

Groton Daily Independent

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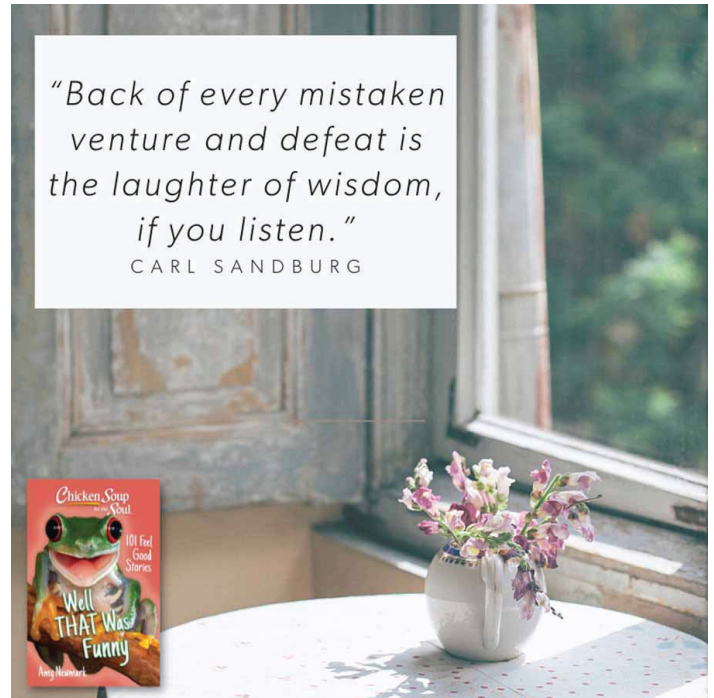
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Rummage Sale at the GDI

Tina will be having a rummage sale at the Groton Independent office, today until 4 p.m. Teenage clothes - Small to extra large. Adult women's 3X and 4X pants, shirts and dresses. Mens jeans sizes 34x32, 34x34, 33-32, 32x32.

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



"Back of every mistaken venture and defeat is the laughter of wisdom, if you listen."
CARL SANDBURG



Saturday, Sept. 9

Common Cents Community Thrift Store, 209 N Main, open 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Catholic: SEAS Confession, 3:45-4:15 p.m.; SEAS Mass, 4:30 p.m.

Football junior high jamboree at Aberdeen Roncalli.
Girls soccer at Sioux Falls Christian, 1 p.m. (No JV)
Airport Fly-In/Drive-In
City wide rummage sale, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Sunday, Sept. 10

St. John's Lutheran/Zion worship: St. John's at 9 a.m., Sunday school at 9:45 a.m., Zion at 11 a.m.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Rally Sunday. Worship, 9 a.m.; Sunday school, 10:15 a.m.; choir, 7 p.m.

Groton CM&A: Sunday School at 9:15 a.m., Worship Service at 10:30 a.m.

Catholic: SEAS Confession, 7:45-8:15 a.m., SEAS Mass, 8:30 a.m.; Turton Confession, 10:30-10:45 a.m.; Turton Mass, 11 a.m.

First Presbyterian Church: Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.; Worship, 11 a.m.

United Methodist: Welcome Pastor Rob, Conde worship, 8:30 a.m.; Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.; Sunday

CLOSED: Recycling Trailer in Groton

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

World in Brief

A federal judge rejected Mark Meadows' request to move his charges in Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis' 2020 election interference case to federal court. Meanwhile, a report released Friday shows the special grand jury that investigated the case had also recommended charges against Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina and former Senators David Perdue and Kelly Loeffler of Georgia.

Former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, 83, said she will run for reelection in the U.S. House next November. Many questioned whether she would stay in Congress, after a brutal attack on her husband last year.

Hurricane Lee weakened into a Category 4 storm on Friday after briefly intensifying into a Category 5. "Dangerous surf and life-threatening rip currents" are already impacting northern parts of the Leeward Islands, the National Hurricane Center said. The hurricane is expected to move north of the Leeward Islands, the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico over the weekend.

Germany upset the U.S. men's basketball team to advance to the final of the 2023 FIBA Basketball World Cup in the Philippines. The 113-111 win is Germany's first victory over the U.S.

Gun violence has been declared a public health emergency in the state of New Mexico following the shooting death of an 11-year-old boy on a highway near Albuquerque.

Members of the public entering some government buildings in one county in Alabama will have to wear a face mask going forward amid a rise in coronavirus cases in the U.S., according to local reports.

In the ongoing war in Ukraine, NATO member state Romania is weighing evacuating its border town, Plauru, days after authorities acknowledged for the first time that debris from a suspected Russian drone fell onto its territory.

TALKING POINTS

"Our country needs America to show the world that our flag is still there, with liberty and justice for ALL. That is why I am running for reelection — and respectfully ask for your vote," Former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said on her decision to run for reelection.

"He thought he could get away with his crimes by perpetrating them from a foreign base, hidden behind layers of fake domain names, virtual private networks, and computer servers rented under pseudonyms and paid for with cryptocurrency. He found out otherwise and will now spend nearly a decade of his life in a U.S. prison," Acting United States Attorney Joshua S. Levy said of the arrest of Vladislav Klyushin, a Russian businessman with ties to the Kremlin.

"I don't think that I'm above the law. I was just being disrespectful ... I was just an idiot ... and it won't happen again. I was just frustrated in the moment, it was unlike me, and I apologize," country singer Zach Bryan said after briefly being jailed in Oklahoma.

What to Watch in the Day Ahead

President Joe Biden attends the G20 Leaders' Summit in India. After the summit ends on Sunday, Biden will travel to Hanoi to meet with Vietnamese leaders and discuss opportunities to strengthen the nations' economic ties.

Local elections held by Russia continue in illegally annexed regions of Luhansk, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia, a move condemned by Ukraine and the West. The Ukrainian territories were annexed by Moscow's forces a year ago, but Russia still does not fully control them. Elections conclude on Sunday.



Full time shift supervisor opening at Ken's Food Fair, Groton SD.

Looking for a hard working self motivated individual with leadership skills and willing to take on responsibilities.

Pay will depend on experience. Benefits available will discuss at interview.

Apply at Ken's in Groton SD.

The Life of Charles Lee Robinson

With heavy hearts, we announce the passing of Charles Lee Robinson, 78, who passed away at home in Groton, SD, on September 6, 2023. Charles was born to Leonard and Doris (Carstens) Robinson on May 29, 1945, in Norfolk, NE. After high school, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1963. During his service, he served aboard two different ships and had two job assignments: as an engine man, and as an operator for the Drone Anti-Submarine Helicopter (DASH). He was awarded several medals and citations during his service and was honorably discharged in 1967.



After his service, Charles eventually moved to Aberdeen, SD, to be near his family around 1973. He worked at Aberdeen Sanitation with his brother until the mid-1980s, after which he moved to a farm near Groton, SD. He farmed mostly corn, and raised cattle, pigs, chickens, and horses at various times throughout the years. However, his truest love was always the horses. Charles also worked at the Hub City Livestock Auction, enjoying the work as much as the colorful conversations with his coworkers. In general, he was especially known for his entertaining storytelling and giving nature; he never met a person that wasn't a friend. A true cowboy to the end - his light will shine brightly for all those who had the privilege of knowing him.

Charles is survived by his siblings, Karron Folker of Omaha, NE, and Randall (Cheryl) Robinson of Aberdeen, SD, many nieces and nephews, as well as countless friends and neighbors, and his treasured canine fur-babies, Bruce, Morgan, and Harley. He was preceded in death by his father, Leonard Robinson, mother, Doris Clark, and sisters, Patricia Woslager and Bonnie Mundhenke.

Memorial service will be held at 2:00 p.m., Monday, September 11th at Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel. Rev. Jeremy Yeadon will officiate. Military honors will be provided by Groton American Legion Post #39. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in his honor to the American Legion Auxiliary, PO Box 125, Groton, S.D. 57445, which was very close to his heart.

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Football: Groton Area 14, Clark/Willow Lake 0

Groton Area Tigers

Rushing: 48 carries for 133 yards, 2 TDs

Korbin Kucker: 34-94

Christian Ehresmann: 3-12

Brevin Flihs: 1-(-2)

Taylor Diegel: 3-48, 1 TD

Lane Tietz: 6-(-13)

Keegen Tracy: 1-0

Passing:

Lane Tietz completed 8 of 15 for 92 yards, 1 TD

Korbin Kucker completed 1 of 1 for 2 yards

Receivers:

Colby Dunker: 2-22, 1 TD

Taylor Diegel: 2-28

Keegen Tracy: 3-28

Christian Ehresmann: 2-16

Fumbles: Had 3, lost 1

Penalties: 2 for 10 yards

Defensive Leaders

Brevin Flihs: 10 tackles

Korbin Kucker: 10 tackles

Christian Ehresmann: 10 tackles, 1 sack

Lane Tietz: 1 interception

Keegen Tracy: 1 interception

Logan Ringgenberg: 1 sack

Colby Dunker: 1 sack

Taylor Diegel: 1 sack

Record: 3-1 (NEC: 3-1)

Next Game: Friday host Deuel

Scoring:

First Quarter

2:39: Groton: Taylor Diegel, 47 yard run. PAT: Kucker kick..... 7-0

Second Quarter

0:28: Groton: Colby Dunker 13 yard pass from Lane Tietz. PAT: Kucker kick 14-0

Clark/Willow Lake Cyclones

Rushing: 28 carries for 46 yards

Griffin Musser: 14-25

Jack Helkenn: 6-25

Josh Kannegieter: 1-2

Elliot Bratland: 2-4

Emmerson Larson: 5-(-18)

Passing:

Larson completed 5 of 12 for 18 yards

Receivers:

Josh Kannegieter: 2-14

Jack Helkenn: 1-9

Griffin Musser: 2-(-5)

Fumbles: Had 0, lost 0

Penalties: 4 for 16 yards

Defensive Leaders

Jack Helkenn: 8 tackles

Elliot Bratland: 8 tackles

Record: 1-3 (NEC: 1-2)

Next Game: at Parker

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Korbin Kucker
(Photo by Paul Kosel)



Taylor Diegel
(Photo by Paul Kosel)

Tiger Gridiron takes wind out of Cyclones
Groton Area scored two touchdowns in the first half and that was enough to take the wind out of the Clark/Willow Lake Cyclones, 14-0. The football game was played Friday in Groton.

Korbin Kucker had 94 yards rushing and 10 tackles while Teylor Diegel had 48 yards rushing, 28 yards receiving and one 47-yard touchdown. Keegen Tracy had 28 yards receiving and one interception. Colby Dunker had 22 yards receiving, caught one touchdown and had one sack. Christian Ehresmann had 12 yards rushing, 16 yards receiving, 10 tackles and one sack.

The game was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by Bary Keith at Harr Motors, BK Custom Ts & More, Bierman Farm Service, Blocker Construction, Dacotah Bank, Full Circle Ag, Groton Ag Partners, Groton Chamber, Groton Ford, John Sieh Agency, Krueger Brothers and Locke Electric with Mike Nehls, Jeslyn Kosel and Paul Kosel.



Keegen Tracy
(Photo by Paul Kosel)

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Friday Brings Wolves Wins Over Yellowjackets and Javelinas

Spearfish, S.D. – The Northern State University volleyball team notched a day two sweep at Black Hills with wins over Montana State – Billings and Texas A&M – Kingsville. The Wolves recorded a 4-set win over the Yellowjackets and a 5-set victory against the Javelinas.

THE QUICK DETAILS

Final Score: NSU 3, MSUB 1
Records: NSU 5-1, MSUB 2-3
Attendance: 133
Final Score: NSU 3, TAMK 2
Record: NSU 6-1, TAMK 4-2
Attendance: 180

HOW IT HAPPENED vs. MSU - BILLINGS

Northern opened the match with set victories of 25-11 and 25-19 before Montana State grabbed a 25-21 set three win

The Wolves sealed the match in the fourth setting with a 25-14 victory

NSU hit .215 in the match, accumulating a match leading 53 kills, 53 assists, 74 digs, and 13 aces

In addition, Northern tallied seven blocks and held MSU Billings to a .067 attack percentage

Hanna Thompson led three Wolves in double figures offensively with 17 kills, while Abby Meister continued her strong defensive play with 23 digs

Keri Walker tallied a setting double-double with 46 assists, averaging 11.50 per set, and 16 digs, averaging 4.00 per set

NORTHERN STATE STATISTICAL STANDOUTS

Hanna Thompson: 17 kills, .353 attack%, 6 digs, 1 block
Natalia Szybinska: 15 kills, .355 attack%, 3 digs
Morissen Samuels: 10 kills, 9 digs, 1 ace
Keri Walker: 46 assists, 16 digs, 4 blocks, 3 aces
Abby Mesiter: 23 digs, 4 aces

HOW IT HAPPENED vs. KINGSVILLE

Mirroring their opener on the day, Northern tallied set one and two victories with scores of 25-21 and 25-11

TAMK rallied back taking the third and fourth sets with scores of 25-23 and 25-15, however NSU sealed the match with a 15-10 victory in the final frame

The Wolves racked up a match high 60 kills, 99 digs, and four aces, while adding 53 assists and 11 blocks

Northern averaged 19.8 digs per set in the win; a season high for the Wolves in large part to a 41 dig performance by Abby Meister

Morissen Samuels led three Wolves in double figures offensively with 19 kills, while Samuels and Abby Brooks grabbed four blocks apiece

Keri Walker added yet another double-double recording 46 assists and 19 digs

NORTHERN STATE STATISTICAL STANDOUTS

Morissen Samuels: 19 kills, 8 digs, 4 blocks
Natalia Szybinska: 13 kills, 2 blocks
Hanna Thompson: 10 kills, 5 digs
Keri Walker: 46 assists, 19 digs, 3 blocks
Abby Meister: 41 digs, 8.2 digs per set, 2 assists
Sara Moberg: 12 digs, 3 aces, 2 assists

UP NEXT

The Wolves close out their time in Spearfish today at 12 p.m. (CT) against the South Dakota School of Mines.

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Governor Noem Endorses Donald J. Trump for President

RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA – Today, Governor Kristi Noem endorsed President Donald J. Trump for President of the United States. She delivered the endorsement during remarks at the South Dakota Republican Party's Monumental Leaders Rally. President Trump then joined Governor Noem on stage.

These remarks are as prepared for delivery:

Good evening.

Three years ago, during some of our country's darkest days in recent history, South Dakota inspired the nation by daring to boldly celebrate our God-given Freedom. While leaders across the world used fear to manipulate, lie, and control people, we chose a different path. On July 3rd, we gathered at this nation's greatest monument and invited the world's strongest leader to join us. And President Donald J. Trump showed up.

President Trump showed up, like he always does for the American people.

And he has shown up again here tonight!

I've gotten a lot of questions from people across the country about tonight's events. They want to know why? Why did you invite President Trump to come help support the South Dakota Republican Party? Why would he waste his time in the middle of a presidential race to go to a small, insignificant state like South Dakota? Is President Trump going to pick you as his favorite Governor?

So here are the facts:

Chairman John Wiik had this fantastic idea to bring Republicans in our state together to rally us around our shared values and principles. I loved the idea and told him I would do what I could to help. We started discussing inviting all the candidates running to be President of the United States. Tim Scott was asked... and he declined. Vivek Ramaswamy was invited, and he turned the chairman down. Other candidates were asked, and all told us they had better things to do. But when President Trump was invited to come be with you tonight, he said, "I'll be there!"

You see, that's why people love President Trump. He doesn't listen to consultants, or the media, or the political elite to tell him who is important and what his priorities should be. To him, every American is worth fighting for. No one is better than anyone else. No one deserves to be treated differently than anyone else. And he will never forget about us, the little people in the little states that are the backbone of this country. He shows up for every American and fights for us every day.

Some people can't figure out his popularity – why are people so loyal to him? I'm convinced it's because we have never seen anything or anyone like him before – and we've certainly never seen anyone like him serve in public office before!

He's unapologetically himself – he's real – he's genuine – he is who he is, and he never pretends to be something he's not. And those who hate America know he will fight every day to stop them from destroying this country.

When I first asked for your support to serve as your Governor, I talked about my vision for South Dakota. I believed our state could grow, become stronger, expand businesses and industry, pay down our debt, and build stronger families – all while preserving our values and way of life.

We have done that. And we didn't do it through more government control or more taxes. We did it by trusting our people and giving them more opportunities to succeed. When the rest of the country was locking down and ordering people to stay home – we did the exact opposite. We invited people to come to South Dakota and used it as an opportunity to tell our story. We were a "city on a hill" during a very dark time – and we represented hope. A light in the darkness. We showed the country how to do better – be better.

Many are threatened by what South Dakota has done the last several years. Here is why – while big government socialists want more control over you and your family, your money, and your life – we chose personal responsibility. We cut taxes, cut regulations, let families make the best decisions for themselves – and we have thrived.

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We have gone from flyover country to one of the fastest growing states in the nation. South Dakota's real GDP just grew a whopping 10.1%. Our personal incomes just went up by another 9.2%. Those are both top-5 in the nation. Our population has been growing at 5 to 10 times the national average for the past several years. We are a beacon of Freedom to the nation. We have broken tourism records every year since the pandemic. We have grown our economy faster than any other state – and faster than at any time in South Dakota's history.

Let me give you all a quick refresher course on South Dakota's story. In January 2020, I stood before the legislature for my "State of the State" address and declared South Dakota "Open for Business." Just two months later, our first COVID cases came to South Dakota. I knew one thing: the only way that we were going to get through it was together. We made decisions based on the science, the facts, and the data. And the science did not support mandates or lockdowns. We asked South Dakotans to use common sense, and then we trusted them. We trusted them to use personal responsibility to make the best decisions for themselves and their loved ones.

And as a community – as a state – we got back to work. Other states were taking a very different approach. They ordered their citizens to shelter in place. Ordered businesses to lock down. Ordered churches to close. Some even sent nursing home patients who had COVID back into their facilities.

Those decisions weren't leadership. They were made based on fear and control. South Dakota focused on facts, instead. I respected my oath to the United States and South Dakota Constitutions. I respected our people. I respected their Freedom.

If Joe Biden had been President, he would have tried to stop me from protecting you. Thank God President Trump was in the White House at the time – because he let me do my job.

The results have been absolutely incredible. Earlier this year, South Dakota became the first state in American history to reach a 1.8% unemployment rate. No state had ever had an unemployment rate that low! Our people understand the value of work – and purpose – and serving each other. Incomes have been going up faster than anywhere else. Women owned businesses do better here than virtually any other state. Folks are moving here in record numbers. Our birth rates are the highest in the country. Our new housing developments have led the nation. We have had historic tourism numbers, set new records in hunting and fishing licenses sold, and cut taxes all while bringing in historic revenues because of our economic growth. And while other states struggled with out-of-control crime, violence, and hopelessness, South Dakota enforced our laws, respected our law enforcement officers, and saw declining mental health challenges, declining drug overdoses, and declining suicide rates. By embracing our faith and our Freedom – and by working together – our people are happier.

You see, I believe this is one of the main reasons why South Dakota is so attacked by those who want to see us fail. They will do anything, and destroy anyone to get more control and power. We refused to comply.

All we did here in South Dakota is what Republicans have always said they believed – we just did it – and it worked!

That frightens the liberals – because we have proof that our policies lift people up – help people – improve their opportunities for success. We don't have to speculate, guess, or be philosophical about the benefits of our principles – we have proof that they work.

Three years ago, on July 3rd at Mount Rushmore, I stood there to honor our nation. I quoted one of the four great leaders carved in stone on that mountain. I quoted my favorite president, Teddy Roosevelt:

"It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat."

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That night, I used those words to introduce our special guest who was with us that evening. I introduced him as "someone who knows precisely what it means to brave the dangers of the arena... someone who strives valiantly; who knows great enthusiasms; who spends himself in a worthy cause; and who has firmly and repeatedly stated his commitment to place Americans, American liberty, American safety, and the American Constitution before anything else."

Let me be clear: there are many who chose not to be in the arena – many who take the easy path, who criticize, who don't show up for our party, our country, and our Constitutional rights. They don't show up for you when it matters. They didn't even show up here tonight to welcome a former President of the United States to South Dakota who cared enough to come support our state Republican Party and our great Chairman John Wiik.

Yes, maybe it's controversial to be here tonight. Maybe it's not convenient. But it is not the critic who counts. Thank you all for being respectful – for being here for the man who always shows up for us. May we all know the triumph of high achievement because of those like him who fight for freedom. It is a worthy cause.

I was at the southern border just two weeks ago. Make no mistake, it is a warzone, and President Biden's policies are inhumane. He is ignoring our federal laws, perpetuating drug and human trafficking, and undermining our national security.

The only person in this Presidential race who will fix the situation is President Trump. He started building and funded the wall. He instituted the "Remain in Mexico" Policy. And it worked. He supports our allies, such as Israel and Taiwan, and understands that a strong America brings a safer world.

I trust President Trump to use our military only when it's in America's best interests. I have been Commander in Chief of South Dakota's National Guard. I have had South Dakota Guardsmen and women deployed every single day that I have served as Governor. Before that, I served on the House Armed Services Committee. I know how important American strength is on the world stage. I have seen it firsthand. I have seen President Trump take decisive action time and time again. He exhibits peace through strength. He destroys our enemies swiftly and without hesitation. And he understands that American men and women in uniform should only be deployed as a last resort.

The only person in the race that I trust to do what needs to be done on these issues – is President Trump. I haven't seen those other candidates fight when it mattered – when it was hard to do the right thing for our country. Some of them talk pretty tough. But where were they when the pandemic was raging, when leaders were taking away people's constitutional rights? Because government told folks they couldn't gather together, people lost their freedom of assembly. Because government told people they couldn't go to church, people lost their freedom of religion. Because government censored what information could be shared and what couldn't, people lost their freedom of speech.

Where were the other candidates then? They were silent. Cowering. Or worse yet, locking down their own people, pushing mandates, and closing beaches – even arresting people for taking spring break.

Yes – I will be attacked for speaking the truth to you all tonight. Yes, I expect Joe Biden, these candidates, their political operatives, and the media will perpetuate ugly, hateful misinformation in an attempt to destroy me and my family because of my opinions. It's nothing new. I'm getting used to it honestly.

But all of us here tonight need to heed the warning in this well-known quote: "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing."

Do something. Get in the arena.

History cannot and should not be rewritten.

We must remember what has happened in the past, learn from it, and not allow those who abused their power to ever perpetuate their harm again.

To President Trump, my message is clear. It is an honor to have you here in South Dakota. These people here — they're FREE. We are the strongest state in America because you let me do my job, and we seized that moment and told our story.

As you travel this great country, point to South Dakota as the example of what is possible. We just did here what Republicans have always said they believed. We just did it – and it worked! We don't have to

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talk in hypotheticals anymore. We kept businesses open. We kept government out of people's lives. We cut taxes. Our government lives within its means. We have a surplus, not debt. We fund our pensions. We take care of our veterans. We conserve our natural beauty without government mandates. We fight for true and honest education, because we know how important it is to hand America off to our kids. We stand up for common sense, like fairness in girls' sports. We do our part to secure the border. We honor America's heroes. We stand for the flag and kneel for the Almighty. And sing the National Anthem.

This is real America. South Dakota is the example that you should share with the rest of the country. You made America great again once. Let's do it again.

It is my honor to present to you the man in the arena. He is a man of significance. He is the leader, the fighter, that our country needs. He has my full and complete endorsement for President of the United State of America. I will do everything in my power to help him win to save this great country.

Ladies and gentlemen, the 45th — and 47th — President of the United States, President Donald J. Trump!

Names Released in Custer County Fatal Crash

What: Two vehicle fatal crash

Where: U.S. Highway 16A / Washington Street, Custer, S.D.

When: 10:44 a.m., Tuesday, September 5, 2023

Driver No. 1: Bonnie Manitz, 78, Hot Springs, S.D., Not injured

Vehicle No. 1: 2017 Subaru Outback

Passenger: Francis Cummings, 79, Hot Springs, S.D., Not injured

Driver No. 2: Michael Congrove, 67, Neenah, WI, Fatal injuries

Vehicle No. 2: 2022 Genuine Scooter Company Buddy moped

Passenger No. 2: Donna Champeau, 74, Appleton, WI, Fatal injuries

CUSTER COUNTY, S.D.- A man and woman from Wisconsin have been identified as the people died Tuesday morning in a two vehicle crash in Custer, S.D.

Preliminary crash information indicates a 2017 Subaru Outback was stopped at the stop sign on Washington Street at its intersection with U.S. Highway 16A in Custer, S.D. At the same time, a 2022 Genuine Scooter Company Buddy moped was traveling eastbound on US 16A toward Washington St.

The Subaru Outback pulled out in front of the moped. The moped was not able to avoid a collision and struck the front driver's side of the Outback. The driver and passenger of the moped became separated from the vehicle.

The driver of the 2017 Outback, Bonnie Manitz, age 78, was not injured.

She was wearing a seatbelt.

Francis Cummings, age 79, a passenger in the 2017 Outback was not injured.

He was wearing a seatbelt.

The driver of the 2022 Buddy moped, Michael Congrove, age 67, sustained fatal injuries and was pronounced deceased at the scene.

He was wearing a helmet.

Donna Champeau, age 74, a passenger of the 2022 Buddy moped sustained fatal injuries and was pronounced deceased at the scene.

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

BECOME A MEMBER!

OVER 85 YEARS OF OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCES



**Aberdeen
Community
Concert
Association**



**Vox Fortura:
International Pop-op Quartet**
Friday, September 15, 2023 at 7:00 pm



**Ireland's Greatest Showman feat.
David Shannon: Irish Tenor**
Monday, October 23, 2023 at 7:00 pm



The Starlets: Pop Female Trio
Thursday, February 22, 2024 at 7:00 pm



SD Jazz Festival Concert
Thursday, February 29, 2024 at 7:30 pm



**Shaun Johnson & The Big Band
Experience**
Thursday, April 25, 2024 - 7:00 pm

\$75 Adults | \$25 Students | \$155 Family/Grandparents

Concerts will be held in the Johnson Fine Arts Center Harvey & Cynthia Jewett Theater at Northern State University 1200 S. Jay Street.

ACCA Memberships can be purchased at Interior Design Concepts located at 21 N. Main Street or online at the ACCA website. All dates are subject to change. Check tickets for concert time.

WWW.ABERDEENCOMMUNITYCONCERTS.ORG

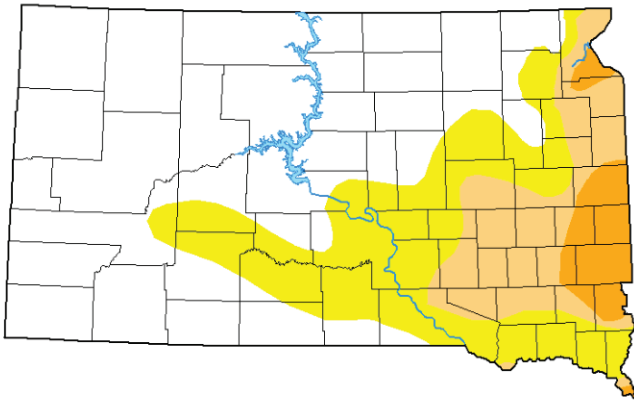
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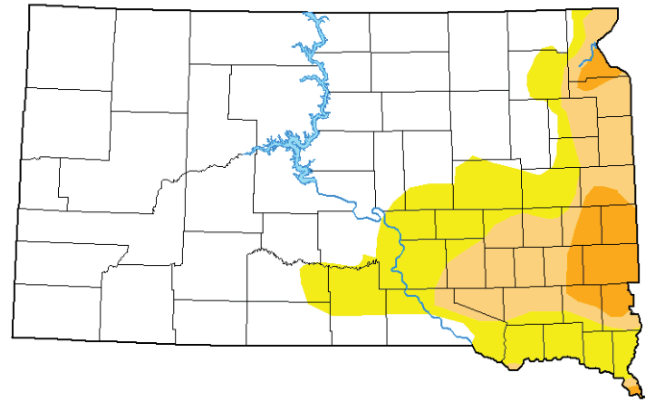
Drought Classification

- None
- D0 (Abnormally Dry)
- D1 (Moderate Drought)
- D2 (Severe Drought)
- D3 (Extreme Drought)
- D4 (Exceptional Drought)
- No Data

Drought Monitor



September 5



August 29

Conditions vary markedly from southeast to northwest here. Similar to western sections of the Midwest Region, Kansas and Nebraska in the southeastern High Plains region are largely covered by drought, including significant expanses of D2 to D3 conditions, with new or expanded D4 (exceptional drought) noted in a few locations. Farther west and north, conditions are much more favorable. To the north and west of central Nebraska, dryness and drought are restricted to the eastern and northern Dakotas, and southwestern Colorado. As in other parts of the Nation's midsection, agricultural drought stress is palpable, and on the rise. Across Kansas, 40 percent of soybeans are in poor or very poor condition, as are 33 percent of the corn crop, 29 percent of sorghum, and 47 percent of rangelands. Across Nebraska, about one quarter of all the aforementioned crops are in poor or very poor condition. Still, this region did not see the degree of deterioration observed in the Midwest Region, with significant worsening most notable in central and eastern Kansas.

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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

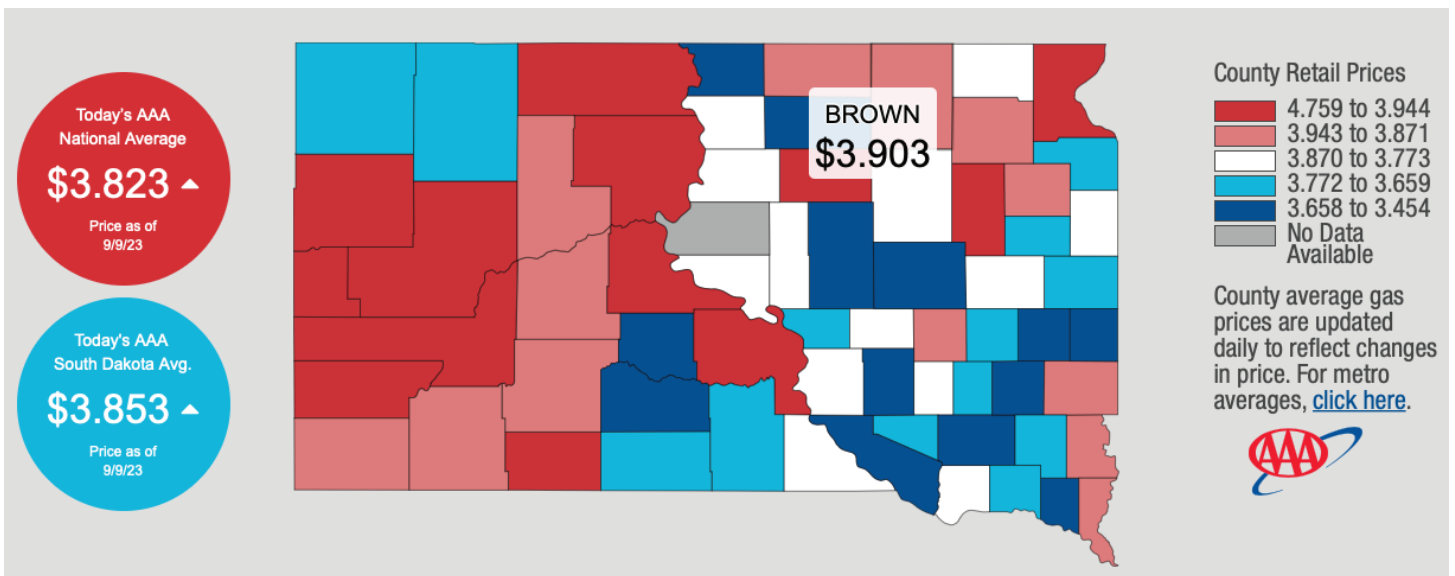
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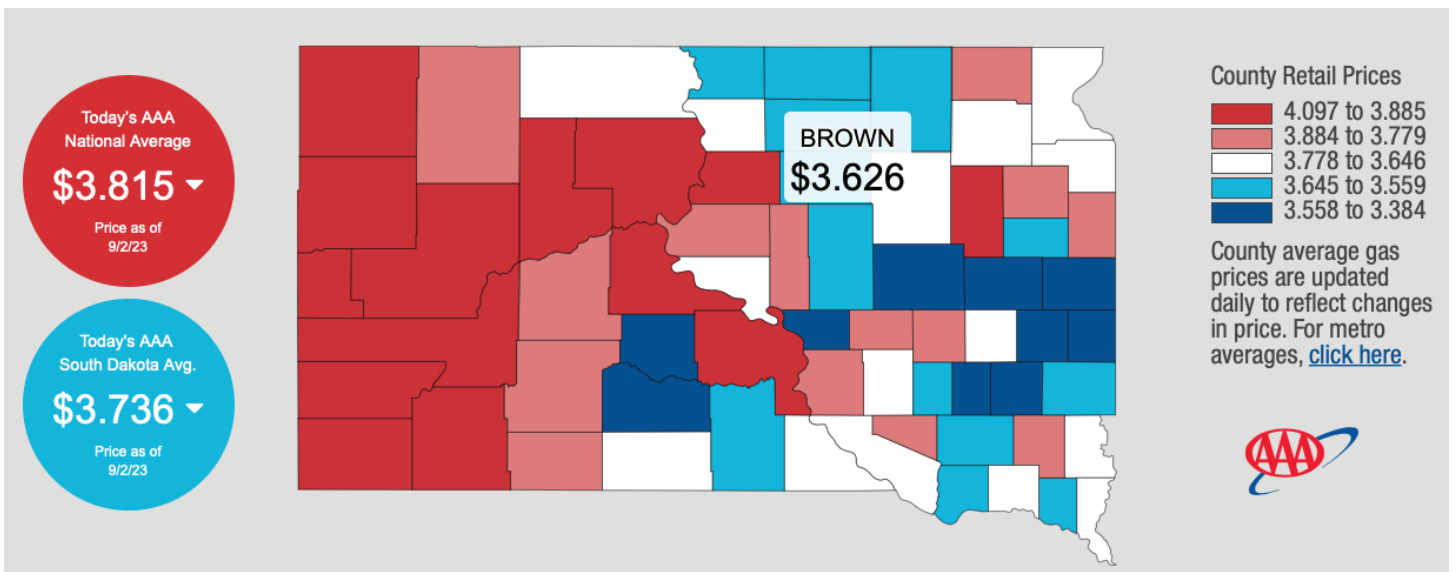
South Dakota Average Gas Prices

	Regular	Mid-Grade	Premium	Diesel
Current Avg.	\$3.853	\$3.980	\$4.478	\$4.260
Yesterday Avg.	\$3.770	\$3.917	\$4.399	\$4.260
Week Ago Avg.	\$3.736	\$3.901	\$4.365	\$4.248
Month Ago Avg.	\$3.795	\$3.933	\$4.397	\$4.019
Year Ago Avg.	\$3.716	\$3.883	\$4.329	\$4.864

This Week



Two Weeks Ago





Trump rally highlights Republican division with booing of absent Thune, Rounds, Johnson

BY: SETH TUPPER - SEPTEMBER 9, 2023 12:45 AM

RAPID CITY — A Friday event intended to rally the South Dakota Republican Party around Donald Trump’s visit to the state instead showcased division at the party’s highest levels.

The state’s all-Republican, three-member congressional delegation — Sens. John Thune and Mike Rounds, and Rep. Dusty Johnson — did not attend the event in the ice arena at The Monument. Their absence was loudly noted several times by a crowd of about 7,000.

Gov. Kristi Noem took what some in the audience appeared to interpret as a veiled jab at the delegation during her speech, after reciting a portion of former President Teddy Roosevelt’s famous “Man in the Arena” oration.

“Let me be clear. There are many who choose not to be in the arena,” Noem said. “Many who take the easy path. Who criticize. Who don’t show up for our party, our country

or our constitutional rights. They don’t show up for you when it really matters. They didn’t even show up tonight to welcome a former president of the United States to South Dakota.”

The remark drew jeers from the audience for the unnamed no-shows.

Earlier in the evening, as the crowd waited for the event to start, boos rained down while videos on a large scoreboard referenced the congressional delegation. One was a replay of Trump’s speech at Mount Rushmore in 2020, in which he briefly recognized the delegation; the other was a promotional video about South Dakota’s history of Republican leadership that mentioned each member of the delegation.

Their absence was drawn into further relief by the presence of Sen. Steve Daines, R-Montana, who not only attended but also delivered a speech.

The offices of Thune, Rounds and Johnson told South Dakota Searchlight prior to the event that they had scheduling conflicts. Thune and Rounds have endorsed South Carolina Sen. Tim Scott for the Republican presidential nomination that Trump is seeking. Johnson has said he does not plan to endorse anyone.

Noem endorses Trump

Friday night, in a move that has long been a foregone conclusion, Noem formally endorsed Trump.

The event lacked something that had been expected by some observers: an indication from Trump that he’s considering Noem as his running mate. He gave no such indication, although it wasn’t for lack of a nudge from Noem.

That nudge came as she was reciting things people asked her during the runup to Trump’s visit. “Another



Former President Donald Trump speaks during a rally Sept. 8, 2023, at The Monument in Rapid City.

(Seth Tupper/South Dakota Searchlight)

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Gov. Kristi Noem greets former President Donald Trump at a rally Sept. 8, 2023, at The Monument in Rapid City. (Seth Tupper/South Dakota Searchlight)

fundraiser. Party Chairman and state Sen. John Wiik told South Dakota Searchlight before the event that proceeds from the \$25 individual tickets and the VIP packages – at a price up to \$25,000 to meet with Noem and Trump – stayed with the party, minus expenses. Wiik said Trump may also have raised money from the event through separate efforts, but Wiik said he did not have those details.

In the absence of the congressional delegation, other state-level Republicans took the stage as warm-up acts for Noem and Trump. The undercard speakers included Wiik, Public Utilities Commissioner Kristie Fiegen, School and Public Lands Commissioner Brock Greenfield, State Auditor Rich Sattgast, State Treasurer Josh Haeder, Attorney General Marty Jackley and Lt. Gov. Larry Rhoden. All were later recognized verbally by Trump, as was former Trump campaign aide Corey Lewandowski, who has since been associated with Noem and was in attendance Friday.

Noem used her speech to cast South Dakota as a state thriving under her leadership, calling it a “city on a hill during a very dark time.”

Trump’s speech began nearly two hours after the event’s 5:30 p.m. start, and he spoke for nearly two hours. He hit on his usual themes, including claims that the last election was rigged, that he’ll make elections more secure, that he alone can prevent World War III, that he’ll rid the nation’s schools of Critical Race Theory, that he’ll ban transgender women and girls from participating in women’s and girls’ sports, that Joe Biden is the worst president in history, and that Trump’s own administration accomplished more than any other.

In a piece of rhetoric aimed at South Dakota’s agricultural industry, Trump boasted that “farmers picked up big, fat, beautiful checks” during his administration, thanks to his efforts to secure government payments to farmers during the pandemic. Trump said farmers got so much help from him that he’s all but assured of winning farm country in the 2024 election.

Long lines, few protesters

Trump supporters took to the streets as many as nine hours before the

question they ask is, “Is President Trump going to pick you?” she said, emphasizing “pick” and pausing for effect. “... As the most popular and favorite governor? And I said ‘yes.’”

Trump, who has a vast lead in Republican presidential primary polling, did praise Noem as “one of the most successful governors in the nation” and said her endorsement “means a lot.”

“Kristi, I’m truly honored to receive your endorsement,” Trump said. “Very much so. I appreciate it.”

It was Trump’s third visit to South Dakota since Noem’s first run for governor, and he has been at her side each time – first at a Sioux Falls fundraiser during her 2018 campaign, next at a Mount Rushmore fireworks display in 2020 at Noem’s invitation, and finally in Rapid City on Friday night, where Noem introduced the former president.

The state Republican Party organized Friday’s event, called the Monumental Leaders Rally, as a



Gov. Kristi Noem speaks Sept. 8, 2023, during a rally at The Monument in Rapid City featuring former President Donald Trump. (Seth Tupper/South Dakota Searchlight)

Searchlight)

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5:30 p.m. event. Charles Hibbs, of White River, waved a giant Trump flag on a street corner near the arena at 10 a.m. Another Trump supporter stood nearby in a T-shirt that read, "Fake media is the virus." Trump picked up on the "fake media" theme during his speech, going on an extended riff about the media and accusing it of not sufficiently showing or describing the size of the crowd.

Most tickets were general admission, which meant earlier arrivals got better seats. By early afternoon, lines stretched hundreds of feet back from the arena. Trump supporters, decked out in red, white and blue and all manner of Trump-themed apparel, stood for hours under a hot sun in mid-80s temperatures.

In the neighboring park, a small cluster of Native Americans sat in the shade and marveled at the lines. Floyd Bullman, a member of the Oglala Lakota Sioux Tribe, criticized Trump's apparent lack of planning for the attendees' well-being.

"If he's a billionaire, he could've at least put out some porta-potties," Bullman said.

The local group Liberty and Justice for All obtained a protest permit from the city, but several hours before the event, only three protesters stood under a pop-up shade near the arena. Many Trump supporters passed by without comment, but some hurled insults. "You guys are sad," one passerby said, quickly followed by another who added, "You guys are a joke."

Toni Diamond, a protester and secretary of the state Democratic Party, wanted to provide a visible alternative presence.

"We just want people to know there are people here in South Dakota that aren't for Trump, that have an opposing opinion," Diamond said.

Fellow protester Mark Thalacker said he doesn't understand Trump supporters.

"I've seen all the negative things that he's done, how much he lies. It just blows me away," Thalacker said. "And for people to still believe the lies that he tells, well, it just amazes me. So we're trying to make some cracks in that wall."

Tim and Roxy Dix would rather keep that wall plugged. The rural Rapid Citians are staunch Trump supporters.

"He's got great ideas and he's not a politician. He's a businessman," Roxy said.

Would they consider supporting another Republican for president who hasn't lost the popular vote twice, been impeached twice, and been indicted four times?

Not a chance.

"It's all bullsh-t," Tim said. "He's an actual winner, and they all know he won the last election."

Seth is editor-in-chief of South Dakota Searchlight. He was previously a supervising senior producer for South Dakota Public Broadcasting and a newspaper journalist in Rapid City and Mitchell.



Charles Hibbs, of White River, waves a Trump flag on a street corner near The Monument in Rapid City, hours before a rally featuring the former president Sept. 8, 2023. (Seth Tupper/South Dakota Searchlight)

Commission staff files motion to deny Summit's carbon pipeline permit

Motion filed ahead of three-week hearing scheduled to start Monday

BY: JOSHUA HAIAR - SEPTEMBER 8, 2023 2:27 PM

The South Dakota Public Utilities Commission's staff has filed a motion to deny Summit Carbon Solutions' application to construct a carbon dioxide pipeline, citing non-compliance with ordinances in Brown, McPherson, Minnehaha and Spink counties.

The news comes after Summit withdrew its request to have the commission overrule county ordinances. Another company trying to build a carbon pipeline – Navigator CO2 – failed earlier this week to convince the commission to preempt county ordinances that impose minimum distances between pipelines, homes and other places. The commission also denied Navigator's permit application.

The PUC staff argues in its new motion that if the county ordinances are allowed to stay in effect, Summit's proposed route would inherently violate county setback requirements. In other words, Summit would be asking the commission to approve a project that is not in compliance with county laws.

According to the motion signed by Staff Attorney Kristen Edwards, despite Summit's claims that it would comply with local regulations, evidence has yet to be presented that it has secured necessary waivers or county permits. Given the non-compliance and the application's potential legal complications, the commission's staff recommends the application be denied while allowing Summit to reapply in the future.

The motion will be heard by the three elected public utilities commissioners on Monday at the Casey Tibbs Rodeo Center in Fort Pierre, at the beginning of what is intended to be a three-week hearing on Summit's application. Meanwhile, Summit is in the midst of a weeks-long hearing on its planned route in Iowa, and has had its route rejected in North Dakota.

Chase Jensen of Dakota Rural Action, which has been working with opponent landowners, is applauding the motion in South Dakota.

"To proceed with three weeks of hearings would only serve to waste even more time, money and energy that our elected officials and citizens have already had to sacrifice," Jensen said.

Ed Fischbach is a landowner from northern Spink County with land that would be crossed by the Summit project.

"We have felt for a long time that it's time for both Navigator and Summit to move on, pull the plug and leave us alone," he said Friday.

Summit wants to capture carbon dioxide emitted from ethanol plants in five states. The gas would be pressurized into a liquid form and transmitted via pipelines to North Dakota for storage underground, to prevent the gas from trapping heat in the atmosphere. For its value in helping to fight climate change, the \$5.5 billion project would be eligible for up to \$1.5 billion in annual federal tax credits.

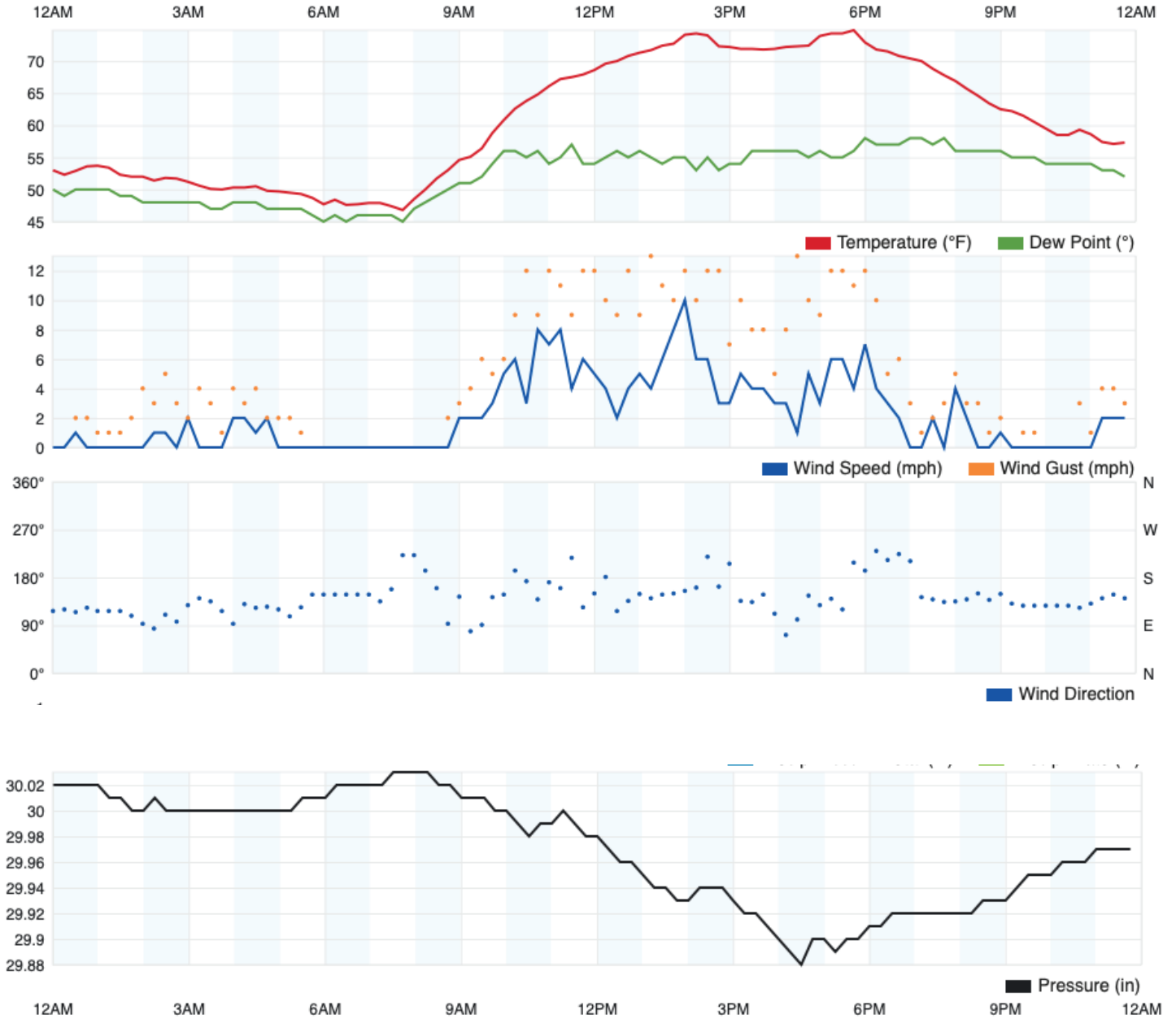
Brett Koenecke, an attorney representing Summit, responded to commission staff's motion saying the state Supreme Court has ruled that compliance with local ordinances can come after a permit hearing. In a motion filed late Friday afternoon, Summit is urging the commission to continue the hearing, considering the extensive resources already spent, and allow them to work to comply with local regulations before building.

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

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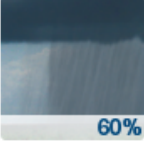




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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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Today	Tonight	Saturday	Saturday Night	Sunday	Sunday Night	Monday
						
Sunny	Partly Cloudy then Chance T-storms	Showers Likely	Slight Chance Showers then Mostly Cloudy	Partly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Sunny
High: 83 °F	Low: 56 °F	High: 69 °F	Low: 48 °F	High: 71 °F	Low: 44 °F	High: 70 °F


Light Showers Today - Dry Sunday

September 9, 2023 3:33 AM


Timing Moisture

Probability of Precipitation Forecast

	9/9 Sat																	
	6am	7am	8am	9am	10am	11am	12pm	1pm	2pm	3pm	4pm	5pm	6pm	7pm	8pm	9pm	10pm	11pm
Aberdeen	55	65	60	55	50	40	25	15	10	10	5	5	5	5	0	0	0	0
Britton	45	60	60	60	65	50	40	25	20	15	10	5	5	5	0	0	0	0
Brookings	20	20	25	30	35	35	35	45	55	65	55	50	40	30	25	15	10	5
Chamberlain	35	40	35	35	35	30	25	20	20	15	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	5
Clark	50	60	65	70	70	60	50	35	30	25	20	20	15	15	5	0	0	0
Eagle Butte	40	20	15	10	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	0	0	5	5	0
Ellendale	55	65	60	50	45	35	20	10	5	5	5	5	5	0	0	0	0	0
Eureka	65	60	50	40	30	20	15	5	5	5	5	5	5	0	0	0	0	0
Gettysburg	55	50	45	35	25	20	15	5	5	5	5	5	5	10	5	0	0	0
Huron	20	30	30	35	40	40	45	50	45	40	35	25	20	10	10	5	0	0
Kennebec	45	45	40	35	25	20	15	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	10	10
McIntosh	45	25	20	15	10	10	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	0	0	0	0	0
Milbank	25	35	50	65	75	70	65	60	55	50	35	25	15	10	5	0	0	0
Miller	55	65	60	55	50	35	25	15	10	10	10	10	10	10	5	5	5	5
Mobridge	55	40	35	25	15	10	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	0	0	0	0	0
Murdo	40	25	20	15	10	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	10
Pierre	50	40	30	25	15	10	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	0	5	5
Redfield	55	65	65	60	55	45	30	20	15	10	10	10	10	10	5	0	0	0
Sisseton	30	40	50	60	70	60	50	40	30	25	15	5	5	5	5	0	0	0
Watertown	35	50	55	65	70	65	55	50	45	40	35	30	20	10	5	0	0	0
Webster	40	55	55	60	65	55	45	40	30	25	20	10	10	5	5	0	0	0
Wheaton	20	25	40	50	65	60	55	45	40	35	20	10	10	5	5	0	0	0



*Highs Today:
Upper 60s & Low 70s*



*Highs Sunday:
Upper 60s & Low 70s*



National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

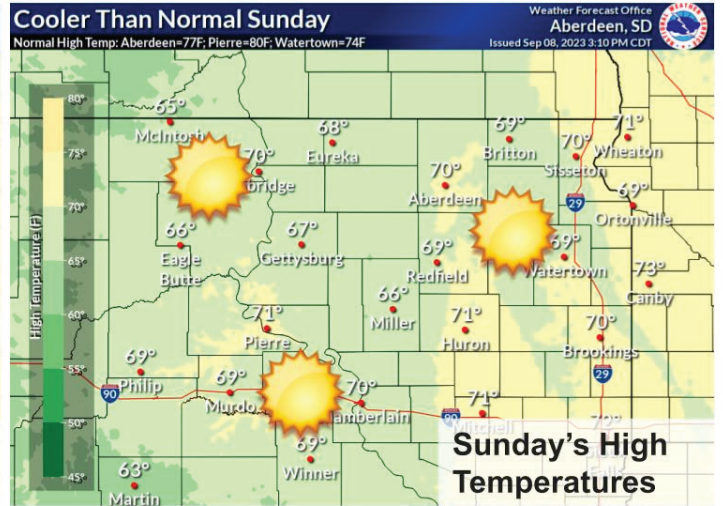
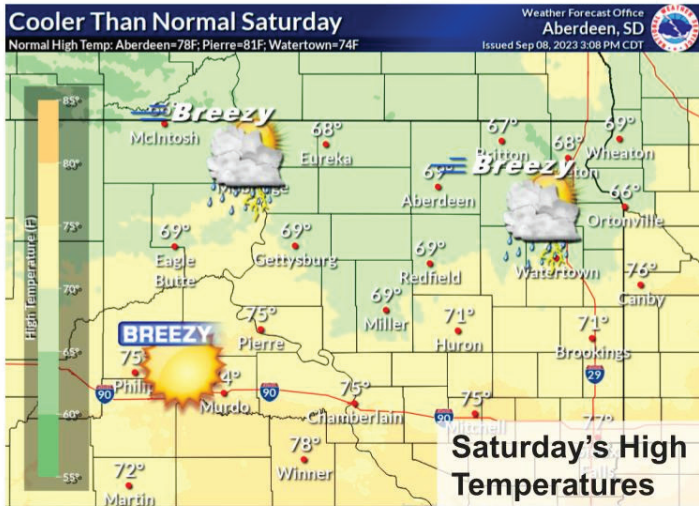
A system will bring showers and weak thunderstorms to the area today. Temperatures will be cooler for the weekend, though with dry conditions Sunday.

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Cooler Than Normal This Weekend

A cool dry airmass will be filtering into the region Saturday and Sunday, setting the stage for conditions anywhere from 5 to 10 degrees below climate normals for this time of year.



National Weather Service Aberdeen, SD

Updated: September 8, 2023 3:48 PM

Between the clouds, precipitation and cooler air filtering in on Saturday, temperatures are going to end up below normal, both Saturday and Sunday.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 81 °F at 3:15 PM

Low Temp: 50 °F at 7:19 AM

Wind: 13 mph at 5:35 PM

Precip: : 0.00

Day length: 12 hours, 55 minutes

Today's Info

Record High: 101 in 1931

Record Low: 26 in 1898

Average High: 78

Average Low: 50

Average Precip in Sept.: .61

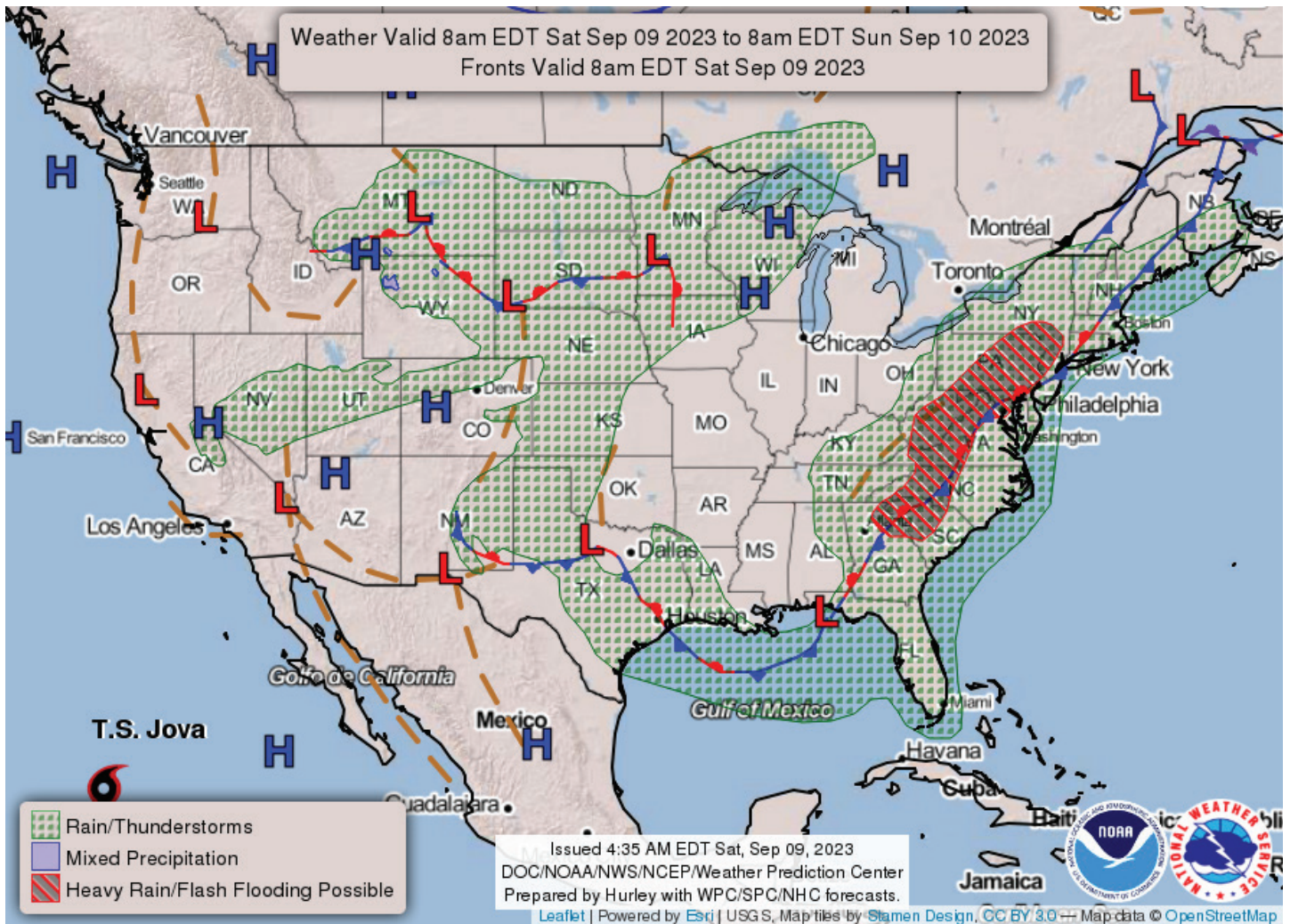
Precip to date in Sept.: 0.10

Average Precip to date: 16.95

Precip Year to Date: 18.69

Sunset Tonight: 7:57:14 PM

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:03:24 AM



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Today in Weather History

September 9, 1961: A young girl in Bullhead, Corson County, was killed by lightning on the afternoon while walking on the highway. Her little brother was slightly injured.

September 9, 1983: High winds from the late evening into the early morning hours of the 10th blew through east central South Dakota damaging crops, downing hundreds of trees, breaking windows, damaging roofs and buildings, downing power poles and damaging vehicles. Gusts to 75 mph in Huron moved a semi-trailer a half block. Scattered power outages of up to 24 hours were reported in numerous areas as branches fell across power and telephone lines. Thirty power poles were downed in Kingsbury County alone. Corn, beans, and sunflowers suffered extensive damage in many areas with up to 50 percent losses reported. Gusts up to 90 mph were reported at Lake Poinsett, Lake Norden, and Estelline, where roofs and shingles were ripped from buildings and numerous windows, were broken. At Lake Poinsett, extensive damage was done to boats, docks, and automobiles.

1775: The Independence Hurricane slammed into Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada. Many ships were sunk and buildings demolished. 4,000 people died in what is considered to be Canada's deadliest hurricane disaster.

1821: A tornadic outbreak affected the New England states of Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Vermont on this day. Five tornadoes reportedly touched down from this event. One storm in New Hampshire had a path width of a half mile and tracked an estimated 23 miles. This tornado killed at least six individuals, which could be the deadliest tornado in New Hampshire history.

1921 - A dying tropical depression unloaded 38.2 inches of rain upon the town of Thrall in southeastern Texas killing 224 persons. 36.4 inches fell in 18 hours. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1944 - The "Great Atlantic Hurricane" ravaged the east coast. The storm killed 22 persons and caused 63 million dollars damage in the Chesapeake Bay area, then besieged New England killing 390 persons and causing another 100 million dollars damage. (The Weather Channel)

1965: Hurricane Betsy slammed into New Orleans on the evening of September 9, 1965. 110 mph winds and power failures were reported in New Orleans. The eye of the storm passed to the southwest of New Orleans on a northwesterly track. The northern and western eyewalls covered Southeast Louisiana and the New Orleans area from about 8 PM until 4 AM the next morning. In Thibodaux, winds of 130 mph to 140 mph were reported. The Baton Rouge weather bureau operated under auxiliary power, without telephone communication.

1971 - Hurricane Ginger formed, and remained a hurricane until the 5th of October. The 27 day life span was the longest of record for any hurricane in the North Atlantic Ocean. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather in the central U.S. Thunderstorms in West Texas spawned four tornadoes in the vicinity of Lubbock, and produced baseball size hail and wind gusts to 81 mph at Ropesville. Thunderstorms produced hail two inches in diameter at Downs KS and Harvard NE, breaking car windows at Harvard. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Florence became a hurricane and headed for the Central Gulf Coast Region. Florence made land-fall early the next morning, passing over New Orleans LA. Winds gusts to 80 mph were recorded at an oil rig south of the Chandeleur Islands. Wind gusts around New Orleans reached 61 mph. Total property damage from Florence was estimated at 2.5 million dollars. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - The first snow of the season began to whiten the mountains of Wyoming early in the morning, as for two days a moist and unusually cold storm system affected the state. By the morning of the 11th, a foot of snow covered the ground at Burgess Junction. Thunderstorms developing along a cold front crossing the Ohio Valley produced severe weather in Indiana during the late afternoon and early evening hours. Strong thunderstorm winds blew down a tent at Palestine injuring seven persons, and frequent lightning interrupted the Purdue and Miami of Ohio football game, clearing the stands. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

2013: Historical rainfall occurred in northern Colorado from September 9 to September 16 and resulted in severe flash flooding along the northern Front Range of Colorado and subsequent river flooding downstream along the South Platte River and its tributaries. The heaviest rain fell along the Front Range northwest of Denver on September 11-12.

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Daily Devotionals

Seeds of Hope

DOWN, BUT NOT OUT!

Packy East began his professional career as a lightweight boxer. He ended his career as one of the world's best-known ambassadors. What started in a ring ended on a stage.

Packy entered the ring in Cleveland, Ohio one evening for a boxing match he intended to win. It was not to be. At the end of the second round, he was knocked down and carried to his dressing room.

But that setback did not hinder him. It actually helped him and changed his life and career. He eventually became a comedian, traveled the world entertaining large audiences and was very generous with his time to visit American troops wherever they were stationed. He was not known as "Packy the Performer." He changed his name and was known as Bob Hope, the comedian.

It's not being knocked down that destroys us - it's staying down. When we are down, it is time to look up and to look out! We need to look up to God to see what He has in store for us and then look out into His world to see where He would have us serve Him.

Jesus said that "everything is possible if a person believes." He did not mean that anything was possible with "positive thinking." He did want us to know, however, that nothing is impossible for God to do in our lives if it is in keeping with His will for us.

Prayer: Help us, Father, to be open and alert to what is going on around us and discover what You would have us to do to serve and honor You. May we do Your will! In Jesus' Name, Amen.



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

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2023 Community Events

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

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WINNING NUMBERS

MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS:
09.08.23

3 12 17 51 62 1

MegaPlier: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$141,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS:
09.06.23

8 28 39 49 51 2

All Star Bonus: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$9,680,000

NEXT DRAW: 15 Hrs 44 Mins 3 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS:
09.08.23

1 3 13 35 43 6

TOP PRIZE:

\$7,000/week

NEXT DRAW: 15 Hrs 59 Mins 3 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS:
09.06.23

8 10 17 24 26

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$35,000

NEXT DRAW: 15 Hrs 59 Mins 3 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS:
09.06.23

1 12 30 50 55 10

TOP PRIZE:

\$10,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 28 Mins 2 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS:
09.06.23

9 14 20 23 63 1

Power Play: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$500,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 28 Mins 2 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

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News from the  Associated Press

Friday's Scores

The Associated Press

PREP FOOTBALL=

Aberdeen Roncalli 50, Dakota Hills 0
Alcester-Hudson 62, Garretson 7
Avon 52, Gayville-Volin High School 22
Brandon Valley 32, Rapid City Central 0
Bridgewater-Emery/Ethan 8, Parker 6
Canistota 57, Florence/Henry 6
Canton 28, Lennox 20
Chamberlain 47, Lakota Tech 14
Chester 42, Arlington 6
Colome 50, Burke 28
Corsica/Stickney 54, Centerville 14
DeSmet 57, Oldham-Ramona/Rutland 6
Dell Rapids 20, Hot Springs 14
Dell Rapids St. Mary 46, Castlewood 16
Deuel 27, Webster 15
Dupree 26, Timber Lake 6
Elkton-Lake Benton 39, Deubrook 30
Estelline/Hendricks 48, Iroquois/ Lake Preston Co-op 0
Faulkton 56, Sully Buttes 20
Flandreau 34, Baltic 20
Gregory 52, Bennett County 0
Groton Area 14, Clark/Willow Lake 0
Hamlin 57, Britton-Hecla 12
Harding County/Bison Co-op 32, Lemmon/McIntosh 14
Herreid/Selby Area 49, Newell 8
Hitchcock-Tulare 56, Waverly-South Shore 38
Howard 54, Colman-Egan 20
Huron 41, Brookings 6
Ipswich 44, Northwestern 6
Leola-Frederick High School 53, Great Plains Lutheran 16
Lyman 34, White River 32, OT
Mobridge-Pollock 40, Redfield 20
Mt. Vernon/Plankinton 56, Jim River 12
Omaha Nation, Neb. 28, Crow Creek Tribal School 18
Parkston 16, Hanson 6
Philip 53, Jones County 0
Pierre T F Riggs High School 62, Mitchell 8
Platte-Geddes 17, Kimball/White Lake 14, 2OT
Rapid City Christian 14, Custer 12
Sioux Falls Christian 14, Dakota Valley 7
Sioux Falls O'Gorman 41, Tea Area 30
Sioux Valley 53, Hill City 0
Spearfish 47, Douglas 20

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St. Thomas More 46, Belle Fourche 0
Tiospa Zina Tribal 34, McLaughlin 0
Tri-Valley 46, Sisseton 0
Vermillion 22, Milbank 20, OT
Viborg-Hurley 34, Bon Homme 21
Wagner 32, Tripp-Delmont/Armour/Andes Central/Dakota Christian 12
Wall 34, Kadoka Area 6
Warner 61, Potter County 6
West Central 35, Madison 7
Winner 42, Beresford 13
Woonsocket/Wessington Springs/Sanborn Central 22, McCook Central/Montrose 6
Yankton 31, Watertown 20

PREP VOLLEYBALL=

Aberdeen Central def. Spearfish, 27-25, 25-19, 25-20
Andover, Minn. def. Sioux Falls Roosevelt, 25-22, 25-16
Pierre T F Riggs High School def. Sturgis Brown, 25-6, 25-9, 25-9
Sioux Falls Washington def. Yankton, 25-6, 25-16, 25-21
Rapid City Volleyball Tournament=
Blue Pool=
Hill City def. Hot Springs, 25-16, 25-12
Hill City def. Watford City, N.D., 25-14, 21-25, 25-18
Rapid City Stevens def. Hill City, 25-23, 26-24
Rapid City Stevens def. Hot Springs, 25-8, 25-8
Watford City, N.D. def. Hot Springs, 25-22, 25-16
Watford City, N.D. def. Rapid City Stevens, 27-25, 28-26
Red Pool=
Custer def. Red Cloud, 25-19, 25-19
Custer def. St. Thomas More, 25-19, 25-19
Rapid City Central def. Custer, 25-23, 26-24
Rapid City Central def. Red Cloud, 25-16, 25-23
St. Thomas More def. Rapid City Central, 25-14, 25-17
St. Thomas More def. Red Cloud, 25-15, 25-23
Silver Pool=
Dickinson, N.D. def. Douglas, 16-25, 25-17, 25-15
Dickinson, N.D. def. Lakota Tech, 25-9, 25-13
Douglas def. Lakota Tech, 25-14, 25-13
Lakota Tech def. Lead-Deadwood, 28-26, 25-11
White Pool=
Belle Fourche def. Kadoka Area, 25-11, 25-21
Belle Fourche def. Rapid City Christian, 25-17, 25-19
Brookings def. Belle Fourche, 25-19, 25-19
Brookings def. Kadoka Area, 26-24, 25-19
Rapid City Christian def. Brookings, 25-23, 25-15
Rapid City Christian def. Kadoka Area, 25-14, 25-16

Some high school volleyball scores provided by Scorestream.com, <https://scorestream.com/>

Gov. Kristi Noem endorses Trump as he visits South Dakota

By JILL COLVIN and STEPHEN GROVES Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem endorsed former President Donald Trump at a party fundraiser in Rapid City Friday night that doubled as an opportunity for Noem to showcase herself as a potential vice presidential pick.

As his rivals held town halls and meet-and-greets in early voting states, Trump headlined the South Dakota Republican Party's "Monumental Leaders Rally" in Rapid City, where Noem, once considered a potential 2024 candidate in her own right, instead threw her support behind the former president.

"I will do everything I can to help him win and save this country," Noem said as she formally offered her endorsement before Trump took the stage. She said all the other Republican presidential candidates had been invited to the event. "All of them told us that they had better things to do. But when President Trump was invited to come be with you tonight, he said, 'I will be there,'" she said.

Trump, for his part, praised Noem as "one of the most successful governors in the entire nation" and said her endorsement "means a lot."

Trump's decision to headline the event underscores his dominance in the early stages of the GOP presidential primary even as he faces four separate indictments and 91 felony counts. South Dakota holds a late primary and isn't a competitive general election state. But with a huge lead, Trump is skipping much of the traditional primary campaign.

Instead of the large-scale rallies that dominated his past runs, he is this time relying on state party events that offer large, friendly audiences at no cost to his political organization, which is facing millions of dollars in legal expenses. Friday's event looked like a typical Trump rally, but was paid for by the state Republican Party. Those in the audience purchased tickets and paid to attend.

The visit was also something of an audition for Noem. She planned the event as a way to both offer her endorsement and maximize face time with Trump as he considers potential 2024 running mates and cabinet members, according to two senior Republicans familiar with her thinking who spoke on condition of anonymity ahead of the announcement.

Noem will be term-limited in 2026 and, after declining to run for president this year, is eyeing her next move to maintain prominence in the GOP.

Allies had hoped her appearance alongside Trump would create an image that looked like a potential presidential ticket. And they seemed to get what they desired: Several people sitting behind Trump held "Trump-Noem 2024" signs and, at one point, their names appeared together on a screen behind the stage at The Monument ice arena, captured in a photo by an NBC reporter.

Voting won't begin until next year and Trump's historic indictments and upcoming criminal trials create an unprecedented situation that many strategists argue could influence the race in unexpected ways. That hasn't stopped those who are keen to be considered as Trump's running mate from openly jockeying for the position and trying to curry favor with him and his aides.

Aides caution it is far too early for serious discussions. But Trump has indicated in conversations that he is interested in selecting a woman this time around. Others whose names have been floated include New York Rep. Elise Stefanik, Georgia Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene, failed Arizona gubernatorial candidate Kari Lake and Tennessee Sen. Marsha Blackburn. Florida Rep. Byron Donalds and two of Trump's current rivals, South Carolina Sen. Tim Scott and tech entrepreneur Vivek Ramaswamy, have also been mentioned.

"What we're focused on is just locking up this primary and pivoting towards the general election," said campaign spokesman Steven Cheung.

Trump has spent far less time campaigning in early-voting states than most of his rivals. But he will return to Iowa, the first state on the GOP nomination calendar, on Saturday to attend the college football game between Iowa and Iowa State.

Noem was long considered a potential White House contender in her own right and had told The New York Times in November that she didn't believe Trump offered "the best chance" for the party in 2024. But she has since said she saw no point in joining the crowded field running for the nomination given

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Trump's dominant position.

"Well the fact is, none of 'em can win as long as Trump's in the race. And that's just the facts. So why run if you can't win?" she said in an interview with Fox News in August.

Asked this week whether she would consider joining a potential Trump ticket if invited, Noem told Newsmax she "would in a heartbeat."

"President Trump needs a strong partner if he's going to take back the White House, and he's going to need somebody who knows what it's like to run a business, to be an employee, earn a paycheck, but also having a wife, mom and a grandma isn't bad either," she said.

Michael Card, a longtime observer of South Dakota politics, suggested Noem might make a future National Rifle Association president or conservative commentator, but said her best opportunity may lie with Trump.

"I think Donald Trump has a 50-50 shot of getting elected at this point, so why not hitch your wagon to him if you can?" he said.

The visit was Trump's first to South Dakota since the summer of 2020, when he headlined a fireworks celebration at Mount Rushmore on the eve of Independence Day. The then-president had been looking for a venue to turn the page after a summer of pandemic lockdowns and racial justice protests, and Noem's event at Mount Rushmore was notably devoid of pandemic restrictions.

She also gifted him a miniature replica of Mount Rushmore with his likeness carved alongside George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln and Teddy Roosevelt.

A former member of Congress, Noem rose to national prominence with a mostly hands-off approach to the pandemic. Trump has often praised that approach, cheering her rejection of policies aimed at containing the spread of COVID-19 and arguing that she did a better job than his leading rival, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, who often touts his own efforts to reopen businesses and reject mandates.

Despite not running for president, Noem has continued to position herself nationally. She has been an outspoken champion for the NRA, even bragging at a spring convention for the gun-rights group that her 1-year-old granddaughter "already has" firearms. During the first GOP presidential debate, she appeared in an ad to encourage businesses and families to move to what she calls "the freest state in America."

South Dakota GOP chair John Wiik said he had expected about 7,000 people to attend the sold-out fundraiser, which was first envisioned as a Lincoln Day-style dinner commonly held by local Republican groups.

"I did get a lot of questions at first," Wiik said about Trump's decision to travel to his state just as the primary season kicks into its traditional post-Labor Day overdrive.

"But the more you look at it, Trump is a media event wherever he lands," Wiik said. "He could do a rally on the moon and he'd spread his word and get just as many people, so I'm just glad he chose South Dakota."

Feds leave future of Dakota Access pipeline's controversial river crossing unclear in draft review

By JACK DURA Associated Press

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — Federal officials on Friday released a draft environmental review of the Dakota Access oil pipeline, but said they're waiting for more input before deciding the future of the line's controversial river crossing in North Dakota.

The draft was released more than three years after a federal judge ordered the environmental review and revoked the permit for the Missouri River crossing, upstream of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe's reservation. The tribe is concerned a pipeline oil spill could contaminate its water supply.

North Dakota officials support a decision that ultimately allows the pipeline to continue operating as it has. The tribe is calling for a new review and a pipeline shutdown.

The environmental review is key for whether the federal government reissues the permit. The pipeline has been operating since 2017, including during the environmental review.

The draft environmental impact statement, which is dated in June but was made public Friday, noted that the Army Corps of Engineers "has not selected a preferred alternative," but will make a decision in its final review, after considering input from the public and other agencies.

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The draft details five options, including denying the easement for the crossing and removing or abandoning a 7,500-foot (2,286-meter) segment. Officials could also approve the easement with measures for "increased operational safety," or grant the same easement with no changes.

A fifth option is a 111-mile (179-kilometer) reroute of the pipeline to north of Bismarck, over 38 miles (61 kilometers) upstream from the current crossing. The reroute would require new permits from federal, state and local authorities and regulators, which could take at least two years. The exact path of such a reroute is unknown, according to the draft.

"We are seeking public input on the environmental analysis of each alternative, and that input combined with the environmental analysis will help us to make an informed decision among the alternatives," Corps Omaha District spokesman Steve Wolf told The Associated Press.

A comment period will end Nov. 13. Public meetings are scheduled Nov. 1-2 in Bismarck.

A final environmental impact statement will follow the public input and environmental analysis, and a formal decision will be made, Wolf said.

Republican U.S. Sen. John Hoeven of North Dakota told the AP a final alternative is expected to come out in fall 2024. He said he hopes for a decision that allows the pipeline to continue operating.

"Clearly they should go ahead and approve it without any additional modifications. The safety measures are in place," Hoeven said.

Tribal Chairwoman Janet Alkire on Friday said the draft review should be "invalidated" and the Corps should "start from scratch" on a new review, with the pipeline shut down. The tribe is furious, she said.

"The pipeline is an imminent threat to the Missouri River, sensitive habitat and sacred burial sites along the riverbank," Alkire said. "The oil company's emergency response plans are inadequate, its safety track record is horrendous, and there's been a stunning lack of transparency with Standing Rock throughout the environmental review process, including inaccurate characterizations of tribal consultation."

She also called on the public to submit comments supporting a new review and a shutdown of the pipeline.

North Dakota Republican Gov. Doug Burgum in a statement Friday said he supports granting the easement as it was previously issued, citing the pipeline as a safe operation and better than rail.

North Dakota Mineral Resources Department Director Lynn Helms told the AP, "The Corps has said today that they're neither proponent or opponent of the project; therefore, their preferred alternative will be in their final decision."

Hoeven said an Army official had notified him that the Corps wouldn't make a recommendation in the draft, but the agency will do more consultation in addition to the public input. The senator said he emphasized that the Corps consult with the state and the oil-rich Three Affiliated Tribes, whose reservation shares geography with North Dakota's oil patch.

State and federal officials and the pipeline's company say the line is safe. It moves oil from western North Dakota to Illinois. Leaders in North Dakota's oil industry and state government consider the pipeline to be crucial infrastructure, with far less oil now transported by rail.

The pipeline is moving about 600,000 to 650,000 barrels of oil per day. Its capacity is 750,000 barrels per day. North Dakota produces about 1.1 million barrels per day.

The U.S. Supreme Court last year refused to take up an appeal of the tribe's lawsuit over the pipeline. The tribe first filed the lawsuit in 2016. Thousands of people gathered and camped near the pipeline's river crossing for protests that lasted months and sparked hundreds of arrests in 2016 and 2017. More than 830 criminal cases resulted from the protests.

G20 adds the African Union as a member in a push to give a greater voice to developing nations

By ADAM SCHRECK and DAVID RISING Associated Press

NEW DELHI (AP) — The Group of 20 top world economies welcomed the African Union as a member, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi said Saturday, adding momentum to his drive to give a greater voice to the Global South as host of this year's annual summit.

Hours later, Modi enthusiastically announced to applause that consensus on the final G20 statement had been reached, though he gave no details on its contents. There had been serious doubt that an agreement could be adopted because of disagreements among members, most centrally on differences about the war in Ukraine.

Modi announced the AU's membership during his opening speech for the weekend summit of the G20. Growing global rifts and the absence of key players threatened to make reaching consensus on the thorniest issues elusive.

There was widespread support, however, for adding the AU to the G20, making it the second regional bloc to become a permanent member after the European Union.

Modi rapped his gavel three times before announcing the move to applause in the room.

He shook hands with the current AU chair, Comoros President Azali Assoumani, and embraced him warmly before inviting him to sit at the table.

"I invite the representative of the African Union to take his place as a permanent member of the G20," Modi said.

Modi has made giving voice to the Global South a centerpiece of this year's summit, and adding the AU at the outset was a strong step in that direction.

He told leaders they must find "concrete solutions" to the widespread challenges that he said stemmed from the "ups and downs in the global economy, the north and the south divide, the chasm between the east and the west," and other issues like terrorism, cybersecurity, health and water security.

Modi addressed the delegates from behind a nameplate that listed his country not as India but as "Bharat," an ancient Sanskrit name championed by his Hindu nationalist supporters that his government has been pushing at the G20.

With much of the world's focus on Russia's war in Ukraine, India wants to direct more attention to addressing the needs of the developing world at the summit — though it's impossible to decouple many issues, such as food and energy security, from the European conflict.

"Friends, after COVID-19, the world is facing problems of trust deficit," Modi said. "The war has further deepened this trust deficit. If we can beat COVID, we can also triumph over the trust deficit caused by the war," he said, though he avoided mentioning the names of any countries involved.

As the summit opened, at least a fifth of G20 heads weren't in New Delhi. The leaders of Russia and China opted not to come, ensuring no tough face-to-face conversations with their American and European counterparts over multiple disputes, most acutely the war in Ukraine. Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez canceled his attendance after testing positive for COVID-19, and Mexico's president decided to miss it, too.

A series of preparatory meetings leading up to the summit failed to produce agreements, largely due to differences over Ukraine. Ending the weekend without such a statement would underscore how strained relations have become and tarnish the image Modi has tried to cultivate of India as a global problem solver.

A draft version of the closing statement being circulated among diplomats and obtained by The Associated Press contained no mention of the war in Ukraine, leaving blank a section under the heading "Geopolitical situation." It wasn't immediately clear when that version had been produced.

Participants arriving in the Indian capital were greeted by streets cleared of traffic, and graced with fresh flowers and seemingly endless posters featuring slogans and Modi's face. Security was intensely tight, with most journalists and the public kept far from the summit venue.

The G20 agenda featured issues critical to developing nations, including alternative fuels like hydrogen, resource efficiency, food security and developing a common framework for digital public infrastructure.

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Countries were also expected to address reforming development banks like the World Bank and International Monetary Fund to help make funds more accessible for lower- and middle-income countries as they seek solutions to combat climate change, among other things.

India's lead G20 negotiator, Amitabh Kant, told reporters that boosting climate action and climate financing were key priorities, particularly for developing and emerging markets.

"Our view was that Global South, developing countries, emerging markets must be able to get long-term financing," he said.

Modi said on the X social media platform, formerly known as Twitter, that the summit's first session, titled "One Earth," was "productive" and that he stressed on furthering "human centric development, which is also something Indian culture has always emphasized on."

French President Emmanuel Macron arrived late, missing the opening address and first session after staying in Paris to watch the opening of the Rugby World Cup.

With so many other issues on the table, Human Rights Watch urged the G20 leaders not to let international disunity distract them at the summit.

Meenakshi Ganguly, deputy director of the organization's Asia division, added that members should not "shy away from openly discussing challenges like gender discrimination, racism and other entrenched barriers to equality, including with host India, where civil and political rights have sharply deteriorated under the Modi administration."

The summit comes just days after Russian President Vladimir Putin said a landmark deal allowing Ukraine to export grain safely through the Black Sea will not be restored until Western nations meet his demands on Russia's own agricultural exports. The original deal was brokered by the United Nations and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, but Russia refused to extend it in July, complaining that a parallel agreement promising to remove obstacles to Russian exports of food and fertilizer hadn't been honored.

Russia dispatched Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov as its top representative to the G20. Erdogan himself was on hand in the Indian capital and others said ahead of the summit that they hoped to be able to find solutions, even as Russia's military keeps up its attacks on Ukraine's ports.

"The Kremlin's war is also unraveling lives far beyond Ukraine, including right here in South Asia," European Council President Charles Michel told reporters Friday in New Delhi. "Over 250 million people face acute food insecurity worldwide, and by deliberately attacking Ukraine's ports, the Kremlin is depriving them of the food they desperately need."

British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak said he hoped to marshal international resources to counteract the impact of Russia's moves on the global food supply. London will host a global food security summit in November in response to Moscow's actions. Sunak's government has also said Royal Air Force aircraft will fly over the Black Sea as part of efforts to deter Russia from striking cargo ships transporting grain from Ukraine to developing countries.

Hundreds of Tibetan exiles held a protest far from the summit venue to condemn Chinese participation in the event and urge leaders to discuss Sino-Tibetan relations.

On Friday evening, before the meeting got formally underway, Modi met with U.S. President Joe Biden. White House aide Kurt Campbell told reporters afterward that there was an "undeniable warmth and confidence between the two leaders."

Leaders of the U.S., India, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates were working to finalize a joint infrastructure deal involving ship and rail transit between India and the Middle East to Turkey and beyond, in hopes it could be announced in New Delhi during the summit.

Campbell called the emerging deal a potentially "earth-shattering" project and said that "the strongest supporter of this initiative is India." In the past, Campbell said, India's leaders have had "almost a knee jerk reaction" to resist such massive multilateral projects.

U.S. administration officials sought to play down that Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy wasn't invited to address the G20.

The Ukrainian leader has made regular appearances, virtual and in-person, at such international forums since the start of the war more than 18 months ago to rally allies to stay committed to supporting Ukraine.

Biden, Modi and EU to announce rail and shipping project linking India to Middle East and Europe

By AAMER MADHANI and JOSH BOAK Associated Press

NEW DELHI (AP) — President Joe Biden and his allies on Saturday were to outline plans for a rail and shipping corridor that would connect India with the Middle East and ultimately Europe — a possible game changer for global trade to be announced at the Group of 20 summit.

The project would include the United States, India, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, the European Union and other countries in the G20, said Jon Finer, Biden's principal deputy national security adviser.

Biden, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen plan to announce the project as part of the Partnership for Global Infrastructure Investment.

The rail and shipping corridor would enable greater trade among the countries, including energy products. It could also be one of the more ambitious counters to China's massive infrastructure program, through which it has sought to connect more of the world to that country's economy.

Finer laid out three big rationales for the project. He said first that the corridor would increase prosperity among the countries involved by increasing the flow of energy and digital communications. Second, the project would help address the lack of infrastructure needed for growth in lower- and middle-income nations. And third, Finer said it could help "turn the temperature down" on "turbulence and insecurity" coming out of the Middle East.

"We see this as having a high appeal to the countries involved, and also globally, because it is transparent, because it is a high standard, because it is not coercive," Finer said.

Von der Leyen was expected to describe the project as "nothing less than historic" and as an "India - Middle East - Europe economic corridor" that will make trade between India and Europe 40% faster, according to a draft of her prepared remarks.

The project will include a rail link as well as an electricity cable, a hydrogen pipeline and a high-speed data cable, according to von der Leyen's prepared text, which also describes the project as "a green and digital bridge across continents and civilizations."

She is also expected to announce a "Trans-African Corridor" that will connect the Angolan port of Lobito with Kananga province in the Democratic Republic of Congo and the copper-mining regions of Zambia.

Biden participated in the summit's first session, which focused on the theme of "One Earth." The U.S. president plans to draw on the theme to push for more investments to address climate change, such as his own domestic incentives to encourage the use of renewable energy, Finer said. Biden also wants to make the case that Russia's war in Ukraine is hurting many other nations, which have had to cope with greater food and energy costs as well as higher interest rate costs on their debt.

Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, who has been a regular presence at international summits, including last year's G20 in Indonesia, since Russia invaded his country more than 18 months ago, was not invited by Modi's government to this year's gathering.

Zelenskyy has used the high-profile gatherings to argue for continued economic and military support for his country. India is one of the most prominent U.S. allies that has largely stayed on the sidelines of the war, and has even dramatically increased its purchases of Russian oil.

Finer said White House officials pushed for Zelenskyy's inclusion at the summit.

"Ultimately, it is not our decision," Finer said. "But you can expect that the United States and our other partners who are working with Ukraine so closely ... We'll make that case quite forcefully in the context of these conversations."

During the summit's second session, themed "One Family," Biden discussed his request to Congress for additional funding for the World Bank that could generate more than \$25 billion in new lending for economic development.

"This initiative will make the World Bank a stronger institution that is able to provide resources at the scale and speed needed to tackle global challenges and address the urgent needs of the poorest countries," the White House said in a statement.

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The White House more broadly is trying to strengthen the G20 as an international forum, while Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin decided not to attend.

Still, China and Russia are represented at the summit and that could make it difficult for the G20 to produce a joint statement on the war in Ukraine.

"Really it's incumbent upon the Chinese government to explain why a leader would or would not participate," Finer said.

For nearly a quarter century, an AP correspondent watched the Putin era unfold in Russia

By JIM HEINTZ Associated Press

NARVA, Estonia (AP) — At the Ivangorod-Narva border crossing, the last glimpse of Russia is of a sprawling fortress and the first sight of Estonia is another fortress on the other bank of a slender river. They're almost comically close: People with strong arms could have a game of catch between the ramparts.

But the proximity is deceptive — the psychological distance between Estonia and Russia is immense and only widening. The countries that once were part of the Soviet Union took radically different paths after the USSR's collapse.

Estonia largely fulfilled the wish of its former President Toomas Hendrik Ilves to become "just another boring Northern European country." With low-key determination, Estonia remade itself into a model of order and ease, enticing to startup companies and "digital nomads."

Russia initially cultivated lively debate and flamboyantly welcomed the world, then gradually choked off freedoms and closed itself off while its citizens fled and uneasy foreigners felt compelled to leave. In 2022, it launched a war against Ukraine that sharply intensified the growing isolation.

I spent 24 years on one side of the Narva River as a Moscow-based correspondent for The Associated Press, cheered by Russia's steps forward and disheartened by its retreats into anger and animosity.

Now assigned to Estonia, I sit on the other side and try to parse Russia's lost promise — seemingly both inexplicable and inevitable.

My first neighborhood in Moscow was full of startling scenes. Prostitutes milled outside an emergency clinic. Among the locals trying to scrape together money was a woman who peddled smoked fish and bras. A shop that nominally sold flowers was stacked to the ceiling with bags of dog food.

For a foreigner getting paid in a stable currency, this was engaging black comedy. For Muscovites, it was a daily burden of unpredictability and embarrassment. Rather than reconstructing lives, Mikhail Gorbachev's perestroika had undermined many of them; economic "shock therapy" was therapeutic only for some. Eight years after the Soviet Union collapsed, Russia still appeared unable to get a grip.

Amid it all, there was plenty of fun to be had, but it didn't feel so much like coming-of-age joy as a last revel — garish casinos lit up main drags and kiosks perched on almost every corner, offering vodka and beer 24/7.

The political scene was lively, if disorderly, with seven parties and about two dozen independent lawmakers holding a marked array of views. National broadcasters covered politics intently, often tendentiously, and some weekend news shows were considered must-see TV.

Vladimir Putin's sudden ascent to the Kremlin as acting president on New Year's Eve 1999 was startling but suggested some welcome order was coming. His televised message, coming hours after a sad and ill Boris Yeltsin announced his resignation, praised Russia's moves toward "democracy and reform" and promised continued freedom of speech and conscience.

He later dropped hints of an unusually accommodating outlook. In an interview before his inauguration, he was asked if Russia could become a member of NATO and responded, "Why not?" In his early days, he also promised to pay off Russia's debilitating Soviet-era debts. If not exactly likeable, he at least appeared steady and reliable.

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This was the side of Putin that induced U.S. presidents to speak well of him — notably George W. Bush, who claimed to have a “sense of his soul” and considered him trustworthy.

Another side emerged early in his presidency as authorities went after major news media controlled by troublesome tycoons: NTV, the national station most critical of the Kremlin, came under the control of the state natural gas monopoly, and Channel One was controlled by the infamous Boris Berezovsky, who soon fled the country.

Mikhail Khodorkovsky, Russia’s richest man who headed the Yukos oil company, was pulled off his jet in 2003 and sentenced to prison in a trial seen as revenge for his ambitions to challenge Putin.

Laws restricting political gatherings and crimping potential candidates’ ability to get on the ballot followed. Putin-adoring youth groups arose seemingly overnight, derided by some as “Putin-Jugend,” a play on the name for Nazi youth organizations. Putin began revealing a deep ethnonationalist strain, declaring that Russia had the right to protect Russian-speakers no matter where they lived.

The quality of day-to-day life was rising as steeply as civil life declined. A country once known for dingy desperation sprouted gargantuan shopping malls; formerly disdainful waitresses became polite; parks got their grass mowed. These immediate, tangible pleasures likely soothed many Russians’ concerns about politics.

But it was more than simply trading principles for a shopping trip to IKEA.

Ideology had rarely served Russians well — Communism, czarist divinity, the immiseration of millions in the transition to capitalism. Opposition forces were undermined by factional disputes and dull or disreputable leaders. Protests arose, but were violently put down by police; a night or two of being crammed into a reeking jail cell discouraged turning out a second time.

Alexei Navalny — inventive, principled and full of bravado — for a few years appeared to be the galvanizing figure who could bring the opposition together. In 2021, he boldly returned to Russia after recovering abroad from poisoning he blamed on the Kremlin; he got as far as passport control before being seized and now appears likely to spend at least another two decades in prison.

It looked like Russia’s nadir, until Putin launched the war on Ukraine, citing amorphous threats from the West, contending the Jewish president was a Nazi and proclaiming manifest destiny.

A regime that avidly sought Western investors and longed to show off for visitors so much that it poured tens of billions of dollars into an Olympics and soccer’s World Cup, had made itself a pariah.

A few days after the Ukraine invasion began, Russia enacted lengthy prison terms for spreading discrediting “fake news” about the operation. Foreign journalists bolted. They started coming back a few months later, sensing they weren’t targets but always looking over their shoulders.

Then Evan Gershkovich of The Wall Street Journal was arrested on charges of espionage.

“Once leaders grow to rely on repression, they become reluctant to exercise restraint for fear that doing so could suggest weakness and embolden their critics and challengers,” analysts Andrea Kendall-Taylor and Erica Frantz wrote in the journal *Foreign Affairs*. “If anything, Putin is moving Russia more and more toward totalitarianism.”

That was published one day before the June 23-24 mercenary uprising that initially made Putin look weak. Two months later, the leader of that rebellion, Yevgeny Prigozhin, was killed along with other top officials of the Wagner private military company in a suspicious plane crash, although the Kremlin has denied any involvement.

A frequent explanation for the country’s fall into autocracy and oppression is “Russians want to have czars,” as if this were encoded in their DNA. That’s glib and dismissive, a cousin of the chronic Kremlin complaint that Americans inherently suffer “Russophobia,” suggesting that sanctions punish Russians for who they are rather than for what they do.

National culture surely has a role, however. Estonians avoid extremes; their national cultural icon is minimalist composer Arvo Pärt, whose pieces can seem barely there. Russians swing for the fence, loving the sweeping effusions of Tchaikovsky and the dissonant drama of Shostakovich. Although adjacent, they

have little in common.

But just upriver from the Ivangorod fortress, a couple of old-timers watched their fishing poles and joshed with each other. Though their words were indistinct, their barks of laughter were clear on the Estonian side, easily crossing a cultural chasm at the speed of sound.

Kim Jong Un hosts Chinese and Russian guests at a parade celebrating North Korea's 75th anniversary

By KIM TONG-HYUNG Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korea invited visiting Chinese delegates and Russian artists to a paramilitary parade featuring rocket launchers pulled by trucks and tractors, state media said Saturday, in leader Kim Jong Un's latest effort to display his ties with Moscow and Beijing in the face of deepening confrontations with Washington.

The event in the capital, Pyongyang, which began Friday night to celebrate North Korea's 75th founding anniversary that fell on Saturday, came amid expectations that Kim will travel to Russia soon for a meeting with President Vladimir Putin that could focus on North Korean arm sales to refill reserves drained by the Kremlin's war on Ukraine.

While China has sent a delegation led by Vice Premier Liu Guozhong to the North Korea's anniversary celebrations, Russia sent a military song and dance group.

South Korean media speculated that the lack of Russian government officials at the festivities in Pyongyang could be related to preparations for a summit between Kim and Putin, which Washington expects within the month. According to some U.S. reports, it could happen as early as next week.

Putin is expected to attend an international forum that runs from Sunday to Wednesday in the eastern city of Vladivostok, which was also the site of his first summit with Kim in 2019 and is now seen as a possible venue for their next meeting. South Korea's spy agency told lawmakers in a closed-door briefing Thursday that North Korea and Russia could also be arranging an unexpected "surprise" route for Kim's visit to avoid potential venues reported by the media.

North Korea has not confirmed any plans for Kim to visit Russia.

"Whether or not a Putin-Kim summit soon follows, the United States is attempting to deter serious violations of international law by preemptively releasing intelligence," said Leif-Eric Easley, a professor at Ewha University in Seoul.

The growing cooperation between China, Russia and North Korea, and Chinese President Xi Jinping's decision to skip the Group of 20 Summit in India, give the appearance of a widening fissure in Asia's geopolitical landscape, he said.

Still, a major Russia-North Korea arms deal, which would breach numerous international sanctions, should worry Beijing because "association with an emerging pariah state bloc could have negative repercussions for China's globalized but struggling economy," Easley said.

KCNA said Kim received letters from Putin and Xi on the anniversary, where both leaders said that their countries' strengthening ties with North Korea would contribute to the region's peace and stability.

Saturday's parade was centered around paramilitary organizations and public security forces protecting Pyongyang, rather than the military units that handle his nuclear-capable weapons systems, which have been the focus of other parades this year.

Millions of North Koreans between the ages of 17 and 60 are listed as Worker-Peasant Red Guards, a national civil defense organization that could be loosely compared to military reserve forces of other countries. Saturday's marches of the Red Guards included huge columns of motorcycles, anti-tank rockets towed by tractors and civilian-style trucks equipped with multiple rocket launchers, according to KCNA's text reports and photos.

Photos showed Kim smiling and talking with his young daughter, believed to be named Ju Ae, as they watched the parade from leather chairs set up at Kim's balcony in Kim Il Sung Square named after his

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lives of 5.5 million infants born HIV-free.

At the Nairobi orphanage, program manager Paul Mulongo has a message for Washington.

"Let them know that the lives of these children we are taking care of are purely in their hands," Mulongo says.

The issue of abortion has been a sensitive one since PEPFAR's inception in 2003. But each time the program came up for renewal in Congress, Republicans and Democrats were able to put aside partisan politics to support a program that's long been seen as the vanguard of global aid.

"Most eras in countries are measured by loss of life in war and famine and pandemic," said Tom Hart, president of the ONE Campaign, a nonpartisan organization that worked with Bush to create the program. "This era has been measured in lives saved." The campaign has published a letter from dozens of faith leaders to Congress calling PEPFAR "a story of medical miracles and mercy."

But lawmakers' bipartisan support is cracking as the program is set to expire at the end of September. The trouble began in the spring, when the Heritage Foundation, an influential conservative Washington think tank, accused the Biden administration of using PEPFAR "to promote its domestic radical social agenda overseas."

The group pointed to new State Department language that called for PEPFAR to partner with organizations that advocate for "institutional reforms in law and policy regarding sexual, reproductive and economic rights of women." Conservatives argued that's code for trying to integrate abortion with HIV/AIDS prevention, a claim the administration has denied.

In language echoing the early, harsh years of the epidemic, Heritage called HIV/AIDS a "lifestyle disease" that should be suppressed by "education, moral suasion and legal sanctions." It recommended halving U.S. funding for PEPFAR, saying poor countries should bear more of the costs.

Shortly after that, Republican Rep. Chris Smith, a longtime supporter of PEPFAR who wrote the bill reauthorizing it in 2018, said he would not move forward with reauthorization this time unless it bars NGOs who use any funding to provide or promote abortion services. His threat comes with weight as he chairs the House Foreign Affairs subcommittee with jurisdiction over the program's funding.

But since that proposal faces stiff opposition from Democrats in Congress, Smith, with support from prominent anti-abortion groups, wants to cut PEPFAR's usual five-year funding to one year if that ban is not included. He said that would allow lawmakers annually to revisit contracts with partners they believe may support or provide abortion services.

"It's a false narrative that says that you can't do (the program) year by year as we try to protect the unborn child," Smith told The Associated Press.

Supporters of the program say that under existing U.S. law, partners are already prohibited from using its funding for abortion services. The head of PEPFAR, John Nkengasong, told the AP he knew of no instance of the program's money going directly or indirectly to fund abortion services.

He warned that any instability in the flow of U.S. funding for PEPFAR could have dangerous implications for health globally, including in the United States. The key to controlling AIDS, he said, is the assurance that infected people have a pill to take each day.

Without that, the virus could come back, "and about 20 million lives might be lost in the coming years," he said. "The fragile gains that we've achieved will be lost."

In Africa, many PEPFAR partners and recipients in largely conservative countries don't support abortion either because of religious beliefs. But the idea that the program reliant on the steady supply of HIV drugs could be subject to political winds is a cause for alarm.

"If PEPFAR goes, who is going to meet that cost?" asked Josephine Kaleebi, who leads an organization in Uganda that helped the program's first-ever recipient of HIV treatment medication.

"We are proud to say that the first recipient is alive," Kaleebi said.

The group, Reach Out Mbuya Community Health Initiative, was founded by members of Uganda's Catholic Church, which is against abortion. In the reception area, portraits of priests line the walls.

But Reach Out helps anyone who walks in needing HIV drugs, Kaleebi said. About 6,000 people are served,

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many of them “the extremely most vulnerable” from one of the poorest areas of the capital, Kampala.

Mark Dybul, who helped create and lead PEPFAR under Bush, warned that weakening PEPFAR would also hurt the diplomatic goodwill the U.S. has created in developing regions.

“It’s no secret that we are in a geopolitical struggle for influence in Africa with Russia and China,” he said. “And our biggest influence in many ways, visible and most impactful, is PEPFAR.” A spokesperson for former president Bush declined comment.

In neighboring Kenya, Bernard Mwololo believes he is alive because of the drugs that PEPFAR provides. “Sometimes it’s so crazy when you hear people saying that these HIV drugs should be bought by the local government,” he said. “I am telling you, they can’t manage it.”

The 36-year-old, now an HIV activist, has lived most of his life at the Nairobi orphanage after his parents died of AIDS. He recalled arriving and learning that he could have hope. He was enrolled in a better school, was given a bicycle and ate balanced meals.

The number of children in sub-Saharan Africa newly orphaned by AIDS reached a peak of 1.6 million in 2004, the year that PEPFAR began its rollout of HIV drugs, researchers wrote in a defense of the program published by The Lancet medical journal last month. In 2021, the number of new orphans had dropped to 382,000.

And deaths of infants and young children from AIDS in the region have dropped by 80%.

Now the orphanage is transformed. Children dart around playing soccer or swing in the colorful play area. Some are among the 1.4 million children and adults living with HIV in Kenya, according to UNAIDS. More than 1 million have received free HIV drugs because of PEPFAR.

Stopping PEPFAR would be like committing “global genocide,” said Mulongo, the orphanage program manager.

He recalled how helpless he felt watching children die before HIV drugs were readily available. Almost two decades ago, they would lose at least 30 children a month to AIDS.

Elsewhere in Nairobi, 16-year-old Idah Musimbi is part of a generation that has grown up without the fear that an HIV diagnosis was a likely death sentence.

She displayed the pills that have given her a sense of normalcy. She contracted HIV at birth.

“I don’t think I would live for long if these drugs stopped coming. My grandparents cannot afford to buy food every day, let alone these ARVs,” she said.

Her grandfather David Shitika, a pastor, said he owes the lives of his granddaughter and her mother to PEPFAR. His daughter was diagnosed with HIV in 1995, when many people were dying.

“It was called the slimming killer disease,” he said. “Nobody wanted to live with an infected person, and those who died were wrapped in nylon bags before burial” for fear of infection.

Now he hopes that the Republicans’ threat to PEPFAR will fade, and that his granddaughter will go on to study law and achieve her dream of becoming a judge.

“I want to tell the American people, God bless you,” Shitika said. “I do not know why you decided to help us.”

Ralph Lauren, a son of the Bronx, takes over Brooklyn in lavish return to NY Fashion Week

By JOHN CARUCCI and JOCELYN NOVECK Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — He may have been born in the Bronx, but designer Ralph Lauren took over a different New York city borough — Brooklyn — with a sumptuous event that marked his return to NY Fashion Week after four years and brought out stars like Jennifer Lopez, Julianne Moore, Diane Keaton, Mindy Kaling, Gabrielle Union, James Marsden and many others.

After crossing the country last year to stage a lavish show at the grand Huntington Library in San Marino, California, Lauren returned to his home base of New York with Friday’s show in a cavernous warehouse space at the Brooklyn Navy Yard, transformed into a reimagined artist’s loft. He decorated the space with rustic wood and draped canvases, and added glittering chandeliers above.

None other than Christy Turlington closed out the runway show of Lauren's Spring 2024 women's collection, the 53-year-old supermodel looking regal in a one-shouldered gown in shiny gold. As is Lauren's way, he combined luxury and casual throughout, showing sleek metallic looks and lacy evening dresses along with his beloved denim, for example a long floral embellished denim skirt, or a jean jacket adorned with rhinestones, feathers and embroidery.

Lauren addressed that variety in remarks emailed to The Associated Press, saying the woman he designs for "dresses for who she is on a particular day." This collection, he said, was "inspired by her individuality — all the ways she can express herself through color, texture, contradictions." It was his Lauren's first NY Fashion Week show since 2019.

Lopez, Moore, Keaton and Amanda Seyfried sat together in one row, Keaton grooving to the music. Nearby sat actors Keri Russell and Matthew Rhys, near Kaling. Other guests included Ariana DeBose, Rachel Brosnahan, Robin Wright and singer Sheryl Crow. Fellow designer Thom Browne was seated near Vogue editor Anna Wintour.

After the fashion show, big wooden barn-like doors opened from the runway "artist's loft" to a huge barnlike room — inspired by Lauren's ranch in Colorado — with long tables laden with pink roses and candles, where guests dined on lobster salad, filet mignon and grilled branzino.

Kaling said in an interview that she'd become a fan of the designer through her immigrant parents. "For them, if you wore Ralph Lauren, you had made it, you know, and so that became popularized in my house with Polo Ralph Lauren. So I love being here. It makes me feel really connected to my roots."

Brosnahan said she admired Lauren's clothes because they lasted for many years and contributed to sustainability. "Some of my favorite Ralph sweaters are 15, 20 years old," the actor said, "beautiful cashmere sweaters. We're having a conversation about sustainable fashion right now, and you can have less things if they're beautiful and they last a long time."

Model Sofia Richie said she admired the designer's consistency. "Through the years and years ... he's stayed true to his designs and the kind of woman that he dresses," she said.

Updated COVID shots are coming. They're part of a trio of vaccines to block fall viruses

By LAURAN NEERGAARD AP Medical Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Updated COVID-19 vaccines are coming soon, just in time to pair them with flu shots. And this fall, the first vaccines for another scary virus called RSV are rolling out to older adults and pregnant women.

Doctors hope enough people get vaccinated to help avert another "triple-demic" like last year when hospitals were overwhelmed with an early flu season, an onslaught of RSV, or respiratory syncytial virus, and yet another winter coronavirus surge.

COVID-19 hospitalizations have been steadily increasing since late summer, although not nearly as much as this time last year, and RSV already is on the rise in parts of the Southeast.

Approval of updated COVID-19 shots is expected within days. They are among the tools the new director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says will help put the U.S. in "our strongest position yet" to avoid another chaotic respiratory season.

"There will be a lot of virus this winter. That's why we want to get ahead of it," CDC chief Dr. Mandy Cohen said.

Here is what you need to know about fall vaccinations:

WHY MORE COVID-19 SHOTS?

The ever-evolving coronavirus isn't going away. Similar to how flu shots are updated each year, the Food and Drug Administration gave COVID-19 vaccine makers a new recipe for this fall.

The updated shots have a single target, an omicron descendant named XBB.1.5. It's a big change. The COVID-19 vaccines offered since last year are combination shots targeting the original coronavirus strain

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and a much earlier omicron version, making them very outdated.

Pfizer, Moderna and Novavax all have brewed new supplies.

The FDA will soon decide if each company has met safety, effectiveness and quality standards. Then the CDC must sign off before vaccinations begin. A CDC advisory panel is set to meet Tuesday to make recommendations on how best to use the latest shots.

Earlier this month, European regulators authorized Pfizer's updated vaccine for this fall, for adults and children as young as 6 months.

WILL THEY BE EFFECTIVE ENOUGH?

Health officials are optimistic, barring a new mutant.

As expected, XBB.1.5 has faded away in the months it took to tweak the vaccine. Today, there is a soup of different coronavirus variants causing illness and the most common ones are fairly close relatives. Recent lab testing from vaccine makers and other research groups suggest the updated shots will offer crossover protection.

Earlier vaccinations or infections have continued to help prevent severe disease and death but protection wanes over time, especially against milder infections as the virus continually evolves. While the FDA did allow seniors and others at high risk to get an extra booster dose last spring, most Americans haven't had a vaccination in about a year.

"The best thing people can do to maintain a normal way of life is to continue to get their booster shots," said Duke University vaccine expert David Montefiori.

WHO ALSO NEEDS A FLU VACCINE?

The CDC urges a yearly flu shot for pretty much everyone ages 6 months and up. The best time is by the end of October.

Like with COVID-19, influenza can be especially dangerous to certain groups including the very young, older people and those with weak immune systems and lung or heart disease.

There are multiple kinds of flu vaccines to choose from, including a nasal spray version for certain younger people. More important, there are three shots specifically recommended for seniors to choose from because they are proven to do a better job revving up an older adult's immune system.

CAN I GET A FLU SHOT AND COVID-19 SHOT AT THE SAME TIME?

Yes.

The CDC says there is no difference in effectiveness or side effects if people get those vaccines simultaneously, although one in each arm might be more comfortable.

WHAT IS THIS NEW RSV VACCINE?

RSV is a cold-like nuisance for most people, and not as well-known as the flu. But RSV packs hospitals every winter and can be deadly for children under 5, the elderly and people with certain high-risk health problems. Most notorious for inflaming babies' tiny airways, leaving them wheezing, it's also a common cause of pneumonia in seniors.

RSV vaccines from GSK and Pfizer are approved for adults 60 and older. The CDC is advising seniors to ask their doctor if they should get the one-dose shot.

The FDA also has approved Pfizer's RSV vaccine to be given late in pregnancy so moms-to-be pass the protection to their newborns. CDC recommendations on that use are expected later this month.

Also still to come: advice on whether RSV vaccines should be given together with flu and COVID-19 shots.

WHAT ABOUT BABIES AND RSV?

There is one more new shot parents may hear about this fall: an injection of lab-made antibodies to guard babies from RSV.

That is different than a vaccine, which teaches the body to make its own infection-fighting antibodies, but is similarly protective.

The FDA recently approved Beyfortus, from Sanofi and AstraZeneca. The one-dose drug is recommended for all infants younger than 8 months before their first RSV season.

Novak Djokovic will face Daniil Medvedev in the US Open final. It's a rematch from 2021

By HOWARD FENDRICH AP Tennis Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Novak Djokovic limited big-serving Ben Shelton to five aces and broke him five times in their U.S. Open semifinal Friday. Djokovic pushed back when the 20-year-old unseeded American produced a late stand that got the home crowd into the match.

And after overcoming what he called "a little black hole" caused by tension to right himself, finish off a 6-3, 6-2, 7-6 (4) victory and reach his record-tying 10th final at Flushing Meadows and 36th at all major tournaments, Djokovic added a touch of insult to injury by mimicking the kid's "Hang up the phone!" celebration gesture.

Djokovic then pointed to his temple and pounded his fist on his chest, before a stone-faced Shelton met him at the net for the most perfunctory of handshakes. A year after Djokovic could not travel to the United States for the Open because he is not vaccinated against COVID-19, the 36-year-old from Serbia is one victory away from a fourth title in New York and 24th Grand Slam championship overall.

"Well, fact is that, at 36, every Grand Slam final ... could be the last one. So I think that I probably value these occasions and opportunities to win another Slam more than I have maybe 10 years ago," said Djokovic, who would be the oldest man to win the U.S. Open in the professional era, which began in 1968. "I don't know how many I have ahead of me now."

He has made it to the finals of all four majors this season, with victories at the Australian Open in January and French Open in June.

On Sunday, Djokovic will face 2021 U.S. Open champion Daniil Medvedev, who advanced by eliminating defending champ Carlos Alcaraz 7-6 (3), 6-1, 3-6, 6-3 in the second semifinal Friday night.

Alcaraz was asked how long this loss might bother him.

"Days? Weeks? I don't know. I don't think I'm going to think about this loss for a long time," he said. "Of course, I have to learn (from) it. I want to be better. These kind of matches help you a lot to be better and grow up."

The No. 3-seeded Medvedev, a 27-year-old from Russia, denied Djokovic a calendar-year Grand Slam by beating him in the final at Flushing Meadows two years ago.

"The challenge is that you play a guy that won 23 Grand Slams, and I have only one," Medvedev said, looking ahead to taking on Djokovic. "When I beat him here, I managed to play better than myself, so I need to do it again. There is no other way."

Both Medvedev and Alcaraz played brilliantly in parts, so-so in others. Both interacted with the spectators, pointing to an ear to ask for more noise. In the final game, fans called out as Medvedev double-faulted twice while trying to seal the win against a guy who beat him in the Wimbledon semifinals en route to the title there in July.

But Medvedev managed to hold on.

"Really happy," he said, "but the tournament is not over."

If Djokovic does end up leaving with the hardware this time, he would break a tie with Serena Williams for the most major singles championships in the Open era.

"It's another shot for history," said Djokovic, who was seeded No. 2 at the U.S. Open but will replace Alcaraz at No. 1 next week no matter what happens Sunday.

Djokovic vs. Shelton certainly seemed like a mismatch beforehand: Djokovic was participating in his record 47th Slam semifinal and his 100th U.S. Open match; the 47th-ranked Shelton was in his first major semi and only his seventh career match at the Open.

Shelton won an NCAA singles title for the University of Florida last year and captured attention over the past two weeks with the powerful swings of his racket that generated a tournament-high 76 aces entering Friday, his shouts of "Yeah!" or biceps flexes after winning points and a victory-capping pantomime pretending his hand is an old-style telephone handset that he slams down.

"I thought it was very original, and I copied him," Djokovic said with a smile. "I stole his celebration."

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state-founding grandfather.

Since November, Kim Jong Un has been bringing his daughter — believed to be around 10 years old — to major public events involving the country's military. Analysts say Kim's showcasing of his daughter is meant to send a statement to the world that he has no intention of voluntarily surrendering the nuclear weapons and missiles he sees as the strongest guarantee of his survival and the extension of his family's dynastic rule.

State media did not mention whether Kim made a speech during the parade, indicating that he likely didn't.

KCNA said Kim met with Liu and other Chinese delegates ahead of the parade, where they exchanged views on "further intensifying the multi-faceted coordination and cooperation" between the countries.

Tensions in the Korean Peninsula are at their highest point in years, as the pace of both North Korea's missile tests and the United States' combined military exercises with South Korea and Japan have intensified in tit-for-tat.

To counter the deepening security cooperation between Washington, Seoul and Tokyo, Kim has been trying to boost the visibility of his partnerships with Moscow and Beijing as he seeks to break out of diplomatic isolation and have North Korea be a part of a united front against the United States.

In July, Kim invited delegations led by Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu and Chinese Communist Party Politburo member Li Hongzhong to a huge military parade in Pyongyang, where he rolled out his most powerful weapons, including intercontinental ballistic missiles designed to target the U.S. mainland.

A day before the parade, Kim took Shoigu on a tour of a domestic arms exhibition, which demonstrated North Korea's support for Russia's invasion of Ukraine and added to suspicions the North was willing to supply arms to Russia.

In exchange for providing Russia with artillery shells and other ammunition, North Korea could seek badly needed energy and food aid and advanced weapons technologies, analysts say. There are concerns that potential Russian technology transfers would increase the threat posed by Kim's growing arsenal of nuclear weapons and missiles that are designed to target the United States and its Asian allies.

Republicans' opposition to abortion threatens a global HIV program that has saved 25 million lives

By EVELYNE MUSAMBI, FARNOUSH AMIRI, CARA ANNA and ELLEN KNICKMEYER Associated Press NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — The graves at the edge of the orphanage tell a story of despair. The rough planks in the cracked earth are painted with the names of children, most of them dead in the 1990s. That was before the HIV drugs arrived.

Today, the orphanage in Kenya's capital is a happier, more hopeful place for children with HIV. But a political fight taking place in the United States is threatening the program that helps to keep them and millions of others around the world alive.

The reason for the threat? Abortion.

The AIDS epidemic has killed more than 40 million people since the first recorded cases in 1981, tripling child mortality and carving decades off life expectancy in the hardest-hit areas of Africa, where the cost of treatment put it out of reach. Horrified, Republican U.S. President George W. Bush and Congress two decades ago created what is described as the largest commitment by any nation in history to combat a single disease.

The program known as the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, or PEPFAR, partners with nonprofit groups to provide HIV/AIDS medication to millions around the world. It strengthens local and national health care systems, cares for children orphaned by AIDS, and provides job training for people at-risk.

Now a small number of Republican lawmakers are endangering the stability of the program, which officials say has saved 25 million lives in 55 countries from Ukraine to Brazil to Indonesia. That includes the

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Shelton actually borrowed it from former Florida track and field athlete Grant Holloway, a world champion hurdler.

Shelton insisted Djokovic's end-of-match gesture didn't bother him.

"I don't like when I'm on social media and I see people telling me how I can celebrate or can't celebrate. I think if you win the match, you deserve to do whatever you want," Shelton said. "As a kid growing up, I always learned that imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, so that's all I have to say about that."

He made things interesting in the third set, lifting his level of play as Djokovic got tight when the finish line neared. Shelton broke for the only two times in the match, even held a set point at 5-4 and later erased a match point on the way to forcing the concluding tiebreaker.

The fans loved it.

"It was loud," Shelton said. "I mean, really loud."

But Djokovic, always so tough when the going gets tough, pulled out the win.

The retractable roof was closed because of rain in the forecast, creating echoes for the soundtrack of yells and applause in Arthur Ashe Stadium, where there were additional police officers and security guards a day after four climate protesters — including one man who glued his bare feet to the concrete in the stands — caused a 50-minute delay during Coco Gauff's semifinal victory.

The ultimate outcome never truly appeared in doubt. Well, OK, there was that little surge by Shelton after he trailed 4-2 in the last set.

In the end, though, all of Djokovic's experience prevailed, along with that ability to return serves, to grind away, point after point, with his sneaker-squeaking, body-bending defense and more.

"He's a guy who can compete at the highest level, has a similar mentality to me on the court, with how he wants to come after you and be aggressive and show his emotion," Shelton said. "It was really cool to see that matchup for the first time. Looking forward to hopefully getting it again."

Trump, DeSantis and other 2024 GOP prospects vie for attention at Iowa-Iowa State football game

By THOMAS BEAUMONT and HANNAH FINGERHUT Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Donald Trump will cross paths with several Republican rivals Saturday when he attends Iowa's in-state college football grudge match, one of the former president's few visits so far to the state that holds the first nominating caucus.

Trump will wade into one of the state's largest sports crowds at Jack Trice Stadium in Ames, where Iowa State University will host the University of Iowa. Also planning to be at the game are Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis and several lesser-known candidates.

As the race enters its traditional ramp-up after Labor Day, the former president has largely skipped holding town halls or participating in many of the state's cherished campaign traditions, but has not paid a price so far. Trump remains far ahead of DeSantis and other rivals in Iowa and nationally.

Trump has made a habit of visiting Iowa on the same day as DeSantis, whom Trump treats as his main threat. Both men are expected to be in and around the stadium before kickoff, reminiscent of the scene last month when Trump drew huge crowds to Iowa State Fair in Des Moines while DeSantis addressed smaller audiences and hit the midway rides with his family.

DeSantis is increasingly focused on winning or placing high in Iowa and says he's visited more than half of the state's 99 counties already. Trump, meanwhile, has made only five visits to Iowa this year.

Trump is expected to attend the 2:30 p.m. game and not a local county GOP's tailgate party in nearby Nevada, Iowa, where North Dakota Gov. Doug Burgum, former Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson and Ohio biotech entrepreneur Vivek Ramaswamy are scheduled to appear.

Instead of large-scale rallies, Trump is relying on state party events that offer large, friendly audiences at no cost to his campaign, while his political organization pays millions of dollars in legal expenses as he faces four criminal indictments. He was in neighboring South Dakota on Friday night appearing at a state party fundraiser with Gov. Kristi Noem, who endorsed him.

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Trump's campaign has also used digital outreach. Last week, Trump held a conference call with tens of thousands of Iowans. He has done some in-person events with voters — in June, he handed out Dairy Queen "Blizzards" while also confessing aloud he didn't know what the soft-serve treats were.

There is no comparable example in Iowa political history to a former president running to reclaim his old office while also under indictment for more than 90 felony counts. But other high-profile candidates and strong front-runners have done the town halls and retail campaigning for which Iowa and other early primary states are well-known.

In 2007, then-Sen. Hillary Clinton entered the race for the 2008 Democratic nomination as a national celebrity and the party's heavy favorite in national polling. Drawing larger crowds, Clinton sought to meet the demand by holding smaller meetings with local activists before speaking to packed gyms and halls.

Clinton also attended party events with her lesser-known rivals to demonstrate her willingness to undergo the rigor that Iowans typically demand. Ultimately, she lost the 2008 caucus to then-Sen. Barack Obama, who eventually won the nomination and the White House.

Trump has foregone all but one such event in Iowa this year. The exception was the Iowa Republican Party Lincoln Dinner in July, a marquee event that helps to finance the caucus.

Hurricane Lee is charting a new course in weather and could signal more monster storms

By JEFF MARTIN Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — Hurricane Lee is rewriting old rules of meteorology, leaving experts astonished at how rapidly it grew into a goliath Category 5 hurricane.

Lee could also be a dreadful harbinger of what is to come as ocean temperatures climb, spawning fast-growing major hurricanes that could threaten communities farther north and farther inland, experts say.

"Hurricanes are getting stronger at higher latitudes," said Marshall Shepherd, director of the University of Georgia's Atmospheric Sciences Program and a past president of the American Meteorological Society. "If that trend continues, that brings into play places like Washington, D.C., New York and Boston."

HYPER-INTENSIFICATION

As the oceans warm, they act as jet fuel for hurricanes.

"That extra heat comes back to manifest itself at some point, and one of the ways it does is through stronger hurricanes," Shepherd said.

During the overnight hours on Thursday, Lee shattered the standard for what meteorologists call rapid intensification — when a hurricane's sustained winds increase by 35 mph (56 kph) in 24 hours.

"This one increased by 80 mph (129 kph)," Shepherd said. "I can't emphasize this enough — we used to have this metric of 35 mph, and here's a storm that did twice that amount and we're seeing that happen more frequently," said Shepherd, who describes what happened with Lee as "hyper-intensification."

With super-warm ocean temperatures and low wind shear, "all the stars were aligned for it to intensify rapidly," said Kerry Emanuel, professor emeritus of atmospheric science at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

INLAND THREATS

Category 5 status — when sustained winds are at least 157 mph or 253 kph — is quite rare. Only about 4.5% of named storms in the Atlantic Ocean have grown to a Category 5 in the past decade, said Brian McNoldy, a scientist and hurricane researcher at the University of Miami.

More intense major hurricanes are also threatening communities farther inland, since the monster storms can grow so powerful that they remain dangerous hurricanes for longer distances over land.

"I think that's a story that's kind of under-told," Shepherd said. "As these storms are strong coming to landfall, in some cases they're moving fast enough that they're still hurricanes well inland."

Hurricane Idalia was the latest example, when it came ashore in the Florida Panhandle last month and remained a hurricane as it entered south Georgia.

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It then slammed into the Georgia city of Valdosta more than 70 miles (116 kilometers) away from where it made landfall. At least 80 homes in the Valdosta area were destroyed and hundreds of others damaged.

In 2018, Hurricane Michael carved a similar path of inland destruction, tearing up cotton crops and pecan trees and leaving widespread damage across south Georgia.

RISK FOR NEW ENGLAND

While it's too early to know how close Lee might come to the U.S. East Coast, New Englanders are keeping a wary eye on the storm as some models have projected it tracking perilously close to New England – particularly Maine. It has been 69 years since a major hurricane made landfall in New England, McNoldy said.

On Sept. 8, 1869, a Category 3 hurricane known as “the September Gale of 1869” struck Rhode Island, the National Weather Service in Boston noted on Friday. The storm cut all telegraph lines between Boston and New York and capsized a schooner, killing 11 crew members.

“If Lee actually does make landfall in New England, there’s no doubt the storm surge would be a huge threat,” he said.

MONSTER WAVES

As Lee roils the ocean as it creeps closer to the eastern coast of the U.S., it could bring high seas and rip currents all up and down the eastern seaboard.

“What we are going to see from Lee -- and we’re very confident -- is it’s going to be a major wave producer,” Mike Brennan, director of the National Hurricane Center, said in a Friday briefing.

“This morning the highest significant wave height we were analyzing in Lee was between 45 and 50 feet, and the highest waves could even be double that,” Brennan said. “So we could be looking at 80, 90-foot waves associated with Lee.”

Emanuel was tracking the storm this weekend in New Harbor, Maine. Since it has been so long for any type of hurricane warning in New England, some residents might be complacent and think that hurricanes are a Florida or Louisiana problem, he said.

“One worries whether they’re going to take it seriously when it comes to that,” he said.

SOMETHING TO WATCH

Forecasters will be watching any possible interaction in coming days between Lee and newly formed Tropical Storm Margot, which is expected to become a hurricane next week.

It’s possible that Margot could alter Lee’s path, though it’s too soon to know whether that will happen, experts say.

Margot is far to the east of Lee, but as Margot strengthens it could affect the weather systems in the region that steer hurricanes.

A phenomenon known as the Fujiwhara Effect can occur when two tropical storms rotate around each other, but that doesn’t mean they will in this case, Emanuel said. If it does happen, though, the two storms could push each other around in the Atlantic, which could alter their paths.

New Mexico governor issues order suspending the right to carry firearms in public across Albuquerque

By MORGAN LEE Associated Press

SANTA FE, N.M. (AP) — New Mexico Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham on Friday issued an emergency order suspending the right to carry firearms in public across Albuquerque and the surrounding county for at least 30 days in response to a spate of gun violence.

The Democratic governor said she expects legal challenges but was compelled to act because of recent shootings, including the death of an 11-year-old boy outside a minor league baseball stadium this week.

Lujan Grisham said state police would be responsible for enforcing what amount to civil violations. Albuquerque police Chief Harold Medina said he won’t enforce it, and Bernalillo County Sheriff John Allen said he’s uneasy about it because it raises too many questions about constitutional rights.

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The firearms suspension, classified as an emergency public health order, applies to open and concealed carry in most public places, from city sidewalks to urban recreational parks. The restriction is tied to a threshold for violent crime rates currently only met by the metropolitan Albuquerque. Police and licensed security guards are exempt from the temporary ban.

Violators could face civil penalties and a fine of up to \$5,000, gubernatorial spokeswoman Caroline Sweeney said. Under the order, residents still can transport guns to some private locations, such as a gun range or gun store, provided the firearm has a trigger lock or some other container or mechanism making it impossible to discharge.

Lujan Grisham acknowledged not all law enforcement officials were on board with her decision.

"I welcome the debate and fight about how to make New Mexicans safer," she said at a news conference, flanked by law enforcement officials, including the district attorney for the Albuquerque area.

John Allen said in a statement late Friday that he has reservations about the order but is ready to cooperate to tackle gun violence.

"While I understand and appreciate the urgency, the temporary ban challenges the foundation of our constitution, which I swore an oath to uphold," Allen said. "I am wary of placing my deputies in positions that could lead to civil liability conflicts, as well as the potential risks posed by prohibiting law-abiding citizens from their constitutional right to self-defense."

Enforcing the governor's order also could put Albuquerque police in a difficult position with the U.S. Department of Justice regarding a police reform settlement, said police spokesman Gilbert Gallegos.

"All of those are unsettled questions," he said late Friday.

Lujan Grisham referenced several recent shootings in Albuquerque in issuing the order. Among them was a suspected road rage shooting Wednesday outside a minor league baseball stadium that killed 11-year-old Froyland Villegas and critically wounded a woman as their vehicle was peppered with bullets while people left the game.

Last month, 5-year-old Galilea Samaniego was fatally shot while asleep in a motor home. Four teens entered the mobile home community in two stolen vehicles early on Aug. 13 and opened fire on the trailer, according to police. The girl was struck in the head and later died at a hospital.

The governor also cited an August shooting death in Taos County of 13-year-old Amber Archuleta. A 14-year-old boy shot and killed the girl with his father's gun while they were at his home, authorities said.

"When New Mexicans are afraid to be in crowds, to take their kids to school, to leave a baseball game — when their very right to exist is threatened by the prospect of violence at every turn — something is very wrong," Lujan Grisham said in a statement.

The top-ranked Republican in the state Senate swiftly denounced the governor's actions Friday to restrict guns as a way to stem violent crime.

"A child is murdered, the perpetrator is still on the loose, and what does the governor do? She ... targets law-abiding citizens with an unconstitutional gun order," Sen. Greg Baca of Belen said.

Miranda Viscoli, co-president of New Mexicans to Prevent Gun Violence, applauded the governor's order as a courageous and necessary step to curbing gun violence, even if the measure's legal fate is uncertain.

"If it saves one life, then it's worth doing," Viscoli said.

Since 2019, Lujan Grisham has signed a raft of legislation restricting access to guns, including a 2020 "red flag" law allowing police or sheriff's deputies to ask a court to temporarily remove guns from people who might hurt themselves or others, an extension of background-check requirements to nearly all private gun sales.

She also signed a ban on firearms possession for people under permanent protective orders for domestic violence.

Friday's order directs state regulators to conduct monthly inspections of firearms dealers statewide to ensure compliance with gun laws.

The state Department of Health will compile a report on gunshot victims at New Mexico hospitals that includes age, race, gender and ethnicity, along with the brand and caliber of firearm involved and other general circumstances.

Tribal nations face less accurate, more limited 2020 census data because of privacy methods

By MIKE SCHNEIDER and MORGAN LEE Associated Press

SANTA FE, N.M (AP) — During the 2020 census, Native American leaders across the U.S. invested time and resources to make sure their members were tallied during the head count, which determines political power and federal funding.

But the detailed data sets from the 2020 census they will receive this month are more limited and less accurate than they were in the previous census — and it isn't because the COVID-19 pandemic severely limited outreach efforts.

Rather, it's due to new privacy methods implemented by the U.S. Census Bureau in order to protect the confidentiality of participants, one of which introduces intentional errors, or "noise," to the data.

At stake is the availability and accuracy of data helping tribal leaders make decisions about where to locate grocery stores or schools and estimate future population growth. Census numbers determine funding for social programs, education, roads and elderly care for tribes that have been historically undercounted.

"It was never clearly articulated to them by the Census Bureau that this would be the case, that they wouldn't receive the level of data that they received from the previous census," New Mexico State Demographer Robert Rhatigan said. "In those tribal conversations it was never made clear that the data would not be available, or that it would be so noisy in these smaller areas."

In fact, more than 80% of tribes in the U.S. won't receive the full suite of detailed demographic data from the 2020 census at tribal-area levels they had in the 2010 census because of the changes, according to a report released in August by the Center for Indian Country Development, which is part of the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis.

Many leaders in Indian Country are unaware they are going to get fewer tables when the detailed data sets are released Sept. 21, said Brandi Liberty, a consultant who helps tribes get federal and state grants.

"It's going to be difficult for a lot of tribes when they need the data," said Liberty, a member of the Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska.

The 2020 census put the American Indian and Alaska Native alone population at 3.7 million people; it was 9.6 million for those who identified as American Indian and Alaska Native in combination with another race. The Census Bureau provides detailed data for 1,200 American Indian and Alaska Native tribes and villages.

The privacy changes to the detailed census data "will harm the ability of self-governing tribes to meet the needs of their citizens," the Federal Reserve report said.

The Census Bureau told The Associated Press that it doesn't comment on outside reports but acknowledged the number of tables for tribes in 2020 were reduced from 2010 because of the privacy concerns.

The privacy changes arrive during heightened sensitivities about who controls data from Indian Country.

"The concept of tribal data sovereignty and just data sovereignty in general has been kind of elevated. In a sense, this is their data," Rhatigan said. "You can say that it's a problem for the smaller tribal communities that won't even get the detailed age data. It's possible that the bigger problem comes from the tribes that do receive the data. Nobody knows ... how inaccurate those data are."

That's because of the privacy method, known as "differential privacy," uses algorithms to create intentional errors to data by adding or subtracting people from the actual count in order to obscure the identity of any given participant in a particular area.

The Census Bureau has said the differential privacy algorithms are needed because, without them, the growth of easily available third-party data combined with modern computing could allow hackers to piece together the identities of participants in its censuses and surveys in violation of the law.

The statistical agency already has released 2020 census data used to draw political districts and determine how many congressional seats and Electoral College votes each state gets.

Differential privacy's impact on accuracy is greatest when population totals are broken down by race, age and sex, making it harder to understand demographic changes in individual tribal areas, the Federal Reserve report said.

Also complicating the availability of detailed tribal census data are new population thresholds by the Census Bureau. The thresholds determine how much data tribes, or racial or ethnic groups, get for a particular area.

In 2010, in order to protect people's identities, a tribe or a racial or ethnic group in any particular geography like a county needed at least 100 people to get all 71 available data tables. In 2020, "dynamic population thresholds" are being used, with the size of the tribe or racial or ethnic group in a location determining how many data tables they get.

For national or state level data, the 40% of all tribes with less than 500 people across the U.S. will receive only country or state-wide population totals, keeping them from getting the more detailed data they got in 2010. At the tribal-area level, 80% of tribes will only receive population totals instead of breakdowns of age data reported by sex, according to the Federal Reserve report.

In New Mexico, for instance, only the Navajo Nation — the tribe with the largest reservation, extending into Arizona and Utah — will receive the full suite of data with almost two dozen age categories by sex. Sixteen of the state's 22 populated tribal areas are likely to receive limited data sets breaking down populations into only four age groups per sex. Two Native American pueblos will receive no age breakdowns at all, Rhatigan said.

American Indian or Alaska Native people on reservations were among the most undercounted populations in the 2020 census, with an estimated 5.6% of residents missed, according to an evaluation by the Census Bureau.

The COVID-19 pandemic severely limited the outreach efforts many tribal communities had planned. Many tribes closed their borders in an effort to stop the virus' spread, severely restricting the ability to get a head count. Plus, the digital divide in some tribal communities made responding to the head count difficult during the first census, in which participants were encouraged to answer census questions online.

It might have been worse. The Census Bureau earlier contemplated eliminating detailed tribal tables altogether, said James Tucker, a voting rights attorney for the Native American Rights Fund.

"It could have been really bad," said Tucker, who is a former chair of a Census Bureau advisory committee. "But they took it to heart to make the data as accurate as possible while balancing that against the privacy concerns."

Prison guard who missed killer's escape is fired, as hunt for fugitive focuses on botanic garden

WEST CHESTER, Pa. (AP) — A prison tower guard has been fired after a murderer slipped away on his watch in a brazen daytime escape, officials said Friday, as the nine-day-old search pressed on amid southeastern Philadelphia suburbs, farmland and a vast botanical garden.

News of the firing came as the searchers' ranks grew overnight, focusing on the area around Longwood Gardens, where the fugitive inmate has been spotted before.

Danelo Souza Cavalcante, 34, escaped while awaiting transfer to state prison on Aug. 31 after being sentenced to life in prison for fatally stabbing his ex-girlfriend in 2021. Prosecutors say he wanted to stop her from telling police that he's wanted over a killing in his home country of Brazil.

Authorities have described Cavalcante as extremely dangerous. With the search in its second week, nervous residents remain alert for any sign of him. Police believe Cavalcante has been spotted nine times since his escape, most recently on Thursday night, and has managed to get ahold of clothing and other supplies.

The Chester County Prison county guard was fired Thursday after 18 years as a corrections officer, county spokesperson Michelle Bjork said. He was on duty in the watchtower when Cavalcante scaled a wall by crab-walking up from the recreation yard, climbed over razor wire, ran across a roof and jumped to the ground.

Cavalcante's escape went undetected for more than an hour until guards took a headcount. The guard, who was put on administrative leave after the escape, also had his personal cellphone on him at the time,

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a violation of jail protocol, Bjork said.

The spokesperson said she did not know the specific reason for the firing and could not give any more details about what the guard was doing when Cavalcante escaped.

County officials have said the watchtower guard should have seen Cavalcante trying to escape, but apparently did not, and they have not explained why he didn't see or stop Cavalcante, including whether he was on his cellphone and distracted.

Cavalcante has eluded hundreds of law enforcement personnel, including tracking dogs, tactical teams in full combat gear, and police on horseback and in helicopters southwest of Philadelphia.

On Friday, the ranks of searchers swelled to its largest number yet at around 400 personnel, Pennsylvania State Police Lt. Col. George Bivens told reporters at a command post.

Longwood Gardens was closed indefinitely after reports that Cavalcante may have once again been spotted on the property. People who remained there overnight Thursday were told to shelter in place as officers searched part of the garden.

The botanical garden, sprawling across nearly 200 acres (80 hectares), is normally open to the public with paths winding through gardens, an outdoor theater, ponds, fountains and meadows, with structures including indoor gardens, treehouses and a restaurant.

There was a possible sighting of Cavalcante on Thursday night that was being investigated, state police said, but further details were not disclosed. It came hours after another person reported seeing Cavalcante in another area of the vast botanical garden. On Monday night, a surveillance camera on a trail had captured him walking through its grounds.

There's now a \$20,000 reward for information leading to his capture.

The escape and search have attracted international attention and became big news in Brazil. The main newspaper in Rio de Janeiro ran a lengthy story Wednesday with the headline "Dangerous hide-and-seek."

Philadelphia police officer surrenders on murder charges weeks after fatal shooting

By MICHAEL RUBINKAM Associated Press

A Philadelphia police officer who shot and killed a driver turned himself in Friday and was charged with murder in the man's death as prosecutors released graphic bodycam footage of the fatal confrontation.

Officer Mark Dial surrendered on a criminal warrant and was arraigned Friday on charges of murder, voluntary manslaughter, official oppression and four other counts. Dial did not comment as he walked past reporters to surrender. His lawyer insisted the shooting was justified, saying Dial thought 27-year-old Eddie Irizarry had a gun.

Police bodycam footage of the fatal shooting shows Dial firing his weapon at close range through the rolled-up driver's side window of Irizarry's sedan during a vehicle stop on Aug. 14. Dial shot Irizarry about seven seconds after getting out of a police SUV and striding over to Irizarry's car, according to the video. He fired a total of six rounds.

The videos, pulled from Dial's body-worn camera and the camera of a second officer on the scene, "are crucial evidence in the case and in many ways they speak for themselves," District Attorney Larry Krasner said at a news conference.

Dial's attorney, Fortunato N. Perri Jr., said a vigorous defense was planned.

"Despite what has been portrayed to the media, the facts will unmistakably show that Officer Mark Dial was legally justified in discharging his weapon while fearing for his life," Perri said in an email to The Associated Press.

Dial was released on \$500,000 bail Friday and was due in court later this month for a preliminary hearing on the charges. The police union confirmed it posted 10% of the bail amount to secure Dial's release.

Another defense lawyer, Brian J. McMonagle, called the decision to charge him with murder "appalling."

"When police officers ordered him to show his hands, he instead produced a weapon and pointed it at an armed police officer," McMonagle told reporters. "In no world (are) those facts murder. We intend to

right this wrong.”

The bodycam footage shows Irizarry holding a knife in his right hand, by his right leg, before he was shot. Krasner, the district attorney, declined to answer questions about what the videos showed but said the facts clearly supported the charges.

“We have been trying to be fair, fair to everyone. We have been trying to make it very clear that justice is evenhanded. It is evenhanded if you are powerful or not powerful, rich or not rich, famous or not famous, an insider or an outsider,” he said.

Authorities have said Dial shot Irizarry after officers spotted his car being driven erratically around noon Aug. 14 and followed it for several blocks. Officers approached as the driver turned the wrong way down a one-way street and stopped.

The department backtracked after initially claiming the officers made a traffic stop and shot a person outside the vehicle after he “lunged at” police with a knife. Outgoing Police Commissioner Danielle Outlaw said a review of the officers’ body-worn cameras “made it very clear that what we initially reported was not actually what happened.”

Dial had served on the force for five years and was suspended with intent to dismiss after officials said he refused to cooperate in the investigation of the killing.

The family called for a lengthy prison sentence for Dial.

“Seeing this video again, is like ripping my heart apart,” Irizarry’s aunt, Zoraida Garcia, told The Philadelphia Inquirer in a text message, saying Dial should spend the rest of his life behind bars. “Even though it’s not gonna bring my nephew back, but he should pay for what did, took an innocent life.”

The charges against Dial came three days after the mayor announced that Philadelphia Police Commissioner Danielle Outlaw will step down later this month, ending a turbulent three years in which she guided one of the country’s largest police forces through pandemic lockdowns, Black Lives Matter protests and frequent turmoil over race and policing.

The number of people missing following devastating Maui wildfires has dropped to 66, governor says

By AUDREY McAVOY Associated Press

HONOLULU (AP) — One month after the deadliest U.S. wildfire in more than a century leveled the historic town of Lahaina, Hawaii Gov. Josh Green said Friday that the number of missing has dropped to 66, the confirmed death toll remains at 115 and authorities will soon escort residents on visits to their property.

Tens of millions of dollars in aid will make its way to families and businesses as they recover, Green said, and beginning Oct. 8, travel restrictions will end and West Maui will reopen to visitors.

“If we support Maui’s economy and keep our people employed, they will heal faster and continue to afford to live on Maui,” Green said.

Donations from around the world have poured in to the American Red Cross, the Hawaii Community Foundation, the Maui United Way and other organizations, Green said, and he has authorized \$100 million from the federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program “to support what others donate, magnifying the power of their generosity.”

The government is also making \$25 million available to help businesses survive, distributed in grants of \$10,000 to \$20,000, he said.

The Aug. 8 fire started in the hills above the historic oceanfront town. Within hours it spread through single-family homes and apartment buildings, quaint city streets, art galleries and restaurants, destroying more than 2,000 structures. Dozens of people fled to the ocean seeking refuge from the flames. The blaze is estimated to have caused \$5.5 billion in damage.

The new tally of 66 people still missing represents a significant drop from a week earlier, when authorities said 385 remained unaccounted for.

So far, Maui police have released the names of 55 of the dead. Of those, 22 were in their 70s, with another 13 in their 60s. There was one listed victim under the age of 10.

With about half the deceased still unidentified, Green said he expected there to be significant overlap between the names on the missing list and remains that have already been recovered. Therefore, he said, he did not expect the death toll to rise considerably.

"We're starting to see that the universe of 115 fatalities is about where we are," Green said. "There may be some additional fatalities as we go through the next month."

The Maui Police Department said Friday that in addition to the 66 people listed by the FBI as unaccounted for, there are 80 additional names of potentially missing people that the agency is vetting for credibility. In those cases, no information was provided for the reporting party or the reporting party was not available to provide further details.

The governor said that in the coming weeks, authorities will begin to schedule supervised visits for residents to return to and view their properties. People will have to be careful as they visit, he said, because the ash is toxic.

Hawaii Attorney General Anne Lopez said she would use her subpoena powers, if necessary, to compel cooperation from state and county employees as her office probes the wildfire and will get answers so there are "guardrails in place for the future so it doesn't happen again."

Green said some state employees have been asked to go to Washington, D.C., to testify at congressional hearings on the wildfire, including Hawaii's director of energy and some Public Utility Commission personnel.

"We're going to participate in every way," he said. "My view of the crisis is it is a tragedy beyond belief, and we'd better get to the answers so that we don't have another."

Green and Maui County officials have come under criticism for not being ready for the wildfire and for a chaotic and disorganized response. The danger of wildfires wasn't top of mind in the islands, Green said, when pressed about whether Hawaii should have been more prepared.

"Should we have invested more in fire prevention? Of course, of course. But we'd never had a fire of this consequence," Green said. Instead, he said, people have been more focused on more commonly occurring tragedies such as car accidents or drug overdoses.

The governor suggested lawsuits filed against various state and county entities have prevented those in positions of authority from speaking out more.

"I can't speak to when people will apologize for this tragedy. I'm heartbroken, and I will tell you and anyone out there, 'I'm so sorry you went through this.' Of course. I'm just one person," he said.

"It's the world who has to apologize for what we have become, where we have become a world where we turn our backs on global warming and where we didn't prioritize things in advance," Green said.

Green said he aims to set up a victims' assistance fund within two to three weeks in the mold of the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund and people who file claims should be able to get compensated in six to nine months. He did not specify which entities would contribute to the fund but said those that are currently parties to lawsuits would likely participate.

California lawmakers vote to limit when local election officials can count ballots by hand

By ADAM BEAM and CHRISTINA A. CASSIDY Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — California lawmakers on Friday voted to limit when local governments can count election ballots by hand, a move aimed at a rural Northern California county that canceled its contract with Dominion Voting Systems amid unfounded allegations of fraud pushed by former Republican President Donald Trump and his allies.

Shasta County's board of supervisors, which is controlled by a conservative majority, voted in January to get rid of the voting machines it used to tabulate hand-marked ballots for its roughly 111,000 registered voters. County supervisors said there was a loss of public confidence in the machines from Dominion Voting Systems, a company at the center of discredited conspiracy theories since the 2020 presidential election.

At the time, leaders did not have a plan for how the county would conduct future elections, including the

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March 2024 Republican presidential primary in delegate-rich California that could be key in deciding who wins the GOP nomination. The county had been preparing to count ballots by hand for its next election on Nov. 7, 2023, to fill seats on the school board and fire district, and decide the fate of two ballot measures.

On Friday, the California Legislature, which is controlled by Democrats, essentially voted to stop Shasta County officials from using a hand count to tally votes. The bill, which was approved by two-thirds of lawmakers in both chambers, would only allow hand counts by local election officials under narrow circumstances. The exceptions are for regularly scheduled elections with fewer than 1,000 eligible registered voters and special elections where there are fewer than 5,000 eligible voters.

"Hand counts are complex, imprecise, expensive and resource intensive," said Assemblymember Gail Pellerin, a Democrat from Santa Cruz who authored the bill and is a former local election official. "Research has consistently shown that humans are poor at completing rote, repetitive tasks."

The bill now heads to Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom.

The fight over voting machines has divided the Shasta County, a mostly rural area where the largest city is Redding with a population of 93,000 people.

Should Newsom sign the bill, County Clerk Cathy Darling Allen said the county has the equipment it needs to tabulate votes in upcoming elections. Despite the county getting rid of its Dominion voting machines, local leaders gave her permission to purchase equipment needed to comply with federal laws for voters with disabilities. The system that was purchased, made by Hart InterCivic, includes scanners capable of tabulating votes electronically.

Darling Allen said in an email she hopes Newsom signs it, calling it a "commonsense protection for all California voters."

Shasta County Board of Supervisors chair Patrick Henry Jones said Friday the county would sue to block the bill should Newsom sign it. He said state officials "cannot guarantee that these machines haven't been manipulated."

"The state is now attempting to block us from being able to have a free and fair election without any outside influence," he said.

Pellerin said the argument that voting systems are easily hacked "is a fallacy."

"It is illegal for any part of a voting system to be connected to the internet at any time, and no part of the voting system is permitted to receive or transmit wireless communications or wireless data transfers," she said, adding that California's election standards are some of the most strict voting system standards in the country.

Trump and his allies have been pushing county officials across the country to embrace hand counts amid conspiracy theories surrounding voting equipment, particularly those manufactured by Dominion Voting Systems. But few counties have agreed to do so. Last month, Mohave County in northwestern Arizona rejected a plan to hand-count ballots because it would have cost \$1.1 million.

Dominion Voting Systems sued Fox News following the 2020 presidential election, alleging the news agency damaged its reputation by amplifying conspiracy theories that the company's voting machines had rigged the election in favor of Democratic President Joe Biden. In April, Fox News agreed to pay Dominion Voting Systems nearly \$800 million to settle the lawsuit. The judge in the case found it was "CRYSTAL clear" that none of the accusations about Dominion's machines was true.

While hand counts of ballots occur in some parts of the United States, this typically happens in small jurisdictions with small numbers of registered voters. Hand counts, however, are commonly used as part of post-election tests to check that machines are counting ballots correctly, but only a small portion of the ballots are counted manually.

Election experts argue it's unrealistic to think officials in large jurisdictions, with tens or hundreds of thousands of voters, could count all their ballots by hand and report results quickly given that ballots often include dozens of races.

As one example, Cobb County, Georgia, performed a hand tally ordered by the state after the 2020 election. It took hundreds of people five days to count just the votes for president on roughly 397,000 ballots,

according to local election officials. To count every race on each ballot using the same procedures, one official estimated it would have taken 100 days.

"Doing something like a full hand count in a sizeable jurisdiction is not the way to put those conspiracy theories to rest," said Gowri Ramachandran, deputy director of the democracy program at the Brennan Center for Justice at NYU's Law School. "It's a way to waste a lot of money and potentially create chaos."

Dominion Voting Systems sued Fox News following the 2020 presidential election, alleging the news agency damaged its reputation by amplifying conspiracy theories that the company's voting machines had rigged the election in favor of Democratic President Joe Biden. In April, Fox News agreed to pay Dominion Voting Systems nearly \$800 million to settle the lawsuit.

On 'João', Brazilian singer Bebel Gilberto honors her late father, bossa nova giant João Gilberto

By MAURICIO SAVARESE Associated Press

SAO PAULO (AP) — Since the start of her career, New York-born Brazilian singer Bebel Gilberto has put out albums rooted in the South American nation's rich musical history. And in the sound of her family, too — that of her late father, bossa nova pioneer João Gilberto.

But she had never made it a point to record an album of his songs. Until now.

Four years after his death, she decided it was time to reconnect with the biggest influence in her life and career. So she has released "João," her first album made up entirely of songs composed or made famous by her father.

"It is a love letter to him," Gilberto told The Associated Press in a phone interview from her New York City apartment this week amid concerts on her current tour. "Do you know when you want to pay a tribute to someone and then you go to Instagram and write a long posting? I wanted to talk to him. My way of doing it was making this album."

"It is just that the time has come. I wanted his music to travel again," she added.

And yet, the 57-year-old artist, who splits her time between New York and Rio de Janeiro, is not too comfortable performing some of her father's hit songs — such as "Fly, My Heart" ("Chega de Saudade" in Portuguese), a song many bossa nova experts consider the founding composition of the genre in 1959, or "The Girl from Ipanema," which her father and his first wife, Astrud Gilberto brought to a worldwide audience in 1958.

Gilberto said she spent much of her time working on "João" picking out her favorite songs by her father, relying on her musical and emotional reaction, and then "doing something no one cares about anymore — picking the order."

"That is key for me to have a feeling of flow," she said. "I know it sounds outdated, but I need it."

"Adeus América" ("Goodbye America") opens the album. In the song, João Gilberto describes his longing for Brazil while spending a season in the United States at the house of jazz saxophonist Stan Getz, one of his closest friends and a frequent collaborator.

The next track is "Eu Vim da Bahia" ("I Came from Bahia"), which follows her father's exit from the U.S. and celebrates his home of northeastern Brazil.

For Gilberto, the songs go beyond a celebration of her dad — it is a celebration of her country.

"My father's music is João's music. He is not a mere ambassador for bossa nova. What he did was Brazilian music," the singer said. "I know I am trying not to wear that hat and the hat is already on, but I am trying to tell other artists that 'João' is a tribute to Brazilian music, not to a specific genre."

That appreciation for Brazilian sounds extends to new generations outside the country who are interacting with the music for the first time. Gilberto said she is excited for younger voices, like the pop star Billie Eilish, who released the hit song "Billie Bossa Nova" in 2021, and the Brazilian swagger of Beabadoobee's "The Perfect Pair."

"I am a fan of Billie's, she did great. And I am sure many other young artists have heard her and started listening to Brazilian music," Gilberto said. "I hope I can bring some more to the table with my album."

But releasing a tribute to your father is one thing. Performing it in front of an audience is another. Gilberto had tears in her eyes in her first concerts following the album's release on Aug. 25, wondering what he would have thought about "João."

"It is hard to distance yourself when you are an artist, even more so when you have so many emotions," she said. "He is my father and I have a vulnerable heart. But I've already grown some resilience to sing on."

Georgia special grand jury recommended charges against 39 people, including Sen. Lindsey Graham

By KATE BRUMBACK Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — The special grand jury that investigated efforts by Donald Trump and others to overturn Georgia's 2020 election results recommended indictments against twice as many people as the 19 ultimately charged by prosecutors, leaving South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham among those not indicted.

The grand jurors' report released Friday showed they recommended racketeering charges against 39 people, including Graham, former U.S. Sens. Kelly Loeffler and David Perdue of Georgia and former Trump national security adviser Michael Flynn. Charging recommendations against others included false statements and writings, influencing witnesses and criminal solicitation to commit election fraud.

Released at the request of the special grand jury, the report provides insight into one of the most expansive investigations into Trump, who is also facing two federal indictments along with unrelated state charges in New York City. While critics have accused Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis of launching an unwieldy, overly broad investigation, the report suggests she used her discretion to streamline the case.

There are many reasons Willis might have chosen not to charge all those recommended, including immunity deals with some, federal protections for others or insufficient evidence to prove charges beyond a reasonable doubt.

Anthony Michael Kreis, a law professor at Georgia State University who has been closely following the case, speculated that Willis took some of the special grand jury's vote breakdowns into consideration when deciding who to ultimately go after.

"If you have a jury and a group of folks who have pored over evidence for eight months and there's still a 50-50 divide or a two-thirds divide ... I don't think that's something that you'd look at and say, we have a high probability of a conviction there," Kreis said.

Of the 19 people ultimately indicted, only one was not included in the special grand jury's recommendations. A former White House aide who served as the director of Trump's Election Day operations, Michael Roman, was involved in efforts to put forth a set of fake electors after the 2020 election.

The special grand jury accused Graham and others of violating Georgia's Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations law -- a statute most commonly associated with mobsters -- saying they tried to overturn the state's 2020 election, which Trump, the incumbent Republican, lost to Democrat Joe Biden. The South Carolina senator, who was chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee at the time, called Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger shortly after the November election, and Raffensperger has said Graham asked him whether he had the power to reject certain absentee ballots.

Perdue and Loeffler were sitting U.S. senators who had failed to win enough votes in the November 2020 general election and were forced into a January 2021 runoff, which they ultimately lost to Democratic challengers. In the weeks after Trump lost and they were pushed into runoffs, they cast doubt on the validity of the election results.

In an interview on a right-wing cable news channel in mid-December 2020, Flynn said Trump "could take military capabilities" and place them in swing states and "basically rerun an election in each of those states." He also traveled in November 2020 to the South Carolina home of conservative lawyer Lin Wood, where Wood has said meetings were held to discuss possible ways to influence the election results in Georgia and elsewhere. The special grand jury also recommended charges for Wood.

Trump, the early front-runner for the 2024 Republican presidential nomination, blasted the report on his Truth Social site, saying, "They wanted to indict anybody who happened to be breathing at the time."

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Graham, who has denied wrongdoing, said, "It should never be a crime for a federal elected official, particularly the chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, who will have to vote to certify a presidential election, to question and ensure the integrity of that election."

Loeffler, who has stayed involved in politics by founding and funding a Republican-aligned group called Greater Georgia, said she was speaking up for people who felt disenfranchised in the 2020 election. "Trying to jail your party's leading political opponent ahead of 2024 is election interference. Speaking out in defense of election integrity is not," she said on X, formerly Twitter.

Flynn pointed to his lawyer Jesse Binnall's post on X: "General Michael Flynn will continue to fight for the truth, for America First principles, and for Donald Trump's return to The White House in 2024."

Wood, who testified to the special grand jury, said, "It seems unfair to me that I get smeared as someone that is recommended for indictment when the people with the power to look at the evidence and indict did not indict me."

Representatives for Perdue didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

The special grand jury foreperson, Emily Kohrs, spoke of her experience in an interview with The Associated Press in February that was followed by interviews with other news outlets. She said she appreciated the weightiness of the responsibility but also enjoyed moments of levity, like joking with Graham. She said the grand jury recommended charges against multiple people and that there would be few surprises.

While Kohrs' whirlwind media tour was attacked by Trump's lawyers at the time and raised fears among some Trump critics that it could jeopardize the investigation, the judge overseeing the special grand jury made clear that grand jurors are free to talk about anything but their deliberations.

The panel heard testimony from some 75 witnesses before completing a report in December with recommendations for Willis on charges. She had no obligation to follow their recommendations, and she ultimately decided to go to a regular grand jury to obtain indictments.

The release of the identities of people recommended for indictment is a departure from ordinary grand jury protocol, which dictates that prosecutors do not disclose the names of individuals investigated but not charged so as to prevent potentially innocent subjects from being unduly maligned.

Special grand juries in Georgia are relatively uncommon and are essentially an investigative tool. They can subpoena witnesses and evidence but do not have the power to bring an indictment. Instead, they can produce a report with nonbinding recommendations.

Fulton County Superior Court Judge Robert McBurney ordered the partial release of the report in February but declined to immediately release the panel's recommendations on who should or should not be prosecuted. The judge said at the time that he wanted to protect people's due process rights.

McBurney said in a new order filed Aug. 28 that the due process concerns were moot since a regular grand jury had indicted Trump and 18 other people under the state's anti-racketeering law. All have pleaded not guilty.

Many of those indicted — including former New York Mayor and Trump attorney Rudy Giuliani and Trump White House chief of staff Mark Meadows — are known to have testified before the special grand jury. Trump was never called. Late Friday, a judge in Atlanta denied Meadows' request to move his case to federal court.

The parts of the report previously released in February included its conclusions, as well as a section with the grand jurors expressing concerns that one or more witnesses may have lied under oath and urging prosecutors to seek charges for perjury.

Ex-US intelligence officer for North Korea points to growing concern on nuclear threat toward South

By ELLEN KNICKMEYER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The founder of North Korea's ruling dynasty, an isolationist totalitarian leader named Kim Il Sung, was still building some of the country's first nuclear facilities when Syd Seiler arrived on the Korean Peninsula as a young U.S. military intelligence officer.

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Over the four decades since, Seiler has watched closely as Kim, his son and now his grandson have clung to their nuclear program and developed the potential to lob nuclear warheads at the U.S. and its allies if they choose.

Now Seiler is freshly retired after decades of advising presidents, military commanders and diplomats, making reported secret trips to North Korea and serving as a lead negotiator on talks to contain its nuclear program. And he has a parting message to American leaders: Don't be discouraged.

North Korea's fiery rounds of missile test launches are no reason to give up on the international sanctions and pressure, or to simply accept that the ruling Kim family is now a nuclear-armed power, Seiler told The Associated Press this week.

"That's a failure of deterrence?" he asked, rhetorically. "That's nonsense. We're deterring an attack."

Seiler helped shape the U.S. policy of deterrence, diplomacy and international pressure to deal with the nuclear threat. Following are some of his conclusions, drawing on his decades of experience before retiring this summer as the U.S. national intelligence officer for North Korea:

NORTH KOREAN LOGIC

Seiler sees a strategy and a rhythm to the single-minded nuclear and missile expansion, the rounds of U.S. and South Korean military exercises and North Korean test launches, and the blustery threats, as when the government of Kim Jong Un — grandson of the founding ruler — threatens a "deluge of fire" on neighboring South Korea.

But the Kim family's worry is not so much about an attack from outside, Seiler argues. He said in sticking to the nuclear program even at the expense of North Korea's economy, Kim Jong Un has taken a lesson from deposed Romanian dictator Nicolae Ceausescu. A firing squad abruptly ended the communist leader's rule in 1989 when his people rose up against him.

Having cut North Koreans off from most contact with the outside world, Kim Jong Un, his father and his grandfather before him have seen their regime's survival as lying in convincing their people the country is a worker's paradise under threat from the outside world, and only the Kim family and its nuclear weapons can protect them, the former intelligence officer said.

Actions prioritizing the nuclear program over the feeding of your people seem irrational, Seiler said. "But in terms of the logic of North Korea, they make sense."

RUSSIA TIES

U.S. officials have said Kim Jong Un may travel to Russia this month for a meeting with President Vladimir Putin, who they say is looking to North Korea to supply ammunition for Russia's war in Ukraine.

Kim "probably sees in this meeting an opportunity to join hands with a like-minded fellow anti-U.S. leader," Seiler said.

Worrisome possible outcomes include Russia helping North Korea beef up "its pretty antiquated ... museum-ready" conventional forces or its weapons of mass destruction, Seiler said.

"And of course, the worst-case scenario is that Kim Jong Un is watching a leader seeking to ... achieve strategic objectives through the use of force," Seiler said, referring to Putin's invasion of Ukraine.

"And suddenly whether Kim, either directly signaled or indirectly signaled by the new relationship with Vladimir Putin, sees a flashing yellow light or green light to engage in similar military actions against" enemy South Korea, he said.

"That would be the worst-of-all fears scenarios," he said.

But that's much less likely, he said. "I don't think what Russia wants to do is to seek a relationship with North Korea in any way that significantly leads to instability in the region."

THREAT TO SOUTH KOREA

Even this year, one U.S. intelligence assessment has been that Kim Jong Un would continue to be a bellicose neighbor for South Korea and an unpleasant member of the global community — but was unlikely to actually wage nuclear war at least through 2030.

But Seiler and others see growing reasons to worry now about what Kim may have planned for South Korea, its democratically governed and U.S.-allied neighbor.

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As Kim expands and improves his nuclear arsenal beyond what he would need for deterrence, he has sharpened his threats toward the south in the past 1 1/2 years while honing ballistic missiles capable of reaching the U.S., South Korea's protector, Seiler noted.

"North Korea was clearly developing capabilities that would enhance its position vis-à-vis South Korea. And so going forward, this is where the room for concern is," Seiler said.

Coupled with growing domestic debate in South Korea about how much the country should rely on the United States' protection, there's "kind of an awakening of a North Korea threat that, frankly, we should have caught on to a couple of decades ago," he said.

Denial or wishful thinking may have led some in the West to overlook the implications of the growing threat for a time, he said, although the intelligence community was well aware.

Meanwhile, Putin is battling in Ukraine to reclaim what he maintains is Russia's historical territory, and the U.S. and its allies are paying growing attention to China's stated openness to reclaiming Taiwan by force if need be.

It's all "helped create an environment where this issue of what Kim Jong Un might choose to do in the use of force domain, backed by his nuclear weapons, is a greater subject of debate than it was even a year ago," Seiler noted.

How strong is that risk right now?

"Well, I think right now Kim is deterred," Seiler said.

'I WAS BROUGHT TO TEARS'

Among his experiences in North Korea that stood out, Seiler pointed to watching a landmark 1983 Korean television show. Unscripted, the show turned into an emotional, marathon, 453-hour live broadcast that reunited Korean families divided under Japanese colonization or during World War II and the Korean War.

For Koreans, the broadcast laid bare the heartache of separated families in the Cold War. It led to what would be sporadic and brief North-South reunions across the rigidly divided Korean Peninsula.

"I grew up here. I lost my sister there. My little sister had a birthmark there," Seiler said, recounting those who called in to the show. "And someone would call in and say, 'Hey, are you so-and-so?'"

"I was brought to tears by it," Seiler said. For an outsider, it made clear the lasting human costs of the barriers that the North had erected against the South.

"But it's also a reminder," Seiler said. "We can never let the humanitarian dimensions of this issue fall off the table."

NFL kickoff weekend features 3 starting rookie QBs. Only once has there been more to open a season

By STEVE REED AP Sports Writer

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — Bryce Young is ready to roll in Carolina.

C.J. Stroud is set to let it fly with Houston, while Anthony Richardson will get his shot right away in Indianapolis.

The 2023 NFL season begins with three rookie quarterbacks — all taken among the first four picks in the draft — starting the season opener. That's tied for second most since the merger in 1970, and was bettered only in 2012 when five rookie QBs got the starting nod in Week 1.

Young, Stroud and Richardson are part of a growing NFL trend of rookie QBs being thrown into the fire right away.

In the 1980s, only five rookies throughout the decade got the start in Week 1. Same for the 1990s. That number nearly doubled to nine for the whole of the 2000s, then jumped to 18 rookie QB starters opening a season over the previous decade.

Already this decade, seven rookie QBs will have been pressed into starting duty from the beginning.

"When you draft these kids, you want to get them out there," Panthers general manager Scott Fitterer said.

Fitterer said today's "year-round" quarterbacks are better prepared coming into the NFL because they've

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had extensive offseason work and quality coaching at the college level. He also said many NFL teams are no longer in a position where they can afford to wait to see a return on their financial investment.

The Panthers, for instance, gave up four draft picks to move up eight spots to get Young at No. 1 and then handed the 2021 Heisman Trophy winner a four-year, fully guaranteed contract worth nearly \$38 million. "Fully guaranteed" are the key words.

Panthers coach Frank Reich said it was an easy decision to start Young right away.

"In this salary cap era we're in, you want to get that quarterback going and you want to make some progress while he is on his first contract," Reich said. "There is nothing like experience."

It hasn't always been that way for NFL teams.

When Reich first came to Carolina as a quarterback in 1995 at the tail end of his playing career, he started the first four games for the expansion Panthers ahead of Kerry Collins, the No. 5 overall pick that year.

Eli Manning was the No. 1 overall pick in 2004, yet he didn't break into the starting lineup for the New York Giants until the 10th game of his rookie season. He spent the better part of that year holding the clipboard for veteran Kurt Warner before eventually going on to win two Super Bowls as the starter.

"The NFL game and the offenses and the schemes are pretty similar to what guys are running in college," Manning said of the reason more rookies QBs are starting right away. "Twenty years ago, the NFL and college were two different ball games. The defenses with the schemes, the offense with the play calls you had to make, there was just a little bit more of a learning curve."

Manning said the high school and college games have matured to the point where quarterbacks are more prepared to play when they turn pro.

Starting right away doesn't necessarily translate into immediate success for rookie QBs — either in Week 1 or their first season.

Rookie QBs are a combined 17-32-1 in Week 1 games since 1970, and only 13 of them have gone on to reach the playoffs in their first season. None have won a Super Bowl.

In 2012, Indianapolis' Andrew Luck, Washington's Robert Griffin III and Seattle's Russell Wilson all reached the postseason, but in the past 10 seasons only the Dallas Cowboys with Dak Prescott in 2016 and New England Patriots with Mac Jones in 2021 have made the playoffs.

Colts first-year head coach Shane Steichen said the hardest part about starting a rookie like Richardson is not knowing what to expect when they step on the field.

"You're going to get some looks that you probably haven't seen on tape," Steichen said. "You're going against new bodies, new personnel. I think a lot of those guys that have played in the league for a long time, they've went against a lot of these guys and seen a lot of different looks. I think that's the biggest thing — just understanding what you're going up against and being ready for the unknown."

Young and Stroud will open the season on the road as the Panthers travel to Atlanta and the Texans visit Baltimore on Sunday. Richardson and the Colts are home against Jacksonville.

Stroud acknowledged that being the Week 1 starter "isn't the easiest thing to do," but said he's confident knowing his coaching staff has faith in him.

Patience will be key for all the coaches.

Reich, for one, knows that heading into the season, Young will become only the 12th No. 1 overall pick at QB to start in Week 1. Of the previous 11, only David Carr came away victorious, leading the then-expansion Texans over the Cowboys in 2002.

The previous 11 combined to throw 16 TDs and 22 interceptions in Week 1 games.

But the Panthers, like the Texans and Colts, have their eye on the long-term future.

"Obviously, we think very highly of him, but this isn't going to be a cake walk," Reich said of Young. "This is going to be fight and scratch every step of the way."

Said Young: "I'm super excited and it's definitely a blessing, but it's a results-based business."

The Panthers could easily have begun the season with Andy Dalton at quarterback and brought Young along slowly, similar to what the Green Bay Packers have done with Jordan Love.

But Reich said Young "gives us the best chance to win."

"There's nothing like jumping right into the fire," Fitterer said with a smile.

Body cam catches elite federal prosecutor offering his Justice Department card in DUI crash arrest

By JOSHUA GOODMAN and JIM MUSTIAN Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — When police arrived at his house to investigate a hit-and-run, Joseph Ruddy, one of the nation's most prolific federal narcotics prosecutors, looked so drunk he could barely stand up straight, leaning on the tailgate of his pickup to keep his balance.

But he apparently was under control enough to be waiting with his U.S. Justice Department business card in hand.

"What are you trying to hand me?" an officer asked. "You realize when they pull my body-worn camera footage and they see this, this is going to go really bad."

That footage obtained by The Associated Press showed Ruddy apparently attempting to leverage his position to blunt the fallout from a Fourth of July crash in which he is accused of drunkenly striking another vehicle and leaving the scene.

But despite being charged, the 59-year-old Ruddy remained on the job for two months, representing the United States in court as recently as last week to notch another win for the sprawling task force he helped create two decades ago targeting cocaine smuggling at sea.

On Wednesday, a day after the AP asked the Justice Department about Ruddy's status, the veteran prosecutor was pulled off three pending criminal cases. A Justice Department spokesman would not say whether he had been suspended but said that Ruddy, while still employed, was removed July 11 from his supervisory role at the U.S. Attorney's Office in Tampa. The case also has been referred to the Office of the Inspector General.

"The Department of Justice holds all personnel, including its assistant U.S. attorneys, to the highest standards of personal and professional conduct," the spokesman said.

Such an inspector general's probe would likely focus on whether Ruddy was trying to use his public office for private gain, said Kathleen Clark, a legal ethics professor at Washington University in St. Louis who reviewed the footage.

"It's hard to see what this could be other than an attempt to improperly influence the police officer to go easy on him," Clark said. "What could possibly be his purpose in handing over his U.S. Attorney's Office business card?"

Ruddy, whose blood-alcohol level tested at 0.17%, twice the legal limit, was charged with driving under the influence with property damage — a first-degree misdemeanor punishable by up to a year in prison. Despite his own admissions and witness testimony, he was not charged with leaving the scene of an accident.

Neither Ruddy nor his attorney returned messages seeking comment.

Ruddy is known in law enforcement circles as one of the architects of Operation Panama Express, or PANEX — a task force launched in 2000 to target cocaine smuggling at sea, combining resources from the U.S. Coast Guard, FBI, Drug Enforcement Administration, and Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Historically, PANEX-generated intelligence contributes to more than 90% of U.S. Coast Guard drug interdictions at sea. Between 2018 and 2022, the Coast Guard removed or destroyed 888 metric tons of cocaine worth an estimated \$26 billion and detained 2,776 suspected smugglers, a senior Coast Guard official said in congressional testimony in March. The bulk of those cases were handled by Ruddy and his colleagues in Tampa, where PANEX is headquartered.

A former Ironman triathlete, Ruddy enjoys a reputation among attorneys for hard work and toughness in the courtroom. Among his biggest cases were some of the early extraditions from Colombia of top smugglers for the feared Cali cartel.

But the majority of cases handled out of his office involve mostly poor fishermen from Central and South America who make up the drug trade's lowest rungs. Often, the drugs aren't even bound for American

shores and the constitutional guarantees of due process that normally apply in criminal cases inside the U.S. are only loosely observed.

"Ruddy is at the heart of a costly and aggressive prosecutor-led dragnet that every year pulls hundreds of low-level cocaine traffickers off the oceans and incarcerates them in the U.S.," said Kendra McSweeney, an Ohio State University geographer who is part of a team studying maritime interdiction policies.

Research by Ohio State's Interdiction Lab found that between 2014 and 2020, the median sentence for smugglers picked up at sea and prosecuted in Tampa was 10 years — longer than any other court in the country and compared to seven years, six months in Miami, which handles the second-largest amount of such cases.

Last Friday, nearly two months after his arrest, Ruddy was in court to ratify a plea deal in the case of a Brazilian man, Flavio Fontes Pereira, who in February was found by the U.S. Coast Guard with more than 3.3 tons of cocaine aboard a sailboat off Guinea, in West Africa.

After two weeks aboard the U.S. Coast Guard vessel, Pereira made his initial court appearance in Tampa in March, charged under the Maritime Drug Law Enforcement Act, which gives the U.S. unique arrest powers anywhere on the high seas whenever it determines a vessel is "without nationality."

Ruddy is next due to appear in court in his own case Sept. 27. He's accused of sideswiping an SUV whose driver had been waiting to turn at a red light, clipping a side mirror and tearing off another piece of the vehicle that lodged in the fender of Ruddy's pickup.

"He never even hit brakes," a witness told police. "He just kept going and he was swerving all the way up the road. I'm like, 'No, he's going to hurt somebody.' So I just followed him until I got the tag number and just called and reported it."

When officers arrived at Ruddy's home in the suburb of Temple Terrace, they found him hunched over his pickup, holding his keys and using the vehicle for support, the report said. Officers noted that he had urinated on himself, was unable to walk without help and failed a field sobriety test.

"I understand we might be having a better night," Tampa police patrolman Taylor Grant said before looking at the business card.

"Why didn't you stop?" the officer asked.

"I didn't realize it was that serious," Ruddy said in a slurred response.

"You hit a vehicle and you ran," the officer said. "You ran because you're drunk. You probably didn't realize you hit the vehicle."

The death toll from flooding in central Greece has increased to 10 while 4 others are missing

By ELENA BECATOROS Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — The death toll from severe flooding in central Greece rose to 10 people Friday, while another four remained missing, the country's civil protection minister said. Rescue crews in helicopters and boats ferried hundreds of people from inundated villages to safety.

Flooding triggered by rainstorms also hit neighboring Bulgaria and Turkey, killing a total of 22 people in all three countries since the rains began Tuesday.

In Greece, the rainstorms turned streams into raging torrents that burst dams, washed away roads and bridges and hurled cars into the sea, and many of the flooded areas were left without power or drinking water. Authorities have said some regions received twice the average annual rainfall for Athens in the space of just 12 hours.

Although the rainstorms had stopped by Friday, floodwater continued to rise after the Pineios River burst its banks near the city of Larissa, one of Greece's largest cities with a population of around 150,000, triggering evacuation orders for several areas.

"The situation is tragic," Larissa resident Ioanna Gana told Greece's Open television channel, adding that water levels in her flooded neighborhood were rising "minute by minute."

Climate Crisis and Civil Protection Minister Vassilis Kikilias said the Pineios River levels were "keeping us

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on constant alert.”

“Great care must be taken by all as the flooding could intensify at any moment,” he said.

By late Friday, officials said that more than 2,500 people had been rescued, including 420 plucked from the flooded areas by helicopter from 14 villages.

More than 1,000 rescuers and 20 helicopters were involved in the operation, including three Swiss helicopters that had been in Greece to assist in efforts to battle recent deadly wildfires. They were being used to ferry food and water to inundated villages, Kikilias said.

Much of the affected region was fertile farmland where key food crops are grown, and experts have voiced fears that the overall cost of the flooding could significantly exceed 1 billion euros (\$1.06 billion).

Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis, who canceled his annual state of the economy speech scheduled for the weekend and was visiting the flooded areas on Friday, said that he had contacted the European Union to request financial assistance from the 27-member bloc for rebuilding.

“Our first priority over the next few days is to ensure we can evacuate our fellow citizens from areas where they might be in danger,” Mitsotakis said.

Hundreds of people were trapped in villages unreachable by vehicle as roads were washed away or severed by rockfalls. Rescue crews helped young children, the elderly and people on stretchers from helicopters as they landed in a staging area in the town of Karditsa. Local media showed scenes of devastation.

Rescuers chest-deep in water carried an elderly evacuee on a stretcher on their shoulders, while residents of villages left without electricity or drinking water dialed in to Greek television and radio stations, appealing for help and saying people were still trapped without food or water.

In the Pilion area, residents and tourists were ferried to safety by sea late Thursday as all access roads to some villages were severed.

Two of the four people still listed as missing Friday were a young Austrian couple who vanished from Pilion’s coast. Residents said they had come to Greece to be married and have their honeymoon, and were probably swept away with the bungalow they had been staying in when floodwaters struck on Tuesday.

Authorities have deployed swift water rescue specialists and divers as floodwaters rose above two meters (six feet) high in some areas, leaving many houses flooded up to their roofs. Residents of some villages have reported buildings collapsing completely.

The flooding followed on the heels of devastating wildfires that destroyed vast tracts of forest and farmland, burned homes and left more than 20 people dead.

The IRS plans to crack down on 1,600 millionaires to collect millions of dollars in back taxes

By FATIMA HUSSEIN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The IRS announced on Friday it is launching an effort to aggressively pursue 1,600 millionaires and 75 large business partnerships that owe hundreds of millions of dollars in past due taxes.

IRS Commissioner Daniel Werfel said that with a boost in federal funding and the help of artificial intelligence tools, the agency has new means of targeting wealthy people who have “cut corners” on their taxes.

“If you pay your taxes on time it should be particularly frustrating when you see that wealthy filers are not,” Werfel told reporters in a call previewing the announcement. He said 1,600 millionaires who owe at least \$250,000 each in back taxes and 75 large business partnerships that have assets of roughly \$10 billion on average are targeted for the new “compliance efforts.”

Werfel said a massive hiring effort and AI research tools developed by IRS employees and contractors are playing a big role in identifying wealthy tax dodgers. The agency is making an effort to showcase positive results from its burst of new funding under President Joe Biden’s Democratic administration as Republicans in Congress look to claw back some of that money.

“New tools are helping us see patterns and trends that we could not see before, and as a result, we have higher confidence on where to look and find where large partnerships are shielding income,” he said.

In July, IRS leadership said it collected \$38 million in delinquent taxes from more than 175 high-income

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taxpayers in the span of a few months. Now, the agency will scale up that effort, Werfel said.

"The IRS will have dozens of revenue officers focused on these high-end collection cases in fiscal year 2024," he said.

A team of academic economists and IRS researchers in 2021 found that the top 1% of U.S. income earners fail to report more than 20% of their earnings to the IRS.

The newly announced tax collection effort will begin as soon as October. "We have more hiring to do," Werfel said. "It's going to be a very busy fall for us."

Grover Norquist, who heads the conservative Americans for Tax Reform, said the IRS' plan to pursue high wealth individuals does not preclude the IRS from eventually pursuing middle-income Americans for audits down the road.

"This power and these resources allow them to go after anyone they want," he said. "The next step is to go after anyone they wish to target for political purposes."

Senate Finance Committee Chair Ron Wyden, D-Ore., said the IRS' new plan is a "big deal" that "represents a fresh approach to taking on sophisticated tax cheats."

"This action goes to the heart of Democrats' effort to ensure the wealthiest are paying their fair share," he said in a statement.

David Williams, at the right-leaning, nonprofit Taxpayers Protection Alliance, said "every business and every person should pay their taxes — full stop." However, "I just hope this isn't used as a justification to hire thousands of new agents," that would audit Americans en masse, he said.

The federal tax collector gained the enhanced ability to identify tax delinquents with resources provided by the Inflation Reduction Act, which Biden signed into law in August of 2022. The agency was in line for an \$80 billion infusion under the law, but that money is vulnerable to potential cutbacks by Congress.

House Republicans built a \$1.4 billion reduction to the IRS into the debt ceiling and budget cuts package passed by Congress this summer. The White House said the debt deal also has a separate agreement to take \$20 billion from the IRS over the next two years and divert that money to other non-defense programs.

With the threat of a government shutdown looming in a dispute over spending levels, there is the potential for additional cuts to the agency.

Biden and Modi working in 'warmth and confidence' to build ties as Chinese leader skips G20

By AAMER MADHANI and JOSH BOAK Associated Press

NEW DELHI (AP) — President Joe Biden opened his visit to India on Friday by meeting privately with Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Indian leader's home in a session the White House said was marked by "undeniable warmth and confidence" in one another going into the annual Group of 20 summit where climate, economic security and more will dominate the weekend's talks.

Biden spent 52 minutes with Modi after a lavish welcome ceremony at the airport, and Kurt Campbell, a Biden adviser on the Indo-Pacific, told reporters afterward that warm sentiments have replaced a sense of distrust and uncertainty that previously defined relations between the two countries.

"What I have seen grown over time is an undeniable warmth and confidence between the two leaders," Campbell said.

Another adviser, Eileen Laubacher, senior director for South Asia at the White House National Security Council, added that Biden and Modi were "so comfortable discussing, really, the breadth of things that we're trying to accomplish together."

A joint statement issued after the meeting reaffirmed U.S.-India partnerships on several fronts, especially with regard to computer chips, telecommunications, higher education, access to shipping lanes in the Indo-Pacific and the reduction of carbon emissions that contribute to climate change. Biden also congratulated Modi on India's recent moon landing.

While India was disappointed that Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin declined to attend the G20, those absences could give Biden the space to further stitch together U.S. and India ties.

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"There are undeniable opportunities here for the United States," Campbell said. "We fully intend to strengthen and deepen our relationship. We leave it to China, in particular, to discuss and explain why they're not here."

Campbell also suggested that a major infrastructure and communications project to connect India with the Middle East and Europe will be announced soon.

But when asked if Biden pushed Modi on press access and broader democratic issues in India, Campbell said Biden tries to be clear about issues critical to the health of democracy. Still, Campbell declined to get into specifics, saying the president "has determined that he wants to conduct that dialogue in a dignified, respectful way."

The U.S. president received a Bollywood-style greeting after Air Force One landed, with dancers in flowing purple outfits gyrating to pop music.

Having feted Modi with a state visit to Washington in June, Biden is banking on the idea that successful diplomacy depends on personal connections. But it's a relationship largely being explored in private. White House reporters traveling with Biden were denied access to the leaders' meeting. Indian state media shared visuals of the meeting on social media.

Biden and Modi have had more than a dozen in-person or virtual engagements since 2021 as both look to tighten the U.S.-India partnership amid shared major concerns. Those include an increasingly assertive China and monumental challenges posed by climate change, artificial intelligence, global supply chain resilience and other issues.

Modi has heavily branded the summit as his own. The prime minister has his image posted along the highway from the airport, greeting G20 delegates with quotes about climate change, innovation and India's unique role as an advocate for developing countries. As a result, Biden was something of a houseguest when he met his Indian counterpart.

Modi held the meeting at his residence, "so it is unusual in that respect," White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan told reporters Thursday aboard Air Force One.

Biden, a center-left Democrat, and Modi, a conservative Hindu nationalist, are hardly ideological soulmates. Yet, both leaders are increasingly drawn together by China's military and economic maneuverings in the Indo-Pacific.

India late last month lodged an objection through diplomatic channels with Beijing over China's new standard map that lays claim to India's territory along their shared border.

The version of the Chinese map published by the Ministry of Natural Resources website shows Arunachal Pradesh and the Doklam Plateau — over which the two sides have feuded — included within Chinese borders, along with Aksai Chin in the western section that China controls but India still claims. The Philippines and Malaysia have also lodged protests over the new Chinese map.

The map was released just days after Modi and Jinping met on the sidelines of a summit of the BRICS bloc of developing economies — Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa — and agreed to work to de-escalate tensions at their disputed border.

The administration was eager to build on the momentum from Modi's June state visit, which included announcements on climate, health care and space as well as some major private sector projects.

The two sides set the groundwork for U.S.-based General Electric to partner with India-based Hindustan Aeronautics to produce jet engines for Indian aircraft in India and the sale of U.S.-made armed MQ-9B SeaGuardian drones. U.S.-based Micron Technology agreed to build a \$2.75 billion semiconductor assembly and test facility in India, with Micron spending more than \$800 million and India financing the rest. The administration also plans to discuss civil nuclear issues.

The White House has sought to play down Biden and Modi's differences over Russia's war in Ukraine. India abstained from voting on U.N. resolutions condemning Russia and refused to join the global coalition against Russia. Since the start of the war, the Modi government has dramatically increased its purchase of Russian oil.

Biden's effort to pull India closer has been shadowed by concerns from activists and some American

lawmakers about India's human rights record under Modi.

The prime minister has faced criticism over legislation amending the country's citizenship law that fast-tracks naturalization for some migrants but excludes Muslims, over a rise in violence against Muslims and other religious minorities by Hindu nationalists, and the recent conviction of India's top opposition leader, Rahul Gandhi, for mocking Modi's surname.

India also ranks 161st out of 180 countries in this year's Press Freedom Index published by Reporters Without Borders.

Inside the brand new White House Situation Room: Cutting-edge tech, mahogany and that new car smell

By COLLEEN LONG Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House Situation Room — a space of great mystique and even greater secrecy — just got a \$50 million facelift.

Actually, "room" is a misnomer. It's a 5,500-square-foot (511-square-meter), highly secure complex of conference rooms and offices on the ground floor of the West Wing.

These are rooms where history happens, where the president meets with national security officials to discuss secret operations and sensitive government matters, speaks with foreign leaders and works through major national security crises.

Where President Barack Obama and his team watched the raid that took down al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden in 2011. Where President Donald Trump monitored the 2019 operation that killed Islamic State leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi. Where President Lyndon Johnson went over Vietnam War plans.

The latest redo was no small update: The total gut renovation took a year to complete.

The White House opened the classified space to a group of reporters this week for a rare visit to check out the new look. President Joe Biden got a tour on Tuesday and then received an intelligence briefing in the space, said Marc Gustafson, the Situation Room director.

"He loved it, he thought the update was fantastic," Gustafson said.

"Folks, the newly renovated White House Situation Room is up and running," Biden said in a post on X, formerly Twitter. "My thanks to everyone who worked on this incredible facility.

The renovated space has a modern-but-vintage vibe. Old floors, furniture, computers and other tech were stripped out and replaced with pristine mahogany paneling from Maryland, stonework from a Virginia quarry, LED lights that can change colors and flat-screen panels. See-through glass offices fade to opaque with the press of a button. The whole space has that new car smell.

But there are still plenty of landline phones: No cellphones are allowed in the secure space for security reasons. (There are cubbies to stow phones near a door leading outside, where a baggie with some cocaine was found earlier this year.)

Access is tightly controlled and generally restricted to the president's national security and military advisers. Anyone listening in on classified briefings needs clearance. Even the contractors working on the renovation had to get temporary security clearances. Illuminated signs flash green for declassified and red for classified.

The hush-hush complex was created in 1961 by the Kennedy administration after the Bay of Pigs invasion. President John F. Kennedy believed there should be a dedicated crisis management center where officials could coordinate intelligence faster and better.

That was an upgrade, to be sure. But it wasn't exactly comfortable: Nixon administration national security adviser and then Secretary of State Henry Kissinger described the space as "uncomfortable, unaesthetic and essentially oppressive."

After the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, the White House did a significant Situation Room update, along with a broader upgrade to presidential communications on Air Force One and the presidential helicopter. Presidents used the complex for secure video conferences before such tech became more portable. The

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last renovation was in 2007.

The complex is staffed around the clock by military and civilian personnel who monitor breaking developments worldwide.

It has a reception area with a U.S. seal in stonework. Behind that is the main conference room, known as the "JFK room." To the right are a smaller conference room and two soundproof "breakout rooms." To the left is the "watch floor," a 24-7 operations center.

"It's a marriage of the traditional and the modern," Gustafson said of the new space.

Workers dug five feet underground to make more room and install cutting-edge technology allowing White House officials to bring together intelligence from different agencies with the push of a few buttons.

"Now we have all the capabilities," Gustafson said.

For those in the know, referring to the "sit room" is out. It's the "whizzer," stemming from the complex's acronym: WHSR. (Washington does love a good acronym.)

Gustafson said the goal is to never need a complete renovation again. The new space was designed so panels can be removed and updated and new technology swapped in, usually with less space needs. A room once taken up by computer servers has become a smaller conference room.

The JFK room has a long wooden table with six leather chairs on each side and one at the head for the president. Leather armchairs line the walls. A giant, high-tech screen runs the length of the back wall. A 2-foot (0.6-meter) seal is positioned at the president's end of the room, larger than the old seal.

There aren't many photos of the Situation Room, but one of the most famous is the image of Obama, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, Vice President Biden and others watching the bin Laden operation.

That took place around the corner from the JFK room in a smaller conference room that no longer exists. It's been cut out entirely from the space and sent off to Obama's presidential library, Gustafson said. In its place are two smaller rooms.

Another item preserved for history is an old phone booth that stood in the complex. It was sent to storage for Biden's eventual presidential library. Gustafson didn't know if anything had been sent to Trump.

Gustafson said staff members have to be ready to prepare rooms for classified briefings on a moment's notice, and Biden has been known to pop in to meetings unexpectedly, particularly as Russia was invading Ukraine.

While the area was closed for renovation, White House officials used other secure spots on the campus. Gustafson said the renovated Situation Room is having a soft opening of sorts: About 60% of the staff are back in the space with more coming every day.

One cosmetic upgrade Gustafson pointed out is the ability to swap out the different 2-foot-diameter seals that hang on the JFK room wall, depending on who is in the meeting. Seals for the president, vice president and executive staff are kept in a nearby closet and can be quickly subbed.

Gustafson said visitors previously remarked that the room didn't reflect Hollywood's grand imagining of the space.

He said they now declare: "This looks like the movies."

Queen Elizabeth II remembered a year after her death as gun salutes ring out for King Charles III

By DANICA KIRKA Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — With gun salutes and tolling bells, the United Kingdom on Friday marked the anniversary of the death of Queen Elizabeth II and the ascension of King Charles III, who remembered his mother as a symbol of stability during her 70-year reign.

Charles and Queen Camilla observed the anniversary at the family estate in Scotland and attended a service of remembrance at a small church nearby where the late queen worshiped.

"In marking the first anniversary of her late majesty's death and my accession, we recall with great affection her long life, devoted service and all she meant to so many of us," Charles said in a recorded message. "I am deeply grateful, too, for the love and support that has been shown to my wife and myself

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during this year as we do our utmost to be of service to you all.”

Military units commemorated the king’s accession to the throne by firing salutes at the Tower of London on the east side of the capital and Green Park near Buckingham Palace. The bells of Westminster Abbey pealed at 1 p.m.

Heir to the throne Prince William and his wife, Catherine, attended a commemorative service at St. David’s Cathedral in Wales that included prayers said in both English and Welsh and the singing of the hymn “Thou knowest, Lord, the secrets of our hearts.”

In one notable moment, the couple walked to a portrait of the prince’s grandmother and the princess laid flowers in front of the image. They then stood in solemn silence.

Meanwhile, a member of the public photographed William’s younger brother, Prince Harry, leaving St. George’s Chapel at Windsor Castle, the queen’s final resting place.

Harry, who no longer has an official royal role, traveled to London from his home in California to attend a Thursday charity event. He wasn’t expected to meet his father or brother during the visit. Harry is due to attend the Invictus Games for injured soldiers in Germany this weekend, alongside his wife, Meghan.

Harry told attendees at the awards ceremony sponsored by WellChild, which helps seriously ill children get the treatment they need at home rather than in a hospital. that his grandmother would be proud of them.

“I know exactly one year on that she is looking down on all of us tonight, happy we’re together, continuing to spotlight such an incredible community,” he said.

The king released a previously unpublished photograph of the queen that shows her at the height of her power at age 42. The picture by Cecil Beaton, a noted fashion photographer who often shot members of the royal family, shows Elizabeth in the robes of the Order of the Garter and wearing the Grand Duchess Vladimir’s Tiara, made of 15 interlaced diamond circles.

The queen’s death triggered an outpouring of national mourning as hundreds of thousands of people filed past her coffin to honor the only monarch most had ever known.

“People across the U.K. — whether they had the good fortune to meet Her Late Majesty or not — will be reflecting today on what she meant to them and the example she set for us all,” British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak said in a statement.

Friends also took to social media to remember the late and beloved queen. Her senior dresser and confidante, Angela Kelly, posted a black and white image of the queen with the message: “I will never forget you. I will always love you. I miss you my friend.”

Elizabeth, who took the throne at the age of 25, was a broadly respected figure whose constant presence helped unify the United Kingdom as it negotiated the end of empire and the growth of a modern, multi-cultural nation fueled by immigrants from around the world. Her death triggered questions about the future of the monarchy.

But Charles has moved smoothly into his new role, avoiding controversy and concentrating on building bridges between the four parts of the U.K. and the myriad ethnic and religious groups that make up its population.

There will be no gold for the USA at the Basketball World Cup, after 113-111 loss to Germany

By TIM REYNOLDS AP Basketball Writer

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — There will be no gold medal for the U.S. at this World Cup. And for the second consecutive time in FIBA’s biggest tournament, there might not be any medal at all for the Americans. Instead, it’s Germany on the cusp of a world title.

Andreas Obst scored 24 points, Franz Wagner added 22 and Germany scored more points than any team ever has against a USA Basketball team featuring NBA players — earning a 113-111 win in the World Cup semifinals on Friday night.

“This team is very worthy of winning a championship,” U.S. coach Steve Kerr said. “And we just didn’t

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get it done.”

No, it didn't, and now questions will fly once again. USA Basketball has been talking for years about how the continuity of top international teams has closed what was once a sizable gap between the Americans and the rest of the world. The U.S. has won the last four Olympic titles, but now it's two straight World Cups with no gold for the winningest program on the planet.

“Terrible,” U.S. guard and captain Jalen Brunson said. “Plain and simple.”

Germany — the last unbeaten team left in the tournament at 7-0 — will play Serbia on Sunday (8:40 a.m. EDT) for the World Cup title. Serbia beat Canada in the first semifinal, getting to its second World Cup final in the last three tournaments; it lost 129-92 to the U.S. in the 2014 championship game.

Canada will play the U.S. for bronze Sunday (4:40 a.m. EDT).

Obst hit the shot of the night, a 3-pointer with 1:15 left to put Germany up by four and just about snuff out a last-ditch U.S. rally. Germany led for 30 of the game's 40 minutes, the U.S. led for about 4 1/2, and there was little question who was controlling play much of the way.

“It's a special group,” Germany coach Gordie Herbert said after his team made the World Cup final for the first time. “The way we played, the way we played together, we stuck together when things got tough and we had players who made some huge plays. One more to go.”

The U.S., down by 10 midway through the fourth, nearly pulled off a comeback, getting within one point on two separate occasions in the final minutes. But the Americans never got the lead, and it was the Germans jumping and hugging as time expired.

“We knew the task at hand, and that was to go win,” U.S. guard Austin Reaves said. “And we didn't do that.”

Anthony Edwards scored 23 points for the U.S. (5-2), which got 21 from Reaves, 17 from Mikal Bridges and 15 from Brunson. The Americans shot 58% — but let Germany shoot 58% as well, and that was the ultimate undoing.

“If you give up 113 points in a 40-minute game, you're not going to win many of those,” Reaves said.

The previous high for points allowed by a U.S. men's team in the Olympics or World Cup in the era when NBA players could be used — going back to 1992 — was 110. And that was earlier in this tournament, against Lithuania, which also was a U.S. loss. That loss didn't doom the Americans' gold-medal hopes. This one did.

“We weren't ever able to make them feel us defensively,” Kerr said.

Germany had been 0-6 entering Friday against the Americans in World Cup or Olympic competition, usually getting blown out in those games.

Not this time. Once again, even bringing the only roster filled with all NBA players wasn't enough for the U.S. at the World Cup. The Americans finished seventh at the 2019 World Cup in China; this finish — third or fourth — will technically be better, but nothing other than gold was going to be satisfactory for USA Basketball.

Daniel Theis had 21 points for Germany. Theis has scored 21 or more points six times in his NBA career — and picked Friday for one of the games of his life.

“Obviously, a historic win for Germany,” Franz Wagner said. “We've got one more to go.”

A 35-24 third quarter was basically the difference for Germany, which this time finished the job that it couldn't pull off when meeting the Americans in Abu Dhabi for an exhibition earlier this summer. Germany led that game by 16 in the second half, then an 18-0 run by the Americans down the stretch led to a 99-91 U.S. win.

It needed similar heroics this time. They almost got there. Key word: almost. This time, Germany finished it off. And when it was over, Reaves couldn't help but see Schroder — his former teammate with the Los Angeles Lakers — revel in a huge moment for German basketball.

“Tip your hat to him,” Reaves said. “I know how special this moment is for him.”

Mali military camp is attacked a day after 49 civilians and 15 soldiers were killed in assaults

By BABA AHMED Associated Press

BAMAKO, Mali (AP) — A military camp in Mali's restive north was attacked Friday, a day after two separate assaults by al-Qaida-linked insurgents killed 49 civilians and 15 government soldiers, the military said. "Response and evaluation in progress," the armed forces said in a brief statement about Friday's attack on a Malian military camp in the Gao region.

Thursday's attacks targeted a passenger boat near the city of Timbuktu on the Niger River and a military position in Bamba further downstream in Gao, the military junta said in a statement read on state television. It said responsibility for the attacks was claimed by JNIM, an umbrella coalition of armed groups aligned with al-Qaida. The group issued a statement Friday saying it also attacked the military camp.

The Niger River serves as an important transportation route in Mali, where roads are inadequate.

Mali is ranked the sixth least developed nation in the world, according to the United Nations human development index. Nearly half of the West African country's 22 million people live below the national poverty line. The situation is worse in rural areas where deadly jihadi attacks have threatened subsistence farming — many peoples' only real option for making money.

Thursday's attack targeted a triple-decker passenger boat near the village of Zarho, about 90 kilometers (55 miles) east of Timbuktu. The statement said the government killed about 50 assailants while responding to the attacks. It declared three days of national mourning to honor the civilians and soldiers killed in the attacks.

Malian army spokesman Souleymane Dembélé attributed the high death toll to the inability of some of the boat's passengers to swim, suggesting some might have drowned.

"When the boat was attacked, the soldiers on board exchanged fire with the terrorists. Unfortunately, many civilians who couldn't swim jumped into the water," Dembélé told The Associated Press.

Al-Qaida-affiliated and Islamic State-linked groups have almost doubled the territory they control in Mali in less than a year, the United Nations said in a report last month, as they take advantage of a weak government and of armed groups that signed a 2015 peace agreement.

The stalled implementation of the peace deal and sustained attacks on communities have offered the IS group and al-Qaida affiliates a chance "to re-enact the 2012 scenario," the report said.

That's the year when a military coup took place in the country and rebels in the north formed an Islamic state two months later. The extremist rebels were forced from power in the north with the help of a French-led military operation, but they moved from the arid north to more populated central Mali in 2015 and remain active.

In August 2020, Mali's president was overthrown in a coup that included an army colonel who carried out a second coup and was sworn in as president in June 2021. He developed ties to Russia's military and Russia's Wagner mercenary group whose head, Yevgeny Prigozhin, was killed in a plane crash in Russia on Aug. 23.

Timbuktu, a fabled desert city and a UNESCO World Heritage site, has been blockaded by armed groups since late August, when the Malian army deployed reinforcements to the region. The insurgents are preventing the desert city from being supplied with basic goods.

Over 30,000 residents have fled the city and a nearby region, according to an August report by the United Nations' humanitarian agency.

The number of those in Mali who are affected by the violent attacks and are in need of humanitarian aid has grown by 17% over the last year to more than 8.8 million people, one million of whom require immediate food and health assistance, according to Whitney Elmer, deputy regional director for West and Central Africa at Mercy Corps, which has been assisting those in need. "It is a worsening situation, and it is hard to see things getting better in the immediate future," Elmer said.

The deadly attacks come as the U.N. prepares to withdraw its 17,000-member peacekeeping mission, MINUSMA, from Mali at the government's request. The pullout is scheduled to be completed by the end

of the year.

The U.N. deployed peacekeepers in 2013 and MINUSMA has become the most dangerous U.N. mission in the world, with more than 300 personnel killed.

Growing insecurity in Mali has increased instability in West Africa's volatile Sahel region. The military vowed in the two coups since 2020 to stop the jihadi violence.

Spanish prosecutors accuse Rubiales of sexual assault and coercion for kissing a player at World Cup

By JOSEPH WILSON Associated Press

BARCELONA, Spain (AP) — Spanish state prosecutors have accused Luis Rubiales of sexual assault and coercion for kissing a player on the lips without her consent after the Women's World Cup final, the country's prosecutors' office said Friday.

Rubiales, the now-suspended president of the Spanish soccer federation, kissed Jenni Hermoso during the awards ceremony after Spain beat England to win the title on Aug. 20 in Sydney. Prosecutors presented their case for potential criminal charges against Rubiales to Spain's National Court in Madrid two days after Hermoso formally accused him of sexual assault.

FIFA suspended Rubiales from his post on Aug. 27, a day after he refused to step down when he delivered a defiant speech to the general assembly of his federation in which he said he was victim of a "witch hunt" by "false feminists." He was banned from his post for 90 days while FIFA disciplinary judges consider his case. Soccer's governing body can impose sanctions on individuals ranging from warnings and fines to suspensions from the sport.

According to a sexual consent law passed last year, Rubiales could face a fine or a prison sentence of one to four years if found guilty of sexual assault. The new law eliminated the difference between "sexual harassment" and "sexual assault," sanctioning any unconsented sexual act.

Prosecutors added Friday that Rubiales could have committed an act of coercion when, according to Hermoso, he pressured her to speak out in his defense immediately after the scandal erupted.

Rubiales has insisted the kiss was consensual. Hermoso has denied that in statements issued by her and her players union.

Prosecutors have asked that Rubiales appear before a court to give preliminary testimony. If the National Court judge agrees to hear the case, a formal court investigation would follow, ending with a recommendation for the case to either be dismissed or go to trial.

The National Court said Judge Francisco de Jorge will consider the lawsuit.

The prosecutor's office also recommended that the court ask Australian counterparts for information on sexual assault laws there. The two countries have a treaty of mutual assistance between their courts.

Hermoso, a 33-year-old forward, now plays for Mexican club Pachuca after a long career with top Spanish and European clubs, including Barcelona, Paris Saint-Germain and Atletico Madrid. She returned to her Mexican club Thursday.

The 46-year-old Rubiales faces threats other than a possible criminal trial.

Rubiales also faces action from the Spanish government. A government legal panel overseeing sports has opened an investigation to determine if he abused his authority by kissing Hermoso or tainted the image of Spain with his conduct. He faces being deemed unfit to hold his post for up to two years.

Rubiales' behavior at the final, which included a lewd crotch grab while next to dignitaries including Spain's queen and teenage princess, combined with his controversial speech have drawn attention away from the Women's World Cup title and damaged his own federation.

Spain's women's players have said they won't play again for their nation until big changes are made in the federation. The federation fired coach Jorge Vilda, but the players have yet to say if they consider that sufficient.

The accusation by prosecutors against Rubiales came as the players for Spain's women's league began their strike on the opening day of the competition after salary talks with the league broke down. The

league, called Liga F, was one of the first soccer institutions to criticize Rubiales' conduct.

Rubiales, a former player and former head of Spain's biggest players' union, has run the federation since 2018. He has boosted revenues and funding for lower-level soccer and the women's game, but his successes have normally been tinged with scandal.

Rubiales revolutionized the Spanish Super Cup in 2019 by taking it to Saudi Arabia — now the big draw for top European talent like Cristiano Ronaldo — in exchange for \$40 million a year. The move was criticized by women's and human rights groups for the regime's treatment of women and minorities. Spanish authorities also scrutinized the deal, and an investigative judge is probing the legality of the Super Cup contracts.

Rubiales increased his power by becoming a vice president of European soccer body UEFA, and was supposed to lead the bid by Spain, Portugal and Morocco to host the 2030 men's World Cup. Spain's government has since warned that the bid to host one of the world's biggest sporting events is at risk of being sullied.

Water hookups come to Alaska Yup'ik village, and residents are thrilled to ditch their honey buckets

By MARK THIESSEN and TOM BRENNER Associated Press

AKIACHAK, Alaska (AP) — Sanitation workers Thomas Noatak and Joseph Moses start every workday riding a four-wheeler along the muddy roads of this small Yup'ik village on southwestern Alaska's vast Kuskokwim River, looking for human waste.

They're checking honey bucket bins — large steel containers where residents dump their waste at neighborhood collection points. When they find a bin full enough to warrant a trip to the dump site just outside town, they load it up and haul it nearly a mile over deeply potholed and rutted streets, hoping to do it without splashing.

Many Alaska villages don't have running water and flushing toilets. Instead of using a bathroom, people retire to a room in a house, pull a curtain and use a honey bucket — typically a 5-gallon bucket with a toilet seat on top and a plastic bag inside. Instead of showers, they rely on steam baths or sponge baths. Water for drinking and washing has to be hauled in.

All that's changing in Akiachak, where most of the village's nearly 700 people began getting modern plumbing for the first time this spring and summer — and finding their lives transformed.

"I was so happy, I kept doing my dishes," said Katherine Wassilie. But for her and many other tribal members, it was saying goodbye to the honey bucket that had the biggest impact: "I'm really happy I got that throne."

More than 3,000 homes in Alaska, concentrated mostly in 32 villages, lack running water. The people who live in them are among more than 2 million Americans who don't have basic indoor plumbing, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

It's not just an inconvenience. It's a health issue, with higher rates of respiratory illnesses and skin infections like impetigo and boils where plumbing doesn't exist.

Native infants in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta are hospitalized at five times the national rate for respiratory syncytial virus, or RSV, according to the Yukon-Kuskokim Health Corp., which provides services for this region about 400 miles (644 kilometers) west of Anchorage. The hospitalization rate for pneumonia is 11 times higher for Alaska Native children from villages without plumbed water.

Sewer and water hookups change that, said Dr. Ellen Hodges, the corporation's chief medical officer.

"We think most of the benefit from piped water comes from that access to fresh, regular running water, being able to wash your hands, clean down surfaces in your home," Hodges said. "It is sort of astonishing to me that in this day and age and all the technological advances that we don't have this in more of our villages."

In Akiachak, west side residents have had the hookups for nearly two decades. But work on the east side — where most of the town's people live — was slowed for years until village officials met certain

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conditions to unlock \$28 million in federal and state funding.

Before getting running water, those residents had to haul water from the river or laundry to their home or collect rainwater.

Installing the hookups required connecting and burying water and sewer mains, building two additional lift stations, and providing interior plumbing in every home — kitchen and bathroom sinks, a toilet, a shower and ventilation.

Having most everyone on the water and sewer system appears to be paying benefits already, said Fritz George, president and chairman of the Akiachak Native Community, or the village's tribal government.

"It seems like we have a healthier community, healthier children," he said.

"Not even half a year, and people don't want to go back to the honey bucket," said Carl Ekamrak, the elder-in-charge of the Akiachak Moravian Church, with a chuckle.

Honey buckets aren't gone entirely. Living in Alaska is expensive — a pound of black pepper costs \$34 and a can of corned beef hash is \$11, for example — so some residents are unwilling or unable to pay the \$100 monthly cost for the water service.

But most are, including Ray Nose, a maintenance worker at the school who said he was "gladly" paying.

"It's changed us for the better," Nose said. "I used to haul water all the time, dumped honey buckets. Now it's a breeze."

Mary Lou Beaver grew up in Akiachak, packing water from the river as a girl, collecting rainwater and using an outhouse. Now retired from teaching and living in Anchorage, Beaver — who was visiting her old village to help relatives after a death — is glad that those memories will become relics of the past.

She said Americans should be equal, with access to running water for all.

"Why did it take so long?" she asked.

The entire project is important not only to this generation but also to the ones that follow because brushing teeth, taking baths and doing dishes will become normalized, leading to healthier communities, said Robert Sitton, a superintendent on the construction project for the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium.

Ronald Nose, who worked on the original west side project when it began in 1998 and is now helping complete the east side's system, remembers as a child packing wood and water from the Kuskokwim River to a village steam house so people could take steam baths to get clean.

He's proud of the part he's played bringing clean water into people's homes.

"It's a lot easier, a lot cleaner," he said. "You wash your own clothes in your own home, shower, wash dishes, way easier without packing water. Life changing."

It took no time at all for Mary Frederick to get used to indoor plumbing when she got it nearly two decades ago — and she hated it when the stilts supporting her elevated home collapsed and forced her to revert back to the honey bucket system for a while. Her house has since been repaired, prompting Frederick to proclaim "Hallelujah!" that she can once again simply flush a toilet.

"I'm glad I don't have to smell the honey bucket no more," she said.

India seeks a greater voice for the developing world at G20 but the Ukraine war may overshadow talks

By DAVID RISING Associated Press

NEW DELHI (AP) — It's never been easy for the leaders of the world's largest economies to find common ground, but Russia's war on Ukraine has made it even harder for the Group of 20 meeting to reach meaningful agreements this year.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, this year's host, has pledged Ukraine won't overshadow his focus on the needs of developing nations in the so-called Global South, but the war has proved hard to ignore.

As leaders began arriving Friday, Indian diplomats were still trying to find compromise language for a joint communique. Ending the summit without such a statement would underscore how strained relations are among the world's major powers — and tarnish the image Modi has been trying to cultivate of India as a global problem solver.

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"New Delhi will not want to distract from the main agenda, which is to address issues of concern for the Global South," said Nazia Hussain, an associate research fellow at Singapore's S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies.

"So while there will be discussions on the emerging issues as a fallout of the war — supply chain security and decoupling, energy security, and food supply — the focus must remain on how to mitigate the fallout rather than debate the geopolitical/security aspects of the war."

Russia and China, which has been Moscow's most important supporter in the war against Ukraine, have rejected draft communiques over a reference to Ukraine that said "most members strongly condemned the war," the same language they signed off a year ago at the G20 summit in Bali.

The European Union, meanwhile, has said compromise language suggested by India is not strong enough for them to agree to, while the U.K. said that Prime Minister Rishi Sunak planned to press G20 members to take a tougher line against Russia's invasion.

European Council President Charles Michel told reporters Friday that it was important to give India space as it worked "actively, maybe sometimes discreetly, to maximize the chance for a communique."

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy addressed the Bali summit by video last year, but Modi has made a point of not inviting the country to participate in this year's event.

Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has promised Zelenskyy to keep Ukraine in the discussions, telling him in a video call that the leaders posted on Instagram: "I'm disappointed that you won't be included but as you know, we will be speaking up strongly for you."

Founded in 1999, the G20 began with a focus on global economic challenges, but since then, geopolitical tensions have complicated its ability to work effectively, said Ian Lesser, vice president of the German Marshall Fund and director of its Brussels office.

Russia's attack on Ukraine and China's growing assertiveness in the Asia-Pacific region have added friction, pitting some of the most powerful G20 countries directly against each other diplomatically, Lesser said.

"Having China and Russia in the room now is a very different question than it would have been a decade ago," he said. "It is very difficult now for any of these large-scale summits to avoid the major issues of the day, and these major issues are very polarizing — the war in Ukraine, tensions in the Indo-Pacific, even climate policy — the things that are both at the top of the global agenda but also very difficult to address."

Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping will not be attending the G20 themselves, instead sending lower-level officials.

Russia and China did not indicate why their leaders are not going, but neither has traveled much recently and both seem to be putting a greater emphasis on the more like-minded BRICS group of nations. That group agreed at its summit last month to invite six new countries to join.

China's relations with India continue to be strained over border disputes, but Modi discussed the issue face-to-face with Xi at the BRICS summit and China's Foreign Ministry said Beijing considers India-China relations "generally stable."

India also has historic ties with Moscow, but is on good terms with the U.S., too. Modi is hoping to use his country's influence to bridge gaps between the wealthy nations that have been standing together to sanction Russia over the Ukraine war and the group of countries known as the Global South.

About half of the G20 countries are found in that group — depending on how one defines it — and Modi hopes to add the African Union as a bloc member.

In preparation, he held a virtual "Voice of the Global South" summit in January and has emphasized issues critical to developing nations, including alternative fuels like hydrogen, resource efficiency, developing a common framework for digital public infrastructure and food security.

"For the Global South, India's presidency is seen as an opportunity with immense potential to address developmental needs, particularly as Brazil and South Africa are set to take over the presidency of the G20 from India in 2024 in 2025 respectively," Hussain said.

U.S. National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan told reporters before Biden's departure that the president supported adding the African Union as a permanent member and that the president hoped this summit

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"will show that the world's major economies can work together even in challenging times."

The U.S. will also focus on many of Modi's priorities, including reforming development banks like the World Bank and International Monetary Fund, Sullivan said. Biden will also call for "meaningful debt relief" for low- and middle-income countries, and seek to make progress on other priorities including climate and health issues.

U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen on Friday dismissed suggestions that the proposals are designed to counter China's global lending and investment through its so-called Belt and Road Initiative.

Michel, the EU council president, said he had hope the summit would be productive.

"I do not think the G20 will resolve in two days all the problems of the world," he said. "But I think it can be a bold step in the right direction and we should work to make it happen and support the Indian presidency."

Today in History: September 9, California becomes a state

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Saturday, Sept. 9, the 252nd day of 2023. There are 113 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Sept. 9, 1957, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the first civil rights bill to pass Congress since Reconstruction, a measure primarily concerned with protecting voting rights; it also established a Civil Rights Division in the U.S. Department of Justice.

On this date:

In 1776, the second Continental Congress made the term "United States" official, replacing "United Colonies."

In 1850, California became the 31st state of the union.

In 1919, some 1,100 members of Boston's 1,500-man police force went on strike. (The strike was broken by Massachusetts Gov. Calvin Coolidge with replacement officers.)

In 1926, the National Broadcasting Co. (NBC) was incorporated by the Radio Corp. of America.

In 1942, during World War II, a Japanese plane launched from a submarine off the Oregon coast dropped a pair of incendiary bombs in a failed attempt at igniting a massive forest fire; it was the first aerial bombing of the U.S. mainland by a foreign power.

In 1948, the People's Democratic Republic of Korea (North Korea) was declared.

In 1956, Elvis Presley made the first of three appearances on "The Ed Sullivan Show."

In 1960, in the first regular-season American Football League game, the Denver Broncos defeated the Boston Patriots, 13-10.

In 1971, prisoners seized control of the maximum-security Attica Correctional Facility near Buffalo, New York, beginning a siege that ended up claiming 43 lives.

In 1991, boxer Mike Tyson was indicted in Indianapolis on a charge of raping a beauty pageant contestant. (Tyson was convicted and ended up serving three years of a six-year prison sentence.)

In 2015, Queen Elizabeth II became the longest reigning monarch in British history, serving as sovereign for 23,226 days (about 63 years and 7 months), according to Buckingham Palace, surpassing Queen Victoria, her great-great-grandmother.

In 2016, Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton, speaking at an LGBT fundraiser in New York City, described half of Republican Donald Trump's supporters as "a basket of deplorables," a characterization for which she ended up expressing regret.

In 2018, CBS chief Les Moonves resigned, hours after six more women accused the veteran television executive of sexual misconduct.

In 2022, King Charles III gave his first speech to Britain as its new monarch, vowing to carry on the "lifelong service" of his mother Queen Elizabeth II, who died a day earlier.

Today's Birthdays: Singer Dee Dee Sharp is 78. College Football Hall of Famer and former NFL player Joe

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Theismann is 74. Rock musician John McFee (The Doobie Brothers) is 73. Actor Tom Wopat is 72. Actor Angela Cartwright is 71. Musician-producer Dave Stewart is 71. Actor Hugh Grant is 63. Sen. Chris Coons, D-Del., is 60. Actor-comedian Charles Esten (formerly Chip) is 58. Actor Constance Marie is 58. Actor David Bennent is 57. Actor Adam Sandler is 57. Rock singer Paul Durham (Black Lab) is 55. Actor Julia Sawalha (suh-WAHL'-hah) is 55. Model Rachel Hunter is 54. Actor Eric Stonestreet is 52. Actor Henry Thomas is 52. Actor Goran Visnjic (VEEZ'-nihch) is 51. Pop-jazz singer Michael Buble' (boo-BLAY') is 48. Latin singer Maria Rita is 46. Actor Michelle Williams is 43. Actor Julie Gonzalo is 42. Neo-soul singer Paul Janeway (St. Paul & the Broken Bones) is 40. Actor Zoe Kazan is 40. Author-motivational speaker-businessman Farrah Gray is 39. Actor Kelsey Asbille is 32. Contemporary Christian singer Lauren Daigle is 32. Country singer-songwriter Hunter Hayes is 32.