long Beach as an extra-tropical storm.

1987 - Thunderstorms over the Southern and Middle Atlantic Coast States drenched Charleston, SC, with 5.50 inches of rain, and a total of 13.50 inches in two days, flooding homes, and leaving roads and bridges under water. (The National Weather Summary) A tropical storm which formed off the South Atlantic coast was responsible for torrential rains over coastal regions of South Carolina. Between the 30th of August and the 8th of September, Charleston SC received 18.44 inches of rain. The heavy rains caused extensive flooding around the city of Charleston, seriously damaged cotton crops in the eastern part of the state, and resulted in an unusually high number of mosquitos. (Storm Data)

1988 - Five days of heavy rain commenced in west central Florida. Up to 20 inches of rain in four days resulted in extensive urban flooding, and evacuation of 1000 homes. Flooding claimed four lives, and caused more than five million dollars property damage. (The National Weather Summary)(Storm Data)

1989 - Thunderstorms produced six to ten inches of rain in south central Kansas between 6 AM and Noon. Serious flooding was reported around Wichita, with water four feet deep along some roads. A cold front crossing the Northern High Plains Region produced wind gusts to 63 mph at Sheridan WY. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1996: Hurricane Fran made landfall near the tip of Cape Fear, North Carolina with maximum sustained winds near 115 mph on the evening of September 5th. Fran was responsible for 26 deaths and was at the time the most expensive natural disaster ever in North Carolina's history.

2017: Hurricane Irma became a category 5 hurricane with maximum sustained winds of 180 mph. This made Irma one of strongest hurricane ever observed in the open Atlantic Ocean.

Daily Devotionals

Seeds of Hope

ONE WHO SHINES WHEN IT'S DARK"

Mitch was afraid of being in the dark at night when the lights of his room were turned off. His father wanted to help him solve this problem of fear that gripped him when he was in the darkness. After thinking about it, he decided that if Mitch had a picture of the Lord in his room, he would not be afraid.

One Saturday morning he took Mitch to the Christian bookstore to purchase a picture of Jesus. They stood in front of the pictures of Jesus and looked at each one. None seemed to please him. Finally, in desperation, Mitch's Dad asked, "We've looked at all of these pictures, Son, and you don't want any of them. What kind of a picture of Jesus do you want?"

Looking at his Dad, Mitch smiled and said, "I want a Jesus that shines in the dark."

That's what we all need, isn't it? We need a Savior Who will shine His light on our paths when they are uncertain, we need Him to illuminate the roads we have not traveled before, and we need His brightness to turn our darkest hours into the glory of the rising sun.

Jesus brings the presence, the protection, and the power of God into our lives. He is the Light of the world and from His light comes the Truth that all mankind seeks and needs. Without Him, we live in the darkness of doubt and despair. With Him, we live in the fullness of God's love, mercy, grace, salvation, and hope.

Prayer: Lord, we need You to shine brightly as we face a world of darkness that is filled with temptation, trouble, tragedy, and tears. Be the lamp for our path and the light for our journey. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Jesus spoke to the people once more and said, "I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won't have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life." John 8:12



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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The Groton Independent Printed & Mailed Weekly Edition

Subscription Form

All prices listed include 6.5% Sales Tax

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

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

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State, Zip Code _____

E-mail _____

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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 DRAW: 17 Hrs 20 Mins 59 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS:

09.04.23

10 17 33 51 52 10

All Star Bonus: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$9,500,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 16 Hrs 35 Mins 59 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS:

09.04.23

2 4 8 16 22 15

TOP PRIZE:

\$7,000/week

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 51 Mins 0 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS:

09.02.23

2 9 28 30 35

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$32,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 16 Hrs 51 Mins 0 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS:

09.04.23

1 29 45 47 51 7

TOP PRIZE:

\$10,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 17 Hrs 20 Mins 0 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS:

09.04.23

1 26 32 46 51 13

Power Play: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$461,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 17 Hrs 20 Mins 0 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

News from the Associated Press

An orangutan, chirping birds and a waterfall at ASEAN venue contrast to Jakarta's pollution outside

By EDNA TARIGAN and NINIEK KARMINI Associated Press

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — Indonesian President Joko Widodo will welcome fellow Asian and world leaders with a captivating jungle scene of a two-story waterfall, wild orchids and even an orangutan perched up a tree.

The make-believe wilderness set up in elaborate detail in the huge lobby of the Jakarta Convention Center in the capital includes a widescreen video of a yellow beak hornbill gliding across an azure sky, swaying leaves and piped-in bird chirps.

It's a pleasant icebreaker for Widodo and his guests in Jakarta for a week of Association of Southeast Asian Nations summit talks starting Tuesday.

"Indonesia wants to give the best hospitality," Communications Minister Budi Arie Setiadi told The Associated Press about the unique reception for ASEAN leaders and VIPs such as U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris, Chinese Premier Li Qiang and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov.

The convention center's lobby was off-limits to the public and a sign barred videos and pictures until the jungle spectacle is unveiled.

Indonesia also wanted to highlight ASEAN's urgent call for environmental protection and the need to shift to greener energy sources, Setiadi said.

Artificial is the only type of jungle that exists in Jakarta. The nearest jungle, home to endangered orangutans, is more than 1,300 kilometers (more than 800 miles) away on Borneo island.

The Indonesian capital is one of the world's most polluted cities and teems with skyscrapers, traffic and 11 million people.

The government has begun a two-decade project to move the capital from Jakarta to Nusantara, on the island of Borneo, that will involve constructing government buildings and housing from scratch in the area about 2,000 kilometers (1,240 miles) northeast of Jakarta.

A half-century after Gen. Augusto Pinochet's coup, some in Chile remember the dictatorship fondly

By EVA VERGARA and DANIEL POLITI Associated Press

SANTIAGO, Chile (AP) — The world remembers Gen. Augusto Pinochet as the dictator whose regime tortured, killed and disappeared 3,065 people in the name of fighting communism.

But as Chile marks the 50th anniversary next Monday of the coup that brought Pinochet to power for almost 17 years, many in the country don't see it as a dark day. Amid a weak economy and a surge in violent crime, recent polls show that many Chileans don't think human rights are as much of a priority.

They are grappling with what they see as Pinochet's complicated legacy at a time when a large number have told pollsters they are losing faith in democracy.

"Before, there wasn't as much wickedness as there is now," said Ana María Román Vera, 62, who sells lottery tickets. "You didn't see as many robberies."

A July poll by the Center for Public Studies, a Chile-based foundation, found that 66% of respondents agreed with the statement that rather than worry about the rights of individuals, the country needs a firm government. That is more than double the 32% who agreed with the statement fewer than four years ago.

In Chile, 9/11 was a landmark before the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the U.S. because it was the date of the 1973 coup in the South American country. That significance, though, has been changing. Polling shows more than one-third of Chileans today justify the military takeover of a democratically elected government that went on to violate human rights, murder opponents, cancel elections, restrict the media,

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suppress labor unions and disband political parties.

"There should be an overwhelming majority of Chileans who denounce the dictatorship and the military coup and acknowledge that the military destroyed democracy," said Marta Lagos, director of the regional polling firm Latinobarómetro and founder of pollster Mori Chile. "That would be the normal situation in a normal country. But that's not the case."

Late last month, leftist President Gabriel Boric unveiled what will effectively be the first state-sponsored plan to try to locate the approximately 1,162 victims of the dictatorship who remain missing.

Yet even as Boric's government and human rights organizations plan events to mark the coup anniversary, many in Chile don't appear to see the ousting of a democratically elected leader as wrong.

A poll earlier this year by Lagos' firm found that 36% of Chileans believe the military "freed" Chile "from Marxism" when it deposed leftist democratically elected president Salvador Allende, who came into power in 1970 and killed himself the day of the coup. The poll found that 42% said the coup destroyed democracy, the lowest number since 1995.

Pinochet led the coup at a time when the country was mired in an economic crisis that included scarcity of food and galloping inflation that reached an annual rate of 600%. When the military took over it implemented a free-market economy that suddenly meant those with means could go on a consumerism binge even as the poverty rate soared.

Retired accountant Sergio Gómez Martínez, 72, said that "fortunately, Augusto Pinochet led the coup" against Allende's socialist government. He argued that his economic wellbeing improved under the right-wing military government "because there was order, employment, and the countryside and industries began to produce."

Repression was unleashed on opponents on the day of the coup. On the days that followed, Congress was shut down and political parties were dissolved as the military junta snatched control of all aspects of society. Those opposed to the regime were regularly imprisoned and tortured and hundreds of thousands were forced into exile.

Gómez said the human rights violations of the Pinochet years "could have been avoided" but they do not seem to be at the centerpiece of his memory of the years of Pinochet's rule, when by some estimates around 200,000 citizens went into exile for political reasons and some 28,000 opponents of the regime were imprisoned and tortured.

He's hardly alone. Almost four in 10 Chileans think Pinochet's 1973-1990 rule modernized the country and 20% see the dictator as one of the best rulers of 20th-century Chile, according to the Mori survey.

A regional survey by Latinobarómetro this year found that only 48% of Latin Americans think that democracy is preferable to any other form of government, which marks a 15-point drop from 2010.

Across Latin America, strongmen like El Salvador's President Nayib Bukele are gaining popularity. Bukele has gained an ardent following due to his severe crackdown on gangs despite a record of human rights abuses.

Boric, meanwhile, has seen a sharp plunge in his approval ratings ever since he swept into power in March 2022 as Chile's youngest-ever president at 36 following widespread student-led street protests that put on display how the economic inequalities borne from the dictatorship lived on. Citizens broadly rejected an effort last year to replace the country's dictatorship-era constitution with what would have been one of the world's most progressive magna cartas, and later went on to elect conservatives to write the next draft of the document.

Efrén Cortés Tapia, a 60-year-old painter, said his most vivid memories about the dictatorship years was not just the "repression" but also "not being able to listen to the music of forbidden folklore groups." For him, the dictatorship led to "limits in the cultural development" as well as "fear and dread."

Even as Chilean society grapples with its mixed feelings over the dictatorship, more is being learned about the repression of the years through the courts.

There are around 1,300 active criminal cases for human rights violations during the dictatorship and some 150 are serving sentences in Punta Peuco Prison, a facility exclusively set aside for those guilty of dictatorship-era crimes.

Boric's administration is also looking abroad for answers, pushing the United States to declassify documents that can help shed light on the role Washington played in the coup it supported.

In late August, the CIA declassified portions of the President's Daily Briefs related to Chile from Sept. 8, 1973 and Sept. 11, 1973 that confirm then-President Richard Nixon was briefed on the possibility of a coup.

During a recent visit to Chile, Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, a Democrat from New York, said it was "very important ... to acknowledge and reflect on the role of the United States" in the coup.

Pinochet remained in power until 1990, stepping down after a majority of Chileans voted against military rule in 1988. But he did not disappear and immediately became commander-in-chief of the Army until 1998 and later became a lifelong senator, a position he created for himself. He resigned in 2002 and died in 2006 without ever being convicted in Chilean courts, although he was detained for 17 months in London on the order of a Spanish judge.

"Chileans got used to living with Pinochet," Lagos said. "Pinochet, I believe, is the only dictator in Western contemporary history, during this century and the last century, who, 50 years after his coup, is still appreciated by 30 or 40% of a country's population."

Burning Man revelers begin exodus after flooding left tens of thousands stranded in Nevada desert

BLACK ROCK DESERT, Nev. (AP) — Muddy roads flooded by a summer storm that left tens of thousands of partygoers stranded for days at the Burning Man counterculture festival had dried up enough by Monday afternoon to allow them to begin their exodus from the northern Nevada desert.

Event organizers said they started to let traffic flow out of the main road around 2 p.m. local time — even as they continued urging attendees to delay their exit to help ease traffic on Monday. About two hours after the mass departure began, organizers estimated a wait time of about five hours.

Organizers also asked attendees not to walk out of the Black Rock Desert about 110 miles (177 kilometers) north of Reno as others had done throughout the weekend, including celebrity DJ Diplo and comedian Chris Rock. They didn't specify why.

The festival had been closed to vehicles after more than a half-inch (1.3 centimeters) of rain fell Friday, causing flooding and foot-deep mud.

The road closures came just before the first of two ceremonial fires signaling an end to the festival was scheduled to begin Saturday night. The event traditionally culminates with the burning of a large wooden effigy shaped like a man and a wood temple structure during the final two nights, but the fires were postponed as authorities worked to reopen exit routes by the end of the Labor Day weekend.

Weather permitting, "the Man" is scheduled to be torched 9 p.m. Monday while the temple is set to go up in flames 8 p.m. Tuesday.

The National Weather Service in Reno said it should stay mostly clear and dry at the festival site Monday, although some light rain showers could pass through Tuesday morning. The event began Aug. 27 and had been scheduled to end Monday morning, with attendees packing up and cleaning up after themselves.

"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."

The annual gathering, which launched on a San Francisco beach in 1986, 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: Dust storms forced organizers to temporarily close entrances to the festival in 2018, and the event was twice canceled altogether during the pandemic.

At least one fatality has been reported, but organizers said the death of a man in his 40s wasn't weather-related. The sheriff of nearby Pershing County said he was investigating but has not identified the man or a cause of death.

President Joe Biden told reporters in Delaware on Sunday that he was aware of the situation at Burning Man, including the death, and the White House was in touch with local authorities.

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The event is remote on the best of days and emphasizes self-sufficiency. Amid the flooding, revelers were urged to conserve their food and water, and most remained hunkered down at the site.

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

Diplo, whose real name is Thomas Wesley Pentz, posted a video to Instagram on Saturday evening showing him and 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," Diplo wrote.

Cindy Bishop and three of her friends managed to drive their rented RV out of the festival at dawn on Monday when, Bishop said, the main road wasn't being guarded.

She said they were happy to make it out after driving toward the exit — and getting stuck several times — over the course of two days.

But Bishop, who traveled from Boston for her second Burning Man, said spirits were still high at the festival when they had left. Most people she spoke with said they planned to stay for the ceremonial burns.

"The spirit in there," she said, "was really like, 'We're going to take care of each other and make the best of it.'"

Rebecca Barger, a photographer from Philadelphia, arrived at her first Burning Man on Aug. 26 and was determined to stick it out through the end.

"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."

As sports betting spikes, help for problem gamblers expands in some states

By DAVID A. LIEB Associated Press

When the NFL season kicks off this week, Kentucky residents and visitors — for the first time — will be able to legally place sports bets on something other than horse racing. When they do, some of that money will also fund the state's first-ever program for people with gambling problems.

Since the U.S. Supreme Court cleared the way for legalized sports betting five years ago, nearly three-fourths of the states have moved swiftly to allow it. State funding for problem gambling services has not kept pace, although more states — like Kentucky — are requiring at least a portion of sports wagering revenues to go toward helping addicted gamblers.

"The funding is starting to flow, but the amount is still clearly inadequate in most states," said Keith Whyte, executive director of the National Council on Problem Gambling. He added: "Most of these amounts are token."

Legal sports betting operators took in \$220 billion during the past five years, generating \$3 billion in state and local taxes.

By contrast, states spent an average of 38 cents per capita on problem gambling services in the 2022 fiscal year, ranging from nothing in nine states to \$10.6 million in Massachusetts, according the Portland, Oregon-based consulting firm Problem Gambling Solutions Inc. That money, which came from all forms of gambling, went toward services such as telephone helplines, counseling and public awareness campaigns.

The federal government, which spends billions of dollars on substance abuse prevention and treatment, provides nothing for gambling problems.

Advocates in Kentucky, which has a rich horse racing history, had tried for decades to persuade lawmakers to fund services for people with gambling problems. There was no guarantee they would finally succeed when sports betting was proposed.

In fact, Republican state Rep. Michael Meredith did not originally include any funding for problem gambling in his legislation that legalized sports betting. Meredith told The Associated Press he would have preferred to first launch sports wagering, then come back in subsequent years with legislation earmarking problem-gambling funding from all types of betting, including horse racing.

But Meredith couldn't rally enough support to pass the bill this year until a provision was added dedicat-

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ing 2.5% of sports wagering taxes and licensing fees to a new problem gambling account, which also can be tapped for alcohol and drug addictions.

"We had folks that wanted to vote for sports wagering," Meredith said. "But they were really reluctant to without some form of problem gambling money."

Kentucky's new fund is projected to receive about \$575,000 in its first year.

That's a decent start, but "we've only got five certified gambling counselors in the state right now, and we're going to need probably five times that many to provide adequate geographic and demographic coverage," said Michael R. Stone, executive director of the nonprofit Kentucky Council on Problem Gambling.

As of a year ago, 15 states and the District of Columbia had laws earmarking a portion of their sports betting revenues toward problem gambling services, but another 15 states did not. Since then, seven additional states have either launched sports betting or passed laws to do so, and all of those have required part of their sports betting revenues to go to problem gambling services, said Rachel Volberg, a research professor in the Department of Biostatistics and Epidemiology at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst.

Ohio, which launched sports betting on Jan. 1, requires 2% of the tax revenues to go to a "problem sports gaming fund." The state law also requires all sports betting ads to include a phone number for a problem gambling helpline. Through the first seven months, calls to Ohio's helpline were up about 150% compared to the same period a year ago.

The surge appears driven by a spike in sports betting marketing, though some callers had problems with other types of gambling or weren't actually seeking help, said Derek Longmeier, executive director of the Problem Gambling Network of Ohio.

Research indicates that younger, higher educated men are among the most likely to bet on sports. Technology has raised the stakes for those with compulsive habits. In many states, people can now wager from anywhere with the tap of a smartphone app, 24 hours a day, betting not only on the winners of games but on a seemingly limitless series of events that occur during the games.

From a problem gambling standpoint, "I think it is more dangerous, because the accessibility is easier," said Linda Graves, the recently retired executive director of the National Association of Administrators for Disordered Gambling Services.

Last month, attorneys general from several states gathered at a Connecticut casino for seminars focused on sports betting and online gaming. The widespread legalization of sports wagering has "added fuel" to a public health issue that "was already percolating under the surface," problem gambling consultant Brianne Doura-Schawohl told the group.

Yet some governments have reduced funding for problem gambling services in recent years.

In May, the District of Columbia Council eliminated what had been an annual \$200,000 allocation to the Department of Behavioral Health to prevent, treat and research gambling addictions. Although the funding is required by a 2019 act that authorized sports wagering, the department apparently had not used the money. The department said support services for problem gamblers are available through other means.

In Mississippi, a long-standing \$100,000 annual allotment to a compulsive gambling organization was eliminated in 2017 amid other state budget cuts. The next year, Mississippi launched sports betting in casinos and authorized a state lottery. Yet lawmakers continued to appropriate nothing for problem gambling until restoring \$75,000 in the 2024 budget that began in July.

To remain afloat without state aid, the nonprofit Mississippi Council on Problem and Compulsive Gambling relied largely on donations from casinos. It dipped into reserves, cut in half the salaries of its two staff members, relocated to a smaller office, eliminated travel to conferences and suspended a program that provided several weeks of free counseling to people seeking to overcome gambling problems, said Executive Director Betty Greer.

Kansas also has a history of low funding for problem gambling. Although 2% of state-owned casino revenues are directed to an addictions services fund, only a fraction of that actually has gone to problem gambling. This past year, problem gambling services were allotted less than \$60,000 while more than \$7 million went to Medicaid mental health expenditures, substance abuse grants and other programs.

But that's changing. The current Kansas budget allots more than \$1 million for problem gambling efforts in response to sports betting. The state plans to study the prevalence of addiction because of sports betting and then use the findings to shape a statewide public awareness campaign.

The impeachment trial of Attorney General Ken Paxton is set to begin in the Texas Senate

By JAKE BLEIBERG and PAUL J. WEBER Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — The Texas Senate is set to gavel in Tuesday for the impeachment trial of Attorney General Ken Paxton, a political reckoning of years of alleged corruption that could lead to his permanent ouster from office.

The fate of Paxton, a 60-year-old Republican, is in the hands of GOP senators with whom he served before winning a statewide race to take charge of the attorney general's office in 2015.

In an era of bitter partisanship, the historic proceeding is a rare instance of a political party seeking to hold one of its own to account for allegations of wrongdoing. The impeachment also came as a sudden rebuke to Paxton, who has built a national profile fighting high-profile legal battles, including trying to overturn the 2020 presidential election, and who won a third term in 2022 despite long-pending state criminal charges and an FBI investigation.

The Republican-led House of Representatives voted overwhelmingly to impeach Paxton in May, largely based on his former deputies' claims that the attorney general used his power to help a wealthy donor who reciprocated with favors including hiring a woman with whom Paxton had an extramarital affair. The 20 articles of impeachment include abuse of public trust, unfitness for office and bribery.

The 121-23 vote immediately suspended Paxton and made him only the third sitting official in Texas' nearly 200-year history to be impeached.

Paxton has decried the impeachment as a "politically motivated sham" and an effort to disenfranchise his voters. The attorney general's lawyers say he won't testify in the Senate trial. He has said he expects to be acquitted.

Paxton faces trial by a jury — the 31 state senators — stacked with his ideological allies and a "judge," Republican Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, who loaned \$125,000 to his last reelection campaign. His wife, Sen. Angela Paxton, will attend the trial but cannot participate or vote. Two other senators play a role in the allegations against Paxton.

A two-thirds majority — or 21 senators — is required for conviction, meaning that if all 12 Senate Democrats vote against Paxton, they still need at least nine of the 19 Republicans to join them.

The trial will likely bring forth new evidence. But the outline of the allegations against Paxton has been public since 2020, when eight of his top deputies told the FBI that the attorney general was breaking the law to help Austin real estate developer Nate Paul.

The deputies — largely conservatives whom Paxton handpicked for their jobs — told investigators that Paxton had gone against their advice and hired an outside lawyer to probe Paul's allegations of wrongdoing by the FBI in its investigation of the developer. They also said Paxton pressured his staff to take other actions that helped Paul.

In return, Paul allegedly hired a former aide to a Republican state senator with whom Paxton was having an affair and bankrolled the renovations of one of the attorney general's properties, a million-dollar home in Austin.

Paul was indicted in June on federal criminal charges that he made false statements to banks to secure more than \$170 million in loans. He pleaded not guilty and has broadly denied wrongdoing in his dealings with Paxton.

The two men bonded over a shared feeling that they were the targets of corrupt law enforcement, according to a memo by one of the staffers who went to the FBI. Paxton was indicted on securities fraud charges in 2015 but is yet to stand trial. The Senate is not taking up, at least initially, three impeachment articles about the alleged securities fraud and a fourth related to Paxton's ethics filings.

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Federal prosecutors continue to examine Paul and Paxton's relationship, so the evidence presented during his impeachment trial poses a legal as well as a political risk to the attorney general.

After going to the FBI, all eight of Paxton's deputies quit or were fired. Their departures led to an exodus of other seasoned lawyers and saw the attorney general's office consumed by dysfunction behind the scenes.

Four of the deputies later sued Paxton under the state whistleblower act. The bipartisan group of lawmakers who led Paxton's impeachment in the House said it was him seeking \$3.3 million in taxpayer funds to settle with the group that prompted them to investigate his dealings.

Congress returns to try to stave off a government shutdown while GOP weighs impeachment inquiry

By STEPHEN GROVES and MARY CLARE JALONICK Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — After months of struggling to find agreement on just about anything in a divided Congress, lawmakers are returning to Capitol Hill to try to avert a government shutdown, even as House Republicans consider whether to press forward with an impeachment inquiry into President Joe Biden.

A short-term funding measure to keep government offices fully functioning will dominate the September agenda, along with emergency funding for Ukraine, federal disaster funds and the Republican-driven probe into Hunter Biden's overseas business dealings.

Time is running short for Congress to act. The House is scheduled to meet for just 11 days before the government's fiscal year ends on Sept. 30, leaving little room to maneuver. And the dealmaking will play out as two top Republicans, Sen. Mitch McConnell of Kentucky and Rep. Steve Scalise of Louisiana, deal with health issues.

The president and congressional leaders, including Republican House Speaker Kevin McCarthy, are focused on passage of a months-long funding measure, known as a continuing resolution, to keep government offices running while lawmakers iron out a budget. It's a step Congress routinely takes to avoid stoppages, but McCarthy faces resistance from within his own Republican ranks, including from some hardline conservatives who openly embrace the idea of a government shutdown.

"Honestly, it's a pretty big mess," McConnell said at an event in Kentucky last week.

Here are the top issues as lawmakers return from the August break:

KEEPING THE GOVERNMENT OPEN

When Biden and McCarthy struck a deal to suspend the nation's debt ceiling in June, it included provisions for topline spending numbers. But under pressure from the House Freedom Caucus, House Republicans have advanced spending bills that cut below that agreement.

Republicans have also tried to load their spending packages with conservative policy wins. For example, House Republicans added provisions blocking abortion coverage, transgender care and diversity initiatives to a July defense package, turning what has traditionally been a bipartisan effort into a sharply contested bill.

But Democrats control the Senate and are certain to reject most of the conservative proposals. Senators are crafting their spending bills on a bipartisan basis with an eye toward avoiding unrelated policy fights.

Top lawmakers in both chambers are now turning to a stopgap funding package, a typical strategy to give the lawmakers time to iron out a long-term agreement.

The House Freedom Caucus has already released a list of demands it wants included in the continuing resolution. But they amount to a right-wing wish list that would never fly in the Senate.

The conservative opposition means McCarthy will almost certainly have to win significant Democratic support to pass a funding bill — but such an approach risks a new round of conflict with the same conservatives who in the past have threatened to oust him from the speakership.

Democrats are already readying blame for the House GOP.

"The last thing the American people deserve is for extreme House members to trigger a government shutdown that hurts our economy, undermines our disaster preparedness, and forces our troops to work without guaranteed pay," said White House spokesman Andrew Bates.

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In a letter to his colleagues Friday, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer wrote that the focus when the Senate returns Tuesday will be "funding the government and preventing House Republican extremists from forcing a government shutdown."

It leaves McCarthy desperate to get the votes to keep government offices running and avoid the political blowback. As he tries to persuade Republicans to go along with a temporary fix, McCarthy has been arguing that a government shutdown would also halt Republican investigations into the Biden administration.

"If we shut down, all of government shuts it down — investigations and everything else — it hurts the American public," the speaker said on Fox News last week.

IMPEACHMENT INQUIRY

Since they gained the House majority, Republicans have launched a series of investigations into the Biden administration, with an eye towards impeaching the president or his Cabinet officials. They have now zeroed in on the president's son, Hunter Biden, and his overseas business dealings, including with Ukrainian gas company Burisma.

The inquiries have not produced evidence that President Biden took official action on behalf of his son or business partners, but McCarthy has called impeachment a "natural step forward" for the investigations.

An impeachment inquiry by the House would be a first step toward bringing articles of impeachment. It is not yet clear what that may look like, especially because the speaker does not appear to have the GOP votes lined up to support an impeachment inquiry. Moderate Republicans have so far balked at sending the House on a full-fledged impeachment hunt.

But Donald Trump, running once again to challenge Biden, is prodding them to move ahead quickly.

"I don't know how actually how a Republican could not do it," Trump said in an interview on Real America's Voice. "I think a Republican would be primaried and lose immediately, no matter what district you're in."

UKRAINE AND DISASTER FUNDING

The White House has requested more than \$40 billion in emergency funding, including \$13 billion in military aid for Ukraine, \$8 billion in humanitarian support for the nation and \$12 billion to replenish U.S. federal disaster funds at home.

The request for the massive cash infusion comes as Kyiv launches a counteroffensive against the Russian invasion. But support for Ukraine is waning among Republicans, especially as Trump has repeatedly expressed skepticism of the war.

Nearly 70 Republicans voted for an unsuccessful effort to discontinue military aid to Ukraine in July, though strong support for the war effort remains among many members.

It is also not clear whether the White House's supplemental request for U.S. disaster funding, which also includes funds to bolster enforcement and curb drug trafficking at the southern U.S. border, will be tied to the Ukraine funding or a continuing budget resolution. The disaster funding enjoys wide support in the House, but could be tripped up if packaged with other funding proposals.

LEGISLATION ON HOLD

The Senate is expected to spend most of September focused on funding the government and confirming Biden's nominees, meaning that major policy legislation will have to wait. But Schumer outlined some priorities for the remaining months of the year in the letter to his colleagues.

Schumer said the Senate would work on legislation to lower the costs of drugs, address rail safety and provide disaster relief after floods in Vermont, fires in Hawaii and a hurricane in Florida.

Senators will also continue to examine whether legislation is needed to address artificial intelligence. Schumer has convened what he is calling an "AI insight forum" on Sept. 13 in the Senate with tech industry leaders, including Meta's Mark Zuckerberg and Elon Musk, the CEO of X and Tesla, as well as former Microsoft CEO Bill Gates.

HEALTH CONCERNS

Senate Republicans will return next week to renewed questions about the health of their leader, McConnell.

McConnell, 81, faces questions about his ability to continue as the top Senate Republican after he has frozen up twice during news conferences in the last two months since falling and suffering a concussion in March. During the event in Kentucky last week, he fell silent for roughly 30 seconds as he answered a

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question from a reporter.

Dr. Brian Monahan, the Capitol's attending physician, said Thursday that McConnell is cleared to work. But the question of whether McConnell — the longest-serving party leader in Senate history — can continue as Republican leader has sparked intense speculation about who will eventually replace him.

Meanwhile, the health of California Democrat Sen. Dianne Feinstein, 90, has visibly wavered in recent months after she was hospitalized for shingles earlier this year. She suffered a fall at her San Francisco home in August and visited the hospital for testing.

And in the House, Rep. Steve Scalise, the No. 2 Republican, disclosed last week that he has been diagnosed with a form of blood cancer known as multiple myeloma and is undergoing treatment.

Scalise, 57, said he will continue to serve and described the cancer as "very treatable."

The next presidential campaign is coming into focus. It might look a lot like the last one.

By STEVE PEOPLES AP National Political Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The end of Labor Day weekend would typically mark the start of a furious sprint to the Iowa caucuses as candidates battle for their party's presidential nomination. But as the 2024 campaign comes into greater focus, the usual frenzy is yielding to a sense of inevitability.

Among Republicans, Donald Trump is dominating the primary field, outpacing rivals with resumes as governors, diplomats and entrepreneurs that would normally prove compelling. The former president's position strength comes despite — or perhaps because of — multiple criminal indictments that threaten to overshadow any serious debate about the future of the country. And for now, the tens of millions of dollars that Republican rivals are pouring into the race are doing little to diminish Trump's stature, fueling concerns among his GOP critics who fear the primary is essentially over before it begins.

As one troubled front-runner tightens his grip on the Republican nomination, President Joe Biden is on a glide path to victory on the Democratic side. The 80-year-old incumbent is facing only token opposition for the Democratic nomination despite concerns about his age and performance from many within his own party.

Whether voters like it or not, a Trump-Biden rematch may be on the horizon, raising the prospect of a deeply uncertain election season that only intensifies the nation's political divide. Already, Trump is skipping his party's presidential debates and his court appearances are sometimes drawing more attention than his campaign stops. And Biden has barely begun to campaign as he grapples with questions about his age and his son's legal challenges.

"I just can't imagine things markedly changing. So, it appears that past is prologue," California Gov. Gavin Newsom, a Democrat, said in an interview, praising Biden's record of achievement while warning his party against underestimating Trump's political strength.

Newsom said concerns about Biden's age "are fair game and the White House knows it."

"But if age equals results," he went on, "I'm looking forward to his 85th birthday."

On the Republican side, dread is building among some donors and party leaders who hoped conservative voters would move past Trump given the the Jan. 6 attack on the Capitol he inspired and his serious legal challenges.

"A Trump-Biden rematch would be a disaster for the country. I'm very depressed about it," said Bobbie Kilberg, a prominent Republican donor who is supporting former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie. She said it's "scary" that so many voters in her party continue to support the former president. "I refuse to believe that Trump is our inevitable nominee."

There is time for the 2024 landscape to shift.

Four months remain before the first votes are cast in the Iowa caucuses and the general election is more than a year away. And recent history has plenty of examples of overlooked and seemingly overmatched candidates who proved the conventional wisdom wrong. Both Trump and Biden are among them.

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There are also significant variables.

Abortion continues to scramble elections — even in GOP strongholds like Kansas, Kentucky and Ohio — as voters reject Republican efforts to restrict access to the procedure. A greater backlash is possible as the courts review access to a commonly used abortion pill.

And Trump is facing 91 felony charges in criminal proceedings unfolding in Washington, New York, Miami and Atlanta. They involve everything from his handling of classified information to his efforts to overturn the 2020 election to orchestrating hush money payments to a porn actor.

The former president could be a convicted felon before the general election is decided next November. Still, party leaders — including most of his Republican primary opponents — have vowed to support him even if he's convicted. And nothing in the Constitution bars felons from assuming the presidency.

At the same time, Democratic officials are deeply concerned about the prospect of a third-party bid under the banner of No Labels, a centrist group backed by a \$70 million budget actively working to secure a place on the presidential ballot in at least 20 states this year.

Group leaders insist they would nominate a candidate next spring only as “an insurance policy” should Trump and Biden win their respective primaries, which appears increasingly likely. And then, No Labels would move forward only if it's certain that its presidential nominee wouldn't unintentionally help Trump win reelection.

Democratic leaders aren't convinced.

Several current and former elected officials have been in close contact with the organization, including Sen. Joe Manchin, D-West Virginia, former Utah Gov. Jon Huntsman and former Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan.

Louisiana Sen. Bill Cassidy, a Republican who says he supports No Labels' mission, did not rule out running as a No Labels presidential contender himself when asked during a recent interview.

“I don't want No Labels to run a candidate. I want the two parties to respond responsibly to the challenges before us,” Cassidy said, indicating he wouldn't support Trump or Biden. He described a presidential bid of his own under the No Labels banner as a hypothetical he didn't want to comment on.

In ruling out Trump, the Louisiana Republican cited the criminal charges against the Republican former president, questions about his viability in the general election, and the former president's refusal to “be honest with the American people” about looming budget shortfalls in Social Security and Medicare.

Cassidy, a medical doctor, also raised concerns about Biden's physical and mental health. “He's just so obviously declining,” he said.

Indeed, both Trump and Biden have glaring liabilities, according to a new poll by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

Biden is “old” and “confused,” and Trump is “corrupt” and “dishonest.” Those were among the top terms Americans use when asked to describe each party's leading presidential candidates.

But leaders in both parties are willing to overlook such problems.

Young Democrats of America President Quentin Wathum-Ocama concedes that young voters aren't necessarily enthusiastic about a Trump-Biden rematch, but he hopes that Trump's polarizing candidacy will give Wathum-Ocama's party the energy Biden cannot.

“Yes, people want a younger generation of politicians. We've always talked about Joe Biden as — even he's said — as a transitional figure in our political life,” he said. “As much as we're seeing folks, for whatever reason, may not be excited or whatever, to me, it comes back to democracy is on the line.”

With virtually no exceptions, Democratic officials in Congress and in key states are publicly rallying behind Biden's reelection.

Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, Biden's strongest challenger in the 2020 Democratic primary, endorsed Biden's reelection bid hours after it was announced this spring. Biden enlisted other would-be rivals for his national advisory board. The group includes Rep. Ro Khanna, D-Calif., Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker and Newsom.

Republicans have delighted in suggesting that Newsom plans to launch a primary challenge against Biden, something the California governor has repeatedly ruled out. That's even as Newsom teases the possibility of a high-profile debate against Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, who is among Trump's top Republican challengers.

Newsom said there would be a debate with the Florida governor, perhaps in November, although the

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camps are still working out the details.

"I get to do the one thing I look forward to doing more than anything else, and that's make the case for Joe Biden and what he's accomplished — and to do that one on one," he said of a DeSantis debate. "That's an opportunity, a platform I don't want to walk away from."

Meanwhile, in a show of confidence, the Trump campaign has already begun to pivot toward a general election matchup against Biden.

His team says he currently plans to skip all Republican presidential debates, sensing few consequences for skipping the first one last month. DeSantis, once thought to be a potent threat, has struggled to live up to expectations.

Trump's relationships across the party and his expansive political machine have made it extremely difficult for others to break through.

"The president benefits from having led the party for the last eight years," said Brian Jack, Trump's political director.

Trump is leading the fight for endorsements, winning the public backing of more members of Congress and statewide elected officials than the rest of the field combined.

The other candidates are also struggling to keep up with Trump's quiet campaign to control the delegate selection rules for individual state primaries. For example, Trump officials successfully pushed California Republicans to award all of the state's 169 delegates to the winner of their March 5 primary, instead of doling out delegates to multiple candidates based on the proportion of their vote.

The payoff for that work became clear late last week when a pro-DeSantis super PAC scaled back its operations in Nevada and other states that host Republican primary contests in March, including California, North Carolina and Texas.

Given Trump's overwhelming advantages, some of Trump's powerful allies have begun to call for other Republican presidential candidates to give up. Miami Mayor Francis Suarez ended his short-lived White House bid last week after failing to qualify for the opening debate. But at least eight high-profile opponents remain.

"It has been clear for months that President Trump will be the Republican nominee," said Rep. Elise Stefanik, the No. 3 House Republican. "This election is the most important election in our lifetime, and I will continue to call on Republicans to coalesce our entire party apparatus behind President Trump's campaign."

While Trump remains the clear front-runner, he holds a wider margin nationally than he does in some of the early voting states. And influential Republicans there are aren't ready to concede the nomination to Trump yet.

Gov. Chris Sununu of New Hampshire, which hosts the second Republican primary contest after Iowa, is working to boost Trump's GOP rivals, warning that Trump is too flawed to win the general election.

Former Iowa Gov. Terry Branstad, who served as Trump's ambassador to China, also has doubts about the former president's chances in the general election given the legal challenges that will play out for much of next year.

"The focus of the election ought to be on Biden and his record," Branstad said. "That's the thing that bothers me. It plays into the hands of the Democrats."

He added, "I think this thing is going to tighten up."

Even Trump isn't quite willing to say that he's already locked up the Republican presidential nomination.

"I don't want to say anything's over cause I don't say that," Trump said Friday on WABC. "I'm not a believer until it's over, right? As Yogi would say, 'Ain't over 'til it's over.'"

First lady Jill Biden tests positive for COVID-19, but President Biden's results negative so far

WASHINGTON (AP) — First lady Jill Biden tested positive for COVID-19 Monday but is experiencing only mild symptoms, her spokeswoman said.

President Joe Biden was tested for the virus following his wife's positive test, but his results were negative. White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said the president would continue testing regularly and would be monitored for symptoms.

Jill Biden will remain at the couple's home in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, for the time being, communications director Elizabeth Alexander said. The first lady had planned to start the new school year Tuesday at Northern Virginia Community College, where she teaches English and writing.

Due to her condition, she was working with school officials to arrange substitute teachers for her classes, Alexander said.

The first lady had traveled with her husband to Florida on Saturday to inspect the damage from Hurricane Idalia. President Biden then spent part of the Labor Day weekend at the Delaware beach house before traveling Monday to a union event in Philadelphia and then back to the White House.

The Bidens both contracted COVID previously, last summer.

Putin says he won't renew the grain deal until the West meets his demands. The West says it has

By The Associated Press undefined

Russian President Vladimir Putin said Monday that a landmark deal allowing Ukraine to export grain safely through the Black Sea amid the war won't be restored until the West meets Moscow's demands on its own agricultural exports.

Ukraine and its Western allies have dismissed the Kremlin's demands as a ploy to advance its own interests.

Still, Putin's remarks dashed hopes that his talks with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan could revive an agreement seen as vital for global food supplies, especially in Africa, the Middle East and Asia.

Russia refused to extend the deal in July, complaining that a parallel agreement 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, though it has shipped record amounts of wheat since last year.

Putin reiterated those complaints Monday, while also telling reporters that if those commitments were honored, Russia could return to the deal "within days."

Erdogan also expressed hope that a breakthrough could come soon. He said Turkey and the U.N. — which both brokered the original deal — have put together a new package of proposals to unblock the issue.

"We believe that we will reach a solution that will meet the expectations in a short time," Erdogan said at the news conference held with Putin in the Russian resort of Sochi.

Earlier, German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock lashed out, saying Putin's "game with the grain agreement is cynical."

"It's only because of Putin that the freighters don't have free passage again," she told reporters in Berlin.

A lot is riding on the negotiation. Ukraine and Russia are major suppliers of wheat, barley, sunflower oil and other goods that developing nations rely on.

Data from the Joint Coordination Center in Istanbul, which organized shipments under the deal, show that 57% of the grain from Ukraine went to developing nations, with the top destination being China.

Grain prices shot up after Russia pulled out of the deal but have since fallen back, indicating that there isn't a big crunch in the market for the moment.

But failure to revive the agreement will have "drastic impacts" in countries such as Somalia and Egypt that rely heavily on Black Sea grain, according to Galip Dalay, an associate fellow at the Chatham House think tank in London.

Putin is looking for some relief from sanctions and at the same time is engaged in a "war of narratives,"

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Delay said, because the Russian leader “doesn’t want to come across as the bad guy in the eyes of the global south as a result of this food insecurity.”

Ukraine and its allies have often noted that Russia’s move left many developing nations in the lurch, since so many were recipients of the grain.

Perhaps in an effort to address that accusation, Putin said Monday that Russia was close to finalizing an agreement to provide free grain to six African countries. Last month, he promised shipments to Burkina Faso, Zimbabwe, Mali, Somalia, Eritrea and Central African Republic.

The Russian leader added that the country will ship 1 million metric tons (1.1 million tons) of cheap grain to Turkey for processing and delivery to poor countries.

In addition to pulling out of the grain deal, Russia has repeatedly attacked the Odesa region, where Ukraine’s main Black Sea port is. Hours before the Sochi meeting, the Kremlin’s forces launched a second barrage in two days on the area. The Ukrainian air force said it intercepted 23 of 32 drones that targeted the Odesa and Dnipropetrovsk regions. It did not specify damage caused by those that got through.

Russia may be hoping it can use its power over Ukraine’s Black Sea exports as a bargaining chip to reduce Western economic sanctions.

Some companies have been wary of doing business with Russia because of those sanctions, even though Western allies have made assurances that food and fertilizer are exempt. Still, Moscow remains unsatisfied.

Ukraine’s Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba on Monday urged Moscow to return to the deal, insisting “there were no legal and political grounds for Russia to withdraw from the agreement.”

Monday’s talks 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.

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 Turkish president has maintained those 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.

At the same time, Turkey, a member of NATO, has also supported Ukraine, sending arms, meeting Zelenskyy and backing Kyiv’s bid to join the Western alliance.

Russia, meanwhile, has taken steps to strengthen its military ties with North Korea. Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu, who traveled to Pyongyang in July, said Monday that the two countries may hold joint war games.

U.S. National Security Council spokeswoman Adrienne Watson noted that Shoigu sought to persuade North Korea during his trip to sell artillery ammunition to Russia.

The U.S. has reason to think North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un “expects these discussions to continue” and “to include leader-level diplomatic engagement in Russia,” Watson said Monday.

Another U.S. official, who was not authorized to address the matter publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity, said the U.S. expects Kim will travel to Russia within the month. The official said the U.S. isn’t sure exactly where or when the meeting would take place, but the Pacific port city of Vladivostok would be a likely possibility given its relative proximity to North Korea.

The White House reported last week that it had intelligence indicating that Putin and Kim swapped letters following Shoigu’s visit. National Security Council spokesman John Kirby said the letters were “more at the surface level” but that Russian and North Korean talks on a weapons sale were advancing.

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A driver crashed into a Denny's near Houston, injuring 23 people

ROSENBERG, Texas (AP) — A driver plowed through a wall of a busy East Texas restaurant, injuring 23 people.

Police in the Houston suburb of Rosenberg, Texas said a man crashed his SUV into a Denny's restaurant just off the highway late Monday morning. The vehicle slammed into the restaurant's south wall leaving patrons with injuries ranging from minor cuts to "severe injuries" that don't appear to be life-threatening, police said in a statement. Victims ranged in age from 12 to 60 years old.

The driver of the SUV was not injured, police said. The cause of the crash was not immediately released.

Video of the aftermath shows a red vehicle fully inside the restaurant, with the wall and windows around it demolished.

Fish with a funny float gets a CT scan at the Denver Zoo

DENVER (AP) — A fancy-looking French angelfish that was found one day with a funny float has its buoyancy back after taking some time from its tropical trappings to get a CT scan at the Denver Zoo.

A zoo worker recently noticed the blue and yellow fish was swimming with a tilt, prompting a visit last week to the facility's on-site hospital for an ultrasound and the CT scan.

The CT scan took place in a machine large enough to fit a 700-pound (318-kilogram) grizzly bear, so some special accommodations were required, zoo spokesperson Jake Kubie said. The approximately seven-inch (18-centimeter) fish was sedated, balanced upright on a sponge and had water poured over its gills to keep it alive as the scan took place.

The diagnosis: Too much gas. Enteritis, or inflamed intestines, had resulted in increased internal gas that was affecting the fish's buoyancy, Kubie said.

"It was treated with antibiotics," he said. "It's doing much better and swimming normally."

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

In a speech to a Labor Day parade crowd in Detroit on Monday, Fain said that if the companies don't come up with a fair contract, "come Sept. 14, we're going to take action to get it by any means necessary."

Fain has characterized the contract talks with Detroit 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 wastebas-

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ket, "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 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 end 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' outsized 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."

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 boldest of all — 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.

At Detroit's Labor Day Parade, workers said a strike appears likely now.

Jason Craig, a worker at a Stellantis parts warehouse near Detroit, said his company appears most likely to be the strike target, but he said the union might go to Ford because it seems more family-oriented. Fain reiterated Monday that all three companies remain strike targets.

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

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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 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."

Smash Mouth frontman Steve Harwell, known for the ubiquitous pop-rock hit 'All Star,' dies at 56

By MARIA SHERMAN AP Music Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Steve Harwell, the longtime frontman of the Grammy-nominated pop rock band Smash Mouth that was behind the megahit "All Star" has died. He was 56.

The band's manager, Robert Hayes, said Harwell "passed peacefully and comfortably" Monday morning surrounded by family and friends at his home in Boise, Idaho. The cause of death was acute liver failure, Hayes said in a statement.

Smash Mouth is also known for hits including "Walkin' on the Sun" and "Then The Morning Comes." "Steve Harwell was a true American Original. A larger than life character who shot up into the sky like a Roman candle," Hayes said. "Steve should be remembered for his unwavering focus and impassioned determination to reach the heights of pop stardom."

"His only tools were his irrepressible charm and charisma, his fearlessly reckless ambition," Hayes said, adding: "Steve lived a 100% full-throttle life. Burning brightly across the universe before burning out."

"He will be greatly missed by those who knew and loved him," he said.

Born in California in 1967, Harwell performed in a rap group called F.O.S. (Freedom of Speech) before forming Smash Mouth in 1994. The band released two platinum albums on Interscope Records, their ska-fueled 1997 debut and 1999's "Astro Lounge." The second album featured some of the band's biggest hits, including the Grammy-nominated, platinum single "All Star," which appeared in the movie "Shrek" alongside their cover of the Monkees' "I'm a Believer."

Humor was a driving force behind Smash Mouth's success, and at the forefront was Harwell's playful alt-

High water sweeps fire truck into a river, leaving 5 missing, as tropical storm hits China

BEIJING (AP) — High waters swept a fire truck into a river in southeastern China early Tuesday, leaving five crew members missing, local authorities said, as the second tropical storm in recent days hit the mainland.

Haikui weakened to a tropical storm as it scraped along the coastline of Fujian and Guangdong provinces Tuesday morning, bringing up to 600 millimeters (2 feet) of rainfall to some areas as it moves inland, according to China's meteorological agency.

The fire truck swept into a river in Fujian's Yongtai county had been carrying nine crew members. Rescuers were "doing all they can" to find the five still unaccounted for, according to the county emergency response headquarters, as cited by online news site The Paper.

Water transportation and work along the coastline had been suspended ahead of Haikui, which was typhoon strength when it crossed the southern tip of Taiwan on Sunday without causing major damage.

Haikui followed Typhoon Saola's landfall early Saturday along the Guangdong coast. The typhoon had sideswiped Hong Kong last week, causing some flooding.

In recent months, China has had some of its heaviest rains and deadliest flooding in years. Dozens of people have been killed, including in outlying mountainous parts of the capital, Beijing.

North Korea's Kim Jong Un may meet with Putin in Russia this month, US official says

By LOU KESTEN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A U.S. official said Monday that North Korean leader Kim Jong Un may travel to Russia soon to meet with President Vladimir Putin as the Kremlin tries to acquire military equipment for use in its war in Ukraine.

The official, who was not authorized to address the matter publicly and spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity, said the U.S. expects Kim will make the trip within the month. The official said the U.S. isn't sure exactly where or when the meeting would take place, but the Pacific port city of Vladivostok would be a likely possibility given its relative proximity to North Korea.

National Security Council spokeswoman Adrienne Watson noted Monday that Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu traveled to Pyongyang recently and tried to persuade North Korea to sell artillery ammunition to Russia.

Watson said, "We have information that Kim Jong Un expects these discussions to continue, to include leader-level diplomatic engagement in Russia."

She added that the U.S. is urging North Korea "to cease its arms negotiations with Russia and abide by the public commitments that Pyongyang has made to not provide or sell arms to Russia."

Shoigu said Monday that the two countries may hold joint war games.

The New York Times first reported that Kim planned to meet with Putin in Russia this month.

The White House said last week that it had intelligence indicating that Putin and Kim swapped letters following Shoigu's visit. National Security Council spokesman John Kirby said the letters were "more at the surface level" but that Russian and North Korean talks on a weapons sale were advancing.

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rock voice and persona. He made a cameo in 2001 comedy film "Rat Race," and had a well-documented friendship with the Food Network chef and host Guy Fieri.

On Monday, tributes began pouring in. Fieri wrote on Instagram: "To my brutha Steve RIP. Today is a sad day, I will miss my friend."

NSYNC's Chris Kirkpatrick and Joey Fatone also shared short homages.

"I'm truly sorry for the difficult battle you had to fight," Kirkpatrick posted on Instagram. "You were an amazing soul and will be deeply missed."

Fatone said he had known Harwell for a long time.

"Opened for NSync and even was my wedding singer at my wedding," wrote Fatone. "Hopefully people out there that are dealing with addiction. get the right help that they need."

"Today" host Carson Daly published a two-part statement on Instagram, detailing the first time he met Harwell in 1995, when he was a DJ on JOME in San Jose and Smash Mouth was a new band.

"In better days, Steve was a force of a frontman & lived the life of 50 men," Daly wrote. "He brought joy to millions with his music and his legacy will thankfully live on."

"Rest in peace Steve Harwell," comedian Tom Green tweeted. "I remember hanging with you back in the MTV days you were always super cool and an amazing talent - my condolences to your family and friends."

Harwell retired from performing and left Smash Mouth in 2021. The band continued to tour with Zach Goode as the singer. Smash Mouth released a statement at the time saying Harwell had been diagnosed with cardiomyopathy eight years earlier and had suffered "nonstop serious medical setbacks including heart failure as well as acute Wernicke Encephalopathy."

Hayes had released a statement on Sunday saying Harwell was in hospice care.

Harwell will be cremated in Boise and buried in San Jose, California, alongside his mother, Hayes said.

Biden celebrates unions and job creation during a Philadelphia Labor Day appearance

By FATIMA HUSSEIN Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — President Joe Biden, who often says he's the most pro-union president in history, touted the importance of organized labor and applauded American workers in building the economy during a Labor Day appearance in Philadelphia on Monday.

The Democratic president spoke about how the economy is recovering from the crippling coronavirus pandemic and about what his administration has done to pay for infrastructure improvements, and cited the importance of unions in building the middle class.

As the pace of the Republican primary season escalates, Biden is trying to reclaim ground among working class voters that abandoned Democrats and moved their allegiance to former President Donald Trump and others over cultural issues. And on Monday in Philadelphia he gave a preview of that argument, repeatedly referring to Trump as "the last guy" and likening Trump's job creation record to that of President Herbert Hoover, who presided over the country as it spiraled into the Great Depression and was soundly defeated by Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Speaking of Trump — who is the leading Republican candidate in the polls so far — Biden said: "He left office with fewer jobs in America than when he got elected into office."

Biden spoke to a crowd of union members from a diversity of industries — from steel workers to stage hands — and focused on the impact that his administration's policies have had on working people.

"This Labor Day we're celebrating jobs, good-paying jobs, jobs you can raise a family on, union jobs," Biden told the crowd. Instead of standing at the podium, the president held the microphone in his hand and walked around the stage behind signs that read "UNION STRONG."

Labor Day, a holiday honoring workers, comes this year against the backdrop of increasingly emboldened U.S. unions of all kinds and a potential strike by 146,000 United Auto Workers union members.

The president was asked about whether there might be a strike and said he didn't think it would happen. That drew a quick reaction from the UAW's President Shawn Fain, who said he was "shocked" by the

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president's words and saying that the president "must know something we don't know."

"I think we've got a long ways to go," Fain said. "All three are required to have an agreement done by Sept. 14. That's the deadline for all three. And if they don't there will be action."

The union is pushing for pay raises, a shorter work week and restoration of traditional pensions. Fain said General Motors and Stellantis have yet to put forth a response to the union's economic proposals, while Ford's economic offer was far short of union demands. The union has filed unfair labor practice charges against GM and Stellantis for being slow to bargain, charges the companies have denied. Fain said the union's intent is not to strike but to get a fair agreement.

Labor Day also comes as the U.S. has added jobs and more people have begun looking for work — the most since January. That is news Biden is eager to highlight as he seeks reelection in 2024.

Biden still needs to persuade voters that his policies are having a positive impact on their lives. Only 36% of U.S. adults approve of Biden's handling of the economy, slightly lower than the 42% who approve of his overall performance, according to an August poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

Biden was making his Labor Day speech days after news that America's employers added 187,000 jobs in August, evidence of a slowing but still-resilient labor market despite the high interest rates the Federal Reserve has imposed.

Friday's report from the Labor Department also showed that the unemployment rate rose from 3.5% to 3.8%, the highest level since February 2022 though still low by historical standards. But the rate rose for an encouraging reason: 736,000 people began looking for work last month, the most since January, and not all of them found jobs right away. Only people who are actively looking for a job are counted as unemployed.

The president frequently talked about the importance of middle-class workers in the economy, saying that when the middle class does well, "everyone does well."

At the Tri-State Labor Day event in Philadelphia, hundreds of union workers donning their local T-shirts waited on a warm and muggy morning to see the president speak.

Lenny Nutter, a Philadelphia resident wearing a yellow Laborers International Union shirt, said he attended the event to support Biden, adding that unions have been more active than they used to be, due in part to the president's policies.

"Unions are adding members, and a lot more work has been given to union workers," Nutter said.

Biden has used executive actions to promote worker organizing, has personally cheered unionization efforts at corporate giants like Amazon and has authorized federal funding to aid union members' pensions. Just last week, the Biden administration proposed a new rule that would make 3.6 million more U.S. workers eligible for overtime pay, the most generous such increase in decades.

"Now you're going to get paid overtime," the president told the crowd.

Biden also has traveled the country, trumpeting how union labor is building bridges and improving train tunnels as part of the bipartisan \$1.1 trillion public works package Congress passed in 2021.

The 36th annual Tri-State Labor Day Parade and Family Celebration is hosted by the Philadelphia AFL-CIO, whose website says it comprises more than 100 local labor unions representing more than 150,000 workers.

A massive wildfire in northeastern Greece is gradually abating, with over 700 firefighters deployed

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — A massive wildfire that destroyed vast tracts of forest in northeastern Greece over 17 days was in abeyance on Monday, although hundreds of firefighters were still tackling pockets that continued to burn, the fire department said.

Authorities also warned that parts of the country were at risk of flooding due to heavy rainstorms forecast overnight and on Tuesday that could pose a particular threat to fire-ravaged areas.

Reinforcements were sent over the weekend to battle the wildfire burning in the Evros region near the

border with Turkey, bringing the total number of firefighters on Monday to 741, backed by 124 vehicles and two aircraft. The blaze has been blamed for the deaths of 20 people, all believed to have been migrants who had recently crossed the border.

"There is no active front in the Evros area right now," Greece's minister for civil protection, Vassilis Kikilias, said. "We remain on alert, and the battle obviously continues."

The fire, which broke out on Aug. 19 near the northeastern city of Alexandroupolis and joined with other blazes to form one massive wildfire, burned more than 93,000 hectares (230,000 acres) of land by Sunday, according to the European Union's Copernicus Emergency Management Service, making it the largest single blaze to hit an EU country since records began in 2000.

Wildfires are common in Greece and other southern European countries during their hot, dry summers. Dozens of fires have been breaking out each day across the country for weeks, with the fire department saying its forces tackled 82 wildfires between Sunday afternoon and Monday afternoon, with 51 of them having broken out in those 24 hours.

Another fire broke out Monday in woodland on the northern outskirts of Athens. More than 70 firefighters, including 18 from France, backed by two airplanes and three helicopters, managed to bring the blaze under partial control within hours, the fire department said.

It said a man was arrested on suspicion of causing the fire through negligence.

With its firefighting forces stretched to the limit, Greece appealed for help from other European countries and has received hundreds of firefighters, as well as a fleet of planes and helicopters, from across the continent. On Sunday, forces from France, Spain, Cyprus, Romania, the Czech Republic, Bulgaria, Slovakia, Albania and Serbia were still operating in the country.

Heavy rainfall affected parts of Greece Monday, causing disruptions but no major flooding.

Kikilias, the civil protection minister, warned the rainstorms were expected to be intense and protracted.

"Our meteorologists say it will be an extreme natural phenomenon," he said. "Special care is required from everyone."

Farms with natural landscape features provide sanctuary for some Costa Rica rainforest birds

By CHRISTINA LARSON AP Science Writer

Small farms with natural landscape features such as shade trees, hedgerows and tracts of intact forest provide a refuge for some tropical bird populations, according to an 18-year study in Costa Rica.

For almost two decades, ornithologist James Zook has been collecting detailed records on nearly 430 tropical bird species found on small farms, plantations and undisturbed forests in the country.

While birds thrive the most in undisturbed rainforests, Zook said some species usually found in forests can establish populations in "diversified farms" that partially mimic a natural forest environment.

"How you farm matters," said Nicholas Hendershot, a Stanford University ecologist and co-author of the study published Monday in the journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

"In these diversified farms, you see growth over the long term in bird species with specialized needs," such as safe and shady nooks to build nests and a variety of food sources, Hendershot said.

That trend was "in stark contrast to what we saw in intensive agriculture," or monocrop pineapple and banana plantations, he said.

The findings may seem intuitive, but Natalia Ocampo-Penuela, a University of California, Santa Cruz conservation ecologist not involved in the study, said it's extremely rare to have detailed long-term data from tropical regions to show that varied farming landscapes can sustain some forest bird populations.

"With 18 years of data, you can show the species is persisting in that area, not simply passing by," she said.

Three-quarters of the 305 species found in diversified farms showed stable or growing populations over the time of study. These include the collared aracari, a small toucan-like bird, with a yellow chest and

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enormous beak, as well as several members of the manakin family — small brightly colored forest birds known for elaborate courtship dances.

"It's a huge contribution to have documented that some birds aren't just going there, but staying there and populations are growing," said Ruth Bennett, an ecologist at the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center, who was not involved in the research.

Still, such habitat sanctuaries don't offset overall population losses from the conversion of primary forests to plantations, the authors stressed. "A pineapple plantation is like a 'bird desert' here," said Zook.

Increasingly, scientists say conserving species will require paying attention to landscapes with a human footprint — not just untouched areas.

"Modern conservation has to happen not only inside the fences of protected areas, but within agricultural areas and even urban areas, where there's potential habitat for at least some species," said the University of California's Ocampo-Penuela.

The Rolling Stones will release their first studio album in 18 years, 'Hackney Diamonds'

By MARIA SHERMAN AP Music Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The wait is over: The Rolling Stones will soon release new music.

On Monday, the band announced they are preparing to release their first album of original material in 18 years — since 2005's "A Bigger Bang."

Titled "Hackney Diamonds," the band will share details of the release at an event in East London's Hackney district on Wednesday, where Mick Jagger, Keith Richards and Ronnie Wood will be interviewed live by "The Tonight Show" host Jimmy Fallon.

The event will be livestreamed exclusively on YouTube on Wednesday at 2:30 p.m. BST, 9:30 a.m. EST and 6:30 a.m. PST.

"Hackney may be at the heart of Hackney Diamonds, but this is a truly global moment we want to share with fans around the world via YouTube," the Rolling Stones shared in a statement.

The announcement of "Hackney Diamonds" follows a cryptic teaser campaign, in which the band's iconic mouth and tongue logo was projected onto the façade of major landmarks in cities around the world, including New York, London and Paris.

The album is also the Stones' first since the death of drummer Charlie Watts in 2021.

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 opened Monday with heads of state and others asserting a stronger voice on a worldwide issue that affects their continent the most even though its 1.3 billion people contribute to global warming the least.

Kenyan President William Ruto's government and the African Union launched a ministerial session as 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," he said.

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.

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"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.

Kenya alone needs \$62 billion to implement its plan to reduce national emissions that contribute to global warming, the president said.

"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.

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. "Stop the neo-colonial scramble for oil and gas in Africa," one read. Ruto in the past has said the "addiction" to fossil fuels must end.

One project being protested is the TotalEnergies-funded 897-mile (1,443-kilometer) East Africa Crude Oil Pipeline in Uganda and Tanzania.

"We know that fossil fuel companies have lots of subsidies," so more subsidies for solar power are needed to massively scale up renewable sources, said Ugandan activist Vanessa Nakate.

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 in the period from 2020 to 2030, 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 charcoal made from local trees, mostly in small kilns, 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.

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Today in History:

September 5, first Continental Congress assembles in Philadelphia

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, Sept. 5, the 248th day of 2023. There are 117 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Sept. 5, 1774, the first Continental Congress assembled in Philadelphia.

On this date:

In 1698, Russia's Peter the Great imposed a tax on beards.

In 1864, voters in Louisiana approved a new state constitution abolishing slavery.

In 1939, four days after war had broken out in Europe, President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued a proclamation declaring U.S. neutrality in the conflict.

In 1960, at the Rome Olympics, American boxer Cassius Clay (later Muhammad Ali) defeated Zbigniew Pietrzykowski (zuh-BIG'-nee-ehf pee-eh-t-chah-KAHF'-skee) of Poland to win the light-heavyweight gold medal; Wilma Rudolph of the United States won the second of her three gold medals with the 200-meter sprint.

In 1961, President John F. Kennedy signed legislation making aircraft hijackings a federal crime.

In 1972, the Palestinian group Black September attacked the Israeli Olympic delegation at the Munich Games, killing 11 members of the Israeli Olympic team and a police officer. German forces killed five of the gunmen.

In 1975, President Gerald R. Ford escaped an attempt on his life by Lynette "Squeaky" Fromme, a disciple of Charles Manson, in Sacramento, California.

In 1986, four hijackers who had seized a Pan Am jumbo jet on the ground in Karachi, Pakistan, opened fire when the lights inside the plane failed; a total of 20 people were killed before Pakistani commandos stormed the jetliner.

In 1991, the 35th annual Naval Aviation Symposium held by the Tailhook Association opened in Las Vegas; during the four-day gathering, there were reports that dozens of people, most of them women, were sexually assaulted or otherwise harassed. (The episode triggered the resignation of Navy Secretary H. Lawrence.)

In 1997, Mother Teresa died in Calcutta, India, at age 87.

In 2016, Hugh O'Brian, the actor who shot to fame as Sheriff Wyatt Earp in what was hailed as television's first adult Western, died in Beverly Hills, California, at age 91.

In 2012, Barack Obama was nominated to run for a second term at the Democratic National Convention in Charlotte, North Carolina.

In 2018, the New York Times published an opinion piece from an anonymous senior administration official claiming to be part of an internal "resistance" working to thwart President Donald Trump's "worst inclinations;" Trump responded that if such a "gutless" person exists, "the Times must, for National Security purposes, turn him/her over to the government at once!"

Today's Birthdays: Comedian-actor Bob Newhart is 94. Actor-singer Carol Lawrence is 91. Actor Lucille Soong is 88. Former NFL All-Pro quarterback and college football Hall of Famer Billy Kilmer is 84. Actor William Devane is 84. Actor George Lazenby is 84. Movie director Werner Herzog is 81. Singer Al Stewart is 78. Actor-director Dennis Dugan is 77. College Football Hall of Famer Jerry LeVias is 77. Singer Loudon Wainwright III is 77. Soul/rock musician Mel Collins is 76. "Cathy" cartoonist Cathy Guisewite (GYZ'-wyt) is 73. Actor Michael Keaton is 72. Actor Debbie Turner (Marta in "The Sound of Music") is 67. Actor Kristian Alfonso is 60. R&B singer Terry Ellis is 60. Rock musician Brad Wilk is 55. TV personality Dweezil Zappa is 54. Actor Rose McGowan is 50. Actor Carice Van Houten is 47. Rock musician Kyle O'Quin (Portugal. The Man) is 38. Olympic gold medal figure skater Yuna Kim is 33. Actor Skandar Keynes is 32.