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STARS AND STRIPES ON THE LAKE



BRIANNA COONEY/P-R PHOTO

On-lookers are silhouetted against the bright glow of fireworks on the night of June 25 as part of the Rouses Point Stars and Stripes on the Lake Celebration. See a video of some of the fireworks from that night at pressrepublican.com.

PARADE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

the rifle used in the attack in Illinois within the past year, Covelli said. In all, police said, he purchased five firearms, which were recovered by officers at his father's home.

The revelation about his gun purchases is just the latest example of young men who were able to obtain guns and carry out massacres in recent months despite glaring warning signs about their mental health and inclination to violence.

'INSUFFICIENT BASIS' TO DENY LICENSE

Illinois state police, who issue gun owners' licenses, said the gunman applied for a license in December 2019, when he was 19. His father sponsored his application.

At the time "there was insufficient basis to establish a clear and present danger" and deny the application, state police said in a statement.

Investigators who have interrogated the suspect and reviewed his social media posts have not determined a motive or found any indication that he targeted victims by race, religion or other protected status, Covelli said.

SCENES OF PANIC

Earlier in the day, FBI agents peeked into trash cans and under picnic blankets as they searched for more evidence at the scene. The shots were initially mistaken for fireworks before hundreds of revelers fled in terror.

A day later, baby strollers, lawn chairs and other items left behind by panicked parade goers remained inside a wide police perimeter. Outside the police tape, some residents drove up to collect blankets and chairs they abandoned.

David Shapiro, 47, said the gunfire quickly turned the parade into "chaos."

"People didn't know right away where the gunfire was coming from, whether the gunman was in front or behind you chasing you," he said Tuesday as he retrieved a stroller and lawn chairs.

The gunman initially evaded capture by dressing as a woman and blending into the fleeing crowd, Covelli said.

SHOOTING SCENES

The shooting was just the latest to shatter the rituals of American life. Schools, church-

es, grocery stores and now community parades have all become killing grounds in recent months. This time, the bloodshed came as the nation tried to celebrate its founding and the bonds that still hold it together.

A police officer pulled over 21-year-old Robert E. Crimo III north of the shooting scene several hours after police released his photo and warned that he was likely armed and dangerous, Highland Park Police Chief Lou Jogmen said.

His father, Bob, a longtime deli owner, ran for mayor in 2019. The candidate who won that race, current Highland Park Mayor Nancy Rotering, said she knew Crimo as a boy in Cub Scouts.

"And it's one of those things where you step back and you say, 'What happened?'" Rotering told NBC's "Today" show. "How did somebody become this angry, this hateful, to then take it out on innocent people who literally were just having a family day out?"

LAWYER REACTIONS

Crimo's attorney, Thomas A. Durkin, a prominent Chicago-based lawyer, said he intends to enter a not guilty plea to all charges.

Asked about his client's emotional state, Durkin said he has spoken to Crimo only once — for 10 minutes by phone. He declined to comment further.

Steve Greenberg, the lawyer for the parents, told The Associated Press Tuesday evening the parents aren't concerned about being charged with anything related to their son's case.

"There is zero chance they will be charged with anything criminal," he said. "They didn't do anything wrong. They are as stunned and shocked as anyone."

NINE VICTIMS STILL HOSPITALIZED

The shooting occurred at a spot on the parade route where many residents had staked out prime viewing points early in the day.

Among them was Nicolas Toledo, who was visiting his family in Illinois from Mexico, and Jacki Sundheim, a lifelong congregant and staff member at nearby North Shore Congregation Israel. The Lake County coroner released the names of four other victims.

Nine people, ranging from 14 to 70, remained hospitalized Tuesday, hospital officials said.

Since the start of the year, the U.S. has seen 15 shootings

where four or more people were killed, including the one in Highland Park, according to The Associated Press/USA TODAY/Northeastern University mass killing database.

Scores of smaller-scale shootings in nearby Chicago also left eight people dead and 60 others wounded over the July 4 weekend.

GUN RESTRICTIONS

In 2013, Highland Park officials approved a ban on semi-automatic weapons and large-capacity ammunition magazines. A local doctor and the Illinois State Rifle Association quickly challenged the liberal suburb's stance. The legal fight ended at the U.S. Supreme Court's doorstep in 2015 when justices declined to hear the case and let the suburb's restrictions remain in place.

Under Illinois law, gun purchases can be denied to people convicted of felonies, addicted to narcotics or those who are termed "mental defectives" and capable of harming themselves or others. That might have stopped a suicidal Crimo from getting a weapon.

But under the law, just who is a "mental defective" must be decided by "a court, board, commission or other legal authority."

The state has a so-called red flag law designed to stop dangerous people before they kill, but it requires family members, relatives, roommates or police to ask a judge to order guns seized.

ASPIRING RAPPER

Crimo, who goes by the name Bobby, was an aspiring rapper with the stage name Awake the Rapper, posting on social media dozens of videos and songs, some ominous and violent.

In one animated video since taken down by YouTube, Crimo raps about armies "walking in darkness" as a drawing appears of a man pointing a rifle, a body on the ground and another figure with hands up in the distance.

Federal agents were reviewing Crimo's online profiles, and a preliminary examination of his internet history indicated that he had researched mass killings and had downloaded multiple photos depicting violent acts, including a beheading, a law enforcement official said.

The official could not discuss details of the investigation publicly and spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

DIVERSITY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

advocate."

OFFICERS 'ATTEMPTED TO DE-ESCALATE'

SLPD officers Aaron Sharlow

and Gabrielle Beebe responded to the Stewart's Shops around 8:30 a.m. Wednesday for a report of a stabbing.

"Officers immediately attempted de-escalation techniques to persuade Mr. Kavota to surrender the knife," ADI wrote. Eyewitnesses heard Bee-

be ask Kavota, "Hey, can I see the knife?" and "I'm going to need you to pull the knife out and show me." They also heard Kavota refuse to hand over the knife.

"He repeatedly refused and lunged at the requesting officer (Beebe) with the knife," ADI wrote. "The approaching officer (Beebe) attempted to distance herself, and fell to the ground."

Sharlow fired his gun twice, hitting Kavota in the chest.

"The officers immediately responded with life-saving efforts," ADI wrote. "EMS arrived on scene within a minute-and-a-half."

COMMUNITY GRIEVES

Eyewitnesses said they saw police and Stewart's employees

trying to stop the bleeding and performing CPR.

"Regardless of the de-escalation techniques and actions of the Saranac Lake officers, this remains a true tragedy that our entire community grieves," ADI wrote. "It is a very difficult situation, and we are sure that all involved will relive it for some time."

ADI'S WORK WITH SLPD

ADI has been working with the SLPD as it conducted a state-required review of its policies last year and offered mental health and diversity trainings for its officers through Renz Consulting — a law enforcement training and consulting firm ADI contracts with, led by former and current law enforce-

ment members.

Last year, Sharlow attended a Crisis Intervention Team training run by the Institute for Police, Mental Health and Community Collaboration, which was designed to improve police interactions with people in mental health, substance abuse or emotional crises.

SLPD Chief Darin Perrotte has turned control of the investigation over to New York State Police and the state Attorney General's Office "to ensure transparency."

VILLAGE, POLICE INVESTIGATION

Sharlow and Beebe have been placed on administrative leave during this investigation.

ADI members say they are working with the village mayor,

police chief and State Police to release the body camera footage "as soon as possible."

"We ask that the community remain patient for the release of all information and conclusion of the investigation," ADI wrote.

'PROFOUND CONCERN'

On Thursday, ADI issued a statement expressing grief for everyone involved in Wednesday's violence.

"(Adirondack North Country Association) and the Adirondack Diversity Initiative wish to offer our deepest condolences to the family of the deceased. We also wish to express our profound concern for the recovering victim, our local police partners, and our community — especially residents of color," Adirondack Diversity Initiative Associate Director Melanie Reding wrote. "While we wait for the facts of the case to unfold, ADI's Community Policing Initiative is on the ground and in communication with Mayor (Jimmy) Williams and New York State Police Troop B. We are also coordinating with our partners at RENZ Consulting, who specialize in strengthening police-community relations."

"We are committed to supporting all members of our community during this difficult time," she added.

'IT'S A TRAGEDY'

Eric Sperger, a property manager for Nicaastro & Cantwell who said Kavota was a tenant of his, said Kavota was a client of Lakeside House, a human services organization that focuses on housing people with mental illness in town.

Lakeside House Residence Manager Peter Wood has declined to comment, saying he needs to speak with the organization's board first. Wood said he may be able to comment more, and give more details about Kavota, after speaking with his board.

"It's a tragedy," Wood said. Anyone who may have witnessed the incident or who has additional information is asked to contact State Police at 518-873-2750.

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NEW YORK STATE ELECTRIC & GAS (NYSEG)

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Castelli: 'We have every intent to win'

Democratic Congressional candidate talks Moderate Party, 1/6 hearings ahead of midterms

BY ALEXANDER GAULT
Watertown Daily Times

LOWVILLE — Ahead of the Democratic primary election in August, candidate Matt Castelli said he's feeling more and more confident in his campaign's strength and appeal to most voters in New York's 21st Congressional District.

The Democrat, a former CIA officer and counterterrorism director for the National Security Council, has secured support in some fashion from all of the county Democratic committees in the district, and has gone on to secure a third-party ballot line in the general election as well.

INTENDS TO WIN

In an interview ahead of a campaign event in Lowville, Mr. Castelli said he's unwilling to entertain a future where he hasn't won the Democratic primary in this race.

"I won't entertain the idea of losing the Democratic primary," he said over a cup of coffee at Lloyd's of Lowville. "We have every intent and plan to win that Democratic primary."

Mr. Castelli referenced his endorsements, from the party committees and leaders, to former Congressman Bill L.

Owens, the Democrat who represented the north country district from 2009 to 2015 and current Congresswoman Abigail A. Spanberger, D-Va. But he said the strongest indicator of his appeal so far is his successful attempt to gain the Moderate Party line. He said he secured signatures from over 11,000 unique voters between his Democratic and Moderate Party petitions to appear on the ballot, a significant amount when only 1,500 signatures are required to successfully secure a ballot line for an established party.

'COMMON SENSE' CANDIDATE

Although the Moderate Party has started up in some states, like New Jersey, as a coordinated effort among many people to bridge the Republican and Democratic parties and promote centrism, Mr. Castelli said his own Moderate Party is not party of that larger organization.

"This was not done with any type of coordination with other folks who are pursuing this," he said. "Although I think, as I'm learning more about what's happening in places like New Jersey, that our interests, our very val-

ues, are very much aligned," he said.

Mr. Castelli said NY-21 has a strong base of independent voters, and has long been known to support more moderate candidates in Congress, like Mr. Owens. He said his goal is to show moderate Republicans, Democrats and independent voters that he is that moderate, what he calls "common sense" candidate.

Mr. Castelli said he stands firmly against political violence, and has long referenced the Jan. 6 attack as his reason to seek a seat in Congress in the first place. He said the Republican Party has bred extremism that has led to that violent act, and that's where the moderation is needed most. But Mr. Castelli also spoke of concerns over left-leaning Democrats spending habits and fiscal "irresponsibility," and said that's a point that the Democrats need reigning in on.

'IT'S BEEN SHOCKING'

As Mr. Castelli has campaigned across NY-21, the House investigation into the Jan. 6 attack has progressed with public, livestreamed hearings.

Mr. Castelli has made it a central point in his campaign, while his Republican opponent, Congresswoman Elise M. Stefanik, has made discrediting the investigation a primary focus herself.

The Congresswoman, as Chairwoman of the House Republican Conference, has led the Republican's response to the committee's findings. In appearances on conservative cable news and opinion channels, press releases and Tweets, the Congresswoman has called the hearings shams. She has instead blamed Democrats for "failing to secure the Capitol," against potential threats on Breitbart, and has said she views Capitol security as the primary concern following the attack on the houses of Congress.

Mr. Castelli said the House Select Committee investigating the Jan. 6 attack has shown that the core issues that caused the violent attack are even more significant than he first believed.

"It's worse than what I anticipated," he said. "I think it's been shocking."

'THERE WAS A CRIME'

Mr. Castelli has leaned firmly on his counterterrorism experience as he campaigns, and said the Jan. 6 attack at the Capitol, where right-wing extrem-

ists and supporters of President Trump tried to stop Congress from certifying President Joseph R. Biden's election win, was an example of domestic terrorism. Now, he said it seems that domestic terrorism was directed from the President's office.

"What is clear at this stage is that there was a crime, an attack on our country and attempt to overthrow the will of the American people, and that it had the knowledge and intense direction from the very highest level of government," he said.

In public testimony before the House committee, witnesses close to President Trump during the weeks and days before and during Jan. 6, 2021, have alleged that Mr. Trump knew his supporters were armed, had long been planning to march on the Capitol after his early morning speech, and was unwilling to tell them to stop once the violence began.

'TRUTH WE CAN TRUST IN'

Mr. Castelli said the fact that most of these witnesses have been Republicans, and the consistency of the stories between different people and their in-person, video and written testimony, shows the veracity of their allegations. "This dramatic insight comes

from Republicans who are testifying, members of President Trump's inner circle," he said.

While Congresswoman Stefanik has said the Jan. 6 investigation hearings will have little impact or real results, Mr. Castelli said he thinks the committee is achieving exactly what it needs to.

"They are providing us the truth, we are getting truth we can trust in, transparency into what happened," he said. "We are all entitled to the truth, certainly about those actions and the intent in what was behind it."

Mr. Castelli is continuing his campaign sweep through the 21st Congressional District this week, ahead of the Democratic primary at the end of August. Voting in that election will be open early from Aug. 13 to Aug. 21, and then polls will open for primary day Aug. 23. Mr. Castelli is running for the Democratic nomination against Matthew F. Putorti, a Whitehall native and longtime corporate lawyer. Whoever wins that primary will go on to stand against Congresswoman Stefanik in November's general election, but with Mr. Castelli having secured a third-party line, it's possible all three candidates could compete in the general election.

Distracted driving continues to be problematic

Last week's article was about 'vlogging while driving', certainly a very dangerous thing to do while driving a motor vehicle. Today we will reveal some statistics from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) on distracted driving courtesy of Zutobi, an online Driver

Education resource focusing on raising awareness on important driving topics and educating safe drivers.

Here are some key findings from the research:

Since 2015, the total number of distracted driving crashes resulting in an injury have bounced between 265,000 to 295,000 crashes

each year. In 2020 this number has dropped significantly, down to 215,000.

About 8% of crashes with injuries can be attributed to cell phones. Cell phones can be attributed to about 13% of fatal distracted driving crashes.

Men are more than twice as likely to be involved in a

fatal distracted driving crash compared to women. Male drivers were distracted in 2125 fatal crashes in 2020, whereas women drivers were only distracted in 781 fatal crashes during the same period.

Distracted driving is defined as driving while doing another activity that takes your attention away from driving. Due to the nature of being less focused on driving, distracted driving will drastically increase the chance of being involved in a motor vehicle crash.

NHTSA divides the most common driver distractions into several categories. These include distractions that happen inside the vehicle (for example: becoming distracted by a passenger in a rear seat) and distractions that occur outside the vehicle (for example: looking at an external object).



DID YOU KNOW?
Road Safety with Dave Werner

Major causes of distracted driving crashes are cell phone use, reaching for moving objects, looking at external objects, applying makeup, eating, and passengers, all distractions that we as drivers think we can handle safely but, we can't.

For the second year in a row, New Mexico has the most distracted driving in the country, receiving a severity score of 99.98. According to

statistics by NHTSA, New Mexico reported 139 distracted driving crashes in 2020. New Mexico reported 10 distracted driving deaths for every 100,000 drivers, and 38% of all fatal crashes in the state were due to distracted driving. With the severity score in parenthesis, the second worst state is Kansas (51.21), followed by Louisiana (50.19), Wyoming (49.8), Kentucky (34.66), Illinois (31.84), New Jersey (30.31), Hawaii (30.25), Washington (29.55), and Virginia (26.42).

Mississippi is the state with the least distracted driving, receiving a severity score of 4.62. Only 1.5% of the state's fatal crashes were reported to have been due to distracted driving and the state had 0.55 distracted driving deaths per 100,000 drivers. Mississippi was followed by California (5.46), Nevada (6.21), Connecticut (6.69), West Virginia (6.85), Rhode Island (8.01), Iowa (8.47), Georgia (8.65), Arkansas (9.11), and Delaware (9.31). New York ranks 19 of the 50 states with a severity score of 20.49.

You can view the full study at: <https://zutobi.com/us/driver-guides/distracted-driving-report>

— Dave Werner is vice chairman of the Franklin County Traffic Safety Board.

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Putin, in Tehran, gets strong support from Iran over Ukraine

BY NASSER KARIMI AND VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV
Associated Press

TEHRAN, IRAN — Russian President Vladimir Putin won staunch support from Iran on Tuesday for his country's military campaign in Ukraine, with Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei saying the West opposes an "independent and strong" Russia.

Khamenei said that if Russia hadn't sent troops into Ukraine, it would have faced an attack from NATO later, a statement that echoed Putin's own rhetoric and reflected increasingly close ties between Moscow and Tehran as they both face crippling Western sanctions. NATO allies have bolstered their military presence in Eastern Europe and provided Ukraine with weapons to help counter the Russian attack.

"If the road would have been open to NATO, it will not recognize any limit and boundary," Khamenei told Putin. Had Moscow not acted first, he added, the Western alliance "would have waged a war" to return the Crimean Peninsula that Russia seized from Ukraine in 2014 back to Kyiv's control.

In only his second trip abroad since Russia launched the military action in February, Putin conferred with Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on the conflict in Syria, and he used the trip to discuss a U.N.-backed proposal to resume exports of Ukrainian grain to ease the global food crisis.

Turkey, a NATO member, has found itself opposite Russia in bloody conflicts in Syria and Libya. It has even sold lethal drones that Ukrainian forces have used to attack Russian troops. But Ankara hasn't imposed sanctions on the Kremlin, making it a sorely needed partner for Moscow. Grappling with runaway inflation and a rapidly depreciating currency, Turkey also relies on the Russian market.

Erdogan made Putin wait for nearly a minute before entering the room for talks and then praised what he described as Russia's "very, very positive approach" during last week's grain talks in Istanbul. He voiced hope a deal will be made, and "the result that will emerge will have a



SERGEI SAVOSTYANOV/SPUTNIK KREMLIN VIA AP

Russian President Vladimir Putin, left, Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi, center, and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan pose for a photo prior to their talks at the Saadabad palace, in Tehran, Iran, Tuesday.

positive impact on the whole world."

Speaking to Erdogan as their meeting began, Putin thanked him for his mediation to help "move forward" a deal on Ukrainian grain exports. "Not all the issues have been resolved yet, but it's good that there has been some progress," Putin added.

U.N., Russian, Ukrainian and Turkish officials had reached a tentative agreement on some aspects of a deal to ensure the export of 22 million tons of desperately needed grain and other agricultural products trapped in Ukraine's Black Sea ports by the fighting. Reaching the agreement would mark a major step toward alleviating a food crisis that has sent prices of vital commodities like wheat and barley soaring.

The trip to Tehran has symbolic meaning for Putin's domestic audience as well, showing off Russia's international clout even as it grows increasingly isolated and plunges deeper into confrontation with the West. It comes just days after U.S. President Joe Biden's visited Israel and Saudi Arabia — Tehran's primary rivals.

From Jerusalem and Jeddah, Biden urged Israel and Arab countries to push back on Russian, Chinese and Iranian

influence that has expanded with the perception of America's retreat from the region.

It was a tough sell. Israel maintains good relations with Putin, a necessity given Russian presence in Syria, Israel's northeastern neighbor and frequent target of its airstrikes. Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates have declined to pump more oil beyond a plan approved by their energy alliance with Moscow.

But all the countries — despite their long-standing rivalries — could agree on drawing closer to counter Iran, which has rapidly advanced its nuclear program since former U.S. President Donald Trump abandoned Tehran's atomic accord with world powers and reimposed crushing sanctions. Talks to restore the deal have hit a deadlock.

Backed into a corner by the West and its regional rivals, the Iranian government is ramping up uranium enrichment, cracking down on dissent and grabbing headlines with optimistic, hard-line stances intended to keep the Iranian currency, the rial, from crashing. Without sanctions relief in sight, Iran's tactical partnership with Russia has become one of survival, even as Moscow appears to be undercut-

ting Tehran in the black market oil trade.

"Iran is (the) center of dynamic diplomacy," Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian wrote on Twitter, adding the meetings will "develop economic cooperation, focus on security of the region ... and ensure food security."

Fadahassein Maleki, a member of the Iranian parliament's influential committee on national security and foreign policy, described Russia as Iran's "most strategic partner" on Monday. His comments belied decades of animosity stemming from Russia's occupation of Iran during World War II — and its refusal to leave afterward.

In a sign of increasingly close military cooperation, Russian officials in recent weeks visited an airfield in central Iran at least twice to review Tehran's weapons-capable drones for possible use in Ukraine, the White House has alleged.

Putin hailed the importance of close ties between Moscow and Tehran at his meetings with the Iranian leaders.

"Our relations are developing at a good pace," Putin said at the start of the meeting with Raisi, adding that they two countries have worked to "strengthen their cooperation on international security and contribute significantly to the Syrian settlement."

In a closing statement, he offered strong support to Tehran over the deadlocked nuclear deal, calling for its full revival and a complete lifting of sanctions against Iran to allow a "free development of cooperation in any areas without any discrimination."

During their trilateral talks, the presidents discussed the decade-old conflict in Syria, where Iran and Russia have backed President Bashar Assad's government, while Turkey has supported armed opposition factions. Russia intervened in the conflict in 2015, pooling efforts with Iranian forces and using its air power to shore up Assad's fledgling military.

Erdogan focused on Turkey's action to push from its borders U.S.-backed Syrian Kurdish fighters, following up on previous threats of a new military offensive in northern Syria. The planned operation is part of Turkey's efforts to create a safe zone along its border with Syria that would

encourage the voluntary return of Syrian refugees.

Erdogan said Turkey was determined to "drive out the centers of evil" that target Turkey's security.

He said Ankara expects Russia and Iran "to support Turkey in this fight," adding that the regions of Tel Rifaat and Manbij — where Turkey has said it planned to send its troops — had turned into a "terror bed."

"The greatest favor that would be made to the Syrian people would be the complete removal of the separatist terrorist organization from territories that it occupies," Erdogan said.

In an apparent reference to Turkey's concerns, the three presidents said in a joint statement that they "rejected all attempts to create new realities on the ground under the pretext of combating terrorism, including illegitimate self-rule initiatives, and expressed their determination to stand against separatist agendas."

At the same time, in an earlier, separate meeting with Erdogan, Khamenei sternly warned against the planned Turkish incursion.

"Any sort of military attack in northern Syria will definitely harm Turkey, Syria and the entire region, and will benefit terrorists," Iran's top leader said, stressing the need to "bring the issue to an end through talks."

Humanitarian issues in Syria have also come into focus since Russia used its veto power at the U.N. Security Council last week to restrict aid deliveries to 4.1 million people in Syria's rebel-held northwest after six months, instead of a year. Erdogan stressed that six months weren't enough.

Raisi said all parties urged expelling American forces from Syria. In a reference to the U.S. military, Putin denounced what he described as "attempts to cement unlawful foreign military presence and foment separatist sentiments," and emphasized that all areas east of the Euphrates River should return to Syrian government control.

Isachenkov reported from Moscow. Associated Press writers Isabel DeBre in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, and Suzan Fraser in Ankara, Turkey, contributed.

CDC advisers endorse more traditional Novavax COVID shot

BY LAURAN NEERGAARD
Associated Press

U.S. adults who haven't gotten any COVID-19 shots yet should consider a new option from Novavax — a more traditional kind of vaccine, influential government advisers said Tuesday.

Regulators authorized the nation's first so-called protein vaccine against COVID-19 last week, but Novavax shots cannot begin until the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends how to use them.

Most Americans have gotten at least their primary COVID-19 vaccinations by now, but CDC officials said between 26 million and 37 million adults haven't had a single dose — the population that Novavax, for now, will be targeting.

"We really need to focus on that population," said CDC adviser Dr. Oliver Brooks, past president of the National Medical Association. Hopefully, the vaccine "will change them over from being unvaccinated to vaccinated."

While it's unclear how many will be persuaded by a more conventional option, "I'm really positive about this vaccine," agreed fellow adviser Dr. Pablo Sanchez of Ohio State University.

THE NOVAVAX DIFFERENCE

All of the vaccines used in the U.S. train the body to fight the coronavirus by recognizing its outer coating, the spike protein — and the first three options essentially turn people's cells into a temporary vaccine factory. The Pfizer and Moderna vaccines deliver genetic instructions for the body to make copies of the spike protein. The lesser-used Johnson & Johnson option uses a cold virus to deliver those instructions.

In contrast, the Novavax vaccine injects copies of the spike protein that are grown in a lab and packaged into nanoparticles that to the immune system resemble a virus. Another difference: An ingredient called an adjuvant, that's made from the bark of a South American tree, is added to help rev up that immune response.

Protein vaccines have been used for years to prevent other diseases including hepatitis B and shingles.

HOW WELL IT WORKS

Large studies in the U.S., Mexico and Britain found two doses of the Novavax vaccine were safe and about 90% effective at preventing symptomatic COVID-19. When the delta variant emerged last summer, Novavax reported a booster dose revved up virus-fighting antibodies that could tackle that

mutant. Typical vaccine reactions were mild, including arm pain and fatigue, but regulators did warn about the possibility of a rare risk, heart inflammation, that also has been seen with the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines, mostly in teen boys or young men.

But early on, manufacturing problems delayed the Novavax vaccine — meaning the shots were studied long before the omicron variant hit, so it's not clear how well they hold up against the immune-evading mutant.

Still, Novavax points to lab testing that shows the first two shots do spur production of virus-fighting antibodies that are cross-protective against omicron, including the BA.5 subtype that's currently the nation's top threat. A booster dose further revved up cross-protective antibodies.

HOW TO USE NOVAVAX SHOTS

The CDC's advisers unanimously endorsed the two-shot primary series. But several noted that it was important for regulators to clear a booster by the time, five or so months after their last dose, that Novavax recipients will need one.

Also, the two doses typically are given three weeks apart. But CDC officials said that like with other COVID-19 vaccines, it's possible to wait up to eight weeks for the second dose — except for people at the highest risk, who need protection quickly.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

CDC's director, Dr. Rochelle Walensky, must sign off on the advisory panel's recommendations for adults to get the first two Novavax doses. In its first purchase, the U.S. government bought 3.2 million doses.

Most major nations lag in acting on climate-fighting goals

BY SETH BORENSTEIN
AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON — For most of the major carbon-polluting nations, promising to fight climate change is a lot easier than actually doing it. In the United States, President Joe Biden has learned that the hard way.

Among the 10 biggest carbon emitters, only the European Union has enacted policies close to or consistent with international goals of limiting warming to just a few more tenths of a degree, according to scientists and experts who track climate action in countries.

But Europe, which is broiling through a record-smashing heat wave and hosting climate talks this week, also faces a short-term winter energy crunch, which could cause the continent to backtrack a tad and push other nations into longer, dirtier energy deals, experts said.

"Even if Europe meets all of its climate goals and the rest of us don't, we all lose," said Kate Larsen, head of international energy and climate for the research firm Rhodium Group. Emissions of heat-trapping gases don't stop at national borders, nor does the extreme weather that's being felt throughout the Northern Hemisphere.

"It's a grim outlook. There's no getting away from it, I'm afraid," said climate scientist Bill Hare, CEO of Climate Analytics. His group joined with the New Climate Institute to create the Climate Action Tracker, which analyzes nations' climate targets and policies compared to the goals of the 2015 Paris Agreement.

The tracker describes as "insufficient" the policies and actions of the world's top two carbon polluters, China and the U.S., as well as Japan, Saudi Arabia and Indonesia. It calls Russia and South Korea's policies "highly insufficient," and Iran comes in as "critically insufficient." Hare says No. 3 emitter India "remains an enigma."

"We are losing ground against ambitious goals" such as keeping global warming to less than 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit) or 1.5 Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) since pre-industrial times, said veteran international climate negotiator Nigel Purvis of Climate Advisers. The world has already warmed 1.1 degrees (2 degrees Fahrenheit) since pre-industrial times.

Seven years ago, when almost all the nations of the world were preparing for what would become the Paris climate agreement, "it was all about ambition and setting ambitious targets," Larsen said. "Now we are transitioning into a new phase that's really about implementation ... I don't think the international community knows how to do implementation."

Other nations and the United Nations can pressure countries to set goals, but enacting laws and rules is a tougher sell. While Europe has been successful with "a long history of implementing and ratcheting up existing policies," Larsen said, that's not the case in the United States. The U.S. is on path to cut emissions by 24% to 35% below 2005 levels by 2030, far shy of the nation's pledge to reduce emissions by 50% to 52% in that time, according to a new analysis by Rhodium Group.

Biden is running low on options, said Larsen, a report co-author. Congress — specifically key Sen. Joe Manchin of West Virginia — is balking on the president's climate-fighting legislation, and the Supreme Court curbed power plant regulations.

Congressional action "was a big window of opportunity that would have allowed us to be on track to our goal," Larsen said. A second window is available in "the suite of federal regulations that the Biden administration plans to release."

"These are the two big deciders of whether the U.S. will meet its target, and one we have largely failed on. So in that sense, it is a big miss because these opportunities don't come along very often," she said.

"The U.S. can get close" to reaching its goal, but it's not close yet, Larsen said. Whether that happens "depends on the next three to 18 months of what the administration does."

Other nations, particularly China, look at what the U.S. is doing to fight climate change and are reluctant to ratchet up their efforts if America isn't doing much, Purvis and Hare said.

At the urging of activists and some Democrats, the Biden administration is considering declaring a national emergency because of climate change and using special powers to cut carbon pollution from power plants and vehicles. Calling it an emergency is not enough; what matters is the actions that follow, Purvis said.

Biden could put a moratorium on federal lands and water. He could reinstate a ban on U.S. oil exports. He could move up spending on wind and solar. But all are subject to a conservative Supreme Court.

"The big question is where can Biden go with executive orders and how convincing is that going to be to other leaders?" Hare said.

Elsewhere in the world, "the Russian energy crisis has definitely been a major setback," Hare said. It's a short-term problem for Europe, and it's even loosened some of their rules, but "their long-term policy framework is very robust, and this might help them double down on alternative energy," Larsen said.

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NEW YORK STATE ELECTRIC & GAS (NYSEG)

Late Payment Charge and Other Waived Fees Surcharge

On June 24, 2022, New York State Electric & Gas Corporation filed tariff amendments, to become effective on July 1, 2022, with the New York State Public Service Commission to implement a surcharge in compliance with the Order Authorizing Alternative Recovery Mechanism for Unbilled Fees and Conforming Accounting Changes issued in Case No. 22-M-0119. The Late Payment Charge and Other Waived Fees Surcharge is designed to recover the late payment charges and other waived fees resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

NEW YORK STATE GAS & ELECTRIC CORPORATION (NYSEG)

Arrears Relief Program

On June 24, 2022, New York State Electric & Gas Corporation filed tariff amendments, to become effective on a temporary basis July 1, 2022, with the New York State Public Service Commission to implement an Arrears Relief Program in compliance with the Order Authorizing Phase 1 Arrears Reduction Program issued in Case Nos. 14-M-0565 and 20-M-0266. Under the Arrears Relief Program, a low-income customer that had arrears as of May 1, 2022, may be eligible for a one-time bill credit. Additionally, the Company will implement an Arrears Relief Program Surcharge to recover the remaining program costs related to the arrears management plan after applying the allocated funds provided by the Utility Arrears Relief Program.

ADAMS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

VOICES OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

Hochul had begun the day pledging to the police chiefs that she would consult with them on public safety policy decisions.

"I believe that there has been a shortcoming for years in terms of making sure that the voices of law enforcement are there when we are talking about policies that affect what you do every day," the governor said.

Some law enforcement executives have complained the Hochul administration had frozen them out on the recent legislation dealing with the tightening of pistol permits as well as amendments to bail and evidence discovery rules requiring prosecutors to rapidly hand over files to defense lawyers.

"No one will ever say the words 'Defund The Police' in my presence," Hochul told the chiefs in Glens Falls. "You're not going to make friends with me if you say that."

CLASSIC EXAMPLE OF 'TRIANGULATING'

While Hochul sought to dis-

stance herself from the Defund the Police movement, her critics questioned her sincerity, noting her first lieutenant governor, former Sen. Brian Benjamin, had openly supported that cause before he resigned following his arrest on felony corruption charges. A top aide to Hochul, Deputy Secretary for Intergovernmental Affairs Amit Singh Bagga, supported the Defund the Police movement during an unsuccessful candidacy for local office in New York City last year.

State Conservative Party Leader Jerry Kassir said Hochul's warm statement about cops suggests Zeldin is gaining traction in the race with the bail issue.

"What we're seeing is a classic example of triangulating, but she isn't as masterful at it as (former President) Bill Clinton, because she stumbles over herself constantly," Kassir said. "People are catching on to what she is doing."

Kassir said if Hochul was sincere about giving law enforcement a seat at the table in her administration, she would appoint retired police leaders to the state parole board. "The parole board, as it stands now, runs from left to very far left. It

has no balance."

A SEAT AT THE TABLE

Patrick Phelan, executive director of the chiefs association, said he welcomed the overtures Hochul made to the group and looks forward to the chiefs being consulted on policy choices.

"Not that we're going to tell anybody what to do, but our input should be considered because we have valuable experience and knowledge in the field of law enforcement," Phelan said. "It'd be beneficial in the legislative process to give us a seat at the table"

Contacted in Delhi, Delaware County Sheriff Craig DuMond said time will tell whether Hochul follows through with the commitments she made Tuesday. "I come from the old school where actions speak louder than words," DuMond said.

He said many gun owners in his region remain annoyed at Hochul for pushing through a law that restricts the possession of firearms.

"Republicans, Democrats and blanks (independent voters) are outraged, and if every registered gun owner turns out to vote in November, she could be toast," DuMond said.



AP FILE PHOTO

New York Governor Kathy Hochul speaks during a news conference in New York, Thursday. Hochul, speaking to members of the New York State Police Chiefs Association Tuesday, defended amendments made to the bail law in the session that concluded in April. Hochul saw law enforcement now has "more opportunities to arrest repeat offenders, noting property thefts, gun violence cases and hate crimes are all eligible for bail.

TERM

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

colored in red, white, and blue stripes. He used it to assault two other officers, hitting one of them in the left shoulder, before police detained and handcuffed him.

Outnumbered officers released Ponder because they couldn't get a police vehicle to transport him. They told him

to leave the Capitol, but Ponder stayed and joined a mob of rioters clashing with police at a tunnel.

Capitol Police Sgt. Aquilino Gonell, one of the officers assaulted by Ponder, said the force of Ponder's blow shattered his shield.

"It was horrific," Gonell said during Ponder's sentencing hearing. "That particular day will impact me for the rest of my life."

After his arrest, Ponder told

FBI agents that he typically supports police but viewed the officers as "part of the problem" that day.

"At some point in time, the way this country is going, you gonna have to pick a side," he said, according to prosecutors.

Ponder attended the "Stop the Steal" rally on Jan. 6 to hear then-President Donald Trump's speech and to "peacefully protest the results of the election and the lack of attention to alleged voting irregular-

ities," Conte wrote in a court filing.

"He did so with no intent to do anything but add his voice to the vocal protests over the injustice he perceived had happened in the election," the attorney added. "Unfortunately, he got caught up in the riotous atmosphere of the crowd and erroneously perceived the police as standing in the way of the crowd's desire to protest the election results."

Ponder has a substantial

criminal record spanning three decades, including a 2008 conviction for bank robbery, according to prosecutors.

More than 840 people have been charged with federal crimes for their conduct at the Capitol on Jan. 6. Over 350 riot defendants have pleaded guilty or been convicted by a jury or a judge after trials.

More than 220 of them have been sentenced, including approximately 100 who received a term of imprisonment. Pon-

der is the 15th to be sentenced to a prison term exceeding one year.

The prison sentences for Ponder and Palmer may not be the lengthiest for much longer. Prosecutors are seeking a 15-year prison sentence for Guy Reffitt, a Texas man who was convicted of storming the Capitol with a holstered handgun. U.S. District Judge Dabney Friedrich is scheduled to sentence Reffitt on Monday.

COVID

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

Department reported 120 new cases from July 17, to July 23, all of which are lab-processed cases only.

Franklin County Health Department saw a significant

increase in cases with 137 reported from July 19, to July 25. FCHD's case total includes at-home positive test results reported to the department from residents.

Additionally, the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe's (SRMT) COVID-19 Response Team reported 38 new cases from July 18, to July 24 — 16 cases re-

mained active Monday.

Essex County Health Department has transitioned to a monthly update and is no longer reporting its case numbers weekly.

STATEWIDE

From July 23, to July 25, 51 COVID-19 related deaths were reported statewide.

Gov. Hochul continues to laud vaccines and testing as the best ways to try and keep New Yorkers safe from the virus.

"As we continue to respond to new variants and prepare for potential surges during this upcoming fall, it is crucial that New Yorkers take precautions to keep themselves and their loved ones safe and healthy,"

Hochul said in a release.

"The vaccine is the best asset we have to keep COVID at bay and I encourage those who are not up to date on their doses to get caught up immediately. Take a test if you feel unwell and if you do test positive, talk to your doctor about potential treatment."

TESTING, VACCINES

COVID-19 testing options can be found on Page A7.

Resources for COVID-19 vaccines in the North Country area are listed on Page A7 and online at pressrepublican.com.

Email Carly Newton: cnewton@pressrepublican.com
Twitter: @CarlySNewton

HONOR ROLLS

The fourth quarter honor roll for 2021-22 academic year at Brushton-Moira Central School is listed below.

Grade 5 Honors: Solomon Abare, Peyton Bell, Aubrey Comstock, Makiah DeShane, Ellaina Durant, Jaelynn Dustin, Craig Evans, Brooke Gardner, Brody Jackson, Luke Lawrence, Alaina Niles, Alora Rogers, Noah Schrader, Easton Stowell, Shane Talton, Logan Taylor, Leah Weller, Wyatt Wilson.

Grade 5 High Honors: Autumn Anderson, Landon Barney, Victoria Bonesteel, Hannah Botto, Aiden Bush, Cayden Bush, Mason Bush, Chase Charlebois, Emily Childs, Addyson-Lee Clookey, Dylan Dyer, Mackenzie Genser, Logan Holmes, Creid Hurteau, Trenton Jacques, Autumn McCabe, Jadelynn Murphy, Kip-

ton Norman, Kayden Phillips, Sophia Rust, Easton Sauve, Kasen Therrien, Leon Trickey, Addison Tucker.

Grade 6 Honors: Preston Barse, Landen Bashaw, Connor Butler, Kayden Corey, Aaden Hyde, Roman Jenkins, Aubrey Ryan, Nevaeh Ryan, Ethan Tupper.

Grade 6 High Honors: Jenna Burroughs, Kayden Bushey, Oliver Carter, Taylor Childs, Gilbert Cotten, Nikita Duval, Hanna Reese, Olivia Lantot-Fleischer, Dalton LaPage, Kamille Lucey, Rylee Martin, Lillyan McDunnah, Madisyn Parent, Leonardo Pentalow, Brayden Phelan, Emily Ann St. Mary, Ellie White.

Grade 7 Honors: Addison Dumas, Paige Johnson, Maddie Kuhn, Adrian Murdock, Alliyah O'Connor, Ethan Reome, Collin Roy, Alexis Rule.

Grade 7 High Honors: Anna Abare, Olivia Barney, Addison Childs, Peighton Childs, Zyren Clark, Mallory Dabiew, Gianna DePaul, Ayzek Dumas, Delaney Durant, Carson Fleury, Christian Holmes, Isaiyah Kingsley, Aidan LaRock, Mylie McCray, Adleigh Norman, Mason Robinson, Parker Russell, Travis Schroen, Rylee Traynor.

Grade 8 Honors: Sophie DeBeer, Marley King, Blake Martin, Meagan Mayville, Kendra Sturgen.

Grade 8 High Honors: Colton Curran, Samantha Dabiew, Brian Eggleston, Connor Evans, Brexyss Gerow, Makaylie Gilmore, Sabrina Jiang, Lillian Jones, Brooke Lawrence, Allie Lennox, Angie Lennox, Allyson McCaffrey, Brody McDonald, Addisyn Mitchell, Chloe Moore, Ayden Niles,

Mason Poirier, Brennan Shova.

Grade 9 Honors: Serena Cayea, Emmalie Dora, Rebekah Glenn, Alyssa Gratton, Brenden Hence, Caleb Kingsley, Lillie Robideau, Olivia St. Denis.

Grade 9 High Honors: Mason Allen, Nathan Anderson, Hayden Bowen, Landyn Bushey, William Clookey, Lillian Cotten, Asher Dabiew, Jacob Debyah, Madelyn DePaul, Jenna Evans, Madison Fleury, Ashlyn Greenwood, Isabelle Hurteau, Anthony Jiang, Tyler Lynch, Hannah Manchester, Danielle McCaffrey, Mari Mendoza, Hagen Norman, Riley Pickering, Tristan Russell, Kallen Ryan, Audrey St. Hilaire, Natalie St. Mary, Jazmin Taylor.

Grade 10 Honors: Ethen Abare, Hannah Aguirre, Noah Besio-Melech, Isaac Childs,

Molly Grant, Gabrielle Guerin, Joseph Hoffman, Emmaleigh Huskins, Jacob LaSalle, Madalyn LaShomb, Hannah Perry, Benjamin Webb.

Grade 10 High Honors: London Beachy, Baylie Benware, Lauryn Clark, Samantha Clookey, Orianna Cotten, Ellie Dodge, Torrie Dodge, Brendan Fish, Jacob Gagnon, Gage Halavin, Reaghan Hart, Logan Jones, Becca Lennox, Summer Mayville, Miyah McCray, Dawson Niles, Kyla Phelan, Carissa Smith, Aidan St. Louler, Autumn Thomas, Katlyn Welch.

Grade 11 Honors: Edmund Collins, Tiphonie Gratton, Karlie Hanna, Riley Langdon, McKenna Oakes, Emma St. Mary.

Grade 11 High Honors: Olivia Bobbie, Zoelynn Charles, Jayden Dabiew, Jazlyn DeBeer,

Janna Debyah, Darrin Demers, Jr., Claire Durant, Lacey Lamica, Kyra Mackey, Amelia Sulpernault, Myah Taylor.

Grade 12 Honors: Jaden Barcomb, Brett Barrett, Skylar Durant-Cummings, Marissa Mitchell, Savannah Oakes, Alexis Pickering, Madison St. Denis, Brianna Welch.

Grade 12 High Honors: Savannah Beachy, Lucas Bowen, Shyreesha Cayea, Abygail Clark, Shannah Cook-Chevier, Kassie-Mae Demers, Makenzee Foley, Colby French, Baylie Garrand Whitney, Lucas Hart, Alison Hebert, Kaylee Langdon, Jasmine LaSalle, Madisyn McCray, Natalie Palmer, Teaghan Phelan, Wyatt Preve, Carson Roy, Emma Russell, Jaeden Sauvé, Lauren Schack-Schlemeyer, Gregory St. Hilaire, Bailey Traynor, Lillie Wood.

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TRASH

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

"When we look at the frequency at which we empty those garbage cans around that area, those garbage cans often overflow over a weekend, or over a few days," he said.

"You're looking at five times the amount of garbage it can store."

MORE EFFICIENCY

With this additional capacity, the city should have more time to be efficient elsewhere, he added.

"Not only does it make everybody's job easier, it's a little more effective with the use of time that we have and the resources that we have," Rosenquest said.

"Which is a benefit absolutely, but also, we get alerts from these cans that say 'hey, I'm 80% full, I'm 90% full,' so that we can be better at scheduling when we go out and empty these cans rather than having to drive around, and put eyes on it or get a phone call for example.

"When you put the garbage in there, it does compact it which does allow for putting more garbage in it. and again,

it is a better use of technology to help streamline governmental efficiencies when it comes to our Department of Public Works."

BEAUTIFYING DOWNTOWN

The area around the city's first High Capacity Smart Solar Compactor is expected to be much cleaner now.

Rosenquest said this is another benefit.

"Using this new system, none of the garbage can overflow or get on the ground if it's disposed of properly in this new bin," he said.

"It's just a better benefit to beautifying downtown."

NEW YORK STATE GAS & ELECTRIC CORPORATION (NYSEG)

Arrears Relief Program

On June 24, 2022, New York State Electric & Gas Corporation filed tariff amendments, to become effective on a temporary basis July 1, 2022, with the New York State Public Service Commission to implement an Arrears Relief Program in compliance with the [Order Authorizing Phase 1 Arrears Reduction Program](#) issued in Case Nos. 14-M-0565 and 20-M-0266. Under the Arrears Relief Program, a low-income customer that had arrears as of May 1, 2022, may be eligible for a one-time bill credit. Additionally, the Company will implement an Arrears Relief Program Surcharge to recover the remaining program costs related to the arrears management plan after applying the allocated funds provided by the Utility Arrears Relief Program.