

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, August 07, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 043 ~ 1 of 77

- [1- Upcoming Events](#)
- [2- 1440 News Headlines](#)
- [3- Groton Dairy Queen Help Wanted](#)
- [4- GDI Fitness New Program ad](#)
- [4- Full Circle Ag Help Wanted Ad](#)
- [5- Harry Implement Ad](#)
- [6- 2024 S.D. State Fair to Feature Specialty Producers](#)
- [7- Sturgis Rally Tuesday Report](#)
- [8- 2024 Sturgis Motorcycle Rally Vehicle Count – Through Day Four](#)
- [9- School Supply Drive held Monday](#)
- [11- Full Circle Propane Ad](#)
- [12- That's Life by Tony Bender: Rodeo soliloquy](#)
- [13- SD SearchLight: Abortion rights measure likely to appear on ballot, but lawsuit could affect election results](#)
- [14- SD SearchLight: From a Minnesota classroom to potential VP: Meet Gov. Tim Walz](#)
- [18- SD SearchLight: Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz picked by Harris as her running mate on Democratic ticket](#)
- [20- SD SearchLight: Kennedy submits signatures to appear on South Dakota presidential ballot](#)
- [21- SD SearchLight: Kamala Harris officially becomes the Democratic presidential nominee](#)
- [23- Weather Pages](#)
- [27- Daily Devotional](#)
- [28- Subscription Form](#)
- [29- Lottery Numbers](#)
- [30- Upcoming Groton Events](#)
- [31- News from the Associated Press](#)

Wednesday, Aug. 7

Senior Menu: Turkey sub sandwich, lettuce and tomato, macaroni salad with peas, broccoli, tropical fruit.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Sarah Circle, 5 p.m.

St. John's Lutheran: Vacation Bible School program and cookout, 6 p.m.

United Methodist: Community Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.; Vacation Bible School, 5 p.m.

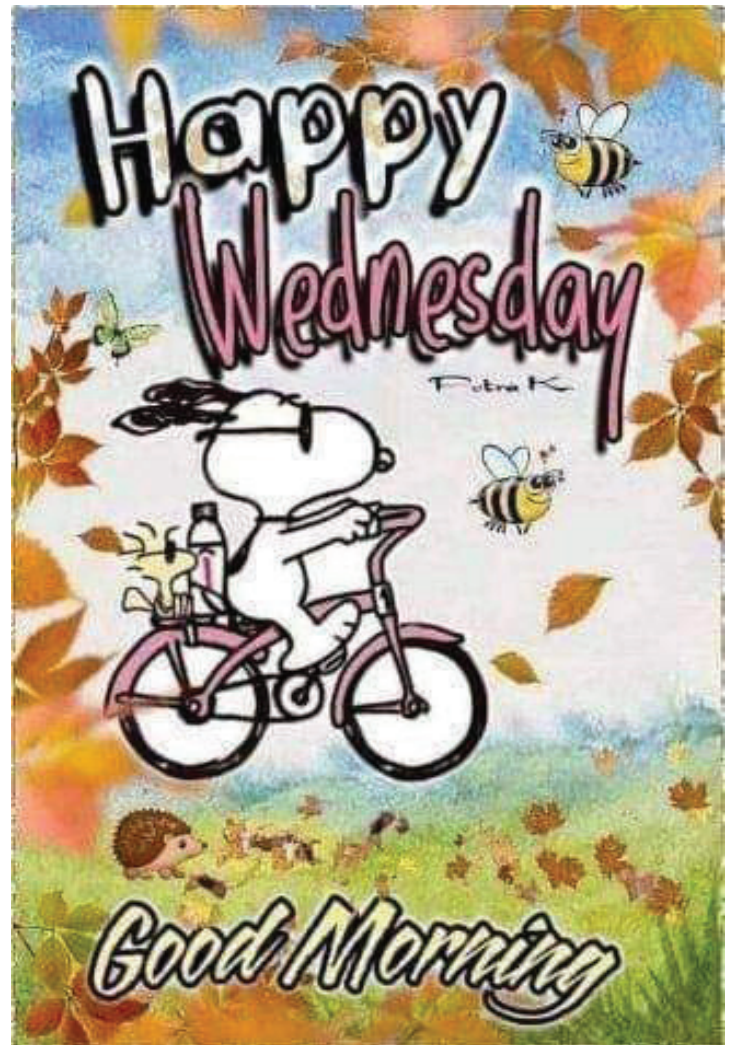
Groton Chamber Meeting, 120 N Main, Noon

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



Thursday, Aug. 8

Senior Menu: Lasagna bake, tossed salad with dressing, melon, cookie, garlic bread.

First day of football practice

Family Fun Fest, 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., Downtown Groton

Groton Lions Club Meeting, 104 N Main, 6 p.m.

Summer Splash at Groton High School, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, Aug. 9

Senior Menu: Chicken pasta salad, peas and carrots, grape juice, cake with strawberries, dinner roll.

Jr. Legion State Baseball Tournament in Groton

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, August 07, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 043 ~ 2 of 77

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.

Harris Taps Walz

Vice President Kamala Harris selected Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz as her running mate for the 2024 presidential election yesterday. The choice is seen as a strategic move to boost Harris' connection with rural voters in the Midwest, an important region for the upcoming election.

Walz, 60, a former high school teacher and National Guard veteran, served as a representative for Minnesota from 2007 to 2019 and as the state's governor since 2019. He is known for policies such as removing abortion restrictions, legalizing recreational marijuana, and providing universal free school meals. Walz has also faced criticism for the state's response to the COVID-19 pandemic and for the handling of the George Floyd protests in 2020.

For the first time since 2004, both major parties will feature military veterans on the ballot. Walz's and opponent JD Vance's service backgrounds could potentially resonate strongly among voters, as a recent study found nearly 90% of US adults express a favorable opinion of veterans.

EPA Bans Dacthal

The US Environmental Protection Agency yesterday issued an emergency ban on a common weed killing herbicide known as DCPA, the first such emergency order in four decades. The ban stems from a 2023 EPA assessment claiming the chemical can harm prenatal thyroid levels and lead to brain impairment and loss of motor skills.

Dimethyl tetrachloroterephthalate, also known as Dacthal, is an herbicide used to suppress grass and weed growth around commercial crops like broccoli and onions as well as on golf courses and private lawns. In use since the 1950s, the compound is a preemergent herbicide, attacking growth hormones in the weed's early stages. In its 2023 assessment, the EPA reported pregnant farmworkers handling the chemical are exposed to up to 20 times the safe level of the compound. The substance has been banned in Europe since 2009.

US-based agricultural corporation AMVAC, Dacthal's sole producer, stopped selling the chemical for use on turf in December. The company has yet to respond to the ban.

Hobbit Bone Discovery

Archaeologists have discovered a tiny arm bone on the Indonesian island of Flores belonging to the smallest ancient human species on record. The finding helps shed light on the evolution of the Homo floresiensis, an early relative to ancient humans.

The 700,000-year-old incomplete fossil measures 3.5 inches long and makes up the upper arm bone, known as the humerus. The Homo floresiensis, nicknamed the "hobbits" due to their diminutive size, stood at roughly 3.5 feet tall and coexisted with unique island fauna such as pygmy elephants, rabbit-sized rats, and Komodo dragons.

The discovery of the bone and other fossils suggests Homo floresiensis underwent significant body size reduction in their evolutionary history due to the isolated environment and limited resources on Flores, a phenomenon known as island dwarfism. The findings also support the hypothesis that Homo floresiensis descended from Homo erectus, an ancient hominin species that arose in Asia and became stranded on Flores.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, August 07, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 043 ~ 3 of 77

Sports, Entertainment, & Culture

American Gabby Thomas wins gold in the women's 200-meter final, beating 100-meter champ Julien Alfred.

Team USA tops Brazil 122-87 to advance to men's basketball semifinals; Kevin Durant passes Lisa Leslie to become Team USA's all-time leading Olympic scorer.

Patti Yasutake, actress best known for roles on "Star Trek: The Next Generation" and "Beef," dies at age 70.

Disney announces price hikes for its Disney+, Hulu, and ESPN+ streaming platforms.

"Stranger Things" prequel stage play sets March 2025 opening on Broadway.

Science & Technology

OpenAI cofounder John Schulman to depart company and join rival Anthropic; Schulman says move allows him to return to hands-on technical work.

New electronic sensor mimics the feeling of water droplets on the skin, may allow robots and advanced prosthetics to replicate the feeling of wetness.

Researchers set record in imaging microchip features, using X-rays to capture structures with four nanometer—roughly one-billionth of a foot—resolution.

Business & Markets

US stock markets close higher (S&P 500 +1.0%, Dow +0.8%, Nasdaq +1.0%) after S&P 500 experiences worst day in two years this week.

Uber shares close up 11% after reporting Q2 earnings and revenue beat Wall Street estimates.

Rivian posts mixed Q2 results after the bell.

Airbnb shares drop 16% in after-hours trading on news it missed Q2 earnings estimates, projects lower-than-expected Q3 revenue.

Elon Musk sues advertisers, accusing them of violating antitrust laws last year when pausing promotions on X amid allegations of antisemitism.

Politics & World Affairs

Iranian-linked Pakistani citizen is arrested and charged in New York for alleged murder-for-hire plot to assassinate former President Donald Trump and other political figures.

Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus to lead Bangladesh's interim government after parliament dissolves, prime minister flees amid deadly anti-government protests; Yunus is known for pioneering microfinance.

Hamas names top Gaza official Yahya Sinwar—accused by Israel of orchestrating the Oct. 7 attack—as overall leader to replace Ismail Haniyeh.

UN probe finds nine staff members of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency may have been involved in Oct. 7 attacks.

NOW HIRING

Blizzard® Wizzards & Smile Makers

Join our team, apply inside.



We're hiring! Age 16 and older. Looking for reliable, energetic people with smiling faces who love people and Free Food! This is a great job for anyone - high school and college students, adults, moms whose kids are going back to school. We'll work around your schedule! Stop in for an application.

2401064M All trademarks owned by Am. D.Q. Corp. ©2024. For use at current NMF participating locations only. POP materials may not be copied or shared.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, August 07, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 043 ~ 4 of 77

Brand New Program at

15 N Main St. - Ste. 101
Downtown Groton

Call/Text Paul: 605-397-7460
Call/Text Tina: 605-397-7285



\$20 Monthly Membership

- for people 60 years of age and older
- for those who need equipment for physical therapy!



Downtown
Groton

24/7 access to the facility ~ Cancel any time

Staying fit and practicing healthy nutrition can be linked to benefits, such as:

- Reduced levels of stress and anxiety
- Improved cognitive function
- Increased energy levels and productivity
- Controlled blood pressure
- Better blood flow circulation
- Strengthened bones and muscles
- Reduced risk of heart disease and other illnesses

Call/Text Paul at 605-397-7460

Call/Text Tina at 605-397-7285



Join our **NEW** Transportation Division!

We have expanded our services by introducing a brand new Transportation Division to cater to the needs of our valued member-owners!

Why Join Full Circle Ag's Transportation Division?

Local Routes

No over-the-road trips!
Enjoy driving within the local area.

Top-of-the-Line Equipment

Operate one of our **5 NEW**
Kenworth T-880 tractors.

Home Every Night

Spend your evenings at home
with your loved ones.

Safety-Focused

Your well-being is our priority.
Drive with peace of mind.

Stable Schedule

Work with a predictable and structured timetable.

Comprehensive Benefits Package

One of the best in the industry.



Apply Today:

www.fullcircleag.com/careers

701-997-2970

Cub Cadet®

YOUR BEST YARD AWAITS.



CC30H RIDING MOWER

- 10.5 HP† Briggs & Stratton engine
- 30" mowing deck
- Hydrostatic transmission

\$2,239*

Ultima™ ZT1 42 ZERO-TURN

- 21.5 HP†† Kawasaki® FR691V V-twin OHV engine
- 42" stamped twin-blade deck
- Dual Hydro-Gear® EZT-2200" transmission

\$3,299*

Ultima™ ZTS1 50 ZERO-TURN

- 24 HP†† Kohler® KT7000 V-twin OHV engine
- 50" AeroForce™ fabricated triple-blade deck
- Sealed ball bearing maintenance-free spindles
- 1" - 4.5" cutting height / dial-control knob deck lift w/ 15 quarter-inch height adjustments

\$4,899*

FOR FULL PRODUCT SPECS **Cub Cadet** VISIT CUBCADET.COM

HARRY IMPLEMENT INC.
109 CENTER ST
FERNEY, SD 57439
www.harrysinc.com
605-395-6421

*Actual retail prices are set by dealer and may vary. Taxes are additional and vary by location. Freight and PDI charges may be additional and vary by dealer. Models subject to limited availability. Images may not reflect dealer inventory and/or unit specifications. † As rated by Kohler; all power levels are stated in gross horsepower at 3500 RPM per SAE J1940 as rated by engine manufacturer. †† As required by Kawasaki; horsepower tested in accordance with SAE J1195 and rated in accordance with SAE J2723 and certified by SAE International. **See operator's manual for warranty details and information. Certain restrictions apply. Kohler® is a registered trademark of Kohler Co. Kawasaki® is a registered trademark of KAWASAKI JUKODOYO KABUSHIKI KAISHA.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, August 07, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 043 ~ 6 of 77

2024 S.D. State Fair to Feature Specialty Producers

Pierre, S.D.— The Value Added Agriculture Development Center (VAADC) invites you to attend the 25th Annual Value Added Agriculture Center Day at the South Dakota State Fair in Huron, S.D. on Thurs., Aug. 29, 2024 from 9:00 a.m.—3:30 p.m. CDT.

During the event the Day Sponsor Tent will showcase value-added agriculture farmers, ranchers, specialty growers and processors and their products. This event also provides a great opportunity to learn about the latest developments in value-added agriculture from agricultural businesses and federal, state and local agencies.

The event will feature approximately 20 vendors, many of which were developed with support from the VAADC. The VAADC helps farmers, ranchers and specialty producers in South Dakota create and expand value-added agriculture businesses by offering a variety of technical assistance programs and services designed to help clients succeed. Additional exhibitors are members of the S.D. Specialty Producers Association (SDSPA), which provides education, industry promotion and connections for South Dakota raised specialty foods and products.

The event will highlight local foods and products including South Dakota meats, ice cream, produce, jams & jellies, honey, salsa, sorghum flour, and more.

Participants can network and take in several mini-seminars and local food demonstrations. The event concludes with local Berrybrook Organics ice cream, brought to you in cooperation with Your South Dakota Dairy Producers.

The Day Sponsor Tent presentation schedule is as follows:

- 10:30 a.m.: Agritourism: How do I get started?, SDSU Extension and S.D. Department of Tourism
- 11:00 a.m.: Getting Festive: Wreath Building, IrmaLea Fields (Horizon's Building Kitchen)
- 11:15 a.m.: Beyond the Coop: Taking Your On-Farm Poultry Processing to the Next Level, Prairiesun Organics
- 11:30 a.m.: Fun & Fruity: Instant Applesauce and Infused Water, SDSU Extension (Horizon's Building Kitchen)
- 12:00 p.m.: Beginning Farmer Rancher: USDA Resources and Funding, USDA
- 12:45 p.m.: South Dakota's Local Food System: Aggregation of Specialty Crops, S.D. Specialty Producers Association
- 1:00 p.m.: Preserving the Taste of Summer and Fall: Drying Fruits 101, SDSU Extension (Horizon's Building Kitchen)
- 1:30 p.m.: Fair Food Reimagined: Explore the Deliciousness of Gluten-Free Sorghum Flour Funnel Cakes, Redstone Creek Flour Mill, (Horizon's Building Kitchen)
- 1:30 p.m.: Sweet Success: A Beginner's Guide to Beekeeping, Abb-Bee's Honey
- 2:10 p.m.: Specialty Farm Production: NRCS Services & Programs, USDA-NRCS
- 3:00 p.m.: Value Added Ag Center Day & 25th Anniversary Ice Cream Social

Support from East River Electric Cooperative, Farm Credit Services of America, S.D. Bankers Association, S.D. Association of Cooperatives, S.D. Farmers Union, S.D. Rural Electric Association, S.D. Soybean Research & Promotion Council, S.D. Wheat Commission, Agtegra, and USDA-Rural Development make VAADC services available to South Dakota farmers, ranchers, entrepreneurs, and business owners. This event is held in collaboration with SDSPA, S.D. Dept. of Agriculture and Natural Resources and NRCS to support the promotion of specialty crop vendors and events.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, August 07, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 043 ~ 7 of 77

Sturgis Rally Tuesday Report

Highway Patrol Sturgis Rally Daily Information

Compiled from 6 a.m. Saturday, Aug 03, 2024, to 6 a.m. Tuesday August 06, 2024

Item	Sturgis	Rapid City District	District Total	Last Year to Date
DUI Arrests	62	7	69	71
Misd Drug Arrests	114	19	133	118
Felony Drug Arrests	60	15	75	68
Total Citations	430	216	646	793
Total Warnings	1153	603	1756	2292
Cash Seized	11,094.00	0	11,094.00	\$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	7	12	19	26
Injury Accidents	7	11	18	33
Fatal Accidents	1	1	2	2
# of Fatalities	1	1	2	2

Fatal Crashes:

On 08/05/2024 at 10:14 a.m., a 2023 Harley Davidson FLHXSE was traveling southbound on US 85 near mile marker 45. A 2013 Toyota Tacoma was attempting to exit I-90 and enter US 85. After stopping, the driver of the Toyota entered US 85 in front of the 2023 Harley Davidson as it was approaching. The 2023 Harley Davidson struck the Toyota at the intersection. The driver of the 2023 Harley Davidson received fatal injuries. The driver of the Toyota was uninjured. The driver of the Harley Davidson was not wearing a helmet. The driver of the Toyota was wearing a seatbelt.

On 08/05/2024 at 11:26 a.m., a 2003 Harley Davidson Electra Glide was traveling westbound in a group of motorcycles on Nemo Road. A 2015 Harley Davidson Breakout was traveling eastbound in a group of motorcycles. As the motorcycles entered a curve, the driver of the 2015 Harley Davidson Breakout failed to negotiate the curve and crossed the centerline. The driver of the 2003 Harley Davidson attempted to avoid crashing but lost control of his motorcycle in the process and overturned. The driver separated from the motorcycle as it slid in the roadway. The driver of the 2015 Harley Davidson was unable to avoid the other driver in the roadway and struck him, causing the 2015 Harley Davidson Breakout to overturn. The driver of the 2003 Harley Davidson Electra Glide was not wearing a helmet and received fatal injuries. The driver of the 2014 Harley Davidson Breakout was wearing a helmet and received life threatening injuries.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, August 07, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 043 ~ 8 of 77

Injury Crashes:

On 08/05/2024 at 11:12 a.m., a 2000 Harley Davidson FLHTCI was traveling northbound on Vanocker Canyon Road Road when the driver failed to negotiate a curve. The driver separated from the motorcycle as it entered the ditch, causing serious non-life-threatening injuries. The driver was wearing a helmet.

On 08/05/2024 at 3:22 p.m., a red 2022 Harley Davidson Road Glide was traveling west on SD 87 when the driver failed to negotiate a curve and lost control of the motorcycle. The motorcycle overturned and slid across the centerline. A black 2022 Road Glide was traveling east on SD 87. The driver of the black Road Glide was able to stop, prior to the sliding motorcycle striking it. The driver and passenger of the red Road Glide received serious non-life-threatening injuries. The driver of the black Road Glide was uninjured. Neither driver nor the passenger was wearing a helmet.

On 08/05/2024 at 4:01 p.m., a 2016 Harley Davidson Touring motorcycle was traveling eastbound on US 16A when the driver failed to negotiate a curve. The driver and passenger were separated from the motorcycle as it entered the ditch, causing minor injuries to both occupants. The driver was not wearing a helmet. The passenger was wearing a helmet.

On 08/05/2024 at 5:42 p.m., a 2022 Harley Davidson FLHX was traveling east on Old Hill City Road when the driver failed to negotiate a curve. The driver separated from the motorcycle as it entered the ditch, causing minor 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.

2024 Sturgis Motorcycle Rally Vehicle Count – Through Day Four

STURGIS, S.D. – The South Dakota Department of Transportation (SDDOT) will provide daily traffic counts at nine locations for vehicles entering Sturgis for the 84th Annual Sturgis Motorcycle Rally which runs from Aug. 2-11, 2024. The traffic counts to date for the nine locations entering Sturgis for the 2024 Rally are as follows:

Friday, Aug. 2, 2024: 51,179 vehicles entered

Down 1.5% from the previous five-year average

Saturday, Aug. 3, 2024: 55,127 vehicles entered

Down 2.3% from the previous five-year average

Sunday, Aug. 4, 2024: 52,182 vehicles entered

Down 12.7% from the previous five-year average

Monday, Aug. 5, 2024: 55,971 vehicles entered

Down 5.1% from the previous five-year average

2024 Total to Date: 214,459 Vehicles

Previous Five-Year Average to Date: 227,098 Vehicles



School Supply Drive held Monday

Dacotah Bank employees and Enrich Groton SoDak Inc. volunteers worked together Monday afternoon setting up for Enrich's 2nd Annual School Supply Drive. Over 5 dozen Groton Area School District students received school supplies due to Thrivent Action Teams and other miscellaneous donations. That number increased from last year. School supplies are estimated between \$50-\$80 per student and that amount doesn't include clothing, shoes, or other associated expenses. Students also received \$20 in Back-to-School cash to shop at Common Cents Community Thrift Store. Parents expressed their gratitude as volunteers helped children gather supplies.

Ruby Larson, Nancy Larsen and Rita Kampa sort Thrivent Financial t-shirts. T-shirts were received thru Thrivent Action Teams and were gifted to families at the School Supply Distribution day on Monday afternoon. (Photo by April Abeln)



L to R: Diane Warrington, Rita Kampa, Pat Miller, Pam Heiser, Heidi Locke, Karla Davidson, April Abeln, Nancy Larsen, Sandy Schaller, Sue Stevenson and Ruby Larson
Other volunteers that assisted included Kari Bartling, Connie Stauch, Kristie Gibbs, Katelyn Nehlich, Bo Fries, Madeline Flihs, Julie Shilhanek, Char Martin, Dave Miller and John Aldrich.

(Photo Courtesy April Abeln)

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, August 07, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 043 ~ 10 of 77



The Pantry manager, Pat Miller provides instructions to volunteers Monday afternoon to ensure setup goes smoothly. (Photo by April Abeln)



Dacotah Bank employee Karla Davidson works alongside Enrich volunteer Pam Heiser in making sure the correct quantity is available. Lots of preplanning goes into this event to ensure no child leaves empty handed. Monetary donations as well as supply donations were received from several individuals.

(Photo by April Abeln)

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, August 07, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 043 ~ 11 of 77



Many supplies were purchased and organized for Monday's School Supply Distribution day. Supply lists include everything from erasers to hand sanitizer. Note cards were placed in front of items with grade information to make gathering supplies easier for parents, students and volunteers. (Photo by April Abeln)

Currently offering propane summer fills, budgets, and contracts!

FULL CIRCLE AG

Tomorrow's Vision Today

To order, visit
www.fullcircleag.com/orderpropane
or call 605-824-6815.

That's Life by Tony Bender: Rodeo soliloquy

There was a spot between the bullpen and the concession stand at the 17th Annual Ashley PRCA Rodeo last weekend where the wafting odors of manure and seared burgers competed, and somehow, strangely, to the olfactory of this child of the prairie, it was heaven.

We pause, here in Ashley, N.D., the first weekend in August to just be, unabashedly, American. Cowboys, rodeo queens, invocations of a higher power, flags and veterans. Taps on trumpet. The national anthem. Rodeo clowns, an announcer with the right amount of Oklahoma drawl and the cadence of a brisk trot. Spirited bucking stock, hokey clown entertainment. Close calls in the arena. Pick-up men and bullfighter saviors. Riderless horses and moments of silence paid tribute to fallen cowboys. We honor the departed. Celebrate life. And for a few hours, watch slices of self-induced cowboy heroism. That's gonna leave a mark.

It's easy to become cynical in these fractious times, but how can you spend but a moment among all of this, the good-natured camaraderie, neighbors suspending baling and a bountiful wheat harvest to commune, again, with one another, with the past, the Cowboy Way, and not have faith that somehow, as long as we have our friends, that someday, we'll get back on track. And maybe we are more than we know. This is reality, not cable TV talking heads who wouldn't know a steer from a heifer from a saddle bronc from a fox from a coyote from a hole in the ground.

That's OK. Perhaps there's no place more American than another. Bunker Hill. Broadway. Rushmore. Philadelphia freedom. Greasy Grass. Gettysburg. But somehow, this cowboy coteau feels just a little more special. Maybe just a skosh. Maybe that's just partiality. Maybe it's pride, but that's OK, too, because for all the missteps we've made as a nation, we sure have tried, and we ain't done yet, and pride in this place—in that place, or the other—well, I get it. I'll cut you some slack.

Babies. Tanned beauties in short shorts, shades and cowboy boots. Lipstick. A cool beer. Wide-eyed kids. Mutton busting, by God, in flip-flops, even. Cuz it ain't about the look, straw hats, pearl buttons, or none of that, it's about heart. One year, a kid went down hard, and everyone gasped. "Just remember," Tim Fuller, the announcer, said, "Chicks dig scars. Jest sayin'."

In the Ranch Rodeo event, one of the broncs slammed the rider into the gates, they both went down with the horse kicking furiously on its side, inches from the kid's head. In unison, we stopped breathing. Then, after that close view of Boot Hill, the kid took a re-ride. I'd have tried to slap some sense into him, but he was so wobbly he mighta gone down. If there's no crying in baseball, there sure as heck isn't in rodeo. Rub some dirt on it.

It's possible we're not the most American of Americans, but who's tougher?

Jim Mosbrucker woulda loved it. The rodeo's longtime stock contractor died last year after the Ashley Rodeo. I met him 30 years ago and stood beside him every year in Ashley while I photographed the action. I told his son, Wally, "He taught me what little I know about rodeo." Wally smiled knowingly, shook my hand and accepted the framed photo I shot of Jim one year. Black hat. Big white grin. Aviators. Black leather jacket. It don't get more cowboy than that.

I'm no cowboy. But I rode my grandfather's horses each summer, about the most romantic thing a guy can do alone. Grandpa Spilloway, a Russian cowboy, rode in a rodeo when I was young, and he was too old to do it, but he did, anyway.

"Did you ever ride the bulls," I asked him once. "There's easier ways to die," he smiled.

I own his 30-30 lever action saddle gun with the square bolt that held a cracked stock together for so many years, the edges of the bolt were worn smooth. Leather vs. Steel.

People. It takes so many people, so many hours, so much money, to make it all happen, and it wouldn't without the Ashley Community Rodeo Club. It's a year's work for two days of rodeo.

And it's worth it.

If you can't get sentimental about all of this and appreciate where you are, well, friend, we need to talk. Over a beer. Where the grass is stirrup-high. And if we've timed it right, close to that gangly newborn buckskin.

Chaps. Spurs. Chaw. A glorious sunset, a photographers delight, casting a glow upon the mayhem. Here, today, for a moment, we celebrate life.



SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

Abortion rights measure likely to appear on ballot, but lawsuit could affect election results

BY: JOHN HULT - AUGUST 6, 2024 5:57 PM

South Dakotans will likely get to vote on abortion rights in November, but the recent reinstatement of a legal challenge by abortion opponents could upend the results – either before or after the election.

Life Defense Fund sued Dakotans for Health earlier this year. The former is accusing the latter's petition circulators of a range of illegal tactics in their effort to secure the signatures needed to put a measure on the ballot that would enshrine abortion rights in the South Dakota Constitution.

Circuit Judge John Pekas dismissed the anti-abortion group's case last month, saying the lawsuit should have but did not name Secretary of State Monae Johnson as a defendant. Pekas did not rule on the merits of the petition circulation arguments. But the state Supreme Court overruled Pekas on Friday and sent the case back to Minnehaha County.

Now, Life Defense Fund has moved to add Johnson as a defendant.

If Pekas approves the addition, Johnson will have up to 30 days to respond. Like any elected official in South Dakota, she would be defended in court by Attorney General Marty Jackley.

Jackley spokesman Tony Mangan confirmed that the Office of the Attorney General would only represent Johnson in a limited capacity. State law on disputes over petition signatures includes this clause on the attorney general's role: "Any appearance by the attorney general at a challenge under this section shall be limited to the process of signature verification by the Office of the Secretary of State."

Life Defense Fund's arguments go beyond that, however. The group says unlawful actions during the petition-gathering process should nullify a vote to pass the amendment.

The addition of a new defendant and the legal arguments surrounding such assertions are unlikely to be resolved before Aug. 13. That's the deadline for the secretary of state to certify copies of all ballot questions to county auditors.

Since Johnson has already certified the abortion amendment to appear on the ballot, the amendment will likely be there unless the case is resolved in the Life Defense Fund's favor in less than six business days.



Life Defense Fund attorney Sara Frankenstein readies her case against against Dakotans for Health's abortion rights ballot measure in Sioux Falls on July 15, 2024. (Joshua Haiar/South

Dakota Searchlight)

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, August 07, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 043 ~ 14 of 77

"I don't know if it is realistic anymore to have the case resolved by August 13th, but that would have been the ideal," said Sara Frankenstein, a Rapid City lawyer who represents Life Defense Fund.

Frankenstein also said there is precedent for legal challenges overturning election results. She pointed to 2020's Amendment A, which legalized both recreational and medical marijuana. A circuit judge overturned the amendment after the election because, by addressing medical cannabis and recreational cannabis, its verbiage violated the state Constitution's single-subject rule. The state Supreme Court affirmed that decision.

Separately in 2020, voters passed an initiated measure to legalize medical marijuana, setting the stage for the medical marijuana program now operating in the state.

Life Defense Fund's abortion measure lawsuit alleges Dakotans For Health's petition circulators left petition sheets unattended and misled signers about the amendment's impact on abortions after the first trimester, among other accusations.

Another set of allegations revolves around a 2018 state law that sought to prevent out-of-state residents from circulating ballot petitions in South Dakota. Among other things, the law required petition circulators to file a sworn statement and documentation to prove their residency.

Dakotans for Health says the 2018 law was invalidated by a series of federal court decisions that struck down that law's restrictions.

Dakotans for Health has requested an injunction in federal court that would stop the Life Defense Fund's lawsuit in state court. A federal judge last month declined to intervene "at this time," saying she would wait for further state court proceedings.

Johnson validated the abortion-rights measure in May by using a sample to estimate that 46,098 signatures were from registered South Dakota voters, surpassing the required 35,017.

The lawsuit argues that Johnson is obligated to invalidate what it describes as seven classes of "objectionable signatures," ranging from residency violations to outright fraud, and that there are enough such signatures to disqualify the measure from the ballot.

Rick Weiland of Dakotans for Health said in a text message that the latest moves in the case represent the abortion opponents' "ongoing and desperate effort to deny the people of our state their right to vote on this matter because the voters think South Dakota's abortion ban is too radical."

John is the senior reporter for South Dakota Searchlight. He has more than 15 years experience covering criminal justice, the environment and public affairs in South Dakota, including more than a decade at the Sioux Falls Argus Leader.

From a Minnesota classroom to potential VP: Meet Gov. Tim Walz

BY: J. PATRICK COOLICAN, MINNESOTA REFORMER - AUGUST 6, 2024 11:10 AM

Gov. Tim Walz fused his everyman personality with an optimistic progressive message to win the most important audition of his political career the past few weeks, winning the quick admiration of Democratic activists — and Vice President Kamala Harris, who named Walz as her running mate Tuesday.

"As a governor, a coach, a teacher, and a veteran, he's delivered for working families like his own. We are going to build a great partnership. We start out as underdogs but I believe together, we can win this election," Harris said in a statement announcing her pick.

Harris' selection of Walz rockets the former geography teacher from Midwest obscurity into the highest stratosphere of American politics, potentially joining Hubert Humphrey and Walter Mondale as Minnesotan vice presidents.

Walz's selection follows his splashy arrival on the national stage during a series of high-profile TV interviews since President Joe Biden dropped out of the race last month and threw his weight behind his vice president.

Walz, who tends to talk in a Diet Mountain Dew-fueled, regular guy patois, has impressed Democrats with his ability to communicate the party's message, while using a one-word zinger — "weird" — to hammer Republicans for book bans and pushing to outlaw abortion nationwide.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, August 07, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 043 ~ 15 of 77

The two-term governor, who also served a dozen years in Congress, has racked up an impressive legislative record, especially in his second term. He signed bills to create a paid family and medical leave program; provide for universal free school meals; legalize recreational marijuana; sharply increase tax credits for low-income families; and boost sales and gas taxes for transportation and housing.

"Governor Walz has been a strong leader, a great partner with the Legislature, and is an excellent choice for vice president," said Minnesota House Speaker Melissa Hortman, DFL-Brooklyn Park. "We worked together over the last two years on the most productive session in Minnesota in decades, passing policies that will help Minnesotans build better lives for themselves and their families."

Minnesota Republicans say Walz has changed the North Star State for the worse. Minnesota House Minority Leader Lisa Demuth, R-Cold Spring, wrote recently that "past two years featured some of the most extreme and irresponsible policies we've ever seen in our state," citing tax and fee increases, unsustainable new spending, energy mandates that will hike rates and a rise in the cost of Uber and Lyft rides.

Walz brings a resume that suggests both achievement and middle class roots: He was a high school teacher and assistant football coach in the southern Minnesota city of Mankato, population 45,000, before his election to Congress in 2006, becoming the first Democrat to win the 1st Congressional District in more than a decade.

He retired from the National Guard after 24 years in 2005 with the rank of command sergeant major, which made him the highest ranking enlisted man to ever serve in the U.S. Congress. Walz underwent surgery to restore his hearing, damaged after years of exposure to artillery ranges. He recently said he can hunt pheasants better than the GOP vice presidential nominee, U.S. Sen. J.D. Vance.

Expect Walz to post up in the so-called blue wall states of Pennsylvania, Michigan and Wisconsin, where the Harris campaign hopes his middle class demeanor will appeal to white, non-college voters who comprise a strong plurality of those battleground states.

A top Minnesota Democratic-Farmer-Labor operative said Walz is well positioned to help Harris carry those crucial states.

"Tim Walz is a great pick because in addition to his blue collar background and his cultural fit with the blue wall states, as governor his accomplishments are mostly about improving the lives of middle class and working families," said Jeff Blodgett, who was chief strategist for Sens. Paul Wellstone and Al Franken. "This ticket can now powerfully argue that they are the team that is squarely on the side of America's



Students from Webster Elementary School in northeast Minneapolis hugged Gov. Tim Walz after he signed a bill on March 17, 2023, providing free breakfast and lunch to Minnesota students. (Michelle Griffith/

Minnesota Reformer)

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, August 07, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 043 ~ 16 of 77

working families.”

Walz is married to Gwen Walz, a career educator, and is father to an adult daughter Hope and teenaged son Gus, both born with help of in vitro-fertilization. IVF, which accounts for about 2.5% of all children born in the United States, has become a potent political issue in the past year after the Alabama Supreme Court ruled that embryos created during IVF are legally classified as children; fertility clinics paused use of the technique out of fear of civil and criminal liability.

“It’s not by chance that we named our daughter Hope,” Walz said in response to the IVF controversy.

Walz will use his compelling biography to introduce himself to the American public, but he will also be forced to defend his five-and-a-half-year tenure as governor of the nation’s 22nd most populous state.

First term: managing crisis

Walz’s first term especially was marked by the management of crises, from the COVID-19 pandemic to the aftermath of the police killings of George Floyd and Daunte Wright.

Republicans will almost certainly broadcast images of flaming buildings on Lake Street in Minneapolis, including the 3rd precinct headquarters of the Minneapolis Police Department.

On the second night of protests, as a Lake Street Target was being looted, Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey called Walz’s office and requested help from the National Guard, he later told the Star Tribune, which corroborated the account with state and local records.

Walz publicly assumed command Thursday morning, which is when he called up the National Guard. They were on the ground Thursday evening, but still the city burned; MPD evacuated the 3rd precinct headquarters that night, and looters and rioters ransacked it. The fires continued Friday night.

Former Minnesota Senate Majority Leader Paul Gazelka alleged recently that he called the White House, then occupied by former President Donald Trump, and lobbied the administration to push Walz into action.

Walz blamed outsiders for the destruction, a claim that turned out to be mostly false.

Less than a year later, the Twin Cities was on edge at the outset of the trial of former police officer Derek Chauvin, accused of Floyd’s murder. That’s when Brooklyn Center officer Kim Potter killed Daunte Wright, an unarmed Black man, when she drew and fired her service weapon instead of her Taser as she said she intended.

As protests and scattered looting broke out, Walz took a much firmer line, imposing a curfew on three urban counties and bolstering the defense of the Brooklyn Center police headquarters with a massive State Patrol presence.

As during the Floyd protests, journalists and demonstrators were targeted by police, who used tear gas and less-lethal projectiles to subdue crowds. Walz was criticized for the response, including by many progressive Democrats who broke with him.

Even as Walz dealt with the Floyd and Wright police killings and their aftermath, he was also managing the public health crisis of COVID-19. He leaned on Minnesota’s robust public health assets, including the University of Minnesota and the Mayo Clinic. The state’s COVID-19 death rate and overall mortality rate during the pandemic were among the nation’s lowest.

Republicans attacked his COVID-19 restrictions as tyrannical, including a directive to avoid large family gatherings during the holiday season of 2020. They also criticized — and in some cases filed lawsuits over — his restrictions on youth sports, which accompanied long periods of remote schooling.

The administration’s aggressive posture toward the pandemic extended to getting help to people who needed it, including workers suddenly out of work and hungry children. Minnesota was the first state to get unemployment benefits out to gig workers.

Critics say the Walz administration was also blind to a massive fraud happening in plain sight.

Walz’s Department of Education administered a federal program intended to feed hungry children during the pandemic but instead became a cash cow for fraudsters. Legislative audits have sharply criticized the administration’s failure to stop more than \$250 million in fraudulent payments in what has become known as the Feeding Our Future fraud; 70 people have been charged and nearly two dozen convicted.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, August 07, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 043 ~ 17 of 77

"Under Governor Walz's watch, fraud and waste in our state public programs has exploded," Demuth charged.

Second term: Progressive wish list becomes reality

Despite the tumultuous tenure, Walz was easily reelected in 2022 and delivered major coattails: A Democratic trifecta took command of state government in 2023 for the first time in nearly a decade.

Democrats got to work on a wish list which has become the envy of progressives across the country.

Walz pushed for a tax rebate that came in smaller than what he proposed but still amounted to \$1,300 for a family of four.

Lawmakers passed a package of \$2.6 billion for infrastructure, which has allowed Walz to pose for photos at a bevy of construction projects on roads, bridges and other key infrastructure.

The deal included \$300 million for nursing homes, which are newly subject to a labor-friendly sectoral bargaining system.

In one of the Legislature's first official acts, Minnesota codified abortion rights, becoming a haven in the Upper Midwest even as neighboring states enacted restrictions.

Walz, who was once a fierce gun rights supporter until the 2018 massacre at Parkland High School — which happened as he campaigned for governor — signed two gun control bills in 2023. One extended background checks to all private sales, while a so-called red flag law allows a judge to take a person's guns if he's deemed a threat to himself or others.

Walz signed a bill to restore voting rights to people leaving prison. Undocumented people can now get a driver's license thanks to a bill Walz signed.

A new law mandates a carbon-free electric grid by 2040.

It's not yet clear what impact these policies will have on the future of Minnesota.

On measures like life expectancy, family income, unemployment, education attainment and violent crime, the Minnesota metrics during Walz's tenure have mostly risen and fallen alongside national trends, with Minnesota near the top in many of these quality-of-life metrics.

Those measures don't apply to all Minnesotans, however. The gap between white and Black homeownership in Minnesota is 48 percentage points, for instance. Walz and Democratic lawmakers say that's precisely why they passed a robust first-time homebuyer assistance program for people with modest incomes.

Walz has said his goal is to make Minnesota the best place in the nation to raise a family, including factors like cost-of-living, housing affordability, good paying jobs, education and child care.

Unfinished business: education

The most troubling metric for Walz, who as a teacher was presumed to be well positioned to be an education governor, is the state's lackluster performance on student achievement tests in recent years.

Minnesota ranks in the top five best states for children, according to a scorecard compiled by the Anne E. Casey Foundation. But in the same study, Minnesota's education system dropped to 19th.

Minnesota has long struggled with some of the nation's worst opportunity gaps, especially for Black and Indigenous students, even as the student population has become steadily more diverse over time.

Walz told the Star Tribune in 2019 that his tenure should be judged by how well he closes the gaps: "It's a reality I clearly understood and I said during the campaign that I'll be judged and should be judged by how well we close [those disparities], as long as we're given the tools, and I take that responsibility," he said.

J. Patrick Coolican is editor-in-chief of Minnesota Reformer. Previously, he was a Capitol reporter for the Minneapolis Star Tribune for five years, after a Knight-Wallace Fellowship at the University of Michigan and time at the Las Vegas Sun, Seattle Times and a few other stops along the way. He lives in St. Paul with his wife and two young children.

Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz picked by Harris as her running mate on Democratic ticket

BY: JACOB FISCHLER - AUGUST 6, 2024 8:55 AM

Vice President Kamala Harris, the Democratic nominee for president, selected Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz as her running mate Tuesday in a move meant to boost the Democratic ticket's appeal in key Midwestern states and with blue-collar voters.

Walz, a former social studies teacher and Army National Guard veteran who won challenging elections in a rural U.S. House district before running for governor in 2018 and winning reelection in 2022, balances Harris geographically and demographically, while bringing a history of campaign wins in purple-to-red areas and a governing record among the most progressive of any contender to join the ticket.

"One of the things that stood out to me about Tim is how his convictions on fighting for middle class families run deep," Harris wrote in a statement. "It's personal. As a governor, a coach, a teacher, and a veteran, he's delivered for working families like his own. We are going to build a great partnership. We start out as underdogs but I believe together, we can win this election."

Walz was also seen as the preferred vice presidential pick of the party's progressive wing, especially as an alternative to Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro. Harris interviewed both governors, and U.S. Sen. Mark Kelly of Arizona, in Washington Sunday as she whittled down her shortlist.

Little known until recently outside his home state to all but the closest political observers, Walz's laid-back style and approachable demeanor — and straightforward attacks on Republican rivals Donald Trump and J.D. Vance — over weeks of consistent national TV appearances won praise from Democratic officials and strategists who have struggled to break Trump's hold over white voters without college degrees.

Walz, 60, emerged in recent weeks as one of the party's top communicators through the power of a single adjective for Republicans and their policy goals.

"These are weird people on the other side," Walz said in a July 23 interview on MSNBC. "They want to take books away, they want to be in your exam room ... These are weird ideas."

Despite the best efforts of President Joe Biden's abandoned reelection bid to describe Republicans under Trump's leadership as a threat to U.S. democracy and reproductive rights who couldn't be trusted to responsibly govern, the attacks didn't stick and Trump continued to climb in the polls.

But shortly after Biden's July 21 exit from the race, Democrats embraced the succinct message that has been credited to the Minnesota governor.

"I am loving Tim Walz on TV," Rebecca Pearcey, a Democratic strategist, told States Newsroom in a July interview on potential vice presidential picks for Harris.

"I love that he's just so down-to-earth and so pithy and that he's like, 'These guys are weird,'" she added.



Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz speaks at a Biden-Harris campaign and DNC press conference on July 17, 2024, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. (Jim Vondruska/Getty Images)

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, August 07, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 043 ~ 19 of 77

"That's exactly it — we are overcomplicating what this message has to be."

In a statement, Shapiro said he was grateful to have been considered for Harris' running mate and would continue his work as governor, calling that role "the highest honor" of his life.

Shapiro congratulated Walz, saying he would be an "exceptionally strong addition to the ticket." He said he would work to help the Harris-Walz ticket win in November.

"Vice President Kamala Harris has my enthusiastic support — and I know that Governor Tim Walz is an exceptionally strong addition to the ticket who will help Kamala move our country forward," he wrote. "Over the next 92 days, I look forward to traveling all across the Commonwealth to unite Pennsylvanians behind Kamala Harris' campaign to defeat Donald Trump, become the 47th President of the United States, and build a better future for our country."

According to his official schedule, Shapiro is scheduled to speak at Walz's first public appearance with Harris, a rally in Philadelphia Tuesday evening.

'Far-left radical'

Shortly after reports of the Walz choice surfaced, Trump's campaign blasted him in a statement that sought to undercut his appeal to rural Midwestern voters and tie him to Harris' Bay Area background, potentially previewing the attacks Walz will see throughout the three months leading up to Election Day.

"It's no surprise that San Francisco Liberal Kamala Harris wants West Coast wannabe Tim Walz as her running-mate — Walz has spent his governorship trying to reshape Minnesota in the image of the Golden State," Trump campaign press secretary Karoline Leavitt said in a statement.

"If Walz won't tell voters the truth, we will: just like Kamala Harris, Tim Walz is a dangerously liberal extremist, and the Harris-Walz California dream is every American's nightmare."

Leavitt highlighted Walz's signature on a bill to require the state move to 100% non-carbon energy by 2040.

A political action committee associated with Trump also slammed the Minnesota governor.

A written statement from MAGA Inc. criticized Walz's positions on transgender rights and immigration, as well as his response to the riots in Minneapolis after police there killed George Floyd, an unarmed Black man.

The PAC also sought to tie Walz to a federal fraud case in the state that saw five convicted in federal court of taking federal COVID-19 relief money intended to feed needy children. The case dealt with a nonprofit, but a June report from the state auditor found the state's Department of Education failed to properly oversee the federal payments.

"Governor Tim Walz and Kamala Harris will get along just great," the statement said. "They're both far-left radicals that don't know how to govern."

Former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, who is also from San Francisco, said in an appearance on MSNBC's Morning Joe on Tuesday that characterizations of Walz as far-left were "mystifying."

"To characterize him as left is so unreal," Pelosi said. "He's right down the middle. He's a heartland-of-America Democrat."

As the top Democrat on the U.S. House Veterans Affairs Committee, Walz made "tremendous, tremendous gains" for veterans, Pelosi said.

Communicating rural values

Walz, who grew up in a rural community in Nebraska, has slammed national Republicans for a relentless focus on cultural issues. He's trained that criticism recently on Vance, a U.S. senator from Ohio whose rise to Republican vice presidential nominee was built on his controversial book detailing the lives of people in impoverished rural areas of Kentucky.

Vance and Republicans have "obsessions" with taking away rights, Walz has said, especially related to reproductive rights and education that includes discussion of gender and sexuality.

"The golden rule that makes small towns work so we're not at each other's throats all the time in a little town is: Mind your own damn business," Walz told MSNBC's Jen Psaki on July 25. "I don't need him (Vance) to tell me about my family, I don't need him to tell me about my wife's health care and her reproductive

rights, I don't need him telling my children what books to read."

Walz instead projects a pragmatic vision of Democratic governance.

"They scream socialism, we just build roads and we build schools and we build prosperity into this," he told Psaki.

Working-class message

As governor, Walz has notched a series of policy wins he can boast to the party's progressive wing about. He signed laws to offer free meals to all public school students, expand abortion access and legalize some recreational uses of THC.

But the sometimes bespectacled former high school teacher and football coach, who has donned t-shirts and hunting caps in national TV hits, also projects an image of Midwestern pragmatism.

That may help balance voters' views of a Democratic ticket led by Harris, who would be the first woman president, the first president of South Asian descent and the second Black president, and who is seen as more liberal than most in the party after climbing the ranks through Democratic primaries in California.

Christopher Devine, a political scientist at the University of Dayton, said Walz's appeal is not unlike that of Harris' last running mate.

"Walz has a message that kind of reminds me of Joe Biden's appeal, kind of a working-class focus," he said. "He can speak from a rural background, he's been a teacher and a coach and has a military background as well. He seems to me like he's someone who could maybe help with kind of a working-class message."

The campaign will depend on Walz to carry that message to neighboring Wisconsin and other crucial Rust Belt states such as Michigan and Pennsylvania.

Kim Lyons contributed to this report.

Jacob covers federal policy as a senior reporter for States Newsroom. Based in Oregon, he focuses on Western issues. His coverage areas include climate, energy development, public lands and infrastructure.

Kennedy submits signatures to appear on South Dakota presidential ballot

BY: MAKENZIE HUBER - AUGUST 6, 2024 4:23 PM

Robert F. Kennedy Jr. is one step closer to being placed on South Dakota's presidential ballot in November.

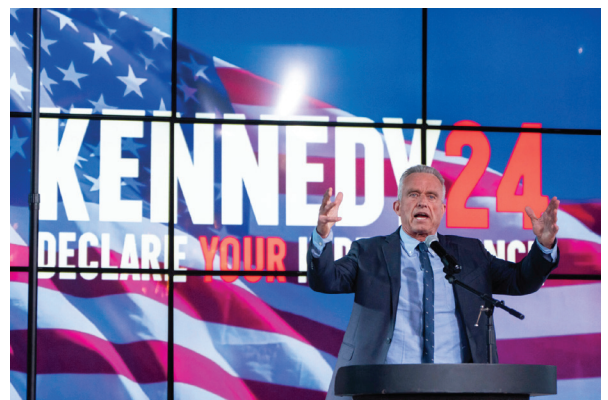
Kennedy's campaign said it submitted roughly 8,000 signatures to the South Dakota Secretary of State's Office on Tuesday, the deadline to submit signatures for independent presidential candidates in the state. The campaign had to submit at least 3,502 signatures from registered South Dakota voters, which is 1% of votes cast in the last gubernatorial election.

Kennedy, along with running mate and California philanthropist Nicole Shanahan, has already gained access to the ballot in 16 states, his campaign said. But his place on the ballot faces legal challenges in some states.

According to the campaign, the Kennedy-Shanahan ticket has collected or submitted signatures for ballot access in 29 additional states, including South Dakota.

Kennedy is the nephew of former President John F. Kennedy and son of former Sen. Robert F. Kennedy. He is the chairman of Children's Health Defense and has been criticized for spreading misinformation in that role about vaccines.

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.



Independent presidential candidate Robert F. Kennedy Jr. speaks during a campaign rally at Legends Event Center on Dec. 20, 2023, in Phoenix. (Rebecca

Noble/Getty Images)

Kamala Harris officially becomes the Democratic presidential nominee

BY: JENNIFER SHUTT - AUGUST 6, 2024 7:27 AM



Vice President Kamala Harris departs Milwaukee Mitchell International Airport aboard Air Force 2, after speaking at a campaign rally inside West Allis Central High School on July 23, 2024, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. (Jim Vondruska/

Getty Images)

WASHINGTON — The Democratic National Committee announced late Monday that Vice President Kamala Harris had secured the support of 99% of delegates to formally become the party's presidential nominee, following the conclusion of a five-day virtual vote.

The results, which included a state-by-state breakdown, followed the DNC announcing Friday that Harris had surpassed the number of delegates needed to become the nominee as voting proceeded. She was the only candidate to qualify. The DNC said 4,567 delegates cast their votes for her.

The next steps will be the certification of the roll call by the convention secretary, Jason Rae, and the acceptance of the nomination by Harris and her running mate, who as of early Tuesday still had not been named.

There will also be a celebratory roll call at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago later this month.

"With the support of 99% of all participating delegates in the virtual roll call, Vice President Harris has

historic momentum at her back as we embark on the final steps in officially certifying her as our Party's nominee," DNC Chair Jaime Harrison and DNCC Chair Minyon Moore said in a statement. "We thank the thousands of delegates from all across the country who took seriously their responsibility throughout this process to make their voices – and the voices of their communities – heard. As we prepare to certify the nomination alongside Convention Secretary Rae, we know that we are all a part of an important piece of history."

On the way to Election Day

Harris and her vice presidential pick will have fewer than 100 days to campaign before Nov. 5.

She's undertaking a swing-state tour that has the two holding rallies Tuesday in Pennsylvania, Wednesday in Wisconsin and Michigan, Thursday in North Carolina, Friday in Arizona, and Saturday in Nevada. The Associated Press reported a stop in Georgia was postponed due to Hurricane Debby and the North Carolina appearance could be affected.

Harris didn't compete in a Democratic primary campaign this election cycle, which could potentially hamstring her, though she did introduce herself to voters during the 2020 Democratic presidential primary and has held public events throughout her time as vice president.

Debate over debates

As of Tuesday it did not appear that Harris and Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump would debate ahead of Nov. 5, which would have given her an opportunity to showcase her policy goals and personality to a broader cross-section of voters.

Trump and the Biden campaign agreed to two debates — the first in June, which was hosted by CNN and led to a widespread lack of confidence in Biden's cognition, and a second on Sept. 10, hosted by ABC News.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, August 07, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 043 ~ 22 of 77

The Trump campaign had been noncommittal about debating Harris since Biden announced in July he would step aside as the presumptive nominee and endorsed Harris to take over at the top of the ticket.

Harris for President Co-chair Cedric Richmond said in a statement released Friday that Trump "needs to man up" and attend the previously agreed to debate on Sept. 10.

"He's got no problem spreading lies and hateful garbage at his rallies or in interviews with right-wing commentators. But he's apparently too scared to do it standing across the stage from the Vice President of the United States," Richmond said. "Since he talks the talk, he should walk the walk and — as Vice President Harris said earlier this week — say it to her face on September 10. She'll be there waiting to see if he'll show up."

Trump posted on social media over the weekend that he would only attend a Fox News debate on Sept. 4, though neither the Biden nor Harris campaigns ever agreed to attend a Fox debate.

"Kamala Harris doesn't have the mental capacity to do a REAL Debate against me, scheduled for September 4th in Pennsylvania," Trump posted. "I'll see her on September 4th or, I won't see her at all."

Who is Kamala Harris?

Harris was born in Oakland, California, in October 1964. She graduated from Howard University, a historically Black institution of higher education, in 1986 before receiving her law degree from the University of California in 1989.

Harris worked as a deputy district attorney in Alameda County, California, from 1990 until 1998. Her career as a prosecutor continued when she moved to the San Francisco District Attorney's office, where she worked as a managing attorney.

She spent time as the chief of the San Francisco City Attorney's Division on Children and Families and as the district attorney of San Francisco before California voters elected her attorney general in 2010.

Residents in the Golden State then elected Harris to the U.S. Senate in 2016, where she stayed until she was sworn in as vice president in January 2021.

Harris sought the Democratic presidential nomination during the 2020 primary, but dropped out two months before voting began.

Roll call, keynote speech

Harris is scheduled to give the convention keynote speech on Aug. 22, the final night of the gathering in Chicago. She'll likely be speaking to the largest audience she'll have in person and watching on television until election night.

That will provide a major opportunity for her to speak directly to the centrist and undecided voters who will determine the outcome of the November elections, including control of the U.S. House and U.S. Senate.

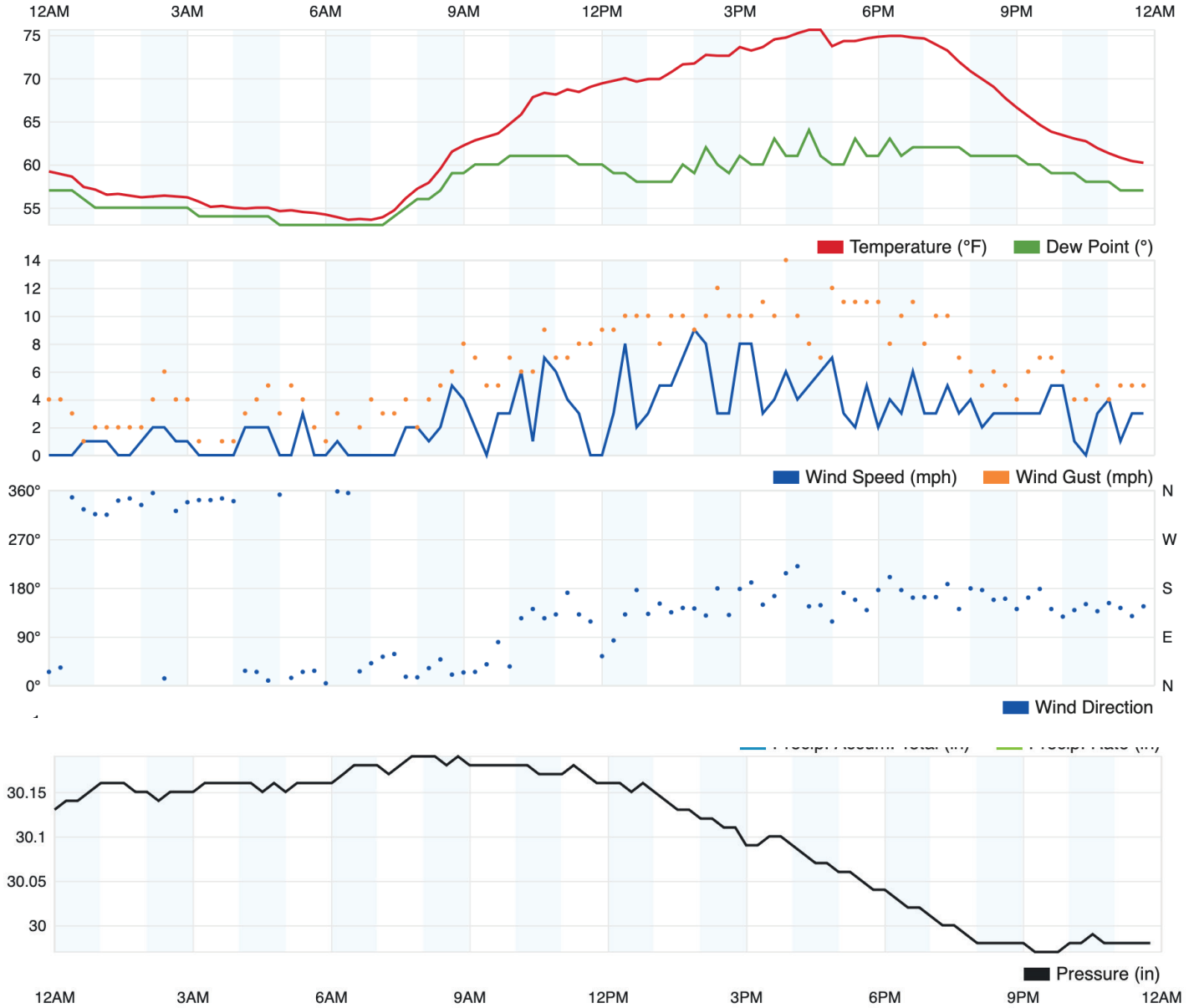
Should Harris win the Electoral College vote, she will become the country's first female president, the first president of South Asian descent and the second Black president when she's inaugurated on Jan. 20, 2025.

Jennifer covers the nation's capital as a senior reporter for States Newsroom. Her coverage areas include congressional policy, politics and legal challenges with a focus on health care, unemployment, housing and aid to families.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, August 07, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 043 ~ 23 of 77

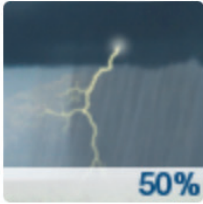
Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, August 07, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 043 ~ 24 of 77

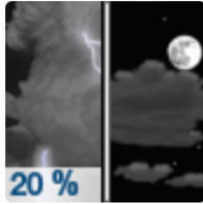
Wednesday



High: 74 °F

Chance
T-storms

Wednesday
Night



Low: 50 °F

Slight Chance
T-storms then
Partly Cloudy

Thursday



High: 68 °F

Sunny

Thursday
Night



Low: 48 °F

Mostly Clear

Friday



High: 69 °F

Sunny

Showers and Storms Today Cooler Thursday and Friday

Today



Highs: 72-82°
Lows: 47-54°

40-70% chance for
showers and
thunderstorms

Thursday



Highs: 65-75°
Lows: 45-51°

Dry with northerly
wind gusts of
20 to 30 mph

Friday



Highs: 65-74°
Lows: 47-51°

Dry with northerly
wind gusts of
15 to 25 mph

A storm system crossing the region today will bring a 40-70% chance for showers and thunderstorms. Cooler temperatures will move into the area behind the storm system, with highs on Thursday and Friday in the 60s and 70s.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, August 07, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 043 ~ 25 of 77

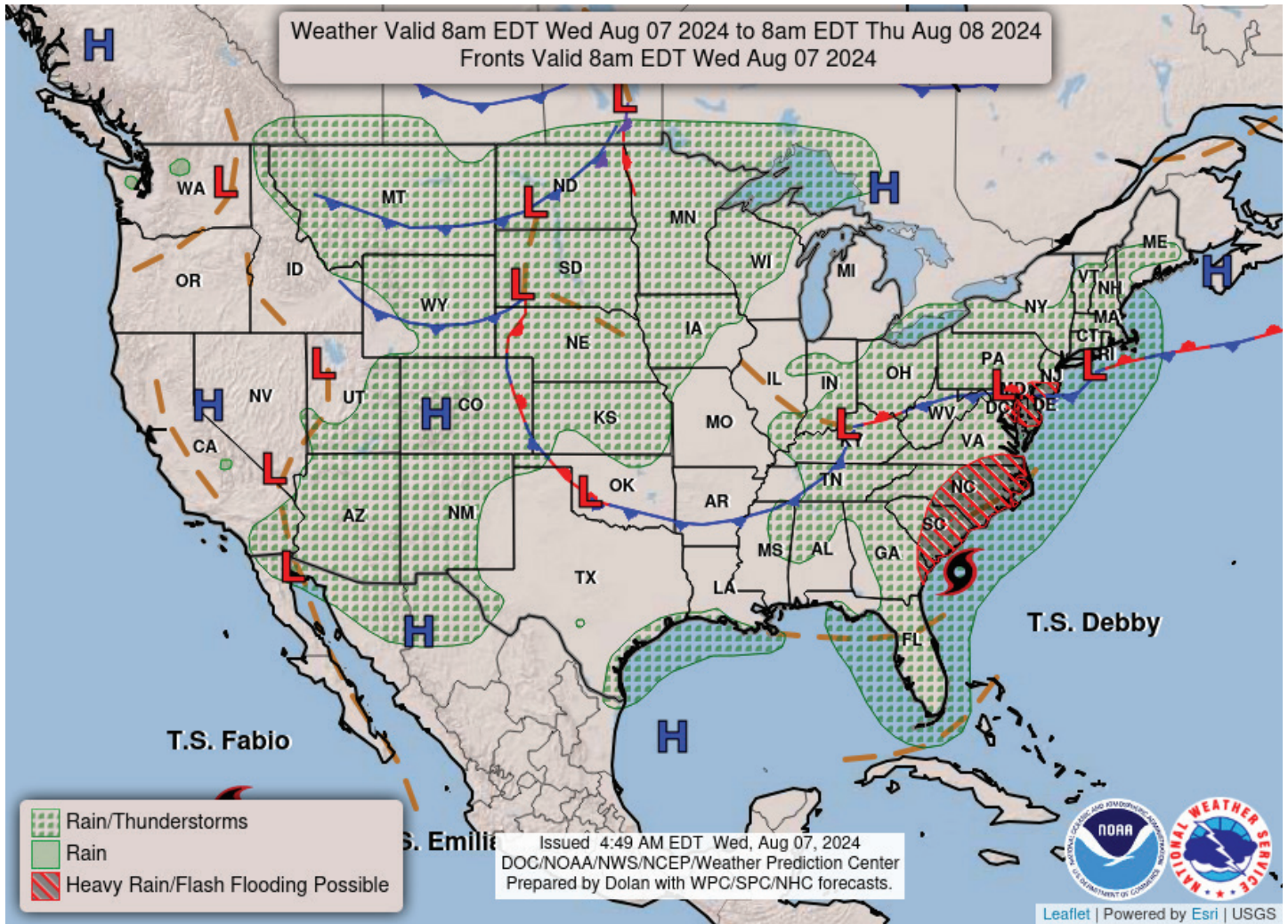
Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 76 °F at 4:31 PM
Low Temp: 54 °F at 7:00 AM
Wind: 14 mph at 1:36 PM
Precip: : 0.00

Day length: 14 hours, 30 minutes

Today's Info

Record High: 102 in 1949
Record Low: 42 in 1921
Average High: 84
Average Low: 59
Average Precip in Aug.: .51
Precip to date in Aug.: 1.10
Average Precip to date: 14.61
Precip Year to Date: 15.99
Sunset Tonight: 8:53:11 pm
Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:24:11 am



Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, August 07, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 043 ~ 26 of 77

Today in Weather History

August 7, 1968: From 9 miles north of Isabel, hail up to golf ball size was observed with a severe thunderstorm. This storm continued moving in a southeast direction, causing extensive damage to crops, trees, utility lines, and structures. A radio tower was blown over near Huron, and a wind gust of 115 mph was reported at Huron. A woman was swept from a roof in Huron and was critically injured.

August 7, 2009: A supercell thunderstorm developed across the northern Black Hills and moved eastward across the Sturgis area, southern Meade County, northeastern Pennington County, Haakon County, and northeastern Jackson County. The storm produced baseball sized near Sturgis, then high winds and hail larger than baseball sized developed as the storm moved across the plains. The storm hit Sturgis during the annual motorcycle rally and caused extensive damage to motorcycles, vehicles, and property. Minor injuries from the hail were also reported.

August 7, 2010: An EF4 tornado touched down south of Tyler in Richland County North Dakota and tracked to the northeast for roughly 2.5 miles before crossing the Bois de Sioux River into Wilkin County, Minnesota. In Wilkin County, the tornado continued for another 2.5 miles and lifted about 650 pm CDT. The total track length was about 5 miles, and peak winds were estimated at 175 mph.

1904 - A flash flood near Pueblo, CO, washed a train from the tracks killing 89 passengers. A bridge, weakened by the floodwaters sweeping through the valley below, gave way under the weight of the train dashing all but the sleeping cars into the torrent drowning the occupants. Rail service was frequently interrupted in the Rocky Mountain Region and southwestern U.S. that summer due to numerous heavy downpours which washed out the railroad beds delaying trains as much as five days. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1918 - Philadelphia, PA, established an all-time record with a high of 106 degrees. New York City experienced its warmest day and night with a low of 82 degrees and a high of 102 degrees. Afternoon highs of 108 degrees at Flemington NJ and Somerville NJ established state records for the month of August. (The Weather Channel) (Sandra and TI Richard Sanders - 1987)

1924: A tornado caused estimated F4 damage moved southeast from south of Osseo, WI to Black River Falls, WI. One person was killed as a home was leveled and a boy was killed running to the storm cellar near the start of the path. Two people died as farm homes were swept away near the northeast edge of Black River Falls. Damage totaled \$200,000 as 50 farms were hit and buildings were unroofed in the town of Northfield. The tornado followed the present route of Interstate 94.

1980: Hurricane Allen bottomed out at 899 millibars (26.55 inches of mercury) while moving through the Yucatan Channel in the southeastern part of the Gulf of Mexico. Allen was the second lowest pressure ever recorded in the Western Hemisphere up to that time. Allen's winds at the time were sustained at 190 mph.

1984 - El Paso, TX, normally receives 1.21 inches of rain in August. They got it in forty-five minutes, with four more inches to boot, during a storm which left Downtown El Paso under five feet of water. (The Weather Channel)

1986 - A rare outbreak of seven tornadoes occurred in New England. One tornado carved its way through Cranston RI and Providence RI causing twenty injuries. Rhode Island had not reported a tornado in twelve years, and three touched down in 24 hours. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1987 - Morning thunderstorms drenched Goldsboro, NC, with 3.37 inches of rain. Late morning thunderstorms in Arizona produced dime size hail, wind gusts to 50 mph, and two inches of rain, at Sierra Vista. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - A dozen cities in the central U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date, including Waco, TX, with a reading of 107 degrees. The record high of 88 degrees at Marquette, MI, was their twenty-third of the year. Afternoon and evening thunderstorms produced severe weather in Nebraska, Minnesota and Wisconsin, with wind gusts to 81 mph reported at McCool, NE. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Forty cities in the central U.S. reported record low temperatures for the date, including Valentine, NE, with a reading of 40 degrees, and Belcourt ND with a low of 37 degrees. Martin SD was the cold spot in the nation with a morning low of 30 degrees. Unseasonably hot weather prevailed over Florida and Washington State, with record highs of 100 degrees at Daytona Beach, FL, 101 degrees at Walla Walla, WA, and 103 degrees at Hanford, WA. (The National Weather Summary)



STRESS AND DISTRESS

A man hurrying to meet a deadline was caught in a traffic jam. As his anger grew and his patience diminished, he noticed a bumper sticker that read, "Go ahead and honk. It's your ulcer." It added to his rage, and he tried to strangle his steering wheel by squeezing it as tightly as he could. But, nothing happened as his rage grew, and he became more upset.

Stress invades all of our lives and quickly causes distress. Whether it is a problem we are having difficulty solving, a goal we can't achieve, or a decision that eludes us, we all face events that seem to be more than we can bear or beyond our capabilities. What then?

Peter said, "Give all your cares and concerns, worries and woes to God for He cares about what happens to you!" When we refuse to give our stressors and struggles to God, we reveal our lack of trust in His power and strength. Often this shows a lack of humility on our part because we are saying to Him: "I really don't need You - I can do this all by myself!" It takes real humility to admit to God that we need His help and the help of others who care for us and are concerned about us. We need to recognize our limitations and His greatness and willingness to do for us what we can't do for ourselves.

Prayer: Father, give us an understanding of our limits and limitations, and our need for Your help. When we come to the end of our abilities, may we be humble enough to call on You for Yours! In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you. 1 Peter 5:7

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

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, August 07, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 043 ~ 28 of 77

The Groton Independent Printed & Mailed Weekly Edition Subscription Form

All prices listed include 6.5% Sales Tax

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

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

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City _____

State, Zip Code _____

E-mail _____

Phone Number _____

Mail Completed Form to:

Groton Independent

P.O. Box 34

Groton, SD 57445-0034

or scan and email to paperpaul@grotonsd.net

Groton Daily Independent www.397news.com Subscription Form

This option will grant you access to the GDI/Video Archives.

- 1 Month \$15.98
- 3 Months \$26.63
- 6 Months \$31.95
- 9 Months \$42.60
- 12 Months \$53.25

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City _____

State, Zip Code _____

Phone Number _____

The following will be used for your log-in information.

E-mail _____

Password _____

Pay with Paypal. Type the following into your browser window:

paypal.me/paperpaul

Pay with Venmo: [@paperpaul](https://venmo.com/paperpaul) Phone Number to Confirm: 7460

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, August 07, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 043 ~ 29 of 77



WINNING NUMBERS

MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS:
08.06.24

23 29 36 61 70 22

MegaPlier: 4x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$398,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 2 Days 17 Hrs 45
Mins 40 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS:
08.05.24

13 21 29 33 38 2

All Star Bonus: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$6,440,000

NEXT DRAW: 17 Hrs 40 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS:
08.06.24

4 15 21 22 35 3

TOP PRIZE:

\$7,000/week

NEXT DRAW: 17 Hrs 15 Mins 40
Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS:
08.03.24

1 14 23 27 31

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$58,000

NEXT DRAW: 17 Hrs 15 Mins 40
Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS:
08.05.24

2 18 31 45 60 8

TOP PRIZE:
\$10,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 17 Hrs 44 Mins 39
Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS:
08.05.24

29 42 44 51 54 12

Power Play: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$185,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 17 Hrs 44 Mins 39
Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, August 07, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 043 ~ 30 of 77

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

Breece Hall and Braelon Allen highlight the Jets' 'Killer B's' backfield

By DENNIS WASZAK Jr. AP Pro Football Writer

FLORHAM PARK, N.J. (AP) — Breece Hall and Braelon Allen have already envisioned busting big plays together out of the New York Jets' backfield.

They've also created a simple, but catchy nickname.

"We were joking around calling ourselves 'The Killer B's' the other day," Hall said Tuesday with a big smile.

Opposing defenses won't be laughing if everything goes the way the Jets hope.

Hall is the Jets' undisputed lead running back who's coming off a terrific second NFL season during which he ran for 994 yards and five touchdowns and led all players at his position with 76 catches for 591 yards and four scores. He also recently guaranteed he "for sure" will run for more than 1,000 yards this season.

Allen was the Jets' fourth-round pick out of Wisconsin in April. And he doesn't just stand out on the field for wearing a big, white "0" on his jersey. While Hall is a speedy, shifty runner, the 6-foot-1, 235-pound Allen is a thumper who makes his presence known with physical runs.

"Braelon's just like his own beast," Hall said of his backfield mate, while also comparing him to Derrick Henry. "Like, he's really big, he's athletic, he can run."

The two could provide quarterback Aaron Rodgers and the Jets' offense with a dynamic duo out of the backfield with complementary playmaking skills.

"When I came in (to Wisconsin) as a freshman, I was a little bigger — around 235 or 238 (pounds), something like that — but I didn't necessarily see myself as a bruiser, as a powerful, super powerful running back," said Allen, who's the NFL's youngest player at 20 years old.

"You know, I kind of just was a little more slippery than what people would have expected from me," he added. "As I continue to grow and obviously, now at this level, the expectation from me is to be that bruiser and run with more power and low pads and just impose my will on people."

Allen, who ran for 3,494 yards and 35 touchdowns in three seasons with the Badgers, would appear to be the clear front-runner to be the primary backup to Hall — especially with his change-of-pace style.

But he's not the only rookie expected to make an immediate impact on the Jets' running game.

Isaiah Davis, a fifth-rounder out of South Dakota State, has also been having a productive training camp. He could also push Israel Abanikanda, a fifth-rounder last year, for time as the third running back. New York also has Xazavian Valladay, who was undrafted out of Arizona State last year and spent time with Houston, Pittsburgh and the Jets, on the roster.

"It's been cool to see how different we all are," Hall said. "But also we're all trying to reach the same common goal. So we're all challenging each other, pushing each other when we're doing our individual periods. We try to challenge each other to see who's going to have the best rep and who's going to do this the fastest, who's going to run the best route, just little stuff like that.

"And for them to actually be talking to me a lot and asking me a lot of questions — what I see, what I would do in certain situations — it's just been cool."

Hall has found it strange, though, that he's the veteran in the running back room, especially after Tarik Cohen told the Jets last week he's retiring. Hall is 23, while Valladay is 25, Davis is 22, Abanikanda is 21 and Allen is 20.

"What's crazy is Braelon is a young buck, but Isaiah is like the same age as me and everybody in the running backs room is pretty much like around my age," Hall said. "Coach (Tony) Dews is like, 'Breece, everybody looks up to you.' But I'm like, 'Half of them are older than me or my same age,' so it's like the funniest thing."

NOTES: LT Tyron Smith remained out of team drills while dealing with what coach Robert Saleh said is lower-body tightness. ... S Ashtyn Davis left practice after taking a shot to his ribs. Saleh had no immedi-

ate word on his status. ... WR/KR Xavier Gipson returned after missing several days with a leg injury. ... Tempers flared during a hot practice, with at least three skirmishes. Saleh called the team together after the third to remind them to be "responsible to one another." Added LB Quincy Williams: "We love that, but we also want to have controlled violence."

Thai court dissolves progressive Move Forward Party, which won election but failed to take power

BANGKOK (AP) — A court in Thailand on Wednesday ordered the dissolution of the progressive Move Forward Party, which finished first in last year's general election, saying it violated the constitution by proposing an amendment of a law against defaming the country's royal family.

The Constitutional Court said it voted unanimously to dissolve the party because its campaign to amend the law was considered an attempt to overthrow the nation's constitutional monarchy.

The Move Forward Party was unable to form a government after topping the polls because members of the Senate, at that time a conservative military-appointed body, declined to endorse its candidate for prime minister.

The Election Commission had filed a petition against the Move Forward Party after the Constitutional Court ruled in January that it must stop advocating changes to the law, known as Article 112, which protects the monarchy from criticism with penalties of up to 15 years in jail per offense.

The ruling also imposed a 10-year ban on political activity on those who held the party's executive positions while it campaigned for the proposed amendment. Among them are its charismatic former leader, Pita Limjaroenrat, and current chief Chaithawat Tulathon.

It remained unclear what will happen to the rest of its non-executive lawmakers, although Pita said in an interview with The Associated Press that the party will ensure they have a "smooth transition into a new house," or a new party.

Lawmakers of a dissolved political party can keep their seats in Parliament if they move to a new party within 60 days.

Move Forward and its reform agenda shook up Thai politics by winning the most seats in the 2023 elections even though afterward it was blocked from taking power. The latest legal action is one of many that have drawn widespread criticism and are seen as part of a yearslong attack on the country's progressive movement by conservative forces trying to keep their grip on power.

The party was denied power after the Senate refused to accept its then-leader Pita's nomination as prime minister. Senators, who were given power to veto prime ministerial candidates by the constitution adopted in 2017 under a military government, said they opposed Pita because of his intention to reform the royal defamation law. Move Forward was later removed from a coalition formed with the now-governing Pheu Thai party and became head of the opposition.

In its arguments submitted to the court, Move Forward said the Constitutional Court does not have jurisdiction to rule on the case and the petition filed by the Election Commission did not follow due process because Move Forward was not given an opportunity to defend itself before it was submitted to the court. The court said in its ruling that it has the authority to rule on the case, and that its previous ruling in January was enough of an evidence for the Election Commission to file the case without having to hear more evidence from the party.

Human rights organizations have expressed concern about the case. Amy Smith, executive director of the human rights group Fortify Rights, ahead of the ruling called the attempt to disband Move Forward "a direct attack on democratic principles" that "severely undermines Thailand's commitment to human rights."

The chairperson of the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Sen. Ben Cardin, sent a letter to Thai Foreign Minister Maris Sangiampongsa to express his concern. He said that dissolving a party that "secured a significant victory" in the 2023 elections would "disenfranchise millions of voters who called for progressive change and democratic reform."

Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin has maintained that the Thai justice system is fair and impartial, and

that the government cannot interfere with the judicial process.

Move Forward's predecessor, the Future Forward party, was dissolved by the Constitutional Court in 2020 on charges of violating election laws on donations to political parties.

Thailand's courts, especially the Constitutional Court, are considered a bulwark of the country's royalist establishment, which has used them and nominally independent state agencies such as the Election Commission to issue rulings to cripple or sink political opponents.

The dissolution of Future Forward, whose promises of reforms were particularly attractive for younger people disillusioned after years of military rule, further highlighted the struggle between the progressive movement and conservative forces in Thailand. It was one of the triggers for youth-led pro-democracy protests that sprang up across the country in 2020. The protests openly criticized the monarchy, an institution previously considered untouchable and a linchpin of Thai society.

The protests led to vigorous prosecutions under Article 112, which previously had been relatively rarely employed. Critics say the law is often wielded as a tool to quash political dissent.

Move Forward, formed as a new home for lawmakers from the dissolved Future Forward party, campaigned for an amendment of the article and other democratic reforms in the 2023 elections. It won first place in the balloting, a surprise victory indicating that many Thai voters were ready for change.

Move Forward has insisted that it wants to keep the monarchy above politics and not be exploited as a political tool.

Israel-Hamas war latest: Hamas chooses Oct. 7 mastermind Yahya Sinwar as their new leader

By The Associated Press undefined

The Palestinian militant group Hamas chose Yahya Sinwar, its top official in Gaza who masterminded the Oct. 7 attacks in Israel, as its new leader. The group's political leader Ismail Haniyeh was killed July 31 in Iran by a presumed Israeli strike.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken responded to the decision by saying Sinwar has the power to ensure that a cease-fire deal is reached for the Israel-Hamas war.

U.S. President Joe Biden spoke with Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi on Tuesday about their hopes of a cease-fire and hostage release deal calming tensions in the Middle East, which soared after the Iran-backed Lebanese militant group Hezbollah confirmed that Israel killed a top commander after a rare strike in Beirut, as well as Haniyeh's killing. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told his Cabinet over the weekend that Israel is already in a "multi-front war" with Iran and its proxies.

Inside Gaza, the only corridor for humanitarian aid to enter the south has been shut down because of fighting in the area. The Palestinian territory faces a severe humanitarian crisis as its Health Ministry says the death toll in the enclave is nearing 40,000.

Here's the latest:

US ambassador to Japan skips this year's atomic bomb memorial service in Nagasaki because Israel was not invited

TOKYO — United States Ambassador to Japan Rahm Emanuel will skip this year's atomic bombing memorial service in Nagasaki because Israel was not invited, the embassy said Wednesday.

Emanuel will not attend the event because it was "politicized" by Nagasaki's decision not to invite Israel, the embassy said. He will instead honor the victims of the atomic bomb dropped by the United States on Hiroshima on Aug. 9, 1945, at a ceremony at a Buddhist temple in Tokyo. Some 70,000 people were killed, and Japan surrendered soon after on Aug. 15, 1945, ending World War II and the country's nearly half-century of aggression in Asia.

Nagasaki Mayor Shiro Suzuki indicated in July his reluctance to invite Israel, and announced last week that it was not invited, noting concern for "possible unforeseen situations." Nagasaki hoped to conduct the ceremony "in a peaceful and solemn atmosphere," he said.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, August 07, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 043 ~ 34 of 77

In contrast, Hiroshima invited the Israeli ambassador to Japan to Tuesday's ceremony, among 50,000 attendants that also included Emanuel and other envoys, though Palestinian representatives were not invited. The United States dropped the first atomic bomb on Hiroshima on Aug. 6, 1945, killing 140,000 people and destroying the city.

Two US-led airstrikes hit Houthi-controlled territory, the Iran-backed rebels say

CAIRO — Yemen's Houthis say a United States-led coalition carried out two airstrikes late Tuesday in territory controlled by the Iran-backed rebels.

The region is bracing for a potential counterattack by Iran and its allies following the killing of top militants in Beirut and Tehran, in strikes attributed to Israel.

The Houthis' military media office said the strikes occurred in the Taiz province without providing further detail. There was no immediate comment from the U.S. military.

The Houthis have launched several long-range missile and drone attacks targeting Israel since the start of the war in Gaza and have attacked international shipping in the Red Sea, saying they are acting in solidarity with Palestinians. A U.S.-led coalition began launching airstrikes against the rebels in Yemen in January.

Israel has intercepted nearly all the projectiles fired from Yemen, but a rare direct hit on Tel Aviv in July killed one person and wounded 10. Israel responded with airstrikes on Yemen that the Houthi-run Health Ministry said killed six people and wounded more than 80.

The Houthis paused their attacks for around two weeks but launched a missile at a container ship over the weekend.

Israel issues new evacuation orders for an area in north Gaza

JERUSALEM — The Israeli military issued new evacuation orders Wednesday for an area in northern Gaza that was heavily bombed at the start of the war some 10 months ago.

The military said it would respond to a Hamas rocket attack from the Beit Hanoun area the day before and urged residents to relocate to Gaza City, large areas of which have been destroyed.

Beit Hanoun, which is close to the border, was one of the first targets of the massive bombardment and ground invasion launched after Hamas' Oct. 7 attack, which triggered the war.

Israeli forces have repeatedly returned to areas where past air and ground operations caused widespread destruction, as militants have regrouped. The vast majority of Gaza's 2.3 million people have been displaced within the narrow coastal strip since the start of the war — often multiple times. Hundreds of thousands are sheltering in crowded tent camps.

Hamas' new political leader has the power to ensure that a cease-fire deal is reached, Blinken says

WASHINGTON — U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said Yahya Sinwar, the mastermind of the Oct. 7 attack who is becoming Hamas' new political leader, has the power to ensure that a cease-fire deal is reached.

Sinwar "has been and remains the primary decider when it comes to concluding the cease-fire, and so I think this (today's announcement) only underscores the fact that it's really on him to decide whether to move forward with a cease-fire that manifestly will help so many Palestinians in desperate need, women, children, men who are caught in a crossfire," Blinken said. "It really is on him."

UK police prepare for another night of violence as country reels from disorder

By DANICA KIRKA Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — British police are gearing up for another night of violence amid concerns that far-right groups plan to target as many as 30 locations around the United Kingdom on Wednesday following a week of rioting and disorder.

Authorities are mobilizing about 6,000 specially trained officers to respond to disorder throughout the U.K., and London's Metropolitan Police Service said it would do "everything in our power" to protect the capital.

"We know about the events planned by hateful and divisive groups across the capital," Deputy Assistant Commissioner Andy Valentine of the Met said late Tuesday. "They've made their intention to cause disruption clear."

tion and division very clear ... We will not tolerate this on our streets.”

U.K. cities and towns across have been wracked by violence for the past week as angry mobs egged on by far-right extremists have clashed with police and counterdemonstrators sparked by the spread of misinformation about the identity of the suspect in a stabbing rampage that killed three young girls in the seaside community of Southport. The suspect was falsely identified as an immigrant and a Muslim.

Rioters spouting anti-immigrant slogans have attacked mosques and hotels housing asylum-seekers, with reports emerging of violent counterattacks in some communities.

Internet chat groups have shared a list of law firms specializing in immigration and advice agencies as possible targets for gatherings Wednesday. The messages have invited people to “mask up” if attending.

Prime Minister Keir Starmer held a second consecutive meeting of the government’s COBRA emergency response committee on Tuesday to coordinate the response to the crisis, which he has described as “far-right thuggery.”

Police have already made more than 400 arrests around the country, and the government has pledged to prosecute and jail those responsible for the disorder.

The government has also announced new measures to protect mosques.

London’s Mayor Sadiq Khan said in a post on X that the police, city hall and community leaders are working to protect targeted buildings and places of worship. Those involved in the disorder will feel the full force of the law, he said.

“I know the shocking scenes have left many Muslims and minority ethnic communities scared and fearful, so I ask my fellow Londoners to check on their friends and neighbors and show them that care and compassion is what Londoners are all about,” he said. “In London, we have zero-tolerance for racism, Islamophobia, antisemitism or any form of hate.”

Open water swimmers train in Seine River ahead of 10-kilometer Olympic marathon races

By PAUL NEWBERRY AP National Writer

PARIS (AP) — Olympic open water swimmers trained in the long-polluted Seine River on Wednesday after Paris organizers determined it was safe to dive in.

A two-hour training session was held on a cool, cloudy morning, providing the only chance for swimmers to familiarize themselves with the picturesque course through the middle of the French capital.

Dozens of swimmers — from 2016 Olympic champion Sharon van Rouwendaal to Ireland’s Daniel Wiffen, competing in open water for the first time — dove into the Seine one day before the women’s 10-kilometer marathon event. The men’s race is set for Friday.

Before diving in, several swimmers checked out the conditions from the famed Pont Alexandre III, adorned with golden statues and overlooking the starting buoy and finishing chute.

“I think if anyone’s saying they’re not concerned at all, they’re probably lying,” Austrian swimmer Felix Auboeck said. “I am concerned. I just hope and trust the organization in the sense that they let us in when it’s safe enough to do so. But, of course, you’re concerned because no one wants to get ill or sick.”

Then again, Auboeck can see the appeal of swimming in the Seine at the course that has the Eiffel Tower, the gold-domed Invalides, and other stunning Paris landmarks for a backdrop.

“It is super exciting that this is scenery where we are racing,” he said. “That’s probably like the best thing we can do for the sport.”

World Aquatics canceled a test run Tuesday because of concerns over fluctuating bacteria levels in the waterway. Despite massive efforts to clear the Seine, water quality has been a constant concern throughout the Games.

But officials expressed confidence that both races will be held without any issues, especially with a favorable forecast that calls for sunny skies in the afternoon and little chance of rain.

Open water swimmers do most of their training in the controlled conditions of a pool. While concerns

about bacteria levels in the Seine might have prompted some to skip the training session and limit their time in the river to the actual event, it appeared that a majority took advantage of the training session — especially to check out the strong current that has also raised concerns.

The current has been measured at 2-3 mph, a significant challenge when going upstream on the six-lap course.

“The current is just going to be another challenge,” Auboeck said. “It’s going to be very, very different to what we have seen before. I wish there would have been more practice races with a current like this. That would have been good.”

Triathlon events have already been held in the river, though the schedule was upended by the readings that are taken daily of the water quality.

Now, it’s time for open water, which at least has a backup plan in place if the Seine is determined to be unsafe. The races would be shifted to Vaires-sur-Marne Nautical Stadium, site of the rowing and canoeing events.

The triathlon mixed relay event was held Monday. World Triathlon released data Tuesday showing the levels of fecal bacteria *E. coli* and enterococci were within acceptable levels for the length of the triathlon relay course during those swims.

The marathon swims take place on longer portions of the river and will start and finish at the Pont Alexandre III. Marathon swimmers do six laps on the 1.67-kilometer (1 mile) course for a total of 10 kilometers (6.2 miles.)

Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo, who took a highly publicized swim in the Seine in July to allay fears about water quality ahead of the Olympics, expressed confidence in the preparations.

“There’s been a clear improvement of the weather these past few days,” she said. “So I’m really proud and happy and to all those who want to continue saying it’s impossible to depollute a river, I tell them, ‘Yes it’s possible, we did it.’”

With a few exceptions, swimming in the Seine has been prohibited since 1923 because the water has been too toxic.

Paris undertook an ambitious plan, including 1.4 billion euros (\$1.5 billion) in infrastructure improvements to ensure that some swimming events could be held in the river. 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.

Four triathletes — of the more than 100 who competed in the men’s and women’s individual races last week — became sick in the following days, though it’s unclear whether the water was to blame.

Most strains of *E. coli* and enterococci are harmless, and some live in the intestines of healthy people and animals. But others are dangerous and even a mouthful of contaminated water can cause infections in the urinary tract or intestines.

Hamas names Yahya Sinwar, mastermind of the Oct. 7 attacks, as its new leader in show of defiance

By BASSEM MROUE Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Hamas on Tuesday named Yahya Sinwar, its top official in Gaza who masterminded the Oct. 7 attacks in Israel, as its new leader in a dramatic sign of the power of the Palestinian militant group’s hardline wing after his predecessor was killed in a presumed Israeli strike in Iran.

The selection of Sinwar, a secretive figure close to Iran who worked for years to build up Hamas’ military strength, was a defiant signal that the group is prepared to keep fighting after 10 months of destruction from Israel’s campaign in Gaza and after the assassination of Sinwar’s predecessor, Ismail Haniyeh.

It is also likely to provoke Israel, which has put him at the top of its kill list after the Oct. 7 attack, in which militants killed 1,200 people in southern Israel and took about 250 as hostages.

The announcement comes at a volatile moment. Fears are high of an escalation into a wider regional war, with Iran vowing revenge against Israel over Haniyeh’s killing and Lebanon’s Hezbollah threatening

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, August 07, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 043 ~ 37 of 77

to retaliate over Israel's killing of one of its top commanders in an airstrike in Beirut last week. American, Egyptian and Qatari mediators are trying to salvage negotiations over a cease-fire and hostage release deal in Gaza, shaken by Haniyeh's killing.

Hamas said in a statement it named Sinwar as the new head of its political bureau to replace Haniyeh, who was killed in a blast that Iran and Hamas blamed on Israel. Israel has not confirmed or denied responsibility. Also last week, Israel said it had confirmed the death of the head of Hamas' military wing, Mohammed Deif, in a July airstrike in Gaza. Hamas has not confirmed his death.

In reaction to the appointment, Israeli military spokesman Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari told Saudi-owned Al-Arabiya television, "There is only one place for Yahya Sinwar, and it is beside Mohammed Deif and the rest of the October 7th terrorists. That is the only place we're preparing and intending for him."

Israel's killings of multiple senior officials in Hamas over recent months left Sinwar as the most prominent figure in the group. His selection signals that the leadership on the ground in Gaza — particularly the armed wing known as the Qassam Brigades — has taken over from the leadership in exile, which has traditionally maintained the position of the overall leadership to navigate relations with foreign allies and diplomacy.

Haniyeh, who had lived in self-imposed exile in Qatar since 2019, had played a direct role in negotiations over a cease-fire in Gaza through U.S., Qatari and Egyptian negotiators — though he and other Hamas officials always ran proposals and positions by Sinwar.

Speaking to Al-Jazeera television after the announcement, Hamas spokesman Osama Hamdan said Sinwar would continue the cease-fire negotiations.

"The problem in negotiations is not the change in Hamas," he said, blaming Israel and its ally the United States for the failure to seal a deal.

But he said Sinwar's selection was a sign the group's will had not been broken. Hamas "remains steadfast in the battlefield and in politics," he said. "The person leading today is the one who led the fighting for more than 305 days and is still steadfast in the field."

Hamas' allies Iran and Hezbollah issued statements praising Sinwar's appointment.

Hamas' representative in Iran, Khaled Kaddoumi, called Sinwar a "consensus choice" popular among all factions and involved in the group's decision-making throughout, including in negotiations. In a voice message to the AP, he said Sinwar knows the political aspirations of the Palestinians for a state and the return of refugees but he is also a "fierce fighter on the battlefield."

Mediators have been struggling to push through a U.S.-backed outline for a deal, but talks have hit obstacles, particularly over its centerpiece terms — a release of all of Hamas' remaining hostages in return for an end to the war and a full withdrawal of Israeli troops from Gaza.

Hamas has demanded guarantees from mediators that an initial cease-fire will continue until terms for that exchange are worked out. Israeli leaders have threatened to resume fighting to eliminate Hamas after an initial partial hostage release.

In Washington, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said Sinwar "has been and remains the primary decider when it comes to concluding the cease-fire."

He said Sinwar must "decide whether to move forward with a cease-fire that manifestly will help so many Palestinians in desperate need, women, children, men who are caught in a crossfire ... It really is on him."

As Hamas' leader inside Gaza since 2017, Sinwar rarely appeared in public but kept an iron grip on Hamas' rule over the territory. Close to Deif and Qassam Brigades, he worked to build up the group's military capabilities.

In one of his few appearances, Sinwar ended a public speech in Gaza by inviting Israel to assassinate him, proclaiming, "I will walk back home after this meeting." He then did so, shaking hands and taking selfies with people in the streets.

He has been in deep hiding since the Oct. 7 attacks, which triggered Israel's campaign of bombardment and offensives aimed at destroying Hamas. The death toll among Palestinians is now nearing 40,000, most of the population of 2.3 million has been driven from their homes, and large swaths of Gaza's towns and cities have been destroyed. In May, prosecutors at the International Criminal Court sought an arrest

warrant against Sinwar on charges of war crimes over the Oct. 7 attack, as well as against Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Israel's defense minister for war crimes.

Hugh Lovatt, an expert on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict at the European Council on Foreign Relations, said the elimination of other top figures cleared the way for Sinwar. "Two weeks ago, few would have expected Sinwar to be the group's next leader despite the strong influence he exerts from Gaza," he said.

The killing of Haniyeh, a relative moderate, "not only opened the path for Sinwar to claim full control of Hamas, but also appears to have tipped the group into a more hardline direction," he said.

Pakistani man with ties to Iran is charged in plot to carry out political assassinations on US soil

By ERIC TUCKER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Pakistani man alleged to have ties to Iran has been charged in a plot to carry out political assassinations on U.S. soil, including potentially of former President Donald Trump.

The case disclosed by the Justice Department on Tuesday comes two years after officials disrupted a separate scheme that they said was aimed at former Trump administration national security adviser John Bolton.

Asif Merchant traveled to New York in June for the purpose of meeting with men he thought he was recruiting to carry out the killings, even paying a \$5,000 advance to two would-be assassins who were actually undercover law enforcement officers, federal officials said. He was arrested in July as he prepared to leave the United States, after having told the men that he would provide further instructions, including the names of the intended targets, in August or September after he returned to Pakistan.

Court documents do not identify any of the potential targets. But U.S. officials acknowledged in July that a threat on Donald Trump's life from Iran prompted additional security in the days before a Pennsylvania rally in which Trump was injured by a shooter's bullet. That July 13 shooting, carried out by a 20-year-old Pennsylvania man, was unrelated to the Iran threat and Merchant's arrest has no connection to the Trump assassination attempt, a law enforcement official said.

But an FBI agent's affidavit suggests Merchant had current or former high-level officials like Trump in mind. He told an associate who was secretly cooperating with law enforcement that he wanted a "political person" to be killed, the complaint said, mapping out on a napkin the different scenarios in which the target could be assassinated and warning that there would be security "all around."

U.S. officials have warned for years about Iran's desire to avenge the 2020 killing of Qassem Soleimani, who led the Iranian Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps' Quds Force. That strike was ordered by Trump when he was president. The U.S. government has since paid for security for multiple Trump administration officials, and in 2022, the Justice Department charged an Iranian operative in a foiled plot to kill Bolton.

FBI Director Christopher Wray said at a July House hearing that the Iranian government had been "extremely aggressive and brazen" in recent years, and Attorney General Merrick Garland said Tuesday that "we expect that these threats will continue and that these cases will not be the last.

"The Justice Department will spare no resource to disrupt and hold accountable those who would carry out Iran's lethal plotting against Americans," he said.

White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre told reporters Tuesday during an afternoon press briefing that the U.S. had been "tracking Iranian threats against former politicians."

"We consider this a national and homeland security matter of the highest priority. We have repeatedly met at the highest levels of our government to develop and implement a comprehensive response," she said.

Federal officials identified Merchant, 46, as a Pakistani citizen who has said he has a wife and children in Iran and who traveled frequently to Iran, Syria and Iraq. A lawyer for Merchant declined to comment Tuesday when reached by The Associated Press.

After Merchant's arrest, Justice Department prosecutors urged a judge to keep him locked up, writing in a detention memo that before flying from Pakistan to the U.S., he spent approximately two weeks in Iran. "Given the seriousness of the murder for hire charges, the defendant has every incentive to flee to

either Pakistan or Iran, significantly reducing the likelihood of his appearance in this case should he flee.” He was ordered detained following a court appearance.

In Pakistan, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said she saw media reports about the arrest.

“We are in touch with the U.S. authorities and await further details,” her statement read. “We have also noted the statements by U.S. officials that this is an ongoing investigation. Before giving our formal reaction, we also need to be sure of the antecedents of the individual in question.”

Court documents trace the foiled plot to April, when Merchant flew to the U.S. to recruit participants in the scheme. He contacted a person he thought would help him but who instead alerted law enforcement. That person became a confidential source for investigators, including by introducing Merchant to the purported hitmen, officials said.

After meeting the two undercover officers posing as hitmen, the affidavit says, Merchant told them the work would be long-term. He instructed them that in addition to the killings, he would expect them to arrange protests at political rallies, steal documents and launder money for him. He told them he would return to Pakistan before giving them additional instructions.

Officials say Merchant paid a \$5,000 advance for the planned killings.

“Now we know we’re going forward. We’re doing this,” one of the purported hitmen said, according to the affidavit.

“Yes, absolutely,” Merchant replied.

Merchant was arrested July 12, the same day he planned to leave the U.S. Prosecutors say a search of his wallet found a handwritten note that included code words he had used to communicate with the individuals he thought were hitmen.

Wesley Bell defeats ‘Squad’ member Cori Bush. A pro-Israel group spent \$8.5 million to help oust her

By JIM SALTER Associated Press

ST. LOUIS (AP) — St. Louis County Prosecuting Attorney Wesley Bell has defeated U.S. Rep. Cori Bush in a Democratic primary in St. Louis, marking the second time this year that one of the party’s incumbents has been ousted in an expensive contest that reflected deep divisions over the war in Gaza.

Bush, a member of the progressive congressional group known as the “Squad,” was seeking a third term in Missouri’s 1st Congressional District, which includes St. Louis city and part of St. Louis County. Bell is heavily favored to carry this overwhelmingly Democratic district in November, when his party is aiming to retake control of the U.S. House.

“I am committed to serving the St. Louis region in Congress with integrity, transparency, and dedication,” Bell said in a statement. “Together, we will tackle the challenges ahead and build a community where everyone has the opportunity to thrive.”

Bush, in a fiery concession speech, said she still has work to do, even if she’ll no longer be in Congress.

“At the end of the day, whether I’m a congresswoman or not, I’m still taking care of my people,” Bush said.

Bell’s campaign received a big boost from the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, whose super political action committee, United Democracy Project, spent \$8.5 million to oust Bush. She was targeted after repeated criticism of Israel’s response to the Oct. 7 Hamas attack.

It was a gameplan that worked earlier this year in New York. In June, United Democracy Project spent \$15 million to defeat another Squad member — U.S. Rep. Jamaal Bowman. Bowman lost to George Latimer, a pro-Israel centrist.

A statement from United Democracy Project said the wins by Bell and Latimer, along with John McGuire’s defeat of U.S. Rep. Bob Good in a Republican primary last week in Virginia, “is further proof that being pro-Israel is good policy and good politics on both sides of the aisle. UDP will continue our efforts to support leaders working to strengthen the U.S.-Israel alliance while countering detractors in either political party.”

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, August 07, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 043 ~ 40 of 77

Bush, in her concession speech, said she won't change.

"We will keep supporting a free Palestine," Bush said. A crowd member answered back: "Free, free Palestine."

In October, Bush called the Israeli retaliation an "ethnic cleansing campaign." Soon after the Hamas attack, Bush wrote on social media that Israel's "collective punishment against Palestinians for Hamas's actions is a war crime."

Her comments prompted backlash, even among some supporters in her district. Bell, who had been planning a Senate run against incumbent Republican Josh Hawley, instead opted to challenge Bush. He told The Associated Press last month that Bush's comments about Israel were "wrong and offensive."

Bush responded by saying that the donors behind AIPAC support former President Donald Trump and other Republicans.

"This is only the beginning," Bush told the AP. "Because if they can unseat me, then they're going to continue to come after more Democrats."

Bush and Bell both honed their leadership skills in Ferguson, Missouri, in the unrest that followed Michael Brown's death at the hands of a police officer in 2014. Friday marks the 10th anniversary of Brown's death.

Brown, a Black 18-year-old, was walking with a friend on Aug. 9, 2014, when a white officer, Darren Wilson, confronted them. Wilson said he fired in self-defense because Brown was so enraged. Some witnesses said Brown, who was unarmed, had his hands up in surrender. Wilson was cleared of wrongdoing and resigned, and Brown's death led to months of protests.

Bush, 48, became a protest leader. She was outspoken and critical of how police in Ferguson and other parts of the St. Louis region treated Black people. Her activism prompted an unsuccessful run against longtime incumbent 1st District Democrat William Lacy Clay in 2018, before she defeated him in 2020. She easily won reelection in 2022.

Bell, 49, began hosting conversations about community policing after Brown's death. The lawyer, who previously served as a municipal prosecutor and judge, ran successfully for a seat on the Ferguson City Council before defeating seven-term incumbent St. Louis County Prosecuting Attorney Bob McCulloch in the August 2018 Democratic primary.

As prosecutor, Bell reopened an examination into Brown's death. He announced in July 2020 that while the investigation didn't exonerate Wilson, there wasn't enough evidence to charge him.

"My heart breaks" for Brown's parents, Bell said at the time. "I know this is not the result they were looking for and that their pain will continue forever."

Brown's father, Michael Brown Sr., was featured in an ad for Bush.

"He used my family for power," Brown says of Bell in the ad. "And now he's trying to sell out St. Louis."

Bush's campaign focused on what she's accomplished for St. Louis. She said her efforts have brought \$2 billion to the 1st District and that it was her protest on the steps of the Capitol in 2021 that helped extend the federal eviction moratorium as part of the COVID-19 pandemic, aiding thousands of St. Louisans.

Bell touted his own progressive credentials. He noted that as a prosecutor he has said he will not prosecute any abortion cases in a state that bans the procedure in most instances. He created diversion programs to point people with mental health and substance abuse problems toward treatment instead of jail. And his office has expanded efforts to examine potential cases of wrongful convictions.

In Missouri's 3rd District, which stretches from the western outskirts of the St. Louis region through central Missouri, the candidate with Trump's endorsement won. Bob Onder, a physician and also a former state senator, defeated former state Sen. Kurt Schaefer.

Trump wrote on Truth Social last month that Onder was "an incredible America First Patriot." The former president wrote that Schaefer "is WEAK ON MAGA," adding, "That's all you have to know!"

The 3rd District is heavily Republican, and Onder will be favored against Democrat Bethany Mann, a political newcomer, in November. ____

This story has been updated to correct that Onder won in Missouri's 3rd District, not Schaefer

How Lahaina's more than 150-year-old banyan tree is coming back to life after devastating fire

By CLAIRE RUSH and JENNIFER SINCO KELLEHER Associated Press

LAHAINA, Hawaii (AP) — When a deadly wildfire tore through Lahaina on Maui last August, the wall of flames scorched the 151-year-old banyan tree along the historic town's Front Street. But the sprawling tree survived the blaze, and thanks to the efforts of arborists and dedicated volunteers, parts of it are growing back — and even thriving.

One year after the fire, here's what to know about the banyan tree and the efforts to restore it.

Why is Lahaina's banyan tree significant?

The banyan tree is the oldest living one on Maui but is not a species indigenous to the Hawaiian Islands. India shipped the tree as a gift to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the arrival of the first Protestant missionaries to live in Lahaina. It was planted in 1873, a quarter century before the Hawaiian Islands became a U.S. territory and seven decades after King Kamehameha declared Lahaina the capital of his kingdom.

The tree is widely beloved and fondly remembered by millions of tourists who have visited Maui over the years. But for many others it is a symbol of colonial rule that has dispossessed Native Hawaiians of their land and suppressed their language and culture.

For generations, the banyan tree served as a gathering place along Lahaina's waterfront. By many accounts, it was the heart of the oceanside community — towering more than 60 feet (18 meters) high and anchored by multiple trunks that span nearly an acre.

The enormous tree has leafy branches that unfurl majestically and offer shade from the sun. Aerial roots dangle from its boughs and eventually latch onto the soil to become new trunks. Branches splay out widely, and have become roosting places for choirs of birds.

What happened to it during the fire?

The 2023 fire charred the tree and blackened many of its leaves. But it wasn't the flames so much as the intense heat that was generated that dried out much of the tree, according to Duane Sparkman, chair of the Maui County Arborist Committee. As a result of this loss of moisture, about half of the tree's branches died, he said.

"Once that section of the tree desiccated, there was no coming back," he said.

But other parts of the tree are now growing back healthy.

How was it saved?

Those working to restore the tree removed the dead branches so that the tree's energy would go toward the branches that were alive, Sparkman said.

To monitor that energy, 14 sensors were screwed into the tree to track the flows of cambium, or sap, through its branches.

"It's basically a heart monitor," Sparkman said. "As we've been treating the tree, the heart beat's getting stronger and stronger and stronger."

Sparkman said there are also plans to install vertical tubes to help the tree's aerial roots, which appear to be vertical branches that grow down toward the ground. The tubes will contain compost so as to provide the branches with key nutrients when they take root in the soil.

A planned irrigation system will also feed small drops of water into the tubes. The goal, Sparkman said, is to help those aerial roots "bulk up and become the next stabilizer root." The system will also irrigate the surrounding land and the tree's canopy.

"You see a lot of long, long branches with hundreds of leaves back on the tree," Sparkman said, adding that some branches are even producing fruit. "It's pretty amazing to see that much of the tree come back."

What other trees were destroyed in the fire?

Sparkman estimates that Lahaina lost some 25,000 trees in the fire.

These included the fruit trees that people grew in their yards as well as trees that are significant in Hawaiian culture, such as the ulu or breadfruit tree; the fire charred all but two of the dozen or so that remained.

Since the blaze, a band of arborists, farmers and landscapers — including Sparkman — has set about trying to save the ulu and other culturally important trees. Before colonialism, commercial agriculture and tourism, thousands of breadfruit trees dotted Lahaina.

To help restore Lahaina's trees, Sparkman founded a nonprofit called Treecovery. The group has potted some 3,500 trees, he said, growing them in "micro-nurseries" across the island, including at some hotels, until people can move back into their homes.

"We have grow hubs all over the island of Maui to grow these trees out for as long as they need. So when the people are ready, we can have them come pick these trees up and they can plant them in their yards," he said. "It's important that we do this for the families."

Tropical Storm Debby swirls over Atlantic, expected to again douse the Carolinas before moving north

By RUSS BYNUM, JEFFREY COLLINS and JOHN MINCHILLO Associated Press

CHARLESTON, S.C. (AP) — Tropical Storm Debby is taking a breather over the western Atlantic ocean but it isn't done dousing the coastal Carolinas before it slowly marches north.

Debby was expected to turn north late Wednesday toward the South Carolina coastline for a second landfall, weather officials said Tuesday night. The storm carried the threat not only of additional rainfall but also of tornadoes in coastal sections of the Carolinas spreading north into southeast Virginia on Thursday.

The slow moving storm drenched coastal cities in Georgia and South Carolina late Monday into Tuesday, stirring up tornadoes and submerging streets with waist-high floodwaters. The storm has dropped more than a foot of rain (30 centimeters) in some places already and could dump staggering rain totals of up to 25 inches (64 centimeters) in places by the time it ends.

Charleston and Savannah, Georgia, were deluged into Tuesday, with curfews set and roads blocked by police. Dozens of roads were closed in the city of Charleston because of flooding similar to what it sees several times a year because of rising sea levels.

As Debby swirls just offshore, the heavy rain is expected to move into parts of South and North Carolina that have already seen two billion-dollar floods in eight years.

In one Savannah neighborhood, firefighters used boats to evacuate some residents and waded through floodwaters to deliver bottled water and other supplies to those who refused to leave.

Michael Jones said water gushed into his home Monday evening, overturning the refrigerator and causing furniture to float. Outside, the water seemed to be everywhere and was too deep to flee safely. So Jones spent a sleepless night on his kitchen table before firefighters going door to door came in a boat Tuesday morning.

"It was hell all night," Jones said.

In Charleston, Mayor William Cogswell said the road closures have kept businesses and homes from unnecessary damage and avoided the need for any high-water rescues.

"We especially don't need any yahoos driving through the water and causing damage to properties," Cogswell said.

Up to 15 inches (38 centimeters) of rain was expected in some places in the Carolinas, totals that are close to what the region saw in a historic flood from Hurricane Matthew in 2016. Two years later, many of those records were broken during Hurricane Florence. Both storms killed dozens.

North Carolina and Virginia have both declared a state of emergency.

"The effects of Debby are far-reaching, and our neighboring states are facing significant challenges," Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin said.

Several areas along North Carolina's coastline are prone to flooding, such as Wilmington and the Outer Banks. Virginia could see impacts including strong winds, heavy rains and flooding.

Debby's center was more than 30 miles (50 kilometers) southeast of Savannah on Tuesday night, according to a bulletin from the National Hurricane Center. It had maximum sustained winds of 40 mph (65 kph) and was heading east at 5 mph (8 kph).

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, August 07, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 043 ~ 43 of 77

"Tropical cyclones always produce heavy rain, but normally as they're moving, you know, it doesn't accumulate that much in one place," said Richard Pasch, of the hurricane center. "But when they move very slowly, that's the worst situation."

There will be lulls in the rain as dry spells appear between bands around the center of the poorly organized storm, forecasters said. But some bands will be heavy and keep moving over the same places.

Green Pond in rural Colleton County, South Carolina, reported the most rain so far, just over 14 inches (36 centimeters). A nearby dam had water run over its top but did not crumble, while trees and washouts blocked a number of roads, county Fire-Rescue Assistant Chief David Greene said.

Close to a foot (30 centimeters) fell down-coast from Charleston to Savannah, where the National Weather Service reported 6.68 inches (17 centimeters) just on Monday. That's already a month's worth in a single day: In all of August 2023, the city got 5.56 inches (14.1 centimeters).

Tornadoes knocked down trees and damaged a few homes on Kiawah Island and Edisto Island.

Crooked Hammock Brewery in North Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, decided to close early Tuesday.

"Flash flooding is super unpredictable, and we'd rather our staff and guests be home and safe," marketing coordinator Georgena Dimitriadis said.

Far to the north in New York City, heavy storms that meteorologists said were being enhanced by Debby flooded some streets and expressways, stranding motorists. The National Weather Service issued a flood watch until noon Wednesday for the entire city.

Emergency officials warned of potential flash flooding, flying drones with loudspeakers in some New York City neighborhoods to tell people in basement apartments to be ready to flee at a moment's notice.

Debby made landfall as a Category 1 hurricane early Monday along the Gulf Coast of Florida.

At least six people have died due to the storm, five of them in traffic accidents or from fallen trees. The sixth death involved a 48-year-old man in Gulfport, Florida, whose body was recovered after his anchored sailboat partially sank, WTSP-TV reported.

About 500 people were rescued Monday from flooded homes in Sarasota, Florida, police said. Just north of Sarasota, Manatee County officials said more than 200 people were rescued.

Officials said it may take two weeks to fully assess the damage in parts of north-central Florida as they wait for rivers to crest.

"You're going to see the tributaries rise. That's just inevitable. How much? We'll see," Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis said Tuesday. "It may be that it's not flooded today and it could be flooded tomorrow."

Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp also warned of more rain and flooding to come, saying, "Do not let this storm lull you to sleep."

President Joe Biden approved emergency declarations making federal disaster assistance available to Florida, Georgia and South Carolina.

Debby is finally forecast to pick up speed Thursday, and it could move up the middle of North Carolina, through Virginia and into the Washington area by Saturday.

Harris' pick of Walz amps up excitement in Midwestern states where Democrats look to heal divisions

By JOEY CAPPELLETTI Associated Press

LANSING, Mich. (AP) — Vice President Kamala Harris and Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz will spend their first full day as running mates on Wednesday rallying Democrats across the Midwest, a politically divided region that is crucial to their effort to win the White House in less than three months.

The trip, which begins in Wisconsin before shifting to Michigan, is aimed at shoring up support among the younger, diverse, labor-friendly voters who were instrumental in helping President Joe Biden win the 2020 election. But that coalition showed signs of fraying over the summer, particularly in Michigan, which has emerged as a focal point of Democratic divisions over Biden's handling of the Israel-Hamas conflict.

With Biden now out of the race and Harris officially the Democratic nominee, leaders of the Arab Ameri-

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, August 07, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 043 ~ 44 of 77

can community and key unions say they are encouraged by the choice. Walz's addition to the ticket has soothed some tensions, signaling to some community leaders that Harris heard concerns about another leading contender for the vice presidential slot, Gov. Josh Shapiro of Pennsylvania, who they felt had gone too far in his support for Israel.

"The party is recognizing that there's a coalition they have to rebuild," said Abdullah Hammoud, the mayor of Dearborn, Michigan. "Picking Walz is another sign of good faith."

Wisconsin Sen. Tammy Baldwin, a Democrat seeking a third term, appeared with Harris at a campaign stop there last month in suburban Milwaukee, and said in a fundraising email Tuesday morning that she was "thrilled to see a fellow Midwesterner at the top of the ticket."

Donald Trump had put a similar emphasis on appealing to voters in Midwestern states with his choice of Ohio Sen. JD Vance as his vice presidential pick. Vance will again bracket the Harris-Walz ticket with appearances in the same states on Wednesday. He is starting his day in Michigan before heading to Eau Claire, Wisconsin, the same city where the Democratic candidates will appear hours later before going to Michigan.

In Michigan, leaders say Democratic enthusiasm has surged since Harris announced her candidacy.

That could be pivotal in Detroit, which is nearly 80% Black, where leaders for months had warned administration officials that voter apathy could cost them in a city that's typically a stronghold for their party. Rev. Wendell Anthony, president of the NAACP Detroit branch, said the excitement in the city now is "mind-blowing." He likened it to Barack Obama's first run for president in 2008, when voters waited in long lines to help elect the nation's first Black president.

But some Democratic leaders in Michigan had grown concerned that choosing the wrong running mate could slow that momentum and fracture a coalition that has only recently started to unify.

Arab American leaders, who hold an outsized influence in Michigan due to a large presence in metro Detroit, had been vocal in their opposition to Shapiro due to his past comments regarding the Israel-Hamas conflict.

Arab American leaders specifically pointed to a comment he made earlier this year regarding protests on university campuses, which they felt unfairly compared the actions of student protesters to those of white supremacists. Shapiro, who is Jewish, has criticized Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu while remaining a staunch supporter of Israel.

"It's certainly not antisemitic to critique somebody's position on Israeli policy," Hammoud said. "That's just called stewardship and accountability."

In addition to expressing those concerns publicly, leaders had also made their feelings known privately to the White House and Harris' team.

Osama Siblani, the publisher of the Dearborn-based Arab American News and a prominent leader in Michigan's large Muslim community, was among those who met with White House adviser Tom Perez in Michigan last week. Although Perez was in the state on official business, he has maintained contact with some Dearborn leaders since he and other top officials traveled there with Biden in an effort to mend ties with the community.

Siblani said he met with Perez for over an hour on July 29 and told him that if Harris chose Shapiro, it would "shut down" future conversations. He also conveyed this message to Democratic lawmakers in Congress, including Michigan Rep. Debbie Dingell.

Pushback from Arab Americans and union leaders was "not the only reason why she did not pick Shapiro, but it is one of the major reasons," said Siblani.

"Not picking Shapiro is a very good step. It cracks the door open a little more for us," said Siblani, who along with Hammoud emphasized that any meaningful conversations must include policy discussions.

Michigan state Sen. Jeremy Moss, who is Jewish, was excited by the prospect of having Shapiro as a vice presidential candidate but was "disturbed" by the criticism he received, believing that many of the vetted candidates had similar views on Israel. He said he didn't believe the criticism played a role in Harris' decision and that "she's choosing somebody based on this long game of who she can work with for

four to eight years.”

Still, Moss said he is glad the Harris-Walz ticket is not divisive and that the feeling of unity among Democrats is “palpable on the ground.”

The nation’s largest auto workers’ union, the United Auto Workers, also watched the vice presidential choice carefully.

They moved to endorse Harris quickly after she stepped in to replace Biden, and UAW President Shawn Fain said publicly that she had a right to choose her own running mate. But he also said the union, which has 370,000 members and a huge presence in Michigan and other Midwestern states, didn’t favor Shapiro, who had previously joined with Pennsylvania Republicans in calling for an expansion of voucher programs that allow public tax dollars to flow to private schools.

Fain had singled out Walz — in addition to other candidates — for praise in an interview with The Associated Press on Aug. 2, saying the Minnesota governor was a “brilliant guy, sharp guy.” In a statement Tuesday, Fain said Walz will make a “great vice president” and that he has “stood with the working class every step of the way.”

Dingell, a Democrat with deep connections in Dearborn who has brokered some of the conversations between Biden administration officials and leaders of core constituencies in Michigan, echoed those sentiments Tuesday. She said the choice of Walz would only ramp up excitement at Wednesday’s rally in Detroit.

“We got somebody from the Midwest, from the heartland, that really understands our issues,” said Dingell. “And he will be a partner to her. She won’t have to look over her shoulder every two minutes. He will be a total, true partner.”

Picking a running mate: Inside the 16 days between Kamala Harris’ launch and her choice of Tim Walz

By SEUNG MIN KIM, BILL BARROW and ZEKE MILLER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Kamala Harris’ whirlwind process to select Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz as her running mate can be summed up in a word: weird.

With President Joe Biden and Harris, his vice president, seeking a second term together, Democrats weren’t supposed to have a veep search at all. But as soon as Biden bowed out and endorsed Harris on July 21, the vice president and her team had no choice but to move quickly — and they did.

Harris tapped former Attorney General Eric Holder, a veteran of the Obama administration whom the vice president knows well, and Dana Remus, a former Biden White House counsel, to lead the closely held vetting process. A bevy of potential contenders, meanwhile, operated on a parallel and much more public track. It was a process that highlighted Democrats’ ample national bench and the fragile unity that has defined the early days of Harris’ White House bid against Republican nominee and former President Donald Trump.

What follows is an account based on interviews with aides and confidants to Harris and several running mate contenders. Most were granted anonymity to discuss private conversations and deliberations.

Conventional wisdom suggested that Harris needed a white man, given she is the barrier-breaking vice president who would be the first woman, second Black person and first person of South Asian descent to reach the Oval Office. Harris confidants said she would consider pragmatic electoral considerations and her personal comfort level with a potential governing partner.

Speculation settled quickly on a trio of governors: Andy Beshear of Kentucky, Roy Cooper of North Carolina and Josh Shapiro of Pennsylvania. Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker got attention. And Washington contenders included Sen. Mark Kelly of Arizona and Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg.

Shapiro was touted as the popular governor in a critical battleground state with 19 electoral votes. Kelly is a popular senator in a border state who has credibility on immigration to go with his impressive military record and time as an astronaut. Cooper, who quietly bowed out before being formally vetted, was twice elected governor in a state Trump won twice and before that was a state attorney general alongside Harris, who held the same post in California.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, August 07, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 043 ~ 46 of 77

The vetting team ultimately examined nine contenders closely, including Walz. But he started largely as an afterthought.

Still, earlier this year and with little fanfare, Harris had traveled to Minnesota and gone to a Planned Parenthood clinic with Walz, a former House member. According to people familiar with her thinking, she recalled a connection and identifying shared values with the governor.

Then, on July 23, two days after Biden ended his campaign, Walz went on MSNBC's "Morning Joe" and with his characteristic informal style leveled a dig at Trump and his running mate, Ohio Sen. JD Vance, that went viral.

"These guys are just weird," Walz said.

Still, at that point, Shapiro and Kelly had emerged publicly and privately as front-runners.

As Holder and Remus continued their work a week into Harris' campaign, contenders began making the rounds on cable news and on the campaign trail.

On July 28, Beshear traveled to Georgia, the state that produced the closest result in the 2020 campaign between Trump and Biden. He sharpened his attacks on Vance, and touted his successes in a conservative state. The next day it was Shapiro's turn to brag on Harris — and himself.

About the same time, Democratic factions starting rumbling with criticisms of various hopefuls.

Shapiro drew rebukes from some of the same progressives who have protested over the Biden administration's support of Israel in its war against Hamas in Gaza. Shapiro, who is Jewish, has actually been harshly critical of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu but remains supportive of the Israeli government. Some labor leaders expressed skepticism over Shapiro and Kelly. Pennsylvania Sen. John Fetterman, an in-state rival of Shapiro's, passed a message to the Harris team expressing concerns that Shapiro was a political opportunist and not necessarily cut out to be a second-in-command.

Harris, meanwhile, was in Atlanta on July 30 for a rally in which she wielded Walz's "weird" dig to the delight of almost 10,000 boisterous supporters. By then, Walz was recognized as the message-maker and touted as a legitimate contender. His status was bolstered, perhaps, by Cooper confirming that he, days earlier, told the vetting team he declined to be considered.

That meant that Harris would have no top contenders left with whom she had worked closely — giving everyone else an opening.

Holder and Remus concluded their initial round of vetting on last Thursday, two days after Harris' Georgia rally.

On Friday, a panel of Harris advisers and confidants conducted interviews with several contenders before making recommendations to the vice president. A larger team, which included Holder, Remus and campaign chair Jen O'Malley Dillon, made its presentation to Harris on Saturday at the vice president's residence in Washington.

Separately, campaign aides worked feverishly on rollout plans for all the remaining options — new logos, social media plans and individually tailored speeches.

On Sunday, Harris interviewed Shapiro, Kelly and Walz at the Naval Observatory. According to people familiar with the conversations, her 90 minutes with Walz stood out. Harris had also been impressed with Walz's record as a House member and governor, and his biography before politics: Army National Guard noncommissioned officer, public school teacher, high school football coach. The two politicians gelled.

For Shapiro's part, he told Harris' team after his interview that he felt he had more to do leading the commonwealth but said he was committed to supporting her and the ticket.

The interviews and conversations with her team had Harris leaning firmly in Walz's direction but she wanted to sleep on it. Ultimately, she felt the same Tuesday morning. And later Tuesday, she was ready to make phone calls, including to Shapiro and Kelly to share her decision.

"I think Walz just emerged as that person who she grew to trust and admire," said Bakari Sellers, who co-chaired Harris' 2020 Democratic primary bid. "She actually is a vice president and knows what is required of her job, and she wanted someone to support her."

It turns out Walz was not quite ready. The first time Harris dialed his number, he ignored what showed up as a restricted number. She dialed again, and he answered.

"Listen, I want you to do this with me," Harris said. "Let's do this together. Would you be my running mate and let's get this thing on the road."

Extreme heat is impacting most Americans' electricity bills, AP-NORC poll finds

By ISABELLA O'MALLEY and LINLEY SANDERS Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — During the summer, Levena Lindahl closes off entire rooms, covers windows with blackout curtains and budgets to manage the monthly cost of electricity for air conditioning. But even then, the heat finds its way in.

"Going upstairs, it's like walking into soup. It is so hot," Lindahl said. "If I walk past my attic upstairs, you can feel the heat radiating through a closed door."

Lindahl, 37, who lives in North Carolina, said her monthly electricity bills in the summer used to be around \$100 years ago, but they've since doubled. She blames a gradual warming trend caused by climate change.

Around 7 in 10 Americans say in the last year extreme heat has had an impact on their electricity bills, ranging from minor to major, and most have seen at least a minor impact on their outdoor activities, according to new poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

As tens of millions of Americans swelter through another summer of historic heat waves, the survey's findings reveal how extreme heat is changing people's lives in big and small ways. The poll found that about 7 in 10 Americans have been personally affected by extremely hot weather or extreme heat waves over the past five years. That makes extreme heat a more common experience than other weather events or natural disasters like wildfires, major droughts and hurricanes, which up to one-third of U.S. adults said they've been personally affected by.

Sizable shares of Americans — around 4 in 10 — report that extreme heat has had at least a minor impact on their sleep, pets or exercise routine.

Jim Graham, 54, lives in Phoenix, Arizona, and worries about the safety of his dog's paws when going on walks outside, especially when it gets above 105 degrees Fahrenheit (40 degrees Celsius). To protect her feet, they head out for walks at 5:30 a.m. "This year it seems hotter than usual," said Graham. His single-level home has central air conditioning and even setting the thermostat to 80 degrees Fahrenheit (27 degrees Celsius) runs him over \$350 a month in electricity bills, a big jump from what he used to pay about a decade ago.

He's not the only one watching the dollars add up: About 4 in 10 Americans say they've had unexpectedly expensive utility bills in the past year because of storms, flood, heat, or wildfires, including nearly half of homeowners.

Like Lindahl, many see a link to climate change. About 7 in 10 U.S. adults who have experienced some type of severe weather events or weather disasters in the last five years say they believe climate change was a contributing factor. Three in 10 think climate change was not a cause.

Last year Earth was 2.66 degrees Fahrenheit (1.48 degrees Celsius) warmer than it was before pre-industrial times, according to the European climate agency Copernicus. Some might perceive that increase as insignificant, but temperatures are unevenly fluctuating across the planet and can be dangerous to human health. Several regions of the U.S. set all-time temperature records this summer, and Las Vegas reached a scorching 120 degrees Fahrenheit (48.9 degrees Celsius) on July 7.

According to the poll, about 1 in 10 Americans say that extreme heat has had a major impact on their sleep in the past year, while about 3 in 10 say it's had a minor impact and 55% say it's had no impact. Hispanic Americans are more likely than white Americans to say their sleep has been affected, and lower-income Americans are also more likely than higher-income Americans to report an effect on their sleep.

The effects of extreme heat are more widely reported in the West and South. About half of people living in the West say their sleep has been impacted at least in a minor way by extreme heat, while about 4 in 10 people living in the South say their sleep has been impacted, compared to about 3 in 10 people living in the Midwest and Northeast. People living in the West and South are also more likely than those in the

Northeast to say their exercise routines have been affected.

Other aspects of daily life – like jobs and commutes, the timing of events like weddings and reunions, and travel and vacation plans – have been less broadly disrupted, but their impact is disproportionately felt among specific groups of Americans. About one-quarter of Americans say that their travel or vacation plans have been impacted by extreme heat, with Hispanic and Black Americans more likely than white Americans to say this.

Even simply enjoying time outside has become more difficult for some. The poll found that about 6 in 10 Americans say extreme heat has impacted outdoor activities for themselves or their family.

In general, people who don't believe climate change is happening are less likely to report being affected by various aspects of extreme heat compared to people who do. For instance, about 8 in 10 Americans who believe that climate change is happening say extreme heat has had at least a minor impact on their electricity bills, compared to half of Americans who aren't sure climate change is happening or don't think it's happening.

Mario Cianchetti, 70, is a retired engineer who now lives in Sedona, Arizona. His home has solar panels and heat pumps, which he installed because he was interested in lowering his electricity bills to save money. "When you retire, you're on a single fixed income. I didn't want to have to deal with rising energy costs," said Cianchetti, who identified himself as a political independent.

Cianchetti noted that temperatures feel unusually warm but said installing sustainable technologies in his house was a matter of finance. "It's not that I don't believe in climate change, yeah I believe we're going into a hot cycle here, but I don't believe that it's man-caused."

When it comes to general views of climate change, 70% of U.S. adults say climate change is happening. About 6 in 10 of those who believe climate change is happening say that it's caused entirely or mostly by human activities, while another 3 in 10 say it's caused equally by human activities and natural changes to the environment and 12% believe it's primarily caused by natural environmental change. Nine in 10 Democrats, 7 in 10 independents and about half of Republicans say climate change is happening.

Those numbers are essentially unchanged from when the question was last asked in April and have been steady in recent years, although about half of Americans say they have become more concerned about climate change over the past year.

In Louisiana's Cancer Alley, company cancels plans for grain export facility in historic Black town

By JACK BROOK Associated Press/Report for America

WALLACE, La. (AP) — Residents of a historic Black community in Louisiana who've spent years fighting against a massive grain export facility set to be built on the grounds where their enslaved ancestors once lived appear to have finally halted the project.

A representative from the company, Greenfield Louisiana LLC, announced during a public hearing on Tuesday evening that the company is "ceasing all plans" to construct a grain export facility in the middle of the town of Wallace in St. John the Baptist Parish.

After a moment, opponents of the project broke out in cheers and began clapping and hugging each other. "I'm still obviously in disbelief — I can't believe this is happening, but I'm ecstatic and all praise to the ancestors," said Joy Banner, a Wallace resident and one of the most vocal opponents of the project. She and her sister, Jo, founded The Descendants Project to preserve the community's heritage.

The company's announcement signaled a rare win for a community in a heavily industrialized stretch of the Mississippi River known as "Cancer Alley" for its high levels of pollution. Wallace is about 50 miles (80 kilometers) west of New Orleans.

"I think all of the fighting — it is coming from the love and the passion for our communities we have here along the river, and to show the world we can and you should fight," Banner said. "We are recognizing that we do have power — that power comes from the love we have for our community."

Earlier this year, the Banner sisters' nonprofit purchased a plantation which had been the site of one of

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, August 07, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 043 ~ 49 of 77

the largest slave rebellions in American History, the 1811 German Coast Uprising. They plan to transform it into an educational space.

The Army Corps of Engineers had already found the 222 acre (90 hectare) facility, could adversely impact cultural heritage sites in Wallace, and was tasked with reviewing Greenfield's application.

Army Corps representative Brad LaBorde said his agency had not been informed in advance of the company's unexpected decision to cancel plans for the facility.

"We don't know exactly what that means," LaBorde said. "We still have an active permit application so, if it is Greenfield's intention to no longer pursue the project, then we would ask they formally submit a withdrawal to us so that we can conclude the review."

Lynda Van Davis, Greenfield's counsel and head of external affairs, said the long delay in government approval for the project has been "an expensive ordeal," adding that she did not have an answer for when the company would submit a formal withdrawal to the Army Corps.

"This has been a difficult ride the whole time, we didn't wake up yesterday and say we're done," Van Davis said. "We said we'll stay in the fight a little bit longer, because we've become friends with this community. Unfortunately, how long are we supposed to stay in this fight?"

The Army Corps had found the project could affect historic properties in Wallace, including the Evergreen, Oak Alley and Whitney plantations. There also remained the possibility that the area contained burial sites for the ancestral Black community.

Some community members had supported the project, believing it would bring jobs to their town, even as opponents of the facility said tourism surrounding cultural heritage was already a thriving industry that deserved greater investment.

"I was looking forward to economic development in my community – jobs, new businesses, just all around better living for my community," said Nicole Dumas, 48, a Wallace resident, who supported the project.

But the evening became a celebration for others. Angelica Mitchell, 53, held back tears as she took in the company's announcement. Mitchell is still recovering from treatment for a rare form of cancer which had attacked her pancreas, but she chose to attend the public hearing despite her health struggles. The facility would have been built within a few hundred feet of her home.

"To hear that they are backing out, I am so excited, my prayers have been answered, because I've been praying for this for the last three years," Mitchell said. "I've been asking God, just don't let this plant come into our community. I don't want this for our children."

Takeaways from a Harris-Walz ticket now that the stage is set for a reimagined presidential race

By WILL WEISSERT, JOSH BOAK and ADRIANA GOMEZ LICON Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The stage is set for an election that was unimaginable mere weeks ago when President Joe Biden was atop the Democratic ticket. Now Vice President Kamala Harris has tapped Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz as her running mate to take on Republican Donald Trump and his No. 2, Ohio Sen. JD Vance.

As different as they are, Walz and Vance both qualify as picks meant to reassure their party's loyal base voters rather than adding homegrown heft in a critical battleground state.

The two No. 2s will also get a chance to square off in almost real time as Walz is traveling this week with Harris to Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Michigan, Arizona and Nevada, while Vance will follow an overlapping itinerary to offer his own counterprogramming in some places.

Some takeaways on the race now that Harris has settled on Walz:

How Walz might help — or hurt — Harris' chances

Opting for the Minnesota governor immediately calms the Democratic Party's left wing, which was worried that another contender, Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro, might have pushed the party closer to Israel and disheartened Arab American and younger voters. Some in Harris' inner circle saw Walz as a do-no-harm choice who can keep the party unified heading into the Democratic National Convention opening in

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, August 07, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 043 ~ 50 of 77

Chicago on Aug. 19.

Progressives are already celebrating Walz's ability to deliver an unapologetically populist message in the style of a Midwestern dad who recalls the social studies teacher and football coach he once was.

Activists who for months have followed Biden around the country to protest his full-throated support for Israel in its war with Hamas in Gaza are hopeful that Walz will help Harris take a more nuanced approach than someone like Shapiro.

But some critics will point to 2016, when the only other woman to be nominated for president, Hillary Clinton, picked a mild-mannered dad with centrist views and a modest national profile: Sen. Tim Kaine of Virginia. That ticket lost to Trump.

Exciting each side's most loyal supporters

Neither vice presidential pick seems to do much to build out his party's coalition — a sign that both campaigns view this election as about boosting turnout from their existing bases.

Just as Walz hails from the solidly Democratic state of Minnesota, Vance comes from the safely Republican state of Ohio. There is a bet that each choice can radiate Midwestern appeal to the key "blue wall" states of Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin simply by dint of geographical proximity.

Harris allies have stressed Walz's ability to appeal to rural voters, although his 2022 reelection as governor roughly matched the margins of Joe Biden's 2020 presidential win in Minnesota. Trump won 6 in 10 rural and small town voters nationwide in 2020, according to AP VoteCast.

The Trump campaign was quick to try to connect Walz to its characterizations of Harris as a California liberal, saying his support for gun control and teachers unions make him a "West Coast wannabe."

Vance, for his part, comes from a state that has twice backed Trump by 8 percentage points. Just like the former president with his book "Trump: The Art of the Deal," Vance achieved national recognition with his memoir, "Hillbilly Elegy." Vance has mainly played to cultural and policy issues favored by strict adherents of Trump's "Make America Great Again" movement such as cutting military support for Ukraine.

Vance offering battleground counterprogramming to Walz

Vance is set to follow an overlapping itinerary to Harris and Walz over the next two days, including stops in the battleground states of Pennsylvania, Michigan and Wisconsin. His role is to attack the Biden administration's policies and tear down Harris' record on the economy, public safety and immigration.

Vance got out ahead of the Democrats in Philadelphia on Tuesday, holding an event hours before Harris was to formally introduce her new running mate at a rally. He said during his Philadelphia stop that "I absolutely want to debate Tim Walz," but not until after the Democratic convention.

Harris' team seemed to be happy to have Vance making the contrast with the Democrats.

"We appreciate JD Vance providing voters in battleground states exactly the split-screen that defines the choice this November," said Harris campaign spokesman Charles Lutvak.

Plenty of drama still to come

Walz's selection settled one big question mark among Democrats, but plenty of major challenges remain for the final months of a race already defined by its unexpected twists and turns.

There is the prospect of a wider war in the Middle East, the possibility of a rate cut by the Federal Reserve that might calm global financial markets and questions about whether Trump and Harris will actually square off in a September debate that was set before Biden bowed out of the race.

No matter what happens, the conventional narratives of a presidential campaign have already had seemingly brief shelf lives. Voters over the past few weeks have dealt with Biden's disastrous performance in the June 27 debate against Trump, a brazen assassination attempt on Trump, Biden's exit from the race and Harris' quick ascendance among Democrats.

Now that both tickets are settled, a reckoning will take place over positions, and small differences can matter to voters who on the margin could decide a narrow election. Global events can upend talking points in ways that are hard to predict. The 2008 campaign intensified with that year's financial crisis, while the persistence of the coronavirus shaped 2020.

If there are any lessons from this year, it's that election year surprises are no longer reserved for October.

Tropical Storm Debby drenches Southeast with rain, high water as it drifts along the Atlantic coast

By RUSS BYNUM, JEFFREY COLLINS and JOHN MINCHILLO Associated Press

CHARLESTON, S.C. (AP) — Tropical Storm Debby drenched coastal cities in Georgia and South Carolina, stirred up tornadoes and submerged streets with waist-high floodwaters Tuesday, just the beginning of a prolonged storm that could dump staggering rain totals of up to 25 inches (64 centimeters).

Charleston and Savannah, Georgia, took the first blow, with up to a foot (30 centimeters) of rain falling along the coast between the two cities in just over 24 hours. Police blocked all roads into Charleston's downtown peninsula to everyone but essential workers and emergency personnel. Dozens of roads were closed in the historic city because of flooding similar to what it sees several times a year because of rising sea levels.

As Debby swirls just offshore, the heavy rain is expected to move north into parts of South and North Carolina that have already seen two billion-dollar floods in eight years.

In one Savannah neighborhood, firefighters used boats to evacuate some residents and waded through floodwaters to deliver bottled water and other supplies to those who refused to leave.

Michael Jones said water gushed into his home Monday evening, overturning the refrigerator and causing furniture to float. Outside, the water seemed to be everywhere and was too deep to flee safely. So Jones spent a sleepless night on his kitchen table before firefighters going door to door came in a boat Tuesday morning.

"It was hell all night," Jones said, adding, "It was a struggle, but God is good."

In Charleston, Mayor William Cogswell said the road closures have kept businesses and homes from unnecessary damage and avoided the need for any high-water rescues.

"We especially don't need any yahoos driving through the water and causing damage to properties," Cogswell said.

South Carolina Gov. Henry McMaster said Debby has not been as bad as feared so far, but he warned that the slow-moving storm was far from over.

It will be a nervous few days for northern South Carolina and southern North Carolina, where forecasters warned of up to 15 inches (38 centimeters) of rain. Those totals are close to what the region saw in a historic flood from Hurricane Matthew in 2016. Two years later, many of those records were broken during Hurricane Florence. Both storms killed dozens.

North Carolina and Virginia have both declared a state of emergency.

"The effects of Debby are far-reaching, and our neighboring states are facing significant challenges," Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin said.

Several areas along North Carolina's coastline are prone to flooding, such as Wilmington and the Outer Banks. Virginia could see impacts including strong winds, heavy rains and flooding.

Debby's center was about 30 miles (50 kilometers) southeast of Savannah on Tuesday night, according to a bulletin from the National Hurricane Center. It had maximum sustained winds of 40 mph (65 kph) and was heading east-northeast at 3 mph (6 kph).

The storm was forecast to slowly move out to sea, then creep back onshore over South Carolina on Thursday morning.

"Tropical cyclones always produce heavy rain, but normally as they're moving, you know, it doesn't accumulate that much in one place," said Richard Pasch, of the hurricane center. "But when they move very slowly, that's the worst situation."

There will be lulls in the rain as dry spells appear between bands around the center of the poorly organized storm, forecasters said. But some bands will be heavy and keep moving over the same places.

Green Pond in rural Colleton County, South Carolina, reported the most rain so far, just over 14 inches (36 centimeters). A nearby dam had water run over its top but did not crumble, while trees and washouts blocked a number of roads, county Fire-Rescue Assistant Chief David Greene said.

Close to a foot (30 centimeters) fell down-coast from Charleston to Savannah, where the National Weather Service reported 6.68 inches (17 centimeters) just on Monday. That's already a month's worth in a single day: In all of August 2023, the city got 5.56 inches (14.1 centimeters).

Tornadoes knocked down trees and damaged a few homes on Kiawah Island and Edisto Island. A Walmart, an Arby's and other businesses were damaged and several vehicles flipped in Moncks Corner, about 30 miles (48 kilometers) inland from Charleston.

Crooked Hammock Brewery in North Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, decided to close early Tuesday.

"Flash flooding is super unpredictable, and we'd rather our staff and guests be home and safe," marketing coordinator Georgena Dimitriadis said.

Far to the north in New York City, heavy storms that meteorologists said were being enhanced by Debby flooded some streets and expressways, stranding motorists. The National Weather Service issued a flood watch until noon Wednesday for the entire city.

Emergency officials warned of potential flash flooding, flying drones with loudspeakers in some neighborhoods to tell people in basement apartments to be ready to flee at a moment's notice.

Debby made landfall as a Category 1 hurricane early Monday along the Gulf Coast of Florida.

At least six people have died due to the storm, five of them in traffic accidents or from fallen trees. The sixth death involved a 48-year-old man in Gulfport, Florida, whose body was recovered after his anchored sailboat partially sank, WTSP-TV reported.

About 500 people were rescued Monday from flooded homes in Sarasota, Florida, police said. Just north of Sarasota, Manatee County officials said more than 200 people were rescued.

Officials said it may take two weeks to fully assess the damage in parts of north-central Florida as they wait for rivers to crest.

"You're going to see the tributaries rise. That's just inevitable. How much? We'll see," Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis said Tuesday. "It may be that it's not flooded today and it could be flooded tomorrow."

Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp also warned of more rain and flooding to come, saying, "Do not let this storm lull you to sleep."

More than 155,000 customers remained without power in Florida and Georgia on Tuesday morning, down from more than 350,000, according to PowerOutage.us and Georgia Electric Membership Corp. More than 20,000 others were without power in South Carolina early Tuesday.

President Joe Biden approved emergency declarations making federal disaster assistance available to Florida, Georgia and South Carolina.

Debby is finally forecast to pick up speed Thursday, and it could move up the middle of North Carolina, through Virginia and into the Washington area by Saturday.

4 hotel employees charged with being party to felony murder in connection with Black man's death

By TODD RICHMOND Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — Prosecutors charged four Milwaukee hotel employees Tuesday with being a party to felony murder in connection with D'Vontaye Mitchell's death.

Mitchell was Black. The incident has drawn comparisons to the murder of George Floyd, a Black man who died in 2020 after a white Minneapolis police officer pressed his knee into his neck for about nine minutes. Floyd's death sparked a national reckoning on race relations marked by multiple protests around the country.

Charged were hotel security guard Todd Erickson; front desk worker Devin Johnson-Carson; bellhop Herbert Williamson; and security guard Brandon Turner. If convicted, they each would face up to 15 years and nine months in prison.

Reached by telephone Tuesday evening, Erickson referred a request for comment to his attorney, Michael Steinle, who didn't return voicemail or email messages.

It was unclear if any of the other three employees had attorneys. Online court records didn't list any for

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, August 07, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 043 ~ 53 of 77

them Tuesday evening. A telephone listing for Williamson had been disconnected, and The Associated Press could not immediately locate phone numbers or other contact information for Johnson-Carson or Turner.

The Milwaukee County District Attorney's office said in a news release that arrest warrants had been issued for all four employees. The office and the Milwaukee Police Department did not immediately respond to emails inquiring if the employees had been arrested or had attorneys.

According to a criminal complaint, the four employees dragged Mitchell out of the Hyatt Hotel on June 30 after Mitchell entered a woman's bathroom and held him on his stomach for eight or nine minutes. One of the employees told investigators that Mitchell was having trouble breathing and repeatedly pleaded for help, according to the complaint.

An autopsy showed that Mitchell suffered from morbid obesity and had ingested cocaine and methamphetamine, the complaint said.

Hyatt surveillance video shows Mitchell frantically running into the hotel's lobby and then into the gift shop before entering the women's bathroom, the complaint said. A few seconds later, a woman emerges and Turner, who was off-duty but happened to be visiting staff at that moment, drags Mitchell out of the bathroom into the lobby by his shirt.

The two begin to struggle, and Turner punches Mitchell, knocking him to the floor. He then punches Mitchell six times and drags him out of the hotel with the help of a bystander. Mitchell gets up and tries to go back inside.

Williamson, Johnson-Carson and Erickson, who was on duty as the security manager, then join the fray. Together with Turner they hold Mitchell down on his stomach for eight to nine minutes before police and emergency responders arrive. The video shows that during that span, Mitchell tries to break free multiple times, and Erickson hits him with a baton before he eventually stops moving, according to the complaint.

A video taken by a witness includes audio of Mitchell moaning and saying he is sorry. An autopsy found that Mitchell was morbidly obese and had cocaine and methamphetamine in his system.

The county medical examiner ultimately determined that Mitchell died of "restraint asphyxia." He may have lived if the employees allowed him to turn onto his side, the medical examiner said, according to the complaint.

Erickson told investigators that Mitchell was very strong and kept resisting them and tried to bite him. But the guard said he never did anything to intentionally hurt or harm Mitchell.

Turner told a detective that he heard women screaming in the bathroom after Mitchell entered it, and he thought Mitchell was on drugs. At one point while the group was holding Mitchell down, he moved Mitchell's clothing off his face, he said, according to the complaint.

Johnson-Carson told investigators that Mitchell was not in a "stable sort of mind," and he was speaking "gibberish," the complaint said.

He said he remembered Mitchell saying "stop" and "why" and something about breathing while he was being held down. He told Williamson to stop applying pressure, which he did. Johnson-Carson said that Mitchell displayed "clear signs of extreme distress, including gags, distressed breathing and repeated pleas for help," according to the complaint.

The complaint concludes that the employees had to have known Mitchell was in distress. "All of these factors, the gasping, the actions and words of DM, the distress that he was in, show that all four Defendants were aware that holding DM face first on the ground was 'practically certain' to cause impairment of his physical condition," the complaint says.

Mitchell's relatives and their lawyers had previously reviewed hotel surveillance video provided by the district attorney's office. They described seeing Mitchell being chased inside the hotel by security guards and then dragged outside, where he was beaten.

Civil rights attorney Ben Crump, who is part of a team of lawyers representing Mitchell's family, has said video recorded by a bystander and circulating on social media shows security guards with their knees on Mitchell's back and neck.

Crump posted a statement on X on Tuesday evening calling the charges "a significant step towards justice for the family of D'Vontaye Mitchell!"

DeAsia Harmon, Mitchell's widow, said Tuesday that the decision was a relief. But she questioned why it took weeks.

"These people are on camera taking my husband's life," she said. "They should have been charged the moment they did that."

Aimbridge Hospitality, the company that manages the hotel, said previously that several employees involved in Mitchell's death have been fired.

The company released a statement Tuesday evening saying it had cooperated fully with law enforcement and will continue to cooperate with prosecutors. "Our hearts are with Mr. Mitchell's family and loved ones as this case moves forward," the statement said.

Nobel laureate Yunus will head Bangladesh's interim government after unrest ousted Hasina

By JULHAS ALAM and SHEIKH SAALIQ Associated Press

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP) — Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus will head Bangladesh's interim government after longtime Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina fled the country amid a mass uprising that left hundreds of people dead and pushed the South Asian nation to the brink of chaos.

The decision, announced early Wednesday by Joynal Abedin, the press secretary of the country's figure-head President Mohammed Shahabuddin, came during a meeting that included military chiefs, organizers of the student protests that helped drive Hasina from power, prominent business leaders and civil society members.

A longtime political opponent of Hasina, Yunus is expected to return soon from Paris, where he is advising Olympic organizers, media reports said.

An economist and banker, he was awarded the 2006 Nobel Peace Prize for his work developing microcredit markets. Yunus has been hailed for bringing thousands out of poverty through Grameen Bank, which he founded in 1983, and which makes small loans to businesspeople who wouldn't qualify for regular bank loans.

Other members of the new government would be decided soon, after discussions with political parties and other stakeholders, Abedin said. The president had dissolved Parliament on Tuesday, clearing the way for an interim administration and new elections.

Shahabuddin also ordered the release of opposition leader Khaleda Zia from house arrest, a longtime Hasina rival who was convicted on corruption charges in 2018.

The streets of Dhaka, the capital, were calm Tuesday, a day after violence swept parts of the country amid Hasina's sudden departure. On Tuesday, jubilant protesters thronged the ousted leader's residence, some posing for selfies with soldiers guarding the building after Monday's wave of looting.

The Bangladesh Police Association went on strike after police stations and security officials were attacked across the country Monday. The association said "many" officers had been killed but gave no number. Officers would not return to work unless their safety is assured, the association said. It also apologized for police attacks on student protesters, saying officers were "forced to open fire."

Yunus, who had called Hasina's resignation the country's "second liberation day," had faced corruption charges during her rule that he derided as politically motivated. He could not immediately be reached for comment, but a key organizer of the protests, Nahid Islam, said he had agreed to head the interim administration.

Islam said protesters would propose more names for the Cabinet and suggested that it would be difficult for those in power to ignore their wishes.

Hasina fled to India by helicopter as protesters defied a military curfew to march on the capital, with thousands eventually storming her residence and other buildings associated with her party and family.

The unrest began in July with protests against a quota system for government jobs, which critics said favored people with connections to her party. But they soon grew into a broader challenge to Hasina's 15-year rule, which was marked by human rights abuses, corruption, allegations of rigged elections and

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, August 07, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 043 ~ 55 of 77

a brutal crackdown on her opponents.

The government's violent response to the demonstrations, which killed about 300 people in just a few weeks, only fueled the protests more.

The quick move to choose Yunus came after Hasina's resignation created a power vacuum and left the future unclear for Bangladesh, which has a history of military rule, messy politics and myriad crises. The military wields significant influence in a country that has seen more than 20 coups or coup attempts since its independence from Pakistan in 1971. Military chief Gen. Waker-uz-Zaman said Monday he had taken temporary control while a new government is formed.

Amid the celebrations, student Juairia Karim said it was a historic day. "Today we are getting what we deserve," she said. "Everyone is happy, everyone is cheerful."

But the country was still counting the toll of weeks of violence that produced some of its worst bloodshed since its war of independence. Many fear that Hasina's departure could trigger even more instability in the densely populated nation of some 170 million people, which is already dealing with high unemployment, corruption and climate change.

Violence in just the few days surrounding Hasina's resignation killed at least 109 people — including 14 police officers, and left hundreds of others injured, according to media reports which could not be independently confirmed. In the southwestern district of Satkhira, 596 prisoners and detainees escaped from a jail after an attack on the facility Monday evening, the United News of Bangladesh agency reported.

There are growing fears among the country's Hindu minority, which has been targeted in the past during political unrest and which has long been seen as pro-Hasina, that they could again face attacks. Local reports of violence against Hindu leaders and other minorities could not be confirmed.

"Hindus are very afraid," Charu Chandra Das Brahmachari, leader of the Bangladesh branch of a Hindu movement, told the IANS news service. "Hindus are very afraid that they could be attacked anytime. This is because whenever the government falls, minorities are affected."

The EU ambassador to Bangladesh, Charles Whitley, said on the social media platform X that European diplomats were "very concerned" about reports of anti-minority violence.

Opposition politicians have publicly called on people not to attack minority groups, while student leaders asked supporters to guard Hindu temples and other places of worship.

The main opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party on Tuesday urged people to exercise restraint in what it said was a "transitional moment on our democratic path."

"It would defeat the spirit of the revolution that toppled the illegitimate and autocratic regime of Sheikh Hasina if people decide to take the law into their own hands," Tarique Rahman, the party's acting chairman, wrote on X.

"I think the next leader of the country should learn from the students that if anyone becomes corrupt, a traitor, or takes any action against the country, they will face the same fate," said Mohammad Jahirul Islam, a student in Dhaka.

Hasina, 76, was elected to a fourth consecutive term in January, an election boycotted by her main opponents. Thousands of opposition members were jailed before the vote, and the United States and the United Kingdom denounced the result as not credible.

After fleeing Dhaka, Hasina landed Monday at a military airfield near New Delhi and met Indian National Security Adviser Ajit Doval, the Indian Express newspaper reported. She planned to travel to the United Kingdom, it said.

Indian External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar told Parliament that Hasina "at very short notice requested approval to come for the moment to India."

Judge dismisses most claims in federal lawsuit filed by Black Texas student punished over hairstyle

By JUAN A. LOZANO Associated Press

HOUSTON (AP) — A federal judge on Tuesday dismissed most of the claims in a lawsuit filed by a Black high school student who alleged that school officials committed racial and gender discrimination when they punished him for refusing to change his hairstyle.

The ruling was another victory in the case for the Barbers Hill school district near Houston, which has said its policy restricting hair length for male students instills discipline while teaching grooming and respect for authority.

But in his order, U.S. District Judge Jeffrey Brown questioned whether the school district's rule causes more harm than good.

"Not everything that is undesirable, annoying, or even harmful amounts to a violation of the law, much less a constitutional problem," Brown wrote.

The Associated Press left phone and email messages seeking comment with the school district and George's attorney, Allie Booker, on Tuesday.

George, 18, was kept out of his regular high school classes for most of the 2023-24 school year, when he was a junior, because the school district said his hair length violated its dress code. George either served in-school suspension at Barbers Hill High School in Mont Belvieu or spent time at an off-site disciplinary program.

The district has argued that George's long hair, which he wears to school in tied and twisted locs on top of his head, violates its policy because it would fall below his shirt collar, eyebrows or earlobes if let down. The district has said other students with locs comply with the length policy.

George and his mother, Darresha George, filed a federal civil rights lawsuit last year against the school district, the district superintendent, his principal and assistant principal as well as Texas Gov. Greg Abbott and Attorney General Ken Paxton.

The suit also alleged that George's punishment violates the CROWN Act, a new state law prohibiting race-based hair discrimination. The CROWN Act, which was being discussed before the dispute over George's hair and which took effect in September, bars employers and schools from penalizing people because of hair texture or protective hairstyles including Afros, braids, locs, twists or Bantu knots.

The lawsuit alleged the school district's policy was being enforced mainly on Black students. But Brown said George had not shown "a persistent, widespread practice of disparate, race-based enforcement of the policy."

The lawsuit also alleged that George's First Amendment rights to free speech were being violated. But Brown wrote that George's lawyer could not cite any case law holding that hair length "is protected as expressive conduct under the First Amendment."

Brown dismissed various claims that George's due process rights under the 14th Amendment were being violated. He also dropped Abbott, Paxton, the district superintendent and other school employees from the case.

The only claim he let stand was an allegation of sex discrimination based on the school district's lack of clearly defined policies on why girls could be allowed to have long hair but boys could not.

"Because the district does not provide any reason for the sex-based distinctions in its dress code, the claim survives this initial stage," Brown said.

Brown's order comes after a state judge in February ruled in a lawsuit filed by the school district that its punishment does not violate the CROWN Act.

At the end of his ruling, Brown highlighted a 1970 case in which a judge ruled against a school district in El Paso, Texas, that had tried to prevent a male student from enrolling because his hair length violated district policy. The El Paso judge's ruling was later overturned by an appeals court.

The judge in the El Paso case had written that "the presence and enforcement of the hair-cut rule causes far more disruption of the classroom instructional process than the hair it seeks to prohibit."

"Regrettably, so too here," Brown said in reference to George's case.

Barbers Hill's hair policy was also challenged in a May 2020 federal lawsuit filed by two other students. Both withdrew from the high school, but one returned after a federal judge granted a temporary injunction, saying there was "a substantial likelihood" that his rights to free speech and to be free from racial discrimination would be violated if he was barred. That lawsuit is still pending.

Boxer Imane Khelif advances to gold-medal bout with another victory amid gender misconceptions

By GREG BEACHAM AP Sports Writer

PARIS (AP) — Boxer Imane Khelif of Algeria advanced to the gold-medal bout in the women's welterweight division at the Paris Olympics on Tuesday night, moving one win away from what she calls the best response to the worldwide scrutiny she has faced over misconceptions about her gender.

With one more victory, Khelif would win Algeria's second boxing gold medal and its first in women's boxing.

Khelif defeated Janjaem Suwannapheng of Thailand 5:0 in the semifinals at Roland Garros, where the crowd roared for her and chanted her name repeatedly during her three-round fight. Khelif has won three consecutive bouts in Paris, and she will win either a gold or a silver medal when she completes the tournament on Friday against Yang Liu of China.

Khelif has thrived inside the ring in Paris amid criticism and stigmatization outside of it. The trouble has stemmed from the Olympic-banished International Boxing Association's decision to disqualify her and fellow Paris medalist Lin Yu-ting of Chinese Taipei from the world championships last year for allegedly failing an eligibility test.

The controversy has become one of the biggest stories of the Paris Olympics, but it isn't causing any negative effects on her performances in the ring.

"I don't care about that," Khelif said through an interpreter. "I wish to be ready and show a good standard, show my talent, because I want to entertain everyone."

Khelif had already clinched Algeria's first medal in women's boxing before she stepped into the ring to rousing roars at Court Philippe Chatrier. She then controlled her bout with Suwannapheng, who took a standing 8-count late in the third after absorbing a series of punches.

"I had heard about the news regarding her, but I wasn't following it closely," Suwannapheng said. "She is a woman, but she is very strong."

Khelif has won every round on every judge's card in her two fights that have gone the distance in Paris. She has made the most important tournament run of her international career while under the most pressure she has ever faced.

"I am very happy," Khelif said. "I've worked eight years for these Olympics, and I'm very proud of this moment. I would like to thank the support from people back home."

The ending of Khelif's first bout in Paris propelled her into the center of a worldwide divide over gender identity and safety regulations in sports. Her first opponent, Angela Carini of Italy, tearfully quit after just 46 seconds, saying she was in too much pain from Khelif's punches.

Carini's abandonment of the fight led to 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. Carini later apologized for her decision.

In an interview Sunday with SNTV, a sports video partner of The Associated Press, Khelif said the wave of hateful scrutiny she is facing "harms human dignity" and called for an end to bullying athletes.

Khelif also said she felt the "best response" to the uproar around her would be to win a gold medal — and now she's one win away.

After sharing a hug with Suwannapheng and holding open the ropes for her opponent in a traditional boxing gesture of sportsmanship, Khelif celebrated by running furiously in place while pumping her fists as the crowd roared for her again. The celebration was more joyous than her cathartic finish to her quarterfinal victory over Hungary's Anna Luca Hamori, when she slammed her palm on the canvas as she teared up.

Khelif received her post-fight medical check and was headed out of the Roland Garros arena when she was mobbed by fans near the exit. They hugged Khelif, demanded selfies and waved Algerian flags while she made her way backstage.

Khelif received cheers that echoed through the famed tennis arena from the moment she entered to face Suwannapheng. Roland Garros welcomed a prominent turnout from Algerian fans voicing their national pride in a boxer whose negative spotlight has been taken quite personally in her country.

Both fighters came out aggressively, trading punches from distance. Khelif was more accurate while winning the first round on all five cards, and she repeated the performance in the second.

The fight got more physical in the third, with Suwannapheng pushing forward to make a comeback. The bout was stopped for a standing 8-count late in the third when Suwannapheng absorbed a few head punches in succession, although Suwannapheng appeared to shrug as if it wasn't necessary — as is often the case in Olympic boxing, where referees can stop a bout for relatively minor reasons.

"I tried to use my speed, but my opponent was just too strong," Suwannapheng said.

The 25-year-old Khelif is on the best run of her amateur career at the Olympics. She has performed solidly at the international level and even won some regional tournaments, but Khelif has never been a dominant fighter on the world stage until her two strong performances — and 46 seconds of easy work against a third — to reach the final in Paris.

The IOC and its president, Thomas Bach, have repeatedly defended the Olympic eligibility of Khelif and Lin while condemning the IBA as incompetent and biased.

Khelif and Lin were disqualified by the IBA in the middle of last year's world championships over what it claimed were failed eligibility tests for the women's competition. The IBA has been banished from the Olympics since before the Tokyo Games, and the body struggled to articulate the reasoning for its decisions on Khelif and Lin at a news conference Monday.

Lin also has clinched a medal and advanced to the Olympic semifinals. She fights Esra Yildiz Kahraman of Turkey on Wednesday night.

Algeria's Olympic team has reacted forcefully to the criticism and negative attention around Khelif, and the fan turnout in Roland Garros reflected the seriousness with which the accusations have been received in her home country and in its French diaspora.

Chinese Taipei has reacted with equal condemnation of the IBA's claims and the worldwide swirl of scrutiny. Sports officials on Tuesday said they are considering legal action against the IBA after sending a letter protesting "the International Boxing Association's continued publication of false information, obscuring the facts, and attempting to interfere with the normal conduct of the event regardless of the rights and interests of athletes."

Harris introduces new running mate Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz as the 'vice president America deserves'

By COLLEEN LONG, ZEKE MILLER, STEVE KARNOWSKI, WILL WEISSERT and SEUNG MIN KIM Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Kamala Harris introduced Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz to the nation at a raucous rally Tuesday in battleground Pennsylvania that was aimed at building momentum for the newly minted Democratic presidential ticket in the sprint toward Election Day.

"He's the kind of person who makes people feel like they belong and then inspires them to dream big. ... That's the kind of vice president America deserves," Harris said while standing with Walz in Philadelphia.

Taking the microphone after Harris, Walz revved up the crowd for the rigorous campaign to come. "We've got 91 days. My God, that's easy. We'll sleep when we're dead," he said.

The remarks reflected the urgency of the moment, with Harris tapping Walz for the ticket during one of the most turbulent periods in modern American politics. Republicans have rallied around former President Donald Trump after he was targeted in an attempted assassination in July. Just days later, President Joe Biden ended his reelection campaign, forcing Harris to scramble to unify Democrats and decide on a run-

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, August 07, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 043 ~ 59 of 77

ning mate over a breakneck two-week stretch.

In choosing the 60-year-old Walz, Harris is elevating a Midwestern governor, military veteran and union supporter who helped enact an ambitious Democratic agenda for his state, including sweeping protections for abortion rights and generous aid to families.

It was her biggest decision yet as the Democratic nominee and she went with a broadly palatable choice — someone who says politics should have more joy and who deflects dark and foreboding rhetoric from Republicans with a lighter touch, a strategy that the campaign has been increasingly turning to since Harris took over the top spot.

Harris hopes Walz will help her shore up her campaign's standing across the upper Midwest, a critical region in presidential politics that often serves as a buffer for Democrats seeking the White House. The party remains haunted by Trump's wins in Michigan and Wisconsin in 2016. Trump lost those states in 2020 but has zeroed in on them as he aims to return to the presidency this year and is expanding his focus to Minnesota.

Since Walz was announced, the team raised more than \$20 million from grassroots donations, the campaign said.

Walz is far from a household name. An ABC News/Ipsos survey conducted before he was selected but after vetting began showed that nearly 9 in 10 U.S. adults did not know enough to have an opinion about him.

Harris devoted much of her speech to telling the audience about Walz's life and work, which included stints as a social studies teacher and a football coach.

"To those who know him best, Tim is more than a governor," she said.

"We both believe in lifting people up, not knocking them down," she said. "We both know that the vast majority of us have so much more in common than what separates us. And we see in our fellow Americans neighbors, never enemies."

Harris, the first Black woman and person of South Asian descent to lead a major party ticket, initially considered nearly a dozen candidates before zeroing in on a handful of serious contenders.

Trump has focused much of his campaign on appealing to men, emphasizing a need for strength in national leadership and even featuring the wrestler Hulk Hogan on the final night of the Republican National Convention. Harris' finalists — all white men — marked an acknowledgement of the Democrat's need to at least try to win over some of that demographic.

She personally interviewed three finalists: Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro, Arizona Sen. Mark Kelly and Walz. Harris wanted someone with executive experience who could be a governing partner, and Walz also offered appeal to the widest swath of the diverse coalition.

His selection drew praise from lawmakers as ideologically diverse as progressive leader Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, D-N.Y., and independent Sen. Joe Manchin of West Virginia, a moderate who left the Democratic Party earlier this year.

A team of lawyers and political operatives led by former Attorney General Eric Holder pored over documents and conducted interviews with potential selections. Harris mulled the decision over on Monday with top aides and finalized it Tuesday morning, according to three people familiar with Harris' decision who spoke on condition of anonymity to describe private deliberations.

Shapiro, an ambitious politician in his own right, struggled with the idea of being No. 2 at the White House and said he felt he had more to do in Pennsylvania, according to one of the people familiar with Harris' decision. There was also public pushback to Shapiro for his stance on Israel from Arab American groups and younger voters angry over the administration's response to the Israel-Hamas war.

The other contenders threw their support behind the ticket Tuesday, and Shapiro was one of the speakers at Tuesday's Philadelphia rally. Biden described the Harris and Walz ticket as "a powerful voice for working people and America's great middle class."

Walz coined one of Democrats' buzziest campaign bits to date, calling Trump and his running mate Ohio Sen. JD Vance "just weird," a label that the Democratic Governors Association — of which Walz is chair-

man — amplified in a post on X and Democrats more broadly have echoed.

On Tuesday, Walz said: “Just an observation of mind, I just have to say it. These guys are creepy and, yes, just weird as hell.”

Harris, second gentleman Doug Emhoff and Walz will spend the next five days touring critical battleground states, visiting Wisconsin and Michigan on Wednesday and Arizona and Nevada later in the week.

Vance, for his part, planned stops in some of the same areas. He said Tuesday that he called Walz earlier in the day and left a voice message.

The Trump campaign on Tuesday immediately tried to tag Walz as a far-left liberal.

“It’s no surprise that San Francisco Liberal Kamala Harris wants West Coast wannabe Tim Walz as her running-mate – Walz has spent his governorship trying to reshape Minnesota in the image of the Golden State,” said Karoline Leavitt, Trump’s campaign press secretary.

Trump, who often weighs in on the news on his social media network, posted simply, “THANK YOU!” after the news of Walz’s selection was public. He followed up with another post a few hours later, proclaiming “This is the most Radical Left duo in American history” and suggested Biden “feels that he made a historically tragic mistake” and would try to get back in the race again.

Walz, who grew up in the small town of West Point, Nebraska, was a teacher, coach and union member at Mankato West High School in Minnesota before entering politics.

He won the first of six terms in Congress in 2006 from a mostly rural southern Minnesota district and used the office to champion veterans issues. Walz served 24 years in the Army National Guard, rising to command sergeant major, one of the highest enlisted ranks in the military, although he didn’t complete all the training before he retired so his rank for benefits purposes was set at master sergeant.

He ran for governor in 2018 on the theme of “One Minnesota” and won by more than 11 points.

David Ivory, a 46-year-old St. Paul resident, rode over to Walz’s residence on his bike with his kids shortly after the announcement to deliver their congratulations.

“He’s just down to earth. He gets it. He can talk to anybody,” Ivory said. “He doesn’t seem like he’s above anybody.”

As governor, Walz had to find ways to work in his first term with a legislature split between a Democratic-controlled House and a Republican-led Senate. Minnesota has a history of divided government, though, and the arrangement was surprisingly productive in his first year.

Walz easily won reelection in 2022, and Democrats flipped the Senate to win full control of both chambers and the governor’s office for the first time in eight years. A big reason was the Dobbs decision from the conservative-majority Supreme Court that overturned a federal right to an abortion.

Walz currently serves as co-chair of the bipartisan Council of Governors, advising the president and the Cabinet on homeland security and national defense issues. He was first appointed to the position by Trump, then later reappointed by Biden.

Weak spots in metal may have led to fatal Osprey crash off Japan, documents obtained by AP reveal

By TARA COPP and AARON KESSLER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A gear crack that led to a fatal crash of a V-22 Osprey last year may have been started by weak spots in a metal used to manufacture that part, according to documents obtained by The Associated Press.

The November crash killed eight Air Force Special Operations Command service members. It was the second time in less than two years that a catastrophic failure of a part of the Osprey’s proprotor gearbox, which serves as its transmission, caused a fatal accident. In June of 2022, five Marines were killed when a different part of the proprotor gearbox system failed.

The crashes have led to an aggressive effort by the V-22 program office and manufacturer Bell Flight to find fixes for the critical system, which has had some components wear down earlier than the military expected. While investigators still don’t know for certain what caused either crash, this latest finding might

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, August 07, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 043 ~ 61 of 77

hold some clues.

There's no other aircraft like the Osprey in the fleet. It can speed to a target like an airplane then rotate its engines to land like a helicopter. Program leaders have pointed out that the Osprey has been vital in special operations and combat missions and has flown hundreds of thousands of hours successfully.

But the aircraft also has a troubled crash history, and the proprotor gearbox has been a persistent problem.

Data gathered by The Associated Press through the Freedom of Information Act shows 609 proprotor gearboxes have been removed for repair in the past 10 years. Over the last five years, the Marine Corps, Navy and Air Force have reported 60 incidents involving the proprotor gearbox.

Last week the Air Force identified cracking in a pinion gear, a part that's about the size of a large jar lid, as one of two factors that caused the crash off Japan. The Air Force also faulted the pilot and crew, because the Osprey sent six warnings during their flight that the proprotor gearbox was in trouble.

But additional crash report documents obtained by the AP show this is not the first time this metal has failed in Osprey proprotor gearbox components, although it was the first time it failed in this specific gear. There have been seven previous cracking incidents in related gears that were likely caused by the same metal weakness, investigators reported.

It's not clear if that information had previously been shared with the services, which could have led them to take a much more restrictive approach to how pilots were instructed to respond to any proprotor gearbox warnings.

In a rare move, as part of the accident report released publicly last week, the Air Force faulted the V-22's program office for not sharing data that could have better informed crews of the severity of the risk.

The pinion gears are located inside the proprotor gearboxes on each wingtip. The gearboxes take in power from the Osprey's engines and process it to turn the Osprey's masts and rotor blades.

To do that, the gears spin rapidly under extreme pressure. They can overheat and break off metal flakes, called chips, which can move through the transmission and destroy it. Loss of a proprotor gearbox is dangerous and can lead to loss of an aircraft and crew.

In the November crash, investigators believe the first of the six chip warnings was an indication that a crack in the pinion gear had already taken hold and it was fracturing off small metal flakes as it continued to spin. The warnings progressed as the gearing shed more debris and ultimately broke apart, leading to rapidly cascading failures throughout the Osprey's entire drive system and the fatal crash.

In the supplemental crash documents, investigators said analysis of the recovered pinion gear pieces revealed multiple inclusions. An inclusion is a microscopic weak spot in metal caused by foreign substances getting mixed in during the manufacturing process. Those weak spots can lead to fatigue cracking.

The specific alloy used to manufacture the Osprey's pinion gears is called X-53 VIMVAR. Crash investigators found multiple inclusions in the failed pinion gear and similar inclusions in a second pinion gear on the aircraft, the report said. While the inclusions were found to be within the microscopic size limits allowed, investigators noted that "initiation of a fatigue crack is dependent on the size of the inclusion and its location within the gear material."

Investigators concluded they could not determine whether the inclusions led to the cracking. But they left open the question of whether there may have been larger inclusions that could have caused the cracking and were lost as the pinion gear broke apart. "If the pinion did crack due to an inclusion, the evidence was obscured by the secondary damage," the report found.

Of the 60 incidents reported over the past five years, at least 41 included chipping indications, according to the data obtained by the AP.

The gearbox is a sealed system, meaning ground crews on base can't open it to inspect the gears for inclusions, and even if they could, they don't have the machining needed to detect the microscopic defects, Air Force Special Operations Command head Lt. Gen. Michael Conley told the AP in an interview.

"So in the field, there's nothing we could have done to detect this," Conley said.

And Bell Flight can't test the whole gear for inclusions either without multiple cuts into it, which would destroy the part. The primary safeguard is process control during manufacturing, the report said.

It's not clear whether other Osprey parts, including the input quill assembly that was the cause of the

Marine Corps 2022 crash, are also made from the X-53 alloy.

Bell referred all questions on the proprotor gearbox to Naval Air Systems Command, or NAVAIR, which has overall responsibility for the V-22 Osprey program.

In a statement to the AP, Col. Brian Taylor, head of the Pentagon's V-22 program office, said it could not comment on specific proprotor gearbox changes underway, but said "as improved materials become available, they are evaluated for use in all our systems."

Conley said, for now, the Air Force has made flying the Osprey more restrictive while doing longer-term engineering analysis. "Figuring out if there's a better way with the gearboxes, better production methods, better material. That's with NAVAIR and Bell right now," he said.

Until at least mid-2025, the Osprey is expected to remain under flight restrictions that require it to stay within 30 minutes of a spot to land, among other safety checks.

Air Force Special Operations Command only has 51 Ospreys, but it's had to remove 132 proprotor gearboxes for repair in the past 10 years, according to data obtained by the AP. The Marine Corps purchased 360 Ospreys and currently operates about 270. Over the past 10 years it's removed 464 proprotor gearboxes. The Navy, which has 27 in the fleet, has removed proprotor gearboxes 13 times.

While the Osprey has been in design since the 1980s, the Marine Corps' MV-22 version has only been deployed since 2007, the Air Force CV-22 since 2009 and the Navy's CMV-22 version since 2021.

American Cole Hocker pulls Olympic shocker in men's 1,500, leaving Kerr and Ingebrigtsen behind

By EDDIE PELLIS AP National Writer

SAINT-DENIS, France (AP) — The race was billed as a bar brawl between the two baddest 1,500-meter runners in the world.

Nobody figured the little-known American guy would sneak up on both of them, steal the show and take the Olympic gold medal with him.

Cole Hocker threw a jolt into track Tuesday night, first catching up to -- then slipping his way past -- fierce rivals Jakob Ingebrigtsen and Josh Kerr to pull the upset of the Games with an unexpected victory in a much-hyped showdown that wasn't supposed to involve him.

Hocker bettered his personal best by nearly 3 seconds to win in an Olympic-record 3 minutes, 27.65 seconds.

"If you've been following my season, you knew I was capable of it," Hocker said. "But still, things had to go my way today."

Taking advantage of a blistering early pace set by Ingebrigtsen, the 23-year-old product of University of Oregon pulled from fifth, to third, then finally to first, over the final 300 meters to pass the gassed-out favorites.

This was supposed to be all about a chance for the defending Olympic champion (Ingebrigtsen) and the reigning world champion (Kerr) to finally settle a feud that's been brewing for over a year. Kerr said the race would be "one of the most vicious and hardest 1,500s the sport's seen in a very long time."

Instead, the guy taking home the \$50,000 winner's check was an up-and-comer who was listed as much as a 30-1 long shot. Kerr finished second by .14 seconds. Another American, Yared Nuguse, was third, and Ingebrigtsen faded to fourth.

"It was a deafening noise. I've never heard that in a stadium before," Hocker said of the 80,000 screaming fans in the Stade de France. "I kind of lost feeling in my body and it didn't feel like the Olympics anymore until it did."

Gabby Thomas wins gold as expected

About an hour after that surprise came an American victory most people saw coming when Gabby Thomas powered through the curve to win the 200-meter title in 21.83 seconds.

Her .25-second margin over 100 champ Julien Alfred was .11-second bigger than Hocker's, even though

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, August 07, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 043 ~ 63 of 77

Thomas raced half a lap and Hocker nearly four.

Hocker, who recorded his previous personal best of 3:30.59 at Olympic trials this summer, is only the second U.S. man to win the metric mile at the Olympics over the last 112 years. Matt Centrowitz took gold in 2016.

While all eyes were on Ingebrigtsen and Kerr, Hocker slid by

All eyes for this one were trained on Ingebrigtsen, the defending champion out of Norway who came in with a point to prove, and Kerr, the Scotsman who beat him last year at world championships.

Ever since, Kerr and Ingebrigtsen poked at each other. Among the salvos that stuck was Kerr's assertion that Ingebrigtsen only wins races with pacesetters, which are not allowed at major events like the Olympics.

Against that backdrop, Ingebrigtsen darted to the front quickly and ran there for the first 3 1/2 laps, while Kerr traded between second and third, getting ready for his typical windup and a potential slingshot past the Norwegian over the closing stretch, much the way he did last year.

"Of course, it's a tactical error that I'm not able to reduce my pace the first 800," Ingebrigtsen said.

While he and Kerr were wearing each other out, Hocker, his long hair pulled back in a bun and standing at 5-foot-9 1/2, more than 3 1/2 inches shorter than the top two contenders, almost looked like he was trying to photo bomb them at the end of the race.

As they entered the homestretch, Hocker snuck up on the inside once, only to have Ingebrigtsen block that move.

So, Hocker fell back and wound up for another try with about 50 meters left.

Both he and Kerr, who was racing on the outside, passed Ingebrigtsen, then Hocker — his back arched, his chest out and his arms pumping faster than anyone else — beat the Scot to the finish line and raised his hands as he crossed.

"I gathered myself and I attacked again. Just incredible," Hocker said.

A few paces after the line, Hocker thumped his chest twice, a little celebration in the spotlight for a guy whose own steady success got overshadowed by the all the hype.

"They've had all this added pressure and all that and noise," Hocker said. "I think that's part of this. This job is blocking out that noise and it gets harder and harder the more you excel."

Kerr called Hocker's performance "the best the Olympics has ever seen."

"That's good enough for me for silver today and it will get me hungry for the next time around," Kerr said.

Let the record show that Kerr did, in fact, beat Ingebrigtsen in this race, bringing his all-time record against his rival to 3-13 at this distance.

For over a year, though, it's been clear that neither was racing for second.

Showdown set between Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone and Femke Bol

The next meeting in another of track's best rivalries — this one between Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone and Femke Bol — will come in the Olympic final.

The two best at the 400-meter hurdles won their semifinals easily.

McLaughlin-Levrone, who clipped a hurdle in her opening round, went cleanly around the track this time and finished in 52.13. Bol did the lap in 52.57.

The two have only faced off twice. McLaughlin set world records at both races, with Bol finishing third at the last Olympics and second at the 2022 world championships.

"Iron sharpens iron," McLaughlin said. "It's always fun racing the best and I know we're going to push each other."

Kirani James runs best time in men's 400 semifinals

Kirani James, the 2012 Olympic champion, had the best time in the men's 400-meter semifinals, winning his heat in 43.78.

The runners with the two best times this year, America's Quincy Hall and Britain's Matthew Hudson-Smith, won their semifinals and will be joined by American Michael Norman to set up one of the more wide-open finals.

Defending champion Steven Gardiner, struggling with injuries this year, pulled out before the first round.

Tentoglou wins long jump and Rogers takes hammer throw

Miltiadis Tentoglou of Greece won his second gold in a row in a men's long jump final that was missing an American for only the second time in a non-boycott Games since the Summer Olympics started in 1896.

Canada's Camryn Rogers added an Olympic gold in hammer throw to the gold she won at world championships last year. Annette Echikunwoke of the U.S. won silver.

Brazil, Colombia and Mexico in talks with Venezuelan government and opposition on election crisis

By E. EDUARDO CASTILLO and REGINA GARCIA CANO Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Since Venezuela's disputed presidential election nine days ago, officials from Brazil, Colombia and Mexico have been in constant contact with representatives of both Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro and opposition candidate Edmundo González, seeking a solution to the country's political crisis.

The three nations, whose current leftist presidents are Maduro allies, are holding conversations with both sides, a senior Mexican official who has been part of the discussions told The Associated Press. The official declined to characterize that as formal mediation.

The three countries are recommending that the government and the opposition follow Venezuelan laws and appear before the appropriate institutions to appeal any part of the process, the official said. That recommendation, however, is a tall ask for the opposition, because Venezuela's ruling party controls every aspect of government, including the justice system, and uses it to defeat and repress real and perceived opponents.

The official spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the contacts and declined to identify the Venezuelan government and opposition representatives participating in the discussions. The official also would not say whether González's team has signaled its willingness to formally appeal the results of the July 28 election.

Unlike many other nations that have either recognized Maduro or González as the winner, the governments of Brazil, Colombia and Mexico have taken a more neutral stance by neither rejecting nor applauding when Venezuela's electoral authorities declared Maduro the winner at the ballot box.

In a joint statement last week, the three countries called on Venezuela's electoral body to release tens of thousands of vote tally sheets, considered the ultimate proof of results.

"The fundamental principle of popular sovereignty must be respected through impartial verification of the results," President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva of Brazil, President Gustavo Petro of Colombia and President Andrés Manuel López Obrador of Mexico said in their statement.

The Mexican official told the AP that the three have not ruled out an in-person meeting with Maduro.

Millions of Venezuelans headed to the polls on July 28 — some even held vigil at their voting center — for the highly anticipated election that by all accounts was the toughest electoral challenge Maduro and his ruling United Socialist Party of Venezuela had faced in decades. The National Electoral Council then proclaimed Maduro the winner without releasing any detailed figures as it had done in the past.

Roughly 12 hours after results were announced, thousands of Venezuelans across the country took to the streets to protest the results and were met with brutal government repression.

The electoral council says Maduro had earned 6.4 million votes while González, who represented the Unitary Platform opposition coalition, garnered 5.3 million. But González and opposition leader Maria Corina Machado stunned Venezuelans when they revealed they had obtained more than 80% of the vote tally sheets issued by every electronic voting machine after polls closed, and asserted that Maduro had been defeated by a 2-to-1 margin.

Following the revelations, Maduro asked Venezuela's Supreme Tribunal of Justice to conduct an audit of the presidential election, but his move immediately drew criticism from foreign observers who said the court is too close to the government to produce an independent review.

The court's justices are proposed by federal officials and ratified by the National Assembly, which is

dominated by Maduro sympathizers.

When the tribunal summoned all 10 candidates who appeared on the ballot for a hearing last Friday, only González failed to show up. The court on Monday ordered him to appear at another hearing on Wednesday.

Machado, in a recorded audio message to Venezuelans on social media on Tuesday said the opposition successfully secured the tally sheets "without the regime noticing." She also reminded supporters that their joint effort to unseat Maduro "has many phases" and does not require people to "always be in the streets."

"There are times to go out, times to meet, and thus demonstrate all our strength and determination and embrace each other, just as there are times to prepare, to organize, to communicate and to consult with our allies around the world, which are many," she said. "An operational pause is sometimes necessary to ensure that all the elements of the strategy are aligned and ready for action."

Colombian Foreign Affairs Minister Luis Gilberto Murillo on Tuesday told reporters he hopes the three governments will be able to publicly discuss any progress in the conversations with Venezuelan stakeholders either later this week or next week. He added the discussions among officials are not happening under deadline.

"Venezuela has its own dynamics and that is what will condition certain times," Murillo said.

Meanwhile, two Brazilian officials told the AP that Lula, Petro and López are coordinating closely on this issue. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly about the discussions.

One of the officials on Tuesday summed up the magnitude of the challenge: "no leader alone will be enough to handle this crisis."

Also on Tuesday, the United States government reiterated its call on Maduro and his representatives to recognize the election results favoring González. Mark Wells, acting assistant secretary for western hemisphere affairs, told reporters the administration of President Joe Biden has examined evidence shared by the opposition and has determined that "it would be almost impossible to falsify" the tally sheets.

"The numbers speak for themselves," Wells said. "The real result of the election is clear and the world can see it. Edmundo González got the majority of the votes."

He added that the U.S. government continues to work with other countries to promote transparency and ensure that the people's votes are counted. He also praised the joint effort by Colombia, Mexico and Brazil but declined to offer any details or say whether the U.S. is currently in talks with Maduro.

A day earlier, Venezuela's top prosecutor announced a criminal investigation against González and Machado over a statement they issued calling on the armed forces to abandon their support for Maduro and to stop repressing demonstrators.

Attorney General Tarek William Saab said that both of them "falsely announced a winner of the presidential election other than the one proclaimed by the National Electoral Council, the only body qualified to do so," and that they openly incited "police and military officials to disobey the laws."

Calm returns to Wall Street, and stocks bounce back after their worst drop in nearly 2 years

By STAN CHOE AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — A rising tide swept stocks higher, and calm returned to Wall Street after Japan's market soared earlier Tuesday to claw back much of the losses from its worst day since 1987.

The S&P 500 climbed 1% to break a brutal three-day losing streak. It had tumbled a bit more than 6% on a raft of concerns, including worries the Federal Reserve had pressed the brakes too hard for too long on the U.S. economy through high interest rates in order to beat inflation.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 294 points, or 0.8%, while the Nasdaq composite gained 1%. Stocks of all kinds climbed in a mirror opposite of the day before, from smaller companies that need U.S. households to keep spending to huge multinationals more dependent on the global economy.

Stronger-than-expected profit reports from several big U.S. companies helped drive the market. Kenvue,

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, August 07, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 043 ~ 66 of 77

the company behind Tylenol and Band-Aids, jumped 14.7% after reporting stronger profit than expected thanks in part to higher prices for its products. Uber rolled 10.9% higher after easily topping profit forecasts for the latest quarter.

Caterpillar climbed 3% after the maker of heavy machinery reported stronger earnings than expected.

The whiplash moves for financial markets globally have been the result of several technical factors, not just worries ignited by several weaker-than-expected reports on the U.S. economy, in what strategists at Barclays called "a perfect storm" for causing extreme market moves. One is centered in Tokyo, where a favorite trade for hedge funds and other investors began unraveling last week after the Bank of Japan made borrowing more expensive by raising interest rates above virtually zero.

That scrambled trades where investors had borrowed Japanese yen at low cost and invested the cash elsewhere around the world. The resulting exits from those investments may have helped accelerate the declines for markets around the world.

Japan's Nikkei 225 jumped 10.2% Tuesday to claw back much of its 12.4% sell-off the day before, which was its worst since the Black Monday crash of 1987. Stocks in Tokyo rebounded as the value of the Japanese yen stabilized against the U.S. dollar following several days of sharp gains.

"The speed, the magnitude and the shock factor clearly demonstrate" how much of the moves were driven by how traders were positioned, according to the strategists at Barclays led by Stefano Pascale and Anshul Gupta.

Still, some voices along Wall Street are continuing to urge caution.

Barry Bannister, chief equity strategist at Stifel, is warning more drops could be ahead because of a slowing U.S. economy and sticky inflation. He's forecasting both will be worse in the second half of this year than what much of Wall Street expects, while saying a measure of how expensive the U.S. stock market is still looks "frothy" when compared with bond yields and other financial conditions.

The stock market's "dip is not a blip," he warned in a report, and called it "too soon to jump back in."

He had been predicting a coming "correction" in U.S. stock prices for a while, including an acknowledgment in July that his initial call was early. That was a couple days before the S&P 500 set its latest all-time high and then began sinking.

While fears are rising about a slowing U.S. economy, it is still growing, and many economists see a recession in the next year or so as unlikely. The U.S. stock market is also still up a healthy amount for the year so far, and the Federal Reserve says it has ample room to cut interest rates to help the economy if the job market weakens significantly.

The S&P 500 has romped to dozens of all-time highs this year and is still up nearly 10% so far in 2024, in part due to a frenzy around artificial-intelligence technology. Critics have been saying that euphoria has sent stock prices too high in many cases.

They've pointed in particular to Nvidia, Apple and the other handful of Big Tech stocks in the "Magnificent Seven" that were the main reason the S&P 500 set so many records this year. They helped overshadow weakness across other areas of the stock market, which were struggling under the weight of high interest rates.

A set of underwhelming profit reports recently, kicked off by Tesla and Alphabet, added to the pessimism and dragged Big Tech stocks lower. Nvidia dropped nearly 19% from the start of July through Monday on such concerns, but it rose 3.8% Tuesday and was one of the strongest forces pushing upward on the market.

Apple, though, slipped another 1% and was the heaviest weight on the market.

All told, the S&P 500 rose 53.70 points to 5,240.03. The Dow added 294.39 to 38,997.66, and the Nasdaq gained 166.77 to 16,366.85.

In the bond market, Treasury yields climbed to claw back some of their sharp drops since April, which were driven by rising expectations for coming cuts to interest rates by the Federal Reserve.

The yield on the 10-year Treasury rose to 3.88% from 3.78% late Monday. It had briefly dropped below 3.70% during Monday when fear in the market was spiking and investors were speculating the Federal Reserve could even have to call an emergency meeting to cut interest rates quickly.

Fossils suggest even smaller 'hobbits' roamed an Indonesian island 700,000 years ago

By ADITHI RAMAKRISHNAN AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Twenty years ago on an Indonesian island, scientists discovered fossils of an early human species that stood at about 3 1/2 feet (1.07 meters) tall — earning them the nickname “hobbits.”

Now a new study suggests ancestors of the hobbits were even slightly shorter.

“We did not expect that we would find smaller individuals from such an old site,” study co-author Yousuke Kaifu of the University of Tokyo said in an email.

The original hobbit fossils — named by the discoverers after characters in “The Lord of the Rings” — date back to between 60,000 and 100,000 years ago. The new fossils were excavated at a site called Mata Menge, about 45 miles from the cave where the first hobbit remains were uncovered.

In 2016, researchers suspected the earlier relatives could be shorter than the hobbits after studying a jawbone and teeth collected from the new site. Further analysis of a tiny arm bone fragment and teeth suggests the ancestors were a mere 2.4 inches (6 centimeters) shorter and existed 700,000 years ago.

“They’ve convincingly shown that these were very small individuals,” said Dean Falk, an evolutionary anthropologist at Florida State University who was not involved with the research.

The findings were published Tuesday in the journal Nature Communications.

Researchers have debated how the hobbits — named *Homo floresiensis* after the remote Indonesian island of Flores — evolved to be so small and where they fall in the human evolutionary story. They’re thought to be among the last early human species to go extinct.

Scientists don’t yet know whether the hobbits shrank from an earlier, taller human species called *Homo erectus* that lived in the area, or from an even more primitive human predecessor. More research — and fossils — are needed to pin down the hobbits’ place in human evolution, said Matt Tocheri, an anthropologist at Canada’s Lakehead University.

“This question remains unanswered and will continue to be a focus of research for some time to come,” Tocheri, who was not involved with the research, said in an email.

Hearing seeks insight into blowout on a Boeing jet that pilots said threw the flight into 'chaos'

By DAVID KOENIG and WYATTE GRANTHAM-PHILIPS AP Business Writers

Boeing factory workers say they were pressured to work too fast and asked to perform jobs that they weren’t qualified for, including opening and closing the door plug that later blew off an Alaska Airlines jet.

Those accounts from inside the company were disclosed Tuesday, as federal investigators opened a two-day hearing into the blowout, which further tarnished Boeing’s safety reputation and left it facing new legal jeopardy.

A Boeing door installer said he was never told to take any shortcuts but everyone faced pressure to keep the assembly line moving.

“That’s how mistakes are made. People try to work too fast,” he told investigators for the National Transportation Safety Board. The installer, along with other workers, was not named in probe documents.

The panel that blew off the Boeing 737 Max in January was made and installed by a supplier, Spirit AeroSystems. It was removed at a Boeing factory so that workers could repair damaged rivets, but bolts that help secure the door plug weren’t replaced. It’s not clear who removed the panel.

Another member of the Boeing door crew said workers got no special training for door plugs and should not have been asked to open or close the panels.

Boeing workers at the factory in Renton, Washington, have “been put in uncharted waters to do everybody’s dirty work because no one wants to touch it,” the second worker told investigators. He said Boeing’s safety culture is “garbage. Nobody’s accountable.”

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, August 07, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 043 ~ 68 of 77

The workers' accounts were among more than 3,000 pages of documents released by the NTSB as it began a two-day hearing into the Jan. 5 accident, which left a gaping hole in the plane and created decompression so violent that it blew open the cockpit door and tore off the co-pilot's headset.

"It was chaos," the Alaska Airlines co-pilot told investigators.

The captain said it was so loud that he couldn't communicate with flight attendants. On an intercom, he heard them talking about a hole in the plane. He decided to land the plane as quickly as possible.

The accident on flight 1282 occurred minutes after takeoff from Portland, Oregon, as the plane flew at 16,000 feet (4,800 meters). Oxygen masks dropped during the rapid decompression, a few cell phones and other objects were swept through the hole in the plane, passengers were terrified by wind and roaring noise, but miraculously there were no major injuries.

"This was quite traumatic to the crew and passengers," NTSB Chair Jennifer Homendy said as the hearing began. "We are so sorry for all that you experienced during this very traumatic event."

The NTSB said in a preliminary report that four bolts that help secure the panel, which is called a door plug, were not replaced after a repair job in a Boeing factory, but the company has said the work was not documented. During the hearing, safety board members are expected to question Boeing officials about the lack of paperwork that might have explained how such a potentially tragic mistake occurred.

The safety board will not determine a probable cause after the hearing. That could take another year or longer. It is calling the unusually long hearing a "fact-finding" step.

Boeing and Spirit executives said turnover since the coronavirus pandemic has left the companies with less-experienced workforces.

Elizabeth Lund, who has served as Boeing's senior vice president of quality — a new position — since February, said before the pandemic most new hires at Boeing factories had aerospace experience, often in the military. Now, she said, "considerably more of our employees did not have that aerospace experience."

Spirit Senior Vice President Terry George said that five years ago, 95% of the company's factory employees had worked with sheet metal, but now it is 5%. The company has increased training for tasks such as drilling holes and installing fasteners in aircraft bodies, he said.

A representative of the machinists' union said Boeing cut back on inspections and training over the last several years. Lund said the company has significantly increased training since the Alaska Airlines blowout, and that the company is trying to improve quality as it focuses on "lean manufacturing."

"Can I make one suggestion?" safety board member Todd Inman interjected.

"Sure, please," Lund replied.

"Stop talking about leaner and quality and start talking about safer manufacturing," Inman said.

Lund also said Boeing is working on ways to prevent door plugs from being closed if they are not firmly secured, but she could not say when that redesign might be completed.

Boeing production of Max jets dropped below 10 per month after the blowout and remains under 30 per month, Lund said. The Federal Aviation Administration has set a limit of 38 per month until it is satisfied that Boeing's manufacturing process is producing safe planes.

Later Tuesday, witnesses were expected to testify about the FAA's oversight of Boeing. FAA Administrator Mike Whitaker has conceded that his agency's oversight of the company "was too hands-off — too focused on paperwork audits and not focused enough on inspections." He has said that is changing.

The accident led to several investigations of Boeing, most of which are still underway.

The FBI has told passengers on the Alaska Airlines flight that they might be victims of a crime. The Justice Department pushed Boeing to plead guilty to a charge of conspiracy to commit fraud after finding that it failed to live up to a previous settlement related to regulatory approval of the Max.

Boeing, which has yet to recover financially from two deadly crashes of Max jets in 2018 and 2019, has lost more than \$25 billion since the start of 2019. Later this week, the company will get its third chief executive in 4 1/2 years.

Five things to know about Tim Walz

By STEVE KARNOWSKI and JOHN HANNA Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Vice President Kamala Harris has decided on Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz as her running mate in her bid for the White House. The 60-year-old Democrat and military veteran rose to the forefront with a series of plain-spoken television appearances in the days after President Joe Biden decided not to seek a second term. He has made his state a bastion of liberal policy and, this year, one of the few states to protect fans buying tickets online for Taylor Swift concerts and other live events.

Some things to know about Walz:

Walz comes from rural America

It would be hard to find a more vivid representative of the American heartland than Walz. Born in West Point, Nebraska, a community of about 3,500 people northwest of Omaha, Walz joined the Army National Guard and became a teacher in Nebraska.

He and his wife moved to Mankato in southern Minnesota in the 1990s. That's where he taught social studies and coached football at Mankato West High School, including for the 1999 team that won the first of the school's four state championships. He still points to his union membership there.

Walz served 24 years in the Army National Guard, rising to command sergeant major, one of the highest enlisted ranks in the military, although he didn't complete all the training before he retired so his rank for benefits purposes was set at master sergeant.

He has a proven ability to connect with conservative voters

In his first race for Congress, Walz upset a Republican incumbent. That was in 2006, when he won in a largely rural, southern Minnesota congressional district against six-term Rep. Gil Gutknecht. Walz capitalized on voter anger with then-President George W. Bush and the Iraq war.

During six terms in the U.S. House, Walz championed veterans' issues.

He's also shown a down-to-earth side, partly through social media video posts with his daughter, Hope. One last fall showed them trying a Minnesota State Fair ride, "The Slingshot," after they bantered about fair food and her being a vegetarian.

He could help the ticket in key Midwestern states

While Walz isn't from one of the crucial "blue wall" states of Wisconsin, Michigan and Pennsylvania, where both sides believe they need to win, he's right next door. He also could ensure that Minnesota stays in the hands of Democrats.

That's important because former President Donald Trump has portrayed Minnesota as being in play this year, even though the state hasn't elected a Republican to statewide office since 2006. A GOP presidential candidate hasn't carried the state since President Richard Nixon's landslide in 1972, but Trump has already campaigned there.

When Democratic Gov. Mark Dayton decided not to seek a third term in 2018, Walz campaigned and won the office on a "One Minnesota" theme.

Walz also speaks comfortably about issues that matter to voters in the Rust Belt. He's been a champion of Democratic causes, including union organizing, workers' rights and a \$15-an-hour minimum wage.

He has experience with divided government

In his first term as governor, Walz faced a Legislature split between a Democratic-led House and a Republican-controlled Senate that resisted his proposals to use higher taxes to boost money for schools, health care and roads. But he and lawmakers brokered compromises that made the state's divided government still seem productive.

Bipartisan cooperation became tougher during his second year as he used the governor's emergency power during the COVID-19 pandemic to shutter businesses and close schools. Republicans pushed back and forced out some agency heads. Republicans also remain critical of Walz over what they see as his slow response to sometimes violent unrest that followed the murder of George Floyd by a Minneapolis police officer in 2020.

Things got easier for Walz in his second term, after he defeated Republican Scott Jensen, a physician known nationally as a vaccine skeptic. Democrats gained control of both legislative chambers, clearing the

way for a more liberal course in state government, aided by a huge budget surplus.

Walz and lawmakers eliminated nearly all of the state abortion restrictions enacted in the past by Republicans, protected gender-affirming care for transgender youth and legalized the recreational use of marijuana.

Rejecting Republican pleas that the state budget surplus be used to cut taxes, Democrats funded free school meals for children, free tuition at public colleges for students in families earning under \$80,000 a year, a paid family and medical leave program and health insurance coverage regardless of a person's immigration status.

He has an ear for sound-bite politics

Walz called Republican nominee Donald Trump and running mate JD Vance "just weird" in an MSNBC interview last month and the Democratic Governors Association — which Walz chairs — amplified the point in a post on X. Walz later reiterated the characterization on CNN, citing Trump's repeated mentions of the fictional serial killer Hannibal Lecter from the film "Silence of the Lambs" in stump speeches.

The word quickly morphed into a theme for Harris and other Democrats and has a chance to be a watchword of the undoubtedly weird 2024 election.

Russian disinformation slams Paris and amplifies Khelif debate to undermine the Olympics

By DAVID KLEPPER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The actor in the viral music video denouncing the 2024 Olympics looks a lot like French President Emmanuel Macron. The images of rats, trash and the sewage, however, were dreamed up by artificial intelligence.

Portraying Paris as a crime-ridden cesspool, the video mocking the Games spread quickly on social media platforms like YouTube and X, helped on its way by 30,000 social media bots linked to a notorious Russian disinformation group that has set its sights on France before. Within days, the video was available in 13 languages, thanks to quick translation by AI.

"Paris, Paris, 1-2-3, go to Seine and make a pee," taunts an AI-enhanced singer as the faux Macron actor dances in the background, seemingly a reference to water quality concerns in the Seine River where some competitions are taking place.

Moscow is making its presence felt during the Paris Games, with groups linked to Russia's government using online disinformation and state propaganda to spread incendiary claims and attack the host country — showing how global events like the Olympics are now high-profile targets for online disinformation and propaganda.

Over the weekend, disinformation networks linked to the Kremlin seized on a divide over Algerian boxer Imane Khelif, who has faced unsubstantiated questions about her gender. Baseless claims that she is a man or transgender surfaced after a controversial boxing association with Russian ties said she failed an opaque eligibility test before last year's world boxing championships.

Russian networks amplified the debate, which quickly became a trending topic online. British news outlets, author J.K. Rowling and right-wing politicians like Donald Trump added to the deluge. At its height late last week, X users were posting about the boxer tens of thousands of times per hour, according to an analysis by PeakMetrics, a cyber firm that tracks online narratives.

The boxing group at the root of the claims — the International Boxing Association — has been permanently barred from the Olympics, has a Russian president who is an ally of Russian President Vladimir Putin and its biggest sponsor is the state energy company Gazprom. Questions also have surfaced about its decision to disqualify Khelif last year after she had beaten a Russian boxer.

Approving only a small number of Russian athletes to compete as neutrals and banning them from team sports following the invasion of Ukraine all but guaranteed the Kremlin's response, said Gordon Crovitz, co-founder of NewsGuard, a firm that analyzes online misinformation. NewsGuard has tracked dozens of examples of disinformation targeting the Paris Games, including the fake music video.

Russia's disinformation campaign targeting the Olympics stands out for its technical skill, Crovitz said. "What's different now is that they are perhaps the most advanced users of generative AI models for malign purposes: fake videos, fake music, fake websites," he said.

AI can be used to create lifelike images, audio and video, rapidly translate text and generate culturally specific content that sounds and reads like it was created by a human. The once labor-intensive work of creating fake social media accounts or websites and writing conversational posts can now be done quickly and cheaply.

Another video amplified by accounts based in Russia in recent weeks claimed the CIA and U.S. State Department warned Americans not to use the Paris metro. No such warning was issued.

Russian state media has trumpeted some of the same false and misleading content. Instead of covering the athletic competitions, much of the coverage of the Olympics has focused on crime, immigration, litter and pollution.

One article in the state-run Sputnik news service summed it up: "These Paris 'games' sure are going swimmingly. Here's an idea. Stop awarding the Olympics to the decadent, rotting west."

Russia has used propaganda to disparage past Olympics, as it did when the then-Soviet Union boycotted the 1984 Games in Los Angeles. At the time, it distributed printed material to Olympic officials in Africa and Asia suggesting that non-white athletes would be hunted by racists in the U.S., according to an analysis from Microsoft Threat Intelligence, a unit within the technology company that studies malicious online actors.

Russia also has targeted past Olympic Games with cyberattacks.

"If they cannot participate in or win the Games, then they seek to undercut, defame, and degrade the international competition in the minds of participants, spectators, and global audiences," analysts at Microsoft concluded.

A message left with the Russian government was not immediately returned on Monday.

Authorities in France have been on high alert for sabotage, cyberattacks or disinformation targeting the Games. A 40-year-old Russian man was arrested in France last month and charged with working for a foreign power to destabilize the European country ahead of the Games.

Other nations, criminal groups, extremist organizations and scam artists also are exploiting the Olympics to spread their own disinformation. Any global event like the Olympics — or a climate disaster or big election — that draws a lot of people online is likely to generate similar amounts of false and misleading claims, said Mark Calandra, executive vice president at CSC Digital Brand Services, a firm that tracks fraudulent activity online.

CSC's researchers noticed a sharp increase in fake website domain names being registered ahead of the Olympics. In many cases, groups set up sites that appear to provide Olympic content, or sell Olympic merchandise.

Instead, they're designed to collect information on the user. Sometimes it's a scam artist looking to steal personal financial data. In others, the sites are used by foreign governments to collect information on Americans — or as a way to spread more disinformation.

"Bad actors look for these global events," Calandra said. "Whether they're positive events like the Olympics or more concerning ones, these people use everyone's heightened awareness and interest to try to exploit them."

What polling shows about Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz, Harris' new running mate

By LINLEY SANDERS Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz, Vice President Kamala Harris' running mate pick, will need to introduce himself to the vast majority of Americans. But his track record in his home state offers clues on what he might bring to the Democratic ticket.

In 2022, he won young voters in Minnesota, according to AP VoteCast, and he did well in the state's union households, winning nearly 6 in 10 voters in that group. About half of Minnesota voters had a favorable

view of Walz, and about 4 in 10 had a negative one.

And although he didn't win among white voters without a college degree, he performed better among that group than Democrats nationwide. He won 44% of this group in Minnesota, compared to 32% among Democratic candidates nationally.

Harris is hoping Walz will strengthen the Democratic ticket in Midwestern states and among working class voters, despite his current lack of a national profile.

An ABC News/Ipsos survey conducted before Walz was selected for the VP slot, but after vetting began, showed that nearly 9 in 10 U.S. adults didn't know enough about him, or had no opinion. Among Americans with a view, opinions were split between positive and negative: 6% had a favorable view, and 7% had an unfavorable one.

The other finalists for the role — Arizona Sen. Mark Kelly and Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro — were more familiar to Americans nationally, according to an AP-NORC poll conducted in late July that asked the question slightly differently, although most didn't know enough to have an opinion of them either.

Nearly 9 in 10 Democrats also didn't know enough to have an opinion of Walz in the ABC News/Ipsos poll.

But his biography as a military veteran and former high school teacher — two broadly trusted professions — may also help him appeal to voters.

In addition to being a former teacher, Walz previously served in the Army National Guard. About 9 in 10 U.S. adults say they have a favorable opinion of military veterans, generally, according to another Ipsos poll conducted in 2024. About 8 in 10 say that about school teachers. Both measures are much higher than for government employees or elected officials. Republicans are slightly more likely than Democrats to have a positive view of veterans, while Democrats are a bit more likely to have a favorable opinion of those in a teaching career.

Gallup polling from 2022 found that high school teachers are generally held in high regard among Americans for their honesty and ethical standards. About half gave them at least a high rating on ethics.

Walz did lose among military veteran households in Minnesota in 2022, according to VoteCast. But while he also struggled among white men, a demographic that Democrats have sought to win back from President Donald Trump, he performed a little better among this group than Democrats nationwide.

How a student-run uprising led to the ouster of Bangladesh's longest-serving prime minister

By KRUTIKA PATHI Associated Press

NEW DELHI (AP) — In a video that lit up social media feeds in Bangladesh, jubilant protesters climbed atop a statue of Sheikh Mujib Rahman, the country's first leader after independence, and beat it with iron rods and axes as people below hooted and cheered.

Crowds across the nation have attacked symbols of Rahman, as they sought to literally dismantle his legacy and that of his daughter, Sheikh Hasina, the country's prime minister until Monday when she resigned and fled in the face of the unrest.

The anger that pushed Hasina from power — and that is behind the drive to erase her and her family — is rooted in deep economic distress felt by the majority of people in Bangladesh, as well as the perception that while they suffered, the elites aligned with Hasina prospered, analysts said.

"It created a deep-seated resentment against the government," said Ali Riaz, an expert on Bangladeshi politics who teaches political science at Illinois State University.

That eventually triggered a full-scale rejection of Hasina and her increasingly autocratic turn.

Monday's extraordinary scenes — when crowds ransacked her official residence, her party offices and a museum to her father while she fled to India in a helicopter — capped weeks of protests that began with discontent over a quota system for allocating government jobs that critics said favored those with connections to Hasina's party.

Hundreds of people were killed as security forces cracked down on the demonstrations — violence that only fueled them, even after the quota system was dramatically scaled back.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, August 07, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 043 ~ 73 of 77

It showed that her government “wildly underestimated just how much anger there was among the public, and the sources of the anger which went beyond the issue of job quotas,” said Michael Kugelman, director of the South Asia Institute at the Wilson Center.

The 76-year-old, the longest-serving prime minister in the predominantly Muslim country of 170 million, has prided herself on how she transformed Bangladesh’s economy into a global competitor — fields turned into garment factories, bumpy roads became winding highways, more girls went to school, and electricity reached rural villages.

But that transformation was not shared by all and it belied fragilities in the economy, like its dependence on exports and persistently high youth unemployment. Those were exposed after the COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine drove her government to seek a \$4.7 billion IMF bailout.

Eighteen million young people — almost a fifth of the population — are not working or in school, according to Chietigj Bajpae, who researches South Asia at the Chatham House think tank. And the fact that the allocation of government jobs was at the center of the initial protests is no coincidence: They were seen as most stable and high-paying, revealing the widespread insecurity that persisted.

Under Hasina, “the benefits of growth were limited to a small elite in or close to the regime,” said Uday Chandra, assistant professor of government at Georgetown University in Qatar.

Critics also complained she touted the economic advances to cover up her crackdown on dissent, accusing her of curtailing press freedoms, shrinking civil society and jailing thousands of opposition members ahead of the January election in which she won a fourth consecutive term.

The economic successes were “inflated to justify her rule, and to try and push development as an alternative to democracy,” Riaz said, adding that allegations of vote-rigging and a boycott by the main opposition parties in the past three elections contributed to a sense that she lacked legitimacy.

For now, Hasina’s departure is being seen as a resounding victory for the protesters.

“Everyone is celebrating,” shouted Juairia Karim, a student, as she rejoiced with others in the streets Monday. “This has to be a historical day.”

But Hasina’s ouster has also plunged the nation into uncertainty. The ceremonial president dissolved Parliament on Tuesday, as he and the military chief promised to announce an interim government that would lead the country until new elections can be held. It’s not clear how long that process could take — but it could be months or years.

The president also released Hasina’s archrival, Khaleda Zia, the chief of the opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party, from house arrest where she languished for years.

Meanwhile, student protesters demanded that Nobel Peace Prize laureate Muhammad Yunus — a longtime opponent of Hasina — be put in charge of the interim government. He could not immediately be reached for comment, but one student leader said Yunus has agreed to step in.

As for Hasina, it’s unclear what’s next. On Tuesday, India’s foreign minister confirmed that she had arrived in the country the day before but did not say whether she would stay or head elsewhere.

And more unrest could yet come — especially if the influential military attempts to go beyond its role of mediator. Bangladesh has faced more than 20 coups or coup attempts since independence in 1971.

“In a fraught political environment, uncertainty can breed volatility and volatility can provoke more violence,” said Kugelman, of the Wilson Center. “The last thing Bangladesh can afford right now is a broader security crisis ... and this will come down to what role the army plays in addressing the serious threats to stability.”

Judge in Trump’s hush money case delays date for ruling on presidential immunity

BY JENNIFER PELTZ Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The judge in Donald Trump’s hush money trial is pushing back a date for a key ruling on presidential immunity until two days before Trump’s scheduled sentencing.

The immunity decision had been due Sept. 6, with the sentencing set for Sept. 18. But then Trump’s

lawyers asked Judge Juan M. Merchan last week to rule first on their renewed bid to get the judge to step aside from the case.

In a letter made public Tuesday, Judge Juan M. Merchan postponed the immunity ruling to Sept. 16 — if it's still needed after he decides next week whether to recuse himself.

Merchan said the Republican presidential nominee is still due in court Sept. 18 for "the imposition of sentence or other proceedings as appropriate."

Trump lawyer Todd Blanche and the Manhattan district attorney's office, which is prosecuting the case, declined to comment.

A jury found Trump guilty in May of falsifying business records to conceal a deal to pay off porn actor Stormy Daniels shortly before the 2016 election. At the time, she was considering going public with a story of a sexual encounter with Trump a decade earlier.

Trump's former lawyer Michael Cohen paid Daniels and was later reimbursed by Trump, whose company logged the repayment as legal expenses. Prosecutors said that was an effort to disguise the true nature of the transactions and the underlying hush money deal.

Trump denies Daniels' claim, maintains he did nothing wrong and says the case is politically motivated. Manhattan DA Alvin Bragg is a Democrat.

Trump's lawyers say the Supreme Court's July ruling on presidential immunity warrants overturning the May guilty verdict and entirely dismissing the hush money case against Trump. The defense also contends that the trial was "tainted" by evidence that should not have been allowed under the high court's ruling, such as testimony from some Trump White House staffers and tweets he sent while president in 2018.

The high court's ruling curbs prosecutions of ex-presidents for official acts and restricts prosecutors in pointing to official acts as evidence that a commander in chief's unofficial actions were illegal.

The Manhattan district attorney's office maintains that the high court's opinion "has no bearing" on the hush money case because it involves unofficial acts for which the former president is not immune.

Meanwhile, Trump's lawyers asked Merchan last week, for a third time, to exit the case, saying his daughter's work for Vice President Kamala Harris' 2020 presidential campaign underscores questions about his ability to be impartial. Harris is now the Democratic nominee for president.

Merchan rejected two prior recusal requests last year, saying the defense's concerns were "hypothetical" and based on "innuendos" and "unsupported speculation."

But Trump lawyer Todd Blanche argued that Harris' entry into the presidential race makes those issues "even more concrete" and said the judge hadn't addressed them in enough detail.

The hush money case is one of four criminal prosecutions brought against Trump last year.

One federal case, accusing Trump of illegally hoarding classified documents at his Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida, was dismissed last month. The Justice Department is appealing.

The others — federal and Georgia state cases concerning Trump's efforts to overturn his 2020 election loss — are not positioned to go to trial before the November election.

The final image of Simone Biles at the Olympics was a symbol of joy — and where the sport is going

By WILL GRAVES AP National Writer

PARIS (AP) — Simone Biles cast a knowing glance across the awards podium toward Jordan Chiles.

The longtime friends and U.S. gymnastics teammates knew they needed to find a way to honor Brazilian star Rebeca Andrade. They just weren't sure how.

What they came up with after Andrade's gold medal on floor exercise at the end of 10 days inside Bercy Arena symbolized the state of their sport at the 2024 Games.

Where it is. And hopefully where it's going.

Biles, the unequivocal Greatest of All Time, and Chiles, a three-time Olympic medalist whose journey back to the Games was a testament to talent and grit, dropped down to one knee. It was a show of respect to Andrade, whose excellence is symbolic of a sport that is getting more diverse, more inclusive

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, August 07, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 043 ~ 75 of 77

and perhaps more positive as it goes.

"It was just the right thing to do," Biles said about a moment that soon went viral, with even the Louvre itself suggesting it might be worthy enough for a spot somewhere in the vicinity of the Mona Lisa.

Fitting for an Olympics that offered masterpieces everywhere you looked.

Biles eagerly shares the stage

Biles and the American women finished off their "Redemption Tour" by reclaiming gold in the team final. Biles exorcised whatever inner doubt remained from the Tokyo Games — and shut up the haters in the process — by winning a second all-around title eight years after her first.

Andrade led Brazil to its first Olympic team medal (a bronze), then added three more in the individual competition, finishing runner-up to Biles in the all-around and vault before becoming the first woman in memory to edge Biles in a floor exercise final.

The Italian women won their first team medal in nearly a century. Japan put together a stirring rally on high bar in the last rotation to slip by rival China for gold. The U.S. men and "Pommel Horse Guy" Stephen Nedoroscik returned to the Olympic podium for the first time in 16 years. Carlos Yulo of the Philippines tripled his country's Summer Olympic all-time gold medal count in a mere 24 hours.

The good vibes were everywhere, led by Biles, who seemed to make it a point to take her vibrant spotlight and redirect it toward the other women on the floor as often as possible.

That was never more evident than what could have been the last day of her career. The 27-year-old's voice could be heard shouting encouragement to each of the other balance beam finalists inside an eerily quiet arena. Regardless of nationality. Regardless of age. Regardless of score. Regardless of how well she might know them.

Afterward, Biles spoke glowingly of Italians Alice D'Amato and Manila Esposito, who earned gold and bronze in beam after half the field — Biles included — fell inside an arena so still that Biles joked she could hear cell phones buzzing.

"I'm super excited and proud of them because now they're building bricks (for a program) for the other Italian girls," she said.

U.S. women's team dismantles stereotypes

Those bricks have long been in place in the U.S., yet what Biles, Chiles, six-time Olympic medalist Sunisa Lee and three-time Olympic medalist Jade Carey did in Paris is destroy the "little girls in pretty boxes" stereotype that has lingered over the sport for decades once and for all.

The four 20-somethings — oh, and 16-year-old Hezly Rivera, too — came to France with a score to settle. Biles to put those strange days in Japan three years ago firmly in the rearview mirror. Lee to rid herself of the "imposter syndrome" that kept nagging at her following her all-around gold in Tokyo and the health issues that pushed her to the verge of quitting over and over again. Chiles and Carey to put the Americans back on top after ceding the top of the podium to Russia.

The group checked every box. The U.S. won eight of 18 possible medals, including four for Biles to boost her Olympic total to 11, tied for the second most ever by a women's gymnast in the history of the event.

Yet just as important as the results was the process they took to get there. There was pressure but there was also joy in abundance for the oldest team the Americans have ever brought to the Games, a team that has dubbed itself "The Golden Girls."

"It's been so much fun," Carey said. "And I think so many have seen that, that we're just having fun out there. And I think that's bringing out the best gymnastics from us."

'We did it'

A decade ago, the core four would be heading off into retirement while the next wave of prodigies came along. It says something about the rapidly shifting demographics on the floor and the rising interest in women's gymnastics at large that not one of them — Biles included — has made any firm decisions about their future.

Biles nudged the door toward Los Angeles 2028 open when she said over the weekend "never say never." Lee, still just 21, is taking time before weighing her options. Carey and Chiles will join Biles on her post-

Olympic tour and have college eligibility remaining.

No one is in a hurry. Biles in particular. She chastised the media for pressing about the future so soon after the biggest moment of athletes' lives. For a long time — for too long, in hindsight — she fixated on what's next.

No longer. She was intent on soaking in her third Olympics. Of enjoying it. And she did, from the first pressure-packed rotation in qualifying to that moment with Chiles and Andrade, when the last of the weight she's been carrying for years lifted off her shoulders, perhaps for good.

"There's nothing left," Biles said. "We did our job, you know what I'm saying? So yeah, it was hard, but we did it."

What are carry trades and how did they contribute to this week's global market mayhem?

By ELAINE KURTENBACH AP Business Writer

BANGKOK (AP) — The mayhem that swept across world markets this week was partly caused by a market strategy known as the "carry trade."

Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 plunged 12.4% on Monday and markets in Europe and North America suffered outsized losses as traders sold stocks to help cover rising risks from investments made using cheaply financed funds borrowed mostly in Japanese yen.

Markets recovered much of their losses on Tuesday. But the damage lingers.

They were jolted by a combination of factors, including dread of a possible recession in the United States, the world's largest economy, and worries that technology shares have shot way too high this year.

But the scale of the declines was exaggerated by the rush to sell U.S. dollars due to carry trade deals that had helped drive markets to record levels.

What are carry trades?

Carry trades involve borrowing at low cost in one currency to achieve higher returns from investments in another currency. One of the most recent examples has been to borrow Japanese yen, expecting the currency to remain cheap against the U.S. dollar and for Japanese interest rates to remain low. The borrowed funds would then be invested in U.S. stocks and Treasury bonds in anticipation of a higher return.

Why have traders been unwinding their carry trades?

The key factor behind a carry trade is a difference in interest rates. The Bank of Japan has kept interest rates at or near zero for years, trying to encourage more spending and spur economic growth. Last week, it raised its main interest rate from nearly zero. Higher interest rates tend to boost the value of a nation's currency, and the Japanese yen surged against the U.S. dollar. Traders scrambled to sell higher risk, dollar-denominated assets to cover suddenly higher borrowing costs, plus losses from foreign exchange rate changes and losses in asset values as share prices plunged. Also, hedge funds that conduct carry trades use computer models to help maximize their returns versus their risks. They needed to sell shares to maintain acceptable risk profiles.

Why do carry trades have an outsized impact on markets?

Carry trades tend to make the most sense when foreign exchange rates are relatively stable and investors can tap into higher yielding market opportunities, like the recent runups of stock prices in places like the United States. The recent market upheavals obliged traders to cover their debts by buying yen and other carry trade currencies and selling relatively more of the higher risk assets they bought under more favorable conditions. Also, carry trades are very lucrative when stocks or other investments are rising, but losses can snowball when thousands of traders are pressured to sell stocks or other assets all at once. "A massive global carry trade unwind was the spark that lit the fuse for this market Armageddon," Stephen Innes of SPI Asset Management said. "One defining characteristic of these self-perpetuating market melts is the vicious cycle where a sell-off increases realized volatility."

What's the future risk from carry trades?

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, August 07, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 043 ~ 77 of 77

The gap between the main interest rate in Japan, now at 0.25%, and the Federal Reserve's benchmark rate of 5%-5.25% is still wide but is likely to narrow as the Fed cuts rates and Japan raises its rates. Financial markets appeared to have calmed Tuesday, with Japan's Nikkei 225 index gaining 10.2% and other markets mostly higher. Analysts are divided over whether this bout of volatility in the markets has passed or if there is more to come. Regardless, carry trades have been used for decades. They contributed to a meltdown in Iceland's financial sector in 2007-2008 where investors borrowed in yen or Swiss francs to take advantage of high Icelandic interest rates. During this latest market upset, Mexico, another focus of the yen carry trade, has seen its peso fall more than 6%. The popular but potentially complicated trading strategy is likely to remain a wild card for investors, especially in times of high market volatility.

Today in History: August 7, Twin Tower tightrope walk

Today is Wednesday, Aug. 7, the 220th day of 2024. There are 146 days left in the year.

On Aug. 7, 1974, French highwire artist Philippe Petit performed an unapproved tightrope walk between the two towers of the World Trade Center in New York, over 1,300 feet above the ground; the event would be chronicled in the Academy Award-winning documentary film "Man on Wire."

Also on this date:

In 1789, the U.S. Department of War was established by Congress.

In 1942, U.S. and other allied forces landed at Guadalcanal, marking the start of the first major allied offensive in the Pacific during World War II.

In 1960, Cote d'Ivoire gained independence from France.

In 1964, Congress passed the Gulf of Tonkin resolution, giving President Lyndon B. Johnson broad powers in dealing with reported North Vietnamese attacks on U.S. forces.

In 1971, the Apollo 15 moon mission ended successfully as its command module splashed down in the Pacific Ocean.

In 1978, President Jimmy Carter declared the Love Canal environmental disaster in Niagara Falls, N.Y. a federal health emergency; it would later top the initial list of Superfund cleanup sites.

In 1989, a plane carrying U.S. Rep. Mickey Leland, D-Texas, and 15 others disappeared over Ethiopia. (The wreckage of the plane was found six days later; there were no survivors.)

In 1990, President George H.W. Bush ordered U.S. troops and warplanes to Saudi Arabia to guard the oil-rich desert kingdom against a possible invasion by Iraq.

In 1998, terrorist bombs at U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania killed 224 people, including 12 Americans.

In 2007, San Francisco's Barry Bonds hit home run No. 756 to break Hank Aaron's storied record with one out in the fifth inning of a game against the Washington Nationals, who won, 8-6.

In 2012, to avoid a possible death penalty, Jared Lee Loughner agreed to spend the rest of his life in prison, accepting that he went on a deadly shooting rampage at an Arizona political gathering in 2011 that left six people dead and 13 injured, including U.S. Rep. Gabby Giffords.

In 2015, Colorado theater shooter James Holmes was spared the death penalty in favor of life in prison after a jury in Centennial failed to agree on whether he should be executed for his murderous attack on a packed movie premiere that left 12 people dead.

Today's Birthdays: Singer Lana Cantrell is 81. Former FBI Director Robert Mueller is 80. Actor John Glover is 80. Actor David Rasche is 80. Former diplomat, talk show host and activist Alan Keyes is 74. Country singer Rodney Crowell is 74. Actor Caroline Aaron is 72. Comedian Alexei Sayle is 72. Actor Wayne Knight is 69. Rock singer Bruce Dickinson is 66. Marathon runner Alberto Salazar is 66. Actor David Duchovny is 64. Actor Delane Matthews is 63. Actor Harold Perrineau is 61. Jazz musician Marcus Roberts is 61. Country singer Raul Malo is 59. Actor David Mann is 58. Actor Charlotte Lewis is 57. Actor Sydney Penny is 53. Actor Greg Serano is 52. Actor Michael Shannon is 50. Actor Charlize Theron is 49. Rock musician Barry Kerch is 48. Actor Eric Johnson is 45. Actor Randy Wayne is 43. Actor-writer Brit Marling is 42. NHL center Sidney Crosby is 37. MLB All-Star Mike Trout is 33. Actor Liam James is 28.