

Groton Daily Independent

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Monday, Aug. 5

Senior Menu: Ranch chicken breast, scalloped potatoes, oriental blend vegetables, frosted brownie, fruit, whole wheat bread.

Fall Sports Parent Meeting, 7 p.m., GHS Arena

Emmanuel Lutheran: Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.

St. John's Lutheran: Vacation Bible School, 5:30 p.m.

Pantry open, Groton Community Center, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

School Supply Drive, Groton Community Center, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Groton Christian & Missionary Alliance: Vacation Bible School, 6:15 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Groton Daily Independent

PO Box 34, Groton SD 57445

Paul's Cell/Text: 605-397-7460



Tuesday, Aug. 6

Senior Menu: Roast beef, mashed potatoes with gravy, corn, mandarin orange salad, whole wheat bread.

St. John's Lutheran: Vacation Bible School, 5:30 p.m.

United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m., Vacation Bible School, 5 p.m.

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

Pantry Open, Groton Community Center, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Wage Memorial Library meeting, 120 N Main, 6 p.m.

City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.

Groton Christian & Missionary Alliance: Vacation Bible School, 6:15 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

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1440

Why 1440? The printing press was invented around the year 1440, spreading knowledge to the masses and changing the course of history. More facts: In every day, there are 1,440 minutes. We're here to make each one count.

Bangladesh Curfew

Bangladesh's government imposed a nationwide curfew yesterday, as over 90 people were reported killed in anti-government protests over the weekend. The death toll, including at least 13 police officers, is the highest daily toll from protests in the country's recent history.

University students began leading protests last month over the top court's decision to reinstate a jobs quota reserving 30% of government positions for certain war veterans and their relatives. Following deadly clashes, the court reduced the number of reserved positions to 5%, with another 2% reserved for minorities. Protests have nonetheless continued, expanding to call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina—now in her fourth consecutive term—to resign. They are scheduled to march to the country's capital today.

One contributing issue is unemployment; over 30 million people in the country's 170 million population are not in work or education.

Ledecky Makes History

US swimmer Katie Ledecky finished first in the women's 800-meter freestyle Saturday, becoming the sixth athlete to win four consecutive gold medals in the same event in Olympic history. The win also marked Ledecky's 14th medal and ninth overall gold—tied for the most by any woman from any country in any event.

American Noah Lyles became the world's fastest man, winning the 100-meter race in 9.79 seconds, crossing the finish line just 0.005 seconds ahead of Jamaica's Kishane Thompson. For the women, sprinter Sha'Carri Richardson left with silver in the 100-meter finals as Julien Alfred captured St. Lucia's first-ever gold medal.

Superstar gymnast Simone Biles won her third gold in Paris, performing one of her signature moves (the "Biles II") on the vault. Teammate Suni Lee became the third-most decorated US gymnast of all time with a bronze on the uneven bars with Algeria's Kaylia Nemour taking gold.

The US women's soccer team beat Japan in thrilling 1-0 fashion, with 22-year-old Trinity Rodman scoring the game-winner in extra time. The team faces Germany tomorrow (12 pm ET, NBC), whom they beat 4-1 in group play. The US men's team exited the tournament after a 0-4 loss to Morocco.

Tropical Storm Debby

Tropical Storm Debby is expected to make landfall this morning in Florida, delivering 30 inches or more of rain to the Big Bend coast, where the state's Panhandle meets its peninsula. The storm, predicted to evolve into a Category 1 hurricane, would mark the state's first hurricane of the season.

Georgia, South Carolina, and Florida have warned residents to prepare for tropical storm or hurricane-level wind and rain conditions today, with the possibility of storm surge. The region could also receive up to 10 feet of freshwater flooding, the deadliest element of tropical storms in recent years. More than 1,500 flights have been canceled, including over 15% of JetBlue's total planned flights.

The 2024 Atlantic hurricane season—running from June 1 to Nov. 30—is predicted to have 17 to 25 named storms, a potentially record level of activity fueled in part by especially warm waters in the Gulf of Mexico.

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Sports, Entertainment, & Culture

Tennis star Novak Djokovic—all-time leader in men's Grand Slam tournaments—wins his first Olympic gold medal, beating rival Carlos Alcaraz.

American Scottie Scheffler edges Great Britain's Tommy Fleetwood and Japan's Hideki Matsuyama to take gold in men's golf.

Aerosmith to retire from touring after announcing Steven Tyler's vocal injury is not recoverable.

Devin Hester, Julius Peppers, and Patrick Willis headline 2024 class of seven members inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Science & Technology

Reports suggest OpenAI has internal tool capable of detecting text generated by ChatGPT with 99.9% accuracy.

Researchers discover treatment effective against bacteria causing rare flesh-eating diseases; may lead to new drugs to combat antibiotic-resistant pathogens.

Scientists identify origins of the moon's thin atmosphere, attributing it to meteorites vaporizing the surface on impact; pressure of the lunar atmosphere is roughly 300 trillion times less than Earth.

Business & Markets

US stock markets close down Friday (S&P 500 -1.8%, Dow -1.5%, and Nasdaq -2.4%) on news of hiring slowdown, with mortgage rates dropping; see previous write-up.

Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway sells nearly 50% of Apple stock last quarter and raises cash holdings to record \$277B amid concerns over high stock prices.

Food giant Mars reportedly considers purchase of Kellanova, maker of Cheez-Its and Pringles, valued at \$22B; deal could be among the largest ever for the packaged food industry.

Politics & World Affairs

Israeli airstrikes kill over 30 people at two schools in Gaza while rare Israeli airstrikes in the West Bank kill at least nine confirmed Hamas militants; see latest updates.

More than 100 people arrested in the UK amid clashes, vandalization of a hotel hosting asylum seekers; anti-immigration protests fueled by online posts suggesting the suspect who killed three children last week was a Muslim migrant. Officials say suspect was born in the British city of Cardiff.

US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin revokes plea deal offered to 9/11 mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and two coconspirators.

Maui residents reach \$4B settlement with Hawaii Gov. Josh Green (D) over last year's wildfires; half of the settlement to come from Hawaiian Electric.

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State Legion Tournament

Groton Post 39 With Tough Game Against Parkston Legion **By GameChanger Media**

Groton Post 39 had trouble keeping up with Parkston Legion Post 194 in a 14-5 loss on Sunday. Groton Post 39 got on the board in the bottom of the first inning after Brevin Flihs hit a sacrifice fly, and Ryan Groeblich grounded out, each scoring one run.

Parkston Legion Post 194 flipped the game on its head in the top of the third, scoring six runs on two hits to take a 7-2 lead. The biggest blow in the inning was a double by Luke Bormann that drove in two.

Flihs pitched three and two-thirds innings in relief for Groton Post 39. They allowed seven hits and seven runs (five earned) while, striking out one and walking two. Gavin Englund led things off on the mound for Groton Post 39. They gave up three hits and four runs (one earned) over two and two-thirds innings, striking out none and walking one. Brayden Jervik started on the hill for Parkston Legion Post 194. They surrendered two hits and three runs (two earned) over two and one-third innings, striking out one and walking two.

Colby Dunker led Groton Post 39 with two hits in three at bats. Braxton Imrie, Dunker, and Flihs each drove in one run for Groton Post 39. Bradin Althoff led Groton Post 39 with two walks. Overall, the team had a strong eye at the plate, accumulating six walks for the game.

Parkston Legion Post 194 collected 10 hits in the game. Kolter Kramer, James Deckert, Bormann, and Kaden Holzbauer each collected two hits for Parkston Legion Post 194. Brody Boettcher, Deckert, Bormann, Drew Braley, and Holzbauer each drove in two runs for Parkston Legion Post 194. Jervik led Parkston Legion Post 194 with two walks. Overall, the team had a strong eye at the plate, tallying seven walks for the game. Kramer and Carter Sommer each stole multiple bases for Parkston Legion Post 194. Parkston Legion Post 194 ran wild on the base paths, accumulating nine stolen bases for the game. Parkston Legion Post 194 turned two double plays in the game.

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Meade County Fatal Crash

What: Single vehicle fatal crash
 Where: Interstate 90, mile marker 41, five miles west of Piedmont, SD
 When: 9:13 a.m., Thursday, July 18, 2024

Vehicle 1: 2006 Toyota Highlander
 Driver 1: 38-year-old female, fatal injuries
 Seatbelt Use: Yes
 Passenger 1: 40-year-old male, no injuries
 Seatbelt Use: Yes
 Passenger 2: 3-year-old, no injuries
 Seatbelt Use: Yes
 Passenger 3: 5-year-old, minor injuries
 Seatbelt Use: Yes

Meade County, S.D.- A California woman died on August 1 from injuries sustained in crash July 18, five miles west of Piedmont, SD.

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

Preliminary crash information indicates the driver of a 2006 Toyota Highlander was traveling eastbound on Interstate 90 near mile marker 41 when a deer entered the roadway from the median. It missed a vehicle in the left lane, jumped, and went through the windshield of the Highlander. The front passenger steered the vehicle off the roadway to the right, eventually coming to rest in the south ditch of Sturgis Road. Neither speed nor alcohol were factors in the crash.

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

The Highway Patrol is an agency of the South Dakota Department of Public Safety.

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Highway Patrol Sturgis Rally Information - Sunday, Aug. 4

Highway Patrol Sturgis Rally Daily Information
Compiled from 6 a.m. Saturday, Aug 03, 2024, to 6 a.m. Day August 04, 2024

Item	Sturgis	Rapid City District	District Total	Last Year to Date
DUI Arrests	26	4	30	25
Misd Drug Arrests	37	8	45	20
Felony Drug Arrests	22	3	25	9
Total Citations	150	104	254	167
Total Warnings	357	244	601	576
Cash Seized	0	0	0	\$0.00
Vehicles Seized	0	0	0	0
For Drug Poss.	0	0	0	0
For Serial No.	0	0	0	0
Non-Injury Accidents	2	2	4	4
Injury Accidents	4	4	8	3
Fatal Accidents	0	0	0	0
# of Fatalities	0	0	0	0

Fatal Crashes: None

Injury Crashes:

At noon on Saturday, the driver of a 2011 Yamaha STR was traveling on US Highway 18, mile marker 20 (seven miles east of Edgemont). The vehicle exited the roadway and overturned. The driver became separated from the motorcycle during the crash. The driver was transported with serious non-life-threatening injuries. The driver was wearing a helmet.

At 12:20 p.m. on Saturday, the driver of a 2005 Harley Davidson FXDI, pulling a trailer, was exiting I-90 mile near marker 188 (four miles west of Murdo). As the vehicle was exiting, the trailer came unhitched and began dragging on the roadway. The driver lost control of the motorcycle and crashed. The driver was transported by ambulance with minor injuries. The driver was not wearing a helmet.

At 1:37 p.m. on Saturday, the driver of a 2017 Kia Forte was involved in a crash at the intersection of Junction Avenue and Douglas Street in Sturgis. The driver was transported with minor injuries. The driver was arrested for DUI at over three times the legal limit. The driver was wearing a seatbelt.

At 3 p.m. on Saturday, the driver of a 2022 Harley Davidson FLXRS was traveling eastbound on US Highway 18 near mile marker 24 (12 miles west of Hot Springs). A vehicle traveling the same direction in front of the motorcycle slowed down to make a left-hand turn. As the driver of the 2022 Harley Davidson FLXRS attempted to avoid the turning vehicle they lost control of the motorcycle, overturned and then slid a short distance in the roadway. The driver of the Harley was separated from the motorcycle during the crash. The driver was transported with serious, non-life-threatening injuries. The driver was wearing a helmet.

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At 4:48 p.m. on Saturday, the driver of a 2012 Harley Davidson was traveling through a curve on US Highway 14A near mile marker 32, (five miles south of Lead) when they saw patrol vehicles nearby. The driver was unsure of the posted speed limit and braked aggressively. The driver lost control of the motorcycle and overturned. The driver separated from the motorcycle and slid into the ditch. The driver was transported with minor injuries. The driver was wearing a helmet.

At 6:27 p.m. on Saturday, the driver of a 2021 Kawasaki ZX14 was traveling on North Angustora Road (eight miles south of Hot Springs) when a deer entered the road. The driver was able to miss the deer by swerving but lost control of the motorcycle in the process. The motorcycle overturned and slid with the driver across the ditch and into a nearby field. The driver was transported with serious, non-life-threatening injuries. The driver was wearing a helmet.

At 8:53 p.m. Saturday, the driver of a 2019 Harley Davidson FLHXS was traveling northbound on US Highway 14A near mile marker 45 (three miles north of Deadwood) when a deer ran onto the roadway. The driver was unable to avoid the deer and lost control of the motorcycle as the impact occurred. The driver was separated from the motorcycle as they slid across the roadway. The driver was transported with serious non-life-threatening injuries. The driver was not wearing a helmet.

At 1:52 a.m. Sunday, the driver of a 2018 Harley Davidson FLHTK was traveling westbound on SD Highway 34 in St. Onge. At the same time and location, a 2019 Freightliner towing a 2021 Utility trailer was traveling eastbound. The motorcycle crossed over the center line and entered the eastbound lane striking the semi-tractor. The driver was transported with serious non-life-threatening injuries. The driver was not wearing a helmet.

The South Dakota Highway Patrol is investigating these crashes. All information released so far is only preliminary.

The Highway Patrol is an agency of the South Dakota Department of Public Safety.

Name Released in Pennington County Fatal Crash

What: Single motorcycle fatal crash
Where: 12445 Old Hill City Road, Hill City, SD
When: 6:12 p.m., Wednesday, July 31, 2024

Vehicle 1: 1994 Harley Davidson Cruiser
Driver 1: Joel Gary Erickson, 60-year-old male from Montgomery, MN, fatal injuries
Helmet Use: No

Pennington County, S.D.- A motorcyclist died Wednesday evening in a single-vehicle crash on Old Hill City Road, Hill City, SD.

Preliminary crash information indicates Joel G. Erickson, the driver of a 1994 Harley Davidson Cruiser, was traveling eastbound on Old Hill City Road. The driver lost control and the bike began sliding on the right side, then flipped, coming to rest on the shoulder of the road.

The driver was transported to a Rapid City hospital where he was pronounced deceased.

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

The Highway Patrol is an agency of the South Dakota Department of Public Safety.

Name Released in Lawrence County Fatal Crash

What: Single motorcycle fatal crash
Where: Nemo Road and Estes Creek Road, one mile south of Nemo, SD
When: 11:51 p.m., Wednesday, July 31, 2024

Vehicle 1: 2010 Harley Davidson FLTRX
Driver 1: Austin Eugene Dahl, 46-year-old male from Rapid City, SD, fatal injuries
Helmet Use: Yes
Passenger 1: Jodi Lynn Glanzer, 49-year-old female from Rapid City, SD, serious, non-life-threatening injuries
Helmet Use: Yes

Lawrence County, S.D.- One person died and another was seriously injured in a single motorcycle crash Wednesday morning near Nemo, SD.

Preliminary crash information indicates Austin E. Dahl, the driver of a 2010 Harley Davidson, was traveling southbound on Nemo Road near Estes Creek Road. The vehicle left the roadway to the left, entered the ditch, became airborne and tripped, coming to final rest in the ditch. Dahl and passenger Jodi L. Glanzer, were both separated from the motorcycle.

Glanzer was life flighted to a Rapid City hospital with serious, non-life-threatening injuries. Dahl sustained fatal injuries.

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

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Weekly Vikings Roundup

By Jordan Wright

GAME PREVIEW!

Ladies and Gentlemen, football is officially back! Last week, we got to watch the first preseason game of 2024, when the Chicago Bears battled the Houston Texans in the annual Hall of Fame game. Although the game was cut short due to weather, it doesn't change the fact that football is officially back.

Looking ahead, the Minnesota Vikings play their first preseason game against the Las Vegas Raiders this Saturday, August 10, at 3:00 PM (CT). This will be the Vikings' only home preseason game, as they travel to Cleveland on Aug. 17 (3:25 PM), before wrapping up the preseason in Philadelphia on Aug. 24 (12:00 PM).

(Not so) fun fact: the Vikings haven't won a preseason game since 2019. While preseason games are inconsequential, it would still be nice to see the Vikings come out of these games victoriously, if for no other reason than to instill a winning mentality.

The Vikings played the Raiders last season, winning 3-0 thanks to a Greg Joseph field goal with under two minutes left in the fourth quarter. Both Josh Dobbs and Nick Mullens played in that game, combining for only 99 net passing yards. The Vikings' defense was the MVP of the game, shutting out the Raiders thanks in large part to Ivan Pace Jr., who had a sack, an interception, a tackle for a loss, and a game-high 13 tackles.

What to watch for:

Unless you're a football fanatic, preseason games can be a little boring. Luckily for us, there are several compelling storylines in this game. The biggest reason to watch the game is the quarterback battle. Sam Darnold has been able to hold off J.J. McCarthy so far in training camp, but it's only a matter of time before the 10th overall pick passes Darnold on the depth chart. It will be interesting to see how head coach Kevin O'Connell handles preseason playing time because, in the past, he has shown a propensity to rest his starters. With both QBs new to the team, however, I wouldn't be surprised to see both of them get plenty of playing time.

The same can be said for the team's pass rushers. Jonathan Greenard has one of the starting spots locked up, but he's new to the team and could benefit from playing in the preseason and establishing rapport with the rest of the defense. The other starting spot is still unclear. Andrew Van Ginkel was brought in through free agency to start opposite Greenard, but an injury has limited his ability to practice with his new team. Dallas Turner, the Vikings' other 1st round pick this year, has looked great in camp and might have already surpassed Van Ginkel on the depth chart. Luckily for the Vikings, they have Brian Flores coaching the defense, and he's sure to come up with plenty of ways for all three players to be on the field at the same time this season.

Roster Breakdown – Special Teams

The Vikings entered training camp with two kickers on the roster, rookie Will Reichard and veteran John Parker Romo. Due to injuries at other positions, the Vikings released John Parker Romo, ending any semblance of a kicking competition. Based on information coming out of training camp, Reichard looks great. He was able to reverse the kicking curse at Alabama, and the Vikings are hoping he can do the same thing in Minnesota.

The Vikings currently have two punters on the roster, with incumbent Ryan Wright looking to hold off newcomer Seth Vernon. Wright was 10th in the NFL last year, averaging 48.9 yards per punt. However, he drops down to 17th in net yards per punt (41.6). Some of the blame falls on Wright's shoulders, but some of the issues are due to shoddy tackling by the coverage team. Hopefully, with better overall depth on the roster, the coverage team will be better in 2024.

We wrap up the roster breakdown with the Vikings' secret weapon: long snapper Andrew DePaola. After back-to-back All-Pro and Pro Bowl seasons, DePaola might be the best long snapper in the league.

"Lived Experiences"

Everyone we know, meet, or pass in the grocery store has their own set of personal life experiences that are unique from our own. We all come from different places, have our own set of genetics, and have different parents or families, which is part of what makes us unique from each other. We can even have different experiences than our siblings who grow up in the same home as us.

Our experiences are part of what help us learn, create adaptations to the world around us, and how we continue to grow into who we want to be. The number one goal of our body and brain is to maintain safety and security within our environment. From the moment we are born, our brain seeks for our basic needs to be met, whether it is connection, sleep, or food. As we grow, these needs become more complex as our abilities and understanding of the world grow with us.

During our most informative early years, our brain and body are developing rapidly to learn how to maintain safety and connection in the world around us. The experiences that we have during these impactful times set the stage for how we begin to create adaptations, responses, and our view of ourselves.

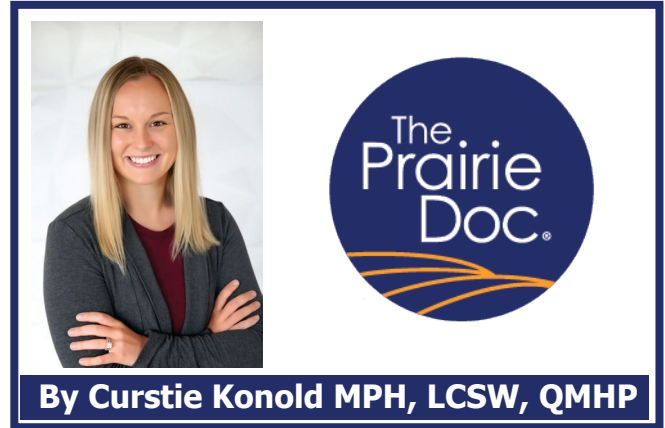
Our lived experiences can be either positive or negative, and sometimes they can even be traumatic. Everyone creates their own set of responses to experiences and threats in their environment through these lived experiences, and the most common responses are fight, flight, freeze and fawn. The prefrontal cortex of our brain is where we maintain our ability to reason, make good decisions, and take in information around us. When our body experiences a threat to our safety within our environment, our prefrontal cortex may go "offline" and our amygdala takes over, which is the portion of our brain that controls our emotions. Our amygdala signals for our response to keep ourselves safe from the threat to take control.

If our response is fight, we might have anger outbursts, become aggressive, be impulsive, or have explosive behaviors. If our response is flight, we might become, anxious, experience panic attacks, throw ourselves into our work, and tend to be perfectionists, or become over analytical. If our response is freeze, we may have depressive tendencies, disassociate, feel indecisive, feel numb, space out or isolate from others. If we have a fawn response, we may people please, be co-dependent, have a lack of identity and boundaries with others, avoid conflict, or have an inability to say no. You can experience on or all of these responses during any given event.

These responses are natural adaptations that may be our brain's way of keeping us safe in situations or environments that feel threatening. While these responses may be a natural way for our brain to maintain safety, we can also work to re-wire our responses through coping skills and awareness of how our experiences have affected us.

It starts with an awareness that we, and others around us, have had lived experiences that have created these responses. When we are aware of this, we have the ability to process, understand, and create positive mechanisms to heal from our traumatic experiences.

Curstie provides outpatient therapy for across the lifespan for adults, adolescents, and children starting at age 4. She utilizes a trauma-informed approach for people struggling with anxiety, depression, abuse, trauma, interpersonal issues, grief and social and emotional wellness. Her practice includes play therapy, solution-focused therapy, strengths-based therapy, and cognitive behavioral therapy and mindfulness strategies. Follow The Prairie Doc® at www.prairedoc.org and on Facebook featuring On Call with the Prairie Doc® a medical Q&A show providing health information based on science, built on trust for 22 Seasons, on SDPB and streaming live on Facebook most Thursdays at 7 p.m. central.



EARTHTALK ™

Dear EarthTalk: What's new in the greening of air travel and the aviation? – D.M. Norwalk, CT

Air travel is pretty environmentally unfriendly. In 2018, civil aviation emissions constituted 2.5 percent of global human carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions. Released at high altitudes, these emissions impact the climate two to four times more than ground-level emissions. Consequently, civil aviation accounts for about 3.5 percent of human-induced global warming. Considering that air travel is mostly a leisure activity, not a necessity, this makes it one of the most environmentally harmful leisure activities. Despite calls to reduce air travel, flights are increasing upwards of three percent per year.



Instead of reducing flights, many companies and aviation organizations are promising net-zero aviation in the coming decades..

Instead of reducing flights, many companies and aviation organizations are promising net-zero aviation in the coming decades. The International Air Transport Association (IATA) aims for net-zero CO₂ emissions by 2050 through eliminating emissions at the source. Central to this plan is a switch from kerosene to Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF), which is expected to reduce 65 percent of emissions.

SAF is made from organic waste or synthesized by combining hydrogen with captured CO₂. Tests on over 200,000 flights indicate that SAF can reduce lifecycle emissions by up to 80 percent. The first flight using 100 percent SAF was Virgin Atlantic's flight between London and New York in November 2023. According to Virgin it "demonstrate[d] the capability of SAF as a safe drop-in replacement for fossil-derived jet fuel, compatible with today's engines, airframes and fuel infrastructure."

Electric planes are another promising development. Some 200 companies are working on electric aircraft, which offer a 100 percent emission reduction and no climate impact during flights. However, current battery technology limits electric planes to a range of 531 to 621 miles. Large and long-haul electric passenger jets are expected to become viable only around 2040. Hydrogen-powered planes are also emerging. Instead of carbon emissions, these planes emit water vapor during flights. Companies like Airbus and Rolls Royce are developing hydrogen-fueled aircraft, ready for use in 2035. Hydrogen requires significant space, necessitating changes to aircraft design and ground infrastructure.

Green aviation is in its early stages, with no single solution available. For now, people can reduce their travel emissions by opting for cars, buses or trains. Choosing direct flights and fully booked planes also helps. Platforms like Skyscanner offer "greener" travel options by analyzing flight and environmental data. According to the International Council on Clean Transportation, the emissions difference between the most and least efficient airlines can be up to 26 percent.



SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

New program gives high school students a jump-start toward a teaching degree

BY: MAKENZIE HUBER - AUGUST 4, 2024 11:28 AM

The South Dakota Board of Regents launched the Gateway to Teacher Education undergraduate certificate program at its Thursday meeting in Madison. The initiative allows South Dakota high school students interested in teaching to jump-start their college career before graduating high school.

As of July, South Dakota school districts reported 353 vacant educator positions, including teachers, paraprofessionals and support staff. By 2030, the need for teachers in South Dakota is expected to increase by 7%, according to the South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation.

The focus on solutions in the state has led to "grow your own" efforts, including the Department of Education's teacher apprenticeship program, a statewide high school child care certificate course, and the board's new certificate program.

"The Gateway to Teacher Education certificate not only provides students with an introduction to the teaching profession but also serves as a solid stepping stone towards their academic and career goals in education," said Board of Regents Executive Director Nathan Lukkes in a news release Thursday.

South Dakota high school juniors and seniors can earn the four-class certificate to use toward elementary, secondary and special education degrees at South Dakota's public universities.

Students can take the certificate classes on campus, online or through South Dakota's High School Dual Credit program. High school students enrolled in dual credit courses, including the new gateway courses, pay one-third of the cost of a reduced credit-hour rate. The difference is covered by the state Department of Education with funding approved by the Legislature.

Travis Lape, director of teaching and learning at the Harrisburg School District, serves as the state director of Educators Rising SD. Lape told the board that the certificate is a way to "invest" in the state's future educators.

"It'll help identify students serious about teaching and encourage them to take these courses as juniors and seniors," Lape said.

Board of Regents President Tim Rave said the "innovative" thinking is what the state needs to "address its workforce needs and challenges well into the future."

Certificate class enrollment launches this fall.

Makenzie Huber is a lifelong South Dakotan whose work has won national and regional awards. She's spent five years as a journalist with experience reporting on workforce, development and business issues within the state.

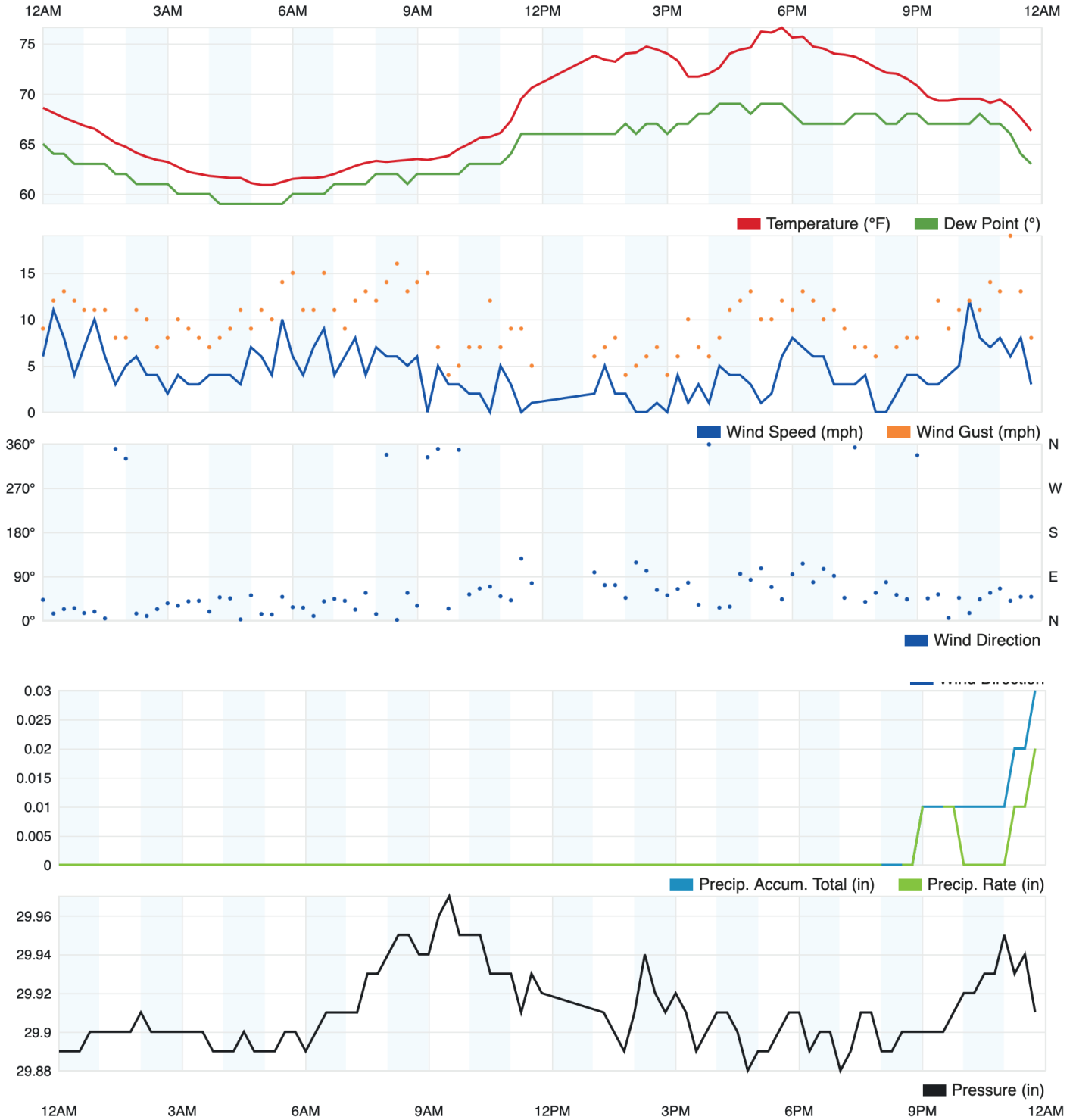


A Sioux Falls School District educator works with students. (Courtesy of Sioux Falls School District)

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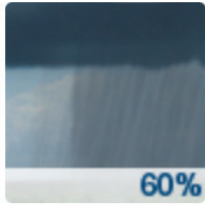
Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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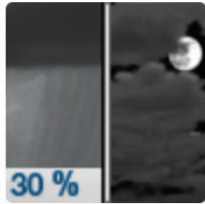
Monday



High: 67 °F ↓↓

Showers Likely

Monday Night



Low: 54 °F

Chance Showers then Mostly Cloudy

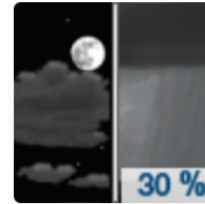
Tuesday



High: 77 °F

Mostly Sunny

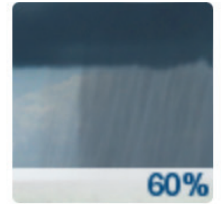
Tuesday Night



Low: 60 °F

Partly Cloudy then Chance Showers

Wednesday



High: 76 °F

Showers Likely

Upcoming Forecast

Monday



High: 65 to 80°

Tuesday



High: 73 to 82°

PM Rain/Storms

Probability of Precipitation Forecast (%)

	8/4	8/5		8/6					
	Sun	Mon		Tue					
	6pm	12am	6am	12pm	6pm	12am	6am	12pm	6pm
Aberdeen	40	75	75	65	30	0	0	0	5
Britton	30	75	75	75	40	5	0	0	0
Brookings	65	60	60	45	20	10	0	0	0
Chamberlain	30	25	25	15	5	0	0	5	5
Clark	50	65	65	55	25	5	0	0	0
Eagle Butte	35	60	60	35	5	0	5	15	35
Ellendale	40	75	75	75	40	0	0	0	0
Eureka	30	75	75	65	20	0	0	0	10
Gettysburg	35	70	70	45	10	5	0	5	10
Huron	55	50	50	35	10	0	0	0	0
Kennebec	20	30	30	10	0	0	0	5	15
McIntosh	25	75	75	65	15	0	5	10	35
Milbank	45	75	80	80	45	10	0	0	0
Miller	45	50	50	35	10	0	0	5	5
Mobridge	35	70	70	55	10	0	0	5	20
Murdo	20	25	25	10	5	0	5	15	30
Pierre	20	40	40	15	5	0	5	10	25
Redfield	45	65	65	45	15	0	0	0	5
Sisseton	30	75	75	75	40	5	0	0	0
Watertown	55	70	70	65	35	5	0	0	0
Webster	50	75	75	70	40	5	0	0	0
Wheaton	20	70	75	75	45	5	0	0	0

- Precipitation chances (30-60%) return Tuesday night through Wednesday
- Temperatures will range between 5 to 10 degrees below climatological average for the week



NWS Aberdeen, SD

Showers and thunderstorms (30-80%) will continue Monday before drying out on Tuesday. Another round of precipitation is possible Tuesday night into Wednesday. Otherwise, enjoy the cooler temperatures!

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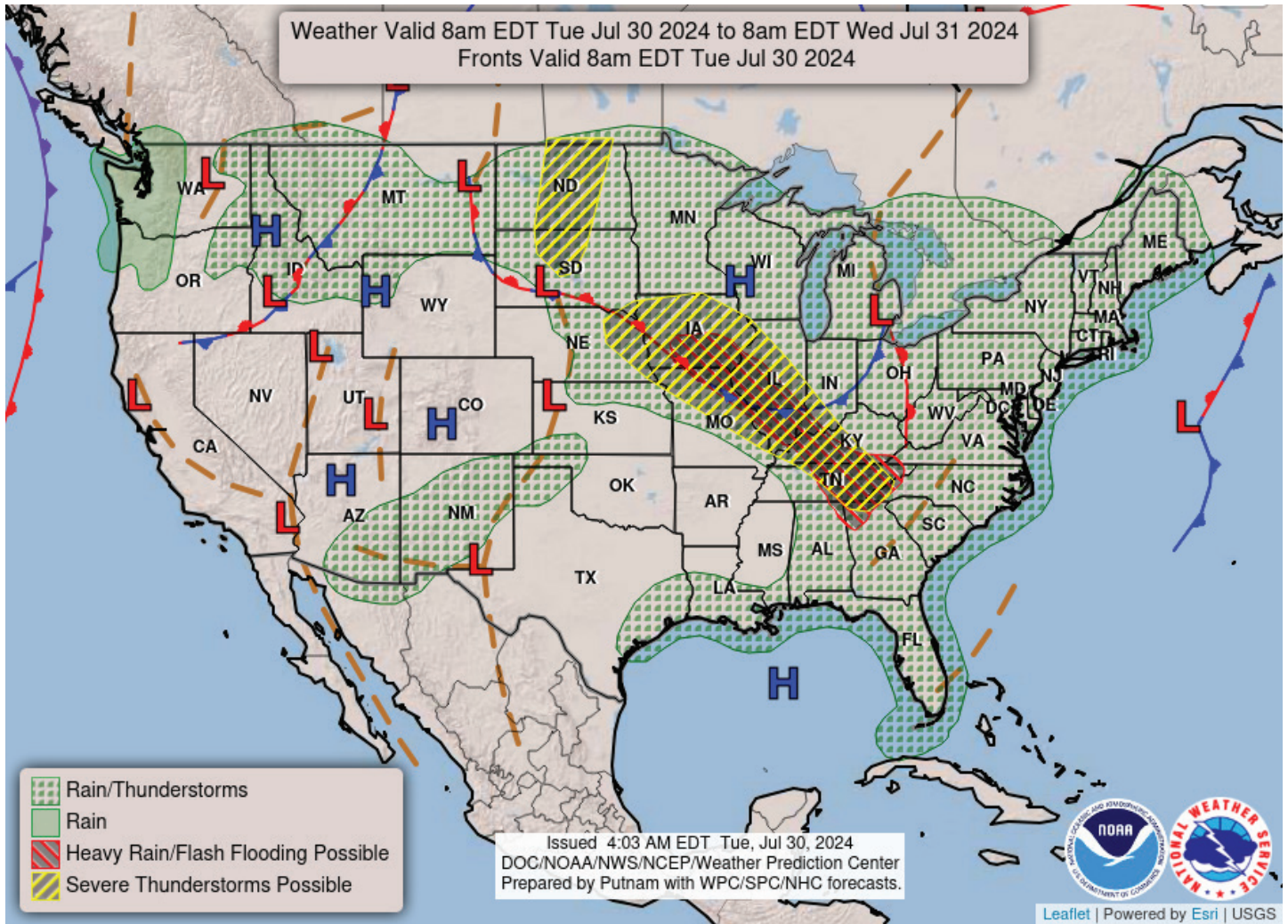
Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 77 °F at 5:44 PM
Low Temp: 61 °F at 5:09 AM
Wind: 17 mph at 7:06 PM
Precip: : 0.03 + .34 since midnight

Day length: 14 hours, 35 minutes

Today's Info

Record High: 107 in 1941
Record Low: 41 in 1994
Average High: 85
Average Low: 59
Average Precip in Aug.: .37
Precip to date in Aug.: 0.03
Average Precip to date: 14.47
Precip Year to Date: 14.92
Sunset Tonight: 8:56:04 pm
Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:21:47 am



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Today in Weather History

August 5, 1987: Six tornadoes touched down in central South Dakota. Five of these tornadoes touched down in Lyman County, including three which did damage near Kennebec within 25 minutes of each other. One of the tornadoes destroyed three farms, downing outbuildings, power lines, granaries, and killing cattle.

August 5, 2000: A wet microburst with winds estimated at 120 mph caused substantial damage in and around Mitchell. Apartments and several mobile homes were destroyed, vehicles were overturned, and other damage occurred to buildings and vehicles. Widespread tree and power line damage also occurred. Ten people were injured, although the majority of the injuries were minor. The damage path was approximately a mile and a half long and a mile wide, extending over the southwest part of Mitchell.

1843 - A spectacular cloudburst near Philadelphia turned the small creeks and streams entering the Delaware River into raging torrents. As much as sixteen inches of rain fell in just three hours. Flooding destroyed thirty-two county bridges, and caused nineteen deaths. It is believed that several small tornadoes accompanied the torrential rains, one of which upset and sank more than thirty barges on the Schuylkill River. (David Ludlum)

1875: Several tornadoes moved across northern and central Illinois. One of the stronger tornadoes touched down in Warren and Knox County where it destroyed 25 homes and killed two people. Another in a series of tornadoes touched down near Knoxville and moved east into northern Peoria County. This estimated F4 tornado injured 40 people and was described by eyewitnesses as looking like a "monstrous haystack."

1961 - The temperature at Ice Harbor Dam, WA, soared to 118 degrees to equal the state record established at Wahluke on the 24th of July in 1928. The afternoon high of 111 degrees at Havre, MT, was an all-time record for that location. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Severe thunderstorms raked eastern South Dakota. The thunderstorms spawned half a dozen tornadoes, produced softball size hail at Bowdle, and produced wind gusts to 90 mph south of Watertown. Hot weather continued in eastern Texas. Afternoon highs of 100 degrees at Houston and 106 degrees at Waco equalled records for the date. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather from Indiana and Lower Michigan to Pennsylvania and New York State during the day. Thunderstorms in Michigan produced wind gusts to 80 mph at Ashley, Hastings and Lennon. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather in Oklahoma, and from Iowa to the Upper Ohio Valley, with 216 reports of large hail or damaging winds between early Saturday morning and early Sunday morning. Thunderstorms moving across Iowa around sunrise produced extremely high winds which caused ten million dollars damage to crops in Carroll and Greene Counties. Thunderstorm winds at Jefferson IA reached 102 mph. Afternoon thunderstorms produced tennis ball size hail at Bay Mills, WI. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)



DID GOD REALLY CAUSE THE FIRE?

Shortly after a new nightclub was opened near a church, the members decided to call an all-night prayer meeting. While they were praying, a powerful thunderstorm engulfed the city, and lightning struck the club and burned it to the ground.

The owner became angry and decided to sue the church. At the hearing, however, the church denied any and all responsibility for the destruction of the club.

Confused, the judge exclaimed, "I'm not sure where the guilt may lie. On one hand the nightclub owner believes in prayer, but the members of the church don't."

On one occasion when Jesus was teaching His followers and disciples about eternal life someone asked, "But who can be saved?" He replied, "Humanly speaking, it is something man cannot do. But with God, all things are possible."

Prayer is asking and receiving. It is not hoping or wishing or wondering. It is receiving. Yet, it is not unusual for Christians to be amazed, even surprised, when God answers a prayer that exceeds their faith. How interesting.

Perhaps that's why Jesus made that statement when talking about salvation. Consider this: if God can redeem us from our sinful state and grant us eternal life, can He not do anything we ask in His name and for His glory?

Prayer: Help us, Father, to have a faith that is bigger than our problems, stronger than the attacks of Satan and larger than any doubt that would ever defeat us. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Jesus looked at them intently and said, "Humanly speaking, it is impossible. But not with God. Everything is possible with God." Mark 10:27

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:
08.02.24

6 7 24 44 54 13

MegaPlier: 4x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$374,000,000

NEXT 1 Days 17 Hrs 39
DRAW: Mins 18 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS:
08.03.24

5 10 21 42 43 10

All Star Bonus: 5x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$6,390,000

NEXT 16 Hrs 54 Mins 18
DRAW: Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS:
08.04.24

10 17 19 29 46 10

TOP PRIZE:
\$7,000/week

NEXT 17 Hrs 9 Mins 17
DRAW: Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS:
08.03.24

1 14 23 27 31

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$58,000

NEXT 2 Days 17 Hrs 9
DRAW: Mins 17 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS:
08.03.24

13 18 29 43 56 8

TOP PRIZE:
\$10,000,000

NEXT 17 Hrs 38 Mins 18
DRAW: Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS:
08.03.24

13 33 40 60 61 20

Power Play: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$174,000,000

NEXT 17 Hrs 38 Mins 18
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
- Cancelled:** 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
- 11/16/2024 Groton American Legion "Turkey Raffle" 6:30-11:30pm
- 11/28/2024 Community Thanksgiving at the Community Center 11:30am-1pm
- 12/01/2024 Groton Snow Queen Contest, 4:30 p.m.
- 12/07/2024 Olive Grove 8th Annual Holiday Party & Tour of Homes with Live & Silent Auctions 6pm-close
- 04/12/2025 Lion's Club Easter Egg Hunt at the City Park 10am Sharp
- 05/03/2025 Lion's Club Spring Citywide Rummage Sale 8am-3pm
- 05/26/2025 Memorial Day Services Groton Union Cemetery with lunch at Legion Post #39, 12pm
- 07/04/2025 Firecracker Couples Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course
- 07/13/2025 Lion's Club Summer Fest/Car Show at the City Park 9am-4pm
- 09/06/2025 Lion's Club Fall Citywide Rummage Sale 8am-3pm
- 10/31/2025 Downtown Trick or Treat 4-6pm
- 11/27/2025 Community Thanksgiving at the Community Center 11:30am-1pm

News from the **AP** Associated Press

Japan's Nikkei index has its worst day in decades as world markets quake over risks to US economy

By ELAINE KURTENBACH AP Business Writer

BANGKOK (AP) — Japan's benchmark stock index plunged 12.4% on Monday, compounding a global market rout set off by investor concerns that the U.S. economy could be headed for recession.

A report Friday showing hiring by U.S. employers slowed last month by much more than expected has convulsed financial markets, vanquishing the euphoria that had taken the Nikkei 225 to all-times highs of over 42,000 in recent weeks.

The shakeup began just a couple of days after U.S. stock indexes had jumped to their best day in months after Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell set the stage for possible rate cuts to begin in September.

But after Friday's jobs report, worries are rising the Fed may have kept its main interest rate at a two-decade high for too long, raising risks of a recession in the world's largest economy. A rate cut would make it less expensive for U.S. households and companies to borrow money, but it could take time for the effects to boost the economy.

Until Friday, there had been relatively few huge market swings in the past year.

A bonanza around artificial intelligence technology helped drive Big Tech stocks higher, while other areas of the market held up amid rising hopes for coming cuts to interest rates by the Federal Reserve. But professional investors have been warning that shakier times may be ahead given uncertainty about how quickly the Fed will cut interest rates and other big questions.

On Monday, the Nikkei closed down 4,451.28 points at 31,458.42. It had dropped 5.8% on Friday, making this its worst two-day decline ever. Its worst single-day rout was a plunge of 3,836 points, or 14.9%, on Oct. 19, 1987, a global markets crash that was dubbed "Black Monday" but proved to be only a temporary setback despite fears it might have augured a worldwide downturn.

European markets also opened lower Monday, with Germany's DAX down 2.3% at 17,267.00. The CAC 40 in Paris lost 1.9% to 7,114.33 and the FTSE 100 in London was 2.1% lower at 8,004.19.

Darkening the outlook for trading on Wall Street, early Monday the future for the S&P 500 was 2.5% lower and that for the Dow Jones Industrial Average was down 1.6%.

Share prices have fallen in Tokyo since the Bank of Japan raised its benchmark interest rate on Wednesday. The Nikkei is now down 3.8% from a year ago.

The Japanese yen also has fallen sharply, trading at 142.37 yen, down from 146.45 late Friday and sharply below its level of over 160 yen a few weeks ago.

The euro rose to \$1.0952 from \$1.0923.

The latest setback has hit markets heavily weighted toward computer chipmakers like Samsung Electronics and other technology shares: on Monday, South Korea's Kospi plummeted more than 9% as Samsung's shares sank 10.3%. It closed 8.8% lower at 2,441.55.

Taiwan's Taiex also crumbled, losing 8.4% as Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co., the world's biggest chip maker, dropped 9.8%.

"To put it mildly, the spike in volatility-of-volatility is a spectacle that underlines just how jittery markets have become," Stephen Innes of SPI Asset Management said in a commentary. "The real question now looms: Can the typical market reflex to sell volatility or buy the market dip prevail over the deep-seated anxiety brought on by this sudden and sharp recession scare?"

The VIX, an index that measures how worried investors are about upcoming drops for the S&P 500, was up about 26% as of early Monday. Bitcoin which recently had surged to nearly \$70,000, was down 16% at \$53,160.00.

Oil prices slipped, with U.S. benchmark crude oil giving up 74 cents to \$72.78 per barrel. Brent crude, the international standard, lost 67 cents to \$76.14 per barrel.

Investors will be watching for data on the U.S. services sector from the U.S. Institute for Supply Management due later Monday that may help determine if the sell-offs around the world are an overreaction, Yeap Jun Rong of IG said in a report.

Even though worries over weakness in the U.S. economy and volatile markets have rippled around the world, the U.S. economy is still growing, and a recession is far from a certainty.

But the mood was decidedly dark.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng index lost 2.2% to 16,579.97 and the S&P/ASX 200 in Australia declined 3.7% to 7,649.60.

The Shanghai Composite index, which is somewhat insulated by capital controls from other world markets, edged higher but then gave way, losing 1.5% to 2,862.56.

The S&P 500's 1.8% decline Friday was its first back-to-back loss of at least 1% since April. The Dow Jones Industrial Average dropped 1.5%, and the Nasdaq composite fell 2.4%, taking it to 10% below its record set last month. That level of drop is what traders call a "correction."

Hurricane Debby to bring heavy rains and catastrophic flooding to Florida, Georgia and S. Carolina

By KIMBERLY CHANDLER and CHRISTOPHER O'MEARA Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — The center of Hurricane Debby is expected to reach the Big Bend coast of Florida early Monday bringing potential record-setting rains, catastrophic flooding and life-threatening storm surge as it moves slowly across the northern part of the state before stalling over the coastal regions of Georgia and South Carolina.

Debby was located about 45 miles (75 kilometers) west north west of Cedar Key, Florida, with maximum sustained winds of 80 mph (120 kph). The storm was moving north northeast at 10 mph (17 kph), the National Hurricane Center in Miami said early Monday.

Debby is the fourth named storm of the 2024 Atlantic hurricane season after Tropical Storm Alberto, Hurricane Beryl and Tropical Storm Chris, all of which formed in June.

Forecasters warned heavy amounts of rain from Debby could spawn catastrophic flooding in Florida, South Carolina and Georgia.

The storm was expected to make landfall around midday Monday in the Big Bend area of Florida, north of Tampa, the hurricane center said. A tornado watch also was in effect for parts of Florida and Georgia until 6 a.m. Monday.

"Right now, we are to trying secure everything from floating away," said Sheryl Horne, whose family owns the Shell Island Fish Camp along the Wakulla River in St. Marks, Florida, where some customers moved their boats inland.

The sparsely populated Big Bend region in the Florida Panhandle also was hit last year by Hurricane Idalia, which made landfall as a Category 3 hurricane.

"I am used to storms and I'm used to cleaning up after storms," Horne said.

Debby was expected to move eastward over northern Florida and then stall over the coastal regions of Georgia and South Carolina, thrashing the region with potential record-setting rains totaling up to 30 inches (76 centimeters) beginning Tuesday.

Officials also warned of life-threatening storm surge along Florida's Gulf Coast, with 6 to 10 feet (1.8 to 3 meters) of inundation expected Monday between the Ochlockonee and Suwannee rivers.

"There's some really amazing rainfall totals being forecast and amazing in a bad way," Michael Brennan, director of the hurricane center, said at a briefing. "That would be record-breaking rainfall associated with a tropical cyclone for both the states of Georgia and South Carolina if we got up to the 30-inch level."

Flooding impacts could last through Friday and are expected to be especially severe in low-lying areas near the coast, including Savannah, Georgia; Hilton Head, South Carolina; and Charleston, South Carolina. North Carolina officials were monitoring the storm's progress.

Officials in Savannah said the area could see a month's worth of rain in four days if the system stalls

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over the region.

"This is going to be a significant storm," Savannah Mayor Van. R. Johnson said during a press conference.

Debby's outer bands grazed the west coast of Florida, flooding streets and bringing power outages. Sarasota County officials said most roadways on Siesta Key, a barrier island off the coast of Sarasota, were under water. The hurricane center had predicted the system would strengthen as it curved off the southwest Florida coast, where the water has been extremely warm.

At a briefing Sunday afternoon, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis warned the storm could lead to "really, really significant flooding that will happen in North Central Florida."

The storm would follow a similar track to Hurricane Idalia but would "be much wetter. We are going to see much more inundation," he said.

A hurricane warning was issued for parts of the Big Bend and Florida Panhandle areas, while tropical storm warnings were posted for Florida's West Coast, the southern Florida Keys and Dry Tortugas. A tropical storm watch extended farther west into the Panhandle.

Tropical storms and hurricanes can trigger river flooding and overwhelm drainage systems and canals. Forecasters warned of 6 to 12 inches (15 centimeters to 30 centimeters) of rain and up to 18 inches (46 centimeters) in isolated areas of Florida.

Storm surge expected to hit Gulf Coast, including Tampa Bay

Flat Florida is prone to flooding even on sunny days and the storm was predicted to bring a surge of 2 to 4 feet (0.6 to 1.2 meters) along most of the Gulf Coast, including Tampa Bay, with a storm tide of up to 7 feet (2.1 meters) further north in the Big Bend region.

Forecasters warned of "a danger of life-threatening storm surge inundation" in a region that includes Hernando Beach, Crystal River, Steinhatchee and Cedar Key. Officials in Citrus and Levy counties ordered a mandatory evacuation of coastal areas, while those in Hernando, Manatee, Pasco and Taylor counties called for voluntary evacuations. Shelters opened in those and some other counties.

Citrus County Sheriff Mike Prendergast estimated 21,000 people live in his county's evacuation zone.

Residents, businesses prepare for flooding

Residents in Steinhatchee, Florida, which flooded during Hurricane Idalia, spent Sunday moving items to higher ground.

"I've been here 29 years. This isn't the first time I've done it. Do you get used to it? No," Mark Reblin said as he moved items out of the liquor store he owns.

Employees of Savannah Canoe and Kayak in Georgia said they were busy tying down their watercrafts, laying sandbags and raising equipment off the ground. Mayme Bouy, the store manager, said she wasn't too concerned about the forecast calling for a potential historic rain event.

"But we do have some high tides this week so if the rain is happening around then, that could be bad," Bouy added. "I'd rather play it safe than sorry."

Governors declare emergencies ahead of landfall

DeSantis declared a state of emergency for 61 of Florida's 67 counties, with the National Guard activating 3,000 guard members. Utility crews from in and out of state were ready to restore power after the storm, he said in a post on X.

In Tampa alone, officials gave out more than 30,000 sandbags to barricade against flooding.

"We've got our stormwater drains cleared out. We've got our generators all checked and full. We're doing everything that we need to be prepared to face a tropical storm," Tampa Mayor Jane Castor said.

Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp and South Carolina Gov. Henry McMaster made their own emergency declarations.

Northeast coast also preparing for storm conditions

Emergency managers in New England and New York were monitoring the path of the storm for the possibility of remnants striking their states. Northeast states including New York and Vermont have been hit by heavy rain and thunderstorms in recent weeks and were still coping with flooding and saturated ground.

Olympic triathlon mixed relay goes ahead with swims in the Seine amid water quality concerns

By KATE BRUMBACK and TALES AZZONI Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — Olympic triathletes plunged into the Seine River Monday morning as the mixed relay event got underway after organizers said the bacteria levels in the long-polluted Paris waterway were at acceptable levels.

The plan to hold the swimming portion of the triathlons and the marathon swimming events in the Seine was an ambitious one. Swimming in the river has, with some exceptions, been off-limits since 1923 because it has been too toxic.

Representatives from World Triathlon and the International Olympic Committee along with Paris Games organizers and regional and weather authorities met Sunday night to review water tests. The results indicated the water quality at the triathlon site had improved over the preceding hours and would be within the limits mandated by World Triathlon by Monday morning, they said in a statement.

In a very close sprint finish, the team from Germany won the gold medal, with the United States taking silver and Britain clinching bronze.

The decision to allow the event to go forward with swims in the Seine came after Belgium's Olympic committee announced Sunday that it would withdraw its team from the mixed relay triathlon after one of its competitors who swam in the river last week fell ill. It was not clear whether her illness had anything to do with her swim in the Seine.

Paris spent 1.4 billion euros (\$1.5 billion) on infrastructure improvements to clean up the river that flows through its center. That included the construction of a giant basin to capture excess rainwater and keep wastewater from flowing into the river, renovating sewer infrastructure and upgrading wastewater treatment plants.

Heavy rains that have fallen off and on during the Games have caused headaches for organizers as they result in elevated levels of fecal bacteria, including *E. coli* and enterococci, flowing into the river. Drenching rains fell Thursday night, but conditions had otherwise been dry except for light rain Saturday evening. The sun shone brightly as the race unfolded Monday and athletes said organizers reassured them that there were no concerns with water quality.

Organizers have continued to express confidence that warm temperatures and the sun's ultraviolet rays would combine to kill enough of the germs ahead of each event set to include a swim in the Seine.

Athletes swam in the river for the men's and women's individual triathlons Wednesday, though the men's race had been delayed by a day because of the water quality. Elevated bacteria levels in the waterway have caused cancellations of the swimming portion of training sessions for the relay event.

American triathlete Taylor Spivey said the uncertainty was difficult.

"I mean, everyone watching can see what an incredible venue this was for, for the triathlon," she said, noting that organizers clearly chose the course location for the backdrop of Paris monuments, which included the Eiffel Tower and the Champs-Élysées. "But the constant question of the water quality, the water quality and the current, was very stressful for the athletes, I would say, because there the contingency plan was only to push the race back, not necessarily like a plan B location."

Her teammate, Morgan Pearson, said the last-minute changes in plans were unfair to the athletes and fans. He also was tired of talking about the water quality in the Seine: "I've been getting asked this question for the last year. I qualified a year ago, and I think, no pun intended, we're all just a little bit sick of the question."

Brazilian triathlete Arnold Djenyfer said the water was fine Monday.

"There was really no difference about the quality of the water today compared to the first race," he said. "We already knew what we were going to face and it was all fine."

Vetle Bergsvik Thorn of Norway, who competed Monday, was one of several triathletes who fell ill after swimming in the Seine last Wednesday. He said he had a bad stomach illness for about 12 hours but said "it's hard to say if it's the river or just some ordinary food poisoning."

"It's been quite a few stressful days with not knowing if we can swim or not," he said.

Swiss officials announced Saturday that triathlete Adrien Briffod, who had competed in the Seine on Wednesday, would not compete Monday after falling ill with a stomach infection. On Sunday, they announced that Simon Westermann, who had been tapped to replace Briffod, also had to withdraw because of a gastrointestinal infection. Westermann had not participated in any swims in the Seine.

Switzerland's Julie Derron, who won silver in the women's individual triathlon, said the team had experienced "a bit of turbulence" in recent days. But she said that, overall, the experience has been a good one.

"I think it was challenging conditions obviously, to hold the race, but I think the pictures, the memories that we take away, they're incredible," she said.

Daily water quality tests measure levels of the fecal bacteria, including E. coli. World Triathlon's water safety guidelines and a 2006 European Union directive assign qualitative values to a range of E. coli levels.

Under World Triathlon's guidelines, E. coli levels up to 1,000 colony-forming units per 100 milliliters can be considered "good" and can allow competitions to go forward.

The triathlon mixed relay involves four-person teams made up of two men and two women, with each athlete swimming for 300 meters (yards), cycling for 6.8 kilometers (4.2 miles) and running for 2 kilometers (1.2 miles).

Internet back in Bangladesh as protesters plan to march to capital after a weekend of violence

By JULHAS ALAM and KRUTIKA PATHI Associated Press

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP) — Broadband internet and mobile data services were restored across Bangladesh on Monday, while anti-government protesters vowed to march to the capital to demand the prime minister's resignation, defying a military-ordered curfew after a weekend of violence that left about 100 people dead.

The protests began peacefully as frustrated students demanded an end to a quota system for government jobs, but the demonstrations have since morphed into an unprecedented challenge and uprising against Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her ruling Awami League party.

The government has attempted to quell the violence with force, leaving nearly 300 people dead and fueling further outrage and calls for Hasina to step down.

At least 95 people, including at least 14 police officers, died in clashes in the capital on Sunday, according to the country's leading Bengali-language daily newspaper, Prothom Alo. Hundreds more were injured in the violence.

Authorities first shut off mobile internet on Sunday in an attempt to quell the unrest, while the broadband internet stopped working from late Monday morning. This is the second internet blackout in the country after the protests turned deadly in July.

On Monday, after three hours of suspension of broadband services, both broadband and mobile internet returned.

The military-imposed curfew went into effect Sunday night and covered Dhaka and other divisional and district headquarters. The government had earlier imposed a curfew with some exceptions in the capital and elsewhere.

The government also announced a holiday from Monday to Wednesday. Courts were to be closed indefinitely. Mobile internet service was cut off, and Facebook and messaging apps, including WhatsApp, were inaccessible on Monday.

Bangladesh has previously shut down internet services in areas affected by protests, using it as a measure to suppress dissent by opposition parties. Internet watchdog Access Now said it recorded three shutdowns in the country in 2023, all of which overlapped with opposition rallies and were limited in scope to one city or district. That came after six shutdowns in 2022.

Hasina said the protesters who engaged in "sabotage" and destruction were no longer students but

criminals, and she said the people should deal with them with iron hands.

The prime minister's ruling Awami League party said the demand for her resignation showed that the protests have been taken over by the main opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party and the now-banned Jamaat-e-Islami party.

Hasina's 15-years dominance over the country is being tested like never before.

The 76-year-old was elected for a fourth consecutive term in a January vote that was boycotted by her main opponents, triggering questions over how free and fair the vote was. Thousands of opposition members were jailed in the lead-up to the polls, which the government defended as democratically held.

Today, she is the longest-serving leader in the history of Bangladesh, a predominantly Muslim nation of over 160 million people strategically located between India and Myanmar.

Her political opponents have previously accused her of growing increasingly autocratic and called her a threat to the country's democracy, and many now say the unrest is a result of her authoritarian streak and hunger for control at all costs.

At least 11,000 people have been arrested in recent weeks. The unrest has also resulted in the closure of schools and universities across the country, and authorities at one point imposed a shoot-on-sight curfew.

Over the weekend, protesters called for a "non-cooperation" effort, urging people not to pay taxes or utility bills and not to show up for work on Sunday, a working day in Bangladesh. Offices, banks and factories opened, but commuters in Dhaka and other cities faced challenges getting to their jobs.

The protests began last month as students demanded an end to a quota system that reserved 30% of government jobs for the families of veterans who fought in Bangladesh's war of independence against Pakistan in 1971.

As the violence crested, the country's Supreme Court ruled that the veterans' quota must be cut to 5%, with 93% of jobs to be allocated on merit. The remaining 2% will be set aside for members of ethnic minorities and transgender and disabled people. The government accepted the decision, but protesters have continued demanding accountability for the violence they blame on the government's use of force.

Hasina's administration has blamed the opposition parties and their student wings for instigating the violence in which several state-owned establishments were also torched or vandalized.

Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir, secretary-general of the main opposition party, repeated a call for the government to step down to stop the chaos.

Hasina offered to talk with student leaders on Saturday, but a coordinator refused and announced a one-point demand for her resignation. Hasina repeated her pledges to investigate the deaths and punish those responsible for the violence. She said she was ready to sit down whenever the protesters want.

The protests have become a major challenge for Hasina, who has ruled the country for over 15 years. She returned to power for a fourth consecutive term in January in an election that was boycotted by her main opponents.

Olympics security means minorities and others flagged as potential terror threats can't move freely

By JOHN LEICESTER Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — They are Nabil, Amine, François and more. But they will not be seen around the Paris Olympics, because France's government barred them from getting anywhere close.

French authorities are making unprecedentedly broad use of discretionary powers under an anti-terror law to keep hundreds of people they deem to be potential security threats away from the biggest event modern France has ever organized.

Minorities — largely with backgrounds in former French colonies — are often among those forbidden from leaving their neighborhoods and required to report daily to police, their lawyers say. Some are alarmed by the sweeping use of what one described as "a terribly dangerous tool."

Some of those now restricted in their movements, with orders that don't require prior approval from judges, include a man who had mental health issues in the past but is now receiving treatment. There

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also is an apprentice bank worker and business student who believes he's been targeted in part because he's Muslim and his father was born in Morocco, plus a halal food delivery driver who risks losing his job because he is banned from straying far from home during the 2024 Olympics and ensuing Paralympics, their lawyers say.

French Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin says the restrictions aim to prevent "very dangerous" people from attacking the Games.

Darmanin says he's applied them to more than 500 people this year as part of France's security preparations for the Games and the Olympic torch relay that preceded the July 26 opening ceremony.

Those affected include Amine, the bank apprentice now forbidden from leaving his suburb south of Paris — except to report at 6:30 p.m. daily to a local police station. The France-born 21-year-old has no criminal record and has not been charged with any crime, he and his lawyer say.

Amine believes French intelligence services have mistaken him for someone else who posted decapitation images and threats against LGBTQ+ people on a video-sharing app. The Associated Press is not identifying Amine by his full name because he fears potential employers and schools may reject him if they learn that police flagged him as a threat.

"I am not dangerous for France. I am not a terrorist. I am just a student who works to finance his studies," Amine said in an interview at his studio apartment strewn with books and with family photos on the fridge.

Police visited twice in the last four months. They busted down a neighbor's door the first time, seemingly because they had the wrong address, and then seized Amine's phone and computer, which made boning up for his exams harder, he said. The second time, a month before the Games, was to notify him that he could no longer move around freely.

"If my name was Brian, if I was blond and blue-eyed, the situation would have been different. Except that it is not the case. I am a North African Muslim, and I've been targeted in France," he said.

Fearing terror attacks, French authorities have massively ramped up security for the Games, flooding Paris streets with up to 45,000 police, plus soldiers armed with assault rifles, and tasking intelligence services to identify and neutralize potential threats in advance.

Interior Ministry notes seen by AP say security services foiled several alleged terror plots ahead of the Games, with Olympic soccer matches, an LGBTQ+ night club and France's Jewish community among suspected targets. The ministry's notes also say the Israel-Hamas war has heightened the terror risk in France, which has the largest Muslim and Jewish communities in Europe.

The anti-terror preventive effort also includes the liberal use of police powers to restrict the movements of people the ministry deems to be potential threats. The measures can only be challenged afterward in court, which some of those affected are now doing — a few successfully.

The powers were part of reinforced anti-terror legislation that sped through both houses of parliament in 2017, when France was still reeling from attacks by al-Qaida and Islamic State gunmen and suicide bombers in 2015.

The attacks killed 147 people — including in Paris neighborhoods now teeming with Olympic visitors and outside what is now the Olympic stadium, hosting track and field and rugby sevens.

The anti-terror law empowers France's interior minister to restrict anyone's movements when there are "serious reasons" to believe they're a grave security threat and have terror ties or sympathies.

A powerful security tool for the Games

The power the interior minister is using to distance people from the Olympics by forcing them to stay close to home is called an "individual measure of administrative control and surveillance," known by the French acronym, MICAS.

Darmanin told reporters last week that "just under 200" of the more than 500 Olympic-related MICAS cases he ordered this year are still in force during the Games.

They have been applied to people with "possible" extremist links who served jail time and others who weren't sentenced but "represent a danger for us," he said.

"We have evidence or very important suspicions that they are radicalized and could prepare an attack,"

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the interior minister said.

Paris' chief of police, Laurent Nuñez described the restrictions' wide use as "extremely positive."

"We must use the full range of legal and administrative tools at our disposal, which is what the interior minister asked for," he said last week as he toured the venue for Olympic table tennis, weightlifting, handball and volleyball.

"He asked us to further tighten the net as we approached the Olympic Games, and that is what we did," Nuñez said.

Lawyers say authorities are abusing the restrictions

AP spoke to six lawyers for about 20 people whose movements have been restricted. Some said they understand the measures' use for Olympic security, while others say the powers are being applied too broadly.

The use of the restrictions for the Olympics appears unprecedented in scope, some lawyers say. While over 500 people saw their movements curtailed this year and Darmanin says it's now less than 200 remaining during the Games, that compares with 205 people subjected to MICAS restrictions in the first 26 months of the 2017 law going into effect, according to a French Senate report from 2020.

"It's really directly connected to the Olympic Games," said Paris attorney Margot Pugliese. She described the powers as "a horror" and "really the total failure of the rule of law" because they can only be contested in court after they have been applied.

"It is a terribly dangerous tool whenever there is a repressive government," Pugliese said.

Lawyers say some of their clients have no prior convictions and only tenuous links to suspected extremism. Of the lawyers AP spoke to, about half of their clients have immigrant backgrounds, mostly with family roots in North Africa.

Darmanin says minorities aren't being singled out and that people suspected of left- or right-wing extremism are under surveillance, too.

"What would the French people say, what would the world say, if people who we can suspect might carry out actions, who are radicalized, are left perfectly free and then commit attacks?" he asked.

Paris attorney Antoine Ory has represented three people hit by MICAS restrictions in the Olympics run-up — two of them with no criminal records. One was born in Madagascar; the other two are French Algerian and French Moroccan dual nationals.

One of the men completed a five-year sentence for terror-related offenses in 2021, which included four months of jail time and other periods of semi-liberty or with an electronic bracelet to flag his whereabouts, Ory says. The MICAS order bans him from leaving his northeastern suburb of Paris.

Ory says police intelligence used to justify restrictions for his two other clients was flimsy at best. He alleges that intelligence services dipped back into old information they long had at their disposal, targeting people who before the Games weren't deemed enough of a risk to warrant MICAS orders.

"It's extremely abusive," he said. "Two weeks before the Games, they come along and say, 'You're dangerous.'"

A week before the Olympic opening ceremony, Ory successfully overturned the MICAS order for his Madagascar-born client. A court southeast of Paris ruled that the Interior Ministry failed to prove that the man is a terror risk and ordered the state to pay him 1,500 euros (\$1,600).

A police mix-up?

A note from police intelligence services — seen by AP — that requested movement restrictions and daily police check-ins for Amine from July 1 to the Sept. 8 closing of the Paralympics cited "the particularly serious threat he represents to public security and order, his adherence to radical Islam, and the specific context of the terrorist threat in the framework of the organization of the 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games."

The note flagged a TikTok video that Amine posted on Oct. 10 of himself in front of the Eiffel Tower, which was lit in Israeli colors following the Oct. 7 attacks on Israel by Hamas militants. Wearing the shirt of Deportivo Palestino, a Chilean soccer club founded by Palestinians, and the motorcycle helmet he'd worn on his ride to the tower, Amine then posted photos of himself making obscene gestures at the monument.

In hindsight, "it wasn't the best idea I've ever had," he acknowledges. Amine says he was frustrated that

French authorities at the time were banning pro-Palestinian protests. "It seemed like a lack of impartiality to me," he said.

He also posted an image of himself with one finger pointing at the badge on his shirt and another pointing at the Star of David illuminating the tower. The intelligence services' MICAS request described the raised finger as a sign of allegiance to Allah.

Amine says he was copying soccer players he's seen raise fingers in celebration when they score goals. "But when it's them, it's not a problem," he said.

The police note also tied Amine to an account on the video-sharing app Rave, saying the user posted decapitation images and "worrying comments" that expressed a desire to join a terror group and kill LGBTQ+ people. The note alleged that Amine "does not hide his anti-Zionist and homophobic positions."

Amine told AP that the Rave account isn't his. He filed a police complaint in May that the account's user had stolen his identity.

"I am not at all anti-Zionist, homophobic or anything. All those ideas are alien to me," Amine said.

The MICAS order — seen by AP — that bars Amine from leaving his Paris suburb except for his daily police check-in warns that he risks three years in prison and a fine of 45,000 euros (\$48,600) if he violates the restrictions or fails to check in.

Stuck at home or close to it, Amine says each day is like the last. He can watch the Paris Olympics only on TV.

And although the Olympic opening ceremony celebrated France's freedoms, Amine feels that its promises of "liberté, égalité, fraternité" aren't being applied to him.

"I have neither liberty, nor fraternity towards me," he said.

Olympic boxer Imane Khelif calls for end to bullying after backlash over gender misconceptions

By KADDOUR HABBARI and GREG BEACHAM Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — Olympic boxer Imane Khelif said the wave of hateful scrutiny she has faced over misconceptions about her gender "harms human dignity," and she called for an end to bullying athletes after being greatly affected by the international backlash against her.

The Algerian athlete spoke about her tumultuous Olympic experience on Sunday night in an interview with SNTV, a sports video partner of The Associated Press.

"I send a message to all the people of the world to uphold the Olympic principles and the Olympic Charter, to refrain from bullying all athletes, because this has effects, massive effects," Khelif said in Arabic. "It can destroy people, it can kill people's thoughts, spirit and mind. It can divide people. And because of that, I ask them to refrain from bullying."

The victories of Khelif and fellow boxer Lin Yu-ting of Taiwan in the ring in Paris have become one of the biggest stories of the Paris Games. Both women have clinched their first Olympic medals even as they have faced online abuse based on unsubstantiated claims about their gender, drawing them into a wider divide over changing attitudes toward gender identity and regulations in sports.

The 25-year-old Khelif acknowledged the pressure and pain of enduring this ordeal while competing far from home in the most important event of her athletic career.

"I am in contact with my family two days a week. I hope that they weren't affected deeply," she said. "They are worried about me. God willing, this crisis will culminate in a gold medal, and that would be the best response."

The vitriol stems from claims by the International Boxing Association, which has been permanently banned from the Olympics, that both Khelif and Lin failed unspecified eligibility tests for the women's competition at last year's world championships.

Khelif declined to answer when asked whether she had undergone tests other than doping tests, saying she didn't want to talk about it.

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She expressed gratitude to the International Olympic Committee and its president, Thomas Bach, for standing resolutely behind her while the banned former governing body of Olympic boxing stoked a furor around her participation in Paris.

"I know that the Olympic Committee has done me justice, and I am happy with this remedy because it shows the truth," she said.

She also has seen massive support at her bouts, drawing cheers when she enters the arena and crowds waving Algerian flags chanting her first name. She will fight again Tuesday in the women's 66-kilogram semifinals at Roland Garros.

Khelif repeatedly made clear she won't allow chatter or accusations to deter her from attempting to claim Algeria's first Olympic gold medal in women's boxing.

"I don't care about anyone's opinion," Khelif said a day after beating Anna Luca Hamori of Hungary. "I came here for a medal, and to compete for a medal. I will certainly be competing to improve (and) be better, and God willing, I will improve, like every other athlete."

Although she is aware of the worldwide discussion about her, Khelif said she has been somewhat removed.

"Honestly, I don't follow social media," she said. "There is a mental health team that doesn't let us follow social media, especially in the Olympic Games, whether me or other athletes. I'm here to compete and get a good result."

Khelif started her Olympic run last Thursday with a victory over Angela Carini of Italy, who abandoned the bout after just 46 seconds. Carini later said she regretted her decision and wished to apologize to Khelif.

That unusual ending raised the chatter around Khelif into a roar, drawing comments from the likes of former U.S. President Donald Trump, "Harry Potter" writer J.K. Rowling and others falsely claiming Khelif was a man or transgender.

The IOC repeatedly declared her and Lin qualified to participate in the Olympics, and it has decried the murky testing standards and untransparent governance of the IBA, which was banished entirely from the Olympics last year in an unprecedented punishment for a governing body.

Khelif clearly felt the weight of the worldwide scrutiny upon her, and her victory over Hamori on Saturday appeared to be cathartic. After the referee raised Khelif's hand with the win, she went to the center of the ring, waved to her fans, knelt and slammed her palm on the canvas, her smile turning to tears.

"I couldn't control my nerves," Khelif said in the interview. "Because after the media frenzy and after the victory, there was a mix of joy and at the same time, I was greatly affected, because honestly, it wasn't an easy thing to go through at all. It was something that harms human dignity."

She had competed in IBA events for several years without problems until she was abruptly suspended from last year's world championships. The Russian-dominated body — which has faced years of clashes with the IOC — has refused to provide any information about the tests.

Algeria's national boxing federation is still an IBA member.

Khelif is from rural northwestern Algeria, and she grew up playing soccer until she fell in love with boxing. Overcoming her father's initial objections, she traveled 10 kilometers (about 6 miles) by bus to train for fights in a neighboring town.

After reaching the sport's top level in her late teens, she struggled early in her career before reaching an elite level. Khelif has been a solid, if unspectacular, international competitor for six years, and she lost to eventual gold medalist Kellie Harrington of Ireland at the Tokyo Olympics.

Khelif's next bout in Paris is against Janjaem Suwannapheng of Thailand. If Khelif wins again, she will fight for a gold medal Friday.

"Yes, this issue involves the dignity and honor of every woman and female," she told an Algerian broadcaster in brief remarks Sunday after beating Hamori. "The Arab population has known me for years and has seen me box in the IBA that wronged me (and) treated me unfairly, but I have God on my side."

Renewed anti-government protests leave nearly 100 dead, hundreds more injured in Bangladesh

By JULHAS ALAM Associated Press

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP) — Nearly 100 people were killed and hundreds more injured Sunday as renewed anti-government protests swept across Bangladesh, with protesters calling for the prime minister to resign and the prime minister accusing them of “sabotage” and cutting off mobile internet in a bid to quell the unrest.

The country’s leading Bengali-language daily newspaper, Prothom Alo, said at least 95 people, including at least 14 police officers, died in the violence. The Channel 24 news outlet reported at least 85 deaths.

The military announced that a new curfew was in effect Sunday evening for an indefinite period, including in the capital, Dhaka, and other divisional and district headquarters. The government had earlier imposed a curfew with some exceptions in Dhaka and elsewhere.

Demonstrators are demanding Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina’s resignation following protests last month that began with students calling for an end to a quota system for government jobs. Those demonstrations escalated into violence that left more than 200 dead.

As the renewed violence raged, Hasina said the protesters who engaged in “sabotage” and destruction were no longer students but criminals, and she said the people should deal with them with iron hands.

The ruling Awami League party said the demand for Hasina’s resignation showed that the protests have been taken over by the main opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party and the now-banned Jamaat-e-Islami party.

Also Sunday, the government announced a holiday from Monday to Wednesday. Courts were to be closed indefinitely. Mobile internet service was cut off, and Facebook and messaging apps, including WhatsApp, were inaccessible.

Junior Minister for Information and Broadcasting Mohammad Ali Arafat said the services were severed to help prevent violence.

At least 11,000 people have been arrested in recent weeks. The unrest has also resulted in the closure of schools and universities across the country, and authorities at one point imposed a shoot-on-sight curfew.

Protesters called for a “non-cooperation” effort, urging people not to pay taxes or utility bills and not to show up for work on Sunday, a working day in Bangladesh. Offices, banks and factories opened, but commuters in Dhaka and other cities faced challenges getting to their jobs.

The demonstrators attacked Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, a major public hospital in Dhaka’s Shahbagh area, torching several vehicles.

Video footage showed protesters vandalizing a prison van in the chief metropolitan magistrate’s court in Dhaka. Other videos showed police opening fire on the crowds with bullets, rubber bullets and tear gas. The protesters set fire to vehicles and the ruling party’s offices. Some carried sharp weapons and sticks, according to TV footage.

In Dhaka’s Uttara neighborhood, police fired tear gas to disperse hundreds of people who blocked a major highway. Protesters attacked homes and vandalized a community welfare office in the area, where hundreds of ruling party activists took up positions. Some crude bombs were detonated, and gunshots were heard, witnesses said. At east 20 people were hit by bullets in the area.

At least 18 people were killed in the northwestern district of Sirajganj. That figure included 13 police officers who died after a police station was attacked by protesters, according to police headquarters in Dhaka. Another officer was killed in the eastern district of Cumilla, police said.

Five people died in the Feni district in southeast Bangladesh as Hasina’s supporters clashed with protesters.

Asif Iqbal, a resident medical officer at a state-run hospital in Feni, told reporters that they had five bodies at the hospital, all of them hit by bullets. It was not clear if they were protesters or ruling party activists.

In Munshiganj district near Dhaka, four people were declared dead after being rushed to a hospital, according to hospital official Abu Hena.

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The Jamuna television news channel reported that violent clashes took place across more than a dozen districts, including Chattogram, Bogura, Magura, Rangpur, Kishoreganj and Sirajganj, where protesters backed by the main opposition party clashed with police and the activists of the ruling Awami League party and its associated bodies.

The protests began last month as students demanded an end to a quota system that reserved 30% of government jobs for the families of veterans who fought in Bangladesh's war of independence against Pakistan in 1971.

As the violence crested, the country's Supreme Court ruled that the veterans' quota must be cut to 5%, with 93% of jobs to be allocated on merit. The remaining 2% will be set aside for members of ethnic minorities and transgender and disabled people. The government accepted the decision, but protesters have continued demanding accountability for the violence they blame on the government's use of force.

The system also sets aside jobs for members of ethnic minorities and for disabled and transgender people, whose quotas were cut from a collective 26% to 2% in the ruling.

Hasina's administration has blamed the opposition parties and their student wings for instigating the violence in which several state-owned establishments were also torched or vandalized.

Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, secretary-general of the main opposition party, repeated a call for the government to step down to stop the chaos.

Hasina offered to talk with student leaders on Saturday, but a coordinator refused and announced a one-point demand for her resignation.

Hasina repeated her pledges to investigate the deaths and punish those responsible for the violence. She said she was ready to sit down whenever the protesters want.

The protests have become a major challenge for Hasina, who has ruled the country for over 15 years. She returned to power for a fourth consecutive term in January in an election that was boycotted by her main opponents.

This preschool in Alaska changed lives for parents and kids alike. Why did it have to close?

By MORIAH BALINGIT AP Education Writer

WASILLA, Alaska (AP) — She was a teenager, and the mother of a 2-year-old, when a knock came on the door of the trailer she called home. Two women were there to tell her about a federally funded preschool program called Head Start that was opening near her home in Chugiak. Would she be interested in enrolling her daughter?

Then pregnant with her second child, Kristine Bayne signed up. She hoped it would make a difference for her daughter. What she didn't know: It would shift the trajectory of her life, too.

Bayne, who finished high school through correspondence courses after she got pregnant at 16, would go on to take a job with her child's Head Start. Her confidence buoyed, she returned to school to earn a bachelor's degree and a counseling certificate from the state. She would rise through the ranks of CCS Early Learning, the nonprofit that ran the region's Head Start centers, and would retire as a family partnerships coordinator, lending the same kind of help to families that she and her husband received.

"I learned so much," says Bayne, now 65. "How to take care of my children, how to advocate for them, how to have a voice for myself. ... They take you where you're at, and they help you move forward to become a better person."

In this part of Alaska, countless parents tell stories like Bayne's. Head Start has helped them earn degrees that put them on track for better jobs. As drug addiction ravages the community, it has helped parents in recovery and educated children who have ended up in foster care. It has done this while readying youngsters for kindergarten, conditioning them for the school day's rhythms and teaching them how to be good friends and students.

Which is why it was so wrenching when CCS Early Learning closed the Chugiak Head Start, where Bayne had sent her children. In January, it announced it was shuttering another center — this time in Meadow

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Lakes, where Bayne's granddaughter Makayla, who is now in her care, was enrolled.

Not enough grownups

The impending closure is not for lack of need. This is the fastest-growing part of the 49th state, and the nonprofit's Head Start program has a waiting list. It can — and did — fill Meadow Lakes' three classrooms to capacity.

The problem is with the grownups.

Specifically, there are not enough of them who want to work at a Head Start. Not when they can make more money working at the nearby Target, which hiked its pay during the pandemic. And not when, with the same credentials, they can get a better-paying job at the local school district.

As a teacher shortage grinds on, what is unfolding in this corner of the state — a region that contains both massive tracts of untamed wild and a booming Anchorage bedroom community — offers a preview of what other programs could face.

In 2022, nearly a quarter of Head Start teachers left their jobs, some retiring early and others lured away by higher-paying work in retail or at school districts. Without those teachers, the preschools cannot serve as many students as they once did. It means fewer options for parents who want to return to work but cannot afford child care, and fewer early learning opportunities for children from the neediest families. In rural communities, Head Start might be the only child care center for working parents.

The number of children and parents served by Head Start has tumbled precipitously since its peak in 2013. That year, it served 1.1 million children and pregnant people, according to the Annie E. Casey Foundation, which analyzed federal data. Nine years later, its enrollment stood at around 786,000.

Some of the children who would have enrolled in Head Start instead migrated to state-funded preschool programs, which have expanded. There are also fewer babies being born. Still, the percentage of children in poverty heading to preschool has been unchanged for two decades, which concerns researchers like Steve Barnett, of the National Institute for Early Education Research at Rutgers University.

"The fewer resources (children) have at home, the more they benefit from high-quality environments" like Head Start, Barnett says. Without it, he said, they show up in kindergarten further behind their classmates from middle- and upper-income households.

In Wasilla, the regional Head Start group decided to raise employee pay to keep more staff from leaving. To do that, it had to close one center. Mark Lackey, executive director of CCS Early Learning, found he was competing for employees with the service sector, which raised pay during the pandemic to lure back reluctant workers. Last year, CCS Early Learning was paying teacher aides with two years on the job about \$16 an hour, while Target was offering more than \$17 to entry-level employees, Lackey said.

"It's just tragic," Lackey says. "There's so many more kids we could be serving."

A closing without closure

Meadow Lakes' Head Start was tucked into a strip mall off a four-lane highway, its pine green facade sandwiched between a charter school and a laundromat that offered showers. The kids who arrived there were sometimes smiling, sometimes crying, often carrying tiny backpacks to fit their small frames.

They came from households where their caretakers were often struggling with problems too complex for them to understand: poverty, illness, financial strife, homelessness. Their caregivers included teen parents daunted by the responsibility of raising children, and grandparents who had unexpectedly taken in grandchildren.

Head Start was there to help all of them.

Its pioneering, multigenerational approach sought to build healthy environments for the children it served — and that meant supporting the adults in their lives, too. Many of the parents who sent their kids to Meadow Lakes attended Head Start themselves, like Cha Na Xiong, who had a child at the school. The son of Hmong refugees, he went to Head Start to learn English, allowing him to get a grasp on the language before he started kindergarten.

Kendra Mitchell, whose mother had her at 16, also went to Head Start, and sent her son Wayne to the Meadow Lakes school. He'll head to kindergarten next year, but she said she's seen how it's shaped both

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his life – and hers.

“He’s actually, you know, verbalizing his emotions and learning how to regulate his emotions at such a young age, which is extremely hard,” Mitchell said.

Wayne’s childhood has been marked by instability as Mitchell struggled with addiction and sent him to live with relatives. Wayne returned to live with her when she started recovery. When she enrolled him in Head Start, she said staff embraced her without judgment and helped connect her with resources as she got back on her feet. She told staff she was living in a cabin without running water; they got her a voucher so she could take Wayne to the neighboring laundromat for showers and laundry.

“They weren’t just lifting our son up. They were lifting us up as well,” Mitchell says.

Saying goodbye one last time

In May, the Meadow Lakes children came and went for the last time. Class started with routines that had become familiar. The children sang a song to learn the days of the week, set to the tune of the “Adams Family” theme. They talked about the weather — that day it was rainy — then lined up to wash their hands before sitting down at a pair of long tables for breakfast.

In a school day, there was so much more than met the eye. Every activity was loaded with lessons large and small. As they talked about the calendar — it was May 6 — they practiced saying “sixth.” Teacher Lisa Benson-Nuyen instructed them to “pretend your tongue is a little turtle head, sticking out of the shell.” She taught them, too, that the last day of school could bring a mix of emotions.

“For some people, that’s a happy face. For other people, ... that’s a sad face,” Benson-Nuyen said.

At breakfast, the children learned blueberries do not belong in their ears. Then came tooth-brushing and play time. All these routines were built to help children feel secure and learn responsibility. And every conflict with a classmate marked an opportunity to teach children how to interact with one another and how to manage their emotions. It’s why the classroom had a “comfort corner,” a cozy space with pillows where at least one student was often curled up.

That last week, there were small signs things were coming to a close. The classroom walls, still brightly decorated, were no longer draped with student art. Teachers began talking about what to do with class pets. On the final day, staff tried to keep things cheerful and celebratory, even as they struggled to maintain composure. They painted the students’ hair bright colors and had a dance party.

Eryn Martin, the program office assistant, called out to Mitchell as she left for the last time: “Good luck, Kendra! You’ve been working really hard and I’m proud of you.”

Martin, herself a Head Start graduate and alumna parent, had been crying on and off all day, and her cheeks were once again wet with tears. Willow Palmer practiced what she learned in the classroom — when people are upset, she can help comfort them. The 5-year-old rushed back into the classroom, then reemerged with a neon-green stuffed frog. She gave it to Martin. Then she leaned in and gave her a hug, too.

On the playground that day, some students released butterflies they had been watching for weeks inside their classrooms, as they emerged from cocoons. Now they were full-grown. They flew away in the crisp spring air — away from the school, and into the unknown.

Russell Vought, a Project 2025 architect, is ready to shock Washington if Trump wins second term

By RICHARD LARDNER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Russell Vought sounds like a general marshaling troops for combat when he talks about taming a “woke and weaponized” federal government.

He recently described political opposition as “enemy fire that’s coming over the target,” while urging allies to be “fearless at the point of attack” and calling his policy proposals “battle plans.”

If former President Donald Trump wins a second term in November, Vought may get the opportunity to go on the offensive.

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A chief architect of Project 2025 — the controversial conservative blueprint to remake the federal government — Vought is likely to be appointed to a high-ranking post in a second Trump administration. And he's been drafting a so-far secret "180-Day Transition Playbook" to speed the plan's implementation to avoid a repeat of the chaotic start that dogged Trump's first term.

Among the small cadre of Trump advisers who has a mechanic's understanding of how Washington operates, Vought has advised influential conservative lawmakers on Capitol Hill, held a top post in the Trump White House and later established his own pro-Trump think tank. Now, he's being mentioned as a candidate to be Trump's White House chief of staff, one of the most powerful positions in government.

"If we don't have courage, then we will step away from the battle," Vought said in June on former Trump aide Steve Bannon's "War Room" podcast. "But our view is that's where the country needs us, and we're not going to save our country without a little confrontation."

Conservative blueprint to change the government

Led by the Heritage Foundation, a conservative think tank, Project 2025 is a detailed 920-page handbook for governing under the next Republican administration. A whirlwind of hard-right ambitions, its proposals range from ousting thousands of civil servants and replacing them with Trump loyalists to reversing the Food and Drug Administration's approval of medications used in abortions. Democrats for months have been using Project 2025 to hammer Trump and other Republicans, arguing to voters that it represents the former president's true — and extreme — agenda.

Trump in recent weeks has sought to distance himself from Project 2025. He posted on social media he has not seen the plan and has "no idea who is in charge of it, and, unlike our very well received Republican Platform, had nothing to do with it."

His campaign said Tuesday that Project 2025's "demise would be greatly welcomed." That same day, Paul Dans, the project's executive director and a former Trump administration personnel official, stepped down.

Trump's attempts to reject the blueprint are complicated by the connections he has with many of its contributors. More than two dozen authors served in his administration, including Vought, who was director of the White House's Office of Management and Budget.

The Trump campaign did not respond to questions about which Project 2025 proposals the former president opposes or whether Vought would be offered a high-level government position in a new Trump term.

Vought did not respond to an interview request or to questions first emailed in February to his think tank, the Center for Renewing America, which played a key role in creating Project 2025.

Those who know Vought described him as fiercely dedicated to Trump's cause, if not to the former president himself.

"A very determined warrior is how I would see Russ," said a former Trump administration official who worked with Vought in the White House and requested anonymity to speak candidly about him. "I don't think he thinks about whether or not he likes Donald Trump as a person. I think he likes what Donald Trump represents in terms of the political forces he's able to harness."

Washington insider

Born in New York and raised in Connecticut, Vought has described his family as blue collar. His parents were devout Christians. Vought's father, a Marine Corps veteran, was a union electrician and his mother was a schoolteacher.

Vought's father, nicknamed Turk, didn't stand for idleness or waste. Mark Maliszewski, an electrician who knew him, recalled that after a job Turk Vought would scold his co-workers if they tossed out still usable material.

"He'd go over and kick the garbage can," Maliszewski said. "He'd say: 'What is this? If those were quarters or dollars in that garbage can, you'd be picking them up.'"

Russell Vought graduated in 1998 from Wheaton College, a Christian school in Illinois that counts the famed evangelist Billy Graham among its alumni. He moved to Washington to work for Republicans who championed fiscal austerity and small government.

"I worked with a lot of different staff people and as far as work ethic, tenacity, intellect, knowledge (and) commitment to principle, Russell was one of the more impressive people I worked with," said former GOP

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Rep. Jeb Hensarling of Texas, who hired Vought in 2003.

After honing his credentials as a fiscal hawk, Vought was named policy director of the House Republican Conference, the party's primary messaging platform chaired at the time by then-Rep. Mike Pence, who went on to serve as Indiana governor and Trump's vice president.

Vought left Capitol Hill for a lobbying organization attached to the Heritage Foundation. When Trump was elected, Vought became OMB's deputy director.

His confirmation hearing was contentious. Liberal Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders accused him of using Islamophobic language when he wrote in 2016 that Muslims "do not know God because they have rejected Jesus Christ his Son, and they stand condemned."

Vought told senators his remarks were taken out of context and said he respected the right of every person to express their religious beliefs.

The Senate confirmed him to be OMB's No. 2 by a single vote. He became acting director in early 2019 after his boss, Mick Mulvaney, was named Trump's acting chief of staff. Vought was confirmed as OMB director a year and half later as the COVID-19 pandemic was sweeping the globe.

OMB is a typically sedate office that builds the president's budget and reviews regulations. But with Vought at the helm, OMB was at the center of showdowns between Trump and Congress over federal spending and the legal bounds of presidential power.

After lawmakers refused to give Trump more money for his southern U.S. border wall, the budget office siphoned billions of dollars from the Pentagon and Treasury Department budgets to pay for it.

Under Vought, OMB also withheld military aid to Ukraine as Trump pressured President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to investigate President Joe Biden and his son. Vought refused to comply with a congressional demand to depose him during the subsequent Democrat-led House investigation that led to Trump's first impeachment. The inquiry, Vought said, was a sham.

Following Trump's exit from the White House, Vought formed The Center for Renewing America. The organization's mission is to be "the tip of the America First spear" and "to renew a consensus that America is a nation under God."

Vought has defended the concept of Christian nationalism, which is a fusion of American and Christian values, symbols and identity. Christian nationalism, he wrote three years ago, "is a commitment to an institutional separation between church and state, but not the separation of Christianity from its influence on government and society."

The only way to return America to the country the Founding Fathers envisioned is "radical constitutionalism," Vought said on Bannon's podcast. That means ensuring control of the executive branch rests solely with the president, not a vast federal bureaucracy.

Anticipating the fights to achieve this, Trump's backers need to be "fearless, faithful and frugal in everything we do," he said.

A declaration of less independence

Vought's center was part of a coalition of conservative organizations, organized by the Heritage Foundation, that launched Project 2025 and crafted a detailed plan for governing in the next Republican administration.

The project's public-facing document, "Mandate for Leadership," examined nearly every corner of the federal government and urged reforms large and small to bridle a "behemoth" bureaucracy.

Project 2025 calls for the U.S. Education Department to be shuttered, and the Homeland Security Department dismantled, with its various parts absorbed by other federal offices. Diversity, inclusion and equity programs would be gutted. Promotions in the U.S. military to general or admiral would go under a microscope to ensure candidates haven't prioritized issues like climate change or critical race theory.

The blueprint also recommends reviving a Trump-era personnel policy that seeks to reclassify tens of thousands of federal workers as political appointees, which could enable mass dismissals.

Ruth Ben-Ghiat, a New York University history professor and author of "Strongmen: Mussolini to the Present," criticized Project 2025 as "a recipe for mass chaos, abuses of power, and dysfunction in government."

The overarching theme of Project 2025 is to strip down the "administrative state." This, according to

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the blueprint, is the mass of unelected government officials who pursue policy agendas at odds with the president's plans.

In his public comments and in a Project 2025 chapter he wrote, Vought has said that no executive branch department or agency, including the Justice Department, should operate outside the president's authority.

"The whole notion of independent agencies is anathema from the standpoint of the Constitution," Vought said during a recent appearance on the Fox Business Network.

Critics warn this may leave the Justice Department and other investigative agencies vulnerable to a president who might pressure them to punish or probe a political foe. Trump, who has faced four separate prosecutions, has threatened retribution against Biden and other perceived enemies.

Diminishing the Justice Department's independence would be a "radically bad idea," said Paul Coggins, past president of the National Association of Former U.S. Attorneys.

"No president deserves to sic the Justice Department on his political enemies, or, frankly, to pull the Justice Department off his political friends," he said.

It is not clear what job Vought might get in a second Trump administration. He could return as OMB director, the job he held at the end of Trump's presidency, or an even higher-ranking post.

"Russ would make a really, really good (White House) chief of staff," Mulvaney said.

Whatever the position, Vought is expected to be one of Trump's top field commanders in his campaign to dominate Washington.

Focus on economy and answer the Harris 'Freedom' message: What GOP strategists think Trump should do

By THOMAS BEAUMONT Associated Press

One Republican strategist who has run campaigns against Donald Trump says he recognizes what the former president is doing against Vice President Kamala Harris, even as Trump swings back and forth between attacking her record and questioning her racial identity.

It's what he's done against other opponents.

"He figures out what their perceived weakness is and drills down on it," said Terry Sullivan, who was a senior adviser to Florida Sen. Marco Rubio's 2016 Republican presidential campaign. "He's spending a few weeks probing, and I think he needs to take that time."

Harris' entry into the presidential race after President Joe Biden ended his reelection bid has changed basic assumptions about the campaign, as Democrats replaced an 81-year-old man with a fading ability to make his case with a 59-year-old woman who's drawing new enthusiasm. Trump's attacks on Harris' racial identity — an echo of his onetime questioning of former President Barack Obama's birthplace — have caused some top Republicans to suggest Trump may be ignoring issues they see as favorable for him.

Marc Short, who was chief of staff to former Vice President Mike Pence, said he questions whether the Republican nominee will stick to the script his team prescribes.

"I think that there is a lot of time left. But I'm also not optimistic that you will see message discipline either," said Short, whose former boss renounced Trump after the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol. "It's hard to have confidence that there will be an orchestrated effort to highlight that because we will continue to do things like debating whether Harris is Indian American or African American."

Here's what top strategists think Trump should do.

Focus on the economy

In June, an AP-NORC survey found that about 4 in 10 American adults — and only about 1 in 10 Republicans — approved of the way Biden was handling the economy.

Most Republicans — 56% — say the outcome of the upcoming election is "extremely important" for the economy, according to an AP-NORC poll conducted in July. That's slightly higher than the 48% who say they feel the same way about immigration, another issue Trump has long prioritized.

"How many times have campaigns come down to, as Ronald Reagan said, 'Are you better off now than you were four years ago?'" said Mark Campbell, who managed Republican Glenn Youngkin's winning 2021

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Virginia governor's race. "This year, the answer is a resounding no. But we haven't heard it put that simply yet, and they've had three weeks to say it."

Respond to the 'Freedom' message

One strategist argued that Trump needs to respond to the message Harris was building around protecting Americans' freedom — taking ownership of a word that Republicans often try to make a centerpiece of their campaigns.

Harris and other Democrats have campaigned on enshrining reproductive rights after the U.S. Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade* two years ago. She's also brought up Trump's felony conviction in New York for participating in a hush-money scheme to influence the 2016 election — a case for which he faces possible prison time — and highlighted her own background as a prosecutor and former attorney general. She has argued Trump is not just a threat to democracy but will take away the freedom to have an abortion and be safe from gun violence.

As if to put a fine point on the message, Harris' campaign walkout song is Beyoncé's "Freedom."

Take some time — but not too much

Sullivan, the former Rubio senior adviser, said Trump had run a smart campaign up until Biden was replaced and cautioned against writing off his ability to find a new message.

By the end of the 2016 primary campaign, Trump had branded Rubio as "Little Marco" and knocked him out of the race with a rout in Rubio's native Florida. (Today, Trump also lives in Florida after establishing residency there during his presidency and had Rubio on his vice-presidential shortlist before picking Ohio Sen. JD Vance.)

Sullivan argues Harris will begin to face more backlash and her ties to San Francisco, a city long stamped for many Americans as liberal and out of touch with the rest of the country, will be good fodder for Trump.

"His message tests early on and he goes through a lot of bad ideas before he locks in," Sullivan said. "And when he locks in, it's usually pretty good."

Harris once wanted to ban fracking. Trump wants voters in energy-rich Pennsylvania to remember

By MARC LEVY Associated Press

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) — Facing the need to win battleground Pennsylvania, Vice President Kamala Harris is swearing off any prior assertion that she opposed fracking, but that hasn't stopped Republican Donald Trump from wielding her now-abandoned position to win over voters in a state where the natural gas industry means jobs.

Last week, in his first appearance in Pennsylvania since Harris became the Democrats' presumptive nominee, Trump repeatedly warned that Harris would ban fracking — a position she held as a presidential primary candidate in 2019 — and devastate the economy in the nation's No. 2 natural gas state.

"She's against fracking, she's against oil drilling, she wants everybody to have one electric car and share it with the neighbors," Trump told rallygoers at a Harrisburg rally on Wednesday, which was also his first appearance in the state since he was wounded in a July 13 assassination attempt in Butler County. "Harris has stated repeatedly that she supports, quote, banning fracking. I'll ban fracking, I'll ban it on my first day."

Harris' campaign, in a statement, insisted she would not ban fracking, and called Trump's claims an "attempt to distract from his own plans to enrich oil and gas executives at the expense of the middle class."

Still, Trump criticized Harris' support as a senator and candidate in 2020's presidential primary for a Democratic resolution to create a "Green New Deal," a sweeping progressive effort to shift the country toward renewable energy. Trump called the platform — never fully translated into policy proposals — a "\$100 trillion green new scam designed to abolish the oil, coal and natural gas industry entirely."

While Harris considers choosing popular Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro as a finalist to be her running mate on the Democratic ticket, Trump has made it clear that he won't concede the swing state, part of the decisive "blue wall" along with Michigan and Wisconsin. Trump repeatedly has said his administration would "drill baby drill" and dismissed Harris' change of position with these words of caution: "Remember,

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a politician always goes back to what their original thought was.”

Fracking is nearly always on the ballot in Pennsylvania. Formally named hydraulic fracturing, it has made the United States an oil and gas superpower over the past decade, along with horizontal drilling.

Republicans routinely attack Democrats over fracking to drive a wedge into the party’s fragile alliance between its left wing, which is hostile to fossil fuels, and its bedrock building trade union base, whose workers are building an expanding network of gas pipelines, power plants and processing facilities in Pennsylvania.

Republicans have used similar attacks in the past two election cycles, both unsuccessfully, against Joe Biden in 2020’s presidential race and against Sen. John Fetterman in 2022.

To attack Biden in 2020, Republicans seized on a series of confusing statements — such as remarks on the oil industry from a debate just a couple weeks before the election — to claim he intended to “ban” or end national gas extraction. That was not Biden’s official position, and if he intended to restrain the extraction method, it was hard to find evidence of it in energy production data during his first three years in office.

Biden has sought to slow down leasing on federal lands and emphasize conservation as part of a large-scale effort to slow global warming. But U.S. natural gas production and crude oil production have hit record monthly highs in the past year, according to federal energy statistics. The same thing has happened with gas production in Pennsylvania, which also has posted record monthly highs during Biden’s time in office.

Harris has backed Biden’s plan to reach net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. But that plan never included a ban on fracking, and Biden has said he viewed those energy sources as necessary during the transition.

Trump, meanwhile, has heavily courted the gas industry in Pennsylvania and has ridiculed the science behind increasingly urgent warnings for immediate action to stave off the worst of climate damage by cutting fossil fuel emissions.

Oil and gas producers have opposed a range of energy policies under Biden, including tougher regulations on tailpipe emissions and vehicle fuel economy that they see as a de facto electric vehicle mandate, clamping down on leases on federal lands and delaying liquefied natural gas projects.

Energy companies want to know whether Harris will continue down those roads.

“It’s safe to say that we and a lot of other folks are eager to hear from the vice president,” said Dustin Meyer, a senior vice president at the American Petroleum Institute.

Attacking Harris over fracking is reminiscent of Republican efforts to turn union workers against Democrat Hillary Clinton in 2016. In tenor and scale, Trump’s overtures to the industry have echoed the unfulfilled promises he made to save the coal industry during his first campaign.

Clinton was hammered for saying “we’re going to put a lot of coal miners and coal companies out of business” when describing her climate plan, a comment that was used to suggest she had declared war on coal.

Democrats in Pennsylvania — such as Fetterman, Shapiro and U.S. Sen. Bob Casey — have successfully run on getting tough on fracking through stronger regulation. They shun talk of a fracking ban, although they may not necessarily support every aspect of Biden’s energy policy if unions oppose it.

When Biden dropped his candidacy, the United Association of Union Plumbers and Pipefitters, whose members work on pipelines and in power plants, quickly endorsed Harris in a unanimous vote.

Mark McManus, the union’s general president, pointedly noted that Harris “did have a previous position in a previous role in a different state,” but said she has been clear about her new position on fracking.

“And it’s a good position for the United Association,” McManus said. “She’s a nationwide candidate right now.”

McManus described Harris’ energy approach as being joined at the hip with Biden, a Pennsylvania native the union endorsed twice in his races against Trump, including this year’s campaign. McManus embraced what he described as an “all of the above energy approach.”

Still, in a heavily populated and heavily contested state where Trump won by just over 44,000 votes in 2016 and Biden won by just over 81,000, any marginal change is significant, campaign strategists and pollsters say.

Christopher Borick, director of the Muhlenberg College Institute of Public Opinion in Allentown, said fracking simply won't be a decisive factor for most Pennsylvania voters because opinions on it are highly divided in the state.

The gas industry has flushed money into some local economies. But it has also inspired a backlash in other communities, most notably in Philadelphia's suburbs.

The sweet spot for statewide candidates — such as Casey, Shapiro and Fetterman — has been not calling for a ban, but calling for tight regulation, clear disclosure about the process and limits on where it can be done, Borick said.

"It's been successful for all of them," Borick said, "and that's where you see Harris going now."

Tropical Storm Debby strengthens into a Category 1 hurricane as it heads toward Florida

By KIMBERLY CHANDLER and CHRISTOPHER O'MEARA Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — Tropical Storm Debby strengthened into a Category 1 hurricane as it approached Florida on Sunday evening, according to the national weather service.

Debby is the fourth named storm of the 2024 Atlantic hurricane season after Tropical Storm Alberto, Hurricane Beryl and Tropical Storm Chris, all of which formed in June.

Forecasters warned heavy amounts of rain from Debby could spawn catastrophic flooding in Florida, South Carolina and Georgia.

The storm was expected to make landfall around midday Monday in the Big Bend area of Florida, the hurricane center said. A tornado watch also was in effect for parts of Florida and Georgia until 6 a.m. Monday.

"Right now, we are trying secure everything from floating away," said Sheryl Horne, whose family owns the Shell Island Fish Camp along the Wakulla River in St. Marks, Florida, where some customers moved their boats inland. The sparsely populated Big Bend region in the Florida Panhandle was hit last year by Hurricane Idalia, which made landfall as a Category 3 hurricane.

"I am used to storms and I'm used to cleaning up after storms," Horne said.

Debby was expected to move eastward over northern Florida and then stall over the coastal regions of Georgia and South Carolina, thrashing the region with potential record-setting rains totaling up to 30 inches (76 centimeters) beginning Tuesday. Officials also warned of life-threatening storm surge along Florida's Gulf Coast, with 6 to 10 feet (1.8 to 3 meters) of inundation expected Monday between the Ochlockonee and Suwannee rivers.

"There's some really amazing rainfall totals being forecast and amazing in a bad way," Michael Brennan, director of the hurricane center, said at a briefing. "That would be record-breaking rainfall associated with a tropical cyclone for both the states of Georgia and South Carolina if we got up to the 30-inch level."

Flooding impacts could last through Friday and are expected to be especially severe in low-lying areas near the coast, including Savannah, Georgia; Hilton Head, South Carolina; and Charleston, South Carolina. North Carolina officials were monitoring the storm's progress.

Officials in Savannah said the area could see a month's worth of rain in four days if the system stalls over the region.

"This is going to a significant storm. The word historic cannot be underscored here," Savannah Mayor Van. R. Johnson said during a press conference.

The hurricane center said at 11 p.m. that Debby was located about 100 miles (161 kilometers) west of Tampa, Florida, with maximum sustained winds of 75 mph (120 kph). The storm was moving north at 12 mph (19 kph).

Debby's outer bands grazed the west coast of Florida, flooding streets and bringing power outages. Sarasota County officials said most roadways on Siesta Key, a barrier island off the coast of Sarasota, were under water. The hurricane center had predicted the system would strengthen as it curved off the southwest Florida coast, where the water has been extremely warm.

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At a briefing Sunday afternoon, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis warned the storm could lead to “really, really significant flooding that will happen in North Central Florida.”

The storm would follow a similar track to Hurricane Idalia but would “be much wetter. We are going to see much more inundation,” he said.

A hurricane warning was issued for parts of the Big Bend and Florida Panhandle areas, while tropical storm warnings were posted for Florida’s West Coast, the southern Florida Keys and Dry Tortugas. A tropical storm watch extended farther west into the Panhandle.

Tropical storms and hurricanes can trigger river flooding and overwhelm drainage systems and canals. Forecasters warned of 6 to 12 inches (15 centimeters to 30 centimeters) of rain and up to 18 inches (46 centimeters) in isolated areas of Florida.

Storm surge expected to hit Gulf Coast, including Tampa Bay

Flat Florida is prone to flooding even on sunny days and the storm was predicted to bring a surge of 2 to 4 feet (0.6 to 1.2 meters) along most of the Gulf Coast, including Tampa Bay, with a storm tide of up to 7 feet (2.1 meters) north of there in the Big Bend region.

Forecasters warned of “a danger of life-threatening storm surge inundation” in a region that includes Hernando Beach, Crystal River, Steinhatchee and Cedar Key. Officials in Citrus and Levy counties ordered a mandatory evacuation of coastal areas, while those in Hernando, Manatee, Pasco and Taylor counties called for voluntary evacuations. Shelters opened in those and some other counties.

Citrus County Sheriff Mike Prendergast estimated 21,000 people live in his county’s evacuation zone.

Residents, businesses prepare for flooding

Residents in Steinhatchee, Florida, which flooded during Hurricane Idalia, spent Sunday moving items to higher ground.

“I’ve been here 29 years. This isn’t the first time I’ve done it. Do you get used to it? No,” Mark Reblin said as he moved items out of the liquor store he owns.

Employees of Savannah Canoe and Kayak in Georgia said they were busy tying down their watercrafts, laying sandbags, and raising equipment off the ground. Mayme Bouy, the store manager, said she wasn’t too concerned about the forecast calling for a potential historic rain event.

“But we do have some high tides this week so if the rain is happening around then, that could be bad,” Bouy added. “I’d rather play it safe than sorry.”

Governors declare emergencies ahead of landfall

DeSantis declared a state of emergency for 61 of Florida’s 67 counties, with the National Guard activating 3,000 guard members. Utility crews from in and out of state were ready to restore power after the storm, he said in a post on X. Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp and South Carolina Gov. Henry McMaster made their own emergency declarations.

In Tampa alone, officials gave out more than 30,000 sandbags to barricade against flooding.

“We’ve got our stormwater drains cleared out. We’ve got our generators all checked and full. We’re doing everything that we need to be prepared to face a tropical storm,” Tampa Mayor Jane Castor said.

Northeast coast also preparing for storm conditions

Emergency managers in New England and New York were already monitoring the path of the storm for the possibility of remnants striking their states. States including New York and Vermont have been hit by heavy rain and thunderstorms in recent weeks and were still coping with flooding and saturated ground.

Voices across the globe express concern over increasing arrests in Venezuela after disputed election

By FABIOLA SÁNCHEZ Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Voices across the globe expressed concern Sunday over the growing number of arrests in Venezuela following last weekend’s disputed elections.

Pope Francis said Venezuela is “living a critical situation” in his traditional Sunday remarks at the Vatican, adding, “I appeal to all parties to seek the truth, to avoid all kinds of violence.”

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The remarks came hours after Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro announced Saturday that the government has arrested 2,000 opponents. At a rally in the Venezuelan capital Caracas, Maduro pledged to detain more people and send them to prison.

U.S. Deputy National Security Adviser Jon Finer told CBS program "Face the Nation" Sunday that the Biden administration is worried the arrests could spark wider unrest.

"We are concerned about the prospect of instability, should there continue to be these detentions," Finer said.

And in a statement, the leaders of several European countries including France, Spain, Germany and Italy said "the rights of all the Venezuelans, especially the political leaders, should be respected during this process. We strongly condemn any arrests or threats against them."

Authorities have declared President Nicolás Maduro the victor in last Sunday's election but have yet to produce voting tallies to prove he won. The opposition claims to have tally sheets showing it won.

An Associated Press analysis Friday of vote tally sheets released by the opposition coalition indicates that their candidate, Edmundo González, won significantly more votes than the government claimed, casting serious doubt on the official declaration that Maduro won.

Both González, a former diplomat, and opposition leader María Corina Machado — who was barred by the government from running — have gone into hiding, saying they fear they will be arrested or killed. Maduro and his cadres have threatened to lock them both up.

The government arrested hundreds of opposition supporters who took to the streets in the days after the disputed poll.

Machado braved the threats to speak at a massive opposition rally Saturday in Caracas, but was whisked away afterwards on the back of a motorcycle.

"After six days of brutal repression, they thought they were going to silence us, intimidate or paralyze us," Machado told the rally. "The presence of every one of you here today represents the best of Venezuela."

A few hours later, Maduro again threatened to arrest González for not showing up at the electoral council meeting he had been summoned to. The council, like most parts of Venezuela's government, is completely controlled by Maduro.

"You face serious legal consequences for disobeying the Constitution, the courts and the law," Maduro said of González.

Maduro also vowed to continue to use a heavy hand against his opponents, saying 2,000 of them have been arrested already.

"This time there will be no pardon, this time there will be Tocarón," he said, referring to a notorious prison.

On Friday, masked assailants ransacked the opposition's headquarters on Friday, taking documents and vandalizing the space.

In his long, rambling speech, Maduro issued threats but also called for reconciliation and peace, claiming, "There is room in Venezuela for everyone," and calling it "the blessed land of opportunity."

Venezuela sits atop the world's largest proven crude oil reserves and once boasted Latin America's most advanced economy, but it entered into a free fall marked by 130,000% hyperinflation and widespread shortages after Maduro took the helm in 2013. More than 7.7 million Venezuelans have fled the country since 2014, the largest exodus in Latin America's recent history.

U.S. oil sanctions have only deepened the misery, and the Biden administration — which had been easing those restrictions — is now likely to ramp them up again unless Maduro agrees to some sort of transition.

Late Friday, Venezuela's high court, the Supreme Justice Tribunal, ordered the Maduro-controlled National Electoral Council to hand over the precinct vote count sheets in three days. There have been calls from multiple governments, including Maduro's close regional allies, for Venezuela's electoral authorities to release the precinct-level tallies, as it has after previous elections.

The AP processed almost 24,000 images of tally sheets, representing the results from 79% of voting machines.

According to the calculations, the González received 6.89 million votes, nearly half a million more than

the government says Maduro won. The tabulations also show Maduro received 3.13 million votes from the tally sheets released.

By comparison, the National Electoral Council said Friday that based on 96.87% of tally sheets, Maduro had won 6.4 million votes and Gonzalez had 5.3 million. National Electoral Council President Elvis Amoroso attributed the delay in filing complete results to attacks on the "technological infrastructure."

There has been a flurry of diplomatic efforts by Brazil, Colombia and Mexico to convince Maduro to allow an impartial audit of the vote. On Thursday, the governments of the three countries issued a joint statement calling on Venezuela's electoral authorities "to move forward expeditiously and publicly release" detailed voting data.

UK leader Starmer condemns attack on asylum-seeker hotel as far-right violence spreads

By PAN PYLAS Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — U.K. Prime Minister Keir Starmer strongly condemned an attack Sunday on a hotel housing asylum seekers that saw at least 10 police officers injured, one seriously, describing it as "far-right thuggery."

In a statement from 10 Downing Street on Sunday afternoon, the prime minister vowed that the authorities will "do whatever it takes to bring these thugs to justice" and that justice will be swift.

Starmer's statement came as more violence broke out across the country in the wake of a stabbing rampage at a dance class that left three girls dead and many more wounded.

"I guarantee you will regret taking part in this disorder, whether directly or those whipping up this action online and then running away themselves," he said. "This is not a protest, it is organized, violent thuggery and it has no place on our streets or online."

Starmer was speaking after another day of far-right violence, which was particularly acute in the north of England town of Rotherham where police struggled to hold back hundreds of rioters who sought to break into a Holiday Inn Express hotel being used as accommodation for asylum-seekers.

Before bringing the riot under some sort of control, police officers with shields had faced a barrage of missiles, including bits of wood, chairs and fire extinguishers. A large bin close to a window of the hotel was also set alight but the small fire was extinguished.

South Yorkshire Police, which is responsible for Rotherham, said at least 10 officers have been injured, including one who was left unconscious.

"The behaviour we witnessed has been nothing short of disgusting. While it was a smaller number of those in attendance who chose to commit violence and destruction, those who simply stood on and watched remain absolutely complicit in this," said Assistant Chief Constable Lindsey Butterfield. "We have officers working hard, reviewing the considerable online imagery and footage of those involved, and they should expect us to be at their doors very soon."

Far-right agitators have sought to take advantage of last week's stabbing attack by tapping into concerns about the scale of immigration in the U.K., in particular the tens of thousands of migrants arriving in small boats from France across the English Channel.

Tensions were also running high Sunday in the northeastern town of Middlesbrough, where some protesters broke free of a police guard. One group walked through a residential area smashing the windows of houses and cars. When asked by a resident why they were breaking windows, one man replied, "Because we're English." Hundreds of others squared up to police with shields at the town's cenotaph, throwing bricks, cans and pots at officers.

Starmer said anyone targeting people for the color of their skin or their faith is far-right.

"People in this country have a right to be safe, and yet we've seen Muslim communities targeted, attacks on mosques, other minority communities singled out, Nazi salutes in the street, attacks on the police, wanton violence alongside racist rhetoric, so no, I won't shy away from calling it what it is: far-right thuggery," he said.

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The violence over the past days, which has seen a library torched, mosques attacked and flares thrown at a statue of wartime leader Winston Churchill, began after false rumors spread online that the suspect in the dance class stabbing attack was an asylum-seeker, fueling anger among far-right supporters.

Suspects under 18 are usually not named in the U.K., but the judge in the case ordered Axel Rudakubana, born in Wales to Rwandan parents, to be identified, in part to stop the spread of misinformation. Rudakubana has been charged with three counts of murder, and 10 counts of attempted murder.

Hundreds of people have been arrested in connection with the disorder and many more are likely as police scour CCTV, social media and body-worn camera footage. However, police have also warned that with widespread security measures in place, with thousands of officers deployed, other crimes may not be investigated fully.

With so many arrests, the courts will face a challenge in processing all the charges at a time when the criminal justice system is overstretched, following years of austerity and the COVID pandemic. In May, the National Audit Office warned that the courts faced a backlog of more than 60,000 cases, while the government said last month that thousands of inmates would have to be released early to ease prison overcrowding.

Stephen Parkinson, director of public prosecutions for England and Wales, said extra lawyers have been deployed over the weekend and will work "around the clock" over coming days to ensure justice is served. He said he has directed prosecutors to make immediate charging decisions where key evidence is in place.

"I am determined that we will act swiftly and robustly, giving the courts maximum ability to pass sentences that reflect what has occurred," he said.

Many of the demonstrations over the past week were organized online by far-right groups, who mobilize support with phrases like "enough is enough," "save our kids" and "stop the boats."

Rallying cries have come from a diffuse group of social media accounts, but a key player in amplifying them is Stephen Yaxley-Lennon, a longtime far-right agitator who uses the name Tommy Robinson. He led the English Defense League, which Merseyside Police has linked to the violent protest in Southport on Tuesday, near the scene of the stabbing attack.

Yaxley-Lennon, 41, was banned from Twitter in 2018 but allowed back after it was bought by Elon Musk and rebranded as X. He has more than 800,000 followers. He currently faces an arrest warrant after leaving the U.K. last week before a scheduled hearing in contempt-of-court proceedings against him.

Nigel Farage, who was elected to parliament in July for the first time as leader of Reform U.K., has also been blamed by many for encouraging — indirectly — the anti-immigration sentiment. He has sought to link many of the problems the country faces, such as in health and housing, on the big annual increases in the country's population.

Noah Lyles wins a historically close Olympic 100-meter sprint by five-thousandths of a second

By EDDIE PELLIS AP National Writer

SAINT-DENIS, France (AP) — Noah Lyles paced on the far end of the track, hands folded over the top of his head, wistfully looking up at a scoreboard that would, sooner or later, flash an answer he's been seeking over three sweat-soaked years.

Was all that toil since the last Olympics — all the work on the practice track and in the weight room in the name of finding a centimeter here or a millisecond there — really going to be worth all the trouble?

Ten seconds passed, then 20. Then, nearly 30. And then, the answer popped up.

Yes, Lyles is the 100-meter champion at the Paris Olympics. The World's Fastest Man.

Just not by very much.

The American showman edged out Jamaica's Kishane Thompson on Sunday by five-thousandths of a second — that's .005 of one tick of the clock — in a race for the ages.

The final tally in this one: Lyles 9.784 seconds, Thompson 9.789.

The new champion said that before he left for Paris, one of his physio guys ensured him this race would

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be a squeaker.

"He said, 'This is how close first and second are going to be,'" Lyles said as he pinched his thumb and his forefinger together so they were almost touching. "I can't believe how right he was."

For perspective, the blink of an eye takes, on average, .1 second. That was 20 times longer than the gap between first and second.

It was so close, that when the sprinters crossed the line and the word "Photo" popped up next to the names of Lyles, Thompson and five others in the eight-man field, Lyles walked over to the Jamaican and said "I think you got the Olympics dog."

Thompson, who raced three lanes to the left of Lyles and had no clue where he was on the track, wasn't convinced.

"I was, 'Wow, I'm not even sure, because it was that close,'" the Jamaican said.

Time would tell. It always does. When Lyles' name came up first, he snatched his name tag off the front of his bib and held it to the sky. Moments later, he shouted at the TV camera: "America, I told you I got this!"

The first four racers were separated by less than .03. The top seven all finished within .09 of each other. America's Fred Kerley came in third at 9.81. "That's probably one of the most beautiful races I've been in," he said.

In the photo finish, Kerley's orange shoe crossed the line before anyone, or anything. But it's the chest breaking the barrier that counts. Lyles' chest crossed first.

This was the closest 1-2 finish in the 100 since at least Moscow in 1980 — or maybe even ever.

Back then, Britain's Allan Wells narrowly beat Silvio Leonard in an era when the electronic timers didn't go into the thousandths of a second. The same was true in 1932, when Eddie Tolan won the Olympics' first ever photo finish.

Lyles conceded that during the excruciating wait, he was pretty sure he had dipped his chest just a tad too soon. Dipping, it turns out, is one of the few things he doesn't work on over and over again at his training track in Florida.

"But I would say I have a decent history with dipping," he said, recalling races he won in high school and as a junior.

The 9.784 marked a new personal best for Lyles and made him the first American champion in the marquee race at the Olympics since Justin Gatlin in 2004.

Lyles is hoping to go even bigger than that, and maybe take this sport back to a day when it was Carl Lewis and Edwin Moses lighting up the track — a must-see affair, the likes of which Lyles headlined in front of around 80,000 on a warm night at the Stade de France.

The mission started after Lyles settled for a bronze medal in Tokyo in his favorite — and then, only — sprint, the 200. Those COVID-impacted Games were a terrible experience for Lyles. He rededicated himself to bettering his mental health, but also looked for a new mission — the 100 meters and, with it, a chance at track immortality.

The practice was tough for a sprinter never known as a great starter, but he stuck with it. When he won the world championships last year, then backed it up by winning the 200, his goal for Paris was very much in sight.

But when he came into the Olympic final having finished second in both his qualifying races and staring across at one sprinter who had run faster than him this year — Thompson — and another who had beaten him twice this year — Jamaica's Oblique Seville — he knew this would be no coronation.

Thompson added another roadblock when, during the introduction, he let out a primal scream, the likes of which Lyles has been unleashing in some of his biggest races.

"I thought 'Man, that's my thing, that's crazy,'" Lyles said.

Lyles galloped and leapt about 20 yards down the track before returning to the starting line, where the runners waited some three minutes for the gun to finally sound.

It was worth the wait.

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Now, the question that could be debated for years is: What was the difference in this one? Could it have been Lyles' closing speed and that lean into the line that he thought was mistimed? Was it his ability to stay in reach of everyone among this straight line of sprinters over the first 60 meters — a skill he's been working on in tedious practice after practice since he took on the shorter sprint? The answer: all that and more.

"Everyone in the field came out knowing they could win this race," Lyles said.

It took 9.784 seconds, then about 30 seconds more, for the scoreboard to flash the name of the man who actually did.

"Seeing that name, I was like 'Oh my gosh, there it is!'" Lyles said.

Gold (and bronze) for Ukrainian high jumpers

Yaroslava Mahuchikh won Olympic gold in the high jump for her war-torn country of Ukraine and, as a bonus, had company. Her teammate Iryna Gerashchenko won the bronze and the teammates hopped, skipped and jumped around the track parading their blue-and-yellow flags in a heartfelt celebration.

Mahuchikh needed fewer tries to clear the winning height of 2 meters than Australia's Nicola Olyslagers, and so, added the sport's biggest prize of all — Olympic gold — to her world championship and world record.

Kerr vs Ingebrigtsen is a go for heated men's 1,500

The best rivalry in track will culminate Tuesday when reigning world champion Josh Kerr of Britain takes on defending Olympic champion Jakob Ingebrigtsen of Norway.

They squared off in Sunday's semifinal, too, and Ingebrigtsen edged out the Brit, looking over to him twice as they surged down the homestretch, to win a race that felt like it meant more than it should have in 3:32.38.

"They should be expecting one of the most vicious and hardest 1,500s the sport's seen in a very long time," Kerr said.

Did Ingebrigtsen agree?

"Depends who you ask, maybe," he said. "I mean, racing is what you want it to be."

More Olympians are set to compete in the Seine River. Here's the latest on water quality concerns

By KATE BRUMBACK and SUMAN NAISHADHAM Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — At the Paris Olympics, whether the water quality in the Seine River is safe enough to host some swimming events has been a major question.

Bacteria levels in the river fluctuate constantly, and daily water samples are tested so organizers can assess the risk and determine whether swims in the long-polluted Paris waterway should go forward.

Triathletes raced in the river Wednesday, and organizers said Sunday night that Monday's triathlon mixed relay event would be held as planned with the swimming portion in the Seine. Testing will continue ahead of the marathon swimming races scheduled for Thursday and Friday.

Here are some things to know about water quality testing in the Seine:

Why do bacteria levels matter?

High levels of E. coli and enterococci indicate sewage or fecal pollution in the water. Most strains are harmless and some live in the intestines of healthy people and animals. But others can be dangerous.

Even a mouthful of contaminated water can lead to diarrhea, and illnesses such as infections in the urinary tract or intestines can result.

How susceptible a person is to falling ill from E. coli exposure depends on several factors, chief among them a person's age and general health.

"Generally speaking, the healthier you are, the more likely you're going to be to withstand any sort of pathogen," said Brian Rahm, a biological and environmental engineering expert at Cornell University.

Sometimes it's not even the E. coli itself that's cause for worry, Rahm said. "When we see E. coli in the water, it indicates that other types of pathogens and other bacteria, viruses may also be in the water."

Testing helps organizers assess the risk to athletes, but it's difficult to quantify the exact risk using that

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data, said Metin Duran, a professor of civil and environmental engineering at Villanova University.

"Unfortunately, there is not much to do prior to exposure to reduce the risk," Duran said.

Swiss officials said Saturday that triathlete Adrien Briffod, who competed in the Seine three days earlier, fell ill with a stomach infection. But they said it was "impossible to say" whether it was linked to his swim in the river and that the other delegations told them none of their triathletes reported stomach problems.

Why do bacteria levels change?

The water quality in the Seine is linked closely to the weather. Heavy rains cause wastewater and runoff to flow into the river, causing bacteria levels to rise, while the sun's ultraviolet rays can kill the bacteria.

And Paris has seen several downpours during the Games so far.

To deal with those contingencies, Paris made 1.4 billion euros (\$1.5 billion) in infrastructure improvements ahead of the Olympics, including building a giant basin to capture excess rainwater and keep wastewater from entering the river, renovating sewer infrastructure and upgrading wastewater treatment plants.

Paris Deputy Mayor Pierre Rabadan said those improvements have made a big difference.

"We'll never keep rain events from having an impact on the water quality. That's not possible," he said. "What we've done will allow us to return to a water quality that is satisfactory and good, like it was for the triathlon."

Organizers have canceled multiple test swims this weekend and last week meant to let triathletes familiarize themselves with the course over water quality concerns following rain. The men's triathlon was postponed by a day, then went ahead Wednesday, the same day as the women's race.

How is water quality deemed safe if it rains the day of the race?

Decisions on whether to cancel an event had generally been made in the wee hours of the morning on race day, but organizers on Sunday night announced their decision to go forward with Monday's race to give athletes more time to prepare.

Rabadan said infrastructure improvements prevent wastewater from flowing into the Seine. It rained Wednesday as the triathletes competed. Wastewater entering the river upstream would take several hours to reach Paris, meaning that the water quality levels were still safe at the time of that race, he said.

Since then, there was a heavy downpour Thursday night and it also rained Saturday evening.

Organizers have said they consider samples taken from the river 21 and a half hours earlier to allow time for cultures to develop in a lab.

What do the tests consider?

Daily water quality tests measure levels of the fecal bacteria, including *E. coli*. World Triathlon's water safety guidelines and a 2006 European Union directive assign qualitative values to a range of *E. coli* levels.

Under World Triathlon's guidelines, *E. coli* levels up to 1,000 colony-forming units per 100 milliliters can be considered "good" and can allow competitions to go forward.

World Triathlon in an email called the European Union's 2006 directive "the most complete guidelines for bathing water," based on the range of factors it takes into account. Other organizations, including the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, set a limit of 126 units per 100 milliliters of water and say that higher levels aren't suitable for recreational use.

In deciding whether events can be held in the river, World Triathlon's medical committee said it considers water quality analysis, sanitary inspection and the weather forecast.

A day after Wednesday's competitions in the Seine, data released by World Triathlon showed that a sample taken at 6 a.m. Wednesday at the Pont Alexandre III, the bridge where the swimming segment began and ended, showed a level of 249 units. Samples from other points along the course were at similar levels.

Are the tests used during the Games sufficient?

Dan Angelescu, founder and CEO of Fluidion, a Paris and Los Angeles-based water monitoring tech company, says the tests have "shortcomings" and "undercount severely the bacteria."

Fluidion is testing the water several times a day, and Angelescu said, "What we see is that water quality is not as good as those measurement data that the city publishes," resulting in "an underestimation of the actual risk."

The company measures both "free floating" bacteria in the water and takes a "comprehensive" level that Angelescu says also includes bacteria attached to fecal or sediment particles. He said the comprehensive count provides a more complete picture than the lab test the city is using.

He likened it to watching a busy road with pedestrians, motorcycles, cars and buses and trying to count all the people. The city's method, he said, is akin to counting from a helicopter and weighting each person or vehicle equally because you can't see how many people are inside each car or bus. He says his comprehensive test is more like a police officer stopping each vehicle and counting each person inside the cars and buses to get a complete count.

Angelescu said he discussed these discrepancies with city officials and that they decided to continue with the standard laboratory method they had been using, which complies with regulations. That was a "fair decision in view of the regulations," he said. "The problem is the regulations are wrong."

Rahm of Cornell University said that, ultimately, "from a public health perspective. it doesn't matter whether it's free flowing or trapped inside a dirt particle. It's going to get inside your body one way or another."

US and allies prepare to defend Israel as Netanyahu says it's already in 'multi-front war' with Iran

By NATALIE MELZER and SAMY MAGDY Associated Press

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) — Israel is already in a "multi-front war" with Iran and its proxies, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told a Cabinet meeting Sunday, as the United States and allies prepared to defend Israel from an expected counterstrike and prevent an even more destructive regional conflict.

Tensions have soared following nearly 10 months of war in Gaza and the killing last week of a senior Hezbollah commander in Lebanon and Hamas' top political leader in Iran. Iran and its allies have blamed Israel and threatened retaliation. Hamas says it has begun discussions on choosing a new leader.

Netanyahu said Israel was ready for any scenario. Jordan's foreign minister was making a rare trip to Iran as part of diplomatic efforts — "We want the escalation to end," Ayman Safadi said — while the Pentagon has moved significant assets to the region.

"We are doing everything possible to make sure that this situation does not boil over," White House deputy national security adviser Jon Finer told ABC.

In Israel, some prepared bomb shelters and recalled Iran's unprecedented direct military assault in April following a suspected Israeli strike that killed two Iranian generals. Israel said almost all the drones and ballistic and cruise missiles were intercepted.

A stabbing attack on Sunday near Tel Aviv killed a woman in her 70s and an 80-year-old man, according to Israel's Magen David Adom rescue service, and two others were wounded. The police said the attack was carried out by a Palestinian militant, who was "neutralized."

Inside Gaza, the Health Ministry said at least 25 people were killed and 19 others injured when Israel struck two schools in Gaza City. AP video showed at least one child among the dead. Israel's military, which regularly accuses Palestinian militants of sheltering in civilian areas, said it hit Hamas command centers.

"As you can see, there is no equipment to recover the injured. Rescuers are digging with their hands," said one man, Yusuf Al-Mashharawi.

Earlier, Israeli strikes killed at least 18 people. One hit a tent camp for thousands of displaced Palestinians in the courtyard of Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital, killing four people, including one woman, the Health Ministry said. The Israeli military said it targeted a Palestinian militant in the strike, which it said caused secondary explosions, "indicating the presence of weaponry in the area."

The hospital in Deir al-Balah is the main medical facility operating in central Gaza as many others in the territory no longer function. A separate strike on a home near Deir al-Balah killed a girl and her parents, according to the hospital.

Another strike flattened a house in northern Gaza, killing at least eight, including three children, their parents and their grandmother, according to the Health Ministry. Another three people were killed in a

strike on a vehicle in Gaza City, according to Civil Defense first responders.

Palestinian militants in Gaza fired at least five projectiles at Israeli communities near the border without causing casualties or damage, the military said. The military later told people in some parts of the southern Gaza city of Khan Younis to evacuate.

The Health Ministry also said an Israeli strike on Saturday at a school-turned-shelter in Gaza City killed at least 16 people. Israel's military said it struck a Hamas command center.

The war in Gaza was triggered by Hamas' Oct. 7 attack into Israel that killed some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and took around 250 people hostage.

Israel's massive offensive in response has killed at least 39,580 Palestinians, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which does not distinguish between civilians and combatants. Heavy airstrikes and ground operations have caused widespread destruction and displaced the vast majority of Gaza's 2.3 million people, often multiple times.

The militant group Hezbollah and Israel have continued to trade fire along the Lebanon border since the war began, with the severity growing in recent months. The Lebanese state-run National News Agency said an Israeli strike targeted a house in Beit Lef, and the Lebanese Health Ministry said two people were critically wounded.

Hezbollah says it's aimed at relieving pressure on fellow Iran-backed ally Hamas. A growing number of countries, including the U.S., are encouraging citizens to leave Lebanon after last week's killing of a senior commander.

Ukraine's Zelenskyy displays newly arrived F-16 fighter jets to combat Russia in the air

By ANDREW MELDRUM Associated Press

SOMEWHERE IN UKRAINE (AP) — Ukraine's newly arrived F-16 fighter jets were put on display Sunday by President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, who said the planes will boost the country's war effort against Russia.

"These jets are in our sky and today you see them," said Zelenskyy, standing in front of two of the fighter jets as two others flew overhead in close formation. "It's good that they are here and that we can put them to use."

Ukraine is also trying to get neighboring countries to help defend it against Russian missiles, Zelenskyy said.

"This decision is probably a difficult one for our partners, as they are always afraid of unnecessary escalation," said Ukraine's president. "We will work on this ... I think we have a good option of a NATO-Ukraine council ... so that NATO countries could talk to Ukraine about the possibility of a small coalition of neighboring countries that would shoot down enemy missiles."

Two F-16 jets, sporting Ukraine's trident insignia on their tails and draped in camouflage netting, were a dramatic background for Zelenskyy's address to Air Forces Day, an event held under tight security at an undisclosed location to protect the fighter jets from Russian attacks.

"Since the beginning of this war, we have been talking with our partners about the need to protect our Ukrainian skies from Russian missiles and Russian aircraft," Zelenskyy said. "Now we have a new reality in our skies. The F-16s are in Ukraine. We made it happen. I am proud of our guys who are mastering these aircraft and have already started using them for our country. ... Our combat aviation will bring us closer to victory."

Ukraine may keep some of the F-16 fighter jets at foreign bases to protect them from Russian strikes, according to a senior Ukrainian military official. Russian President Vladimir Putin has warned that Moscow could consider launching strikes at facilities in NATO countries if they host the warplanes used in Ukraine.

The American-made F-16 is an iconic fighter jet that's been the front-line combat plane of choice for the NATO alliance and numerous air forces around the world for 50 years.

Although new to Ukraine, the F-16s are actually older jets that have been donated by Western allies of Ukraine. Belgium, Denmark, the Netherlands and Norway have committed to providing Ukraine with more

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than 60 of them over coming months in what could be a slow trickle of deliveries. Zelenskyy did not say how many F-16s have arrived in Ukraine or which countries they came from.

United States President Joe Biden gave the go-ahead in August 2023 for used F-16s to be deployed to Ukraine, though the U.S. won't be providing any of its own planes.

The F-16s will boost Ukraine's military strength, especially by upgrading its air defenses. But analysts say they won't turn the tide of the war on their own.

Russia is making small but steady battlefield gains in Ukraine's eastern Donetsk region and its steady forward movement is adding up as Ukraine gradually yields ground.

The 15 Russian 'neutrals' at the Paris Olympics are politically isolated and rarely in the spotlight

By JAMES ELLINGWORTH AP Sports Writer

PARIS (AP) — Rarely on the podium and barred from the opening ceremony, the 15 Russians competing at the Paris Olympics have an uneasy status as "Individual Neutral Athletes" following Russia's 2022 invasion of Ukraine.

Some in the Olympic Village opposed them taking part in the Summer Games, and Russian opinion is divided.

In Russia, the Olympics aren't being shown on TV and some politicians and media figures have even described those willing to compete in Paris as traitors.

It's a complex environment for the athletes, some of them teenagers, to navigate and they're wary of talking about politics or the war.

What do the Russian athletes think?

"My family is proud of me, that's all that matters," said tennis player Diana Shnaider. She and Mirra Andreeva became the first Russians to win a medal at the Paris Olympics, taking silver in women's doubles Sunday.

The 20-year-old former college player for North Carolina State said it was "amazing" to be at her first Olympics.

"There are still a lot of people from my country in the stands and they are still putting in a lot of support. I heard words of encouragement today," she said after winning in Thursday's quarterfinals.

Tennis players like Shnaider and 2021 U.S. Open winner Daniil Medvedev are used to dealing with the media and playing around the world without a Russian flag. Others seem a little overwhelmed.

Anzhela Bladtceva, a 19-year-old trampolinist, placed fifth in her event Friday and clutched a stuffed animal as she spoke with media afterward.

"There are so many emotions, so many people, everyone is so kind and happy and so helpful," she said.

Bladtceva said she was spending time in the Olympic Village with a trampolinist friend from Azerbaijan and that she hadn't been asked about the war. "No one asks at all, they ask if it was hard for us to get here, only positive questions. No one is saying bad things," she said.

National delegations sailed down the Seine River on a flotilla of boats in the opening ceremony, but the neutral athletes weren't included.

"It's upsetting that they didn't let us, but what can you do?" said Bladtceva, who was still in Russia for the ceremony. "I didn't really watch it."

Why are so few Russians competing in Paris?

Of the 32 "neutral" athletes in Paris, 17 previously represented Belarus and just 15 represented Russia. That's compared to more than 300 Russians at the last Summer Games in Tokyo.

International Olympic Committee restrictions barred Russian athletes who are in the military or publicly supported the invasion of Ukraine. The IOC also blocked Russians from team sports. Track and field enforced its own blanket ban.

In gymnastics and weightlifting, Russia's teams skipped qualifying events in protest of being forced to compete as neutrals or to undergo vetting, including checks of their social media.

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Some athletes even qualified, accepted their IOC invitations, then withdrew weeks before the Olympics began. It wasn't clear whether they made that decision under pressure at home. The IOC lists 10 Russians and one Belarusian who "initially accepted but subsequently declined."

Wrestler Shamil Mamedov briefly seemed to defy a Russian wrestling federation decision not to send athletes. The federation later told Russian state news agency Tass that Mamedov was out of the Olympics because an old injury flared up.

What happens when Russians win medals?

Shnaider and Andreeva's silver in the tennis on Sunday was the first for Russian athletes.

They stood on the podium in matching green-and-white tracksuits as a green flag with the inscription AIN — the French acronym for Individual Neutral Athlete — was raised alongside the flags of Italy and Spain.

Neutral athletes from Belarus won gold and silver medals in the men's and women's trampoline competitions, respectively, on Friday, and Belarusian rower Yauheni Zolaty won a silver Saturday.

When a neutral athlete wins a gold medal, an "anthem" commissioned by the IOC plays. With stirring strings and a prominent drum beat, it's more like the soundtrack to an inspirational video than a national anthem. Their medals don't count in Olympic organizers' official medal table.

Russian athletes competed at the last Summer Olympics, in Tokyo, under the name "Russian Olympic Committee" and under less onerous restrictions in the aftermath of a doping scandal.

They were allowed to wear national colors and music by Russian composer Pyotr Tchaikovsky played for gold medalists.

Are Russians competing for other countries?

At least 82 athletes at the Paris Olympics were born in Russia, including the neutral athletes, according to statistics from Norwegian broadcaster NRK. That leaves more than 60 competing for other nations.

Some have lived outside Russia for years or moved abroad as children. Others switched their sporting allegiance since Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Swimmer Anastasia Kirpichnikova competed for ROC at the Tokyo Olympics. She trained in France for years before making her switch to the French team official last year. Kirpichnikova won a silver medal for France in the women's 1,500-meter freestyle behind Katie Ledecky on Wednesday.

What does Ukraine think?

Ukraine's government and Olympic committee wanted Russian athletes excluded from all international sports and opposed IOC efforts to include them as neutrals. The limited Russian presence is like "nothing," the head of Ukraine's Olympic delegation told The Associated Press this week.

Ukraine briefly had a policy of boycotting Olympic qualifying competitions that allowed Russians to attend but dropped that last year because it risked not being represented at the Olympics at all.

Ukrainian activists gathered information from Russian athletes' social media in the months leading up to the Olympics, flagging posts to the IOC that they considered to support the war.

Some Ukrainians view changes of allegiance with suspicion, too. Fencing champion Olga Kharlan said last month that Russian athletes who switched allegiance to other countries' teams after the invasion "should be checked more."

Americans are 'getting whacked' by too many laws and regulations, Justice Gorsuch says in a new book

By MARK SHERMAN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Ordinary Americans are "getting whacked" by too many laws and regulations, Supreme Court Justice Neil Gorsuch says in a new book that underscores his skepticism of federal agencies and the power they wield.

"Too little law and we're not safe, and our liberties aren't protected," Gorsuch told The Associated Press in an interview in his Supreme Court office. "But too much law and you actually impair those same things."

"Over Ruled: The Human Toll of Too Much Law" is being published Tuesday by Harper, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers. Gorsuch has received a \$500,000 advance for the book, according to his annual

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financial disclosure reports.

In the interview, Gorsuch refused to be drawn into discussions about term limits or an enforceable code of ethics for the justices, both recently proposed by President Joe Biden at a time of diminished public trust in the court. Justice Elena Kagan, speaking a couple of days before Biden, separately said the court's ethics code, adopted by the justices last November, should have a means of enforcement.

But Gorsuch did talk about the importance of judicial independence. "I'm not saying that there aren't ways to improve what we have. I'm simply saying that we've been given something very special. It's the envy of the world, the United States judiciary," he said.

The 56-year-old justice was the first of three Supreme Court nominees of then-President Donald Trump, and they have combined to entrench a conservative majority that has overturned *Roe v. Wade*, ended affirmative action in college admissions, expanded gun rights and clipped environmental regulations aimed at climate change, as well as air and water pollution more generally.

A month ago, the Supreme Court completed a term in which Gorsuch and the court's five other conservative justices delivered sharp rebukes to the administrative state in three major cases, including the decision that overturned the 40-year-old *Chevron* decision that had made it more likely that courts would sustain regulations. The court's three liberal justices dissented each time.

Gorsuch also was in the majority in ruling that former presidents have broad immunity from criminal prosecution in a decision that indefinitely delayed the election interference case against Trump. What's more, the justices made it harder to use a federal obstruction charge against people who were part of the mob that violently attacked the Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, in an effort to overturn Trump's defeat by Biden in the 2020 election.

Gorsuch defended the immunity ruling as necessary to prevent presidents from being hampered while in office by threats of prosecution once they leave.

The court had to wrestle with an unprecedented situation, he said. "Here we have, for the first time in our history, one presidential administration bringing criminal charges against a prior president. It's a grave question, right? Grave implications," Gorsuch said.

But in the book, co-authored by a former law clerk, Janie Nitze, Gorsuch largely sets those big issues aside and turns his focus to a fisherman, a magician, Amish farmers, immigrants, a hair braider and others who risked jail time, large fines, deportation and other hardships over unyielding rules.

In 18 years as a judge, including the past seven on the Supreme Court, Gorsuch said, "There were just so many cases that came to me in which I saw ordinary Americans, just everyday, regular people trying to go about their lives, not trying to hurt anybody or do anything wrong and just getting whacked, unexpectedly, by some legal rule they didn't know about."

The problem, he said, is that there has been an explosion of laws and regulations, at both the federal and state levels. The sheer volume of Congress' output for the past decade is overwhelming, he said, averaging 344 pieces of legislation totaling 2 million to 3 million words a year.

One vignette involves John Yates, a Florida fisherman who was convicted of getting rid of some undersized grouper under a federal law originally aimed at the accounting industry and the destruction of evidence in the Enron scandal. Yates' case went all the way to the Supreme Court, where he won by a single vote.

"I wanted to tell the story of people whose lives were affected," Gorsuch said.

The book expands on a theme that has run through Gorsuch's opinions over the years, from his criticism of the *Chevron* decision back when he served on a federal appeals court in Denver to his statement in May 2023 in which he called emergency measures taken during the COVID-19 crisis that killed more than 1 million Americans perhaps "the greatest intrusions on civil liberties in the peacetime history of this country."

While Gorsuch has voted with the other conservative justices in most of the court's momentous cases, he also has joined with the liberals in notable cases, including those in which he wrote the opinion in 2020 that expanded protections against workplace discrimination to LGBTQ people. Gorsuch also has sided with the liberal justices in all the court's cases involving Native Americans since he joined the court.

Immigration, especially when people fighting deportation have complained they were given inadequate

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notice about hearings, is another area where he has typically broken with his conservative colleagues.

Gorsuch recently returned from a summer teaching gig in Porto, Portugal, for the George Mason University law school. Last year, he spent two weeks in Lisbon, Portugal, with the same program for which he was paid nearly \$30,000, plus meals, lodging and travel.

He will travel to the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in Simi Valley, California, later this week to talk about the new book.

The day he met with AP, he said, was the first time in weeks that he put on a tie. He wore a dark blue suit, cowboy boots and a Western-style belt.

He seemed at ease, offering chocolate chip cookies and coffee to visitors and joking with a reporter who talked about an upcoming trip to the New Jersey shore. "Go fly some flags up there," Gorsuch said, a reference to the controversy over flags, similar to those carried by Jan. 6 rioters, that were flown at homes owned by Justice Samuel Alito and his wife.

Gorsuch is not the only justice rolling out a book this summer. Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson's memoir, "Lovely One," will be published next month.

With a \$97M second weekend, 'Deadpool & Wolverine' sets a new high mark for R-rated films

By JAKE COYLE AP Film Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — After 10 days in theaters, "Deadpool & Wolverine" is already the highest-grossing R-rated movie ever, not accounting for inflation.

In its second weekend, the Marvel Studios blockbuster starring Ryan Reynolds and Hugh Jackman continued to steamroll through movie theaters, collecting \$97 million according to studio estimates Sunday. That raised its two-week total to \$395.6 million, pushing it past the long-reigning top R-rated feature, "The Passion of the Christ," which held that mark for 20 years with \$370 million domestic.

Worldwide, the Shawn Levy-directed "Deadpool & Wolverine" has quickly amassed \$824.1 million in ticket sales, a total that already surpasses the global hauls of the first two "Deadpool" films. The 2016 original grossed \$782.6 million worldwide; the 2018 sequel collected \$734.5 million.

The weekend's primary challengers both struggled.

M. Night Shyamalan's latest thriller, "Trap," managed a modest opening of \$15.6 million at 3,181 theaters for Warner Bros. The film, starring Josh Hartnett as a serial killer hunted by police at a pop concert, didn't screen for critics before opening day and scored lower in reviews (48% fresh on Rotten Tomatoes) than Shyamalan's films typically do. Audiences gave it a C+ CinemaScore.

With a budget of about \$35 million that Shyamalan largely finances himself, "Trap" didn't need a huge opening. But it may struggle to break even.

"This is a soft opening for an M. Night Shyamalan suspense crime thriller," wrote David A. Gross, a film consultant who publishes a newsletter for Franchise Entertainment. "The writer/director's movies out-earn other original thrillers by a wide margin, and that's true here, but this start is not on the level of recent Shyamalan films."

The live-action "Harold and the Purple Crayon," adapted from the classic kids book, also didn't make much of a mark in theaters. The Sony Pictures release debuted with \$6 million. It, too, got dinged by critics (28% fresh on Rotten Tomatoes), though audiences (an A- CinemaScore) liked it more. "Harold and the Purple Crayon," which stars Zachary Levi, cost about \$40 million to make.

"Twisters," the Universal Pictures disaster film, continues to kick up a storm at the box office. It held in second place with \$22.7 million in its third weekend. Lee Isaac Chung's sequel to the 1996 original, starring Glen Powell, Daisy Edgar-Jones and Anthony Ramos, has racked up \$195.6 million domestically. While it has made less of an impression overseas, "Twisters" is holding particularly well in North American theaters, down just 35% from the week prior.

Hollywood closed July with its best month in a year and its first \$1 billion month since July 2023. While

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comparisons to last year aren't favorable — July was when "Barbie" and "Oppenheimer" launched — a pair of Walt Disney Co. releases in "Inside Out 2" and "Deadpool & Wolverine" (the two top films of the year) powered a banner month for the movie industry.

There will still be reminders, though, of harder times in cinemas earlier in the spring and early summer, when a sparse release calendar and a few notable flops put the box office at a deficit. On Friday, AMC Theatres, the largest North American chain, posted a \$32.8 million loss for the second quarter of 2024.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Comscore. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.

1. "Deadpool & Wolverine," \$97 million.
2. "Twisters," \$22.7 million.
3. "Trap," \$15.6 million.
4. "Despicable Me 2," \$11.3 million.
5. "Inside Out 2," \$6.7 million.
6. "Harold and the Purple Crayon," \$6 million.
7. "Longlegs," \$4.1 million.
8. "A Quiet Place: Day One," \$1.4 million.
9. "Daaru Na Peenda Hove," \$615,782.
10. "Bad Boys: Ride or Die," \$600,000.

Democrat Ruben Gallego promotes Republican support in his Arizona Senate campaign against Kari Lake

By JONATHAN J. COOPER Associated Press

WILMINGTON, Del. (AP) — Arizona Democrat Ruben Gallego is promoting Republican backing for his Senate campaign as the congressman works to assemble a winning coalition in the swing state.

A list released Sunday of 39 Republican and independent supporters of his campaign includes moderate Republicans and some former Republicans who held elected office or other roles in business or politics. Several are former aides to the late Sen. John McCain, the famed Arizona Republican and onetime prisoner of war who was known for occasionally bucking his party.

Gallego's Republican opponent, Kari Lake, has criticized McCain in the past and once suggested he was a "loser."

Democrats have made inroads in Arizona after decades of GOP dominance. While Republicans have more registered voters in the state, President Joe Biden, Sen. Mark Kelly, Gov. Katie Hobbs and other Democrats have cobbled together narrow victories by holding their party together, dominating among independents and getting support from an outsize share of Republicans who dislike the direction of the GOP under Donald Trump.

According to AP VoteCast, about 6 in 10 independent and about 1 in 10 Republican voters supported Biden in 2020. Similar shares supported Kelly in 2020.

In 2022, about two-thirds of independents and 13% of Republican voters supported Kelly, the survey of the American electorate found. Similarly, about 6 in 10 independent voters and about 1 in 10 Republican voters supported Hobbs that year.

Gallego announced his GOP outreach the same day Vice President Kamala Harris launched her own "Republicans for Harris" group to seek support from conservatives put off by Trump's candidacy. Her campaign released the names of nearly three dozen supporters in Arizona that had some overlap with Gallego's list but was not a copy.

Lake is a former television news anchor and one of Trump's most prominent supporters. Like Trump, she has promoted false and debunked theories of election fraud.

She says Gallego is a liberal Democrat who is out of step with Arizona's moderate voters. Lake says the congressman votes in lockstep with Biden and Harris, supported legislation that worsened inflation and wants to eliminate the Senate filibuster to enact a liberal agenda.

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Gallego, who served as a Marine in Iraq, is emphasizing his military service and financially humble upbringing as he looks to expand his stature beyond the safely Democratic district in Phoenix that he has represented since 2015. He says he is not afraid to push Biden when he disagrees with the administration's policies, particularly around the U.S.-Mexico border. Gallego views the filibuster, which requires 60 Senate votes to pass most legislation, as a barrier to efforts to protect voting rights, abortion rights and other priorities.

Among those Republicans endorsing Gallego is Mesa Mayor John Giles, who has been a vocal supporter of Democrats running against Trump and his allies, including Biden and Kelly.

"I cannot in good conscience stand on the sidelines while extremists like Kari Lake, who have hijacked our party for the sake of personal gain, undermine the very fabric of what makes America exceptional," Giles said in a statement released by Gallego's campaign.

Gallego is emphasizing his military service as a Marine who faced difficult combat in Iraq, a biography with the potential to appeal across party lines.

"Like my former boss, Ruben has spent decades serving his country and state," said Paul Hickman, a former state director for McCain who described himself as a lifelong Republican, in a statement released by Gallego's campaign.

Lake's GOP primary rival, Pinal County Sheriff Mark Lamb, earned about 40% of the vote Tuesday despite being outspent 5-to-1 by Lake, giving hope to Democrats that her Republican support remains soft.

When she accepted victory in the primary, Lake made a point of reaching out to those who voted against her, a stark contrast to her 2022 run for governor when she went after McCain and other Republicans who ran afoul of the right.

"Republicans might have differences but agree far more than not," a Lake spokesperson said in response to Gallego's announcement Sunday. "Ruben Gallego supports Kamala Harris 100 percent of the time."

Dueling Harris and Trump rallies in the same Atlanta arena showcase America's deep divides

By BILL BARROW Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — Two rallies. Two Americas.

Vice President Kamala Harris and former President Donald Trump stood in the same arena four days apart, each looking over capacity crowds like concert stars or prizefighters.

The competing events were staged three months before Election Day in the state that produced the closest margin of the 2020 race for the White House. On policy, tone, the types of voters in attendance and even the music playlists, the rallies offered not just opposing visions of the country but starkly different versions of it.

Those dynamics raise questions about how a factionalized citizenry might embrace a Trump comeback or a Harris ascension.

On that, at least two people who came to the Georgia State Convocation Center on different days could agree.

"It's OK to have different ideologies," said Angela Engram, a 59-year-old Democrat who drove from Stockbridge, Georgia, to hear Harris on Tuesday. "But now it's just so much about parties and personalities and power, with people not even trying to understand each other."

Tracy Maddux, a 67-year-old retired grocer from Sparta, Georgia, who was at Trump's rally on Saturday, shared Engram's lament about politics in 2024.

But Maddux blamed Engram's party, saying Democrats were no longer concerned about ordinary people. Engram blamed Trump and his supporters, especially those who accept his falsehoods that his 2020 loss to Democrat Joe Biden was rigged.

Both crowds added up to a battleground coalition

With Biden leaving the race in July and Democrats elevating Harris, both major party candidates have

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the juice to pack arenas now.

Harris — the first woman, the first Black woman and the first person of South Asian descent to serve as vice president — drew a racially and generationally mixed, though majority Black, majority female crowd. Democrats danced to R&B, hip hop and pop music. They rocked with guest star Megan Thee Stallion and they exploded for Beyoncé's "Freedom," which has become Harris' entrance song and campaign anthem.

Trump drew an overwhelmingly white audience with a noticeable presence of Black voters. The playlist leaned to his eclectic musical tastes — the Village People and ABBA among them — but featured plenty of country music. The crowd erupted at the first notes of his signature walk-up song: "God Bless the USA," by Trump supporter Lee Greenwood.

It was two disparate crowds in just one of a divided nation's battleground states that will decide the presidency. In 2020, Biden campaigned hard with Black voters, younger voters, other nonwhite voters and college-educated white voters in metro areas such as Atlanta. Trump dominated rural areas, small towns and smaller cities. In Georgia, the result was a Biden victory by 11,779 votes out of 5 million cast.

Both campaigns expect the Harris-Trump matchup to track along the same lines, with the parties' bases playing pivotal roles in the Georgia and national outcome.

Last week's gathering for Harris frustrated Republicans enough that they played down her part in it.

"They had a big crowd. They had some entertainment here. They were doing some twerking," said Georgia Lt. Gov. Burt Jones, who served as one of Trump's "fake electors" after the 2020 election.

Jones alleged that Harris' crowd thinned after Megan Thee Stallion's performance. That was not the case in the 25 minutes Harris spoke. In fact, Trump lost sizable chunks of supporters across his 91-minute speech.

Two rallies gave two very different American visions

Democrats celebrated Harris as a historic figure who could leverage her background for all Americans.

"She brings all of those strands together," Raphael Warnock, Georgia's first Black U.S. senator, said Tuesday. "She sees us because in a real sense she is all of us."

Harris herself talked more policy than biography, including on her biggest liabilities: inflation and immigration.

On inflation, she implicitly blamed corporate greed, promising to attack "price gouging" and "hidden fees." Democrats promoted the biggest spending measures of Biden's tenure as seminal investments in clean energy, domestic manufacturing such as the burgeoning electric battery plants in Georgia and infrastructure improvements that eluded previous presidents, Trump included.

On Saturday, Republicans blamed those measures as the cause of higher prices, and they cast Harris as a radical who threatens national values.

Trump offered dystopian forecasts of a Harris administration. "A crash like 1929 ... you'll end up in World War III ... the suburbs will be overrun with violent crime and savage foreign gangs," Trump warned. "If Kamala wins, it will be crime, chaos and death all across our country."

He blamed Harris specifically for the killing of Georgia resident Laken Riley, whose death authorities have blamed on a Venezuelan man who allegedly entered the United States illegally. Harris did not mention Riley, but criticized Trump for spooking Senate Republicans into abandoning a bipartisan immigration and border security deal.

From coveted floor seats, Terry Wilson, a 46-year-old trucker from Chattanooga, Tennessee, stood in acclamation for Trump's broadsides on Harris. In an interview, Wilson added his own Trumpian hyperbole: "I mean, she's a Marxist."

Michaelah Montgomery, a Black conservative activist, joined Trump's recent mockery of Harris' racial and ethnic identity. "She's only Black when it's time to get elected," Montgomery argued. The predominantly white audience laughed and cheered.

To running mate JD Vance, Trump was the living martyr who "took a bullet for the country." Speakers recalled a bloodied Trump standing up after a would-be assassin's bullet nicked his ear at a Pennsylvania rally three weeks before. The image was emblazoned on T-shirts throughout the Atlanta audience.

At the Harris rally, Trump was presented as the ex-president with the felony record who ran a profiteering online college, was found liable in civil court for sexual abuse, denied the 2020 election results and

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watched his supporters ransack the U.S. Capitol to prevent Biden's certification as his successor.

"I have been dealing with people like him my entire career," said Harris, a former prosecutor in California.

There was no mention Tuesday of Trump's brush with death or Biden's subsequent call to tamp down political rhetoric. There were, however, chants of "Lock him up! Lock him up!" — cries that began with Biden still in the race but rose to a deafening pitch in Atlanta.

The chant is a retort to Republicans, who eight years ago bellowed "Lock her up!" about Hillary Clinton, Trump's Democratic opponent. She has never been charged with any crime.

Consensus is an increasingly elusive idea

Presidential campaigns always involve differences and division. Only once in the last half century — Republican Ronald Reagan in 1984 — has the winner surpassed 55% of all votes cast. It's been more common for the winner not even to prevail in the popular vote, as happened for Trump in 2016 and Republican George W. Bush in 2000.

Engram, the Harris backer from Stockbridge, still found reason for optimism.

"There really is so much that we all share in common if people would just calm down and consider it," she said, even as she expressed doubts about Trump's "Make America Great Again" movement ever aiding national consensus. Healthier discourse under a Harris administration, she said, would depend "on the good Republicans who are not all MAGA."

Trump's allies did not suggest they could aim for consensus. Pastor Jentezen Franklin of Gainesville, Georgia, used his invocation Saturday to declare the election "a spiritual battle."

U.S. Rep. Mike Collins, R-Ga., warned of a leftist "regime" behind Harris: "They hate you. But Donald Trump loves you."

Trump went on at length about his lies that he lost in 2020 due to voter fraud. He attacked not just Democrats but Gov. Brian Kemp, the most powerful Georgia Republican, and others who, Trump said, failed the party by not helping him overturn Biden's victory.

Democrats on Tuesday peppered their remarks about voting with references to the late civil rights leaders Martin Luther King Jr. and John Lewis, who long represented the Atlanta area in Congress. Warnock mocked Trump as "a Florida man" who made an infamous phone call pressuring the Georgia secretary of state "to find 11,780 votes" to make him the winner of the 2020 contest.

Through all other rhetoric, the two candidates each made nods at unity.

"We are one movement, one people, one family and one glorious nation under God," the former president said.

The vice president's version: "We love our country, and I believe it is the highest form of patriotism to fight for the ideals of our country. ... And when we fight, we win."

But only one of them will.

VP's campaign launches 'Republicans for Harris' in push to win over GOP voters put off by Trump

By ZEKE MILLER AP White House Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — Vice President Kamala Harris' campaign on Sunday was launching "Republicans for Harris" as she looks to win over Republican voters put off by Donald Trump's candidacy.

The program will be a "campaign within a campaign," according to Harris' team, using well-known Republicans to activate their networks, with a particular emphasis on primary voters who backed former U.N. Ambassador Nikki Haley. The program will kick off with events this week in Arizona, North Carolina and Pennsylvania. Republicans backing Harris will also appear at rallies with the vice president and her soon-to-be-named running mate this coming week, the campaign said.

The Harris campaign shared the details of the program first with The Associated Press before the official announcement.

Her team is trying to create "a permission structure" for GOP voters who would otherwise have a difficult time voting for Harris. The effort will rely heavily on Republican-to-Republican voter contact, with the

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belief that the best way to get a Republican to vote for Harris is to hear directly from another Republican making the same choice.

Trump's "extremism is toxic to the millions of Republicans who no longer believe the party of Donald Trump represents their values" and will vote against him again in November, said Harris' national director of Republican outreach, Austin Weatherford. He said the campaign would be "showing up and taking the time every single day to earn the vote of Republicans who believe in putting country over party and know that every American deserves a president who will protect their freedoms and a commander in chief who will put the best interests of the American people above their own."

Weatherford is a onetime chief of staff to former Rep. Adam Kinzinger, R-Ill., who had endorsed the Biden-Harris ticket before President Joe Biden's disastrous debate performance against Trump. Kinzinger is backing Harris once more as part of the launch.

"As a proud conservative, I never thought I'd be endorsing a Democrat for President," he said in a statement. "But, I know Vice President Harris will defend our democracy and ensure Donald Trump never returns to the White House."

Kinzinger developed a national profile as one of two Republicans on the House committee that investigated the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol. The committee highlighted a number of Trump's transgressions before and during the deadly attack as Congress tried to certify the results of the 2020 election that Biden won over Trump.

Trump has done little to try to win over moderate Republican voters and on Saturday criticized anew Republican Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp, who rebuffed Trump's attempts to overturn the 2020 election in the battleground state.

Last month, when Biden was still at the top of the ticket, the campaign went out with an ad highlighting former Trump staffers' criticism of their onetime boss. A separate ad highlighted Trump's often-personal attacks against Haley, including his primary nickname of her as "birdbrain" and suggestion that "she's not presidential timber."

Hundreds of thousands of registered Republicans voted in primaries for Haley even after she ended her bid for the 2024 Republican nomination and as Trump trounced her in almost every contest.

Haley in May announced she would vote for Trump and appeared at last month's Republican National Convention.

The Harris campaign's effort includes former Govs. Bill Weld of Massachusetts and Christine Todd Whitman of New Jersey, former Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel, former Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood, and 16 former Republican members of Congress, including Kinzinger and Reps. Joe Walsh of Illinois and Susan Molinari of New York. All have been notable critics of Trump in the past.

Former Trump press secretary Stephanie Grisham is also endorsing Harris.

"I might not agree with Vice President Kamala Harris on everything, but I know that she will fight for our freedom, protect our democracy and represent America with honor and dignity on the world stage," Grisham said in a statement.

Jordan's top diplomat makes rare visit to Iran as fears of a wider regional war soar

By AMIR VAHDAT Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Jordan's foreign minister met Iran's acting foreign minister in Tehran on Sunday as the United States and its Arab allies try to prevent a wider war after the back-to-back killings of top Iran-allied militants sparked vows of revenge against Israel.

Ayman Safadi is the first senior Jordanian official to pay an official visit to Iran in over 20 years. Jordan is a close Western ally and helped intercept scores of missiles and drones fired by Iran toward Israel in April. Iran said it was retaliating for the killing of its generals in an Israeli strike in Syria.

Many fear Iran and its regional allies could launch a similar attack following the killing of a senior Hezbollah commander in an Israeli strike on Beirut last week and of Hamas' top political leader Ismail Haniyeh in

an explosion in Tehran a day later. Both attacks were widely blamed on Israel, which has acknowledged killing the Hezbollah commander. Iran, Hezbollah and Hamas have vowed to avenge the killings.

Jordan, which borders Israel to the east, would likely be in the path of any Iranian retaliatory strike.

Safadi "will deliver a message from His Majesty King Abdullah II to Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian on the situation in the region and bilateral relations," Jordan's Foreign Ministry said earlier in a statement.

The foreign minister will later meet the newly elected Iranian president, according to Iran's state TV.

Safadi insisted that the tension in the region would end only with the cessation of the war in Gaza during his meeting with acting Foreign Minister Ali Bagheri Kani, state TV reported, adding that the two discussed bilateral relations, developments in the region and "the Zionists' heinous act of assassinating the martyr Haniyeh."

After the meeting, Jordan's foreign ministry said in a statement that Safadi's visit was to hold discussions on the "dangerous escalation" across the Middle East. "We want our region to live in security, peace and stability, and we want the escalation to end," Safadi was quoted as saying, calling for an end to the war in the Gaza Strip and a resumption of talks for a Palestinian state.

Safadi reiterated Jordan's condemnation of Haniyeh's killing, calling it an "escalatory step" and urged for calm, fearing a regional war would have a "devastating impact on everyone."

"We have begun an in-depth dialogue that we are completing now, within the consultation framework on how our position can be clear in condemning the crime committed, and in emphasizing the need to respect Iran's sovereignty and international law, while at the same time protecting our region from catastrophic consequences," he added.

The last time a senior Jordanian official traveled to Iran on an official visit was in 2004 when then-Prime Minister Faisal al-Fayez went to Tehran. Last week, Jordan sent a lower-ranking official to Pezeshkian's inauguration.

Hamas leader Haniyeh, who was in Tehran to attend the ceremony, died in an explosion that Iranian authorities have said was caused by a short-range projectile.

Jordan cooperates with American forces under the umbrella of the U.S. Central Command, which oversees U.S. military operations in the Middle East and works closely with other militaries, including those of Israel and Saudi Arabia.

For female athletes of color, scrutiny around gender rules and identity is part of a long trend

By NOREEN NASIR Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — Overcome with emotion, Algerian boxer Imane Khelif left the ring in tears after a resounding victory this weekend. Khelif has faced days of hateful comments and false accusations about her gender following her first fight against an Italian opponent who quit seconds into their bout.

"It's because she's African, because she's Algerian," 38-year-old Algerian fan Adel Mohammed said Saturday, when Khelif clinched an Olympic medal. "These comments are coming from white people ... it's a kind of racism."

Female athletes of color have historically faced disproportionate scrutiny and discrimination when it comes to sex testing and false accusations that they are male or transgender, historians and anthropologists say. Khelif and Taiwanese boxer Lin Yu-Ting, who won her bout Sunday after similar abuse and questions about her gender, are the latest examples of women of color who have found themselves caught in the contentious debate around gender regulations and perceptions in sports.

More women from the Global South or developing countries are affected by sex testing in sports, said Payoshni Mitra, director of the Center for Sport and Human Rights, a human rights organization based in Switzerland. She has worked with dozens of female athletes across Asia and Africa to fight sex testing practices.

"Sport is very Eurocentric — the approach is not necessarily global," Mitra said. "We need to accept women in all their diversity. And we are not seeing that at this point."

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Mitra and other advocates and anthropologists note that international sporting federations don't tend to promote an understanding of diversity in sex and gender identity and that gender tests have often targeted female athletes of color who don't conform to typically Western, white ideals of femininity.

In 2009, after her 800-meter victory in the world championships, South African runner Caster Semenya was sidelined for 11 months because of track and field rules about hormone levels. She has spent years in her legal battle against requirements for her to suppress her natural testosterone to compete.

Semenya was identified as female at birth, raised as a girl and has been legally identified as female her entire life. She has one of a number of conditions known as differences in sex development, or DSDs, which cause naturally high testosterone.

World Athletics, track and field's governing body, said Semenya's testosterone levels give her an athletic advantage comparable to a man competing in women's events and that rules are needed to address that. Critics of the rules — which were put in place in 2011 and have tightened over the years — have considered naturally high testosterone levels to be a genetic gift, comparing it to a basketball player's height or a swimmer's long arms.

"Nobody was disqualifying Michael Phelps for having particular biological features that allowed him to excel in swimming," said medical anthropologist Danyal Kade Doyle Griffiths, an adjunct professor with the City University of New York.

Indian sprinter Dutee Chand also faced a swarm of scrutiny and was dropped from the 2014 Commonwealth Games after reports of elevated testosterone. She underwent rounds of testing and ultimately took the international track federation to court, challenging rules that enforced a limit on female athletes' naturally occurring testosterone levels.

Regardless of differences in sex or hormones, women of color — and Black women in particular — have often been subjected to stereotypes that portray them as more masculine. Dehumanization and objectification stretches back to chattel slavery, when enslaved Black women were valued for auction based on their physical appearances and skills that were seen as more masculine or more feminine.

Conspiracy theories and misinformation have spread online around tennis superstar Serena Williams, falsely alleging that she was born a man. In 2017, she wrote an open letter to her mother, thanking her for being a role model in facing people who were "too ignorant to understand the power of a Black woman."

Basketball star Brittney Griner also has faced similar false accusations amid scrutiny over Black women and their bodies that is rooted in historical racism: They are often perceived as not feminine enough, too muscular, intimidating or masculine.

"These examples strike me as particular cases where racism and transphobia and intersex phobia are kind of inseparable," Griffiths said. "It ties back to a much longer history of the way that race is gendered, in which Black women are taken to be more masculine compared to white women."

The definition of womanhood "is often reliant upon Westernized notions of white femininity or standards of white beauty," said Cheryl Cooky, professor of American studies and women's, gender and sexuality studies at Purdue University. If a female athlete doesn't fit into those white, Westernized standards, "they're subject to these questions and these accusations."

In Khelif's case, the banned International Boxing Association disqualified her from the 2023 world championships after it claimed that she failed unspecified eligibility tests for the women's boxing competition, citing elevated levels of testosterone. The Russian-dominated body — which has faced years of clashes with the International Olympic Committee — has refused to provide any information about the tests.

"The whole process is flawed," IOC spokesman Mark Adams said Sunday. "From the conception of the test, to how the test was shared with us, to how the tests have become public, is so flawed that it's impossible to engage with it."

Adams previously said Khelif "was born female, was registered female, lived her life as a female, boxed as a female, has a female passport."

The Olympic body released a 10-principle approach on gender and sex inclusion in 2021 that recognized the need for a "safe, harassment-free environment" honoring athletes' identities while ensuring competitions are fair. Advocates like Mitra hopes those are taken seriously.

Meanwhile, Algerians have rallied behind Khelif, defending her against hateful comments. Algerian athlete Zahra Tatar, competing in hammer throwing, called Khelif's fight "beautiful" and said "we all hope she gets the gold medal."

Tropical Storm Debby moving through Gulf toward Florida with hurricane warnings

MIAMI (AP) — Tropical Storm Debby was strengthening rapidly Sunday and was predicted to become a hurricane as it moves through the Gulf of Mexico on a collision course with the Florida coast.

The National Hurricane Center said in an update posted at 8 a.m. Sunday that Debby was located about 155 miles (250 kilometers) southwest of Tampa, Florida, and about 205 miles (330 kilometers) south-southwest of Cedar Key, Florida. The storm was moving north-northwest at 13 mph (20 kph) with maximum sustained winds of 60 mph (85 kph), up from 50 mph (80) just a few hours ago.

The storm was strengthening over the southeastern Gulf and expected to be a hurricane before making landfall in the Big Bend region of Florida, the hurricane center said.

"I'd urge all Floridians to be cognizant of the fact that we are going to have a hurricane hit the state, probably a Category 1, but it could be a little bit more powerful than that," Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis said in a Sunday morning briefing.

"But we are absolutely going to see a lot of rainfall. We are going to see a lot of saturation. We are going to see flooding events. That is going to happen. There is also going to be power outages," the governor said.

Wind and thunderstorms have spread over a broad area including southern Florida, the Florida Keys and the Bahamas.

Hurricane and tropical storm warnings were in effect for portions of the northern Florida coast.

Debby is likely to bring drenching rain and coastal flooding to much of Florida's Gulf Coast by Sunday night and predictions show the system could come ashore as a hurricane Monday and cross over northern Florida into the Atlantic Ocean.

Forecasters warn it also could drop heavy rains over north Florida and the Atlantic coasts of Georgia, South Carolina and North Carolina early next week.

Debby is the fourth named storm of the 2024 Atlantic hurricane season after Tropical Storm Alberto, Hurricane Beryl and Tropical Storm Chris, all of which formed in June.

The National Hurricane Center in Miami predicted the system will strengthen as it curves off the southwest Florida coast, where the water has been extremely warm. Intensification was expected to proceed more quickly later on Sunday.

A hurricane warning was issued for parts of the Big Bend and the Florida Panhandle, while tropical storm warnings were posted for Florida's West Coast, the southern Florida Keys and Dry Tortugas. A tropical storm watch extended farther west into the Panhandle. A warning means storm conditions are expected within 36 hours, while a watch means they are possible within 48 hours.

Tropical storms and hurricanes can trigger river flooding and overwhelm drainage systems and canals. Forecasters warned of 6 to 12 inches (150mm to 300 mm) of rain and up to 18 inches (450 mm) in isolated areas, which could create "locally considerable" flash and urban flooding. Forecasters also warned of moderate flooding for some rivers along Florida's West Coast.

Heaviest rain could be in Georgia, South Carolina

Some of the heaviest rains could actually come next week along the Atlantic Coast from Jacksonville, Florida, through coastal regions of Georgia, South Carolina and North Carolina. The storm is expected to slow down after making landfall.

"We could see a stall or a meandering motion around coastal portions of the southeastern United States," National Hurricane Center Director Michael Brennan said in a Saturday briefing. "So that's going to exacerbate not just the rainfall risk, but also the potential for storm surge and some strong winds."

Flat Florida is prone to flooding even on sunny days, and the storm was predicted to bring a surge of 2 to 4 feet (0.6 to 1.2 meters) along most of the Gulf Coast, including Tampa Bay, with a storm tide of up

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to 7 feet (2.1 meters) north of there in the sparsely populated Big Bend region.

Forecasters warned of "a danger of life-threatening storm surge inundation" in a region that includes Hernando Beach, Crystal River, Steinhatchee and Cedar Key. Officials in Citrus and Levy counties ordered a mandatory evacuation of coastal areas, while those in Hernando, Manatee, Pasco and Taylor counties called for voluntary evacuations. Shelters opened in those and some other counties.

Citrus County Sheriff Mike Prendergast estimated 21,000 people live in his county's evacuation zone. Officials rescued 73 people from storm surge flooding during last year's Hurricane Idalia. Prendergast said by phone that he hopes not to have a repeat with Debbie.

"After the storm surge does come in, we simply don't have enough first responders in our agency and among the other first responders in the county to go in and rescue everybody that might need to be rescued," he said.

Flood preparations underway

DeSantis declared a state of emergency for 61 of Florida's 67 counties, with the National Guard activating 3,000 guard members. Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp made his own emergency proclamation on Saturday.

The White House said federal and Florida officials were in touch and FEMA "pre-positioned" resources including water and food.

In Tampa alone, officials gave out more than 30,000 sandbags to barricade against flooding.

"We've got our stormwater drains cleared out. We've got our generators all checked and full. We're doing everything that we need to be prepared to face a tropical storm," Tampa Mayor Jane Castor said.

On Friday, crews pulled floating cranes away from a bridge construction project across Tampa Bay, lashing together 74 barges and 24 floating cranes and anchoring them, project engineer Marianne Brinson told the Tampa Bay Times. Crews also laid down cranes on land on their sides.

For some, the name Debby summons bad memories of a 2012 tropical storm of the same name that caused \$250 million in losses and eight deaths, including seven in the Sunshine State. That storm dumped torrential rains, including an astronomical 29 inches (730 mm) south of Tallahassee.

Ukraine intensifies its long-range strikes, sinking a Russian submarine and striking an airfield

By SAMYA KULLAB Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Ukraine has sunk a Russian submarine and hit a Russian airfield in the past 24 hours, in line with a surge of long-range attacks against Russian targets, officials said. Russia said Ukrainian drones also hit an apartment building, killing one person.

The uptick in attacks since July comes as Ukraine mounts pressure on allies to allow it to use long-range missiles to strike targets in Russia. Western allies, in particular the U.S., have so far resisted, fearing escalation from Moscow.

Ukraine struck a Russian Kilo-class submarine and an S-400 anti aircraft missile complex in the Moscow-occupied Crimean peninsula, according to a statement from the General Staff on Saturday. The air defense system was established to protect the Kerch Strait Bridge, an important logistics and transport hub supplying Russian forces.

Units of the missile forces, as well as the Navy, damaged four launchers of the Triumph air defense system, while in the port of Sevastopol, the "Rostov-on-Don" — a submarine of Russia's Black Sea fleet — was attacked and sank, the statement said.

The General Staff also confirmed that Ukrainian forces struck the Morozovsk airfield in the Rostov region after launching a massive drone barrage on Russia. Hits were recorded in warehouses with ammunition, where guided aerial bombs were stored. The operation was carried out by the Security Service of Ukraine, the Main Directorate of Intelligence and the Defense Ministry, the statement said.

Meanwhile, Belgorod Gov. Vyacheslav Gladkov said that a woman was killed in a Ukrainian drone strike on an apartment building in the town of Shebekino early Sunday. Ukrainian drones also damaged several other buildings in the town, he said.

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Gladkov said eight civilians have been wounded in the region by Ukrainian shelling and dozens of drone strikes since the previous day.

In the span of a month, Russia has experienced a surge in the tempo of Ukrainian drone barrages and long-range attacks, targeting Russian military infrastructure, including airfields and oil depots. Analysts say such an intensification is needed if Ukraine is to degrade Russian capabilities.

In other developments:

— Ukraine's human rights ombudsman, Dmytro Lubinets, said he has appealed to the International Committee of the Red Cross and the United Nations to investigate a photo that allegedly shows the body of a Ukrainian prisoner of war tortured and executed by Russian forces. He has also asked Ukrainian authorities to verify the identity of the deceased.

The photo, circulating on social media, shows the body of a person without a head or limbs. The Associated Press was unable to verify it.

"This is not just a violation of the Geneva Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War, this is the behavior of monsters," Lubinets said in a statement on Telegram.

"We are aware of recent reports online and in the media. We take these reports extremely seriously. The way we work is to respond via relevant authorities directly and confidentially," Pat Griffiths, ICRC Spokesperson in Ukraine, told the Associated Press on Sunday when asked about Lubinets's request.

"Speaking generally, the law of armed conflict is clear. Prisoners of war must be treated humanely at all times," he added.

Lin Yu-ting of Taiwan clinches first Olympic medal amid outcry tied to gender misconceptions

By ALANIS THAMES AP Sports Writer

VILLEPINTE, France (AP) — Boxer Lin Yu-ting of Taiwan clinched her first Olympic medal Sunday in front of a crowd that chanted her name, one day after fellow boxer Imane Khelif of Algeria secured one as well following days of online abuse and intense scrutiny about their participation at the Paris Games.

Lin defeated Svetlana Kamenova Staneva of Bulgaria 5:0 in a women's 57-kilogram quarterfinal, advancing to the semifinals and ensuring she will win at least a bronze medal.

Lin and Khelif have been at the center of a clash over gender identity and regulations in sports, as critics have brought up their disqualification from the world championships last year after the banned International Boxing Association claimed they failed unspecified eligibility tests for women's competition.

Lin, who will face Esra Yildiz Kahraman of Turkey at Roland-Garros on Wednesday, said her goal is to keep going and become a gold medalist. She did not mention any of the online scrutiny of the past few days and said that she shut down her social media before her first Olympic fight.

"I want to thank all the supporters from Taiwan," she said.

Staneva appeared to walk past Lin immediately after the fight, but after the referee announced the decision and lifted Lin's hand as the winner, Staneva went over and sat on the rope on her opponent's side and opened the rope for Lin to step out.

Staneva, a 34-year-old amateur boxing veteran, lost a close fight to Lin in the semifinals of the 2023 world championships in India. The victory was changed to a no contest by the IBA, which claimed Lin had failed the unspecified eligibility test.

The IBA has been banned from Olympic participation since 2019 following years of criticism from the International Olympic Committee, including concerns over its administration of competitions and financial transparency. The IBA has declined to disclose any details about its tests, calling the information confidential.

The IOC has condemned what it called "hate speech" toward the boxers, and spokesman Mark Adams again defended them Sunday, strongly criticizing the IBA testing process that singled them out because "there were suspicions against them."

"The whole process is flawed," Adams said. "From the conception of the test, to how the test was shared with us, to how the tests have become public, is so flawed that it's impossible to engage with it."

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Both Lin and Khelif have drawn support from their countries amid the outcry, which has included comments from former U.S. President Donald Trump, "Harry Potter" writer J.K. Rowling and others making false claims about them being men or transgender.

Khelif was showered with cheers throughout her emotional win over Anna Luca Hamori of Hungary on Saturday night. Many supporters at North Paris Arena were wrapped in Algerian flags and screaming her name. She wiped away tears when it was over and wept as she exited the arena.

Lin bowed to the crowd before and after Sunday's bout, looking up at cheering supporters before embracing her coaches and exiting the ring.

She also got support from former Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen on social media Friday when Lin beat Sitora Turdibekova of Uzbekistan 5:0 in her first fight.

"When I met boxer Lin Yu-ting, I saw an athlete who is fearless in the face of challenges, whether they come from inside or outside the ring," Tsai wrote. "Today, when she represents Taiwan on the Olympic stage, we will be behind her & all the Taiwanese Olympians making us proud."

Lin is competing in her second Olympics but did not win a medal in Tokyo in 2021. She's a two-time world champion with the IBA (2018 and 2022). She's competed in elite-level amateur boxing for a decade. Neither Lin nor Khelif, who's 25 and a six-year veteran, had been sanctioned before last year's world championships.

"There's a whole range of reasons why we won't deal with this," Adams of IOC said of the testing. "Partly confidentiality. Partly medical issues. Partly that there was no basis for the test in the first place. And partly data-sharing of this is also highly against the rules, international rules."

Election conspiracy theories related to the 2020 presidential race live on in Michigan's GOP primary

By JOEY CAPPELLETTI Associated Press

LANSING, Mich. (AP) — This year's presidential election was going to be it for Sheryl Guy, who was looking forward to retiring after more than four decades working in the clerk's office in northern Michigan's Antrim County.

The outcome of Tuesday's primary could scramble those plans.

Five candidates are competing in the Republican primary to succeed her as the county's top elections official, a position she has held for the past 12 years. The winner will be favored in the Republican-leaning county in November.

One of those candidates has peddled election conspiracies and been a vocal critic of the elections office since the 2020 presidential election, when Antrim County found itself in the national spotlight as then-President Donald Trump pushed to overturn the results in Michigan and other swing states.

If the election skeptic wins the primary, Guy said she plans to run as a write-in candidate in the general election.

"I fear for the taxpayers and the county becoming part of their agenda," she said. "I can't just turn over an office that I have worked in for over 45 years to an election conspiracist."

The Antrim County race is just one of many across Michigan and other states holding primaries Tuesday. Michigan's is the latest to feature Republican candidates who have been promoting election conspiracies or been openly skeptical of voting and ballot-counting, despite no evidence of widespread fraud or problems in the nation's elections.

This year's primaries have served as a gauge of Republican voters' enthusiasm for candidates who continue to promote false claims about the 2020 election in a party where a strong majority still believe Democratic President Joe Biden was not legitimately elected. Even so, results have been mixed.

This past week, Republican voters in Arizona's Maricopa County ousted the head of the elections office who had relentlessly defended the legitimacy of the state's elections and faced years of threats and harassment for doing so. They opted for a state lawmaker who has questioned various aspects of the election system, setting up what is almost certain to be a high-profile general election battle in a county

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that is a perennial target of election conspiracists.

Earlier this year, a county commissioner in a pivotal political county in another presidential battleground state, Nevada, survived a primary challenge from election conspiracists.

In Michigan, Antrim County is not the only place with election conspiracy theorists on the GOP primary ballot.

Two Republicans who are among a group charged for acting as false presidential electors after the 2020 election are vying to become their party's candidates — one for a seat in the Michigan House of Representatives and the other for a local clerk position. The county sheriff in southwestern Michigan who has continued to investigate false claims of widespread election fraud from the 2020 election is running for reelection against multiple Republican opponents.

The focus on Antrim County, a Republican-leaning near the resort town of Traverse City, began shortly after the presidential election in 2020 when the county reported a landslide win for Biden.

The problem was attributed to human error, not any issue with voting machines, and the results were quickly corrected to show that Trump won the county.

That did nothing to calm the speculation that something nefarious had taken place. Those who questioned Trump's loss in Michigan quickly latched on to the reporting error to suggest that voting machines were responsible for widespread fraud, even though there has been no such evidence.

Guy, who said she voted for Trump in 2020, remains a target of unfounded conspiracy theories and personal attacks.

Victoria Bishop, along with her husband Randy, a conservative radio host who has sued Guy, has been a vocal proponent of election conspiracy theories and is now seeking Guy's position.

Bishop did not respond to phone calls and texts asking for comment. Reached by phone, her husband said she would have no comment. Bishop's social media pages state that she aims to "restore election integrity to Antrim County." Among her plans is to hand-count every ballot cast to ensure they match machine results.

Four other candidates are running in the Republican primary, including one Guy has endorsed. If Bishop wins, Guy said she will delay her retirement to run as a write-in in November.

"It's not just my race. It's the sheriff's race. It's the township races. We're being infiltrated," Guy said. "They're coming in and they're trying to take over."

Research has shown that hand-counting of ballots takes more time and is less accurate than machine tabulation.

"Some of these activists are pushing for election procedure changes that actually make elections less secure," said David Becker, an election law expert and the executive director of the nonprofit Center for Election Innovation and Research. "Hand counts are less accurate, and importantly, they take more time. And if you take more time, we've seen that there are unscrupulous candidates who will use that time in that vacuum to spread lies and potentially violence."

In southeastern Michigan, Stanley Grot is up for reelection as the Shelby Township clerk, a position that oversees local elections. Grot has been barred from running any elections after being charged last year by the state attorney general for acting as a false elector in 2020 for Trump.

In response to a request for comment on his race and charges, Grot responded, "No comments."

Another accused false elector, Republican Michele Lundgren, is running unopposed in a primary Tuesday for a seat in the Michigan House of Representatives. She is expected to face House Speaker Joe Tate, a Democrat, in November. Lundgren did not immediately respond to an email request for comment.

Grot's and Lundgren's candidacies represent the prominent role those who pushed election falsehoods have in the state Republican Party. Several other Republicans involved in the false elector plot were part of the Michigan delegation that attended the Republican National Convention in Milwaukee in July.

Barry County Sheriff Dar Leaf, who has tried to cast doubt on the results of the 2020 election through multiple investigations, is running for reelection and faces several other Republicans. He is one of multiple so called "constitutional sheriffs" who have pushed conspiracies in recent years and believe their power in

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a county is greater than that of any other official.

Today in History: Aug. 5, Nelson Mandela arrested

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Monday, Aug. 5, the 218th day of 2024. There are 148 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On Aug. 5, 1962, South African anti-apartheid activist Nelson Mandela was arrested on charges of leaving the country without a passport and inciting workers to strike; it was the beginning of 27 years of imprisonment.

Also on this date:

In 1861, Abraham Lincoln signed the Revenue Act of 1861, which levied the first income tax on Americans (a flat tax of 3% on those making over \$800/year) to help fund the Union's Civil War effort.

In 1864, during the Civil War, Union Adm. David G. Farragut led his fleet to victory in the Battle of Mobile Bay, Alabama.

In 1884, the cornerstone for the Statue of Liberty's pedestal was laid on Bedloe's Island in New York Harbor.

In 1914, what's believed to be the first electric traffic light system was installed in Cleveland, Ohio, at the intersection of East 105th Street and Euclid Avenue.

In 1936, Jesse Owens of the United States won the 200-meter dash at the Berlin Olympics, collecting the third of his four gold medals.

In 1953, Operation Big Switch began as remaining prisoners taken during the Korean War were exchanged at Panmunjom.

In 1957, the music and dance show "American Bandstand," hosted by Dick Clark, made its national network debut, beginning a 30-year run on ABC-TV.

In 1962, Marilyn Monroe, 36, was found dead in her Los Angeles home; her death was ruled a probable suicide from "acute barbiturate poisoning."

In 1964, U.S. Navy pilot Everett Alvarez Jr. became the first American flier to be shot down and captured by North Vietnam; he was held prisoner until February 1973.

In 1974, the White House released transcripts of subpoenaed tape recordings showing that President Richard Nixon and his chief of staff, H.R. Haldeman, had discussed a plan in June 1972 to use the CIA to thwart the FBI's Watergate investigation; revelation of the tape sparked Nixon's resignation.

In 2010, thirty-three workers were trapped in a copper mine in northern Chile after a tunnel caved in (all were rescued after being entombed for 69 days).

In 2011, the sun-powered robotic explorer Juno rocketed toward Jupiter on a five-year quest to discover the secret recipe for making planets. (Juno reached Jupiter on July 4, 2016.)

Today's Birthdays: Country songwriter Bobby Braddock is 84. Actor Loni Anderson is 79. Actor Erika Slezak is 78. Rock singer Rick Derringer is 77. Actor Holly Palance is 74. Pop singer Samantha Sang is 73. Rock musician Eddie Ojeda (Twisted Sister) is 69. Actor-singer Maureen McCormick is 68. Rock musician Pat Smear is 65. Author David Baldacci is 64. Actor Janet McTeer is 63. Basketball Hall of Famer Patrick Ewing is 62. Actor Mark Strong is 61. Director-screenwriter James Gunn is 58. Actor Jonathan Silverman is 58. Actor Jesse Williams is 44. Actor Brendon Ryan Barrett is 38. Actor Meegan Warner is 33. Actor/singer Olivia Holt is 27. Actor Albert Tsai is 20. Actor Devin Trey Campbell is 16.