

Groton Daily Independent

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Wednesday, July 3

Senior Menu: Beef stew, buttermilk biscuit, Waldorf salad, cookie.

Groton Chamber Meeting Noon

Jr. Teeners hosts Aberdeen Smitty's B, 5 p.m. (DH)

Groton CM&A: Family Fun Night, 7 p.m.

Thursday, July 4

Firecracker Couples Golf Tournament, Olive Grove Golf Course, 10 a.m.

Friday, July 5

Senior Menu: Chicken strips, tri-tators, carrots, fruit, whole wheat bread.

Saturday, July 6

Common Cents Community Thrift Store open 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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

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

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1440

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Beryl Hits Jamaica

Hurricane Beryl is expected to make landfall in Jamaica today as a Category 3 storm before continuing west toward the Cayman Islands tomorrow. The now-weakened system became the earliest ever Atlantic hurricane to intensify to Category 5 wind speeds late Monday, beating the next earliest by two weeks. Trackers indicate the storm will continue to weaken as it reaches areas around the Gulf of Mexico.

Beryl, the second named storm of the season, reached the eastern Caribbean early Monday, battering Grenada and several other Windward Islands and knocking out power across the region. At least seven people have reportedly died across the Caribbean and in northern Venezuela.

The system intensified rapidly over the weekend amid warmer-than-average surface ocean temperatures—levels typically seen later in the season.

Happy Birthday (Eve), America

Congratulations, America—Tuesday marks the 248th commemoration of the day the Declaration of Independence was adopted by the Second Continental Congress.

Through the centuries, the US has grown from 13 colonies with about 2.5 million people to 50 states and 14 territories with a population of more than 330 million. The economy has swelled to over \$27T. Advances in public health have cut the child mortality rate from over 45% to under 1%, while our citizens live over 35 years longer on average.

Scientific achievements in the US have delivered everything from the light bulb, modern flight, and the internet to air conditioning, movies, and the polio vaccine. More than 2.7 million miles of power lines electrify the country across over 4 million miles of paved roads, with over 90% of households accessing broadband internet. The US has also been responsible for more than 800 human visits to space—the most of any country.

While there will always be challenges to face and improvements to make, we've come a long way since the beginning. So grab a hot dog and your drink of choice—here's to the next 248 years.

Alzheimer's Drug Approved

The Food and Drug Administration yesterday greenlighted a new drug for adult patients with early or mild Alzheimer's, the third drug to be approved in the US for its ability to delay cognitive decline in patients. The drug from Eli Lilly—called donanemab and marketed under the brand name Kisunla—slowed cognitive decline in clinical trial patients by 35% compared to a placebo.

Donanemab's approval comes a month after an FDA advisory panel unanimously endorsed the drug, citing its benefits outweighed risks, such as swelling and bleeding in the brain. Eli Lilly's drug joins Eisai and Biogen's Leqembi as antibody-based treatments designed to clear the buildup of toxic beta-amyloid proteins in the brain. The proteins have been considered a hallmark of Alzheimer's—a theory that has been called into question. (Another previously approved drug by Biogen was discontinued in January.)

Nearly 7 million Americans have Alzheimer's.

Sports, Entertainment, & Culture

US men's national soccer team fails to advance out of group stage at Copa América after 1-0 loss to Uruguay.

UEFA European Championship quarterfinals set.

"Beetlejuice" sequel to premiere at 81st Venice Film Festival (Aug. 28); Michael Keaton and Winona Ryder will return, with Jenna Ortega joining the cast for the long-awaited sequel.

Marketa Vondrousova becomes first women's Wimbledon defending champ to lose in the first round since 1994.

Sixteen former college basketball players sue NCAA over use of their likeness for March Madness promos.

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Science & Technology

Moderna wins \$176M contract to develop an mRNA vaccine for humans to protect against the bird flu.

Astrophysicists simulate how cosmic gas disks form and feed supermassive black holes; study provides insight into how galaxies formed in the early universe.

Mosquito study finds the insect's drive for blood is heightened or suppressed by a pair of hormones; may lead to new methods to fight mosquito-borne disease.

Business & Markets

US stock markets close higher (S&P 500 +0.6%, Dow +0.4%, Nasdaq +0.8%) as Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell says US is on "disinflationary" path.

Tesla shares close up 10% after Q2 electric vehicle deliveries slowed year-over-year but beat analyst expectations.

US job openings rise in May to 8.1 million while layoffs also increase, indicating slowing but resilient labor market.

The Federal Trade Commission blocks Tempur Sealy's proposed \$4B acquisition of Mattress Firm.

Six Flags and Cedar Fair merge in estimated \$8B deal to become North America's largest amusement park operator.

Politics & World Affairs

At least 116 people killed—mostly women and children—after crowd surge in northern India's state of Uttar Pradesh during Hindu religious event and amid high temperatures; officials are investigating the cause of the crowd surge.

Rep. Lloyd Doggett (D, TX-37) becomes first Democratic lawmaker to call on President Joe Biden to withdraw from presidential race.

Former President Donald Trump's hush money sentencing delayed to Sept. 18.

Rudy Giuliani, former New York mayor and ex-attorney for former President Donald Trump, disbarred in New York over 2020 election statements.

US Supreme Court rejects challenge to Illinois law banning certain high-power semi-automatic rifles and high-capacity magazines.

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*Julianna Kosel
& Isaac Mell*

Julianna is the daughter of Tina & the one & only "Paper Paul" Kosel
The wedding will take place in Florida on July 30th.

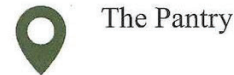
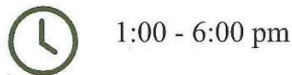
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6	\$4364
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Groton to see electrical expenses, new soccer building

Some big expenses may be on the horizon for the city of Groton.

Discussion continued Tuesday evening about replacing electrical and water meters throughout town, with a new deadline coming up.

Technical support for the current electric meter system is going away at the end of 2024, said Electric Utility Supervisor Todd Gay. The meters will still work at that point. However, if there is an issue with the tech or the software to read the meters remotely, the meters would likely have to be read manually by going house-by-house throughout town.

The council had previously discussed replacing electric meters in October during budget priority talks, and the estimate to replace all of the city's electric meters would total more than \$300,000.

Another issue coming soon is that batteries in water meters are dying, and those will probably all be dead in four years, Gay said.

The city could look into a system that would work with both the water and electric meters, he said. That would cut down on the costs of managing two different systems.

Consultants for the city had previously discussed combining the two meters under the same system so there would be a better chance at grant funding. Mayor Scott Hanlon asked if problems with electric/water meters impacts other areas, and if additional grant funding would be available should that happen.

"That's great, but everybody in the country is looking for that piece of pie," Gay said. "Basically if you're not in with a group, they're not going to look at us. We're too small. It's pushed to the bigger, more impacted areas."

Gay added he's looking into a group application with other Heartland Energy users, "but we can't wait until then to find out yes or no and not have a plan if we don't get it.

"I don't want to depend on it, thinking this is going to come through and bank on it and it never happens," he said. "It puts you another two years behind. I'm trying to stay ahead of it."

There may be more demand on the electrical system too with changes to technology. Some vehicle manufacturers have said they will stop making combustion engines within the next 15 years. More electric vehicles would add a load to the current electrical systems.

"It's not going away," he said. "You can't bury your head in the sand."

More electrical expenses possible

Another possible upcoming expense may include a new electrical transformer.

However, more information will be presented to the City Council at future meetings.

The electrical department got a bad sample from the transformer in the south substation, said Electric Utility Supervisor Todd Gay. That sample indicated there may be electrical arcing in the transformer itself. A second sample was taken and sent for testing.

"I don't have enough information," he said, "but it's not looking good."

"Twelve years ago that transformer was \$200,000," he said. "In today's dollars, I would say \$600,000 and two years out."

New building set for soccer fields

The council authorized city staff to purchase a 14 foot by 40 foot building for the soccer fields on the west side of town.

The cost of the building, estimated at \$14,476, will be split between the city (owners of the property), Groton Area School District (which has an agreement to use the facility) and the Groton Soccer Association (which also has an agreement to use the facility).

If the other groups are willing to split the cost for the building, "I think we better jump on it," said Councilman Brian Bahr. "Because we can spend \$5,000 fixing something out there easy."

The city may close the street between the soccer fields and skating rink during games to allow people

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to cross between the two to utilize the bathroom facilities.

Bahr discussed putting down gravel on the skating pond so the lot can be used for parking during soccer seasons and maybe overflow parking for the baseball complex. That may also help keep the lot in better shape when it is converted to a skating rink.

City staff plan to run the final building specifications by the soccer association and school district before ordering it.

Bahr added he thinks it's a good idea to let the soccer association decide on a color for the new structure. "If it's pink, it's your fault," joked Mayor Scott Hanlon to Bahr.

- Road patching is set to start next week. Public Works Coordinator and Street/Water Superintendent Terry Herron told the council that a lot of trench lines have heaved up, and workers are going to cut the asphalt and fill it with gravel to fix it.

- Public works staff spent Tuesday fixing a burnt out pump at the main sewer system lift station. A temporary one was installed, but it will probably be \$8,000 to get the original pump replaced, said Wastewater Superintendent Dwight Zerr. The city's system is also running high, and more rain forecast through the next few days is not going to be good, he said.

- New cameras are coming to City Hall. The council accepted a \$4,249 bid from Burdette Security and Technologies for security cameras in the building, including dome cameras and an outdoor camera.

- A sewer system improvement project is coming before council, possibly as soon as the next council meeting.

- Councilman Kevin Nehls said Police Chief Stacy Mayou is planning to let Avantara Groton set off some ground fireworks later this week. There is no plans for in-the-air fireworks.

- The council approved shifting funds from its contingency account and unassigned fund balance to building inspection, soccer and baseball operations.

- The council gave provisional approval for a special event liquor license. The event, the first Celebration in the Park, will be hosted by the new owner of the Jungle Lanes, Tim Janusz, said city Finance Officer Douglas Heinrich. Concerns were raised about whether Police Chief Stacy Mayou had been asked if he has any issues with the license. The council approved the special event liquor license contingent on the chief's recommendation.

- City offices will be closed July 4 and 5 for the Fourth of July holiday.

- Elizabeth Varin

Death Notice: Adrian Paulson

Adrian Paulson, 87, of Andover passed away July 1, 2024 at Avera St. Lukes Hospital, Aberdeen. Services are pending with Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton.

65th Anniversary



Don and Nancy Hein will celebrate their 65th Wedding Anniversary on July 3, 2024. Greetings may be sent to 918 Arbor Lane #46, Aberdeen SD 57401.

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First-Inning Burst Enough To Lead Watertown Past Groton Post 39

By GameChanger Media

Watertown Post 17 Legion defeated Groton Post 39 16-2 on Tuesday thanks in part to nine runs in the first inning.

Watertown Post 17 Legion jumped out to the lead in the top of the first inning after Kaden Rylance singled, scoring one run, Treyton Himmerich singled, scoring two runs, Dylla singled, scoring two runs, Hayden Ries doubled, scoring two runs, Mitch Olson doubled, scoring one run, and Rylance singled, scoring one run.

Watertown Post 17 Legion extended their early lead with two runs in the top of the third thanks to RBI singles by Rylance and Nathan Briggs.

Watertown Post 17 Legion scored five runs on three hits in the top of the fifth inning. An error scored one run, an error scored one run, Will Engstrom doubled, scoring two runs, and Dylla singled, scoring one run.

Talan Jurgens earned the win for Watertown Post 17 Legion. The righty surrendered six hits and two runs over five innings, striking out two and walking none. Dillon Abeln took the loss for Groton Post 39. The righty went four and two-thirds innings, giving up 16 runs (10 earned) on 14 hits, striking out four and walking one.

Bradin Althoff, Ryan Groeblichhoff, Abeln, Braxton Imrie, Brevin Fliehs, and Carter Simon each collected one hit for Groton Post 39. Althoff and Simon each drove in one run for Groton Post 39.

Watertown Post 17 Legion piled up 16 hits in the game. Olson and Rylance were a force together in the lineup, as they each collected three hits for Watertown Post 17 Legion while hitting back-to-back. Rylance and Dylla each drove in three runs for Watertown Post 17 Legion. Dylan Rawdon, Himmerich, and Engstrom each collected multiple hits for Watertown Post 17 Legion. Watertown Post 17 Legion turned three double plays in the game.

Groton Post 39 play at home on Tuesday against Watertown Post 17 Legion in their next game.

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Groton Post 39 Make A Run Against Watertown But Fall Short

By GameChanger Media

Groton Post 39's effort to come back from down seven runs in the fifth inning came up just short, as they fell 7-5 to Watertown Post 17 Legion on Tuesday. Groton Post 39 closed the gap by scoring on a walk, a walk, a walk, a ground out, and a double.

Watertown Post 17 Legion were the first to get on the board in the first when an error scored one run.

A single by Johnathan Lake extended the Watertown Post 17 Legion lead to 3-0 in the top of the second inning.

Watertown Post 17 Legion added one run in the third after Dylla singled.

Hayden Ries earned the win for Watertown Post 17 Legion. The reliever gave up zero hits and one run over one inning, striking out two and walking three. Korbin Kucker took the loss for Groton Post 39. The starting pitcher went three innings, allowing four runs (three earned) on five hits, striking out two and walking four. Nash Berg started on the bump for Watertown Post 17 Legion. The lefty surrendered four hits and three runs (two earned) over five innings, striking out three and walking one.

Brevin Fliehs led Groton Post 39 with two hits in four at bats from the leadoff position. Bradin Althoff, Ryan Groeblichhoff, Karsten Fliehs, Jarret Erdmann, and Carter Simon each drove in one run for Groton Post 39. Groton Post 39 turned two double plays in the game.

Dylla and Lake were a one-two punch in the lineup, as each drove in two runs for Watertown Post 17 Legion. Treyton Himmerich, Nathan Briggs, and Dylla each collected two hits for Watertown Post 17 Legion. Dylan Rawdon led Watertown Post 17 Legion with four walks. Overall, the team had a strong eye at the plate, piling up nine walks for the game.

Next up for Groton Post 39 is a game at Smittys Legion 2024 Aberdeen on Monday.

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Emerald Ash Borer Confirmed in Brookings County

PIERRE S.D. – The South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources (DANR) has confirmed an infestation of emerald ash borer (EAB) in Brookings, South Dakota.

DANR has expanded the existing state Plant Pest Quarantine to include Brookings County. The updated quarantine area now includes all of Brookings, Minnehaha, Lincoln, Turner, and Union Counties. EAB has been identified in the communities of Baltic, Brandon, Brookings, Canton, Crooks, Dakota Dunes, Lennox, Sioux Falls, and Worthing. The quarantine is designed to slow the spread of EAB.

The quarantine, which is in place year-round, prohibits the movement of firewood and ash materials out of Brookings, Lincoln, Minnehaha, Turner, and Union counties. Movement of firewood from any hardwood species, whether intended for commercial or private use, is also restricted. If an ash tree is infested before it is cut, the wood may still contain EAB larvae. An individual split piece of ash firewood can have five or more adults emerge yet this summer.

“We all need to work together to slow the spread of EAB,” said DANR Secretary Hunter Roberts. “Firewood is the most common way EAB is moved from one location to another. Please, follow the quarantine restrictions and buy it where you burn it!”

Treatments made early in the season can kill the young larvae before they are able to injure the tree. Property owners within a 15-mile radius of Brookings wanting to save their ash trees should contact a commercial applicator as soon as possible.

EAB is a boring beetle that feeds on all species of North American ash. It was first detected in the United States in 2002, and in South Dakota in 2018.

For more information about EAB or to report a suspected sighting please visit <https://emeraldashborersouthdakota.sd.gov/>.

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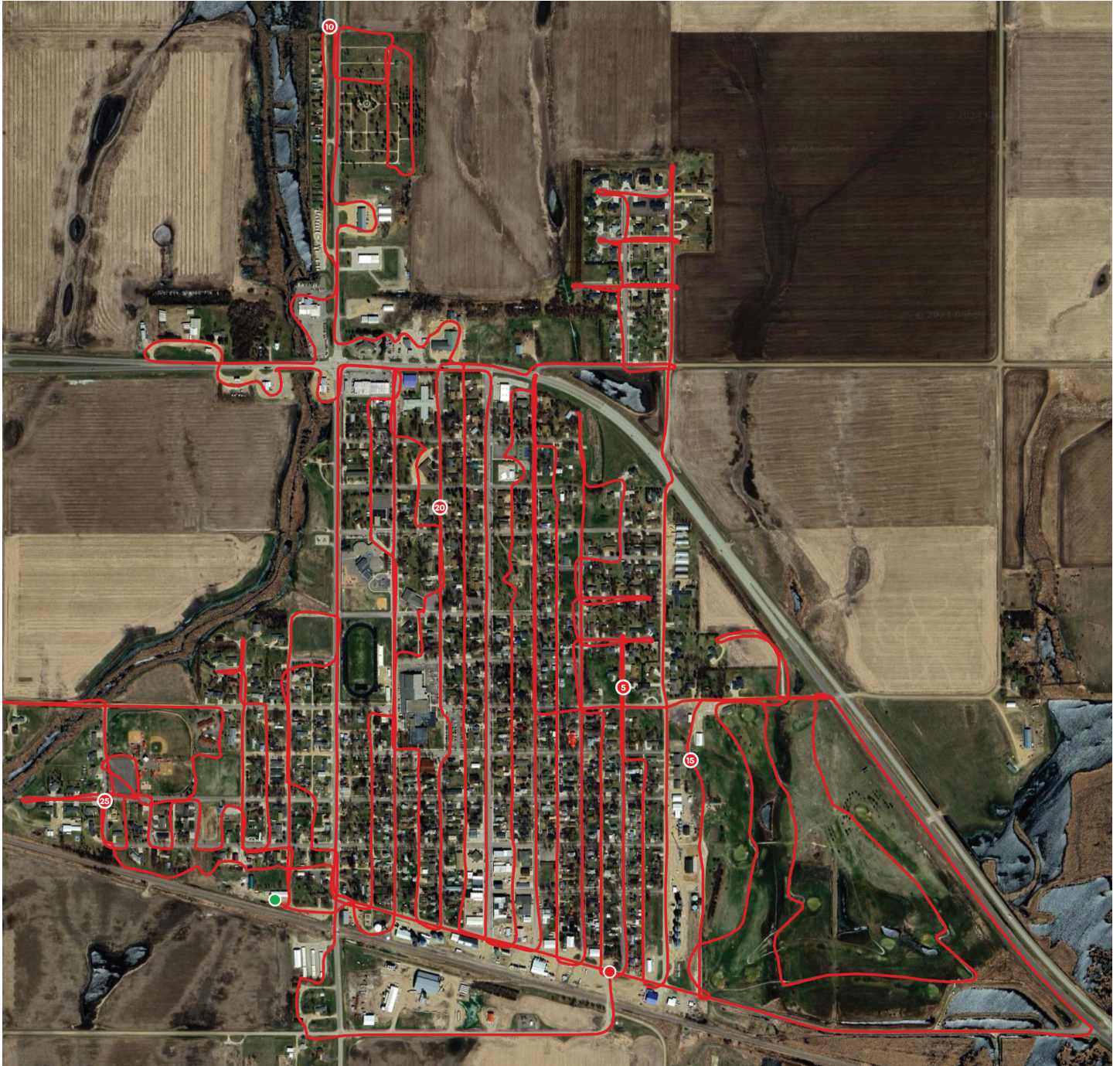
Webster, SD

No Contracts!

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Adult Mosquito Control Conducted Tuesday Night



After the rain Monday night, the mosquitos hatched in a vengeance and it prompted the City of Groton to try and get a control on them. Control was conducted last night. The wind was WSW at 5 mph with the temperature ranging from the upper 70s at the start of the control to the lower 60s by the end. About 8 gallons of Perm-X UL was used.

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SDCCTFCA – 2024 Track & Field Coaches of the Year



AREA 1 – Class “B” Track & Field Coach of the Year

Head Coach – Chad Spicer - Faulkton Area
Assistant Coach – Jessica Larson – Potter County

AREA 1 – Class “A” Coach of the Year

Head Coach – Eric Townsend - Milbank
Assistant Coach – Mark Stone – Aberdeen Roncalli

AREA 1 - JH/MS Assistant Coach – NONE

AREA 2 – Class “B” Track & Field Coach of the Year

Head Coach – Ross Flemmer – Dells St. Mary
Assistant Coach – Katlyn Menzie – Colman-Egan

AREA 2 – Class “A” Track & Field Coach of the Year

Head Coach – Brian Voss – West Central
Assistant Coach – Curtis Meendering – Canton

“AA” East Area – Track & Field Coach of the Year

Head Coach – Jim Jarovski – Sioux Falls Lincoln - Boys
Assistant Coach – Mike Putnam – Brandon Valley - Boys
Head Coach – Troy Sturgeon – Brandon Valley – Girls
Assistant Coach – Tony Thoreson – Brandon Valley – Girls

AREA 2 - “AA” - JH/MS Assistant Coach – Matt Christensen-Brandon Valley

AREA 3 Class “B” Track and Field Coach of the Year

Head Coach – Kurt Stukel – Gregory
Assistant Coach – Tyler Novak – Viborg/Hurley

AREA 3 – Class “A” – Track & Field Coach of the Year

Head Coach – Matt Maxon – Platte /Geddes
Assistant Coach – Holly Evans – Chamberlain

AREA 3 – JH/MS Assistant Coach – Terice Ketelhut -Miller

AREA 4 - Class “B” - Track & Field Coach of the Year

Head Coach – Ralph Kroetch – Phillip
Assistant Coach – Sierra Kraft - Timber Lake

AREA 4 - “B” - JH/MS Assistant Coach – Mike Keiffer- Lyman

Area 4 - Class “A” - Track & Field Coach of the Year

Head Coach – Karen Karim – Custer
Assistant Coach – Tayton Vincent - Custer

AREA 4 - “A” - JH/MS Assistant Coach – Brady Chase - Hill City

“AA” West Area – Track & Field Coach of the Year

Head Coach – Paul Hendry – Rapid City Stevens – Boys
Assistant Coach – Katie Anderson - Aberdeen Central - Boys

Head Coach – Aaron Nida – Spearfish - Girls
Assistant Coach – Andy VanDeest - Spearfish – Girls

AREA 4 - “AA” - JH/MS Assistant Coach – NONE

Anderson recognized as Asst. Coach of the Year

Katie Anderson, the assistant boys track and field coach at Aberdeen Central, was recognized as the Assistant Coach of the Year. This was announced by the South Dakota High School Coaches Association.

Katie is a GHS graduate and the daughter of Ron and Doris Anderson.

A Walk of Faith

"For we walk by faith, not by sight"

II Corinthians 5:7



Ladies' Luncheon

Bethesda Lutheran Church, Bristol

Wednesday, July 10, 2024

By Bethesda Women of the ELCA

Silent Auction opens at 10:30

Speaker: Jeff Peterson, author of "It's Just Walking"
and a graduate of Bristol High School

Luncheon at Noon—Door Prizes

\$15.00 advance tickets please, call:

Kay Espeland 605-492-3507

Jane Goehring 605-290-1420

Or contact any WELCA member





SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

Parole denied for Indigenous activist convicted of killing FBI agents

BY: SEARCHLIGHT STAFF - JULY 2, 2024 2:10 PM

A Native American man convicted of killing two FBI agents 49 years ago in South Dakota has lost what could be his final chance at parole, after widespread activism in support of his release.

Leonard Peltier, 79, is serving two consecutive life terms in prison and is reportedly in failing health. His latest parole hearing was last month, and he won't be eligible for parole again until June 2026.

Peltier is a member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa. He was active in the American Indian Movement in 1975 when the shootings occurred.

According to the FBI, agents Ron Williams and Jack Coler were attempting to arrest a man on the Pine Ridge Reservation who was wanted for robbery. They pursued a vehicle containing several occupants, including Peltier, into an area of the reservation where the fatal shootout ensued.

AIM member Joseph Stuntz also died — from a shot by a law enforcement sniper, according to federal authorities. The lack of an investigation into Stuntz's death is one of numerous criticisms that has been leveled against the government's handling of the incident, the trial and Peltier's conviction.

Peltier has maintained his innocence, and numerous people and organizations have rallied to support his parole request. Amnesty International USA's executive director, Paul O'Brien, said in a statement Tuesday that President Joe Biden should grant Peltier clemency and that "continuing to keep Leonard Peltier locked behind bars is a human rights travesty."

"Not only are there ongoing, unresolved concerns about the fairness of his trial, he has spent nearly 50 years in prison, is approaching 80 years old, and suffers from several chronic health problems," O'Brien said.

NDN Collective, an Indigenous rights organization in Rapid City, released a statement from President and CEO Nick Tilsen.

"Today is a sad day for Indigenous peoples and justice everywhere," Tilsen said. "The U.S. Parole Commission's denial of parole for Leonard Peltier, America's longest serving Indigenous political prisoner, is a travesty."

The FBI opposed Peltier's parole request. Director Christopher Wray wrote to the Parole Commission that "Peltier is a remorseless killer who brutally murdered two of our own before embarking on a violent flight from justice."

"Throughout the years, Peltier has never accepted responsibility or shown remorse," Wray wrote. "He is wholly unfit for parole."

Regulators begin study of NorthWestern's proposed 9% natural gas rate increase

BY: JOSHUA HAIAR - JULY 2, 2024 12:45 PM

State regulators will take six months to study NorthWestern Energy's proposed 9% natural gas rate increase, which the company says would cost a typical residential customer an additional \$8.38 per month, or \$100.56 per year.

The proposal would generate an additional \$6 million in annual revenue for NorthWestern, which delivers natural gas to about 50,000 South Dakota customers. The company also supplies electricity, and it received approval to raise electricity rates earlier this year.

The company applied for the natural gas rate increase last month. The state Public Utilities Commission voted Tuesday to delay the rate increase from going into effect for six months, giving the commission's staff time to assess the request.

If the commission does not act on the request by the end of the six-month period, NorthWestern may put its requested rate into effect on an interim basis, subject to customer refunds if the commission later decides to reduce the increase.

The commission also voted Tuesday to charge NorthWestern up to \$250,000 for costs associated with reviewing the request.

NorthWestern last increased its South Dakota natural gas rates in 2011, raising the typical resident's bill by about \$4.37 monthly. The company argues that rising operational costs and infrastructure investments since then necessitate another increase.

"The need to increase natural gas rates in South Dakota is the compound result of 13 years of investment and inflation," NorthWestern wrote in a letter to the commission.

NorthWestern raised its South Dakota electric rates by 11% earlier this year, costing the typical residential customer an extra \$13.67 per month. The company wanted to raise those bills by \$19.14 monthly, but agreed to the lower increase in a settlement with the Public Utilities Commission.

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.

More states consider voter ID laws amid conflicting research on their impact

36 states, including SD, require some form of identification to cast a ballot

BY: MATT VASILOGAMBROS, STATELINE - JULY 2, 2024 7:00 AM

Nevada voters may decide in November whether they should join three dozen other states in requiring voters to present valid identification before casting a ballot. And Maine may not be far behind, as the push for voter ID requirements grows nationwide despite conflicting studies over their effects.

Conservative organizers in Nevada say they have gathered enough signatures to qualify their measure for the general election ballot. It would amend the state constitution to require voters to present an ID at polling places or to include some form of identification — such as the last four digits of a driver's license or Social Security number — on mail-in ballots.

"We've seen over the last 20 years there have been questions about the people who voted and whether there have been fake ballots," said David Gibbs, chair of Repair the Vote PAC, a North Las Vegas-based group that is leading the ballot initiative effort. "This is one way to tighten that up. A lot of people look at it and it makes sense."

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If the measure makes the ballot and voters approve it in November, they will have to vote on it again in 2026, as required to amend the state's constitution.

It has a good chance of passing. According to a June poll by Fox News, 84% of registered Nevada voters support implementing voter ID. Those findings closely mirror national poll numbers from the Pew Research Center, which in February found that 81% of U.S. adults favored requiring people to show a government-issued photo ID to vote.

Voting rights advocates cite research showing that such rules block many legitimate voters — especially young, Black and Latino voters — from the polls. But backers of voter ID laws point to other studies which suggest that the rules have had a minimal effect on voter turnout, partly because Democrats often respond to them by amping up their voter mobilization efforts.

For more than a decade, Republican lawmakers have pushed to implement stricter voter ID laws. Thirty-six states — including South Dakota — require some form of identification to cast a ballot, though laws vary by state over the accepted types of identification and requirements to vote by mail, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures.

That list may grow.

In May, the Republican-led New Hampshire legislature passed a measure that would require residents to prove their citizenship status to register to vote. Republican Gov. Chris Sununu has yet to sign it into law.

In Maine, conservative activists are still gathering signatures to put their voter ID measure on the November 2025 ballot. Maine does not require a photo ID at polling places, and Democratic lawmakers are trying to keep it that way, arguing it could prevent residents who are less likely to have a driver's license from being able to vote.

Voting rights advocates say voter ID laws can lead to confusion at polling places, and that states that implement them should do more to ensure equitable access to official IDs.

"The more complicated we make voting, the more hurdles we put in front of people, the more pitfalls there are for people who are just trying to participate in our democracy," said Sean Morales-Doyle, director of the voting rights program at the Brennan Center for Justice at New York University School of Law, a progressive policy nonprofit.

The Brennan Center, along with the Center for Democracy and Civic Engagement at the University of Maryland and voting rights organizations Public Wise and VoteRiders, released a survey in June which found that nearly 21 million voting-age U.S. citizens don't have current driver's licenses.

The survey also found that more than a quarter of Black and Latino adults lack a driver's license with their current name or address — higher than their white and Asian American counterparts. A substantially higher percentage of young people also lack up-to-date identification, it said.

Getting an updated driver's license takes time and costs money, which may be harder for people who are of a lower socioeconomic status, Morales-Doyle said. And those who earn less typically change addresses frequently, he added.

The survey also showed a considerable gap in voter understanding of state voter ID laws: It found that more than half of Americans in states that require identification to vote did not know their state's laws. A March report from NBC News found that 29 million Americans live in states that have implemented a new voter ID law since 2020.

Recent elections in North Carolina and Ohio illustrate the impact: Confusion over voter ID rules led to rejected provisional ballots.

VoteRiders is attempting to increase awareness and knowledge of voter ID requirements through its on-the-ground efforts, 24/7 helpline, and text message, billboard and PSA outreach.

The group has organizers in Arizona, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas and Wisconsin who go to college campuses, LGBTQ+ Pride events, health clinics and community resource fairs, delivering information on those states' voter ID laws. Annually, the group helps more than 10,000 people get an ID.

"One of the things that keeps me up at night is thinking about how dramatically the rules of the game

have changed when it comes to voting since 2020," said Lauren Kunis, the nonpartisan group's CEO. "I worry that many people on the issue of ID and other aspects of the voting process are going to be caught flat-footed in November."

In Nevada, Repair the Vote PAC last week turned in more than 179,000 signatures it gathered throughout the state, using both volunteers and a company it hired to go door-to-door and to stand outside grocery stores and libraries. The state requires more than 102,000 valid signatures, including a certain number in every congressional district. State and local officials must now validate those signatures.

Gibbs, the group's chair, argues that the new identification requirement would not throw up obstacles to voting. He dismissed the argument that voter ID measures make it harder for people of color or lower-income people to vote.

"You need a photo ID to get a job. You need a photo ID to open a bank account. You need a photo ID to do almost anything," he told Stateline. "I personally don't know anybody who doesn't have one, but then again, at the same time, you can get one."

Matt Vasilogambros covers voting rights, gun laws and Western climate policy for Stateline. He lives in San Diego, California.

Trump questions NY guilty verdicts after U.S. Supreme Court presidential immunity ruling

Judge in hush money case agrees to delay sentencing until September

BY: ASHLEY MURRAY - JULY 2, 2024 3:07 PM

WASHINGTON — A New York judge agreed Tuesday to delay the criminal sentencing of former President Donald Trump in the state hush money case after Trump claimed the U.S. Supreme Court's presidential immunity decision absolves him.

New York Justice Juan Merchan, who oversaw the case, ordered the delay until Sept. 18 so the court could hear arguments on how the Supreme Court's immunity decision on Monday impacts Trump's state-level convictions, according to court filings.

Trump claims his 34 New York felony guilty verdicts violate Monday's high court ruling and should be thrown out, according to a letter to Merchan from Trump attorney Todd Blanche.

"The verdicts in this case violate the presidential immunity doctrine and create grave risks of 'an Executive Branch that cannibalizes itself,'" Blanche wrote, adding that after further review, "it will be manifest that the trial result cannot stand."

A Manhattan jury on May 30 found the former president guilty on 34 felony counts of falsifying business records related to a hush money payment made to a porn star in the weeks prior to the 2016 presidential election.

Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg agreed in a letter to Merchan to a two-week delay in Trump's sentencing, according to the court filings.

Trump's team has until July 10 to file its argument. Bragg agreed to a July 24 deadline for his reply.

"Although we believe (the) defendant's arguments to be without merit, we do not oppose his request for leave to file and his putative request to adjourn sentencing pending determination of his motion," Bragg wrote Tuesday.

Merchan scheduled the sentencing for July 11, just days before Trump is scheduled to be officially nominated as his party's 2024 presidential candidate at the Republican National Convention in Milwaukee. The new date pushes the sentencing less than two months before Election Day.

Presidential immunity opinion

The Supreme Court ruled in a 6-3 decision that former U.S. presidents enjoy absolute criminal immunity

for "core Constitutional" powers and are "entitled to at least presumptive immunity from prosecution for all his official acts," but are not immune from criminal prosecution for "unofficial acts."

Trump escalated the question of presidential immunity to the Supreme Court after two lower courts denied his requests for immunity from federal criminal charges alleging he attempted to overturn the 2020 presidential election results during his last months in the Oval Office.

The justices' majority opinion ordered the 2020 election interference case back to the lower district court to decide whether Trump's actions were official or unofficial acts. Those actions include Trump's conversations with state officials about overturning election results and his social media posts claiming election fraud.

NY verdict

Blanche asked Merchan to "set aside" Trump's guilty verdict based on Monday's Supreme Court ruling in Trump v. United States, according to the July 1 letter.

Blanche claimed that evidence presented by the prosecution against Trump during the New York case were likely "official acts."

The New York state case centered on actions Trump took during his first year in office, including an Oval Office meeting to discuss financial transactions with his former personal attorney and checks that he personally signed.

"Under (Trump v. U.S.), this official-acts evidence should never have been put before the jury," Blanche wrote.

"Moreover, as we argued previously, (Trump v. U.S.) forbids the '[u]se of evidence about such [official] conduct, even when an indictment alleges only unofficial conduct.' This includes President Trump's 'Tweets' and 'public address[es],'" Blanche wrote, quoting directly from the Supreme Court opinion.

New York prosecutors presented mounds of evidence, including business records and witness testimony, during the seven-week trial illustrating that Trump repaid his former lawyer Michael Cohen for giving \$130,000 to porn star Stormy Daniels prior to the 2016 election. Trump later recorded the payments as "legal expenses" and increased the amount to Cohen to account for taxes and a bonus.

Testimony also revealed an Oval Office meeting Trump held with Cohen to discuss the repayment scheme, and evidence included nine checks bearing Trump's personal signature.

Ashley Murray covers the nation's capital as a senior reporter for States Newsroom. Her coverage areas include domestic policy and appropriations.

Biden administration announces new rule to protect workers from heat-related illnesses

BY: LIA CHIEN - JULY 2, 2024 8:59 AM

WASHINGTON – Senior Biden administration officials announced a proposed rule Tuesday to prevent heat-related illness in the workplace, as climate change brings hotter temperatures around the nation.

In a call to reporters Monday, officials spoke on background about the new rule, which the administration sent to the Federal Register Tuesday for review. Depending on the heat index, the rule would require employers to monitor workers' heat exposure, provide cool-down areas and take mandatory cool-down breaks.

This new rule comes as extreme temperatures will engulf much of the country at some point during the year. Heat waves occur more frequently now compared to the 1960s, from an average of two per year to six in the 2020s, according to data from the Environmental Protection Agency. Heat waves have also increased in duration and intensity.

Officials also pointed to record-breaking heat waves in June, high temperature predictions for the Fourth

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of July holiday and above-average predicted temperatures for July.

The rule would cover 35 million workers whose job responsibilities include being in the heat and require activities that could raise core body temperatures. This includes those working in construction, agriculture and landscaping, as well as those in indoor environments, like kitchen workers, who are exposed to heat indexes of 80 degrees or higher.

A notable aspect of the proposed rule includes acclimatization requirements. New or returning workers who are not used to the heat levels must be given a gradual increase in workload or a 15-minute rest break every two hours.

According to a senior administration official, 75% of workers who die on the job due to heat-related illnesses die in the first week. This rule would "significantly reduce the number of worker-related deaths, injuries and illnesses," the official said.

Along with this new rule, the administration officials announced \$1 billion in Federal Emergency Management Agency funding for 93 different communities and tribal nations. This includes \$50 million to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania for stormwater pumping to mitigate flooding and \$6 million to Greensboro, North Carolina for an improved flood drainage channel.

Through FEMA's Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities program, the funding will go towards developing infrastructure that is more prepared to handle extreme weather events.

Officials pointed to increases in wildfires, hurricanes and flooding as growing concerns for Americans.

"In addition to posing direct threats to lives and livelihoods, major weather events have significant economic impacts," said one official.

Another senior official from the administration spoke of how these announced actions are part of President Joe Biden's larger commitment to strengthen the country against the growing threats of climate change.

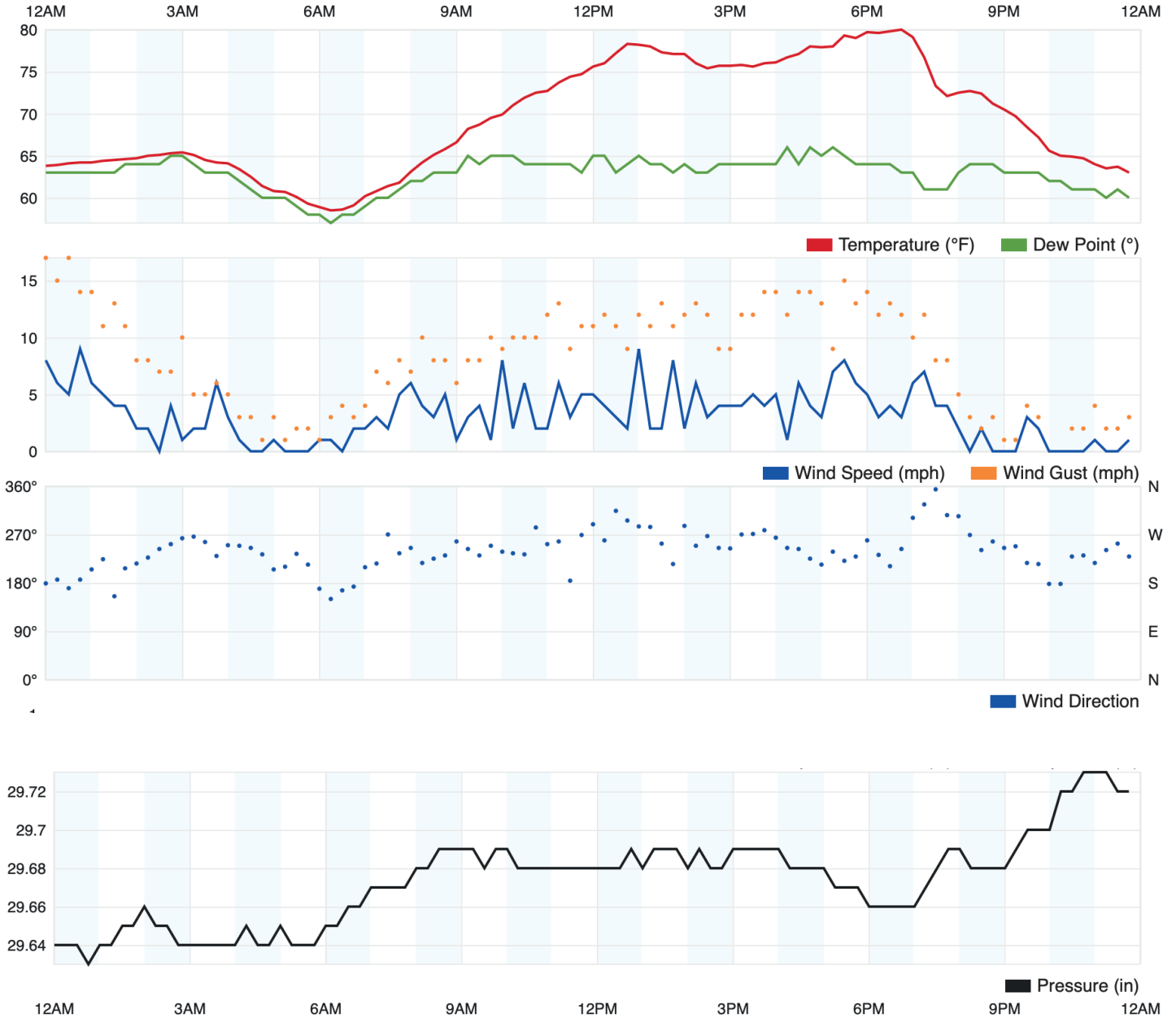
"We are taking action, bold action, historic action and action that's delivering real meaningful, visible difference on the ground," the official said.

Lia is a Capitol Reporting Fellow based in the States Newsroom Washington, D.C Bureau. She is passionate about covering agriculture, climate, and education policy areas.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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Today



High: 84 °F

Sunny

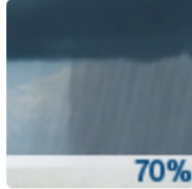
Tonight



Low: 61 °F

Mostly Cloudy
then Chance
T-storms

Independence
Day



High: 72 °F

Showers
Likely

Thursday
Night



Low: 58 °F

Chance
T-storms

Friday



High: 80 °F

Partly Sunny
then Slight
Chance
T-storms

INTO THE HOLIDAY WEEKEND

TODAY



HIGHS: 80-86°
LOWS: 57-64°

AFTERNOON/EVENING
T-STORMS POSSIBLE,
STORMS IN CENTRAL SD
COULD BE SEVERE

THURSDAY



HIGHS: 68-76°
LOWS: 55-60°

60-80% CHANCE OF
RAIN ALL DAY,
AFTERNOON/EVENING
T-STORMS POSSIBLE

FRIDAY



HIGHS: 74-81°
LOWS: 56-61°

RAIN CHANCES
DECREASING DURING
THE DAY

SATURDAY



HIGHS: 78-83°
LOWS: 56-60°

AFTERNOON/EVENING
SHOWERS AND T-STORMS
POSSIBLE



We have some wet weather coming up the next few days with at least some rain chances every day. Today, afternoon/evening thunderstorms are possible with a MARGINAL risk over central SD. Large hail and strong wind gusts are the main threats with any storms that become severe. Thursday has a 60-80% chance of rain all day and non-severe thunderstorms in the afternoon/evening. Rain chances diminish through the day Friday.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 80 °F at 6:49 PM

Low Temp: 58 °F at 6:17 AM

Wind: 17 mph at 12:23 AM

Precip: : 0.00

Day length: 15 hours, 38 minutes

Today's Info

Record High: 107 in 1949

Record Low: 39 in 1917

Average High: 84

Average Low: 59

Average Precip in June.: 0.35

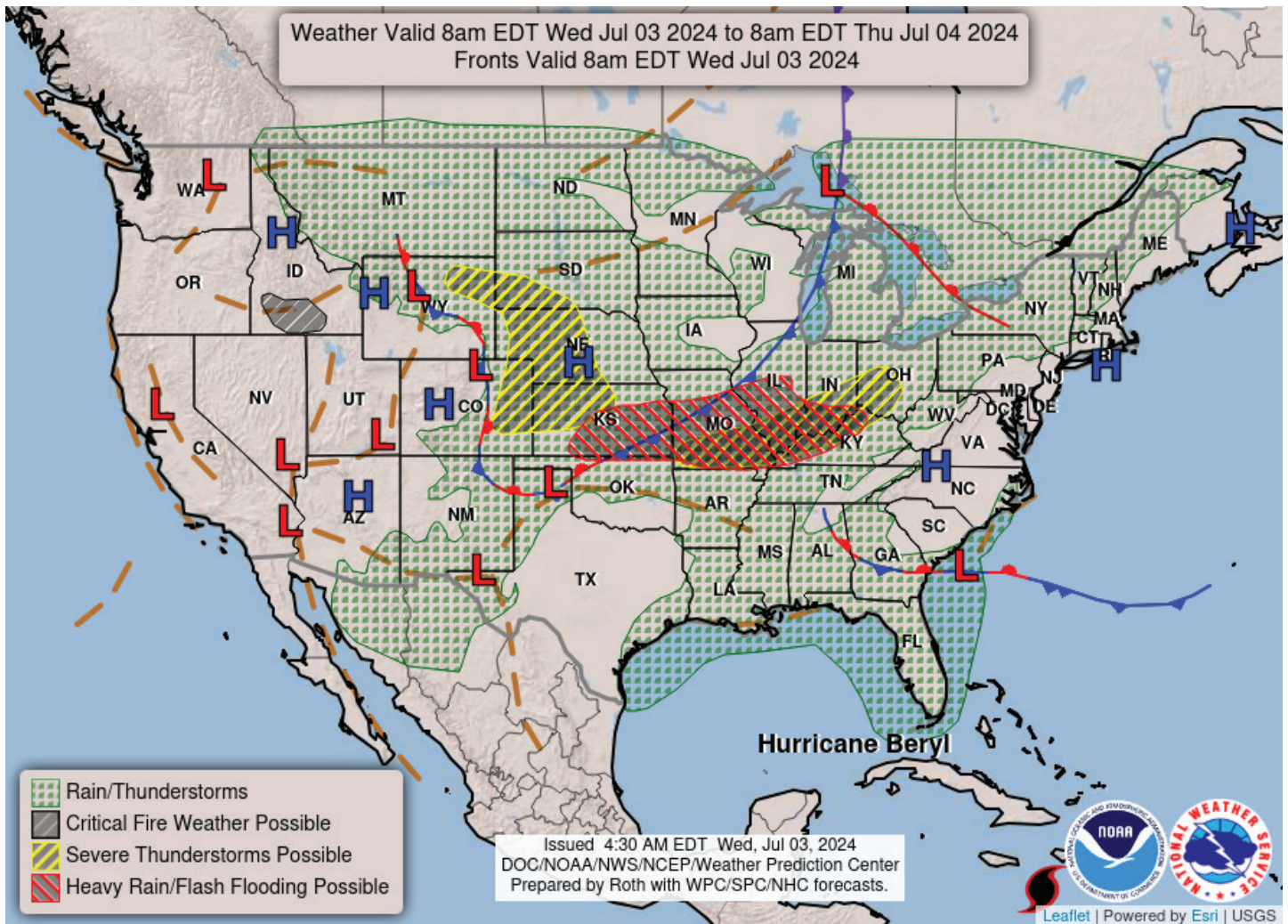
Precip to date in July: 0.83

Average Precip to date: 11.36

Precip Year to Date: 11.88

Sunset Tonight: 9:25:49 pm

Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:48:28 am



Today in Weather History

July 3, 1959: An estimated F2 tornado moved northeast after destroying a farm building at the western edge of Java, Walworth County. Elsewhere in the area, high straight line winds caused property damage while hail damaged crops. The largest hailstone was 2.75 inches in diameter and was observed 9 miles NNW of Timber Lake.

July 3, 2003: A supercell thunderstorm moved southeastward across western Jackson County and Bennett County. The storm dropped up to golf ball sized hail and produced an F2 tornado north of Tuthill in Bennett County. The tornado touched down about a mile north of the junction of highways 18 and 73, where it destroyed a garage. The tornado moved south-southeast and destroyed a mobile home just to the southeast of the highway intersection and then dissipated just north of Tuthill. No one was injured.

Also on this day, a line of severe thunderstorms with hail up to the size of golf balls and winds over 80 mph at times brought widespread property and crop damage to far northeast Brown, across Marshall and Roberts counties. The wind and hail caused the most damage to crops in a 20 mile to a 70-mile long area from north of Britton over to Sisseton and into west central Minnesota. Much of the plants were shredded to the ground. In fact, approximately 30 percent (70,000 acres) of Marshall County's 227,000 acres of crops were damaged or destroyed. Cities receiving the most damage from the line of storms were, Hecla, Andover, Britton, Kidder, Veblen, Roslyn, Langford, Lake City, Claire City, Sisseton, Waubay, Rosholt, and Wilmot. Storm damage mostly included trees and branches down, power lines and poles down, roof and siding damage from hail and fallen trees, some farm outbuildings damaged or destroyed, and many windows broke out of homes and vehicles. Also, many boats, docks, and campers received some damage in the path of the storms. An aerial crop spraying plane at the Sisseton airport was picked up and thrown 450 feet and landed upside down. In Claire City, a 55,000-bushel grain bin was blown off of its foundation and flattened. On a farm five miles north of Amherst, three large grain bins were blown over and damaged.

July 3, 2010: Severe thunderstorms brought damaging winds to parts of central South Dakota, especially to Lyman County. Eighty mph winds moved a building off the foundation at the Presho Municipal Airport. Eighty mph winds also destroyed or damaged many grain bins and caused damage to several other buildings in and around Presho. A large sign, twenty power poles, along with many trees were downed in Presho. There were also several broken houses and car windows from hail and high winds. Seventy mph winds tore a garage door loose, bent a flagpole over, and downed many large tree branches in Kennebec. The winds also caused some damage to homes, sheds, and grain bins in Kennebec.

1873: A tornado in Hancock County, in far west central Illinois, destroyed several farms. From a distance, witnesses initially thought the tornado was smoke from a fire. A child was killed after being carried 500 yards; 10 other people were injured.

1975: Up to 3 inches of rain caused flash flooding throughout Las Vegas, NV. The main damage occurred to vehicles at Caesars Palace with approximately 700 damaged or destroyed with several cars found miles away. North Las Vegas was hardest hit with \$3.5 million in damage. Two people drowned in the flood waters.

2000: There is a certain irony about one of the driest places getting the greatest rainfall, and yet that is what happened at usually rain-sparse Vanguard, Saskatchewan on July 3 when a carwash-like downpour flooded the community of 200 people, some 65 km southeast of Swift Current. As much as 375 mm (14.76") of rain fell in eight hours, the greatest storm for that duration on the Canadian Prairies and one of the most substantial rainfall intensities ever recorded in Canada.

The spectacular thunderstorm produced more cloud-to-ground lightning strikes than that part of southern Saskatchewan would expect in two years. A year's amount of rain left crops in the field drowning and rotting, and roads and rail lines under water. The force of the water crushed cars and farm implements swept away grain bins and soaked large bales. Stranded residents had to be rescued by boat, which rapidly became the carrier of choice on the main street in Vanguard. The flash flood also carried away herds of cattle and drowned dozens of deer and antelope. Some further irony, when millions of liters of contaminated water submerged the water-treatment plant and backed up into homes and businesses, officials had to ship in bottled water from Swift Current.

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Daily Devotionals

Seeds of Hope

ALL TOGETHER - NOW, SMILE

It was her first day at work, and the manager was carefully going over the responsibilities of his new secretary. After carefully explaining her tasks, he said, "Now I'd like to tell you a few things about myself so you will know what kind of person I am."

He then began telling her about his college career - how he excelled in academics and athletics. He then started to talk about his accomplishments with the company, how he received one promotion after another and was rewarded with raises and bonuses. He spent a great amount of time bragging about himself.

Finally, in her frustration she asked, "Tell me sir, have you ever had a group photo taken of yourself?"

Many worry about being properly recognized for their position and status. We want others to know what we can do and how well we can do it - whether they are interested or not. We want others to look at us and stand in awe of our accomplishments.

However, Peter warns us to remember that it is God's recognition that matters most. Human praise is one thing, but God's approval is all that counts. In His own time, God will bless our efforts and honor our work. We must also remember that the recognition may not come in this lifetime. But if we are faithful to Him and give Him the glory, He will surely reward us in heaven.

Prayer: Lord, whatever we do in life is because of Your grace. The talents and skills, the abilities and strength come to us to give back to You in loving service. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: So humble yourselves under the mighty power of God, and at the right time he will lift you up in honor. 1 Peter 5:6



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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WINNING NUMBERS

MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS:
07.02.24

4 8 19 31 45 11

MegaPlier: 4x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$162,000,000

NEXT 2 Days 17 Hrs 5
DRAW: Mins 56 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS: 07.01.24

7 18 36 37 43 9

All Star Bonus: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$4,240,000

NEXT 16 Hrs 20 Mins 57
DRAW: Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS:
07.02.24

9 15 18 28 34 3

TOP PRIZE:
\$7,000/week

NEXT 16 Hrs 35 Mins 56
DRAW: Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS:
06.29.24

2 6 23 29 33

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$23,000

NEXT 16 Hrs 35 Mins 56
DRAW: Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS: 07.01.24

12 18 32 59 61 8

TOP PRIZE:
\$10,000,000

NEXT 17 Hrs 4 Mins 56
DRAW: Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS: 07.01.24

5 9 32 39 55 9

Power Play: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$138,000,000

NEXT 17 Hrs 4 Mins 56
DRAW: Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

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Upcoming Groton Events

- 07/04/2024 Firecracker Couples Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course
- 07/09/2024 FREE SNAP Application Assistance 1-6pm at the Community Center
- 07/14/2024 Lion's Club Summer Fest/Car Show at the City Park 9am-4pm
- 07/17/2024 Legion Auxiliary #39 Salad Buffet & Dessert Bar at the Groton Legion 11am-1pm
- 07/17/2024 Pro Am Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course
- 07/25/2024 Dairy Queen Miracle Treat Day
- 07/25/2024 Summer Downtown Sip & Shop 5-8pm
- 07/25/2024 Treasures Amidst The Trials 6pm at Emmanuel Lutheran Church
- 07/26/2024 Ferney Open Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course 9am Start
- 07/27/2024 1st Annual Celebration in the Park 1-9:30pm
- 08/05/2024 School Supply Drive 4-7pm at the Community Center
- 08/02/2024 Wine on 9 at Olive Grove Golf Course 6pm
- 08/08/2024 Family Fun Fest 5:30-7:30pm
- 08/9-11/2024 Jr. Legion State Baseball Tournament
- 08/12/2024 Vitalant Blood Drive at the Community Center 1:15-7pm
- 09/07/2024 Lion's Club Fall Citywide Rummage Sale 8am-3pm
- 09/07-08/2024 Groton Airport Fly-In/Drive-In, Groton Municipal Airport
- 09/08/2024 Sunflower Couples Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course 10am
- 10/05/2024 Pumpkin Fest at the City Park 10am-3pm
- 10/11/2024 Lake Region Marching Band Festival 10am
- 10/31/2024 Downtown Trick or Treat 4-6pm
- 10/31/2024 United Methodist Church Trunk or Treat 5:30-7pm
- 11/28/2024 Community Thanksgiving at the Community Center 11:30am-1pm
- 12/07/2024 Olive Grove 8th Annual Holiday Party & Tour of Homes with Live & Silent Auctions 6pm-close

News from the Associated Press

A bridge near a Minnesota dam may collapse. Officials say they can do little to stop it

By MICHAEL GOLDBERG Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Rushing waters from the Blue Earth River have already left a trail of debris and destruction on the edges of a southern Minnesota dam that partially failed last week, but officials acknowledged Tuesday the structure most in danger may be the bridge that looms nearby.

The County Road 9 Bridge is at risk of crumbling, and officials said they have little recourse. The threat to the bridge accelerated after a bout of heavy rain and flooding pummeled the Midwest for days. The Blue Earth River's water levels rose dramatically and tested the structural integrity of the dam. The dam has held up, but the specter of collapse hasn't waned.

Now, the roughly 40-year-old bridge locals use to commute across the dam from rural patches of land to nearby towns, may topple over if the weather doesn't cooperate.

"Unfortunately, we're at the mercy of Mother Nature at this point," said Ryan Thilges, the public works director for Blue Earth County. "We're very concerned about the potential for partial or full failure of the bridge."

Thilges stood atop a hillside on the eastern side of the Rapidan Dam near the Minnesota city of Mankato. He was flanked by Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz and other officials who went to the dam to get an update on flood conditions and recovery efforts.

Officials are warily watching both the dam and the bridge, noting that the still-surgings river has drastically changed the area.

"I think the concern is that is the bridge going to be structurally damaged by this and will it need to be replaced?" Walz said.

The floodwaters forged a new river channel around the dam cut deeply into a steep riverbank, toppling utility poles, wrecking a substation, swallowing a home and forcing the removal of a beloved store. The conditions have made it too dangerous for officials to get close enough for a thorough inspection of the bridge, but they have already identified troubling signs of damage.

The river is washing away large amounts of sediment, causing instability to the bridge's supporting piers, built atop sandstone bedrock. Officials have been able to stabilize at least one pier but said they haven't been able to get to the others.

Complicating matters was "a massive spike of trees that came down the river" on Sunday, Thilges said. The dead trees, a product of drought over the last several years, collided with the bridge, and some are hanging on the piers. The county has not been able to find contractors who felt safe enough to clear the debris.

"Nobody was willing to send out their operator and risk their operator's life to try to push those trees through," Thilges said.

Flooding has caused millions of dollars in damage to bridges, homes and roads across Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska and South Dakota. The dam captured attention after officials initially said it faced an "imminent threat" of collapse.

The Rapidan Dam is over a century old, finished in 1910. While it was built to generate electricity, it has been damaged by several rounds of flooding in recent decades. An April 2023 assessment conducted by the National Inventory of Dams found Rapidan to be in poor condition, and officials have been studying the possibility of removing it.

A federal disaster declaration has been approved for Blue Earth County, and local officials said the additional resources will be critical for rebuilding efforts. But those projects could be complicated by a sensitive landscape where relief efforts can sometimes exacerbate decline, Thilges said.

"I'll be perfectly honest, all the solutions we came up with had almost as bad or worse adverse impacts

that could affect the dam stability further, or it could result in damage to the bridge or additional erosion," he added. "We need Mother Nature to give us a break."

Indigenous activist Leonard Peltier denied parole for 1975 killings of 2 FBI agents serving warrants

By HEATHER HOLLINGSWORTH Associated Press

Indigenous activist Leonard Peltier, who has spent most of his life in prison since his conviction in the 1975 killings of two FBI agents in South Dakota, has been denied parole.

The U.S. Parole Commission said in a statement Tuesday announcing the decision that he won't be eligible for another parole hearing until June 2026. Peltier is serving life in prison for the killing the agents during a standoff on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota. He was convicted in 1977.

His attorney, Kevin Sharp, a former federal judge, vowed to appeal. He had argued that Peltier was wrongly convicted and that the health of the 79-year-old was failing.

"This decision is a missed opportunity for the United States to finally recognize the misconduct of the FBI and send a message to Indian Country regarding the impacts of the federal government's actions and policies of the 1970s," he said in a statement.

The fight for Peltier's freedom is embroiled in the Indigenous rights movements. Nearly half a century later, his name remains a rallying cry and "Free Peltier" T-shirts are hawked online.

"The way they have treated Leonard is the way they have treated Indigenous people historically throughout this country," said Nick Tilsen, president and CEO of the NDN Collective, an Indigenous-led advocacy group. "That is why Indigenous people and oppressed people everywhere see a little bit of ourselves in Leonard Peltier. Although today is a sad day, we are not going to stop fighting."

The FBI and its current and former agents dispute the claims of innocence.

"They were down, they were wounded, they were helpless and he shot them point blank," said Mike Clark, president of the Society of Former Special Agents of the FBI. "It is a heinous crime."

FBI Director Christopher Wray said in a statement that "justice continues to prevail." And Natalie Bara, president of the FBI Agents Association, described Peltier in a statement as an "unremorseful murderer."

"We believe this decision upholds justice for our fallen colleagues and their families," the statement said.

An enrolled member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa in North Dakota, Peltier was active in the American Indian Movement, which began in the 1960s as a local organization in Minneapolis that grappled with issues of police brutality and discrimination against Native Americans. It quickly became a national force.

Tilsen, a citizen of the Oglala Lakota Nation, credits AIM and others for most of the rights Native Americans have today, including religious freedom and the ability to operate casinos and tribal colleges and enter into contracts with the federal government to oversee schools and other services.

AIM grabbed headlines in 1973 when it took over the village of Wounded Knee on the Pine Ridge reservation, leading to a 71-day standoff with federal agents. Tensions between AIM and the government remained high for years.

On June 26, 1975, agents came to Pine Ridge to serve arrest warrants amid battles over Native treaty rights and self-determination.

After being injured in a shootout, agents Jack Coler and Ronald Williams were shot in the head at close range, Wray said. Also killed in the shootout was AIM member Joseph Stuntz. The Justice Department concluded that a law enforcement sniper killed Stuntz.

Two other AIM members, Robert Robideau and Dino Butler, were acquitted of killing Coler and Williams.

After fleeing to Canada and being extradited to the United States, Peltier was convicted of two counts of first-degree murder and sentenced in 1977 to life in prison, despite defense claims that evidence against him had been falsified.

Amnesty International has been among his backers, writing in a statement that keeping him locked up is a "human rights tragedy."

His latest parole hearing was in June at a high-security lockup in Florida that is part of the Federal Correctional Complex Coleman. Afterward, his attorney, Sharp, said the commission was obligated legally to "look forward," focusing on issues such as whether he is likely to commit another crime if he is released.

Relatives of the two agents have long argued that Peltier should remain behind bars. In a 2022 letter to Wray, Coler's son Ronald Coler said the campaign for Peltier's release has been painful for the family.

"Not only has my family suffered the loss of my father, but we have also been forced to endure the insult that Peltier has become a favorite cause and figurehead championed by Hollywood, the music industry, politicians and well-intentioned activists who assume or believe he is being punished unfairly," he wrote. "Peltier allows himself to be celebrated thus. He knows his guilt."

Parole also was rejected at a hearing in 2009, and then-President Barack Obama denied a clemency request in 2017. Another clemency request is pending before President Joe Biden.

John Hanna contributed to this report from Topeka, Kansas. Hollingsworth reported from Mission, Kansas.

This story has been corrected to show that Peltier's parole hearing was in June, he wasn't last denied parole in June.

6 teenage baseball players charged as adults in South Dakota rape case take plea deals

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Six teenage players from a South Dakota American Legion baseball team who were charged as adults in a rape case last summer have reached plea deals.

Three players from the Mitchell-based team pleaded guilty last month to being an accessory to a felony, and three others entered the same plea Monday, KELO-TV reported. All six players could face up to five years in prison at sentencing next month.

Attorneys from both sides declined to discuss the case.

The players, who were 17 to 19 years old when a grand jury indicted them, were originally charged with second-degree rape and aiding and abetting second-degree rape.

South Dakota law requires minors ages 16 and older who are charged with such felonies to be tried as adults, although the minors can attempt to have their cases moved to juvenile court, prosecutors said.

According to prosecutors, the victims were 16 when they were sexually assaulted during a tournament in Rapid City last June.

Another three players were charged in juvenile court, but details of their cases are not made public.

Hurricane Beryl roars toward Jamaica after killing at least 6 people in the southeast Caribbean

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP) — Hurricane Beryl was roaring toward Jamaica on Wednesday, with islanders scrambling to make preparations after the powerful Category 4 storm earlier killed at least six people and caused significant damage in the southeast Caribbean.

In Kingston, people boarded up windows, fishermen pulled their boats out of the water before sitting around a table to play dominoes beside a bay, and workers dismantled roadside advertising boards to protect them from the expected lashing winds to come.

A hurricane warning was in effect for Jamaica, Grand Cayman, Little Cayman and Cayman Brac. Beryl was forecast to weaken slightly over the next day or two, but still be at or near major-hurricane strength when it passes near or over Jamaica on Wednesday, near the Cayman Islands on Thursday and into Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula on Friday, according to the U.S. National Hurricane Center.

A hurricane watch was in effect for Haiti's southern coast and the Yucatan's east coast. Belize issued a tropical storm watch stretching south from its border with Mexico to Belize City.

Late Monday, Beryl became the earliest storm to develop into a Category 5 hurricane in the Atlantic and

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peaked at winds of 165 mph (270 kph) Tuesday before weakening to a still-destructive Category 4. Early Wednesday, the storm was about 185 miles (300 kilometers) east-southeast of Kingston. It had maximum sustained winds of 145 mph (230 kph) and was moving west-northwest at 20 mph (31 kph), the center said.

Beryl was expected to bring life-threatening winds and storm surge to Jamaica, where officials warned residents in flood-prone areas to prepare for evacuation.

"I am encouraging all Jamaicans to take the hurricane as a serious threat," Prime Minister Andrew Holness said in a public address Tuesday. "It is, however, not a time to panic."

In Miami, U.S. National Hurricane Center Director Michael Brennan said Jamaica appears to be in the direct path of Beryl. He urged residents to find a safe place to shelter and stay there through Wednesday.

"We are most concerned about Jamaica, where we are expecting the core of a major hurricane to pass near or over the island," he said in an online briefing.

Storm surge of 6-9 feet (1.8 to 2.7 meters) above typical tide levels are likely in Jamaica, as well as heavy rainfall.

A tropical storm warning was in place for the entire southern coast of Hispaniola, an island shared by Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

As Beryl barreled through the Caribbean Sea, rescue crews in southeastern islands fanned out to determine the extent of the damage the hurricane inflicted on Carriacou, an island in Grenada.

Three people were reported killed in Grenada and Carriacou and another in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, officials said. Two other deaths were reported in northern Venezuela, where five people are missing, officials said. About 25,000 people in that area also were affected by heavy rainfall from Beryl.

One fatality in Grenada occurred after a tree fell on a house, Kerryne James, the environment minister, told The Associated Press. She said Carriacou and Petit Martinique sustained the greatest damage, with scores of homes and businesses flattened in Carriacou.

Grenada's prime minister, Dickon Mitchell, said Tuesday there was no power, roads are impassable and the possible rise of the death toll "remains a grim reality."

St. Vincent and the Grenadines Prime Minister Ralph Gonsalves has promised to rebuild the archipelago. He noted that 90% of homes on Union Island were destroyed, and that "similar levels of devastation" were expected on the islands of Myreau and Canouan.

The last strong hurricane to hit the southeast Caribbean was Hurricane Ivan 20 years ago, which killed dozens of people in Grenada.

Grenada, known as the "spice isle," is one of the world's top exporters of nutmeg. Mitchell noted that the bulk of the spices are grown in the northern part of the island, which was hit hardest by Beryl.

Biden to bestow Medal of Honor on two Civil War heroes who helped hijack a train in confederacy

By JOSH BOAK Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden will award the Medal of Honor on Wednesday for "conspicuous gallantry" to a pair of Union soldiers who stole a locomotive deep in Confederate territory during the American Civil War and drove it north for 87 miles as they destroyed railroad tracks and telegraph lines.

U.S. Army Privates Philip G. Shadrach and George D. Wilson were captured by Confederates and executed by hanging. Biden is recognizing their courage 162 years later with the country's highest military decoration.

The posthumous recognition comes as the legacy of the Civil War, which killed more than 600,000 service members — both Union and Confederate — between 1861 and 1865, continues to shape U.S. politics in a contentious election year in which issues of race, constitutional rights and presidential power are at the forefront.

Biden, a Democrat, has said that the Jan. 6, 2021, riot at the U.S. Capitol by supporters of Donald Trump was the greatest threat to democracy since the Civil War. Meanwhile, Trump, the presumptive Republican nominee, riffed at a recent Pennsylvania rally about the Battle of Gettysburg and about the Confederate General Robert E. Lee.

Shadrach and Wilson are being recognized for participating in what became known as "the Great Locomotive Chase."

A Kentucky-born civilian spy and scout named James J. Andrews put together a group of volunteers, including Shadrach and Wilson, to degrade the railway and telegraph lines used by Confederates in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

On April 12, 1862, 22 of the men in what was later called "Andrews' Raiders" met up in Marietta, Georgia, and hijacked a train named "The General." The group tore up tracks and sliced through telegraph wires while taking the train north.

Confederate troops chased them, initially on foot and later by train. The Confederate troops eventually caught the group. Andrews and seven others were executed, while the others either escaped or remained prisoners of war.

The first Medal of Honor award ever bestowed went to Private Jacob Parrott, who participated in the locomotive hijacking and was beaten while imprisoned by the Confederacy.

The government later recognized 18 other participants who took part in the raid with the honor, but Shadrach and Wilson were excluded. They were later authorized to receive the medal as part of the fiscal 2008 National Defense Authorization Act.

Born on Sept. 15, 1840, in Pennsylvania, Shadrach was just 21 years old when he volunteered for the mission. He was orphaned at a young age and left home in 1861 to enlist in an Ohio infantry regiment after the start of the Civil War.

Wilson was born in 1830 in Belmont County, Ohio. He worked as a journeyman shoemaker before the war and enlisted in an Ohio-based volunteer infantry in 1861.

The Walt Disney Corp. made a 1956 movie about the hijacking entitled "The Great Locomotive Chase" that starred Fess Parker and Jeffrey Hunter. The 1926 silent film "The General" starring Buster Keaton was also based on the historic event.

Sizzling sidewalks, unshaded playgrounds pose risk for surface burns over searing Southwest summer

By ANITA SNOW Associated Press

PHOENIX (AP) — Ron Falk lost his right leg, had extensive skin grafting on the left one and is still recovering a year after collapsing on the searing asphalt outside a Phoenix convenience store where he stopped for a cold soda during a heat wave.

Now using a wheelchair, the 62-year-old lost his job and his home. He's recovering at a medical respite center for patients with no other place to go; there he gets physical therapy and treatment for a bacterial infection in what remains of his right leg, too swollen to use the prosthesis he'd hoped would help him walk again.

"If you don't get somewhere to cool down, the heat will affect you," said Falk, who lost consciousness due to heat stroke. "Then you won't know what's happening, like in my case."

Sizzling sidewalks and unshaded playgrounds pose risks for surface burns as air temperatures reach new summertime highs in Southwest cities like Phoenix, which just recorded its hottest June on record. The average daytime high was 109.5 degrees Fahrenheit (43 Celsius), without a single 24-hour high below 100 (37.7 C).

Young children, older adults and homeless people are especially at risk for contact burns, which can occur in seconds when skin touches a surface of 180 degrees Fahrenheit (82 C).

Since the beginning of June, 50 people have been hospitalized with such burns, and four have died at Valleywise Health Medical Center in Phoenix, which operates the Southwest's largest burn center, serving patients from Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, Nevada, Southern California and Texas, according to its director, Dr. Kevin Foster. About 80% were injured in metro Phoenix.

Last year, the center admitted 136 patients for surface burns from June through August, up from 85

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during the same period in 2022, Foster said. Fourteen died. One out of five were homeless.

"Last year's record heat wave brought an alarming number of patients with life-threatening burns," Foster said of a 31-day period, including all of last July, with temperatures at or above 110 degrees (43 C) during Phoenix's hottest summer ever.

In Las Vegas, which regularly sees summer-time highs in the triple-digits, 22 people were hospitalized in June alone at the University Medical Center's Lions Burn Care Center, said spokesperson Scott Kerbs. That's nearly half as many as the 46 hospitalized during all three summer months last year.

As in Phoenix, the desert sun punishes Las Vegas for hours every day, frying outdoor surfaces like asphalt, concrete and metal doors on cars and playground equipment like swings and monkey bars.

Surface burn victims often include children injured walking barefoot on broiling concrete or touching hot surfaces, adults who collapsed on a sidewalk while intoxicated, and older people who fell on the pavement due to heat stroke or another medical emergency.

Some don't survive.

Thermal injuries were among the main or contributing causes of last year's 645 heat-related deaths in Maricopa County, which encompasses Phoenix.

One victim was an 82-year-old woman with dementia and heart disease admitted to a suburban Phoenix hospital after being found on the scorching pavement on an August day that hit 106 degrees (41.1 C).

With a body temperature of 105 degrees (40.5 C) the woman was rushed to the hospital with second-degree burns on her back and right side, covering 8% of her body. She died three days later.

Many surface burn patients also suffered potentially fatal heat stroke.

Valleywise hospital's emergency department recently adopted a new protocol for all heat-stroke victims, submerging patients in a bag of slushy ice to quickly bring down body temperature.

Recovery for those with skin burns was often lengthy, with patients undergoing multiple skin grafts and other surgeries, followed by months of recovery in skilled nursing or rehabilitation facilities.

Bob Woolley, 71, suffered second- and third-degree burns to his hands, arms, leg and torso after he stumbled onto the broiling backyard rock garden at his Phoenix home, wearing only swim trunks and a tank top.

"The ordeal was extremely painful, it was almost unbearable," said Woolley, who was hospitalized at the Valleywise burn center for several months. He said he considers himself "95% recovered" after extensive skin grafts and physical therapy and has resumed some former activities like swimming and motorcycle riding.

Some skin-burn victims, both in Phoenix and Las Vegas, were children.

"In many cases, this involves toddlers walking or crawling onto hot surfaces," Kerbs said of those hospitalized at the Las Vegas center.

Foster said about 20% of the hospitalized and outpatient skin-burn victims seen at the Phoenix center are children.

Small children aren't fully aware of the harm a sizzling metal door handle or a scorching sidewalk can cause.

"Because they're playing, they don't pay attention," said urban climatologist Ariane Middel, an assistant professor at Arizona State University who directs the SHaDE Lab, a research team that studies the effects of urban heat.

"They may not even notice that it's hot."

In measuring surface temperatures of playground equipment, the team found that in 100-degree Fahrenheit (37.7 C) weather without shade, a slide can heat up to 160 degrees (71.1 C), but a covering can bring that down to 111 degrees (43.8 C). A rubber ground cover can hit as high as 188 degrees (86.6 C), a handrail can heat up to 120 degrees (48.8 C) and concrete can reach 132 degrees (55.5 C).

Many metro Phoenix parks have covered picnic tables and plastic fabric stretched over play equipment, keeping metal or plastic surfaces up to 30 degrees cooler. But plenty do not, Middel said.

She said cooler wood chips are better underfoot than rubber mats, which were designed to protect kids from head injuries but soak up heat in the broiling sun. Like rubber, artificial turf gets hotter than asphalt.

"We need to think about alternative surface types, because most surfaces we use for our infrastructure are heat sponges," Middel said.

Hot concrete and asphalt also pose burn risks for pets.

Veterinarians recommend dogs wear booties to protect their paws during outdoor walks in summer, or keeping them on cooler grassy areas. Owners are also advised to make sure their pets drink plenty of water and don't get overheated. Phoenix bans dogs from the city's popular hiking trails on days the National Weather Service issues an excessive heat warning.

Recovering at Phoenix's Circle the City, a respite care facility he was sent to after being released from Valleywise's burn unit, Falk said he never imagined the Phoenix heat could cause him to collapse on the broiling asphalt in his shorts and T-shirt.

Because he wasn't carrying identification or a phone, no one knew where he was for months. He has a long road ahead but still hopes to regain part of his old life, working for a concessionaire for entertainment events.

"I kind of went into a downward spiral," Falk acknowledged. "I finally woke up and said, 'Hey, wait, I lost a leg.' But that doesn't mean you're useless."

Leaders of Russia and China to meet in Central Asian summit in a show of deepening cooperation

By EMMA BURROWS Associated Press

Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping will be meeting for the second time in as many months as they visit Kazakhstan for a session of an international group founded to counter Western alliances.

Putin and Xi last got together in May when the Kremlin leader visited Beijing to underscore their close partnership that opposes the U.S.-led democratic order and seeks to promote a more "multipolar" world.

Now they'll be holding meetings amid the annual session of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization on Wednesday and Thursday in the Kazakh capital of Astana. A look at the summit:

What is the Shanghai Cooperation Organization?

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization was established in 2001 by China and Russia to discuss security concerns in Central Asia and the wider region. Other members are Iran, India, Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. Observer states and dialogue partners include Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Egypt.

Who's attending this year?

Besides Putin and Xi, and summit host President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, other leaders there will be Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif of Pakistan, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev of Uzbekistan, President Emomali Rakhmon of Tajikistan, and President Sadyr Zhaparov of Kyrgyzstan. President Alexander Lukashenko of Belarus will attend because his nation is becoming a full member.

Iran is still choosing a successor to President Ebrahim Raisi, killed in a helicopter crash in May, with a runoff election Friday, so acting President Mohammad Mokhbar will attend.

Other guests of the SCO include President Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey and President Ilham Aliyev of Azerbaijan.

Also present will be U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres, who is visiting Central Asia. Guterres wants "to position the U.N. as an inclusive organization that's talking to all the big clubs," said Alexander Gabuev, director of the Carnegie Russia Eurasia Center.

What SCO leaders won't be there?

Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India is sending his foreign minister. Indian media reports speculated the recently reelected Modi was busy with the parliament session that began last week. He attended the recent Group of Seven summit in Italy, and some reports also speculated he wants to balance India's relationship with Russia and the West.

What are their goals?

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Putin wants to show that Russia is not isolated over Western sanctions from the invasion of Ukraine in 2022.

An arrest warrant has been issued for him by the International Criminal Court for war crimes, accusing him of personal responsibility for abductions of children from Ukraine. Kazakhstan is not party to the Rome Statute and thus is not obliged to arrest him.

For Putin, the meeting is about "prestige and the symbolic optics that he's not alone," Gabuev said.

The meeting is another chance for Putin and Xi to demonstrate the strong personal ties in their "strategic partnership" as they both face soaring tensions with the West. They have met more than 40 times.

Putin's meeting with Xi in May showed how China has offered diplomatic support to Moscow and is a top market for its oil and gas. Russia has relied on Beijing as a main source of high-tech imports to keep its military machine running.

The SCO helps China project its influence, especially across Central Asia and the Global South. Xi called for "bridges of communication" between countries last week and wants to further promote China as an alternative to the U.S. and its allies.

Erdogan could use the meeting to hold talks with Putin, who has postponed several visits to Turkey. The leader of the NATO member has balanced relations with both Russia and Ukraine since the war began, frequently offering to serve as a mediator.

For host Kazakhstan and the other Central Asian nations, the meeting is a way to further their cooperation with bigger, more powerful neighbors. Kazakhstan, for instance, frequently engages with both neighboring Russia and China, while also pursuing links with the West, with visits this year from U.S. Secretary of State Anthony Blinken and British Foreign Secretary David Cameron.

What will be discussed?

Countering terrorism is a key focus. Russia had what it has called two terrorist attacks this year, with more 145 people killed by gunmen at a Moscow concert hall in March, and at least 21 people were killed in attacks on police and houses of worship in the southern republic of Dagestan in June. In the March violence, the U.S. warned Russian officials about the possibility of an attack — information that was dismissed by Moscow.

The SCO is not a collective security or economic alliance, and there are "significant security differences between its members," said Nigel Gould-Davies, a senior fellow for Russia and Eurasia with the International Institute for Strategic Studies in London and a former British ambassador to Belarus. The "principal value" of the organization lies in the optics of non-Western countries gathering together, he added.

Gabuev agreed, saying the SCO is a place for conversation rather than a platform where "collective decisions are made, implemented and have an impact."

This year, close Moscow ally Belarus will become a full member of the organization, and its admission indicates how Russia wants to bolster blocs of non-Western countries. Gould-Davies said the SCO is raising its profile "by growing its membership rather than by deepening its cooperation."

Are there tensions within the SCO?

Political differences among some of SCO members — such as India and Pakistan over disputed Kashmir — also make it difficult to reach collective agreement on some issues.

China has backed Moscow amid the fighting in Ukraine, but at a meeting of the SCO in 2022, Putin referred to Beijing's unspecified "concerns" over the conflict. India's Modi then called for an end to the fighting without voicing explicit disapproval of Moscow's action.

The Central Asian countries balance relations with Russia and China while also remaining on good terms with Western nations. None of the five former Soviet republics in Central Asia have publicly backed the war, although all abstained on a U.N. vote condemning it.

Guterres may use the meeting to talk to Putin about how Russia is "disrupting the coherence of the U.N.," Gabuev said. Russia has vetoed U.N. Security Council sanctions on monitoring North Korea and a vote on stopping an arms race in outer space.

With Guterres unlikely to visit Moscow, the Astana meeting is likely his best chance to speak to Putin, Gabuev added.

Will Ukraine be discussed?

Neither Ukraine nor any of its Western backers are attending, and major talks — or breakthroughs — on the war are not expected.

But because it's rare these days for any meeting to include the heads of Russia, China, Turkey and the U.N., the possibility of talks about the war might be raised, at least on the peripheries of the summit, probably behind closed doors.

There could be "a lot of sideline discussions on Ukraine, as it is a big issue which concerns all of us," a senior Kazakh official told The Associated Press. The official was not authorized to talk publicly, and thus spoke on condition of anonymity.

Gabuev said Putin will try to show there's a "big club of countries" that are "ambivalent" toward the war in Ukraine.

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Burrows reported from London. Associated Press writers Simina Mistreanu in Taipei, Taiwan, Krutika Pathi in New Delhi, and Suzan Fraser in Ankara, Turkey, contributed to this report.

In the UK election campaign's final hours, Sunak battles to the end as Labour's Starmer eyes victory

By JILL LAWLESS Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Rishi Sunak has covered thousands of miles in the past few weeks, but he hasn't outrun the expectation that his time as Britain's prime minister is in its final hours.

United Kingdom voters will cast ballots in a national election Thursday, passing judgment on Sunak's 20 months in office, and on the four Conservative prime ministers before him. They are widely expected to do something they have not done since 2005: Elect a Labour Party government.

During a hectic final two days of campaigning that saw him visit a food distribution warehouse, a supermarket, a farm and more, Sunak insisted "the outcome of this election is not a foregone conclusion."

"People can see that we have turned a corner," said the Conservative leader, who has been in office since October 2022. "It has been a difficult few years, but undeniably things are in a better place now than they were."

But even a last-minute pep talk at a Conservative rally Tuesday night by former Prime Minister Boris Johnson — who led the party to a thumping election victory in 2019 — did little to lift the party's mood. Conservative Cabinet minister Mel Stride said Wednesday it looked like Labour was heading for an "extraordinary landslide."

Labour warned against taking the election result for granted, imploring supporters not to grow complacent about polls that have given the party a solid double-digit lead since before the campaign began. Labour leader Keir Starmer has spent the six-week campaign urging voters to take a chance on his center-left party and vote for change. Most people, including analysts and politicians, expect they will.

Labour has not set pulses racing with its pledges to get the sluggish economy growing, invest in infrastructure and make Britain a "clean energy superpower."

But nothing has really gone wrong, either. The party has won the support of large chunks of the business community and endorsements from traditionally conservative newspapers including the Rupert Murdoch-owned Sunday Times.

Former Labour candidate Douglas Beattie, author of the book "How Labour Wins (and Why it Loses)," said Starmer's "quiet stability probably chimes with the mood of the country right now."

"The country is looking for fresh ideas, moving away from a government that's exhausted and divided," Beattie said. "So Labour are pushing at an open door."

The Conservatives, meanwhile, have been plagued by gaffes. The campaign got off to an inauspicious start when rain drenched Sunak as he made the announcement outside 10 Downing St. on May 22. Then on June 6, Sunak went home early from commemorations in France marking the 80th anniversary of the

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D-Day invasion, missing a ceremony alongside United States President Joe Biden and France's Emmanuel Macron.

Several Conservatives close to Sunak are being investigated by the gambling regulator over suspicions they used inside information to place bets on the date of the election before it was announced.

It has all made it harder for Sunak to shake off the taint of political chaos and mismanagement that's gathered around the Conservatives since Johnson and his staff held lockdown-breaching parties during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Johnson's successor, Liz Truss, rocked the COVID-weakened economy with a package of drastic tax cuts, making a cost-of-living crisis worse, and lasted just 49 days in office. There is widespread dissatisfaction over a host of issues, from a dysfunctional public health care system to crumbling infrastructure.

But for many voters, the lack of trust applies not just to Conservatives, but to politicians in general. Veteran rouser of the right, Nigel Farage, has leaped into that breach with his Reform U.K. party and grabbed headlines, and voters' attention, with his anti-immigration rhetoric.

The centrist Liberal Democrats and environmentalist Green Party also want to sweep up disaffected voters from the bigger parties.

Across the country, voters say they want change but aren't optimistic it will come.

"I don't know who's for me as a working person," said Michelle Bird, a port worker in Southampton on England's south coast who was undecided about whether to vote Labour or Conservative. "I don't know whether it's the devil you know or the devil you don't."

Conner Filsell, a young office worker in the London suburbs, would like a roof of his own.

"I still live at home. I would love to be able to have my own place, but the way things are going it's just not on the cards," he said.

Lise Butler, senior lecturer in modern history at City University of London, said that signs point to this being "a change election in which the Conservatives are punished." But she said that if Starmer wins, "the years to come ... may be challenging."

"He'll probably be facing constant attacks on various grounds from left and right," she said. "So I think that while the outcome of this election is pretty clear, I think all bets are off in terms of what, what Labour's support is going to look like over the next few years."

Starmer has agreed that his biggest challenge is "the mindset in some voters that everything's broken, nothing can be fixed."

"And secondly, a sense of mistrust in politics because of so many promises having been made over the last 14 years which weren't carried through," he told broadcaster ITV on Tuesday. "We have to reach in and turn that around."

Many election experts expect a low turnout, below the 67% recorded in 2019. Yet this election may bring a scale of change Britain has not seen for decades if it delivers a big Labour majority and a diminished Conservative Party.

In Moreton-in-Marsh, a pretty town of honey-colored stone buildings in western England's Cotswold hills, 25-year-old Evie Smith-Lomas relished the chance to eject the area's longstanding Conservative lawmaker.

"This has been a Tory seat forever, for 32 years, longer than I've been alive," she said. "I'm excited at the prospect of someone new. I mean I think 32 years in any job is too long. You surely have run out of ideas by now."

Associated Press video journalist Tian Macleod Ji in Moreton-in-Marsh, England, contributed to this report.

Massive overcrowding, lack of exits and slippery mud contributed to deadly stampede in India

By BISWAJEET BANERJEE Associated Press

LUCKNOW, India (AP) — Authorities say massive overcrowding, insufficient exits, and other factors contributed to a deadly stampede at a religious festival in Northern India that killed at least 121 people.

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Five more people died on Wednesday morning, local official Manish Chaudhry said, and 28 were still being treated in hospital.

The stampede happened on Tuesday afternoon in a village in Hathras district in Uttar Pradesh state, as large crowds rushed to exit a makeshift tent. It was not immediately clear what sparked the panic.

Authorities are investigating what happened and have launched a search for a Hindu guru known locally as Bhole Baba, as well as other organizers.

Deadly stampedes are relatively common at Indian religious festivals, where large crowds gather in small areas with shoddy infrastructure and few safety measures.

Overcrowding, poor planning and bad weather were among factors noted as contributing to the disaster. Some quarter of a million people turned up for an event that was permitted to accommodate 80,000, held in a tent set up in a muddy field. It's not clear how many made it inside the tent.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath told reporters that a crowd of devotees surged towards the preacher to touch him as he was descending from the stage, causing chaos as volunteers struggled to intervene.

An initial report from the police suggests at this point thousands of people thronged toward the exit, where many slipped on the muddy ground, causing them to fall and be crushed by the crowds. Most of the dead were women.

The preacher's Sri Jagar Guru Baba organization had spent more than two weeks preparing for the event. Devotees from across the state, which with over 200 million people is India's most populous, traveled to the village, with rows of parked vehicles stretching three kilometers.

Experts said the event violated safety norms. "The function was held in a makeshift tent without ensuring multiple exit routes. Typically, there should be eight to 10 well-marked exits opening into open areas," said Sanjay Srivastava, a disaster management expert.

Instead, officials said it appeared there was only one small exit in the tent. On Tuesday, hundreds of relatives had gathered at local hospitals, wailing in distress at the sight of the dead, placed on stretchers and covered in white sheets on the grounds outside. Buses and trucks also carried dozens of victims into morgues.

Sonu Kumar was one of many local residents who helped lift and move dead bodies after the accident. He criticized the preacher: "He sat in his car and left. And his devotees here fell one upon another and some were in the water."

"The screams were so heart-wrenching. We have never seen anything like this before in our village," Kumar added.

Binod Sokhna, who lost his mother, daughter and wife, wept as he walked out of a morgue on Wednesday. "My son called me and said papa, mother is no more. Come here immediately. My wife is no more," he said, crying.

In 2013, pilgrims visiting a temple for a popular Hindu festival in central Madhya Pradesh state trampled each other amid fears that a bridge would collapse. At least 115 were crushed to death or died in the river.

In 2011, more than 100 Hindu devotees died in a crush at a religious festival in the southern state of Kerala.

Beryl heads toward Jamaica as a major hurricane after ripping through southeast Caribbean

By DÁNICA COTO and AMAR SPENCER-SAYERS Associated Press

ST. GEORGE'S, Grenada (AP) — Hurricane Beryl roared through open waters Tuesday as a powerful Category 4 storm heading toward Jamaica after earlier crossing islands in the southeast Caribbean, killing at least six people.

A hurricane warning was in effect for Jamaica, Grand Cayman, Little Cayman, and Cayman Brac. Beryl was losing intensity but was forecast to still be near major-hurricane strength when it passes near or over

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Jamaica early Wednesday, near the Cayman Islands on Thursday and into Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula on Friday, according to the National Hurricane Center.

A hurricane watch was in effect for Haiti's southern coast and the Yucatan's east coast. Belize issued a tropical storm watch stretching south from its border with Mexico to Belize City.

Late Monday, Beryl became the earliest storm to develop into a Category 5 hurricane in the Atlantic and peaked at winds of 165 mph (270 kph) Tuesday before weakening to a still-destructive Category 4. Early Wednesday, the storm was about 250 miles (400 kilometers) east-southeast of Kingston, Jamaica. It had top winds of 145 mph (230 kph) and was moving west-northwest at 22 mph (35 kph), the center said.

Beryl was expected to bring life-threatening winds and storm surge to Jamaica, where officials warned residents in flood-prone areas to prepare for evacuation.

"I am encouraging all Jamaicans to take the hurricane as a serious threat," Prime Minister Andrew Holness said in a public address Tuesday. "It is, however, not a time to panic."

In Miami, National Hurricane Center Director Michael Brennan said Jamaica appears to be in the direct path of Beryl.

"We are most concerned about Jamaica, where we are expecting the core of a major hurricane to pass near or over the island," he said in an online briefing. "You want to be in a safe place where you can ride out the storm by nightfall (Tuesday). Be prepared to stay in that location through Wednesday."

Storm surge of 6-9 feet (1.8 to 2.7 meters) above typical tide levels are likely in Jamaica, as well as heavy rainfall.

"This is a big hazard in the Caribbean, especially with the mountainous islands," Brennan said. "This could cause life threatening flash floods and mudslides in some of these areas."

A tropical storm warning was in place for the entire southern coast of Hispaniola, an island shared by Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

Trail of devastation

As the storm barreled through the Caribbean Sea, rescue crews in southeastern islands fanned out to determine the extent of the damage Beryl inflicted on Carriacou, an island in Grenada.

Three people were reported killed in Grenada and Carriacou and another in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, officials said. Two other deaths were reported in northern Venezuela, where five people are missing, officials said. Some 25,000 people in that area also were affected by heavy rainfall from Beryl.

One fatality in Grenada occurred after a tree fell on a house, Kerryne James, the environment minister, told The Associated Press.

She said Carriacou and Petit Martinique sustained the greatest damage, with scores of homes and businesses flattened in Carriacou.

"The situation is grim," Grenadian Prime Minister Dickon Mitchell told a news conference Tuesday. "There is no power, and there is almost complete destruction of homes and buildings on the island. The roads are not passable, and in many instances they are cut off because of the large quantity of debris strewn all over the streets."

Mitchell added: "The possibility that there may be more fatalities remains a grim reality as movement is still highly restricted."

Meanwhile, Ralph Gonsalves, prime minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, promised to rebuild the archipelago in a statement early Tuesday. He noted that 90% of homes on Union Island were destroyed, and that "similar levels of devastation" were expected on the islands of Myreau and Canouan.

Several people evacuated Union Island via ferry and arrived at the Kingstown Ferry Terminal in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines on Tuesday.

Sharon DeRoche, one of the evacuees, said Union Island is in a terrible state. She bore the hurricane in her bathroom before she fled. "It was a hard four hours battling with six of us in that little area," she said.

The last strong hurricane to hit the southeast Caribbean was Hurricane Ivan 20 years ago, which killed dozens of people in Grenada.

Grenadian resident Roy O'Neale, 77, lost his home to Ivan and built back stronger. His current home sustained minimal damage from Beryl.

"I felt the wind whistling, and then for about two hours straight, it was really, really terrifying at times," he said by phone. "Branches of trees were flying all over the place."

Hundreds of people hunkered in shelters across the southeast Caribbean, including 50 adults and 20 children who huddled inside a school in Grenada.

"Maybe some of them thought they could have survived in their homes, but when they realized the severity of it ... they came for cover," said Urban Mason, a retired teacher who served as the shelter's manager. "People tend to be complacent."

One of the homes that Beryl damaged belongs to the parents of U.N. Climate Change Executive Secretary Simon Stiell, who is from Carriacou. The storm also destroyed the home of his late grandmother.

In a statement, Stiell said that the climate crisis is worsening, faster than expected.

"Whether in my homeland of Carriacou ... hammered by Hurricane Beryl, or in the heatwaves and floods crippling communities in some of the world's largest economies, it's clear that the climate crisis is pushing disasters to record-breaking new levels of destruction," he said.

Grenada, known as the "spice isle," is one of the world's top exporters of nutmeg. Mitchell noted that the bulk of the spices are grown in the northern part of the island, which was hit hardest by Beryl.

Coto reported from San Juan, Puerto Rico. Associated Press journalists Anika Kentish in St. John, Antigua, Curt Anderson in St. Petersburg, Florida, Jorge Rueda in Caracas and Lucanus Ollivierre in Kingstown, St. Vincent, contributed to this report.

Saeed Jalili, a hard-line former negotiator known as a 'true believer,' seeks Iran's presidency

By JON GAMBRELL and AMIR VAHDAT Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Hard-line Iranian presidential candidate Saeed Jalili may have been Tehran's top nuclear negotiator for years, but he won no plaudits from Western diplomats sitting across the table as he repeatedly lectured them on everything while offering nothing.

"As the weaving of Iranian carpets progresses in millimeter, precise, delicate and durable manner, God willing, this diplomatic process will also proceed in the same way," Jalili said then.

Those hours of lecturing in 2008 stalled talks as hard-line President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei advanced the country's nuclear program. That put pressure on the West that eventually eased with Iran's 2015 nuclear deal with world powers, which lifted sanctions on the Islamic Republic.

Now Jalili, 58, stands on the precipice of being elected as Iran's next president as he faces a runoff election Friday against the little-known reformist Masoud Pezeshkian, a heart surgeon. With Iran's nuclear program enriching uranium at levels near-weapons grade, a win by Jalili may again see already-stalled negotiations freeze.

Meanwhile, Jalili's own hard-line vision for Iran — derided by opponents as being in the style of the Taliban — potentially risks inflaming a public still angry after the bloody security force crackdown that followed the demonstrations over the 2022 death of Mahsa Amini. She died in police custody after she was detained over allegedly improperly wearing the mandatory headscarf, or hijab.

Jalili, known for his shock of white hair and beard, is known as the "Living Martyr" after losing his right leg in combat at the age of 21 during the 1980s Iran-Iraq war. He was born Sept. 6, 1965, in the Shiite holy city of Mashhad, his Kurdish father a French teacher and a school principal and his mother an Azeri.

Jalili worked as a university professor with a doctorate before joining Iran's Foreign Ministry, working his way up to a top position before joining Iran's Supreme National Security Council and becoming the country's top nuclear negotiator under Ahmadinejad from 2007 to 2013.

He made an impression immediately on his Western counterparts, with then-negotiator, now-CIA director William Burns calling him "a true believer in the Iranian Revolution."

"He could be stupefyingly opaque when he wanted to avoid straight answers, and this was certainly one of those occasions," Burns recalled in one meeting. "He mentioned at one point that he still lectured part-time at Tehran University. I did not envy his students."

An anonymous French diplomat quoted at the time referred to one round of Jalili's negotiations as a "disaster."

Another European Union diplomat offered a similar assessment in a 2008 U.S. diplomatic cable published by WikiLeaks.

"An EU official who attended Jalili's private and public meetings that day was struck by his seeming inability or unwillingness to deviate from the same presentation or provide nuance, calling him 'a true product of the Iranian Revolution,'" the cable said, not naming the diplomat.

Jalili later would be replaced after he came in a distant third in Iran's 2013 presidential election to the relatively moderate cleric Hassan Rouhani, himself a former nuclear negotiator. Rouhani's administration would secure the 2015 nuclear deal, which saw Iran drastically reduce the size and purity of its stockpile of enriched uranium in exchange for the lifting of economic sanctions.

Jalili strongly opposed the deal and formed what he described as a "shadow government" during the Rouhani years to try to undercut his efforts. Jalili also was endorsed in his 2013 run by the late hard-line Ayatollah Mohammad Taghi Mesbah Yazdi, who once wrote that Iran should not deprive itself of the right to produce "special weapons" — a veiled reference to nuclear weapons.

Iran long has insisted its nuclear program is for peaceful purposes.

However, U.N. inspectors and Western nations say Iran had an organized military nuclear program until 2003. In recent months, Iranian officials have increasingly made threats about Iran's ability to build a bomb if it wanted as it enriches uranium to 60% purity, a short, technical step to weapons-grade levels of 90%.

Meanwhile, advocates for Pezeshkian have described Jalili as potentially bringing hard-line policies akin to the Taliban if he's elected, something Jalili acknowledged in passing.

"Before the election results were even announced, we called 10 million or 9 million people Taliban?" Jalili said at a recent debate, referring to reformists' criticism of his policies. "Does this help?"

Jalili hasn't offered any real comment on how he'd handle the ongoing dispute over the hijab in Iranian society. But those in Jalili's campaign have been much more direct — calling for stricter punishment against those refusing to wear the mandatory headscarf. One once referred to uncovered women as being worse than a "whore." Yet during his campaign, Jalili has been vague about how he'd enforce the law and has even posed for a selfie with a woman with a loose hijab, a moment captured in a news photo.

Jalili also has been endorsed by another fundamentalist ayatollah, Mohammad Mehdi Mirbagheri, who belongs to the Front of Islamic Revolution Stability, the far-right edge of hard-liners in the nation. The group, which backs Jalili, was behind a bill passed by Iran's parliament that could impose 10-year prison sentences for hijab violations. It has yet to be approved by the country's Guardian Council, a panel of clerics and jurists ultimately overseen by Khamenei.

"They want blocking and closures in everything, no matter the field," political analyst Mehrdad Khadir told The Associated Press. "It's the same when it comes to the issue of women, internet or any other issue."

Vahdat reported from Tehran, Iran. Nasser Karimi and Mehdi Fattahi in Tehran contributed to this report.

Stampede at religious event in India kills at least 116 people, mostly women and children

By BISWAJEET BANERJEE and KRUTIKA PATHI Associated Press

LUCKNOW, India (AP) — Thousands of people at a religious gathering in India rushed to leave a makeshift tent, setting off a stampede Tuesday that killed at least 116 people and injured scores, officials said.

It was not immediately clear what triggered the panic following an event with a Hindu guru known locally as Bhole Baba. Local news reports cited authorities who said heat and suffocation in the tent could have

been a factor. Video of the aftermath showed the structure appeared to have collapsed.

At least 116 people died, most of them women and children, said Prashant Kumar, the director-general of police in northern India's state of Uttar Pradesh, where the stampede occurred.

More than 80 others were injured and admitted to hospitals, senior police officer Shalabh Mathur said. "People started falling one upon another, one upon another. Those who were crushed died. People there pulled them out," witness Shakuntala Devi told the Press Trust of India news agency.

Relatives wailed in distress as bodies of the dead, placed on stretchers and covered in white sheets, lined the grounds of a local hospital. A bus that arrived there carried more victims, whose bodies were lying on the seats inside.

Deadly stampedes are relatively common around Indian religious festivals, where large crowds gather in small areas with shoddy infrastructure and few safety measures.

Police officer Rajesh Singh said there was likely overcrowding at the event in a village in Hathras district about 350 kilometers (220 miles) southwest of the state capital, Lucknow.

Initial reports said organizers had permission to host about 5,000 people, but more than 15,000 came for the event by the Hindu preacher, who used to be a police officer in the state before he left his job to give religious sermons. He has led other such gatherings over the last two decades.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi offered condolences to the families of the dead and said the federal government was working with state authorities to ensure the injured received help.

Uttar Pradesh's chief minister, Yogi Adityanath, called the stampede "heart-wrenching" in a post on X. He said authorities were investigating.

"Look what happened and how many people have lost their lives. Will anyone be accountable?" Rajesh Kumar Jha, a member of parliament, told reporters. He said the stampede was a failure by the state and federal governments to manage large crowds, adding that "people will keep on dying" if authorities do not take safety protocols seriously enough.

In 2013, pilgrims visiting a temple for a popular Hindu festival in central Madhya Pradesh state trampled each other amid fears that a bridge would collapse. At least 115 were crushed to death or died in the river.

In 2011, more than 100 Hindu devotees died in a crush at a religious festival in the southern state of Kerala.

Pathi reported from New Delhi.

An Afghan woman wanted to be a doctor. Now she makes pickles as the Taliban restricts women's roles

By RIAZAT BUTT Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — Frozan Ahmadzai is one of 200,000 Afghan women who have the Taliban's permission to work. She should have graduated from university this year in pursuit of her dream of becoming a doctor, but the Taliban have barred women from higher education and excluded them from many jobs.

Now, instead of suturing, she sews in a basement in Kabul. Instead of administering medication, she makes pickles.

Half of Afghanistan's population now finds itself locked out of the freedom to work at a time when the country's economy is worse than ever.

Few jobs are still available to women. They include tailoring and making food, which the 33-year-old Ahmadzai now does along with women who once were teachers or aspired to be one.

Women's participation in the workforce in Afghanistan, always limited by conservative cultural beliefs, was 14.8% in 2021, before the Taliban seized power and imposed harsh restrictions on women and girls. They include banning female education beyond sixth grade, barring women from public spaces like parks, and enforcing dress codes.

Women's participation in the workforce was down to 4.8% in 2023, according to World Bank data.

Ahmadzai's eyes flare when talking about the new reality for Afghan women. "We are only looking for

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a way to escape," she said, referring to the work in the basement. It's a step, at least, beyond being confined at home.

But profits are slim for her and her 50 colleagues in the collective. In a good month, the pickle-making and tailoring businesses bring in around 30,000 afghanis (\$426).

The women also have other complaints familiar to anyone in Afghanistan: The rent and utility bills are high. The sewing machines are old-fashioned. The electricity supply is erratic. Local retailers don't compensate them fairly. They don't receive support from banks or local authorities to help their businesses grow.

Just obtaining permission from the Taliban to work is challenging for women, though under Afghan labor laws, the process for work permits ought to be the same for both sexes.

The ministry responsible for issuing permits has banned women from its premises, setting up a female-only office elsewhere. It's to "speed things up and make things easier" for women, said a spokesman for the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, Samiullah Ebrahimi.

There, women submit their paperwork, including their national identity card, a cover letter and a health certificate from a private clinic. That's assuming they have the documents along with the money to cover any costs. It also assumes they can move around without being harassed if unaccompanied by a male guardian.

Last year, a top United Nations official said Afghanistan had become the most repressive country in the world for women and girls. Roza Otunbayeva, head of the U.N. political mission in Afghanistan, said that while the country needed to recover from decades of war, half of its potential doctors, scientists, journalists and politicians were "shut away in their homes, their dreams crushed and their talents confiscated."

The Taliban have a different view. They have tried to provide women with a "safe, secure and separate" working environment in line with Islamic values and Afghan traditions in sectors where women's work is needed, according to ministry spokesman Ebrahimi. They can work in retail or hospitality, but it must be a female-only setting.

He said women don't need degrees for the majority of permissible work including cleaning, security screening, handicrafts, farming, tailoring or food manufacturing.

It's heartbreaking for Ahmadzai and her colleagues to see their expertise go unused. Several also were training to be makeup artists, but beauty parlors have been closed.

Some jobs for women remain in education and health care, so Ahmadzai has pivoted to a nursing and midwifery course so she can become a medical professional. But not a doctor. The Taliban don't want more female doctors.

The challenges for Afghan women of obeying Taliban edicts while helping to support their families while living conditions worsen is a strain on health, including mental health.

Ahmadzai said one of the few positives about her work in the basement in Kabul is the camaraderie and support system there.

"Afghan women nowadays all have the same role in society. They stay at home, care for children, mind the house and don't work hard," she said. "If my family didn't encourage me, I wouldn't be here. They support me because I work. My husband is unemployed and I have small children."

Salma Yusufzai, the head of Afghanistan Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry, acknowledged that working under Taliban rule is a challenge.

The chamber has almost 10,000 members, but the lack of female representation within the Taliban-controlled administration is a challenge.

Yusufzai said the chamber supports women by giving them a platform at local markets and connecting them with the international community for participation in overseas exhibitions and other opportunities.

Chamber members include key Afghan industries like carpet-making and dried fruit. The businesses are male-owned but kept alive by women who want to support the economy, which she said would collapse without them.

She acknowledged that the chamber's limited work was only possible through engagement with the Taliban: "If I close the door then nothing will happen, nothing will remain."

Yusufzai once had three gemstone businesses and gave them up because of her chamber role. But she

can't own them anyway under Taliban rule, so the businesses are in her husband's name. "Since we are living in this country, we have to follow the rules," she said. Her smile was tight. "From nothing, it is better to have something."

Ominous history for Biden: Incumbents trying to win over their parties often struggle to win again

By BILL BARROW Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — There's plenty of worry among Democrats about whether 81-year-old President Joe Biden is up to the job itself or the task of defeating Donald Trump.

Previous presidential campaigns offer lessons. None convey reasons for optimism.

Going back to Lyndon B. Johnson in 1968, several presidents eligible for reelection faced significant primary challenges or questions about whether they should run again. George H.W. Bush, Jimmy Carter and Gerald Ford pushed forward and won their nominations, only to be defeated in November. Johnson opted to withdraw — and Democrats lost anyway.

Biden had no real primary fight. But his allies now acknowledge how poorly the president performed in his debate against Trump. They've fretted privately about Biden's ability to serve until he is 86, and, more immediately, whether he can keep the job by defeating the Republican former president — himself a 78-year-old saddled with a felony conviction, other indictments and voter concerns over his values and temperament.

The warning from history is ominous: Incumbent presidents still working to consolidate and reassure their own party this late in a first term typically do not get a second.

George H.W. Bush and the 'culture war' of 1992

An Ivy League-educated Episcopalian, Bush was a moderate Republican and never a favorite of the Christian right or anti-tax, small-government activists.

Bush appealed to the right flank ahead of his victory in 1988, saying, "Read my lips: no new taxes." He was riding high in 1990 after a quick U.S. military victory drove Iraq and Saddam Hussein from oil-rich Kuwait. Within months, though, Bush broke his tax pledge, the U.S. economy began to falter (albeit mildly in retrospect), and the president grew vulnerable.

Primary challengers emerged, notably Steve Forbes, an anti-tax crusader, and commentator Pat Buchanan, a Christian conservative. Bush won every primary but many by unimpressive margins. Buchanan, rather than endorsing Bush enthusiastically, used his GOP convention speech to enlist religious conservatives in a "culture war" against Clinton, liberals and secularism — standard Republican rhetoric today but a more divisive tone alongside Bush's talk of a "kinder, gentler" nation.

Democratic challenger and Arkansas Gov. Bill Clinton hammered Bush as out of touch with middle-class Americans. And billionaire Ross Perot entered the contest as an independent.

On Election Day, 62.6% of voters opted against Bush. Clinton won 370 electoral votes, the second-highest total for any Democrat since 1964.

Jimmy Carter and the Kennedy 'dream' in 1980

A former Georgia governor, Carter was a moderate Southerner from outside the liberal Democratic power structure. His 1976 nomination and eventual victory over the Republican incumbent Ford was less about ideology, though, and more about Carter's promise never to lie to Americans disillusioned after Vietnam and the Watergate scandal.

Legislative successes followed, but Carter rankled Washington Democrats. Global inflation, U.S. unemployment and interest rates climbed, and Carter's popularity fell.

"Carter was never expected and accepted by the establishment," said Joe Trippi, a 1980 Kennedy campaign staffer.

Sen. Ted Kennedy mounted a primary challenge in 1980, inspiring young progressives like those who had once adored his slain older brothers. Carter famously said of Kennedy, "I'll kick his ass." The president won enough delegates for the nomination, even as the Iran hostage crisis compounded his problems.

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Yet in defeat, Kennedy used his convention speech more to rouse his own supporters rather than reconcile with the incumbent. "The work goes on, the cause endures ... and the dream shall never die," Kennedy declared, exposing Carter's weaknesses.

Against Republican Ronald Reagan, Carter carried just six states and Washington, D.C.

Gerald Ford and the budding Reagan revolution in 1976

Reagan won two general election landslides, but the foundation was his 1976 primary challenge against Ford.

A mild-mannered Michigander, Ford had a unique path to the White House. President Richard Nixon elevated him from House leadership to the vice presidency in 1973 after corruption forced Spiro Agnew's resignation. Ford ascended to the presidency a year later when Nixon resigned because of Watergate.

Controversially, Ford pardoned Nixon. He faced inflation, high unemployment and roiled energy markets. And he had to prepare quickly to seek his own election, never having been part of a national campaign.

Ford hailed from Capitol Hill's center-right, a Republican cohort that mostly accepted the federal government's expanded scope since Franklin Delano Roosevelt's New Deal. Reagan, meanwhile, was corralling conservatives who never embraced FDR's America and blanched at the Civil Rights Movement and social revolutions of the 1960s and 1970s.

In the '76 primaries, Ford won 27 contests to Reagan's 24. That gave the incumbent 1,121 delegates, just 43 more than the insurgent challenger. Reagan had dominated most primaries in the South, the most conservative region of the country.

In the fall campaign, a wounded Ford made a late comeback against Carter but fell short. Carter carried the South. And Reagan was positioned to take the Republican mantle four years later.

When a president did step aside: LBJ and 1968

Ford, Carter and Bush are not perfect parallels for 2024: Biden did not draw a credible primary challenge and, even with the debate fallout, he has a well of personal goodwill across his party. Perhaps the best comparison, then, is Johnson.

The assassination of John F. Kennedy thrust Johnson into the Oval Office in November 1963. Known as LBJ, the colorful Texan trounced Republican Barry Goldwater in 1964. Johnson amassed the most sweeping legislative record since FDR: the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Voting Rights Act of 1965, Medicare and Medicaid. But Johnson vastly expanded U.S. involvement in Vietnam — and lied to the country in the process. He also found himself unable to shepherd Americans through social changes of the era.

Presidential campaigns were shorter then, so it was not until March 31, 1968, that Johnson mulled his sagging standing and announced his intentions. After weak showings in early primaries, which were not then binding affairs, Johnson said in an Oval Office address, "I shall not seek, and I will not accept, the nomination of my party for another term as your president."

What followed, though, is not necessarily encouraging for Democrats hoping to hear the same from Biden.

New York Sen. Robert F. Kennedy — whose son, Robert F. Kennedy Jr., is mounting an independent presidential bid this year — joined a spirited Democratic nominating fight and secured momentum by winning the California primary in June. But he was assassinated in Los Angeles minutes after his victory speech.

Democrats were left with a raucous convention in Chicago — also the site of the 2024 convention. They chose Vice President Hubert Humphrey to take on Nixon, the Republican former vice president who had lost to John F. Kennedy in 1960 and then dropped the 1962 California governor's race.

Neither Nixon nor Humphrey were broadly popular, and the resulting general election was close, with independent George Wallace a key factor. Nixon outpaced Humphrey by about 500,000 votes out of 73 million cast, and he secured 301 electoral votes.

Seven months after a beleaguered Democratic president stood down, his party met defeat. Republicans, with a president-elect who would one day resign in disgrace, had their comeback story.

What was the 'first American novel'?

On this Independence Day, a look at what it started

By HILLEL ITALIE AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — In the winter of 1789, around the time George Washington was elected the country's first president, a Boston-based printer quietly launched another American institution.

William Hill Brown's "The Power of Sympathy," published anonymously by Isaiah Thomas & Company, is widely cited as something momentous: the first American novel.

Around 100 pages long, Brown's narrative tells of two young New Englanders whose love affair abruptly and tragically ends when they learn a shocking secret that makes their relationship unbearable. The dedication page, addressed to the "Young Ladies of United Columbia" (the United States), promised an exposé of "the Fatal consequences of Seduction" and a prescription for the "Economy of Human Life."

Outside of Boston society, though, few would have known or cared whether "The Power of Sympathy" marked any kind of literary milestone.

"If you picked 10 random citizens, I doubt it would have mattered to any of them," says David Lawrimore, an associate professor of English at the University of Idaho who has written often about early U.S. literature. "Most people weren't thinking about the first American novel."

What the first American novel was like

Subtitled "The Triumph of Nature. Founded in Truth," Brown's book is in many ways characteristic of the era, whether its epistolary format, its Anglicized prose, its unidentified author, or its pious message. But "The Power of Sympathy" also includes themes that reflected the aspirations and anxieties of a young country and still resonate now.

Dana McClain, an assistant professor of English at Holy Family University, notes that Brown was an outspoken Federalist, believing in a strong national government, and shared his contemporaries' preoccupation with forging how a stable republican citizenry. The letters in "The Power of Sympathy" include reflections on class, temperament and the differences between North and South, notably the "aristocratic temper" of Southern slave holders that endangered "domestic quietude," as if anticipating the next century's Civil War.

Like many other early American writers, fiction and nonfiction, Brown tied the behavior of women to the fate of the larger society. The novel's correspondents fret about the destabilizing "power of "pleasure" and how female envy "inundates the land with a flood of scandal." Virtue is likened to a "mighty river" that "fertilizes the country through which it passes and increases in magnitude and force until it empty itself into the ocean."

Brown also examines at length the ways novels might be a path to corruption or a vehicle to uplift, mirroring current debates over the banning and restrictions of books in schools and libraries.

"Most of the novels with which our female libraries are overrun are built upon on a foundation not always placed on strict morality, and in the pursuit of of objects not always probable or praiseworthy," one of Brown's characters warns. "Novels, not regulated on the chaste principles of true friendship, rational love, and connubial duty, appear to me totally unfit to form the minds of women, of friends, or of wives."

Brown was likely more interested in shaping minds than in literary glory. "The Great American Novel" is a favorite catchphrase but wasn't coined until the 1860s. During Brown's lifetime, novels were a relatively crude art form and were valued mostly for satire, light entertainment or moral instruction. Few writers identified themselves as "novelists": Brown was known as a poet, and essayist and the composer of an opera.

Even he recognized the book's lower stature, writing in the novel's preface: "This species of writing hath not been received with universal approbation."

How it became considered the first

"The Power of Sympathy" was commonly cited as the first American novel in the 1800s, but few bothered debating it until the 20th century. Scholars then agreed that honors should belong to the first written and published in the United States by an author born and still residing in the country.

Those guidelines disqualified such earlier works as Charlotte Ramsay Lennox's "The Life of Harriot Stuart"

and Thomas Atwood Digges' "Adventures of Alonso." Another contender was "Father Bombo's Pilgrimage to Mecca," a prose adventure by college students Hugh Henry Brackenridge and Philip Freneau, both of whom went on to prominent public careers. Written around 1770, the manuscript was later believed lost and wasn't published in full until 1975.

Brown's novel was unexamined for so long that only in the late 19th century did the public even discover he had written it. Many had credited the Boston poet Sarah Wentworth Apthorp Morton, whose family had endured a scandal similar to the one in "The Power of Sympathy."

In 1894-95, editor Arthur W. Brayley of the *Bostonian* serialized the novel in his magazine, identifying Morton as the author. But after being contacted by Brown's niece, Rebecca Vollentine Thompson, Brayley published a lengthy correction, titled "The Real Author of the 'Power of Sympathy.'"

Thompson herself added a preface to a 1900 reissue, noting that Brown was close to Morton's family and alleging that the publication had been "suppressed" because Brown had bared an "unfortunate scandal."

A clock maker's son, Brown was a Boston native, likely born in 1765. He was well-read, connected, culturally conservative and politically minded; one of his first published writings was an unflattering poem about Daniel Shays, the namesake for the 1786-87 rebellion of impoverished Revolutionary War veterans in Massachusetts. Brown is also the author of several posthumous releases, including the play "The Treason of Arnold" and the novel "Ira and Isabella."

His unofficial standing as "America's First Novelist" did not lead to broader fame. The novel, currently in print through a 1996 edition from Penguin Classics, remains more of interest to specialists and antiquarians than to general readers.

Brown was not yet 30 when he died in North Carolina, in 1793, from what is believed to be malaria. He apparently never married or had children. No memorials or other historical sites are dedicated to him. No literary societies have been formed in his name.

His burial site is unknown.

From raising alarm to backing Biden, Democrats in Congress grapple with debate aftermath

By STEPHEN GROVES Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden's disastrous debate performance has reverberated across the Democratic Party, forcing lawmakers to grapple with a crisis that could upend the presidential election and change the course of American history.

The Democratic president has signaled he has no intention of dropping out of the race against Donald Trump despite the halting and uneven debate delivery that threw a spotlight on questions about Biden's age and capacity to be president. But as Democrats make the case that the stakes of the election are momentous — challenging no less than the foundations of American democracy itself — they are wrestling with how to approach the 81-year-old who is supposed to be leading the charge for their party.

Here's how Democrats are handling the aftermath of the debate:

Raising alarm

Rep. Lloyd Doggett, a Democrat from Texas, on Tuesday became the first sitting Democrat in Congress to call for Biden to withdraw from the race. In a statement, he praised Biden but said he "has the opportunity to encourage a new generation of leaders from whom a nominee can be chosen to unite our country through an open, democratic process."

"Recognizing that, unlike Trump, President Biden's first commitment has always been to our country, not himself, I am hopeful that he will make the painful and difficult decision to withdraw. I respectfully call on him to do so," Doggett said.

A number of other congressional Democrats have tip-toed in recent days toward outspoken concern not just over Biden's performance during the 90-minute debate on Thursday night, but also the level of transparency that Biden's team has offered about his mental fitness.

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Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse, D-R.I., told a local CBS-affiliated television station this week that he was "horrified" by both Biden's performance and Trump's falsehoods during the debate.

"People want to make sure that this is a campaign that's ready to go and win," Whitehouse said. "That the president and his team are being candid with us about his condition — that this was a real anomaly."

Rep. Jamie Raskin, a prominent Democrat from Maryland, said on MSNBC, "There are very honest and serious and rigorous conversations taking place at every level of our party."

Raskin said Democrats needed Biden at the "very center" of their campaign to make the argument that the Republican Party is slipping towards authoritarianism under Trump, but also raised the possibility that Biden would not continue as the presidential candidate.

Some are concerned that Biden's weaknesses could tamp down potential voters' enthusiasm, creating a ripple effect that hurts Democrats as they try to hold on to a narrow Senate majority and take back control of the House. Down-ballot Democrats are already confident they can outperform Biden in swing races, but if large numbers of voters reject Biden, it could also impact them.

Rep. Mike Quigley, D-Ill., told CNN on Tuesday that he wanted Biden to recognize "how much this impacts not just his race but all the other races coming in November."

Backing Biden

With Biden's family urging him to stay in the race, attention has turned to senior Democratic lawmakers who could potentially convince the president to withdraw his nomination. So far, top Democratic leaders have mostly stood behind Biden in public statements.

"There have not been discussions among senior leadership about anything other than making sure we continue to articulate a compelling vision for the future to the American people related to the issues of importance around the economy," House Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries told reporters at a Monday event at the Pittsburgh International Airport.

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, a New York Democrat, posted on X, the platform formerly known as Twitter, after the debate last week that it showed voters there was a choice between "four more years of progress, or four more years of attacks on our fundamental rights and our democracy."

Biden planned to speak with congressional leaders this week, the White House said Tuesday. White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said Tuesday they respected the opinions and thoughts of concerned party members, adding, "that's what makes this party different than the other side."

Many of Biden's allies have chided the news media for being fixated on Biden's mental capacities, arguing that instead the focus should be put on Trump's record of refusing to accept the results of the 2020 election and repeatedly making false statements.

Rep. Veronica Escobar, a Texas Democrat who is part of Biden's campaign committee, conceded that the debate was not what she hoped for, but added, "I think there needs to be a real conversation about the things that Donald Trump said. It is beyond vile."

Rep. Robert Garcia, D-Calif., who was among Biden's surrogates at the debate, dismissed concerns.

"We are 100% behind Joe Biden," he said Friday. "Crystal clear, end of story. He's our nominee. So anything else outside of that is just political chatter."

Feeling it out

The debate infused a new dynamic into an election contest that had been marked by few surprises. Voters were familiar with both Biden and Trump and had previously decided between the two in 2020.

Still, many House Democrats were caught in a state of uncertainty as they faced a barrage of questions on the Friday morning after the debate. Some chalked it up as little more than a bad night for Biden, but others are watching closely to see how voters react and whether Biden can execute a quick political recovery.

Rep. James Clyburn, a South Carolina Democrat who helped Biden win the Democratic nomination in 2020, urged his party last week to "stay the course" and "chill out."

By Tuesday, Clyburn was still supporting Biden for president, but also told MSNBC that "Biden may decide otherwise." Clyburn added that he would support Vice President Kamala Harris if Biden withdrew.

Clyburn and others like former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., are recommending that Biden prove

to the American people that he is ready for another four years in office by going out and taking tough interviews — something he has rarely done in recent years. Biden will sit for an interview with ABC, his first since the debate, later in the week.

Both Clyburn and Pelosi told MSNBC at midday Tuesday that they had not spoken directly with Biden since the debate. But Pelosi still emphasized that the president is on “top of his game, in terms of knowing the issues and what is at stake.”

She called on both Biden and Trump to face tests for their health and mental acuity.

“I think it is a legitimate question to say is this an episode or is this a condition. So when people ask that question, it’s legitimate — of both candidates,” Pelosi said.

Meanwhile, rank-and-file lawmakers are watching to see how voter polls register the impact and whether it spills into down-ballot races. For months, vulnerable House Democrats have been distancing themselves from some of Biden’s policies. That phenomenon could become more pronounced after the debate.

Rep. Jared Golden, a moderate Democrat from Maine, was already looking for ways to convince potential Trump voters to support him.

“While I don’t plan to vote for him, Donald Trump is going to win,” Golden said in a Bangor Daily News op-ed. “And I’m OK with that.”

Associated Press writer Farnoush Amiri contributed to this report.

Migrants pause in the Amazon because getting to the US is harder. Most have no idea what lies ahead

By MAURICIO SAVARESE Associated Press

ASSIS BRASIL, Brazil (AP) — Dozens of migrants sleep in a mosquito-infested six-bedroom wooden shelter in the Brazilian Amazon, their dreams of a better life in the U.S. on hold because of President Joe Biden’s halt on asylum.

Johany “Flaca” Rodríguez, 48, was ready to leave behind the struggles of life in Venezuela. She has been waiting in the shelter holding 45 people in Assis Brasil, a city of 7,000 residents bordering Peru, because others told her how difficult the journey to the U.S. has become.

Migrants, police, officials and analysts say Biden’s actions have caused a wait-and-see attitude among migrants who are staying in Latin America’s biggest economy, at least for now. Like anywhere along migrants’ routes toward hoped-for new lives, local communities are finding it hard to meet new populations’ needs.

After sleeping on dirty mattresses and in half-torn hammocks, and eating rice, beans and ground beef, Rodríguez decided this month that she and her dog Kiko would spend a few weeks with friends in the southern state of Rio Grande do Sul.

Wearing a headband, leggings and a small backpack, Rodríguez woke early to walk more than 100 kilometers (62 miles) for two days to a nearby city of 27,000 residents. There, she hopes to make some money and take a bus to Brazil’s south, then reach the U.S. one day.

“I have to stay here until it is safer to go,” Rodríguez said. “I am not super happy about staying (in Brazil), but that’s what I can do.”

Brazil saw waves of migrants passing through to North America in the first part of the year. There were Indians, Bengalis, Senegalese and Nigerians, among others, said Rêmullo Diniz, the coordinator of Gepron, Acre state’s police group for border operations,

When Biden said he was going to crack down, many people in those groups began staying in their countries instead of heading to Latin America, Brazilian government officials and independent analysts said. For citizens of South American countries, it’s easier. Brazil allows residents of its 10 neighboring nations to stay visa-free for up to two years.

The Biden administration said last week that arrests for illegal crossings from Mexico fell more than 40% since asylum processing was temporarily suspended at the U.S. border with Mexico on June 5. Arrests fell below 2,400 a day for the first time during Biden’s presidency.

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Acre state offers a snapshot of the attitude among many migrants, and raises the possibility that Acre and other resting spots will become long-term hosts.

The city of Assis Brasil has little to offer to migrants but the wooden shelter where Rodríguez was staying and a school gymnasium where 15 men can sleep. There are two small hotels and a bus stop used by vans crossing into Peru. It has five restaurants scattered along its main road, two grocery shops and an ice cream parlor that has Amazon flavors like local fruits cupuacu and tapereba. Migrants frequently beg for money at the city's only square.

There are three daily flights into state capital Rio Branco, where 21-year-old Jay came from India en route to the U.S. to study engineering. He declined to disclose his hometown and his last name.

Wearing a white cap reading "RIO DE JANEIRO," he said that "it would take too long if I just sat and waited," in India.

"It is a long trip, very risky. But it is my dream to study there and I will accomplish it," he said.

Brazil's westernmost state is a remote enclave in the middle of the rainforest, used by tourists as part of an alternative route to visit Cuzco, once the capital of the Inca empire in Peru.

One of Assis' main attractions for locals is sitting on the benches of its main square Senador Guiomard to watch soccer on TV and eat barbecue. The small city's founders came to the Amazon in 1908 to start a rubber plantation that 50 years later became a city. Not much has changed since, despite the BR-317 road that runs by it, the only land connection between Brazil and Peru. When residents of Assis Brasil are bored, and they often are, they go to neighboring Peruvian city of Iñapari to have a drink, generally a pisco sour.

Venezuelan migrant Alexander Guedes Martinez, 27, said he will stay as long as needed to get more cash and maybe in a year go to Houston, where he has family. He came with his 17-year-old partner and their 5-month-old baby.

At the Assis Brasil shelter where they were staying last month, he said that he hopes "to go (back) to Venezuela and get key documents to try to cross in a better fashion."

"I want to be cautious because of my daughter," he said. "Being here helps."

Acre state's patrol has about 40 agents to inspect 2,600 kilometers (1,615 miles) of border with Peru and Bolivia. A main road connects the three countries, but local police say that many migrants also move through the forest, some of them carrying drugs.

Cuban migrant Miguel Hidalgo, 52, tried to get to the U.S. years ago. He left the island to Suriname, then came to Brazil and doesn't plan on leaving any time soon.

"I like Brazil. I have been here for a short time, but people are not prejudiced against me, people are lovely," he said. "I want to live like a human being. I am not asking for any riches. I want to live in tranquility, help my family in Cuba."

Acre Gov. Gladson Camelli said in a statement to the AP that he is worried about a bigger influx of South American migrants coming soon.

"Our government has tried to do its part in the humanitarian support," he said.

Assis Brasil's Mayor Jerry Correia also is bracing for more demand. City hall is feeding about 60 migrants every day and voters are feeling upset in a year of mayoral elections.

"This is all on our back. This is a policy that has to be handled by the federal government," Correia said. "People don't know what happens on our border. We need to be seen."

AP videojournalist Lucas Dumphreys contributed to this report.

Supreme Court opinion conferring broad immunity could embolden Trump as he seeks to return to power

By ERIC TUCKER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — In her dissent from a Supreme Court opinion that afforded former President Donald Trump broad immunity, Justice Sonia Sotomayor pondered the potential doomsday consequences: A president could pocket a bribe for a pardon, stage a military coup to retain power, order the killing of a

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rival by the Navy SEAL Team Six — and be protected from prosecution for all of it.

The scenarios may sound part of an apocalyptic future. But the plain reality of the 6-3 opinion is that it ensures presidents have a wide berth to carry out official acts without fear of being criminally charged and it could embolden Trump, who was impeached twice and faced four separate prosecutions over the last year and a half, as he eyes a return to the White House.

The outcome is significant because Trump, the presumptive Republican nominee, has been public about wanting to pursue the same boundary-obliterating conduct that defined his four years in office, spawned criminal and congressional investigations and raised thorny questions about the scope of presidential immunity that were resolved largely in his favor in Monday's landmark opinion.

"Over the long term, I think it will broaden what presidents are willing to do because they will see that there's a gray zone that the Supreme Court laid out," said Princeton University professor Julian Zelizer, who studies political history. The effect of the opinion, he said, will be to "broaden the scope of what's going to be permissible" and give presidents sufficient cover for acts that may veer into criminality.

The opinion authored by Chief Justice John Roberts did not dismiss the case charging Trump with plotting to overturn the 2020 presidential race, as Trump had desired, and it left intact the long-established principle that there's no immunity for purely personal acts. However, it significantly narrowed the case by finding that presidents enjoy absolute immunity for their core constitutional duties and are entitled to the presumption of immunity for other official acts.

"This is a full-throated endorsement of the unitary executive theory" in a dramatic way, said Cornell University law professor Michael Dorf, referring to the theory that the U.S. Constitution vests extraordinary power in the presidency.

From a practical perspective, the court's opinion means that the trial judge, Tanya Chutkan, must now engage in further fact-finding analysis to determine how much of the conduct alleged in the indictment from special counsel Jack Smith can remain part of the case.

Importantly for Trump, the one area the conservative majority said was unquestionably off-limits for prosecutors was his command of the Justice Department. That includes his directives to department leadership after the 2020 election to conduct what prosecutors said were "sham" investigations into bogus claims of election fraud, as well as his attempts to use the department's authority to advance his fruitless efforts to remain in power.

Though the opinion doesn't make new law about the interplay between the White House and the Justice Department, Roberts affirmed that a president has "exclusive authority over the investigative and prosecutorial functions of the Justice Department and its officials" and may also "discuss potential investigations and prosecutions with his Attorney General and other Justice Department officials to carry out his constitutional duty to 'take Care that the Laws be faithfully executed.'"

"I do think that this is a norm-breaking opinion and I can imagine Trump using this as a basis for a complete destruction of DOJ independence," said Boston College law professor Kent Greenfield.

The position from the nation's highest court is welcome news for Trump, particularly as he and his allies have suggested wanting to use the power of the presidency — including, presumably, the investigative authority of the Justice Department — to pursue retribution against political enemies.

After his May conviction in his New York hush money case, Trump suggested he might try to retaliate against Hillary Clinton, his 2016 opponent, if he returns to the White House.

"Wouldn't it be terrible to throw the president's wife and the former secretary of state, think of it, the former secretary of state, but the president's wife, into jail? Wouldn't that be a terrible thing? But they want to do it," Trump said in an interview on Newsmax. "It's a terrible, terrible path that they're leading us to. And it's very possible that it's going to have to happen to them."

More recently, he reposted a meme that suggested that former congresswoman Liz Cheney, who as the No. 3 Republican in the House broke ranks with her party and voted to impeach Trump over the Jan. 6, 2021 riot at the U.S. Capitol, had committed treason and should face a military tribunal.

The posts and comments raise concerns given how Trump's interactions with the FBI and Justice Depart-

ment as president shattered longstanding norms and became central to special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into whether he had obstructed an inquiry into potential Russia coordination with his 2016 presidential campaign.

Trump urged his FBI director, James Comey, to an investigation into a close ally and fired him weeks later, berated his hand-picked attorney general, Jeff Sessions, for having recused himself from the Russia investigation and also sought the termination of Mueller.

In his report, Mueller did not conclude whether Trump had illegally obstructed the investigation, in part, because of a Justice Department legal opinion that says sitting presidents cannot be indicted. But he did say that presidents were not "categorically and permanently" immunized for obstructing justice by using their presidential power.

To be sure, there are safeguards still in place that could prevent most presidents from testing the limits of criminal immunity.

The threat of impeachment by Congress remains — Trump was impeached over a call with Ukraine's leader and Jan. 6, but acquitted by the Senate — as do the practices, protocols and norms that govern Washington bureaucracy.

Roberts, for one, sought in his majority opinion to downplay the impact, saying Sotomayor was striking "a tone of chilling doom that is wholly disproportionate to what the Court actually does today."

But even if the scope of presidential power is not directly expanded by the opinion, there's no question that it could benefit any president determined to abuse those powers.

"Not every president will take advantage, but the lesson, I think, of Donald Trump is: one might," Zelizer said. "Or the lesson of Richard Nixon is: one might. And the 'one might' are the lessons that you're looking for."

Biden plans public events blitz as White House pushes back on pressure to leave the race

By COLLEEN LONG Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House announced Tuesday that President Joe Biden will meet with congressional leaders and Democratic governors, sit for a network TV interview and hold a press conference in the coming days, a blitz designed to push back against growing pressure for the 81-year-old president to step aside in the 2024 race after his disastrous performance in last week's debate with Republican Donald Trump.

"We really want to turn the page on this," White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said of the intensifying calls for Biden to bow out of the race. She added that the president had no intention of stepping aside, characterizing his debate failings as simply evidence of "a bad night" when he had a cold.

During a campaign event later Tuesday, Biden blamed it on jet lag after two back-to-back European trips. "I wasn't very smart. I decided to travel around the world a couple of times," he said. The president added that he "didn't listen to my staff" about travel and joked that he "fell asleep on stage" during the debate.

But Democratic leaders were increasingly signaling that they were not buying White House attempts to brush off Biden's performance in the face-off as a momentary lapse, after he gave halting and nonsensical answers and trailed off at times.

There's growing anxiety among donors and on Capitol Hill about the president's ability to win come November, according to people who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity to discuss internal conversations. And it's not helping that Biden has yet to reach out to legislators, who are growing increasingly frustrated that the White House has not satisfactorily explained how such a seasoned politician could have performed so badly.

Questions swirled about whether this was an isolated incident or part of a pattern. Two people who spend time with Biden behind closed doors described him similarly: He was often very sharp and focused. But he also had moments, particularly later in the evening, when his thoughts seemed jumbled and he'd trail off mid-sentence or seem confused. Those people spoke to The Associated Press on condition of

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anonymity to discuss the president's interactions behind closed doors.

Former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi told MSNBC that she believes "it is a legitimate question" whether Biden's performance was just "an episode or is this a condition."

"When people ask that question, it's legitimate — of both candidates," Pelosi said.

But she did not go so far as to ask him to step aside. Pelosi said she had not spoken with Biden since the debate, but she emphasized that the president is on "top of his game, in terms of knowing the issues and what is at stake." And a spokesperson later said Pelosi had full confidence in Biden and "looks forward to attending his inauguration on January 20, 2025."

Rep. Lloyd Doggett of Texas became the first Democratic member of Congress to publicly call for Biden to step down. Doggett, who is 77 and has been a fixture on Capitol Hill since the mid-1990s, said Biden should "make the painful and difficult decision" to withdraw, citing the president's inability to "effectively defend his many accomplishments" in the debate.

Rep. Jared Golden, a moderate Democrat from Maine, said in a local newspaper column Tuesday that the debate "didn't rattle me as it has others, because the outcome of this election has been clear to me for months: While I don't plan to vote for him, Donald Trump is going to win. And I'm OK with that."

Biden has acknowledged that he had performed poorly, telling supporters he was not as young as he once was, but that he knew how to deliver doing the job. But allies worry that the next inevitable misstep by Biden — even if it's not at the magnitude of his debate disaster — will resurrect voter concerns about the president's fitness for office.

The president has been encouraged by his family to stay in the race. The two people who carry the most weight — first lady Jill Biden and his son Hunter — have said he should keep fighting. Hunter Biden is in Washington to celebrate the July 4th holiday and stopped by at least one meeting with his father briefly, according to two people with direct knowledge of the events who spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity to discuss a private meeting.

Jean-Pierre said Biden, who has not taken questions from reporters since Thursday night's debate, would meet with top congressional leaders, and on Wednesday would host a meeting with Democratic governors. White House Chief of Staff Jeff Zeints was set to speak again with Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer Tuesday afternoon, one of the people said.

Biden also agreed to sit for an interview Friday with ABC's George Stephanopoulos that will air at least in part later that day. He has planned trips to Wisconsin on Friday and Philadelphia on Sunday. And he will hold a press conference during the NATO summit in Washington next week.

The White House was also holding an all-staff meeting on Wednesday, billed as a morale-booster following the debate and a chance for the senior team to keep the staff focused around governing, according to three people familiar with the details who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity to discuss a private meeting.

The president's stepped-up schedule comes after a private discussion within Biden's campaign about what can be done to counteract the damaging impression left by last week's debate. On Monday, Biden met with emergency management workers in Washington, jauntily walking the room and smiling and joking as he thanked the teams for their work.

"We're going to get out there, across the country. Americans are going to see him for themselves," Jean-Pierre said at a White House briefing, rejecting any suggestion that the president undergo cognitive testing or provide additional information on his medical condition.

When asked whether the president had a degenerative illness or dementia, Jean-Pierre said: "No. And I hope you're asking the other guy the same question," she said, referring to Trump, who is 78 and once challenged Biden to a cognitive test, only to confuse who administered the test to him in the next sentence.

Biden is trying to keep the focus on Trump, as he has throughout the campaign. In remarks Monday, he drew a sharp contrast with the presumptive Republican nominee on obeying the rule of law. He said the Supreme Court ruling that granted Trump and other presidents broad immunity would make an unchecked Trump "more emboldened to do whatever he wants" if he regains the White House.

Part of the anxiety for Democrats right now, some of the people said, is that with the focus so squarely

on Biden, there has been less attention paid to Trump, whose debate performance was riddled with falsehoods about the Jan. 6, 2021 Capitol riot, Democrats' views on abortion rights and a 2017 neo-Nazi rally in which he said, "You had some very bad people in that group, but you also had people that were very fine people, on both sides."

Associated Press writers Josh Boak, Stephen Groves, Mary Clare Jalonick, Michael Balsamo, Will Weissert and Zeke Miller contributed to this report.

Judge's order greatly expands where Biden can't enforce a new rule protecting LGBTQ+ students

By JOHN HANNA Associated Press

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) — Enforcement of a federal rule expanding anti-discrimination protections for LGBTQ+ students has been blocked in four states and a patchwork of places elsewhere by a federal judge in Kansas.

U.S. District Judge John Broomes suggested in his ruling Tuesday that the Biden administration must now consider whether forcing compliance remains "worth the effort."

Broomes' decision was the third against the rule from a federal judge in less than three weeks but more sweeping than the others. It applies in Alaska, Kansas, Utah and Wyoming, which sued over the new rule. It also applies to a Stillwater, Oklahoma, middle school that has a student suing over the rule and to members of three groups backing Republican efforts nationwide to roll back LGBTQ+ rights. All of them are involved in one lawsuit.

Broomes, an appointee of former President Donald Trump, directed the three groups — Moms for Liberty, Young America's Foundation and Female Athletes United — to file a list of schools in which their members' children are students so that their schools also do not comply with the rule. Kansas Attorney General Kris Kobach, a Republican who argued the states' case before Broomes last month, said that could be thousands of schools.

The Biden administration rule is set to take effect in August under the Title IX civil rights law passed in 1972, barring sex discrimination in education. Broomes' order is to remain in effect through a trial of the lawsuit in Kansas, though the judge concluded that the states and three groups are likely to win.

Republicans have argued that the rule represents a ruse by the Biden administration to allow transgender females to play on girls' and women's sports teams, something banned or restricted in Kansas and at least 24 other states. The administration has said it does not apply to athletics. Opponents of the rule have also framed the issue as protecting women and girls' privacy and safety in bathrooms and locker rooms.

"Gender ideology does not belong in public schools and we are glad the courts made the correct call to support parental rights," Moms for Liberty co-founders Tina Descovich and Tiffany Justice said in a statement.

LGBTQ+ youth, their parents, health care providers and others say restrictions on transgender youth harms their mental health and makes an often marginalized group even more vulnerable. The Department of Education has previously stood by its rule and President Joe Biden has promised to protect LGBTQ+ rights.

The Department of Education did not immediately respond to an email seeking comment Tuesday.

Besides Broomes, two other federal judges issued rulings in mid-June blocking the new rule in 10 other states. The rule would protect LGBTQ+ students by expanding the definition of sexual harassment at schools and colleges and adding safeguards for victims.

Like the other judges, Broomes called the rule arbitrary and concluded that the Department of Education and its secretary, Miguel Cardona, exceeded the authority granted by Title IX. He also concluded that the rule violated the free speech and religious freedom rights of parents and students who reject transgender students' gender identities and want to espouse those views at school or elsewhere in public.

Broomes said his 47-page order leaves it to the Biden administration "to determine in the first instance whether continued enforcement in compliance with this decision is worth the effort."

Broomes also said non-transgender students' privacy and safety could be harmed by the rule. He cited

the statement of the Oklahoma middle school student that "on some occasions" cisgender boys used a girls' bathroom "because they knew they could get away with it."

"It is not hard to imagine that, under the Final Rule, an industrious older teenage boy may simply claim to identify as female to gain access to the girls' showers, dressing rooms, or locker rooms, so that he can observe female peers disrobe and shower," Broomes wrote, echoing a common but largely false narrative from anti-trans activists about gender identity and how schools accommodate transgender students.

Hurricane season 2024 is here. Here's how to stay prepared

By STEPHANY MATAT Associated Press

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) — Hurricane season is upon us, known for disastrous flooding and high-speed winds in coastal areas of the United States and in the Caribbean and Central America, and emergency management officials are urging people to stay prepared.

Unlike previous hurricane seasons, this summer brings record hot temperatures nationwide and an early onset of storms. Hurricane season runs June 1 to Nov. 30, but usually the most hurricanes occur in September and October, said Jaime Hernandez, the emergency management director for Hollywood, on Florida's Atlantic Coast.

"That's a little bit different this year because of the reality we're dealing with with global warming, warmer sea surface temperatures, atmosphere conditions that are more favorable to tropical cyclone development," Hernandez said. "It could develop at any time."

Since the start of this week, Hurricane Beryl broke records as the first Category 4 storm to form in the Atlantic Ocean in June — abnormally early compared to past trends.

Here's how to prepare, what to have on hand, and who should evacuate in a hurricane:

How do I make sure I'm prepared?

Hernandez said his emergency team encourages people to do three key things: make a plan, have an emergency kit and stay informed.

"We trust the people particularly, especially those who live in an evacuation zone, that they need to have a plan because of if an evacuation order is issued ahead of the hurricane," Hernandez said. "You don't know what the impacts are going to be. You don't know what the infrastructure disruptions are going to look like."

Preparing for a hurricane includes getting supplies in advance, including nonperishable foods and water in case power is lost and supplies are low in the community.

Preparedness also includes ensuring all medical items and medications are ready in case people are unable to leave their homes. In this case, it's important to consult a doctor about what to have ready in your home.

Hernandez directed people to look at checklists provided by local or state emergency management departments to ensure they are prepared.

What are some emergency kit necessities?

The rule of thumb is to have 1 gallon (3.8 liters) of water per day per person for about seven days, Hernandez said.

In addition, supplies on hand should include nonperishable foods, flashlights, batteries, medications and medical items, sunscreen, mosquito repellent and portable power banks. It's also a good idea to have cash on hand since ATMs may not be working.

Also keep documents such as birth certificates, Social Security cards and other important papers in a go-bag in case you have to leave your home quickly, Hernandez said.

What about vehicles?

It's always wise to fill up all of your vehicles in case evacuations are ordered.

Hernandez noted that it's also important to think ahead if you have an electric car by parking it in an elevated location or away from the storm area until it is over, since he said electric cars could struggle with flooding and storm surges.

About 20 electric vehicles caught fire after exposure to saltwater from Hurricane Ian. Florida's Hillsborough County has a webpage including guidance for electric vehicle owners, which encourage residents to park the vehicle about 50 feet (15 meters) away from any structure or vehicle due to fire risk.

Who should evacuate ahead of a storm?

People who live in low-lying or flood-prone areas should plan on evacuating prior to the storm's arrival. Sometimes officials advise just heading a few miles inland to stay with friends or family or in a hotel or shelter. In any case, officials advise residents listen to their local emergency management officials, who will have the most updated information about evacuation zones.

Evacuation orders may come before a hurricane, and officials will inform residents if they live in an evacuation zone. These orders can come days or hours before a storm.

Where can I find preparation guides?

Visit your local or state emergency management office's website for guides on disaster planning.

Florida residents can find this information at the state's Division of Emergency Management website.

Judge delays Trump's hush money sentencing until at least September after high court immunity ruling

By JAKE OFFENHARTZ and JENNIFER PELTZ Associated Press

In a major reprieve for former President Donald Trump, sentencing for his hush money convictions was postponed Tuesday until at least September — if ever — as the judge agreed to weigh the possible impact of a new Supreme Court ruling on presidential immunity.

Trump had been scheduled to face sentencing July 11, just before the Republicans' nominating convention, on his New York convictions on felony charges of falsifying business records. He denies any wrongdoing.

The postponement sets the sentencing for Sept. 18 at the earliest — if it happens at all, since Trump's lawyers are arguing that the Supreme Court ruling merits not only delaying the sentencing but tossing out his conviction.

"The impact of the Immunity Ruling is a loud and clear signal for Justice in the United States," Trump crowed on his Truth Social media site after the sentencing was delayed.

Using all capital letters, he claimed the Supreme Court's decision netted him "total exoneration" in this and other criminal cases he faces.

There was no immediate comment on the sentencing postponement from Manhattan prosecutors, who brought the hush money case.

Though the Sept. 18 date is well after this month's Republican National Convention, where Trump is set formally to accept the party's nomination for president in this year's race, it is far closer to Election Day, which could put the issue top-of-mind for voters just as they seriously tune into the race. Because of absentee voting timelines in certain states, some voters may already have cast ballots before anyone knows whether the former president will have to spend time in jail or on home confinement.

The delay caps a string of political and legal wins for Trump in recent days, including the Supreme Court's immunity ruling and a debate widely seen as a disaster for Democratic President Joe Biden.

The immunity decision all but closed the door on the possibility that Trump could face trial in his 2020 election interference case in Washington before this November's vote. The timeline in itself is a victory for the former president, who has sought to delay his four criminal cases past the balloting.

An appeals court recently paused a separate election interference case against Trump, in Georgia; no trial date has been set. His federal classified documents case in Florida remains bogged down by pretrial disputes that have resulted in an indefinite cancellation of the trial date.

Monday's Supreme Court ruling granted broad immunity protections to presidents, while also restricting prosecutors from citing any official acts as evidence in trying to prove a president's unofficial actions violated the law.

The high court held that former presidents are absolutely immune from prosecution for actions that fall within their core constitutional duties, such as interacting with the Justice Department, and at least

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presumptively immune for all other official acts. The justices left intact the longstanding principle that no immunity exists for purely personal acts.

It's not clear how the decision will affect the New York hush money case.

Its underpinnings involved allegations that a pre-presidency Trump participated in a scheme to stifle sex stories that he feared would be damaging to his 2016 campaign. But the actual charges had to do with payments made in 2017 to his then-lawyer, Michael Cohen, who had shelled out hush money on Trump's behalf. Trump was president when he signed relevant checks to Cohen.

Trump's lawyers sought unsuccessfully before the trial to keep out certain evidence that they said concerned official acts, including social media posts he made as president.

New York Judge Juan M. Merchan said in April it would be "hard to convince me that something that he tweeted out to millions of people voluntarily cannot be used in court when it's not being presented as a crime. It's just being used as an act, something he did."

When Trump vied unsuccessfully last year to get the hush-money case moved from state court to federal court, U.S. District Judge Alvin Hellerstein rejected the former president's claim that allegations in the hush money indictment involved official duties.

"The evidence overwhelmingly suggests that the matter was a purely personal item of the president — a cover-up of an embarrassing event," Hellerstein wrote last year.

Hours after Monday's Supreme Court ruling, Trump's attorney requested that Merchan set aside the jury's guilty verdict and delay the sentencing to consider how the high court's ruling could affect the hush money case.

Merchan wrote that he'll rule Sept. 6, and the next date in the case would be Sept. 18, "if such is still necessary."

In the defense filing Monday, Trump's attorneys argued that Manhattan prosecutors had placed "highly prejudicial emphasis on official-acts evidence," including Trump's social media posts and witness testimony about Oval Office meetings.

Prosecutors responded that they believed those arguments were "without merit" but that they wouldn't oppose adjourning the sentencing for two weeks as the judge considers the matter.

Trump was convicted May 30 on 34 counts of falsifying business records arising from what prosecutors said was an attempt to cover up a \$130,000 hush money payment to porn actor Stormy Daniels just before the 2016 presidential election.

Daniels claims she had a sexual encounter with Trump in 2006 after meeting him at a celebrity golf tournament in Lake Tahoe. Trump has repeatedly denied that claim, saying at his June 27 debate with Biden, "I didn't have sex with a porn star."

Prosecutors said the Daniels payment was part of a broader scheme to buy the silence of people who might have gone public during the campaign with embarrassing stories alleging Trump had extramarital sex. Trump said they all were false.

Cohen paid Daniels and was later reimbursed by Trump, whose company logged the reimbursements as legal expenses.

Trump's defense argued that the payments were indeed for legal work and so were correctly categorized.

Falsifying business records is punishable by up to four years behind bars. Other potential sentences include probation, a fine or a conditional discharge which would require Trump to stay out of trouble to avoid additional punishment. Trump is the first ex-president convicted of a crime.

Contributing were Associated Press writers Michael R. Sisak in Fort Pierce, Florida, Jill Colvin in New York and Eric Tucker in Washington.

Hezbollah's deputy leader says group would stop fighting with Israel after Gaza cease-fire

By ABBY SEWELL and SARAH EL DEEB Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — The deputy leader of the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah said Tuesday the only sure path to a cease-fire on the Lebanon-Israel border is a full cease-fire in Gaza.

"If there is a cease-fire in Gaza, we will stop without any discussion," Hezbollah's deputy leader, Sheikh Naim Kassem, said in an interview with The Associated Press at the group's political office in Beirut's southern suburbs.

Hezbollah's participation in the Israel-Hamas war has been as a "support front" for its ally, Hamas, Kassem said, and "if the war stops, this military support will no longer exist."

But, he said, if Israel scales back its military operations without a formal cease-fire agreement and full withdrawal from Gaza, the implications for the Lebanon-Israel border conflict are less clear.

"If what happens in Gaza is a mix between cease-fire and no cease-fire, war and no war, we can't answer (how we would react) now, because we don't know its shape, its results, its impacts," Kassem said during a 40-minute interview.

The war began on Oct. 7 after Hamas militants invaded southern Israel, killing some 1,200 — mostly civilians — and kidnapping roughly 250. Israel responded with an air and ground assault that has caused widespread devastation and killed more than 37,900 people in Gaza, according to the territory's Health Ministry, which does not distinguish between combatants and civilians in its count.

Talks of a cease-fire in Gaza have faltered in recent weeks, raising fears of an escalation on the Lebanon-Israel front. Hezbollah has traded near-daily strikes with Israeli forces along their border over the past nine months.

The low-level conflict between Israel and Hezbollah has displaced tens of thousands on both sides of the Israel-Lebanon border. In northern Israel, 16 soldiers and 11 civilians have been killed; in Lebanon, more than 450 people — mostly fighters but also dozens of civilians — have been killed.

Hamas has demanded an end to the war in Gaza, and not just a pause in fighting, while Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has refused to make such a commitment until Israel realizes its goals of destroying Hamas' military and governing capabilities and brings home the roughly 120 hostages still held by Hamas.

Last month, the Israeli army said it had "approved and validated" plans for an offensive in Lebanon if no diplomatic solution was reached to the ongoing clashes. Any decision to launch such an operation would have to come from the country's political leadership.

Some Israeli officials have said they are seeking a diplomatic solution to the standoff and hope to avoid war. At the same time, they have warned that the scenes of destruction seen in Gaza will be repeated in Lebanon if war breaks out.

Hezbollah, meanwhile, is far more powerful than Hamas and believed to have a vast arsenal of rockets and missiles capable of striking anywhere in Israel.

Kassem said he doesn't believe that Israel currently has the ability — or has made a decision — to launch a full-blown war with Hezbollah. He warned that even if Israel intends to launch a limited operation in Lebanon that stops short of a full-scale war, it should not expect the fighting to remain limited.

"Israel can decide what it wants: limited war, total war, partial war," he said. "But it should expect that our response and our resistance will not be within a ceiling and rules of engagement set by Israel... If Israel wages the war, it means it doesn't control its extent or who enters into it."

The latter was an apparent reference to Hezbollah's allies in the Iran-backed so-called "axis of resistance" in the region. Armed groups in Iraq, Syria, Yemen and elsewhere — and, potentially, Iran itself — could enter the fray in the event of a full-scale war in Lebanon, which might also pull in Israel's strongest ally, the United States.

U.S. and European diplomats have made a circuit between Lebanon and Israel for months in an attempt to ward off a wider conflict.

Kassem said he met on Saturday with Germany's deputy chief of intelligence, Ole Dieh, in Beirut. U.S. officials do not meet directly with Hezbollah because Washington has designated it a terrorist group, but they regularly send messages via intermediaries.

Kassem said White House envoy Amos Hochstein had recently requested via intermediaries that Hezbollah apply pressure on Hamas to accept a cease-fire and hostage-exchange proposal put forward by U.S. President Joe Biden. He said Hezbollah had rejected the request.

"Hamas is the one that makes its decisions and whoever wants to ask for something should talk to it directly," he said.

Kassem criticized U.S. efforts to find a resolution to the war in Gaza, saying it has backed Israel's plans to end Hamas' presence in Gaza. A constructive deal, he said, would aim to end the war, get Israel to withdraw from Gaza, and ensure the release of hostages.

Once a cease-fire is reached, then a political track can determine the arrangements inside Gaza and on the front with Lebanon, he added.

Associated Press writers Kareem Chehayeb and Bassem Mroue in Beirut contributed to this report.

Giuliani is disbarred in New York as court finds he repeatedly lied about Trump's 2020 election loss

By PHILIP MARCELO Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Rudy Giuliani, the former New York City mayor, federal prosecutor and legal adviser to Donald Trump, was disbarred in New York on Tuesday after a court found he repeatedly made false statements about Trump's 2020 election loss.

The Manhattan appeals court ruled Giuliani, who had his New York law license suspended in 2021 for making false statements around the election, is no longer allowed to practice law in the state, effective immediately.

"The seriousness of respondent's misconduct cannot be overstated," the decision reads. Giuliani "flagrantly misused" his position and "baselessly attacked and undermined the integrity of this country's electoral process."

"In so doing, respondent not only deliberately violated some of the most fundamental tenets of the legal profession, but he also actively contributed to the national strife that has followed the 2020 Presidential election, for which he is entirely unrepentant," the court wrote.

Giuliani said Tuesday that he wasn't surprised to lose his law license in his hometown, claiming in a post on the social media platform X that the case was "based on an activist complaint, replete with false arguments."

The former mob prosecutor was admitted to the New York bar in 1969, but before pleading Trump's case in November 2020, Giuliani had not appeared in court as an attorney since 1992, according to court records.

A Giuliani spokesperson, Ted Goodman, said the man once dubbed "America's mayor" will appeal the "objectively flawed" decision by the midlevel state court. He also called on others in the legal community to speak out against the "politically and ideologically corrupted decision."

Giuliani's attorney Arthur Aidala was more measured, saying his legal team was "obviously disappointed" but not surprised by the decision. He said they "put up a valiant effort" to prevent the disbarment but "saw the writing on the wall."

Giuliani argued in hearings held last October that he believed the claims he was making on behalf of the Trump campaign were true, but the court, in its decision, said it wasn't convinced.

"Contrary to respondent's allegations, there is nothing on the record before us that would permit the conclusion that respondent lacked knowledge of the falsehood of the numerous statements that he made, and that he had a good faith basis to believe them to be true," the decision reads.

Among other things, the court said it found that Giuliani "falsely and dishonestly" claimed during the

2020 Presidential election that thousands of votes were cast in the names of dead people in Philadelphia, including a ballot in the name of the late boxing great Joe Frazier. He also falsely claimed people were taken from nearby Camden, New Jersey, to vote illegally in the Pennsylvania city, the court said.

"These false statements were made to improperly bolster respondent's narrative that due to widespread voter fraud, victory in the 2020 United States presidential election was stolen from his client," the decision read.

The disbarment comes amid mounting woes for the 80-year-old Giuliani. In May, WABC radio suspended him and canceled his daily talk show because he refused to stop making false claims about the 2020 election.

Giuliani is also facing the possibility of losing his law license in Washington. A board in May recommended that he be disbarred, though a court has the final say.

He also filed for bankruptcy last year after being ordered to pay \$148 million in damages to two former Georgia election workers over lies he spread about them that upended their lives with racist threats and harassment.

Giuliani on Monday asked a federal judge to convert his bankruptcy case from a reorganization to a liquidation, which would mean most of his assets would be sold off to help pay what he owes creditors. At the end of May, he had about \$94,000 in cash on hand while his company, Giuliani Communications, had about \$237,000 in the bank, according to court documents.

Giuliani is also facing criminal charges in Georgia and Arizona over his role in the effort to overturn the 2020 election. He has pleaded not guilty in both cases.

He's charged in Georgia with making false statements and soliciting false testimony, conspiring to create phony paperwork and asking state lawmakers to violate their oath of office to appoint an alternate slate of pro-Trump electors.

The Arizona indictment accuses Giuliani of pressuring Maricopa County officials and state legislators to change the outcome of Arizona's results and encouraging Republican electors in the state to vote for Trump in December 2020.

Giuliani built his public persona by practicing law, as the top federal prosecutor in Manhattan in the 1980s, when he went after mobsters, powerbrokers and others. The law-and-order reputation helped catapult him into politics, governing the United States' most populous city when it was beset by high crime.

The Republican was lauded for holding the city together after the Sept. 11 terror attacks, when two hijacked planes slammed into the twin towers of the World Trade Center, killing more than 2,700 people.

But after unsuccessful runs for the U.S. Senate and the presidency, and a lucrative career as a globe-trotting consultant, Giuliani smashed his image as a centrist who could get along with Democrats as he became one of Trump's most loyal defenders.

He was the primary mouthpiece for Trump's false claims of election fraud after the 2020 vote, infamously standing at a press conference in front of Four Seasons Total Landscaping outside Philadelphia saying the campaign would challenge what he claimed was a vast conspiracy by Joe Biden and fellow Democrats.

Lies around the election results helped push an angry mob of pro-Trump rioters to storm the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, in an effort to stop the certification of Biden's victory.

Associated Press reporters Karen Matthews and Jennifer Peltz in New York, Michael Sisak in Fort Pierce, Fla., Dave Collins in Hartford, Conn. and Alanna Durkin Richer in Washington contributed to this story.

Judge's ruling protects migrant shelter on US-Mexico border and accuses Texas of harassment

By VALERIE GONZALEZ Associated Press

McALLEN, Texas (AP) — A judge blasted efforts by Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton to shutter one of the oldest and largest migrant shelters on the U.S.-Mexico border in a scathing ruling Tuesday, accusing the Republican of "outrageous" conduct over his claims that the shelter encourages migrants to enter

the country illegally.

Judge Francisco X. Dominguez ruled that Paxton's attempts to enforce a subpoena for records of migrants who have been served at Annunciation House in the last few years violated the El Paso shelter's constitutional rights. His ruling prevents Paxton from seeking the records and protects the shelter from what Dominguez called "harassment and overreaching" by Paxton's office.

Paxton's office did not respond to requests for comment, but the state is expected to appeal.

Annunciation House is one of several nonprofit groups that help migrants from which Paxton's office has sought information in recent months. Team Brownsville, which assists migrants who are dropped off by federal agents in the border city of Brownsville, received a letter demanding documents in May. Paxton is also suing Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley seeking testimony.

Dominguez wrote that he previously expressed concern that Paxton's office had not identified which laws Annunciation House was allegedly breaking.

"The record before this Court makes clear that the Texas Attorney General's use of the request to examine documents from Annunciation House was a pretext to justify its harassment of Annunciation House employees and the persons seeking refuge," he wrote.

"In fact, the record before the Court now establishes that the Attorney General was seeking evidence of alleged criminal activity all along," Dominguez went on to say. "This is outrageous and intolerable."

Paxton alleged that by providing shelter to migrants regardless of their legal status, Annunciation House was facilitating illegal immigration and human smuggling, and operating a stash house.

State officials visited the El Paso shelter in early February demanding immediate access to records — including medical and immigration documents — of migrants who had received services there since 2022. Officials from Annunciation House, a Catholic nonprofit that oversees a network of shelters, said they were willing to comply but needed time to determine what they could legally share without violating their clients' constitutional rights.

Investigators who sought to access records the day after requesting entry were not allowed inside the shelter. Jerry Wesevich, the attorney representing Annunciation House, said that corporations under the Constitution's Fourth Amendment are protected from unreasonable searches and seizures by the government.

Wesevich expressed relief after the ruling and said it could impact other organizations. He also questioned why Paxton wanted to close the shelter.

"All that's going to mean is more people in El Paso streets. Who does that help? All it does is provide a narrative of chaos on the border, which is a narrative that some people politically want to promote," Wesevich said.

FDA approves a second Alzheimer's drug that can modestly slow disease

By MATTHEW PERRONE AP Health Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. officials have approved another Alzheimer's drug that can modestly slow the disease, providing a new option for patients in the early stages of the incurable, memory-destroying ailment.

The Food and Drug Administration approved Eli Lilly's Kisunla on Tuesday for mild or early cases of dementia caused by Alzheimer's. It's only the second drug that's been convincingly shown to delay cognitive decline in patients, following last year's approval of a similar drug from Japanese drugmaker Eisai.

The delay seen with both drugs amounts to a matter of months — about seven months, in the case of Lilly's drug. Patients and their families will have to weigh that benefit against the downsides, including regular IV infusions and potentially dangerous side effects like brain swelling.

Physicians who treat Alzheimer's say the approval is an important step after decades of failed experimental treatments.

"I'm thrilled to have different options to help my patients," said Dr. Suzanne Schindler, a neurologist at Washington University in St. Louis. "It's been difficult as a dementia specialist — I diagnose my patients

with Alzheimer's and then every year I see them get worse and they progress until they die."

Both Kisunla and the Japanese drug, Leqembi, are laboratory-made antibodies, administered by IV, that target one contributor to Alzheimer's — sticky amyloid plaque buildup in the brain. Questions remain about which patients should get the drugs and how long they might benefit.

The new drug's approval was expected after an outside panel of FDA advisors unanimously voted in favor of its benefits at a public meeting last month. That endorsement came despite several questions from FDA reviewers about how Lilly studied the drug, including allowing patients to discontinue treatment after their plaque reached very low levels.

Costs will vary by patient, based on how long they take the drug, Lilly said. The company also said a year's worth of therapy would cost \$32,000 — higher than the \$26,500 price of a year's worth of Leqembi.

The FDA's prescribing information tells doctors they can consider stopping the drug after confirming via brain scans that patients have minimal plaque.

More than 6 million Americans have Alzheimer's. Only those with early or mild disease will be eligible for the new drug, and an even smaller subset are likely to undergo the multi-step process needed to get a prescription.

The FDA approved Kisunla, known chemically as donanemab, based on results from an 18-month study in which patients given getting the treatment declined about 22% more slowly in terms of memory and cognitive ability than those who received a dummy infusion.

The main safety issue was brain swelling and bleeding, a problem common to all plaque-targeting drugs. The rates reported in Lilly's study — including 20% of patients with microbleeds — were slightly higher than those reported with competitor Leqembi. However, the two drugs were tested in slightly different types of patients, which experts say makes it difficult to compare the drugs' safety.

Kisunla is infused once a month compared to Leqembi's twice-a-month regimen, which could make things easier for caregivers who bring their loved ones to a hospital or clinic for treatment.

"Certainly getting an infusion once a month is more appealing than getting it every two weeks," Schindler said.

Lilly's drug has another potential advantage: Patients can stop taking it if they respond well.

In the company's study, patients were taken off Kisunla once their brain plaque reached nearly undetectable levels. Almost half of patients reached that point within a year. Discontinuing the drug could reduce the costs and safety risks of long-term use. It's not yet clear how soon patients might need to resume infusions.

Logistical hurdles, spotty insurance coverage and financial concerns have all slowed the rollout of competitor Leqembi, which Eisai co-markets with U.S. partner Biogen. Many smaller hospitals and health systems aren't yet setup to prescribe the new plaque-targeting Alzheimer's drugs.

First, doctors need to confirm that patients with dementia have the brain plaque targeted by the new drugs. Then they need to find a drug infusion center where patients can receive therapy. Meanwhile, nurses and other staff must be trained to perform repeated scans to check for brain swelling or bleeding.

"Those are all things a physician has to have set up," said Dr. Mark Mintun, who heads Lilly's neuroscience division. "Until they get used to them, a patient who comes into their office will not be offered this therapy."

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Pressure is building on Biden to step aside. But many Democrats feel powerless to replace him

By STEVE PEOPLES, WILL WEISSERT and JOEY CAPPELLETTI Associated Press
WASHINGTON (AP) — Bernie Sanders describes President Joe Biden's recent debate performance as "painful." In an interview, he says he's not confident that Biden can win this fall.

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But the progressive senator from Vermont does not want Biden to step aside.

Instead, Sanders, who served as Biden's chief rival in the Democratic Party's 2020 nomination fight, is calling on voters to adopt "a maturity" as they view their options this fall.

"A presidential election is not a Grammy Award contest for the best singer or entertainer. It's about who has the best policies that impact our lives," Sanders said. "I'm going to do everything I can to see that Biden gets reelected."

That's putting the best face on it. Nearly a week after Biden's disastrous debate performance, questions about his ability to remain in the race are intensifying among concerned Democrats. But there is also a growing sense that the party has trapped itself in a bad situation with no clear solution, caught in a primary process set up to protect Biden with elected officials unwilling to say out loud what some say quietly.

Some allies, like Sanders, are acknowledging Biden's problems but contrasting his policies and record with those of Republican Donald Trump. But many donors, strategists and party insiders want Biden to suspend his reelection campaign to avoid what they see as certain defeat come November.

Rep. Lloyd Doggett of Texas on Tuesday became the first House Democrat to call for the president to withdraw, saying "too much is at stake" for Biden to stay in the race and lose to Trump.

"He has the opportunity to encourage a new generation of leaders from whom a nominee can be chosen to unite our country through an open, democratic process," Doggett said in a written statement. "My decision to make these strong reservations public is not done lightly nor does it in any way diminish my respect for all that President Biden has achieved."

Former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi told MSNBC that she believes "it is a legitimate question" whether Biden's halting performance is just "an episode or is this a condition."

"When people ask that question, it's legitimate — of both candidates," Pelosi said.

Pelosi said she had not spoken with Biden since the debate, but she emphasized that the president is on "top of his game, in terms of knowing the issues and what is at stake."

In private, people close to would-be Biden replacements — including California Gov. Gavin Newsom, Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and Vice President Kamala Harris — are having informal conversations about potential next steps should Biden abruptly change course and step aside.

Such conversations include talk of potential running mates, according to donors involved in the discussions. Names of potential vice presidential nominees that have surfaced include Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear and California Rep. Ro Khanna.

Every one of the officials on such lists has publicly pledged support for Biden in recent days. And ever defiant, Biden's team has downplayed the president's political problems in a series of memos and private meetings with donors, strategists and party insiders.

"The voters are powerless," said Nina Turner, a national co-chair of Sanders' 2020 presidential campaign, who now fears the Democratic Party cannot win again with Biden as the nominee. "The decision rests solely with him."

Amid such frustration, key groups in Biden's political coalition — who had shown signs of fraying even before the debate — have begun to turn against each other.

Tim Miller, a prominent Biden supporter who once worked for Republican political campaigns, has come under attack in recent days from pro-Biden activists. They posted pictures of his family on social media after he raised concerns about Biden's general election prospects.

In an interview, however, Miller said elected Democrats privately tell him that they share his concerns.

"For me, the only risk right now is everyone shutting up and getting in line," Miller said. "It's the right time to have an open conversation about what the path forward is. Otherwise, we're on a trajectory for another Donald Trump presidency."

A handful of leading Republicans from the "Never Trump" camp met privately Monday with Biden campaign officials to encourage the president to leave the race.

The Biden campaign issued a memo over the weekend claiming he had lost little support after the debate. A separate internal memo also argued that he would retain the support of many voters who had a negative reaction to his primetime performance.

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A CNN poll conducted by SSRS after the debate found that Biden's favorability rating hasn't shifted meaningfully, nor has the share of Americans who say they will vote for him in November. However, three-quarters of U.S. voters — and more than half of Democratic voters — say the Democratic Party would have a better chance of winning the presidency with someone else at the top of the ticket.

At the same time, the president's campaign announced on Tuesday a massive fundraising haul for the month of June. Overall, the campaign raised \$127 million last month, including \$33 million on the day of the debate and in its aftermath, according to the campaign. The numbers cannot be verified until federal filings are posted later in the month.

Democratic National Committee Chair Jaime Harrison made clear Tuesday that the party's rules leave no room for a Plan B.

Biden secured almost every delegate in the state-by-state primary process this spring. They are pledged by party rules to "in all good conscience" reflect the desires of voters who chose Biden. A virtual roll call vote to formalize Biden's status as the nominee is expected weeks before the party's national convention.

"The primary is over, and in every state, the will of Democratic voters was clear: Joe Biden will be the Democratic Party's nominee for president," Harrison told The Associated Press. "Delegates are pledged to reflect voters' sentiment, and over 99% of delegates are already pledged to Joe Biden headed into our convention."

But Biden's allies in key states across the country acknowledge the fear spreading through their party ranks.

Florida Democratic Party Chair Nikki Fried said she's worked to calm concerns about Biden's mental acuity by sharing her personal experiences.

"I have been in close-quarter meetings and conversations and interactions with the president where we're able to talk high policy initiatives but also been able to just have a general conversation, like you're talking to your neighbor," Fried said. "There's never been a time that I have questioned his abilities to run this country and to put forth the type of energy and coalition that will be necessary to win in November."

Michigan Democratic Party chair Lavora Barnes said she spoke with volunteers Monday night and "yes they asked questions" about Biden's debate performance. But "we need to focus our talks with our voters on the work that the president's done in contrast with Donald Trump," she said.

Vermont Democratic Sen. Peter Welch conceded that Biden's debate performance intensified questions about the president's age, which are on the minds of "everyday voters" and even "extremely energetic Biden supporters."

"Within the Biden campaign they're acutely aware of it," Welch said in an interview. "I thought it was a mistake for the Biden campaign to be critical of people who started asking questions the campaign itself is asking."

Meanwhile, Vermont's other senator, Sanders, conceded that Biden's path to reelection will not be easy.

"I wasn't confident he could win before the debate," Sanders told the AP. "What we need on the part of the American people is a maturity right now — and that is to understand that what is important are the issues. And the difference between Trump and Biden: day and night."

Cappelletti reported from Lansing, Michigan. Associated Press writer Amelia Thomson-DeVeaux in Washington contributed to this report.

Major wins for Trump and stark pullback on regulations mark momentous Supreme Court term

By MARK SHERMAN and LINDSAY WHITEHURST Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Donald Trump and the conservative interests that helped him reshape the Supreme Court got most of what they wanted this term, from substantial help for Trump's political and legal prospects to sharp blows against the administrative state they revile.

The decisions reflected a deep and sometimes bitter divide on a court in which conservatives, including

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three justices appointed by Trump, have a two-to-one advantage over liberals, and seem likely to reinforce the views of most Americans that ideology, rather than a neutral application of the law, drives the outcome of the court's biggest cases.

Chief Justice John Roberts, often viewed with suspicion by Trump and his allies over his concerns about judicial independence and worries about the court's reputation, delivered the most consequential decisions. Those include the court's grant of broad immunity from criminal prosecution to former presidents and its reversal of a 40-year-old case that had been used thousands of times to uphold federal regulations.

"He's got competing inclinations. One is to be the statesman and institutionalist," University of California at Los Angeles law professor Richard Hasen said. The other, Hasen said, is to dig in "when it is something that is important enough to him."

The end of the court's term marked a remarkable reversal of fortunes for Trump as he seeks a second term as president.

Six months ago, he was readying for a criminal trial in early March in Washington on charges of election interference following his loss to President Joe Biden in 2020 and he was in danger of being kicked off the presidential ballot in several states.

In the court's final decision issued Monday, the justices handed him an indefinite trial delay and narrowed the election interference case against him. Last week, they separately limited the use of an obstruction charge he faces that should give him even more legal arguments, months after the court restored Trump to the presidential ballot.

Each of the three cases stemmed from Trump's actions in the aftermath of the 2020 election, culminating in the attack on the Capitol by his supporters on Jan. 6, 2021. But Roberts' opinions offered only dry accounts of the events of Jan. 6, insisting the court "can not afford to fixate ... on present exigencies."

The court also overturned the Chevron decision, stripped the SEC of a major fraud-fighting tool and opened the door to repeated, broad challenges to regulations that, in combination with the end of Chevron, could lead to what Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson described as a "tsunami of lawsuits."

The decisions also provoked spirited, sometimes barbed, discussions of judicial modesty. "A rule of judicial humility gives way to a rule of judicial hubris," Justice Elena Kagan wrote in her dissent from overturning Chevron.

Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson chided Roberts for the "feigned judicial humility" of his opinion on immunity. Roberts mocked the dissenters' "tone of chilling doom."

In each of the Trump cases, the majority included Justices Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh, two of Trump's three appointees, and two others, Alito and Justice Clarence Thomas, who also rebuffed calls to sit out the Trump cases. Those same justices, plus Roberts and Justice Amy Coney Barrett, formed the majority in the cases about federal regulations. The conservatives also voted together on a major homelessness case that found outdoor sleeping bans aimed at homeless encampments don't violate the constitutional prohibition on cruel and unusual punishment - even when shelter space is lacking.

Roberts, though, has repeatedly defended the court from criticism that its justices were little more than politicians in robes.

But the court's public standing has taken a hit in recent years, particularly since Roe was overturned. Seven out of 10 Americans said the justices are more likely to be guided by their own ideology rather than serving as neutral arbiters of government authority, according to a poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research that was conducted before the final round of decisions was issued.

Abortion was one issue in which the court sidestepped the liberal-conservative divide by avoiding major rulings in a presidential election year when abortion is an animating issue, mainly because of the justices' 2022 decision that led to abortion bans or severe restrictions in most Republican-controlled states.

A one-sentence order in a case from Idaho cleared the way for emergency abortions to resume, despite the state's strict abortion ban. But it didn't end the court case or answer key questions about whether doctors can provide emergency abortions elsewhere, even in states where abortion bans would prohibit them.

In a second abortion case, the justices unanimously dismissed a lawsuit from anti-abortion doctors who sought to roll back decisions made by the Food and Drug Administration to ease access to mifepristone,

a pill used in nearly two-thirds of abortions in the United States last year. The decision explicitly avoided any ruling on the FDA's actions, focusing entirely on the doctors' lack of legal standing to sue.

The mifepristone case was one of several from the conservative 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans that made the court seem the picture of moderation. The justices also reversed 5th Circuit rulings that would have struck down a federal gun control law intended to protect victims of domestic violence, overturned the funding structure for the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and barred Biden administration officials from trying to persuade social media platforms to remove misinformation.

In a separate case involving guns, the court overturned a Trump-era Justice Department regulation that banned bump stocks, rapid-fire gun accessories used in the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history. The court was divided along ideological lines, with conservatives in the majority.

A term's final days often produce a torrent of heated exchanges in the most contentious cases, and this year saw more than its share of big rulings that waited until the very end.

In May, Justice Sonia Sotomayor telegraphed what the recent days might look like for her and the other liberal justices. "There are days that I've come to my office after an announcement of a case and closed my door and cried," Sotomayor said after receiving an award from Harvard's Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study. "And there are likely to be more."

Rep. Lloyd Doggett becomes first Democrat in Congress to call for Biden's withdrawal from 2024 race

By FARNOUSH AMIRI Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A House Democratic lawmaker has become the first in the party to publicly call for President Joe Biden to step down as the party's nominee for president, citing Biden's debate performance against Donald Trump failing to "effectively defend his many accomplishments."

Rep. Lloyd Doggett of Texas said in a statement Tuesday that Biden should "make the painful and difficult decision to withdraw."

"My decision to make these strong reservations public is not done lightly nor does it in any way diminish my respect for all that President Biden has achieved," Doggett said. "Recognizing that, unlike Trump, President Biden's first commitment has always been to our country, not himself, I am hopeful that he will make the painful and difficult decision to withdraw. I respectfully call on him to do so."

Doggett, who represents an Austin-based district and is serving his 15th term in Congress, is the first sitting lawmaker in his party to publicly state what many have been privately whispering behind closed doors since last week's debate. Biden's weak performance caused immediate panic among even his most ardent supporters, leading many to question whether the 81-year-old career politician is the strongest Democratic candidate to take on Trump, the presumptive Republican presidential nominee, in November.

"I represent the heart of a congressional district once represented by Lyndon Johnson," Doggett, who is the No. 2 Democrat on the powerful House Ways and Means Committee, continued. "Under very different circumstances, he made the painful decision to withdraw. President Biden should do the same."

Biden himself conceded the debate didn't go well for him, but he insisted he was ready to fight for a second term as president. White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre, asked Tuesday about growing concerns among Democrats, said they respect the opinions and thoughts of concerned party members, adding, "that's what makes this party different than the other side." As for Doggett, she said: "He's going to have his thoughts. That's for him to speak to."

Beyond the White House, control of both chambers of Congress is also hanging in the balance in November, and Democrats find themselves defending far more Senate seats than Republicans. The Democrats hold the Senate with a slim 51-49 majority, while Republicans control the House by only a handful of seats.

Doggett's explosive statement came minutes after former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., told MSNBC that she believes "it is a legitimate question" whether Biden's halting performance is just "an episode or is this a condition."

"When people ask that question, it's legitimate -- of both candidates," Pelosi said.

Pelosi said she had not spoken with Biden since the debate, but she emphasized that the president is on "top of his game, in terms of knowing the issues and what is at stake."

It all amounts to a stunning and swift turn of events for Biden, his campaign and his allies on Capitol Hill, who have spent the better part of the last several years combatting criticism about the president's fitness and defending his ability to serve another four-year term, at the end of which he would be 86 years old.

But Biden's shaky performance during the debate with Trump has shaken Democratic support to its foundations, with members of the party at all levels entertaining the possibility that he can no longer be the nominee.

Rep. Jamie Raskin, the top Democrat on the House Oversight Committee and an influential voice in the caucus, over the weekend, broached the possibility of Biden stepping aside ahead of the Democratic convention in August.

"So whether he's the candidate or someone else is the candidate, he is going to be the keynote speaker at our convention," Raskin told MSNBC about Biden. "He will be the figure that we rally around to move forward."

Other elected Democrats said they were caught off guard by Biden's rambling and raspy performance. Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse, of Rhode Island, said that he has known Biden for years and served in the Senate with him, but had "never seen that happen before."

"I think people want to make sure that this is a campaign that's ready to go and win, that the president and his team are being candid with us about his condition — that this was a real anomaly and not just the way he is these days," Whitehouse told WPRI on Monday.

And then there is a faction of the Democratic party who are deeply disappointed by Biden's performance, but point to the political reality that less than two months from the Democratic National Convention and four months from election day, the path to an alternative candidate is rocky and uncertain.

Sen. Bernie Sanders, Biden's one-time Democratic opponent, told The Associated Press in an interview Tuesday that while he's not confident the president can win in November, he doesn't want him to step aside, considering what the party views as the greatest threat to Democracy in Trump.

"A presidential election is not a Grammy Award contest for the best singer or entertainer. It's about who has the best policies that impact our lives," Sanders said. "I'm going to do everything I can to see that Biden gets reelected."

Associated Press writers Kevin Freking and Stephen Groves in Washington and Steve Peoples in New York contributed to this report.

Strike kills family as Israeli evacuation order sparks panicked flight from southern Gaza city

By WAFAA SHURAF, SAMY MAGDY and LEE KEATH Associated Press

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip (AP) — The Hamdan family — around a dozen people from three generations — fled their home in the middle of the night after the Israeli military ordered an evacuation from the southern Gaza city of Khan Younis.

They found refuge with extended relatives in a building further north, inside an Israeli-declared safe zone. But hours after they arrived, an Israeli airstrike on Tuesday afternoon hit their building in the town of Deir al-Balah, killing nine members of the family and three others.

In all, five children and three women were among the dead, according to hospital records and a relative who survived.

Israel's order on Monday for people to leave the eastern half of Khan Younis — the territory's second-largest city — has triggered the third mass flight of Palestinians in as many months, throwing the population deeper into confusion, chaos and misery as they scramble once again to find safety.

About 250,000 people live in the area covered by the order, according to the United Nations. Many of them had just returned to their homes there after fleeing Israel's invasion of Khan Younis earlier this

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year — or had just taken refuge there after escaping Israel's offensive in the city of Rafah, further south.

The order also prompted a frantic flight from European General Hospital, Gaza's second-largest hospital, located in the evacuation area. The facility shut down after staffers and more than 200 patients were evacuated overnight and on Tuesday, along with thousands of displaced who had sheltered on the hospital grounds, according to the staff and the International Committee of the Red Cross, which had a medical team there.

Hisham Mhanna, the ICRC spokesperson in Gaza, said some families dragged patients in their hospital beds through the streets for up to 10 kilometers (6 miles) to reach safety. Ambulances moved others elsewhere as staff rushed out valuable equipment, including X-ray and ultrasound machines and endoscopy devices now so scarce, said a nurse, Muhammad Younis.

Hours after ordering the evacuation, the Israeli military said the hospital was not included on that order. But the staff said they feared a repeat of previous Israeli raids on other Gaza hospitals.

"Many hospitals have come to rubble and have been turned into battlefields or graveyards," Mhanna said.

Israel has raided hospitals, saying Hamas uses them for military purposes, a claim Gaza's medical officials deny.

On Tuesday, cars loaded with personal belongings streamed out of eastern Khan Younis, though the number of those fleeing was not immediately known. The new exodus comes on top of the 1 million people who fled Rafah since May, as well as tens of thousands who were displaced the past week from a new Israeli offensive in the Shijaiyah district of northern Gaza.

"We left everything behind," said Munir Hamza, a father of three children who on Monday night fled his home in an eastern district of Khan Younis for the second time. "We are tired of moving and displacement. ... This is unbearable."

Nowhere safe

Up to 15 members of the Hamdan family fled their Khan Younis home and arrived late on Monday at their extended family's building in Deir al-Balah, said Asmaa Salim, a relative who lived in the building.

The building was located inside the extended humanitarian zone that the Israeli military had declared when it began its offensive in Rafah in May, telling Palestinians to evacuate there for safety.

The strike came around 3 p.m. on Tuesday. Associated Press video shows an entire floor of the building gutted. "Almost everyone inside was martyred, only two or three survived," Salim told the AP.

A list of the dead posted at the nearby Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital said those killed included the family patriarch, 62-year-old dermatologist Hossam Hamdan, as well as his wife and their adult son and daughter. Four of their grandchildren, aged 3 to 5, and the mother of two of the children were also killed. A man and his 5-year-old son who lived in the building and a man on the street outside were also killed in the strike, which wounded 10 other people, including several children.

The Israeli military did not immediately respond to requests for comment on the strike.

Flight from Khan Younis

Monday's evacuation order suggested a new ground assault into Khan Younis could be coming though there was no immediate sign of one. Israeli forces waged a months-long offensive there earlier this year, battling Hamas militants and leaving large swaths of the southern city destroyed or heavily damaged.

Israel has repeatedly moved back into parts of the Gaza Strip it previously invaded to root out militants it said had regrouped — a sign of Hamas' continued capabilities even after nearly nine-months of war in Gaza.

Israel's campaign has killed more than 37,900 Palestinians, the majority women and children, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which doesn't distinguish combatants among its count. Israel launched its campaign after Hamas' Oct. 7 attack in which militants killed some 1,200 people in southern Israel and took around 250 others hostage.

The Israeli military said Tuesday it estimates that some 1.8 million Palestinians are now in the humanitarian zone it declared, covering a stretch of about 14 kilometers (8.6 miles) along Gaza's Mediterranean coast. Much of that area is now blanketed with tent camps that lack sanitation and medical facilities with limited access to aid, U.N. and humanitarian groups say. Families live amid mountains of trash and streams of water contaminated by sewage.

The amount of food and other supplies getting into Gaza has plunged since the Rafah offensive began. The U.N. says fighting, Israeli military restrictions and general chaos — including looting of trucks by criminal gangs in Gaza — make it near impossible for it to pick up truckloads of goods that Israel has let in. As a result, cargo is stacked up uncollected just inside Gaza at the main Kerem Shalom crossing with Israel, near Rafah.

The Norwegian Refugee Council said last week that it surveyed nearly 1,100 families who fled Rafah and 83% of them reported having no access to food and more than half had no access to safe water.

On Tuesday, more families fleeing Khan Younis were trying to find space in the zone. Um Abdel-Rahman said she and her family of four children — the youngest 3 years old — walked for hours during the night to reach the zone only to find no place to stay.

“There is no room for anyone,” she said. “We are waiting and have nothing to do but wait.”

Noha al-Bana said she has been displaced four times since fleeing Gaza City in the north early in the war. “We have been humiliated,” she said. “No proper food, no proper water, no proper bathrooms, no proper place for sleep. ... Fear, fear, fear. There is no safety. No safety at home, no safety in the tents.”

Magdy and Keath reported from Cairo. Associated Press writer Sarah El Deeb in Beirut contributed to this report.

Big wins for Trump and sharp blows to regulations mark momentous Supreme Court term

By MARK SHERMAN and LINDSAY WHITEHURST Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Donald Trump and the conservative interests that helped him reshape the Supreme Court got most of what they wanted this term, from substantial help for Trump’s political and legal prospects to sharp blows against the administrative state they revile.

The decisions reflected a deep and sometimes bitter divide on a court in which conservatives, including three justices appointed by Trump, have a two-to-one advantage over liberals, and seem likely to reinforce the views of most Americans that ideology, rather than a neutral application of the law, drives the outcome of the court’s biggest cases.

The justices also contended with ethics controversies that led to the adoption of the court’s first code of conduct, though one with no means of enforcement. Months later came public statements from Justice Samuel Alito rejecting calls that he step aside from several cases over questions of his impartiality, including following the revelations that two flags associated with rioters who attacked the U.S. Capitol flew over Alito’s homes in New Jersey and Virginia.

Chief Justice John Roberts, often viewed with suspicion by Trump and his allies over his concerns about judicial independence and worries about the court’s reputation, delivered the most consequential decisions. Those include the court’s grant of broad immunity from criminal prosecution to former presidents and its reversal of a 40-year-old case that had been used thousands of times to uphold federal regulations.

“He’s got competing inclinations. One is to be the statesman and institutionalist,” University of California at Los Angeles law professor Richard Hasen said. The other, Hasen said, is to dig in “when it is something that is important enough to him.”

Presidential power is one of those issues for Roberts, who worked in the White House counsel’s office during the Reagan administration.

The end of the court’s term marked a remarkable reversal of fortunes for Trump as he seeks a second term as president.

Six months ago, he was readying for a criminal trial in early March in Washington on charges of election interference following his loss to President Joe Biden in 2020 and he was in danger of being kicked off the presidential ballot in several states.

In the court’s final decision issued Monday, the justices handed him an indefinite trial delay and narrowed the election interference case against him. Last week, they separately limited the use of an obstruction

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charge he faces that should give him even more legal arguments, months after the court restored Trump to the presidential ballot.

Each of the three cases stemmed from Trump's actions in the aftermath of the 2020 election, culminating in the attack on the Capitol by his supporters on Jan. 6, 2021. But Roberts' opinions offered only dry accounts of the events of Jan. 6, insisting the court "can not afford to fixate ... on present exigencies."

The court also overturned the Chevron decision, stripped the SEC of a major fraud-fighting tool and opened the door to repeated, broad challenges to regulations that, in combination with the end of Chevron, could lead to what Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson described as a "tsunami of lawsuits."

The demise of Chevron marked the third straight year that conservatives explicitly or effectively got rid of major, decades-old court precedents. Two years ago, *Roe v. Wade* fell. Last year, it was affirmative action in higher education.

The Trump and regulatory cases seem to point in different directions about the power of the executive branch, said Michael Dorf, a constitutional law professor at Cornell University.

"On the one hand, the court is making it much harder for the government to act through administrative agencies but, on the other hand, the court is licensing the president to act lawlessly," Dorf said. "Taken together, I think those two moves concentrate power in the White House in the political operations of the president and outside the context of what you might think of as the bureaucracy."

The decisions also provoked spirited, sometimes barbed, discussions of judicial modesty. "A rule of judicial humility gives way to a rule of judicial hubris," Justice Elena Kagan wrote in her dissent from overturning Chevron. Roberts responded, saying humility in this case meant "admitting" and "correcting our own mistakes" in the original Chevron decision.

Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson chided Roberts for the "feigned judicial humility" of his opinion on immunity. Roberts mocked the dissenters' "tone of chilling doom."

In each of the Trump cases, the majority included Justices Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh, two of Trump's three appointees, and two others, Alito and Justice Clarence Thomas, who also rebuffed calls to sit out the Trump cases. Those same justices, plus Roberts and Justice Amy Coney Barrett, formed the majority in the cases about federal regulations. The conservatives also voted together on a major homelessness case that found outdoor sleeping bans aimed at homeless encampments don't violate the constitutional prohibition on cruel and unusual punishment — even when shelter space is lacking.

Roberts, though, has repeatedly defended the court from criticism that its justices were little more than politicians in robes. In a memorable clash with Trump in 2018, Roberts rebuked the then-president for complaining about the ruling of an "Obama judge."

"We do not have Obama judges or Trump judges, Bush judges or Clinton judges. What we have is an extraordinary group of dedicated judges doing their level best to do equal right to those appearing before them," Roberts said then.

But the court's public standing has taken a hit in recent years, particularly since *Roe* was overturned. Seven out of 10 Americans said the justices are more likely to be guided by their own ideology rather than serving as neutral arbiters of government authority, according to a poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research that was conducted before the final round of decisions was issued.

Abortion was one issue in which the court sidestepped the liberal-conservative divide by avoiding major rulings in a presidential election year when abortion is an animating issue, mainly because of the justice's 2022 decision that led to abortion bans or severe restrictions in most Republican-controlled states.

A one-sentence order in a case from Idaho cleared the way for emergency abortions to resume, despite the state's strict abortion ban. But it didn't end the court case or answer key questions about whether doctors can provide emergency abortions elsewhere, even in states where abortion bans would prohibit them. The Idaho decision was accidentally posted on the court's website a day early, reminiscent of the leak of the draft opinion two years ago that ended the constitutional right to abortion.

In a second abortion case, the justices unanimously dismissed a lawsuit from anti-abortion doctors who sought to roll back decisions made by the Food and Drug Administration to ease access to mifepristone, a pill used in nearly two-thirds of abortions in the United States last year. The decision explicitly avoided

any ruling on the FDA's actions, focusing entirely on the doctors' lack of legal standing to sue.

The mifepristone case was one of several from the conservative 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans that made the court seem the picture of moderation. The justices also reversed 5th Circuit rulings that would have struck down a federal gun control law intended to protect victims of domestic violence, overturned the funding structure for the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and barred Biden administration officials from trying to persuade social media platforms to remove misinformation.

The domestic violence gun law was the court's first Second Amendment case since its landmark 2022 ruling that led to upheaval in the nation's firearm laws by requiring any restrictions to have strong historical underpinnings.

Roberts also wrote the decision upholding the law that disarms people who pose a threat of physical violence. The finding could also give lower court judges some guidance on how they should apply the Supreme Court's new history and tradition test.

In a separate case involving guns, the court overturned a Trump-era Justice Department regulation that banned bump stocks, which are rapid-fire gun accessories and were used in the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history. The court divided along ideological lines, with conservatives in the majority in another case limiting the discretion of regulators.

A term's final days often produce a torrent of heated exchanges in the most contentious cases, and this year saw more than its share of big rulings that waited until the very end, despite a lighter-than-usual caseload.

In May, Justice Sonia Sotomayor telegraphed what the recent days might look like for her and the other liberal justices. "There are days that I've come to my office after an announcement of a case and closed my door and cried," Sotomayor said after receiving an award from Harvard's Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study. "And there are likely to be more."

Marketa Vondrousova is the first defending women's Wimbledon champ out in the first round since 1994

By HOWARD FENDRICH AP Tennis Writer

LONDON (AP) — Marketa Vondrousova became the first defending women's champion at Wimbledon to lose in the first round the next year since 1994, eliminated 6-4, 6-2 by Jessica Bouzas Maneiro at Centre Court on Tuesday.

Vondrousova was a surprise title winner at the All England Club 12 months ago, the first unseeded woman to claim the trophy at the grass-court Grand Slam tournament.

Now she enters the books in another — and less-wanted — historic way. The only other time in the sport's Open era, which dates to 1968, that a woman went from a championship at Wimbledon to an immediate exit a year later was when Steffi Graf was defeated by Lori McNeil 30 years ago.

"I was happy to be back on the Centre Court," Vondrousova said. "It just didn't go as planned today."

Vondrousova was seeded No. 6 this time, but the left-hander, who was the runner-up at the 2019 French Open and a silver medalist at the Tokyo Olympics three years ago, was never quite able to demonstrate her full game Tuesday. She appeared to still be suffering after-effects from a fall during a tuneup tournament on grass in Berlin last month that hurt her hip.

"I was a bit slower, maybe. I was a bit scared," Vondrousova said. "But credit to her. She was playing a good match, too. I didn't feel at my best, (but) she didn't give me many points for free."

How big a deal was this for Bouzas Maneiro?

She is competing in a Grand Slam tournament for only the third time and came into the day with an 0-2 record at those events. Bouzas Maneiro also had never won a match at a tour-level grass tournament and never beaten an opponent ranked in the top 10.

"This is one of the most important moments in my life, in my career, here in this sport. This is amazing," said Bouzas Maneiro, a 21-year-old from Spain who is ranked 83rd this week, equaling her career high.

"I was like, 'I have no pressure. Just enjoy the moment, enjoy the tournament.' Just trying to be free

playing, and I did it, so I'm happy for that," she said.

Vondrousova added to the series of past major title winners dropping out of the singles brackets within the first 30 hours of action at Wimbledon this year — although others did so without playing a point.

Earlier Tuesday, Andy Murray pulled out of singles because he decided he wasn't able to compete a little more than a week after having surgery to remove a cyst from his spine. His final appearance at Wimbledon, which he won in 2013 and 2016, will come in doubles alongside his older brother, Jamie.

Two seeded women who both have been ranked No. 1 and own two Australian Open championships apiece, No. 3 Aryna Sabalenka and No. 16 Victoria Azarenka, withdrew on Monday before their first-round matches because of shoulder injuries. Sabalenka was the pre-tournament favorite to take the women's title, according to BetMGM Sportsbook.

Intermittent rain delayed matches on the outside courts more than once Tuesday, and the retractable roofs at Centre Court and No. 1 Court were shut to allow play in those two stadiums. No. 6 seed Andrey Rublev lost, while winners on Day 2 included No. 1 Iga Swiatek, 2022 champion Elena Rybakina and No. 5 seed Jessica Pegula among the women, and seven-time champion Novak Djokovic, No. 4 seed Alexander Zverev and No. 7 Hubert Hurkacz among the men.

For Djokovic, his 6-1, 6-2, 6-2 win against qualifier Vit Kopriva was the first match since having surgery to repair a torn meniscus in his right knee on June 5.

"Obviously started a little bit more cautious, I would say. I didn't really maybe go for certain shots 100% ... (in) the first set," said Djokovic, who wore a gray sleeve on his right knee. "I played, I think, just enough to win confidently in straight sets. I felt like as the match progressed, I moved better."

The initial signs of trouble for Vondrousova on Tuesday came right away: She double-faulted three times in the very first game and got broken to trail 1-0.

"My serve wasn't so good today," Vondrousova said. "Overall, I think, I wasn't at my best."

She would wind up with seven double-faults, part of her total of 28 unforced errors, twice as many as Bouzas Maneiro in a match that lasted only a little more than an hour.

"I'm surprised with myself, honestly. At the beginning, I was a little bit nervous, but then ... the atmosphere was so nice," Bouzas Maneiro said. "I was comfortable here playing, and I was like at home. I don't know why."

AP tennis: <https://apnews.com/hub/tennis>

AI is learning from what you said on Reddit, Stack Overflow or Facebook. Are you OK with that?

By MATT O'BRIEN AP Technology Writer

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (AP) — Post a comment on Reddit, answer coding questions on Stack Overflow, edit a Wikipedia entry or share a baby photo on your public Facebook or Instagram feed and you are also helping to train the next generation of artificial intelligence.

Not everyone is OK with that — especially as the same online forums where they've spent years contributing are increasingly flooded with AI-generated commentary mimicking what real humans might say.

Some longtime users have tried to delete their past contributions or rewrite them into gibberish, but the protests haven't had much effect. A handful of governments — including Brazil's privacy regulator on Tuesday — have also tried to step in.

"A more significant portion of the population just kind of feels helpless," said Reddit volunteer moderator Sarah Gilbert, who also studies online communities at Cornell University. "There's nowhere to go except just completely going offline or not contributing in ways that bring value to them and value to others."

Platforms are responding — with mixed results. Take Stack Overflow, the popular hub for computer programming tips. First, it banned ChatGPT-written responses due to frequent errors, but now it's partnering with AI chatbot developers and has punished some of its own users who tried to erase their past

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contributions in protest.

It's one of a number of social media platforms grappling with user wariness — and occasional revolts — as they try to adapt to the changes brought by generative AI.

Software developer Andy Rotering of Bloomington, Minnesota, has used Stack Overflow daily for 15 years and said he worries the company “could be inadvertently hurting its greatest resource” — the community of contributors who've donated time to help other programmers.

“Keeping contributors incentivized to provide commentary should be paramount,” he said.

Stack Overflow CEO Prashanth Chandrasekar said the company is trying to balance rising demand for instant chatbot-generated coding assistance with the desire for a community “knowledge base” where people still want to post and “get recognized” for what they've contributed.

“Fast forward five years — there's going to be all sorts of machine-generated content on the web,” he said in an interview. “There's going to be very few places where there's truly authentic, original human thought. And we're one of those places.”

Chandrasekar readily describes Stack Overflow's challenges as like one of the “case studies” he learned about at Harvard Business School, of a how a business survives — or doesn't — after a disruptive technological change.

For more than a decade, users typically landed on Stack Overflow after typing a coding question in Google, and then found the answer, copied and pasted it. The answers they were most likely to see came from volunteers who'd built up points measuring their credibility — which in some cases could help land them a job.

Now programmers can simply ask an AI chatbot — some of which are already trained on everything ever posted to Stack Overflow — and it can instantly spit out an answer.

ChatGPT's debut in late 2022 threatened to put Stack Overflow out of business. So Chandrasekar carved out a special 40-person team at the company to race out the launch of its own specialized AI chatbot, called Overflow AI. Then, the company made deals with Google and ChatGPT maker OpenAI, enabling the AI developers to tap into Stack Overflow's question-and-answer archive to further improve their AI large language models.

That kind of strategy makes sense but may have come too late, said Maria Roche, an assistant professor at Harvard Business School. “I'm surprised that Stack Overflow wasn't working on this earlier,” she said.

When some Stack Overflow users tried to delete their past comments after the Open AI partnership was announced, the company responded by suspending their accounts due to terms that make all contributions “perpetually and irrevocably licensed to Stack Overflow.”

“We quickly addressed it and said, ‘Look, that's not acceptable behavior,’” said Chandrasekar, describing the protesters as a small minority in the “low hundreds” of the platform's 100 million users.

Brazil's national data protection authority on Tuesday took action to ban social media giant Meta Platforms from training its AI models on the Facebook and Instagram posts of Brazilians. It established a daily fine of 50,000 reais (\$8,820) for non-compliance.

Meta in a statement called it a “step backwards for innovation” and said it has been more transparent than many industry counterparts doing similar AI training on public content, and that its practices comply with Brazilian laws.

Meta has also encountered resistance in Europe, where it recently put on hold its plans to start feeding people's public posts into training AI systems — which was supposed to start last week. In the U.S., where there's no national law protecting online privacy, such training is already likely happening.

“The vast majority of people just have no idea that their data is being used,” Gilbert said.

Reddit has taken a different approach — partnering with AI developers like OpenAI and Google while also making clear that content can't be taken in bulk without the platform's approval by commercial entities “with no regard for user rights or privacy.” The deals helped bring Reddit the money it needed to debut on Wall Street in March, with investors pushing the value of the company close to \$9 billion seconds after it began trading on the New York Stock Exchange.

Reddit hasn't tried to punish users who protested — nor could it easily do so given how much say voluntary moderators have on what happens in their specialty forums known as subreddits. But what worries Gilbert, who helps moderate the "AskHistorians" subreddit, is the increasing flow of AI-generated commentary that moderators must decide whether to allow or ban.

"People come to Reddit because they want to talk to people, they don't want to talk to bots," Gilbert said. "There's apps where they can talk to bots if they want to. But historically Reddit has been for connecting with humans."

She said it's ironic that the AI-generated content threatening Reddit was sourced on the comments of millions of human Redditors, and "there's a real risk that eventually it could end up pushing people out."

Associated Press writer Eléonore Hughes in Rio de Janeiro contributed to this report.

The Associated Press and OpenAI have a licensing and technology agreement that allows OpenAI access to part of AP's text archives.

Fed Chair Jerome Powell: US inflation is cooling again, though it isn't yet time to cut rates

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Inflation in the United States is slowing again after higher readings earlier this year, Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell said Tuesday, while adding that more such evidence would be needed before the Fed would cut interest rates.

After some persistently high inflation reports at the start of 2024, Powell said, the data for April and May "do suggest we are getting back on a disinflationary path."

Speaking in a panel discussion at the European Central Bank's monetary policy conference in Sintra, Portugal, Powell said Fed officials still want to see annual price growth slow further toward their 2% target before they would feel confident of having fully defeated high inflation.

"We just want to understand that the levels that we're seeing are a true reading of underlying inflation," he added.

Powell also acknowledged that the Fed is treading a fine line as it weighs when to cut its benchmark interest rate, which it raised 11 times from March 2022 through July 2023 to its current level of 5.3%. The rate hikes were intended to curb the worst streak of inflation in four decades by slowing borrowing and spending by consumers and businesses. Inflation did tumble from its peak in 2022 yet still remains elevated.

If the Fed cuts rates too soon, Powell cautioned, inflation could re-accelerate, forcing the policymakers to reverse course and impose punishing rate hikes. But if the Fed waits too long to reduce borrowing costs, it risks weakening the economy so much as to potentially cause a recession.

"Getting the balance on monetary policy right during this critical period — that's really what I think about in the wee hours," Powell said in response to a question about his top worries.

On Friday, the government reported that consumer prices, according to the Fed's preferred measure, were unchanged from April to May, the mildest such reading in more than four years. And compared with a year earlier, inflation dropped to just 2.6% in May, from 2.7% in April, the government said.

Excluding volatile food and energy costs, "core" prices also barely rose from April to May. On a year-over-year basis, core inflation fell to 2.6% from 2.8% in April. The latest inflation figures were a sharp improvement from early this year.

In his appearance Tuesday, Powell said the U.S. economy and job market remain fundamentally healthy, which means the Fed can take its time in deciding when rate cuts are appropriate. Most economists think the Fed's first rate cut will occur in September, with potentially another cut to follow by year's end.

The Fed chair also said the job market is "cooling off appropriately," which likely means that it won't heighten inflationary pressures through rapid wage gains.

"It doesn't look like it's heating up or presenting a big problem for inflation going forward," Powell said of the job market. "It looks like it's doing just what you would want it to do, which is to cool off over time."

Powell declined to signal any time frame for a rate cut. Investors are betting that there is nearly a 70% chance for a reduction at the Fed's meeting in September.

Fed officials have expressed a range of views on inflation and interest-rate policy since their last meeting a little over two weeks ago.

John Williams, president of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York and vice chair of the central bank's rate-setting committee, said last week, "I am confident that we at the Fed are on a path to achieving our 2% inflation goal on a sustained basis."

Mary Daly, president of the San Francisco Fed, cautioned last week, though, that it was "hard to know if we are truly on track to sustainable price stability."

In his appearance Tuesday in Portugal, Powell spoke at a panel along with Christine Lagarde, president of the European Central Bank, and Roberto Campos Neto, the head of Brazil's central bank.

The ECB has already made a quarter-point cut to its key rate this year, with inflation in the 20-nation eurozone having sunk from above 10% to just 2.5%.

In her remarks Tuesday, though, Lagarde reiterated that the ECB is not on any "predetermined path" and that its recent rate cut "would be followed by further review of data."

Such comments have led many analysts to conclude that the ECB's next rate cut won't occur until September at the earliest.

Defense Secretary Austin says the US will provide \$2.3 billion more in military aid to Ukraine

By TARA COPP and LOLITA C. BALDOR Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said Tuesday that the U.S. will soon announce an additional \$2.3 billion in security assistance for Ukraine, to include anti-tank weapons, interceptors and munitions for Patriot and other air defense systems.

Austin's remarks came as Ukrainian Defense Minister Rustem Umerov met with him at the Pentagon. And they mark a strong response to pleas from Kyiv for help in battling Russian forces in the Donetsk region.

Of that total, \$150 million of the aid will come from presidential drawdown authority (PDA) and the remainder will be provided by Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative (USAI). PDA allows the Pentagon to take the weapons from its stocks and send them more quickly to Ukraine; USAI puts weapons on longer-term contracts.

"Make no mistake, Ukraine is not alone, and the United States will never waver in our support," Austin said as he opened the meeting with Umerov. "Alongside some 50 allies and partners, we'll continue to provide critical capabilities that Ukraine needs to push back Russian aggression today and to deter Russian aggression tomorrow."

The announcement comes just days before the U.S. hosts the NATO summit in Washington and as Ukraine has continued to lobby for military support and acceptance into the alliance.

"We'll take steps to build a bridge to NATO membership for Ukraine," Austin told Umerov.

"Hopefully soon Ukraine will receive its invitation," the Ukrainian minister responded.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Sunday that Russia had dropped more than 800 powerful glide bombs in Ukraine in the last week alone. And he urged national leaders to relax restrictions on the use of Western weapons to strike military targets inside Russia. In particular, he said, Ukraine needs the "necessary means to destroy the carriers of these bombs, including Russian combat aircraft, wherever they are."

Austin did not refer to the restrictions in his opening comments, but he told Umerov that they would discuss "more ways to meet Ukraine's immediate security needs and to build a future force to ward off more Russian aggression."

Including the latest \$2.3 billion, the U.S. has committed more than \$53.5 billion in security assistance to Ukraine since the Russian invasion in February 2022.

'It's our moment.' Girmay's Tour de France breakthrough comes as the cycling worlds head to Africa

By ANDREW DAMPF AP Sports Writer

Biniyam Girmay grew up in Eritrea watching the Tour de France on TV each July with his father.

He idolized three-time world champion Peter Sagan but never dared to dream of matching the Slovakian cyclist's exploits.

Then came Monday, when Girmay became the first Black African rider — actually the first Black cyclist from any continent — to win a Tour stage.

"I never dreamed to be part of (the) Tour de France," Girmay said after wiping away some tears.

The timing couldn't have been better. Next year, Rwanda will become the first African country to host cycling's road world championships.

"It's our moment to show our strength and our potential," Girmay said.

And to think the initial plan for Girmay's Intermarche-Wanty team from Belgium was for the Eritrean to lead out the sprint for Belgian teammate Gerben Thijssen. But when Girmay lost touch with his teammates in the frenetic finale, which saw Mark Cavendish and others caught behind by a crash, Girmay was given the green light.

"I heard on the radio to do it for myself, because I had already lost the wheel," Girmay said. "For me it's always easier to find (space) myself. Then it's just close your eyes and go for victory."

Sagan, who won 12 stages in his Tour career, would have been proud of the way Girmay squirmed his way through a tiny space to edge past Fernando Gaviria — a winner of seven Grand Tour stages — at the line.

Girmay also made history in Italy two years ago when he won a stage at the Giro d'Italia to become the first Black African to take a victory in a Grand Tour. But Girmay's Giro victory was marred when he was rushed to a hospital after getting hit in the left eye by a prosecco cork he popped open during the podium celebration — forcing him to abandon the race.

Girmay was more careful in his celebration this time.

"This win is worth more," Girmay said. "I don't have words to explain how important this victory is for me and for my continent."

Girmay started riding in single-day races at home in Eritrea and then left home for the International Cycling Union's development center in Aigle, Switzerland, in 2018.

In 2021, he won a silver medal in the under-23 road race at the world championships in Belgium. Then at the start of 2022, Girmay won a single-day classic at the Gent-Wevelgem race in Belgium.

Merhawi Kudus and Daniel Teklehaimanot paved the way for Girmay when they became the first Eritreans to ride in the Tour de France in 2015 — when Teklehaimanot became the first African rider to wear the King of the Mountains polka-dot jersey. They rode for the South African MTN-Qhubeka team.

Human rights groups describe Eritrea as one of the world's most repressive countries. Since winning independence from Ethiopia three decades ago, the small Horn of Africa nation has been led by President Isaias Afwerki, who has never held an election.

Riders from only one other African country — South Africa — have won Tour stages: Robert Hunter (2007) and Daryl Impey (2019). Four-time Tour champion Chris Froome was born and raised in Kenya but represented Britain.

"This is so important for cycling," said Aike Visbeek, the performance director for Girmay's Intermarche-Wanty team. "Now the world can see what is possible when we give these guys a chance."

And Girmay isn't done yet.

He's now high up in the points standings for the Tour's green jersey that goes to the race's top sprinter. And there are a handful more sprinting stages to come in this year's race.

He's just 24.

"It's my time," Girmay said. "Now we are really part of the big races. We have a lot victories so it's our time, it's our moment. I never cry, but inside I am, I just have no words."

AP cycling: <https://apnews.com/hub/cycling>

Senator wants Washington Commanders to pay tribute to an old logo that offends many Indigenous

By GRAHAM LEE BREWER Associated Press

After a half century of activism, many Native Americans thought a bitter debate over the capital's football mascot was over two years ago when the team became the Washington Commanders.

The organization left behind the racist slur "redskins" as its name and retired the logo that was closely tied to that name: the profile of a Native man with long hair and two feathers.

Now, a white Republican U.S. senator from Montana is reviving the debate by blocking a bill funding the revitalization of the decrepit RFK Stadium for the Commanders, who have been playing miles away in Maryland. Sen. Steve Daines says he will block the legislation until the NFL and the Commanders honor the former logo in some form.

Daines declined Associated Press requests to explain his stance or respond to criticism from Indigenous people who say such efforts are rooted in racism.

A logo's complicated history

The original logo was designed by a member of the Blackfeet Nation in the state of Montana. Some tribal members take pride in it and the legacy of the man who helped design it in the early '70s — Walter "Blackie" Wetzel, a former Blackfeet Nation tribal chairman and former president of the National Congress of the American Indian, the country's oldest Native American and Alaska Native advocacy organization.

Wetzel's family says Daines and Wetzel's son Don, who died last year at 74, formed a friendship that may be fueling the senator's fight for the logo.

Indian Country is typically a bipartisan topic in Congress.

Daines sits on the Senate Committee for Indian Affairs and has worked with Democratic colleagues on clean-water access for tribal communities. He has supported the passage of a truth-and-healing commission to investigate the history of Indian boarding schools, a bill carried by Sen. Elizabeth Warren, a Democrat from Massachusetts.

Daines has also used the policy area to take jabs at the Biden administration and was one of the fiercest opponents to the nomination of Deb Haaland, the first Native American to run the Department of the Interior.

He accused her of being hostile to the energy and natural-resource extraction industries and said she would use the appointment to "negatively impact the Montana way of life." In May, he blocked the nomination of the woman who wanted to be the first Native American federal district court judge in Montana. Daines said the Biden administration did not consult with his office about the nomination, a claim the White House disputes.

Painful symbolism?

Daines said in a prepared statement that he would hold up the stadium legislation until representatives of the Washington Commanders and the NFL show that they're working with the Wetzel family and leaders of the Blackfeet Nation to find a way to "honor the history of the logo and heritage of our tribal nations and to rededicate the organization as an advocate for Indian Country."

For many Indigenous peoples, the team's original name and logo represent an ugly history of racial discrimination and violence, as well as modern-day battles over ethical representation of Native Americans in popular culture. The National Congress of the American Indian, the organization that Walter Wetzel once led, has fought since 1968 to remove mascots like that one. Numerous psychological studies have shown

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the harmful impacts that Native American mascots have on children.

A divided family

Founded in Boston in 1932, the football team had a Native American man as its mascot, but after moving to Washington D.C. in 1937, the logo was changed to a spear, later an "R" adorned with two feathers.

Walter Wetzel had been working for the Department of Labor to address housing and employment disparities in Indian Country and worked closely with President John F. Kennedy, and was friends with him and Robert Kennedy. Wetzel worked with the football team to redesign its logo. He felt that, if the team was going to have a Native American-themed mascot, it should at least be a representative image, said his grandson Ryan Wetzel.

Walter Wetzel suggested a profile of a former Blackfeet chief, John Two Guns White Calf. A likeness of that image would be used from the 1972 season until it was retired in 2020.

"I understand the controversy of the name, I get it," Ryan Wetzel said. "I come from a family that is divided with the name. But the logo, how can we still keep that and use that moving forward?"

Ryan Wetzel said that in his final years his father Don had an amputated leg but still showed up regularly on Capitol Hill to find support for preserving the logo, and Daines took ahold of that cause. Daines reached out to Ryan Wetzel after his father died last year to see if he could help revive the effort to restore the logo in some way.

A "dog-whistle"?

A spokesperson for Daines said talks with the Washington Commanders on a way to honor the Wetzel family are ongoing and productive. In his statements during a May committee hearing on the RFK stadium bill, Daines suggested that the logo could be revitalized to sell merchandise, and a portion of the profits could go toward issues like the epidemic of missing and murdered Indigenous women.

But Native American advocates and researchers say use of the old logo is an inappropriate and harmful path to achieving justice and equity for Indigenous peoples. No matter how the image was chosen, it cannot be separated from the racial slur it once promoted, said Crystal Echo Hawk, a member of the Pawnee Nation and the founder and CEO of IllumiNative, a nonprofit that works to increase the visibility of Native Americans. She called the former logo a "dog-whistle" to the team's former name.

"The science underscores the detrimental impact these images have on Indigenous peoples," said Dr. Stephanie Fryberg, a professor of psychology at the University of Michigan and one of the country's leading experts on the topic.

Fryberg, who is a member of the Tulalip Tribe in Washington State, said the use of these mascots leads to heightened rates of depression, self-harm, substance abuse, and suicidal ideation, particularly among children.

"The continued use of these racist images prevents Native Americans from existing and being honored within contemporary social contexts," she said.

What did the Blackfeet Nation get?

In Montana, some Blackfeet Nation council members wonder why so little of the millions of dollars the football team generated off the image of White Calf and designed by a former Blackfeet Nation chairman never made it back to the Blackfeet people.

Decades ago, the football team donated a couple of vans to help transport Blackfeet elders to a nearby VA facility, said Blackfeet Nation Councilman Everett Armstrong, but he was unaware of any other resources or revenues that had been shared with the tribe. A spokesperson for the Washington Commanders was unable to provide any other examples but said the team is in talks with the Wetzel family.

There are strong feelings about the logo and its legacy on the reservation, said Armstrong. But one group feels left out of the discussion entirely: the descendants of White Calf.

They were not consulted in the 1970's about the use of his image and have never been asked about it since, said Armstrong, a descendant of White Calf himself.

"They'd like a seat at the table," he said.

_____ Brewer is an Oklahoma City-based member of AP's Race and Ethnicity team.

Arthur Crudup: What to know about the bluesman who wrote Elvis's first hit and barely got paid

By BEN FINLEY Associated Press

FRANKTOWN, Va. (AP) — Arthur "Big Boy" Crudup helped invent rock 'n' roll.

His 1946 song "That's All Right" would become the first single Elvis Presley ever released. Rod Stewart would sing it on a chart-topping album. Led Zeppelin would play it live.

But you wouldn't have known it if you saw Crudup living out his later years on Virginia's Eastern Shore, dressed in coveralls and leading a crew picking cucumbers, tomatoes and sweet potatoes.

The Mississippi-born blues musician died 50 years ago, leaving behind one of the starker accounts of 20th century artist exploitation. As the 70th anniversary of Presley's recording of "That's All Right" approaches Friday — July 5, considered a cultural milestone — here are some key takeaways from the AP's story on Crudup:

Why did Crudup make so little money?

Crudup didn't hold the rights to his own songs. His original manager did. And that was common practice back then.

Lester Melrose had initially signed and managed Crudup.

"I wouldn't record anybody unless he signed all his rights in those tunes over to me," he once said, according to Alan Lomax's book "Mister Jelly Roll."

Many Black musicians signed over copyrights or were forced to share them, Southwestern Law School professor Kevin J. Greene told The Associated Press.

"A huge chunk of what we're talking about in terms of exploitation is still under copyright," said Greene, who testified before a California reparations task force.

In 1971, Downbeat magazine estimated that Crudup should have earned \$250,000 — \$2 million today — from "That's All Right" as well as "My Baby Left Me," which Creedence Clearwater Revival recorded. High Fidelity was more conservative, writing in 1972 that Crudup's total royalties would've been around \$120,000 — still more than \$900,000 today.

Did Crudup like Presley's version?

He said he did.

"He made it into a kind of hillbilly record," Crudup told the Los Angeles Times in 1969. "But I liked it. I thought it would be a hit. Some people like the blues, some don't. But the way he did it, everyone liked it."

Presley had started playing the song while on a break during his tryout session in Sun Studios, according to Peter Guralnick's book, "Last Train to Memphis."

Guralnick told The Associated Press that Presley's recording of "That's All Right" set him off "on what would soon become his almost unimaginable path to stardom."

In 1956, Presley paid homage to Crudup.

"Down in Tupelo, Mississippi, I used to hear old Arthur Crudup bang his box the way I do now," he told The Charlotte Observer, "and I said if I ever got to the place I could feel all old Arthur felt, I'd be a music man like nobody ever saw."

Arguments abound over who wrote the first rock 'n' roll song. But "That's All Right," mixing elements of blues and country, stakes a strong claim.

"It doesn't sound like country, it doesn't sound like blues, although I can hear them in there," said Joe Burns, a professor of communications and media studies at Southeastern Louisiana University. "It really is a brand new thing."

What happened later in Crudup's life?

Crudup left music in his early 50s to work on farms, eventually settling in Franktown, Virginia, on the state's Eastern Shore. He earned a living by leading crews of migrant workers to pick fruits and vegetables.

He was heartbroken by his experience in the music business, his granddaughter said. But he didn't wallow.

"He was an extremely principled man," Prechelle Crudup Shannon said of her grandfather, who embodied

“those old country values” of working hard and supporting one’s family.

Crudup did eventually return to music, during the 1960s blues revival. He released new albums, played festivals and shared stages with B.B. King, Taj Mahal and Bonnie Raitt.

But he never got the songwriting royalties that eluded him — during his lifetime, at least.

Near the end of his life, Crudup almost reached a settlement with the company that acquired the rights to his songs when Melrose died. But the deal was called off at last minute.

“Naked I come into this world and naked I should leave it,” Crudup told his final manager, Dick Waterman, who recalled that day in his book, “Between Midnight and Day.”

After his death, his family did eventually receive some royalties from the music publisher that took over the songs’ rights.

How is Crudup being remembered?

Even though he died in 1974, Crudup has received flashes of recognition in recent years.

He was briefly portrayed by Gary Clark Jr. in the 2022 biopic “Elvis” and mentioned last year by the California reparations task force examining the long history of discrimination against African Americans.

The state of Virginia is also planning to install a highway marker honoring Crudup on the Eastern Shore.

“Among others who covered Crudup were the Beatles, B.B. King, and Elton John,” the marker will state.

“Rarely receiving royalties, Crudup supported his family as a laborer and farm worker.”

Crudup’s granddaughter and others believe he should be in the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame.

“It would be something if this story was unique,” Shannon said. “But it’s not. We know this has happened to Black artists throughout time, but specifically back then.”

Arthur Crudup wrote the song that became Elvis’ first hit. He barely got paid

By BEN FINLEY Associated Press

FRANKTOWN, Va. (AP) — Arthur “Big Boy” Crudup helped invent rock ‘n’ roll.

His 1946 song “That’s All Right,” an easygoing shrug to a lover, would become the first single Elvis Presley ever released. Rod Stewart would sing it on a chart-topping album. Led Zeppelin would play it live.

But you wouldn’t have known it if you saw Crudup living out his later years on Virginia’s Eastern Shore, dressed in coveralls and leading a crew picking cucumbers, tomatoes and sweet potatoes.

Despite being dubbed “the father of rock ‘n’ roll,” Crudup received scant songwriting royalties in his lifetime because of a recording contract that funneled the money to his original manager. Crudup died 50 years ago, leaving behind one of the starker accounts of 20th century artist exploitation.

“Of course materialistic things don’t mean everything,” says Prechelle Crudup Shannon, a granddaughter. “But they took so much more than just money. They left him with all of the burdens of a poor Black man. And even more so because they left him with a broken heart.”

In recent years, Crudup has received flashes of recognition. He was briefly portrayed by Gary Clark Jr. in the 2022 biopic “Elvis” and mentioned last year by a California reparations task force examining the long history of discrimination against African Americans.

The 70th anniversary of Presley recording “That’s All Right” is Friday — many historians consider July 5 a cultural milestone — and comes as the state of Virginia plans a highway marker honoring Crudup.

“Among others who covered Crudup were the Beatles, B.B. King, and Elton John,” the marker will state.

“Rarely receiving royalties, Crudup supported his family as a laborer and farm worker.”

‘A brand new thing’

Crudup was born in 1905 in Forest, Mississippi, and started singing the blues when he was about 10, he told Blues Unlimited magazine. By 14, he was working in a foundry. It wasn’t until his 30s that he took up the guitar. Self-taught, he played parties and nightclubs in the Mississippi Delta.

In Chicago, seeking a better job, he busked and slept in a crate under an L station. One evening on a street corner, Crudup met Lester Melrose, a white field agent for Bluebird Records.

“He put a dollar in my hand and asked me to play,” Crudup told High Fidelity magazine.

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Arguments abound over who wrote the first rock 'n' roll song. But "That's All Right," mixing elements of blues and country, stakes a strong claim.

"It doesn't sound like country, it doesn't sound like blues, although I can hear them in there," says Joe Burns, a professor of communications and media studies at Southeastern Louisiana University. "It really is a brand new thing."

Crudup recorded some 80 songs for Bluebird between 1941 and 1956, including "That's All Right," "My Baby Left Me" and "So Glad You're Mine." He held the rights to none.

His original manager had them.

"I wouldn't record anybody unless he signed all his rights in those tunes over to me," Melrose once said, according to Alan Lomax's book, "Mister Jelly Roll."

Crudup spent years off and on in Chicago, recording songs there and returning south by bus to work jobs in Mississippi. One was hauling trash for \$28.44 a week.

"I had the family to take care of, a car note to pay off, a gas bill, a light bill," Crudup said. He left music in his early 50s to work on farms.

'A kind of hillbilly record'

In 1954, Presley was on a break during his tryout session in Sun Studios when "this song popped into my mind that I had heard years ago," according to Peter Guralnick's book, "Last Train to Memphis."

Sam Phillips, the studio's legendary founder, immediately recognized Crudup's song. Phillips was amazed the 19-year-old knew it and felt his version "came across with a freshness and an exuberance."

A Memphis, Tennessee, radio station soon broadcast Presley's recording. The response was "instantaneous," with phone calls and telegrams asking the station to replay it, Guralnick wrote.

"It was by far Elvis's biggest seller on the Sun label and set him off on what would soon become his almost unimaginable path to stardom," Guralnick tells The Associated Press.

Although Crudup is often elided from accounts of Presley's rise, the singer did publicly credit the songwriter.

"Down in Tupelo, Mississippi, I used to hear old Arthur Crudup bang his box the way I do now," Presley told The Charlotte Observer in 1956, "and I said if I ever got to the place I could feel all old Arthur felt, I'd be a music man like nobody ever saw."

Crudup himself liked Presley's interpretation.

"He made it into a kind of hillbilly record," Crudup later told the Los Angeles Times. "But I liked it. I thought it would be a hit. Some people like the blues, some don't. But the way he did it, everyone liked it."

In the early 1960s, Crudup finally got a sizable royalty check — for \$1,600. But Melrose refused to turn over the copyright.

Many Black musicians signed over copyrights or were forced to share them, Southwestern Law School professor Kevin J. Greene says.

"A huge chunk of what we're talking about in terms of exploitation is still under copyright," says Greene, who testified before the California reparations task force.

In 1971, Downbeat magazine estimated that Crudup probably should have earned over \$250,000 — nearly \$2 million today — from "That's All Right" as well as "My Baby Left Me," which Creedence Clearwater Revival recorded.

The American Guild of Authors and Composers even tried to collect royalties on Crudup's behalf. But its then-managing director, John Carter, told High Fidelity in 1972 that Crudup had been paid "at most \$2,500" from the guild's efforts.

Playing in a packing shed

By his mid-50s, Crudup had settled in Franktown, Virginia. He was heartbroken by his experience, his granddaughter says. But he didn't wallow.

"One of the things that my father emphasized was that he was an extremely principled man," Shannon says of Crudup, who embodied "those old country values" of working hard and supporting one's family.

Etna Nottingham Walker, whose family owned the Virginia farm where Crudup worked, says that "if you

didn't know that it was Arthur Crudup and he was a musician, you wouldn't have singled him out."

Butch Nottingham, Walker's cousin, worked on the farm too. During breaks, he says, Crudup sometimes pulled out a guitar and sang in the packing shed where they washed and waxed cucumbers.

Crudup did eventually return to music, during the 1960s blues revival. Music producers from two labels, Fire and Delmark, tracked him down. He released new albums, played festivals and shared stages with B.B. King, Taj Mahal and Bonnie Raitt.

But Crudup continued to live on Virginia's Eastern Shore, a narrow peninsula between the Chesapeake Bay and Atlantic Ocean. Shannon remembers her silver-haired grandfather holding her as a toddler on his Franktown porch, a cigarette dangling from his lips.

"He had these very, very long limbs," recalls Shannon. "He just seemed like a giant to me."

Tim Prettyman worked at the pharmacy where Crudup often picked up insulin, coffee and Camel cigarettes. One time, a suit-clad Crudup arrived with a guitar case, bound for a bus to New York and a plane to England.

"He said, 'I'm going to play music for the Queen,' and winked at me and smiled," Prettyman remembers. 'Ain't meant to be'

Near the end of his life, Crudup almost got a settlement for \$60,000, over \$400,000 today.

Melrose was dead. A deal had been arranged with Hill & Range, the company that had acquired Crudup's publishing rights.

But when Crudup and four of his children arrived in New York, they learned the deal was off, according to the book "Between Midnight and Day," written by Crudup's final manager, Dick Waterman.

They were told a settlement would cost the company more money than a potential lawsuit would yield. And suing meant "going after an old white widow who lives in Florida," Waterman wrote. "We wouldn't have a chance."

"It just ain't meant to be," Crudup told Waterman. "Naked I come into this world and naked I shall leave it."

Indeed, a settlement came only after Crudup's 1974 death. Chappell Music refused to go forward with buying Hill & Range until the Crudup matter was resolved. The first check was slightly more than \$248,000, Waterman wrote, with Crudup's estate receiving around \$3 million over the following decades.

Now Warner Chappell Music, the publishing company declined to comment because the events were so long ago.

Jeanette Crudup, the widow of Crudup's son Jonas, says the payments to the musician's children paled in comparison to what he should have received during his lifetime.

"They got the crumbs from it," she says.

Crudup still remains relatively unknown, even on the Eastern Shore, says Billy Sturgis, a local resident who produced an album by Crudup's sons. Sturgis hopes the historical marker will help. But, he says, Crudup belongs in the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, alongside Presley and the many others who sang Crudup's songs.

Crudup's granddaughter agrees.

"It would be something if this story was unique," Shannon says. "But it's not. We know this has happened to Black artists throughout time, but specifically back then."

Devout athletes find strength in their faith.

But practicing it and elite sports can pose hurdles

By GIOVANNA DELL'ORTO and DEEPA BHARATH Associated Press

It's been 100 years since a Scottish runner famously refused to race on a Sunday at the Paris Olympics because of his Christian beliefs. Devout top athletes say elite sports performance still poses some hurdles for the faith practices that are central to their lives on and off the field.

At this summer's Paris Olympics, much of the controversy has centered around Islam, because France's unique secularism principles forbid its athletes from wearing headscarves as well as other visibly religious symbols — though the ban doesn't affect Olympians from other countries.

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But athletes of different faiths argue sports organizations and major events should better respect the breadth of religious practices, especially as they strive to be more inclusive. To many, faith and spirituality are also essential to mental well-being, which has come under the spotlight especially since U.S. gymnastics star Simone Biles' open struggles at the last Olympics.

"Most people would see sports and religion as very separate, but I see a big overlap. Everything we have is a gift from God — He's the one who's given me this strength," said Beatie Deutsch, an Orthodox Jewish runner who qualified to represent Israel in the Tokyo Olympics but didn't compete because the women's marathon was scheduled for a Saturday, when she observes shabbat.

"I'd love governing bodies of sports to do more to accommodate religion," said the 34-year-old American Israeli mother of five. Injuries kept her from qualifying for the Paris Games, but Deutsch recently started training again with her eyes on next year's World Championship — and the 2028 Games in Los Angeles.

Her refusal to race on a day dedicated to the Lord mirrors the 1924 saga of Eric Liddell, immortalized in the Oscar-winning movie *Chariots of Fire*. Liddell refused to run the heats on a Sunday in his strongest challenge, the 100-meter sprint, but went on to improbably win a gold medal in the 400-meter race.

American Olympic champion Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone, who broke her own world record at Olympic trials Sunday in the 400-meter hurdles, describes how Liddell's words about running to glorify God resonated with her in her new book, "Far Beyond Gold."

Embracing her Christian faith has transformed her life and career, she said, by helping her move beyond doubt and fear.

"For a long time, my identity was in track and field," she told *The Associated Press* days before the U.S. Olympic track and field trials. "But I realized that first and foremost, I'm a child of God. It set me free to run the race God has set out for me to run."

McLaughlin-Levrone, 24, said she has shared devotionals and lessons from her faith journey on Instagram, where she has more than 1 million followers, and prays with her coach, trainer and husband before every race.

When her mind is rooted in God, that's when she is able to handle the pressures and high expectations of being an Olympic athlete — "especially in track, where things are so uncertain and always changing."

"That means being in the word, being in prayer, keeping that in the forefront and allowing that to be what centers my mind and not the outside voices of the world," McLaughlin-Levrone said.

Athletes with a secure attachment to God tend to be less depressed, anxious and lonely than those with a negative perception of a punishing God or those who are not religious, said Laura Upenieks, a Baylor University sociology professor who has studied elite athletes at U.S. colleges.

That's in large part because they don't base their self-worth on others' approval, are less self-centered and can find greater meaning beyond being "only as good as the last race," Upenieks added.

"Faith gives me the ability to stand firm and to keep going, and it reminds me that there's always a larger and higher goal to pursue," said Tunisian steeplechase runner Marwa Bouzayani, 27, as she trained for the Paris Olympics.

A devout Muslim who first competed at the Tokyo Games, she races the women's 3,000-meter steeplechase wearing modest attire, including a hijab or head covering. She regularly trains during Ramadan, when Muslims abstain from food and water from dawn to sundown — a challenge that this year made the news in France, where the soccer federation refused accommodations for observant players.

"I've faced many challenges, whether when it comes to reconciling religious obligations with the demands of training or when it comes to confronting stereotypes and biases, but every challenge I've faced has strengthened my resolve," Bouzayani said.

In fact, she hopes to be a role model for Muslim girls, showing them "that success in elite sports can be realized without forsaking religious values and beliefs." She also wants to increase awareness in sports circles about the importance of respecting cultural and religious diversity.

Deutsch is a fan of both Bouzayani and McLaughlin-Levrone for their commitment to, and openness about, their faith. She hopes to be a model for Orthodox Jewish girls who might have never seen an elite

athlete compete while dressed like them — head covering, long sleeves, skirt below the knee.

In races where every fraction of a second counts, such modest attire can be “a hindrance,” Deutsch said, but inspiring others far outweighs that.

“I hope my story empowers athletes,” she said.

In the past few decades, athletes, coaches and fans have become far more accepting of the need to protect players’ well-being by incorporating mental and spiritual care with physical training, said Tamir Goodman. Known in the late 1990s as “the Jewish Michael Jordan,” he was the only observant Jew playing Division I college basketball in the United States, though never on the Sabbath.

Carl Lewis, a U.S. track and field legend who won nine Olympic gold medals and now mentors young athletes, told the AP that while he doesn’t consider himself religious, he’s a follower of Sri Chinmoy, the late Indian teacher who believed that a spiritual life and running went hand in hand.

“Young athletes now also look to their spirituality for guidance and hope, and I think that is wonderful for them,” he said.

Right after qualifying for Paris, her third Olympics, U.S. high jumper Vashti Cunningham — whose father and coach is longtime NFL quarterback Randall Cunningham — told AP how her faith helps at intense competitions like the Oregon trials.

“Without my spirituality, I feel like I would genuinely be lost,” said Cunningham, 26. “Especially in a high-level sport like this where a lot of people depend on their self and on their strength and on their training. I really just rely on God, and his strength, and his power.”

AP Religion Writer Mariam Fam, Sports Writer Pat Graham and National Writer Eddie Pells contributed to this report.

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Trump seeks to set aside his New York hush money guilty verdict after Supreme Court immunity ruling

By MICHAEL R. SISAK and JAKE OFFENHARTZ Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Former President Donald Trump’s lawyers have asked the New York judge who presided over his hush money trial to set aside his conviction and delay his sentencing, scheduled for next week.

The letter to Judge Juan M. Merchan cited the U.S. Supreme Court’s ruling earlier Monday on presidential immunity and asked the judge to delay Trump’s sentencing while he weighs the high court’s decision and how it could influence the New York case, according to the letter obtained by The Associated Press.

The lawyers argue that the Supreme Court’s decision confirmed a position the defense raised earlier in the case that prosecutors should have been precluded from introducing some evidence they said constituted official presidential acts, according to the letter.

In prior court filings, Trump contended he is immune from prosecution for conduct alleged to involve official acts during his tenure in office. His lawyers did not raise that as a defense in the hush money case, but they argued that some evidence — including Trump’s social media posts about former lawyer Michael Cohen — comes from his time as president and should have been excluded from the trial because of immunity protections.

The Manhattan district attorney’s office declined to comment Monday night.

The Supreme Court on Monday ruled for the first time that former presidents have broad immunity from prosecution, extending the delay in the Washington criminal case against the Republican ex-president on charges he plotted to overturn his 2020 election loss.

Trump was convicted in New York of 34 counts of falsifying business records, arising from what prosecutors said was an attempt to cover up a hush money payment to a porn actor just before the 2016

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presidential election. He is scheduled to be sentenced in the hush money case on July 11.

Merchan instituted a policy in the run-up to the trial requiring both sides to send him a one-page letter summarizing their arguments before making longer court filings. He said he did that to better manage the docket, so he was not inundated with voluminous paperwork.

In denying Trump's bid to move the trial from New York state court to federal court last year, a federal judge found that the allegations at the center of the case pertained to Trump's personal life and do not "reflect in any way the color of the President's official duties."

"The evidence overwhelmingly suggests that the matter was a purely a personal item of the President — a cover-up of an embarrassing event," U.S. District Judge Alvin K. Hellerstein wrote in the ruling.

Sisak contributed from Fort Pierce, Florida.

Who are the main players in the UK's upcoming national election?

By SYLVIA HUI Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Millions of voters in Britain are going to the polls Thursday to choose a new House of Commons and a new government.

Voters will elect 650 lawmakers representing as many constituencies, or local areas, and the leader of the party that returns the most lawmakers will become prime minister.

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's Conservatives are widely expected to lose to the main opposition party, the left-of-center Labour, after 14 years in power under five different prime ministers.

The Conservatives and Labour traditionally dominate British politics under the U.K.'s "first past the post" electoral system, which makes it difficult for smaller parties to win representation in Parliament.

But also in the running are the Liberal Democrats, Reform UK, the Scottish National Party and the Greens, among others.

Here's a look at the parties, who's leading them and what they are promising:

CONSERVATIVES

Who's their leader? Prime Minister Rishi Sunak.

Sunak, 44, came to power in October 2022 when he inherited a Conservative Party and an economy in turmoil after Liz Truss's short-lived premiership. The Oxford graduate and former Goldman Sachs hedge fund manager is Britain's first leader of color and the first Hindu to become prime minister. Sunak has stressed he is the man who steadied the ship, but critics say he lacks political judgement and is out of touch with ordinary voters.

How many seats did they win in the last election? 365

What are they promising? Delivering a stronger economy and cutting taxes by some 17 billion pounds per year. Increasing public health spending above inflation, and boosting defense spending to 2.5% of GDP by 2030. The party says this will be paid for by savings on tax evasion and slashing welfare spending. The party also pledges to cap immigration numbers and remove some asylum-seekers to Rwanda.

LABOUR

Who's their leader? Keir Starmer.

The 61-year-old lawyer, a former chief prosecutor for England and Wales, is the current favorite to be Britain's next leader. A centrist and pragmatist, Starmer has worked hard to steer his party away from the more overtly socialist policies of former leader Jeremy Corbyn and quelled internal divisions. Critics call him unexciting and unambitious, but Labour has surged in popularity under his leadership.

How many seats did they win in the last election? 202

What are they promising? Promoting "wealth creation," encouraging investment and improving Britain's infrastructure like railways under a 10-year infrastructure strategy. Setting up a state-owned clean power company to boost energy security, paid for by a windfall tax on oil and gas giants. Taxing private schools to pay for thousands of new teachers in state schools. Cutting record-high public health waiting times.

LIBERAL DEMOCRATS

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Who's their leader? Ed Davey.

Davey, 58, was first elected to Parliament in 1997. The former economics researcher served as the government's energy and climate change secretary under an uneasy Conservative-Liberal Democrat coalition from 2012 to 2015. Davey became leader of the left-of-center Lib Dems in 2019 and was not a household name until this election, when he made headlines with multiple zany stunts — including bungee-jumping to urge voters to take "a leap of faith."

How many seats did they win in the last election? 11

What are they promising? Improving Britain's overstretched health and social care systems, including introducing free nursing care at home. Investing in renewable energy and home insulation. Clamping down on sewage-dumping water companies. Lowering the voting age to 16. Rejoining the European Union's single market.

REFORM UK

Who's their leader? Nigel Farage.

Farage, a political firebrand who takes pride in being the disruptor in British politics, has posed a serious headache to the Conservatives since he announced he is running in the election. The 60-year-old populist has long divided opinion with his anti-migrant rhetoric and Euroskeptic stance. A key proponent of Brexit, Farage is capturing many disillusioned Conservative voters with his promises to cut immigration and focus on "British values." Farage previously ran for Parliament seven times but never won.

How many seats did they win in the last election? None — though the party gained its first lawmaker this year when ex-Conservative Party deputy chair Lee Anderson defected to Reform.

What are they promising? Freezing all "nonessential immigration" and barring international students from bringing their dependents with them. Leaving the European Convention on Human Rights so that asylum-seekers can be deported without interventions from rights courts. Scrapping "net zero" goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in order to bring down energy bills.

SCOTTISH NATIONAL PARTY (SNP)

Who's their leader? John Swinney.

Swinney, 60, became the SNP's third leader in just over a year in May. The politician has sought to bring stability to the party, which has been in turmoil since Scotland's long-serving First Minister Nicola Sturgeon abruptly stepped down last year during a campaign finance investigation that eventually led to criminal charges against her husband. Swinney has long served the party: he joined its ranks at 15 years old, and previously led the party from 2000 to 2004.

How many seats did they win in the last election? 48

What are they promising? Swinney has said that if his party wins a majority of seats in Scotland he will try to open Scottish independence negotiations with the London-based U.K. government. He wants to rejoin the European Union and the European single market. He also called for boosting public health funding, scrapping the U.K.'s Scotland-based nuclear deterrent, and an immediate cease-fire in Gaza.

GREEN PARTY

Who's their leader? Carla Denyer and Adrian Ramsay.

Denyer, a mechanical engineer, worked in wind energy before she joined the Greens in 2011. The 38-year-old served as a local politician for the southwestern English city of Bristol for nine years. In 2021 she was elected co-leader of the Greens along with Ramsay, also a local government politician who has experience working with environmental charities.

How many seats did they win in the last election? 1

What are they promising? Phasing out nuclear power and getting the U.K. to net zero by 2040. The Greens have pledged 24 billion pounds a year to insulate homes and 40 billion pounds a year invested in the green economy, to be paid for by a carbon tax, a new wealth tax on the very rich and an income tax hike for millions of higher earners.

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Today in History: July 3, Union wins Battle of Gettysburg

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Wednesday, July 3, the 185th day of 2024. There are 181 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 3, 1863, the pivotal three-day Civil War Battle of Gettysburg in Pennsylvania ended in a major victory for the North as Confederate troops failed to breach Union positions during an assault known as Pickett's Charge.

Also on this date:

In 1775, Gen. George Washington took command of the Continental Army at Cambridge, Massachusetts.

In 1944, during World War II, Soviet forces recaptured Minsk from the Germans.

In 1950, the first carrier strikes of the Korean War took place as the USS Valley Forge and the HMS Triumph sent fighter planes against North Korean targets.

In 1971, singer Jim Morrison of The Doors died in Paris at age 27.

In 1979, Dan White, convicted of voluntary manslaughter in the shooting deaths of San Francisco Mayor George Moscone (mahs-KOH'-nee) and Supervisor Harvey Milk, was sentenced to seven years and eight months in prison.

In 1986, President Ronald Reagan presided over a gala ceremony in New York Harbor that saw the re-lighting of the renovated Statue of Liberty.

In 1988, the USS Vincennes shot down an Iran Air jetliner over the Persian Gulf, killing all 290 people aboard.

In 2011, Novak Djokovic (NOH'-vak JOH'-kuh-vich) won his first Wimbledon, beating defending champion Rafael Nadal.

In 2012, Andy Griffith who made homespun American Southern wisdom his trademark as the wise sheriff in "The Andy Griffith Show," died at his North Carolina home at age 86.

Today's Birthdays: Playwright Tom Stoppard is 87. Attorney Gloria Allred is 83. Actor Kurtwood Smith is 81. Country singer Johnny Lee is 78. Humorist Dave Barry is 77. Actor Betty Buckley is 77. Talk show host Montel Williams is 68. Country singer Aaron Tippin is 66. Rock musician Vince Clarke (Depeche Mode, Yaz, Erasure) is 64. Actor Tom Cruise is 62. Actor Thomas Gibson is 62. Actor Connie Nielsen is 59. Actor Yearley Smith is 60. Actor-singer Audra McDonald is 54. Hockey Hall of Famer Teemu Selanne is 54. WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange is 53. Actor Patrick Wilson is 51. Former mixed martial artist Wanderlei Silva is 48. Actor Olivia Munn is 44. Formula One driver Sebastian Vettel is 37. Rock singer-songwriter Elle King is 35.