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Wednesday, April 30

Senior Menu: Pork chop, creamy noodles, winter blend, pineapple, whole wheat bread.
School Breakfast: Oatmeal.
School Lunch: Quesadilla, santa fe corn.
Baseball hosts Sioux Valley, 6 p.m.
Emmanuel Lutheran: Confirmation, 4 p.m.
Groton United Methodist: Community Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.
St. John's Lutheran: Confirmation, 3:45 p.m.
Groton C&MA: Kid's Club, Youth Group, Adult Bible Study, 7 p.m.

Thursday May 1

School Breakfast: Biscuits.
School Lunch: Orange chicken, rice.
Girls Golf at Redfield, 10 a.m.
High School Spring Concert and Awards Night, 7 p.m.

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1440

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

Tensions over Kashmir

Pakistan said it shot down an Indian spy drone in its airspace yesterday. The incident, which India has not confirmed, marks the latest escalation following a deadly attack last week in the Indian-controlled region of Kashmir.

On April 22, at least four gunmen killed 26 people, most of them Indian tourists, in the resort town of Pahalgam. India says at least two of the assailants were Pakistani citizens and blames Islamabad for supporting separatist violence. Pakistan denies association with the gunmen.

Since the attack, the countries have downgraded diplomatic relations. India suspended a key water treaty enabling Pakistan to access 80% of the water it uses for irrigation and launched a test missile over the weekend. Pakistan closed its airspace to India and has threatened a nuclear response if India attacks.

India and Pakistan have fought three wars over the mountainous region of Kashmir since the two countries were partitioned from former British India in 1947.

Fall of Saigon—50 Years Later

Vietnam is marking the 50th anniversary of the fall of Saigon today, commemorating the end of the Vietnam War. A military parade in Ho Chi Minh City—the former South Vietnamese capital of Saigon—is expected to draw more than 13,000 people, including delegations from several countries. US officials are not on the guest list, a mutual diplomatic decision despite improved relations in recent decades.

The anniversary marks the day North Vietnamese forces captured the city, ending nearly two decades of war and unifying the country under communist rule. Although American combat troops withdrew in 1973, thousands of personnel remained. On April 30, 1975, the US launched the largest helicopter evacuation in history—airlifting about 7,000 Americans and South Vietnamese civilians. The operation began with a coded broadcast of Bing Crosby's "White Christmas" over Armed Forces Radio. The war's end also prompted a large migration: Today, more than 1.3 million Vietnamese immigrants live in the US.

At the war's peak, about 543,400 US troops were stationed in the country. The US continues to honor Vietnam veterans through a 13-year commemoration set to conclude on Veterans Day.

Weighing the World's Forests

The European Space Agency yesterday successfully launched a first-of-a-kind satellite to "weigh" the world's forests, measure how much carbon they store, and monitor changes. Scientists hope the data will help refine climate models and track deforestation to support global targets to end forest loss by 2030.

Lifted by a rocket off French Guiana, the Biomass satellite uses a 12-meter radar antenna to penetrate dense forest canopies and directly measure woody biomass, like trunks, branches, and stems, where most forest carbon resides. The latest technology overcomes the limitations of previous satellites, which struggled to see beyond leafy surfaces. The satellite will produce annual maps over a five-year mission, offering unprecedented insight into forest health and carbon storage.

Forests, known as "Earth's green lungs," absorb about 16 billion metric tons of carbon dioxide each year and emit half that amount, resulting in a net absorption of roughly 8 billion metric tons annually. Deforestation and degradation, however, release stored carbon back into the atmosphere, contributing to the warming climate.

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Sports, Entertainment, & Culture

Beyoncé's 32-date "Cowboy Carter" world tour kicks off from Los Angeles.

Mike Peters, frontman for new wave band The Alarm, dies at age 66 after three-decade battle with cancer.

Paris Saint-Germain tops Arsenal 1-0 in the first leg of the UEFA Champions League semifinal; Inter Milan takes on FC Barcelona in the other semifinal today.

Trump administration says the University of Pennsylvania violated Title IX, which guarantees women equal opportunities in athletics, by allowing a transgender athlete to compete for the women's swim team.

Science & Technology

Global analysis links exposure to phthalates—chemical precursors used to make common plastics—to more than 350,000 heart disease-related deaths worldwide per year.

Meta launches a standalone AI app meant to compete with OpenAI's ChatGPT; platform will reportedly include social networking features, including sharing your AI conversations with friends in a discover feed.

Neuroscientists discover the chemical dopamine released along a specific brain circuit helps extinguish the sense of fear following an acute stressor; research may lead to new therapies for PTSD.

Business & Markets

US stock markets close higher (S&P 500 +0.6%, Dow +0.8%, Nasdaq +0.6%).

Hims & Hers Health shares rise 23% after Novo Nordisk says it will offer weight-loss drug Wegovy through the telehealth provider.

President Donald Trump signs order preventing steel and aluminum tariffs from being stacked on top of 25% tariff on imported vehicles.

US consumer confidence falls to lowest level in five years amid trade tensions.

Amazon denies report of plans to display tariff costs next to its product prices after White House criticism.

UPS to cut 20,000 jobs, close 73 leased and owned facilities by end of June amid effort to reduce the amount of Amazon shipments it handles by over 50%; Amazon was previously UPS' largest customer, accounting for 12% of revenue.

Politics & World Affairs

US Navy says it lost a \$67M fighter jet after it rolled off an aircraft carrier and slid to the bottom of the Red Sea; the incident, which is under investigation, comes as Houthi rebels in Yemen say they launched missiles toward the carrier.

Harvard University releases internal watchdog reports on antisemitism and anti-Muslim bias on campus; recommendations include new criteria in admissions process to vet for empathy, ability to engage in civic dialogue.

Wisconsin Supreme Court suspends Milwaukee judge accused of helping man evade immigration authorities.

Florida lawmakers pass bill to ban additives in water, sending the bill to Gov. Ron DeSantis' (R) desk for signature; if passed, Florida will become the second state to ban the chemical compound fluoride after Utah.

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Elementary Spring Concert

5th Grade Band
Beethoven's Ninth.....Arr. Paul Lavender
Bandability.....Arr. Lisa Galvin
Mechanical Monsters Arr. Randall Standridge



JK/Kindergarten "Old Macdonald" and "Down on Grandpa's Farm"



1st Grade "Oats and Beans and Barley Grow" and "Do-Re-Mi"

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2nd Grade
"John Jacob Jingleheimer Schmidt" and "Count on Me"



3rd Grade
"I Love the Mountains" and "Lean on Me"

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4th Grade

"Crawdad Song" and "Take Me Home Country Roads"



5th Grade

"Die With A Smile " and "Seasons of Love"

Fourth Graders attend Ag Fair at Aberdeen



Andy Clemen with Agtegra shows students from Sue Fjeldheim's class during the Fourth Grade Ag Fair on Tuesday at the Brown County Fairground. (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)

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From left: Groton Area sophomores Ryder Jangula and Walker Zoellner answer questions about a cow's digestion system during the Fourth Grade Ag Fair on Tuesday in Aberdeen.

(Photo by Elizabeth Varin)

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Fourth graders Aryanna Cutler and Ava Freeland pet some of the animals at the Fourth Grade Ag Fair, which took place Tuesday at the Brown County Fairgrounds in Aberdeen. (Photo

by Elizabeth Varin)

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Groton Area Senior Chris Schwab controls the air during a demonstration showing potential dangers dealing with grain bins during Tuesday's Fourth Grade Ag Fair in Aberdeen. (Photo by

Elizabeth Varin)

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Fourth grader Callie Herrick reacts while petting a New Zealand breed rabbit at the Fourth Grade Ag Fair on Tuesday in Aberdeen. "They were very soft. If I shaved it, it would just be a jelly bean," she said. (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)

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Groton Area girls win Rob Luecke Track Meet Title

The Groton Area girls won four relay events and McKenna Tietz won the 100m hurdles to help propel the team to a first place finish at the Rob Luecke Invitational Track meet held Tuesday in Groton. Groton Area edged our Warner by 1.5 points for the win.

The boys placed fourth as they won two events. Jayden Schwan won the 3200m run and the boys 4x800m relay team also won.

Boy's Division

Team Standings: 1. Milbank 143, 2. Aberdeen Roncalli 69, 3. Ipswich 65, 4. Groton Area 56, 5. Sisseton 46, 6. Britton-Hecla 41, 6. Frederick Area 41, 6. Leola 41, 9. Hitchcock-Tulare 37, 10. Aberdeen Central 32.5, 11. Warner 32, 12. Tri-State 30, 13. Potter County 21, 14. Redfield 18.5, 15. Northwestern 13, 16. Aberdeen Christian 9, 17. Langford Area 1

100 Meters: 2. Keegen Tracy, 11.70; 24. Ryder Schelle, 12.57

200 Meters: 2. Keegen Tracy, 23.05; 17. Brevin Fliehs, 24.89; 40. Ryder Schelle, 26.77

400 Meters: 14. Jordan Schwan, 58.25

800 Meters: 2. Blake Pauli, 2:06.00; 21. Kason Oswald, 2:34.49

3200 Meters: 1. Jayden Schwan, 10:23.59

300m Hurdles - 36": 15. Tristin McGannon, 49.02

4x100 Relay: 7. (Brevin Fliehs, Ethan Kroll, Lincoln Krause, Ryder Schelle), 47.50.

4x200 Relay: 6. (Brevin Fliehs, Lincoln Krause, Ryder Schelle, Ethan Kroll), 1:38.48.

4x800 Relay: 1. (Jayden Schwan, Jace Johnson, Tristin McGannon, Blake Pauli). 8:40.19.

SMR 1600m - [200-200-400-800]: 6. (Brevin Fliehs, Lincoln Krause, Jordan Schwan, Jace Johnson), 4:15.99.

Shot Put - 12lb: 11. Karter Moody, 38' 7"

Discus - 1.6kg: 32. Karter Moody, 89' 9.5"

High Jump: 22. Kason Oswald, 4' 9"

Long Jump: 8. Ethan Kroll, 17' 7.25"; 31. TC Schuster, 15' 0"; 33. Kason Oswald, 14' 5.75"

Triple Jump: 6. Ethan Kroll, 36' 0"; 21. Tristin McGannon, 29' 11"

Girl's Division

Team Standings: 1. Groton Area 98.5, 2. Warner 97, 3. Ipswich 83.5, 4. Potter County 70, 5. Milbank 69, 6. Britton-Hecla 44, 6. Northwestern 44, 8. Aberdeen Roncalli 35, 9. Tri-State 28, 9. Hitchcock-Tulare 28, 11. Aberdeen Christian 27, 12. Aberdeen Central 19, 13. Langford Area 12, 14. Sisseton 10, 15. Leola 6, 16. Frederick Area 2, 17. Redfield 1

100 Meters: 4. MaKenna Krause, 13.66; 33. Elizabeth Fliehs, 15.48

200 Meters: 7. Rylee Dunker, 29.27; 25. Elizabeth Fliehs, 31.02; 48. Suri Jetto, 40.64

800 Meters: 3. Faith Traphagen, 2:28.67; 5. Ryelle Gilbert, 2:34.13

1600 Meters: 4. Ryelle Gilbert, 5:47.09; 9. Ashlynn Warrington, 5:53.37

100m Hurdles - 33": 1. McKenna Tietz, 17.50; 10. Ella Kettner, 19.40; 11. Emerlee Jones, 19.50; 15. Talli Wright, 19.93; 18. Hannah Sandness, 20.54; 21. Teagan Hanten, 21.38

300m Hurdles - 30": 3. McKenna Tietz, 50.21; 5. Emerlee Jones, 52.65; 11. Ella Kettner, 55.63; 18. Talli Wright, 56.96; 21. Teagan Hanten, 59.65; 22. Hannah Sandness, 1:01.71

4x100 Relay: 1. (Laila Roberts, Kella Tracy, McKenna Tietz, MaKenna Krause), 52.09.

4x200 Relay: 1. (Laila Roberts, Kella Tracy, McKenna Tietz, Taryn Traphagen), 1:49.45.

4x400 Relay: 1. (Laila Roberts, Kella Tracy, Ashlynn Warrington, Taryn Traphagen), 4:11.97.

SMR 1600m - [200-200-400-800]: 1. (Laila Roberts, MaKenna Krause, Taryn Traphagen, Kella Tracy), 4:23.62.

Shot Put - 4kg: 3. Emma Kutter, 32' 11.75"; 18. Libby Cole, 27' 1.75"; 0. Avery Crank, 25' 7.5"; 34. Audrey Davis, 23' 2.25"; 42. Kyleigh Kroll, 22' 4"; 46. Aimee Heilman, 20' 6.5"

Discus - 1kg: 8. Avery Crank, 87' 5"; 14. Emma Kutter, 76' 11"; 29. Kyleigh Kroll, 64' 2"; 34. Libby Cole, 61' 8"; 37. Audrey Davis, 60' 0"; 46. Aimee Heilman, 53' 8"

High Jump: 4. Emerlee Jones, 14' 7"

Long Jump: 4. MaKenna Krause, 14' 9.75"; 23. Teagan Hanten, 12' 3.5"; 26. Rylie Rose, 11' 2"; 30. Addison Hoffman, 10' 6.75"

Triple Jump: 18. Emerlee Jones, 28' 3.5"; 20. Teagan Hanten, 27' 6.5"

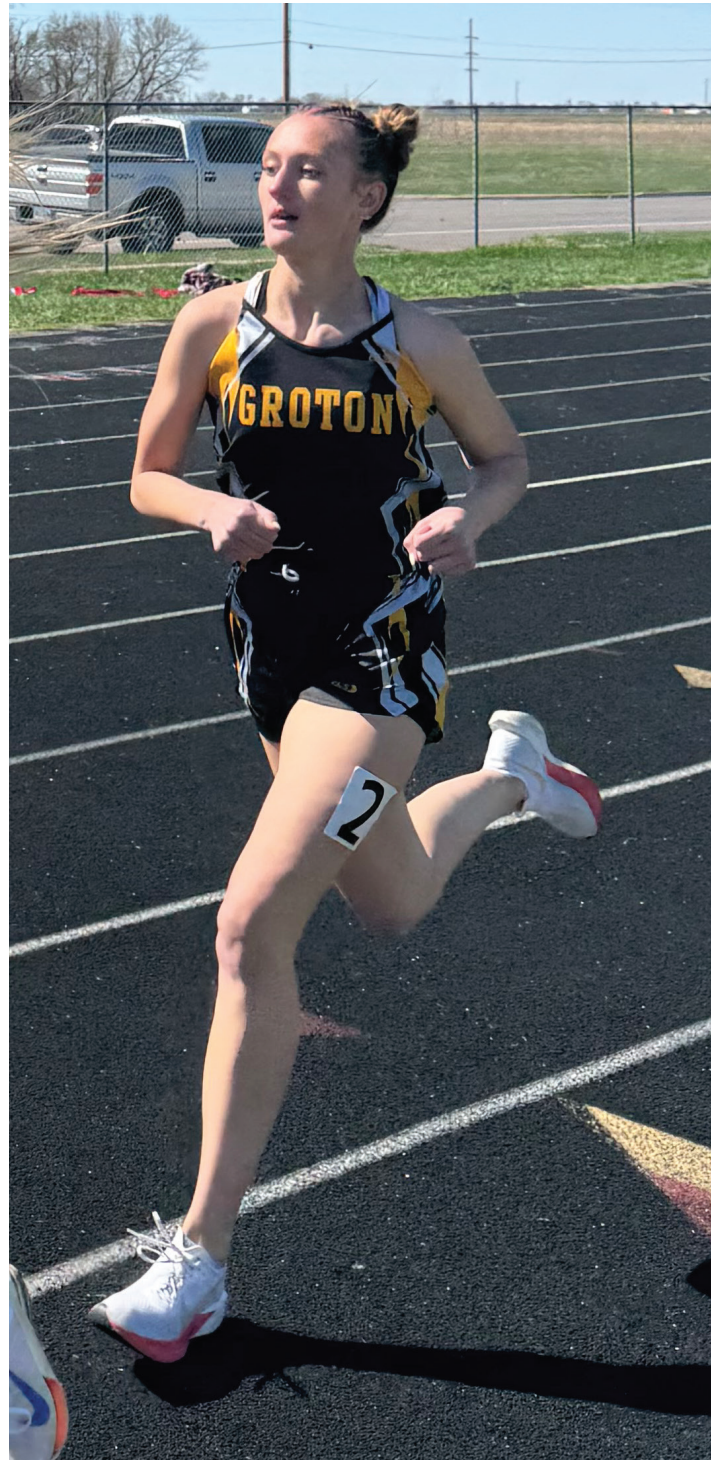
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Tiger freshman Jace Johnson leads in the second leg of the 4x800m. Culminating with the relay team finishing 1st in the 800m run.

(Photo by Bruce Babcock)



Faith Traphagen pushes the two leaders in the 800m race. She finished a close 3rd in the race while setting her personal record in the 800m. (Photo by Bruce Babcock)

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Blake Pauli finishes a close second in the 800m race besting his season record. (Photo by Bruce Babcock)



Junior Tiger Jayden Schwan soon passes Milbank runner for 1st place in the 3200m (2 mile). He also set a personal record in the winning race. (Photo by Bruce Babcock)

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Keegen Tracy out of the starting blocks in the 100m sprint. (Photo by Bruce Babcock)



Emerlee Jones set her own personal record best in the 300m hurdles while placing 5th in the race. (Photo by Bruce Babcock)

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Brevin Flihs hands off to Jayden Schwan in the SMR 1600 relay. (Photo by Bruce Babcock)



Ethan Kroll hands off to Lincoln Krause in the 4x100 relay. (Photo by Bruce Babcock)



Kason Oswald launches himself in the boys long jump. (Photo by Bruce Babcock)

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Ace hurdler McKenna Tietz hurdles to another victory in the 100m Highs. (Photo by Bruce Babcock)



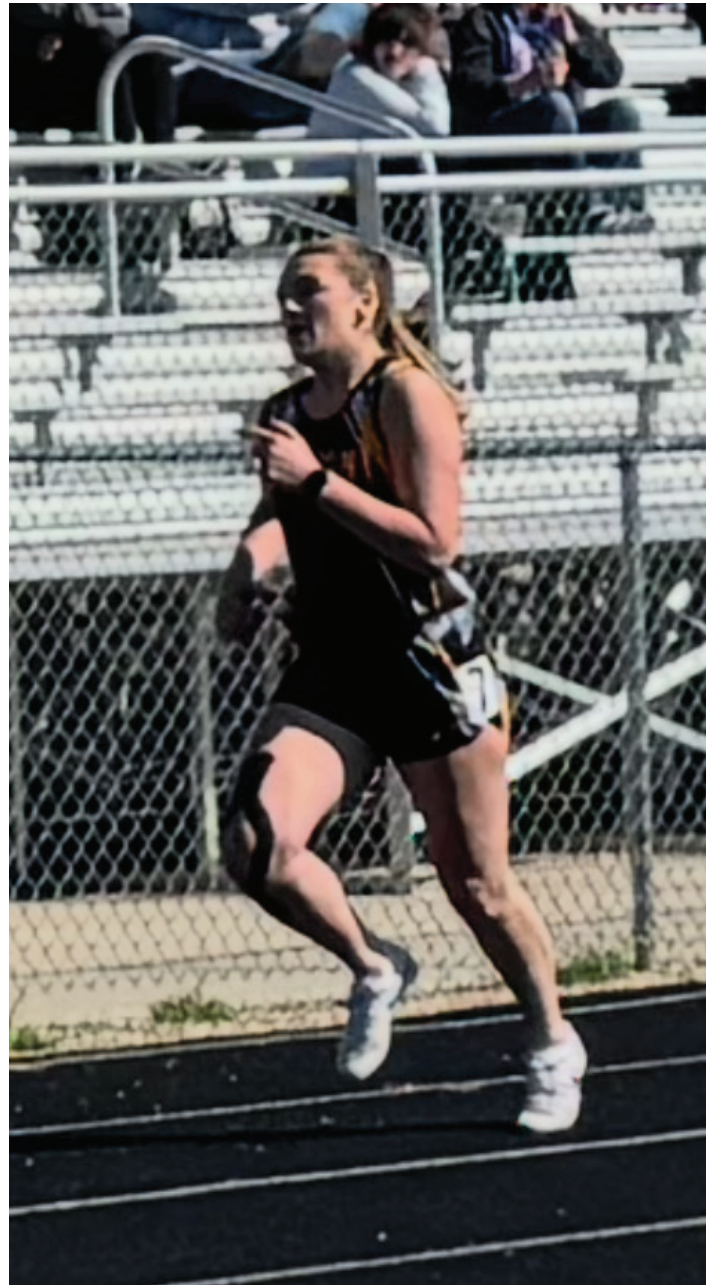
The Rob Luecke Invitational Track meet was held in Groton on Tuesday with 13 track teams attending. The weatherman cooperated this day! (Photo by Bruce Babcock)

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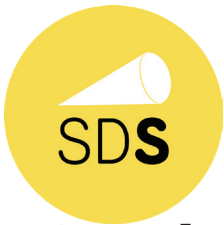
Groton Area dual long distance runners Ryelle Gilbert and Ashlynn Warrington move in traffic in the 1600m run. (Photo by Bruce Babcock)



The Groton Area Tigers welcome back Rylee Dunker after recovering from an early off season injury to finishing 7th in the 200m dash. (Photo by Bruce Babcock)



Makenna Krause accelerates for the hand off from Laila Roberts in the SMR 1600m relay. (Photo by Bruce Babcock)



SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

South Dakota corrections work group formally backs need for new prison

Size, location of replacement for 1881 state penitentiary still to be decided

BY: JOHN HULT - APRIL 29, 2025 7:11 PM

SPRINGFIELD — South Dakota needs a new prison.

How large it ought to be or where are open questions, but a work group appointed to “reset” discussions on a new men’s prison agreed on that much Tuesday during the second of its four planned meetings.

State Attorney General Marty Jackley sat silent through more than four hours of testimony and public comment before asking his fellow members of “Project Prison Reset” to support a replacement for the penitentiary, the 144-year-old quartzite monolith in Sioux Falls known as “The Hill.”

By then, group members had reviewed a dozen potential sites for a new prison, submitted by landowners through a request for information. They’d also sat through presentations on mental health and occupational programming at Mike Durfee State Prison in Springfield, heard from city residents on the medium security facility’s value to the Bon Homme County city of 1,900, and had reassured those residents that it would remain a part of the Department of Corrections’ long-term facility plans regardless of what happens with the penitentiary.

With The Hill, Jackley said, the path forward is clear. It’s overcrowded, outdated and unsafe, he said, citing the case of a correctional officer killed by two inmates in 2011 as evidence of the dangers presented by the status quo.

“We can’t do nothing,” Jackley said. “We have to do something.”

Group agrees: New prison is necessary

The unanimous vote in favor of Jackley’s motion answers the first of three questions posed in the executive order from Gov. Larry Rhoden that created the group. At a special session in July, the group is meant to deliver recommendations on how large a prison is needed and where to put it, using the results of a consultant’s report on the state’s existing facilities as a guide.

Rhoden backed a plan to build an \$825 million, 1,500-bed men’s facility on a controversial Lincoln County site during this year’s legislative session. The governor has called the penitentiary “gothic,” and said the site south of Sioux Falls that inspired an ongoing legal battle from neighbors was a “gift from God,” but was unable to sway lawmakers skeptical about the size, site and price tag.

Lt. Gov. Tony Venhuizen was appointed to lead Project Prison Reset after the legislative rebuffing. On Tuesday before the vote, Venhuizen said he agrees with Jackley on the need, but pointed out that the group’s schedule envisioned a review of the consultant’s report before answering any of the questions posed to it.

But “if you feel that we already know enough to answer the first question,” he said, “I think that is also very defensible.”

Just one work group member suggested otherwise.

Dell Rapids Republican Speaker of the House Jon Hansen, who announced a 2026 run for governor last week, tried unsuccessfully to convince the group to hold off on supporting a replacement.

Hansen and his announced running mate, Canton Republican Rep. Karla Lems, were vocal opponents of the 1,500-bed plan that failed during the legislative session. Hansen pointed to a presentation on

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Springfield's Governor's House program from earlier in the afternoon. Inmates who build those affordable housing units are less likely to return to prison, the group learned.

Why not explore options for reducing repeat offenses through programming before committing to new facilities, he asked?

"From everything that I've studied, we're an outlier, and it's really high," Hansen said. "Before we go jumping into whether we need a new prison, I really think we should pause. Maybe it's part of that report – I would presume it is – what are other states doing?"

But Rep. Chris Karr, R-Sioux Falls, said the needs are immediate. Even if the state were to keep The Hill, he said, "we've got 365 more people than we're supposed to" in the building.

"Even if you disagree with a few of these members on the panel and say 'I still think The Hill's still viable,' etcetera, we've still got to find room for 365 more people," Karr said.

The penitentiary has some supporters. A former inmate who testified Tuesday said he spent time there and at the Federal Correctional Institution of Leavenworth in Kansas, a prison of similar vintage.

"The Hill is functional," said Paul Cooper, who's employed as a cook in Sioux Falls. "It's clean, productive. I completely disagree with the fact that it needs to be rebuilt."

Doug Weber, a former penitentiary warden who lobbied lawmakers to vote down the 1,500-bed proposal, told South Dakota Searchlight that The Hill is functional if maintained. Darin Young, the now-former warden who took the job upon Weber's retirement, called the building "beautiful" in a recent interview with The Scouting Report podcast.

Minnehaha County Sheriff Mike Milstead offered a different take on Tuesday.

"I don't need a consultant to tell me that place is a pit," Milstead said. "I would not want my son or daughter working there."

Hansen and Lems ultimately joined every other member of the task force in supporting Jackley's motion.

Possible locations

Milstead spoke up in favor of consultation with neighbors during the earlier discussions on possible sites.

The state got 12 pitches from landowners for possible sites through its request for information. Four were outside of Sioux Falls, in Huron, Grant County (northeast of Watertown), Aberdeen and Mitchell.

Another eight were in the Sioux Falls area, including near the Lincoln County cities of Canton and Worthing and in the Sioux Falls development park that's home to the city's Amazon distribution center. The former Citibank campus just north of the current penitentiary was also offered up as an option, and multiple work group members toured that site recently.

Ryan Brunner, a policy adviser for Rhoden, presented the proposals on a spreadsheet and noted that some arrived as recently as Monday evening. The goal, he said, is to fill in the spreadsheet with details on each site's cost, serviceability for utilities and other factors in the coming weeks.

"Is there some way you can put in there what the neighbors think?" Milstead said. "Some of these are in places where homes are going in nearby."

Brunner said that will be a consideration for any site, as would issues like proximity to 100-year flood-plains or interstates and workforce availability. The consultant hired to study the state's needs can fully study three sites once the group narrows its options.

As far as public comments, Venhuizen said he doubts neighbors will be silent. Opposition from those who live near the initially proposed Lincoln County site – which is still on the table as an option for the work group – spoke up quickly.

"We put this list out yesterday," Venhuizen said. "I'm sure we'll know what the neighbors think in pretty short order."

Proposed prison sites

The locations submitted to Project Prison Reset:

Submission 1 – Huron

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Submission 2 – Aberdeen
Submission 3 – Mitchell
Submission 4 – Grant County
Submission 5a – Citibank Campus
Submission 5b – Citibank Campus
Submission 5c – Citibank Campus
Submission 6 – I-29 Ag and Industrial Park
Submission 7 – Moen Parcel
Submission 8 – Newman Land
Submission 9 – Assam Companies
Submission 10 – Kappenman Trust
Submission 11 – Canton Parcel
Submission 12 – Wayne Township

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.

Federal cut to children's advocacy funding 'abandons American children,' says SD nonprofit leader

Rapid-City based Court Appointed Special Advocates organization loses \$15,000

BY: MAKENZIE HUBER - APRIL 29, 2025 12:30 PM

A Rapid City-based nonprofit that advocates for children in the state court system lost \$15,000 last week after the federal government terminated grant awards to the National Court Appointed Special Advocates Association.

The decision "abandons American children" and will cause ripple effects throughout the state, said Seventh Circuit CASA Program Executive Director Kehala Two Bulls. The organization serves children in Pennington, Fall River and Custer counties. Seven other organizations serve South Dakota's other circuit courts.

Volunteers with CASA advocate for children who've been removed from their families and placed in state care due to suspected abuse and neglect. The volunteers meet with the children and other contacts, such as teachers, therapists and caseworkers. They also write reports to judges about the children's needs, strengths and interests to create "customized services and decision making," Two Bulls said.

Over 330 CASA volunteers worked with 658 children in 37 counties last year, according to the state Unified Judicial System.

The national organization suspended all services and support to state and local programs, it announced last week, after the Trump administration's Department of Justice terminated funding.

In a statement to Reuters, U.S. Attorney General Pam Bondi said grants were rescinded that "do not align with the administration's priorities," but she said the Department of Justice will "continue to ensure that services for victims are not impacted and any recipient will have the ability to appeal and restore any grant if direct impact on victims can be thoroughly established." The national CASA office said it is appealing.

Though the Seventh Circuit was the only South Dakota CASA office receiving grant funds from the national office, other local organizations rely on services provided by the national organization. That includes training and coordination, Two Bulls said.

Shifting that administrative burden and coordination to states will result in redundancy and reduced efficiencies, she added.

"Children will be destabilized by these changes," Two Bulls said. "It's important for people to make these decisions responsibly. Whether people agree with this or not, there's a need for people at a local level to partner with us and step up and come up with the funding, the infrastructure, the support needed, because these are real kids that deserve good futures."

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Seventh Circuit CASA was awarded \$25,000 in grant funding this year — \$5,000 to conduct background checks of volunteers and \$20,000 to develop support and specialized services for older youth in the system. The organization already received and spent about \$10,000, but won't receive the remaining \$15,000.

In 2014, 207 kids in the Seventh Circuit were in state care over the course of the year, Two Bulls said. In 2024, that grew to 795 children because cases are taking longer to resolve.

Older children are staying in the system longer and aging out once they turn 18 years old, she added. Last year, 35 kids aged out of foster care in the area. Nearly a decade ago, that number was closer to five children a year. About 80% of the Seventh Circuit CASA's cases are Indian Child Welfare Act cases.

Youth who age out of the system are more likely to become homeless, incarcerated or die than their peers, according to the Annie E. Casey Foundation. Two Bulls said the grant was intended to build supplemental training for advocates focused on building life skills for older children.

The grants amounted to about 5% of the organization's operating budget, Two Bulls said. While the terminated funding won't shutter the program, she'll have to reallocate funds or find new revenue for the increasing need the grant was intended to address.

"This action was completely disconnected from the need and the vulnerability in our community," Two Bulls said. "What we have is less funding and less infrastructure to properly address it. We're painfully aware of how many kids it leaves at risk."

Greg Sattizahn, state court administrator for the South Dakota Unified Judicial System, said in a news release that the state is committed to "providing leadership, support and encouragement" to the eight CASA nonprofits across the state.

Makenzie Huber is a lifelong South Dakotan who regularly reports on the intersection of politics and policy with health, education, social services and Indigenous affairs. Her work with South Dakota Searchlight earned her the title of South Dakota's Outstanding Young Journalist in 2024, and she was a 2024 finalist for the national Livingston Awards.

Nine students in pilot program could become lawyers without passing bar exam

BY: SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT STAFF - APRIL 29, 2025 11:45 AM

Nine South Dakota law school students have been selected as the first participants in a pilot program that could allow them to become lawyers without passing the state bar exam.

The Public Service Pathway Bar Admission Pilot Program is an outgrowth of a yearslong debate on the value of the bar exam as a measure of fitness for legal service in the state. For about a decade, bar exam critics in South Dakota have criticized the timed test as a barrier to the profession that can prevent otherwise competent lawyers from service based not on their ability, but on slower reading speeds or extra time spent fine-tuning their analysis.

The pilot program creates an alternative route to bar licensure by combining legal education and practical experience. Law school students selected for the program must complete a minimum of two years of full-time public service employment, such as in the office of a state's attorney or public defender, upon admission to practice law in the state.

The University of South Dakota Knudson School of Law, in partnership with the host public service entities, selected the nine participants from 13 applicants.

"This program reflects our commitment to shaping lawyers who are not only skilled and ethical but also dedicated to serving the public good," said Knudson School of Law Dean Neil Fulton in a news release. "It provides an innovative, rigorous pathway to licensure that emphasizes real-world experience and professional responsibility."

Participants have been placed to work with the Minnehaha County Public Defender's Office in Sioux Falls, Brown County State's Attorney's Office in Aberdeen, Minnehaha County State's Attorney's Office in

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Sioux Falls, Pennington County State's Attorney's Office in Rapid City, and the Federal Public Defender's Office in Sioux Falls. Attorneys with the host entities will supervise, mentor and assist each participant.

Program participants will be required to submit a portfolio of their work during the program. The Board of Bar Examiners will evaluate the work and perform a character and fitness review of each participant before making a recommendation regarding a participant's admission to practice as an attorney in South Dakota.

The five-year pilot program is administered through the cooperation of the USD Knudson School of Law and the state Board of Bar Examiners. The program is open to students at the law school and limited to a maximum of 10 students that meet specific criteria in each law school class during the pilot.

Relief on auto tariffs coming, Treasury secretary says

Congressional Republicans, including Thune, meet with president at White House

BY: ASHLEY MURRAY - APRIL 29, 2025 12:18 PM

WASHINGTON — Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent signaled a reprieve on auto tariffs will come Tuesday ahead of the president's stop in Michigan to mark his first 100 days in office.

Bessent and White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt confirmed President Donald Trump is expected to sign an executive order Tuesday curtailing the import taxes for domestic car manufacturers, but offered few specifics. The president's 25% levy on cars and auto parts went into effect at the beginning of April.

"I'm not going to go into the details of the auto tariff relief, but I can tell you that it will go substantially toward reshoring American auto manufacturing," Bessent said. "And again, the goal here is to bring back the high-quality industrial jobs to the U.S."

The press secretary and Bessent began the day defending Trump's trade policy as part of a weeklong morning press conference series marking the 100-day milestone in Trump's second administration.

Investors and businesses have been on edge since Trump declared foreign trade a national emergency on April 2 and imposed what he billed as "reciprocal" tariffs on nearly every nation. Trump issued a 90-day pause on the steep levies — some reaching nearly 50% — after trillions of dollars disappeared from U.S. and world markets in reaction to the dramatic policy.

However, Trump dug in his heels on goods from China, increasing tariffs to 145%. Nearly all other countries face universal 10% baseline levy.

No deals yet

Nearly a month after the tariffs went into effect, Bessent told reporters the administration has not yet inked deals with any of the 17 trading partners, not counting China, currently in negotiations with the U.S. When pressed about a timeline for the deals, Bessent said Trump has created "strategic uncertainty" as a tool to get the best terms.

"I think the aperture of uncertainty will be narrowing, and as we start moving toward announcing deals, then there will be certainty. But certainty is not necessarily a good thing in negotiating," Bessent said.

Bessent sidestepped questions about trade talks with China, saying he wouldn't get "into the nitty-gritty of who's talking to whom." China has imposed 125% tariffs on U.S. goods and has denied any meaningful negotiations.

"I think that, you know, over time, we will see that the Chinese tariffs are unsustainable for China," Bessent said, adding that China sends more goods to the U.S. than Americans send to China.

Americans' approval of Trump's job performance, particularly on economic policy, is lagging, according to numerous recent surveys.

In response to a report that Amazon will highlight spikes in prices due to tariffs, Leavitt said the e-commerce behemoth was committing a "hostile and political act." Punchbowl News reported the story Tuesday citing "a person familiar with the plan."

Amazon denied the report hours later, according to NPR and other outlets.

Tax cuts

When asked about potential economic damage from business owners clamping down on hiring and growth, Bessent told reporters "tax cuts are coming."

The secretary said he and Trump met at the White House Monday with congressional Republicans, including House Speaker Mike Johnson of Louisiana and Senate Majority Leader John Thune of South Dakota.

Johnson and Thune have signaled different timelines — from Memorial Day to further into summer — for when Congress would finish a large budget reconciliation package, at the heart of which is Trump's plan to extend his 2017 tax law.

Bessent said Trump wants the tax bill to revive and expand full business expensing, meaning businesses could write off expenses for certain investments, like equipment.

"The other thing that we are looking to add is full expensing for factories," Bessent said. "So bring your factory back, you can fully expense the equipment and the building."

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

Graduation now likely for college student with revoked visa, but later deportation still possible

BY: JOHN HULT - APRIL 29, 2025 10:34 AM

The federal government has restored the student record of a doctoral candidate from India at South Dakota Mines in Rapid City, but the fight over her student visa continues.

The record restoration from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement means Priya Saxena could collect her degree at graduation on May 10.

But the revocation of her student visa means she could still be subject to deportation before her visa was originally scheduled to expire in February 2027. If deported, she would also lose the opportunity to apply for an extension to remain in the country after graduation and do work related to her degree.

The news of her record restoration came by way of a motion filed by ICE attorneys in Saxena's federal lawsuit against ICE and the federal Homeland Security secretary, former South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem.

A little more than a week ago, U.S. District Judge Karen Schreier ordered the agency to restore Saxena's student record.

The U.S. State Department issues and manages visas, but Immigration and Customs Enforcement maintains the student record system used by schools across the country to verify and manage international student eligibility.

ICE terminated more than 1,000 international student records in that system in recent weeks, but reversed course over the weekend. The decision impacted cases across the country similar to Saxena's.

In South Dakota, a dozen international student visas were impacted by the recent moves. Saxena's name is the only one that's appeared in the public sphere, thanks to her lawsuit.

The visa revocation for Saxena came after a "criminal records check," according to documents filed in her lawsuit. Her only criminal conviction came in 2021, for the misdemeanor of failure to move over for flashing yellow lights.

In its filing Monday night in her case, ICE called Judge Schreier's order to restore Saxena's student record "moot," because the agency had moved to restore terminated international student records across the U.S.

Saxena has asked for a preliminary injunction that would prevent deportation until the lawsuit is resolved. The federal government says a preliminary injunction is a bridge too far, arguing that district court judges don't have the authority to interfere with visa status determinations.

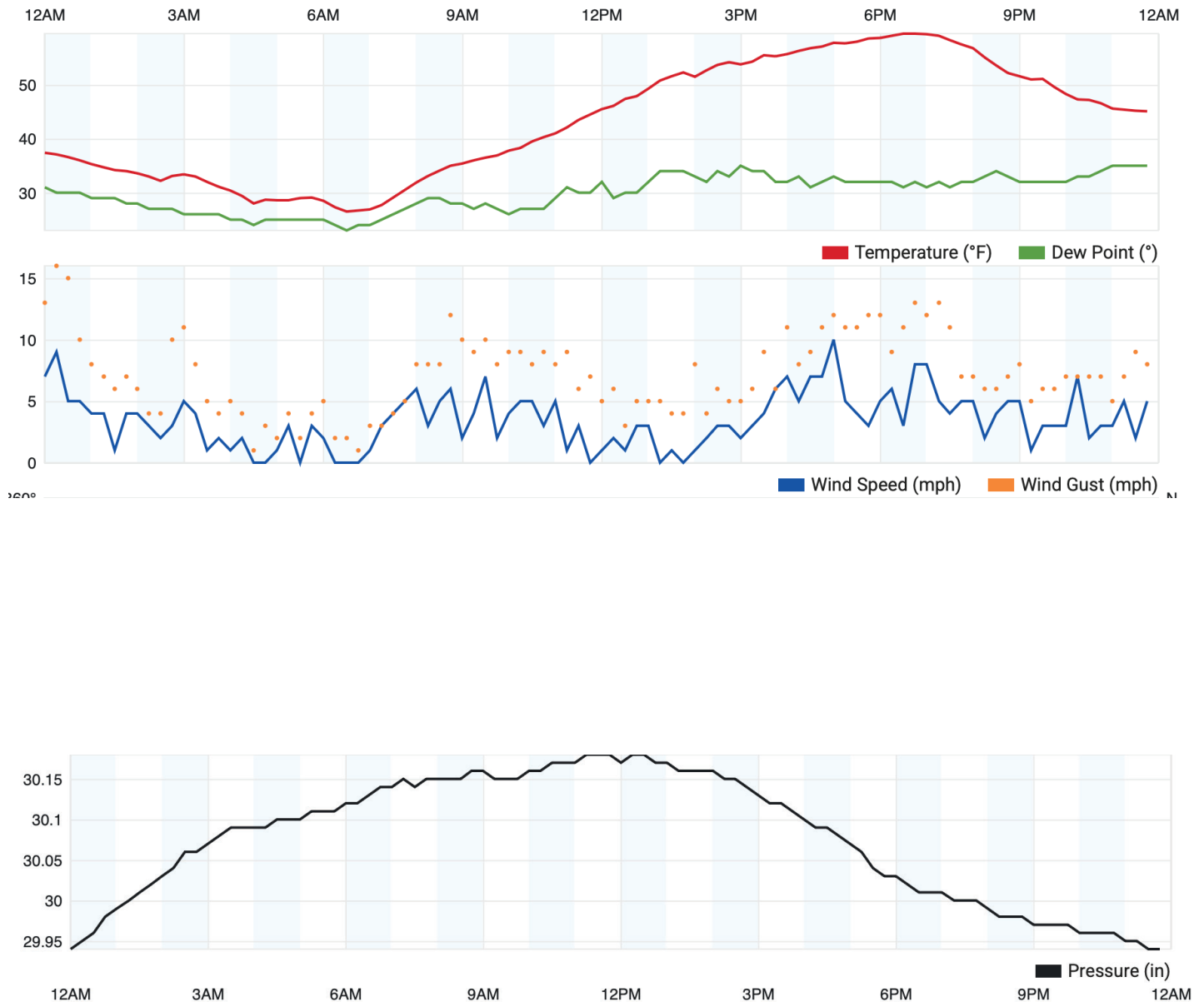
A hearing in the matter is set for May 13.

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.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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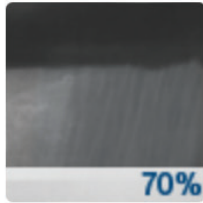
Today



High: 73 °F

Partly Sunny
and Breezy
then Chance
Showers

Tonight



Low: 46 °F

Showers
Likely

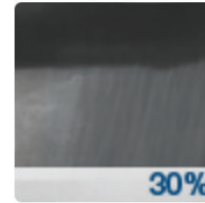
Thursday



High: 63 °F

Partly Sunny
then Chance
Showers

Thursday
Night



Low: 38 °F

Chance
Showers

Friday



High: 61 °F

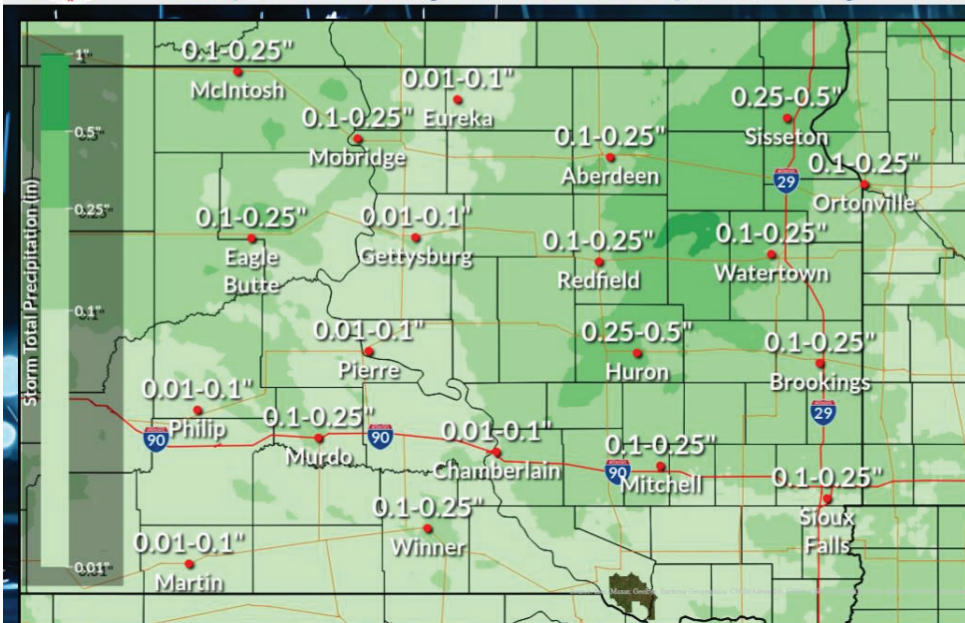
Mostly Sunny



Rain Through Thursday

April 30, 2025
2:43 AM

Multiple rounds of light showers are expected through Thursday evening.



- Light showers will move from west to east this afternoon through tonight.
- ◆ An isolated thunderstorm may be possible.
- A second round of light showers will move through Thursday afternoon and evening.
- Northeastern South Dakota is expected to receive the highest precipitation totals through Thursday evening, up to half an inch.
- ◆ Other areas may see up to a quarter of an inch in total.



National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

Multiple rounds of light showers are expected through Thursday evening. Northeastern South Dakota will see the highest rainfall totals, between a quarter and half an inch in total (with locally higher amounts possible). Other areas may see up to a quarter of an inch.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 60 °F at 6:28 PM

Low Temp: 26 °F at 6:30 AM

Wind: 16 mph at 12:12 AM

Precip: : 0.00

Day length: 14 hours, 20 minutes

Today's Info

Record High: 98 in 1992

Record Low: 5 in 1966

Average High: 64

Average Low: 37

Average Precip in April.: 1.91

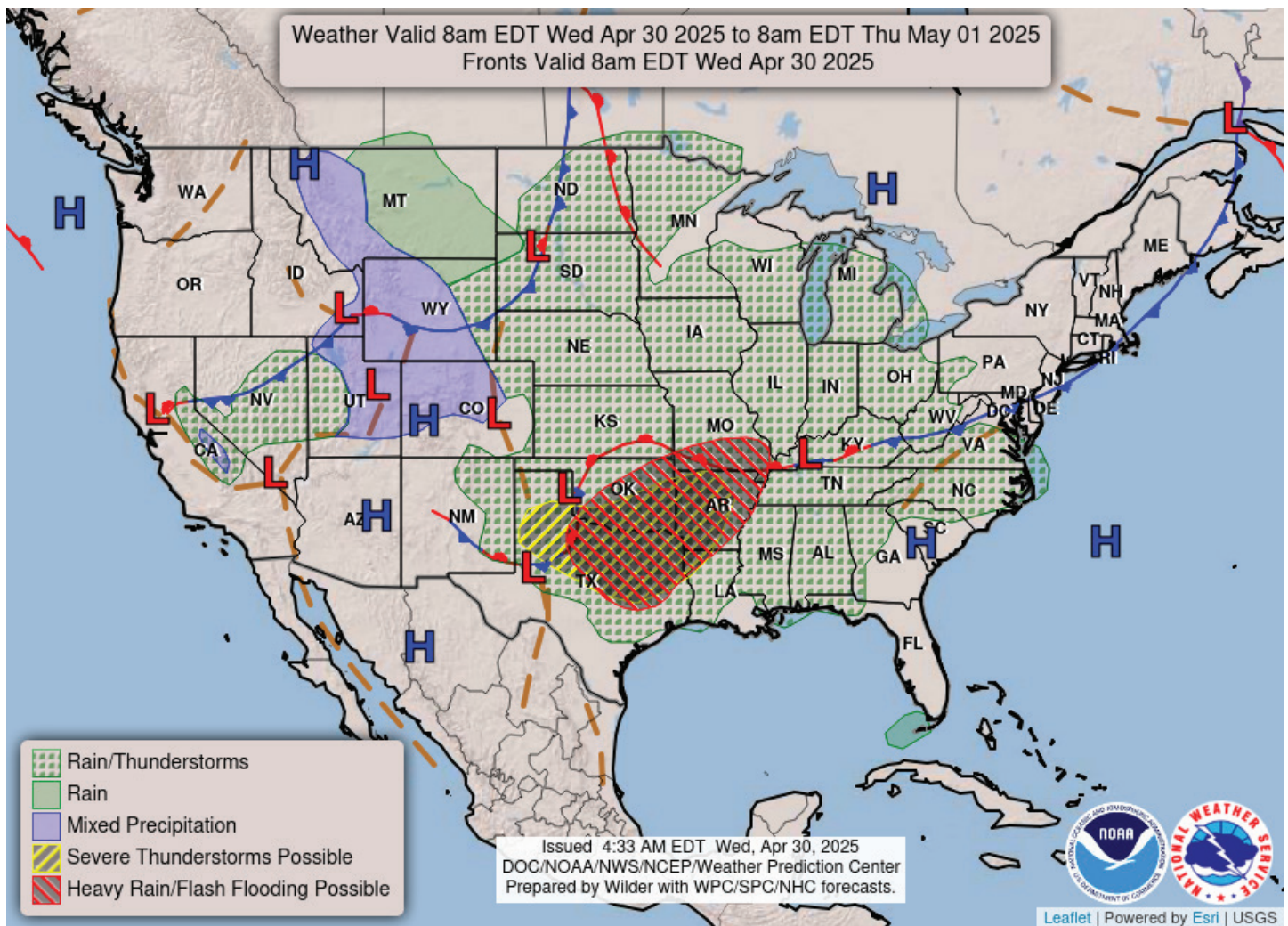
Precip to date in April.: 1.58

Average Precip to date: 3.97

Precip Year to Date: 2.21

Sunset Tonight: 8:39:35 pm

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:18:00 am



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Today in Weather History

April 30th, 1942: A tornado hit three farms near the northeastern edge of Castlewood. One barn was blown apart, and debris was swept into the house, killing one person. Damage from the estimated F2 tornado was \$20,000.

April 30th, 2011: A low-pressure system moved across North Dakota and brought high winds to much of the central parts of northeast South Dakota. Northwest winds of 35 to 50 mph with gusts over 60 mph occurred from the morning to the late evening of the 30th. The high winds did cause some property damage across the region. A semi was tipped over on Highway 50 in Buffalo County; a large sign was brought down in Highmore, with some damage to security lights and twisted traffic signals in Pierre. Some of the highest wind gusts included 59 mph at Eagle Butte, 61 mph at Oacoma, 66 mph in Corson County, and 69 mph at Hayes in Stanley County.

1852 - A tornado, following the same track as the famous "Tri-state Tornado" of 1925, struck the town of New Harmony IND. Just sixteen persons were killed by the twister, due to the sparse settlement. The "Tri-state Tornado" killed 695 persons. (David Ludlum)

1953 - A tornado 300 yards in width leveled homes on the north side of Warner-Robins GA, and barracks on the south side of the Warner-Robins Air Force Base. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Thunderstorms developing along a cold front produced severe weather in Idaho, Utah, Wyoming and Montana. Thunderstorms produced wind gusts to 100 mph in Lincoln, Mineral and Sanders counties. Twenty-three cities in the central and southeastern U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date. Memphis TN was the hot spot in the nation with a record high of 94 degrees. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - A cold front produced high winds in the southwestern U.S. Winds gusting to 90 mph in southwestern Utah downed power lines, and damaged trees and outbuildings. The high winds also downed power lines in Nevada, completely knocking out power in the town of Henderson. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather in central and eastern Texas. Hail three inches in diameter was reported at Cool, and thunderstorm winds gusted to 80 mph at Hillsboro. For the first time of record Oklahoma City went through the entire month of April without a single thunderstorm. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data) (The Weather Channel)

1990 - Late afternoon and evening thunderstorms produced severe weather in southern Virginia and the Carolinas, with tennis ball size hail reported southeast of Chesnee SC. Thunderstorms moving over the Chesapeake Bay flooded U.S. Highway 50 on Kent Island MD with several inches of water resulting in a seventeen-mile long traffic jam. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)



Megaphones for Christ

If Jesus has changed your life, feel free to let people know!

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

1 Paul, Silas and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

Grace and peace to you.

Thanksgiving for the Thessalonians' Faith

2 We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. 3 We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

4 For we know, brothers and sisters loved by God, that he has chosen you, 5 because our gospel came to you not simply with words but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and deep conviction. You know how we lived among you for your sake. 6 You became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you welcomed the message in the midst of severe suffering with the joy given by the Holy Spirit. 7 And so you became a model to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia. 8 The Lord's message rang out from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia—your faith in God has become known everywhere. Therefore we do not need to say anything about it, 9 for they themselves report what kind of reception you gave us. They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, 10 and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

Imagine that you're at a professional sports event. Thousands of people cheer loudly, as if their shouts could actually will their team to victory. How many believers do you know who put that same passion and intensity into their faith?

In his letter to the church at Thessalonica, the apostle Paul rejoiced in the congregation's passion for telling the world about Christ. Because the city was a busy seaport, the church there had the ear of the entire world. Travelers would hear the gospel and then take it back and share it with their own communities.

Paul praised the Thessalonians because "the word of the Lord ... sounded forth" from them (1 Thess. 1:8). The apostle painted a powerful word picture. The Greek verb he used refers to a sound that projects like a trumpet blast or thunder. So Paul was praising the Thessalonians for being living megaphones proclaiming Christ.

If you're a "fan" of Jesus, then you have the responsibility of sharing with the world who He is and what He has done for you. Shout it from the rooftops! Fill entire stadiums with the thunder of your praise! Don't just show the people around you who your favorite sports team is. Make sure they know who your Savior is as well.

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WINNING NUMBERS

MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS: 04.29.25

16 33 40 51 57 10

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$80,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 2 Days 17 Hrs 36 Mins 13 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS: 04.28.25

18 19 32 44 50 10

All Star Bonus: 5x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$31,780,000

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 51 Mins 13 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS: 04.29.25

24 25 39 43 45 13

TOP PRIZE:

\$7,000/week

NEXT DRAW: 17 Hrs 6 Mins 13 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS: 04.26.25

7 13 14 20 28

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$130,000

NEXT DRAW: 17 Hrs 6 Mins 12 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS: 04.28.25

11 13 39 48 61 3

TOP PRIZE:

\$10,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 17 Hrs 35 Mins 13 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS: 04.28.25

26 43 51 56 60 24

Power Play: 4x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$30,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 17 Hrs 35 Mins 13 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

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Upcoming Groton Events

03/22/2025 Spring Vendor Fair at the GHS Gym 10am-2pm
03/29/2025 Men's Singles Bowling Tournament at the Jungle 10am, 1pm & 4pm
04/05/2025 Dueling Duo Baseball/Softball Fundraiser at the Legion Post #39, 6-11:30pm
04/06/2025 Pancake Sunday, Historical Society Fundraiser, 10am-1pm, Community Center
04/12/2025 Lion's Club Easter Egg Hunt at the City Park 10am Sharp
04/12/2025 Groton Firemens Spring Social at the Fire Station 7pm-12:30am (Same Saturday as GHS Prom)
05/03/2025 Lion's Club Spring Citywide Rummage Sale 8am-3pm
05/12/2025 High School Girls Golf Meet at Olive Grove
05/26/2025 Memorial Day Services Groton Union Cemetery with lunch at Legion Post #39, 12pm
06/07/2025 Day of Play
06/13/2025 SDSU 4 Person Scramble at Olive Grove
06/21/2025 Groton Triathlon
06/23/2025 Ladies 2 Person Scramble at Olive Grove
07/04/2025 Firecracker Couples Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course
07/09/2025 Legion Auxiliary #39 Salad Buffet & Dessert Bar at the Groton Legion 11am-1pm
07/11-13/25 2025 VFW 12U Class B State Baseball Tournament
07/13/2025 Lion's Club Summer Fest/Car Show at the City Park 9am-4pm
07/16/2025 Men's Pro Am Golf at Olive Grove
07/25/2025 Ferney Open Scramble Golf at Olive Grove
08/01/2025 Wine on Nine Fundraiser at Olive Grove
08/09/2025 2nd Annual Celebration in the Park/Rib Cook-Off 1-9:30pm
08/14/2025 Family Fun Fest, Downtown Main Street 5:30-7:30pm (2nd Thursday)
08/23/2025 Glacial Tournament at Olive Grove
09/05/2025 Homecoming Parade 1pm
09/06/2025 Lion's Club Fall Citywide Rummage Sale 8am-3pm
09/07/2025 Sunflower Classic Couples Scramble at Olive Grove
10/10/2025 Lake Region Marching Band Festival 10am
10/11/2025 Pumpkin Fest 10am-3pm City Park
10/31/2025 Downtown Trick or Treat 4-6pm
11/27/2025 Community Thanksgiving at the Community Center 11:30am-1:30pm
12/06/2025 Olive Grove Holiday Party and Silent Live Auction Fundraiser

News from the **AP** Associated Press

New Mexico judge orders remedial plan to improve public education for Native American students

By MORGAN LEE Associated Press

SANTA FE, N.M. (AP) — The state of New Mexico must create a remedial plan to improve K-12 education after falling short of providing an adequate public school education to Native American students and others from low-income households, a judge ruled Tuesday.

The order from state district court Judge Matthew Wilson builds on a landmark 2018 ruling that spurred a multibillion-dollar spending spree on public schools in New Mexico — without yet resolving underlying failures to meet state constitutional obligations to educate an array of at-risk students, including those studying English as a second language and students with disabilities.

"The defendants are ordered to come up with comprehensive remedial plan to address the continuing violation of at-risk students' constitutional rights," Wilson said. "A court-ordered plan would provide guidance to the legislature and the executive branches of government, particularly when making difficult budgetary decisions that need to survive political and economic shifts."

New Mexico historically has been at the bottom of the list when it comes to educational outcomes nationwide. Struggles to address lagging test scores and low graduation rates predated the coronavirus pandemic. Lawmakers have been pouring public resources into efforts to improve attendance, boost access to broadband internet, shore up school staffing and more amid a windfall in state government income from oil and natural gas production.

Filed more than a decade ago on behalf of students and school districts rooted in Native American and Hispanic communities, the litigation known as the Yazzie- Martinez case identified systemic issues within the state's education system.

In court filings, the administration of Democratic Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham has acknowledged that there is room for improvement while highlighting a 62% increase in annual K-12 spending by state government since 2016 to \$4.2 billion in the 2024, as well as the enactment of "dozens of new at-risk initiatives and legislation."

Public Education Department spokesperson Janelle Garcia said in a statement that the agency welcomes the ruling and an opportunity "to lead development of a plan providing all New Mexico students an excellent education ... that will lead to resolution of the Martinez-Yazzie lawsuit for students, parents, and families."

The judge rejected a request to put a state legislative agency on education and accountability at the helm of the remediation plan. He called instead for the state Public Education Department to work with the plaintiffs and commission a plan from an outside consultant or expert.

Attorney General Raúl Torrez in 2023 announced his support for the plaintiffs in efforts to make the state comply with its obligations to students.

The remedial plan could take five years to carry out and possibly resolve litigation.

The governor this month vetoed proposed legislation to expand specialized schools dedicated to Native American language and culture by declining to sign the bill without comment.

Hegseth boasts about ending 'woke' program on women and security. Trump signed it into law

By TARA COPP and FARNOUSH AMIRI Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth boasted on social media Tuesday that he had dismantled a program supporting women on security teams, an initiative that he called "woke" but actually was signed into law by his boss, President Donald Trump.

In a post on the social platform X, Hegseth called the "Women, Peace & Security" program at the De-

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fense Department "a UNITED NATIONS program pushed by feminists and left-wing activists. Politicians fawn over it; troops HATE it."

It was, in fact, bipartisan legislation that Trump signed into law in 2017 that recognized the role women have in achieving security goals, especially overseas when their male counterparts may not be able to question or have direct access to women for cultural or religious reasons.

It's the latest controversial move from Hegseth as the Pentagon works to nix programs or content seen as promoting diversity, equity or inclusion. After Trump ordered federal agencies to purge DEI content, the Pentagon issued a broad edict to the military services that ignited public outcry when online images of national heroes like Jackie Robinson were briefly removed.

Some of Trump's Cabinet officials supported the Women, Peace and Security program when it was moving through the legislative process. And Gen. Dan Caine, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told Congress this month that the program had helped troops in battle.

"When we would go out into the field after concluding an assault, we would have female members who would speak with those women and children who were on the objective, and they would help us to understand the human terrain in a new and novel way," Caine said during his April confirmation hearing.

Trump met and became endeared to Caine when Caine was serving in Iraq, part of the reason Trump nominated him to the chairmanship.

Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem, while representing South Dakota in Congress, wrote the House version of the 2017 Women, Peace and Security Act with Democratic Rep. Jan Schakowsky of Illinois.

Secretary of State Marco Rubio, who as a senator co-sponsored the Senate version of that bill, said this month that it was "the first law passed by any country in the world focused on protecting women and promoting their participation in society."

The legislation stemmed from a resolution unanimously endorsed by the U.N. Security Council, the most powerful U.N. body, in October 2000, aimed at including women in peacebuilding efforts because women and girls have historically borne the brunt of global conflict.

"It's no secret that women remain largely on the periphery of formal peace processes and decision making, which is not good for the cause of peace," U.N. spokesperson Stephane Dujarric said in response to Hegseth's comments Tuesday.

Dujarric added that "one of the real-life impacts of the Women, Peace and Security program has been the increasing number of women peacekeepers who serve in U.N. missions, which has had a very clear, measurable and positive impact on the protection of civilians in conflict zones."

Hegseth's post drew fire from Democratic lawmakers who are continuing to question his qualifications for the job following his use of the commercial app Signal to share sensitive military operations with other officials, his wife and brother.

"Hegseth has absolutely no idea what he's doing," Sen. Jeanne Shaheen, D-N.H., said on X.

Sen. Tim Kaine, D-Va., read Hegseth's post aloud during a congressional hearing Tuesday.

"That tweet contains some glaring inaccuracies that are far beneath the standard we should expect from the Department of Defense," Kaine said.

Hegseth in his post called the program "yet another woke divisive/social justice/Biden initiative that overburdens our commanders and troops," pledging to do the bare minimum required by Congress while working to eliminate it altogether.

But the program has been celebrated by Trump, his administration and his family. It became a heralded part of the first Trump administration's accomplishments for women, and in 2019, Ivanka Trump celebrated that the WPS program was starting a new partnership to help train female police cadets in Colombia.

In a later post, Hegseth called the program "straight-forward & security-focused" but said it had been "distorted & weaponized" by the Biden administration. He confirmed his intention to end it.

A spokesman for Hegseth said there would be no further comment on the secretary's posts.

Fire tears through hotel in eastern Indian city of Kolkata, killing at least 14 people

NEW DELHI (AP) — A fire tore through a hotel in the city of Kolkata in eastern India, killing at least 14 people, police said Wednesday.

Senior police officer Manoj Kumar Verma told reporters that the fire broke out Tuesday evening at the Rituraj Hotel in central Kolkata and was doused after an effort that took six fire engines. The cause of the fire was not immediately clear.

Photos and videos carried in Indian media showed people trying to escape through the windows and narrow ledges of the building.

Kolkata's The Telegraph newspaper reported that at least one person died when he jumped off the terrace trying to escape.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi posted on X that he was "anguished" by the loss of lives in the fire.

Fires are common in India, where builders and residents often flout building laws and safety codes. Activists say builders often cut corners on safety to save costs and have accused civic authorities of negligence and apathy.

In 2022, at least 27 people were killed when a massive fire tore through a four-story commercial building in New Delhi.

Center-left party approves German coalition deal, paving the way for Merz to be elected chancellor

BERLIN (AP) — Germany's center-left Social Democrats have approved a deal to join a new coalition government, paving the way for parliament to elect conservative leader Friedrich Merz as the country's new chancellor.

The party of outgoing Chancellor Olaf Scholtz will join a coalition led by Merz's center-right Christian Democratic Union and its Bavarian sister party, the Christian Social Union, which won Germany's election in February with 28.5%.

The Social Democrats suffered their worst result since World War II, finishing third with just 16.4% of the vote. But the conservatives need their support to assemble a parliamentary majority without the far-right, anti-immigration Alternative for Germany, which finished second.

The Social Democrats put a coalition agreement reached in early April to an online ballot of their 358,000-plus members, who voted over the last two weeks. The party announced Wednesday that 56% of their members voted in the poll, of which 84.6% cast their ballots in favor.

The deal gives the Social Democrats the crucial finance, justice and defense ministries, among others. The CDU and CSU previously approved the agreement.

The lower house of the German parliament will meet on May 6 to elect Merz as the country's 10th leader since World War II.

The coalition aims to spur economic growth, ramp up defense spending, take a tougher approach to migration and catch up on long-neglected modernization for the 27-nation European Union's most populous member. Germany has the continent's biggest economy.

The coalition has a relatively modest majority, with 328 of the Bundestag's 630 seats.

The Union and Social Democrats have governed Germany together before: once in the 1960s, and then in three of the four terms of former Chancellor Angela Merkel, who led the country from 2005 to 2021.

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Vietnam celebrates 50 years since war's end with focus on peace and unity

By ANIRUDDHA GHOSAL Associated Press

HO CHI MINH CITY, Vietnam (AP) — Vietnam on Wednesday celebrated the 50th anniversary of the end of the war with the United States and the formation of its modern nation with a military parade and a focus on a peaceful future.

The fall of Saigon on April 30, 1975 marked the end of a Vietnam divided into the communist North and U.S.-allied South, and the country's top official told crowds the past decades had led to ever increasing unity.

"All the Vietnamese are the descendants of Vietnam. They have the rights to live and work, to have freedom to pursue happiness and love in this country," said To Lam, the Vietnam Communist Party's general secretary.

"In a spirit of closing the past, respecting differences, aiming for the future, the whole party, the people and the army vow to make Vietnam become a country of peace, unity, prosperity and development," he added.

Thousands camped overnight on the streets of the former South Vietnamese capital, which was renamed Ho Chi Minh City after it fell to North Vietnamese and Viet Cong troops, to get the best vantage point for the parade. Many lingered on the streets later in the afternoon and had picnics while waiting for drone and fireworks shows scheduled for the evening.

The red and yellow of Vietnam's national flag was everywhere in the city — fluttering from buildings, painted on the faces of eager teenagers and on the T-shirts of those who had traveled to the city from all over the country.

"Now it's time for peace," said spectator Nguyen Thi Hue, a city resident. "Peace is the dream that everyone in the world wants."

One float carried the mythical Lac bird, Vietnam's emblem, another a portrait of Ho Chi Minh.

Chinese, Laotian and Cambodian troops marched behind Vietnamese army formations, including some wearing uniforms similar to what was worn by northern Vietnamese troops during the war. Helicopters carrying the national flag and jets flew over the parade near Independence Palace, where a North Vietnamese tank smashed through the gates on the final day of the war.

And all the while, the crowds soaked it in. They had gathered outside the barricades and at some street corners where giant screens had been set up. Those at home huddled over their television sets. Phones raised and eyes wide, they waved and cheered at the marching soldiers.

Sitting next to Vietnam's leader were Cambodia's former leader Hun Sen and Laotian Communist Party General Secretary Thongloun Sisoulith.

To Lam said beyond a victory over the U.S. and South Vietnam, the fall of Saigon was a "glorious landmark" that ended a 30-year fight for independence that began with the fight to oust French colonial troops.

He said Vietnam owes its position in the world today to support from the Soviet Union, China and solidarity from Laos and Cambodia, as well as "progressive" people all over the world including the U.S., he said.

Vietnam's changing global approach

The emphasis on reconciliation and not, like previous years, on military victory reflected how Vietnam was approaching the changing tides of the global economy and geopolitics today, said Nguyen Khac Giang, an analyst at Singapore's ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute. He added that the Vietnam War remains central to how the Communist Party framed its legitimacy, not just as a military triumph but also as a symbol of national unity. But To Lam's comments underlined that the reconciliation remains unfinished.

"The war still defines Vietnam's unity, and its unresolved divides," Giang said.

For Pham Ngoc Son, a veteran who fought for the communists, today there is "only space for peace and friendship" between the U.S. and Vietnam.

"The war is over a long time ago," said the 69-year-old who, during the war, served as an army truck driver bringing troops and supplies from the north to the south along the Ho Chi Minh trail — the secret supply route used by North Vietnam.

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Passage of time has led to improved relations with U.S.

This year also marks the 30-year anniversary of diplomatic ties between Vietnam and the U.S.

In 2023, Vietnam upgraded its relations with the U.S. to that of a comprehensive strategic partner, the highest diplomatic status it gives to any country and the same level of relations as China and Russia.

There are new signs of strain in the relationship with Washington, however, with President Donald Trump's imposition of heavy tariffs and the cancellation of much foreign aid, which has affected war remediation efforts in Vietnam.

Vietnamese officials say the relationship with the U.S. is anchored in American efforts to address war legacies such as Agent Orange contamination and unexploded ordnance in the countryside that still threaten lives.

The future of those projects is now at risk because of the Trump administration's broad cuts to USAID.

Moreover, the export-dependent country is vulnerable in a global economy made fragile amid Trump's tariff plans.

Vietnam was slammed with reciprocal tariffs of 46%, one of the highest. This puts a "big question mark" on what the U.S. wants to achieve in Asia, said Huong Le-Thu of the International Crisis Group think tank.

Previously, close ties with Washington have helped Vietnam balance its relations with its much larger and more powerful neighbor China, she said.

Vietnam is one of the countries, along with the Philippines, that has been involved in direct confrontations with China over conflicting maritime claims in the South China Sea.

Focus on economic and not strategic competition may mean that Vietnam and other countries in Southeast Asia become less important for the U.S.

"It really will be shaping up (on) how the new administration sees the strategic picture in the Indo-Pacific and where countries like Vietnam would fit in," she said.

In Washington, State Department spokeswoman Tammy Bruce on Tuesday refused to comment on reports that the Trump administration had discouraged diplomats from attending anniversary events. "I'm not going to discuss what has been suggested or not suggested," she said.

The Embassy in Hanoi said U.S. consul general in Ho Chi Minh City Susan Burns had attended the event. U.S. ambassador Marc E. Knapper didn't attend.

Who took part in the parade?

About 13,000 people, including troops, militias, veterans and local citizens took part in the parade. The route followed the main boulevard leading to the Independence Palace before branching into city streets and passed the U.S. Consulate.

A video of Chinese troops singing the iconic song "As If Uncle Ho Were With Us on Victory Day" during a rehearsal was shared widely on social media. Chinese leader Xi Jinping had visited Vietnam earlier in the month in a bid to present the country as a force for stability in contrast with Trump.

Iran's foreign minister says next round of talks with US over nuclear program will be held in Rome

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iran said Wednesday the next round of negotiations over its rapidly advancing nuclear program it will have with the United States will be in Rome on Saturday.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi made the comment on the sidelines of a Cabinet meeting, adding that Iran also anticipated having a meeting Friday with France, Germany and the United Kingdom to discuss the talks.

The talks with the U.S. again will be mediated by Oman. The sultanate has hosted two rounds of talks in Oman's capital, Muscat, and one round at its embassy in Rome.

The talks seek to limit Iran's nuclear program in exchange for the lifting of some of the crushing economic sanctions the U.S. has imposed on the Islamic Republic closing in on a half-century of enmity.

U.S. President Donald Trump has repeatedly threatened to unleash airstrikes targeting Iran's program if

a deal isn't reached. Iranian officials increasingly warn that they could pursue a nuclear weapon with their stockpile of uranium enriched to near weapons-grade levels.

Australian stands trial charged with murdering ex-husband's relatives with poisonous mushrooms

By ROD McGUIRK Associated Press

MELBOURNE (AP) — The Australian host of a weekend family lunch is on trial charged with murdering her estranged husband's parents and an aunt and attempting to murder an uncle with poisonous mushrooms.

Prosecutor Nanette Rogers opened her case on Wednesday against Erin Patterson, 50, in the Victoria state Supreme Court. Patterson has pleaded not guilty to all charges.

She served meals of beef Wellington, mashed potato and green beans at her home in the rural town of Leongartha on July 29, 2023. Her guests included her parents-in-law Gail and Don Patterson, both 70, Gail Patterson's sister Heather Wilkinson, 66, and Wilkinson's husband, Ian Wilkinson, 68.

All four guests were hospitalized the next day with poisoning from death cap mushrooms, also known as amanita phalloides, that were added to the beef and pastry dish. Ian Wilkinson survived after a liver transplant.

Erin Patterson's husband, Simon Patterson, 50, was also invited to the lunch but declined.

Attempted murder charges dropped

The jury was told on Tuesday that prosecutors had dropped three charges that Erin Patterson had attempted to murder her husband, whom she had been separated from since 2015.

Two weeks before the poisoning, Erin Patterson had invited her husband and his relatives to lunch while she was attending a Korumburra Baptist Church service where Ian Wilkinson was the pastor. Simon Patterson initially accepted the invitation.

"She said the purpose of the lunch was to discuss some medical issues that she had and to get advice about how to break it to the kids," Rogers said.

"The accused said that it was important that the children were not present for the lunch," Rogers added.

The Wilkinsons were surprised by the invitation because they'd never been to Erin Patterson's large five-bedroom house.

Lunch guest puzzled by host's plate

When Heather Wilkinson was taken to the hospital the next morning, she told Simon Patterson she had been puzzled by Erin Patterson eating from a different plate than those served to the guests.

"I noticed that Erin put her food on a different plate to us. Her plate had colors on it. I wondered why that was. I've puzzled about it since lunch," said Heather Wilkinson, according to the prosecution.

Simon Patterson told his aunt that his wife might have run out of plates.

Rogers told the jury that Erin Patterson fabricated an ovarian cancer diagnosis to explain why her children didn't attend the lunch.

"After the lunch, the accused announced that she had cancer and asked for advice on whether to tell the children or to keep it from them," Rogers said.

"They had a discussion about it being best to be honest with the children. They prayed as a group for the accused's health and wisdom in relation to telling the children," Rogers added.

Defense lawyer says poisonings were a 'terrible accident'

Defense lawyer Colin Mandy told the jury his client never had cancer and that the guests had been poisoned by mushrooms she had served, but that the poisoning was accidental.

"The defense case is what happened was a tragedy. A terrible accident," Mandy said.

Rogers told the jurors that she she would not provide a motive for the poisonings.

"You might be wondering now why would the accused do this? What is the motive? You might still be wondering this at the end of this trial," Rogers said. "You do not have to be satisfied what the motive was or even that there was a motive."

Two days after the lunch, Erin Patterson went to the hospital complaining of diarrhea and nausea. By

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then, medical staff had diagnosed her guests as suffering death cap poisoning.

Erin Patterson told authorities that she had cooked with a mixture of fresh mushrooms bought from a supermarket and dried mushrooms bought from an Asian food store.

Defendant told police she hadn't foraged for wild mushrooms

Mandy said his client had lied to police when she said she hadn't foraged for wild mushrooms.

"She did forage for mushrooms. Just so that we make that clear, she denies that she ever deliberately sought out death cap mushrooms," Mandy said.

Doctors insisted that Erin Patterson's two children, then aged 9 and 14, be tested because their mother said they had eaten beef Wellington leftovers.

Erin Patterson said the children were safe because she had scraped the pastry and mushrooms from the steak. She explained the children didn't like mushrooms.

Rogers said Erin Patterson had not eaten poisonous mushrooms and had not fed her children the lunch leftovers. Mandy said she had eaten the mushrooms but had become less sick than the others.

The trial was adjourned until Thursday and is expected to continue for six weeks. She is charged with three counts of murder and one of attempted murder. Murder carries a maximum penalty of life imprisonment and attempted murder carries a maximum 25 years in prison.

A young couple in Ukraine delighted in first love. Then the war came for them

By SAMYA KULLAB, YEHOR KONOVALOV and EVGENIY MALOLETKA Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — They met in a park on a winter's day in Kyiv. The teenage girl was a manicurist. The boy delivered food. Like their battered country, they had larger dreams. A doctor, an engineer.

But first, marriage. Danylo Khudia, 17, told Alyona Zavadzka's mother he planned to propose to her 16-year-old daughter this summer as a surprise on her birthday. They wanted to tie the knot when she turned 18.

The intensity of their connection baffled their parents, but they came around.

"We knew that they are just kids, but we could see they could handle themselves," said Zavadzka's mother, Oksana.

As Ukraine's war with Russia roiled around them, Khudia told Zavadzka he felt calm and peaceful around her. He called her "my baby girl." She called him "my boy."

A close friend of Khudia's, Danylo Bondarchuk, recalled how his eyes shone the first time he mentioned Alyona. "I have the most beautiful girlfriend," he said.

The couple were inseparable. Zavadzka cheered Khudia in his basketball games and encouraged him as he pursued his driver's license. She helped him study for exams and consoled him when he mentioned being cheated in a money-making scam.

When Zavadzka expressed interest in tattoo art, Khudia agreed to be her guinea pig. She tattooed him with an alien, a scorpion, a design of the moon.

Zavadzka opened up, too. She told Khudia she had an eating disorder. He helped her overcome it.

"She didn't believe she was beautiful," her mother said. "He made her believe she is."

In recent weeks, as the U.S. pressed for peace talks, the couple found an apartment a few blocks from Zavadzka's parents. They opened a bank account and prepared to build a life.

But they could never hide from war.

Six months ago, Zavadzka had dreamed Khudia's house would be destroyed in a missile strike. It was eerie, but she thought no more of it.

On Thursday night, Zavadzka had a terrible feeling but couldn't explain why. She hugged Khudia tight for 10 minutes and told him to update her every hour until he went to sleep.

Air sirens blared at 1 a.m., and she texted him to ask if everything was OK. There was no reply. She waited out the alert in a nearby basement.

In the morning, Khudia's best friend called. Khudia's house had been hit by a Russian missile. His re-

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mains had been found. He had died instantly. His parents were also killed. His sister was pulled from the rubble alive.

There were no obvious military targets in the neighborhood. A military registration and enlistment office was nearby but typically empty at night. Top-secret weapons production facilities and other targets are known to be in various parts of Kyiv, and Russian missiles are rarely precise.

The attack killed 13 people and brought a rare reproach from U.S. President Donald Trump, who urged Russian President Vladimir Putin "to stop shooting, sit down and sign a deal."

On Monday, Zavadzka said goodbye.

She knelt before Khudia's coffin, shaking with grief, until mourners urged her away. Her mother supported her slender frame. Loved ones piled flowers on the closed casket until they overflowed.

"He was the most precious thing I have ever had," Zavadzka said.

The couple's families met for the first time at the funeral. Khudia's grandmother saw the girl, her fingers pressed against the boy's portrait, and knew.

"You are Alyona? Aren't you?" she called out.

Khudia has appeared in Zavadzka's dreams since the day after he was killed, weeping by her feet. Sleep eludes her, her mother said: "She is terrified of it."

In a park gazebo where the couple liked to sit together, Zavadzka looked at photos. In one, the couple is kissing, Zavadzka's long, glossy hair obscuring Khudia's face.

She now speaks in a whisper barely audible above the rustling of leaves. She says part of her is gone. Her mother, feeling powerless, worries her daughter won't survive her grief.

"His hugs were so warm," Zavadzka said.

"We were waiting for the summer so much. We had so many plans."

Childcare in the Capitol: As more women run for office, some are bringing their kids

By KATE PAYNE Associated Press/Report for America

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) — When Florida state Rep. Fiona McFarland's infant daughter, Grace Melton, crawled for the first time, the mom of four was right next door, hard at work with her legislative policy staff in the state Capitol.

Thanks to the on-site childcare available in the statehouse, McFarland didn't miss that magical first milestone in her 7-month-old's young life.

"The sitter I had with her just grabbed me out of my meeting right next door and I came over and got to witness it," McFarland recalled.

As more women and young people run for public office, they're bringing more than fresh policy ideas to statehouses — some are bringing their kids.

Like working parents across the country, some lawmakers are scrambling to find childcare that fits their often unpredictable schedules, at a price they can afford. Rushing back and forth from their districts, they juggle meetings with constituents and coordinate their children's drop-offs, power through late-night floor sessions and step out to pump breast milk between votes, hoping to make it home for their kids' bedtime.

"Looking back, I'm like, 'How did I do that?'" Michigan state Sen. Stephanie Chang said, recalling those frenzied years when she was a new legislator and a new mom.

The Democrat used to race across the state with her baby and freezer bags of milk in tow, leaving her daughter with family members so she could make her 9 a.m. committee meetings at the state Capitol in Lansing.

In one of the few industrialized countries that lacks universal paid family leave, Chang says America's childcare crunch is keeping some parents from running for public office because they simply "cannot make it all work," ultimately leaving young families with fewer advocates to help decide "what we're doing for the future of our children."

Advocates push for more support, as more young parents get elected

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Some state capitols, which were mostly built before women could vote, still lack enough accessible bathrooms, advocates say, let alone spaces to comfortably change a baby's diaper or nurse an infant.

"Legislators legislate based on their lived experience," said Liuba Grechen Shirley, founder of the Vote Mama Foundation, which pushes to break barriers that moms face while running for office.

"We have terrible policies that fail women and children across the country because we don't have enough moms serving at any level of government," she said.

As of this year, 33% of state legislators were women, according to the Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University. Fewer than 8% of those lawmakers are moms of minor children, a Vote Mama analysis found.

Statehouses' childcare offerings largely lag behind other workplaces, but advocates say they're gaining some ground.

The Virginia House of Delegates now gives a childcare stipend to members with young kids to help cover their expenses during session.

At least two-thirds of states allow candidates of any gender running for public office to use campaign funds to pay for child care expenses after the Federal Elections Commission approved the practice for federal candidates in 2018.

A childcare space just for Florida lawmakers

Inside the echoing halls of Florida's Capitol, amid the chattering of lobbyists and the clicking of high heels, the voices of children like Grace can be heard as they play inside two on-site childcare spaces that were created just for the kids of legislators.

McFarland, whose four children are ages 5 and under, was elected for the first time in 2020, when she was pregnant with her first child. Since then, her public service has been fueled by "caffeine and dry shampoo," she joked.

On early mornings before the Capitol's in-house day care opens up, McFarland plops Grace into a bouncy chair that sits on her desk in her legislative office, or holds the baby with one hand as she flips through briefing books with the other.

"Moms will always make it work," said McFarland, a Republican.

While the House is in session or committee hearings are in swing, McFarland is able to drop her daughter off at the childcare upstairs. The space isn't open every day and the hours vary, McFarland says, an experience many working parents can empathize with.

The staff working in the Capitol's childcare are paid out of campaign funds, spokespeople for the House speaker and Senate president said. The initiative grew out of the Legislature's program for lawmakers' spouses, many of whom travel to Tallahassee for session.

After the day care has closed for the afternoon, Grace comes back downstairs to nap and play in a nursery McFarland has set up in the room next door to her office. McFarland also hires sitters to take care of her baby when the childcare space isn't open, a cost she pays for herself.

Every working parent has to make tradeoffs, McFarland said, but having childcare in the Capitol means she doesn't have to make quite as many.

"That's what makes Florida stronger, right? Is when we have good representatives and we have good parents — who are able to do both," McFarland said.

Florida's Capitol childcare is an "informal" approach, but could serve as a model for legislatures across the country, Grechen Shirley said.

It's a "first step" she said, that states should bolster with other supportive policies like allowing proxy voting, paying lawmakers a "livable wage" and letting candidates use campaign funds to cover childcare expenses.

"If we want a legislature that actually reflects our society, we have to make it easier for young families to run for office and to stay in office," Grechen Shirley said.

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Trump's tariffs loom over the economy as shipments from China fall

By PAUL WISEMAN, ANNE D'INNOCENZIO and CHRISTOPHER RUGABER AP Business Writers
WASHINGTON (AP) — American businesses are cancelling orders from China, postponing expansion plans and hunkering down to see what trade policy surprises President Donald Trump plans to spring on them next.

The president's massive and unpredictable taxes on imports seem likely to mean emptier shelves and higher prices for American shoppers, perhaps within weeks.

And the higher costs and paralyzing uncertainty could exact an economic toll: U.S. consumers are in the biggest funk since COVID-19 hit five years ago, and economists say recession risks are climbing.

An early sign of the damage is expected to emerge on Wednesday when the Commerce Department releases its first look at first-quarter economic growth.

The economy is forecast to have expanded at an annual pace of just 0.8% from January through March, according to a survey of economists by the data firm FactSet. That would be the slowest quarter of growth in nearly three years and would be down from a healthy 2.4% in the last three months of 2024. Many economists suspect things were even worse.

Asked how much of deterioration in the world's biggest economy could be traced to Trump's erratic policies, Boston College economist Brian Bethune said: "All of it."

As he promised on the campaign trail, Trump has upended decades of American trade policy. He's been imposing — then sometimes suspending — big import taxes, or tariffs, on a wide range of targets. He's currently plastered a 10% levy on products from almost every country in the world. He's hit China — America's third-biggest trading partner and second-biggest source of imported goods — with a staggering 145% tariff.

China has responded with retaliatory tariffs of its own — 125% on American products. The take-no-prisoners trade war between the world's two biggest economies has shaken global financial markets and threatened to bring U.S.-China trade to a standstill.

Gene Seroka, executive director of the Port of Los Angeles, warned last Thursday within two weeks arrivals to the port "will drop by 35% as essentially all shipments out of China for major retailers and manufacturers has ceased." Seroka added that cargo from Southeast Asia also "is much softer than normal with tariffs now in place."

After Trump announced expansive tariffs in early April, ocean container bookings from China to the United States dropped 60% -- and stayed there, said Ryan Petersen, founder and CEO of Flexport, a San Francisco company that helps companies ship cargo around the world. With orders down, ocean carriers have reduced their capacity by cancelling 25% of their sailings, Flexport said.

Many companies tried to beat the clock by bringing in foreign goods before Trump's tariffs took effect. In fact, that is a big reason that first-quarter economic growth is expected to come in so low: A surge in imports swelled the trade deficit, which weighs on growth.

By stockpiling goods ahead of the trade war, many companies "will be positioned to ride out this storm for a while," said Judah Levine, research director at the global freight-booking platform Freightos. "But at a certain point, inventories will run down."

In the next few weeks, Levine said, "you could start seeing shortages ... it's likely to be concentrated in categories where the U.S. is heavily dependent on Chinese manufacturing and there aren't a lot of alternatives and certainly quick alternatives." Among them: furniture, baby products and plastic goods, including toys.

Jay Foreman, CEO of toymaker Basic Fun, said he paused shipments of Tonka trucks, Care Bears and other toys from China after Trump's tariff plan was announced in early April. Now, he's hoping to get by for a few months on inventory he's stockpiled.

"Consumers will find Basic Fun toys in stores for a month or two but very quickly we will be out of stock and stock product will disappear from store shelves," he said.

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Kevin Brusky, who owns APE Games, a small tabletop game publisher in St. Louis, has about 7,000 copies of three different games sitting in a warehouse in China. The tariff bill of about \$25,000 would wipe out his profit on the games, so he is launching a Kickstarter campaign next week to help defray the cost of the duties.

Still, his sales representative is urging him to import the games if possible, because he expects that retailers will soon be desperate for products to sell. If he does import the games, Brusky is considering raising its price from \$40 to at least \$45.

Worried that tariffs will push up prices and drive away customer, retailers have put expansion plans on hold for next year, said Naveen Jaggi, president of retail advisory services in the Americas for real-estate firm JLL. "What they are telling us is: 'We want to slow down the decision to open up stores and commit to leases' because they want to watch how the consumer reacts."

Consumers already seem to be freaking out. The Conference Board, a business group, reported Tuesday that Americans' confidence in the economy fell for the fifth straight month to the lowest level since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Nearly one-third of consumers expect hiring to slow in the coming months, nearly matching the level reached in April 2009, when the economy was mired in the Great Recession.

Consumer spending accounts for about 70% of U.S. GDP so if nervous consumers stop shopping, the economic fallout could get ugly. Economist Joseph Brusuelas of the consultancy RSM pegs the probability of a recession within the next 12 months at 55%.

Even gloomier is Torsten Slok, chief economist at Apollo Global Management. He sees a 90% chance of a recession by this summer if Trump's tariffs remain in place. Businesses are already planning on significant disruptions, particularly from the 145% duties on goods from China, he said.

"You see that in company reactions: Orders are down, (spending) plans are down, costs are up, prices paid are up," he said.

He expects large layoffs by trucking firms and retailers as soon as late May, as the slowdown in goods coming into U.S. ports from China works its way through the supply chain.

Flexport CEO Petersen said shortages of products are "not a tragedy."

"It's going to be much more about the layoffs that follow," Petersen said. "That's where the real pain is going to be felt. Shortages mean companies aren't selling stuff and therefore don't have the profits that they need to pay their workers."

He said the stakes are so high that he expects the U.S. and China to deescalate their trade war and bring down the tariffs. In fact, Trump and his advisers have sounded more conciliatory lately. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent, for example, said that the triple-digit tariffs the U.S. and China have slapped on each other are not sustainable.

But more abrupt shifts in trade policy risk increasing the uncertainty that has paralyzed businesses and worried consumers.

Moreover, said economist Cory Stahle of the Indeed Hiring Lab, "conditions may worsen in the coming months if people start behaving like they are in a recession. Softening some of the recent trade policy changes may ease some business concerns, but it may already be too late."

Trump offers automakers some relief on his 25% tariffs, after worries they could hurt US factories

By JOSH BOAK and ALEXA ST. JOHN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump signed executive orders Tuesday to relax some of his 25% tariffs on automobiles and auto parts, a significant reversal as the import taxes threatened to hurt domestic manufacturers.

Automakers and independent analyses have indicated that the tariffs could raise prices, reduce sales and make U.S. production less competitive worldwide. Trump portrayed the changes as a bridge toward automakers moving more production into the United States.

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"We just wanted to help them during this little transition, short term," Trump told reporters. "We didn't want to penalize them."

Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent, who spoke earlier at a White House briefing on Tuesday, said the goal was to enable automakers to create more domestic manufacturing jobs.

"President Trump has had meetings with both domestic and foreign auto producers, and he's committed to bringing back auto production to the U.S.," Bessent said. "So we want to give the automakers a path to do that, quickly, efficiently and create as many jobs as possible."

Trump signed one order on Tuesday that amended his previous 25% auto tariffs, making it easier for vehicles that are assembled in the U.S. with foreign parts to not face prohibitively high import taxes.

The amended order provides a rebate for one year of 3.75% relative to the sales prices of a domestically assembled vehicles. That figure was reached by putting the 25% import tax on parts that make up 15% of a vehicle's sales price. For the second year, the rebate would equal 2.5% of a vehicle's sales price, as it would apply to a smaller share of the vehicle's parts.

A senior Commerce Department official, insisted on anonymity to preview the order on a call with reporters, said automakers told Trump that the additional time would enable them to ramp up the construction of new factories, after automakers warned that it would take time for them to shift their supply chains. The official said automakers would over the next month announce additional shifts for workers, new hires and plans for new facilities.

Stellantis Chairman John Elkann said in a statement that the company appreciates the president's tariff relief measures.

"While we further assess the impact of the tariff policies on our North American operations, we look forward to our continued collaboration with the U.S. Administration to strengthen a competitive American auto industry and stimulate exports," he said.

General Motors CEO Mary Barra said the automaker is grateful for Trump's support of the industry, and she noted the company looks forward to conversations with the president and working with the administration.

"We believe the President's leadership is helping level the playing field for companies like GM and allowing us to invest even more in the U.S. economy," Barra said in a statement.

Jim Farley, president and CEO of Ford Motor Company, stressed that his company does more than its peers to manufacture domestically.

"We will continue to work closely with the administration in support of the president's vision for a healthy and growing auto industry in America," Farley said. "As the right policies are put in place, it will be important for the major vehicle importers to match Ford's commitment to building in America. If every company that sells vehicles in the U.S. matched Ford's American manufacturing ratio, 4 million more vehicles would be assembled in America each year."

But changing direction doesn't help an industry that thrives on stability, said Sam Fiorani, analyst at business forecasting firm AutoForecast Solutions.

"Finding a way to get the auto industry back working has to be paramount in this," Fiorani said. "The tariffs have not looked at this industry, the way it works, and expect it to be able to jump and relocate production at the blink of an eye. It just doesn't work that way."

"Making a production change for vehicle manufacturing takes minimum, months, and usually years, along with hundreds of millions if not billions of dollars," he added. "And so it is not something that they take lightly."

The Wall Street Journal first reported details of the actions. The White House's Rapid Response account on X said Trump signed a second order Tuesday afternoon to prevent his various tariffs from being stacked on top of his existing taxes on imported autos and auto parts.

The tariffs imposed by Trump were seen by some as an existential threat to the auto sector. Arthur Laf-fer, whom Trump gave the Presidential Medal of Freedom to during his first term, said in a private analysis that the tariffs without any modifications could add \$4,711 to the cost of a vehicle.

New vehicles sold at \$47,462 on average last month, according to auto-buying resource Kelley Blue Book. Tariffs stress the automotive supply chain, a complex web which spans the globe. Not only do many auto

parts cross North American borders several times before being assembled into a finished vehicle, auto manufacturers rely on suppliers around the world for thousands of components.

Increased levies would certainly cost new car buyers — sensitive to inflation — more, driving them to the used vehicle market and quickly straining the availability of pre-owned cars. Tariffs also impact the cost of owning and maintaining a vehicle.

The modifications come as Trump marks 100 days back in the White House by going to Michigan, a state defined by auto manufacturing. Trump won the state in last year's election by promising to increase factory jobs.

Still, it remains unclear what impact Trump's broader tariffs will have on the U.S. economy and auto sales. Most economists say the tariffs — which could ultimately hit most imports — would raise prices and slow economic growth, possibly hurting auto sales despite the relief that the administration intends to offer on its previous policies.

Illinois town mourns the 4 youngsters killed when a car barreled through their after-school camp

By JOHN O'CONNOR Associated Press

CHATHAM, Ill. (AP) — Residents of a small central Illinois city on Tuesday mourned the loss of three children and a teenager killed in a startling crash in which a car barreled through a building used for a popular after-school camp. Authorities said it didn't appear to be a targeted attack.

The car on Monday left a road, crossed a field and smashed into the side of the building in Chatham used by Youth Needing Other Things Outdoors, also known as YNOT, according to Illinois State Police. It traveled through the building, striking people before exiting the other side. Six children were also hospitalized, including one left in critical condition.

The Sangamon County coroner identified those killed as 18-year-old Rylee Britton of Springfield and three Chatham children: Ainsley Johnson, 8, and Kathryn Corley and Alma Buhnerkempe, both 7.

Chatham grieves together

On Tuesday evening, with red ribbons tied in bows lining Main Street, hundreds of people gathered for a vigil in the town square, where heart-shaped boards bore the names of the four who died. Dozens of people signed messages to each.

"You were a great counselor," 9-year-old Coralie Glessner wrote on the heart for Britton. Coralie, who has participated in YNOT's program in the past, said she liked that Britton played four square with her. Asked for a memory of her, Coralie said, "Greeting me when I got off the bus" each day at YNOT.

Faith leaders spoke as attendees held lit candles. Lutheran Charities brought support animals, and the American Red Cross provided "water, snacks and tissues," organizer Miriam Snider said.

Sam McCurdy, 19, drove home Tuesday from the University of Missouri in Columbia to be with his sister, a close friend of Britton's. His sister, Britton and other friends had planned to attend prom together this weekend.

"I wanted to be here for her, and for the community, to show support," McCurdy said. "So many plans, so many futures, and so much grieving for something that shouldn't have happened."

Victims remembered across the community

People in the community of about 15,000, located in what was once an open prairie outside the Illinois capital of Springfield, have also been grieving and consoling each other in other ways.

"People are coping by finding ways to be with each other, to provide comfort and support to those who are suffering," Snider said.

Churches held prayer services, city leaders ordered flags to be flown at half-staff and schools held classes online. An ice cream shop offered free scoops and a community meeting place. Some locals changed their Facebook profile pictures to red ribbons with the motto "Chatham Strong."

"This is just devastating," said Jennifer Walston, 43, as she and her daughters left flowers and a stuffed

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animal at the crash site. Plywood covered the hole where the car crashed into the building. She said her daughters knew Alma and Ainsley, remembering them as energetic girls who tried to include others.

"They were sweet girls," Walston said.

The studio where Ainsley and two others hurt in the crash took dance canceled classes Tuesday. Teachers at Studio M Dance Centre remembered the 8-year-old in a Facebook post as a "sweet and sassy" dancer and tumbler who "will be deeply missed every single day."

Earlier in the day, hundreds packed Cherry Hills Church. Most wore red, the color of Glenwood High School, where Britton was a senior.

Pastor Steve Patzia told the crowd that he saw her in church on Easter Sunday as he offered words of comfort.

"It's good and right to feel how you feel, when you feel how you feel. I've had moments of grief and sadness. I've cried, and I've also had memories," he said. "I would encourage you to share those good memories you have of her and the children that were lost as well."

Parents said the YNOT Outdoors after-school and summer camp programs, which employ high school and college students as counselors, are coveted and competitive to get into. In social media posts, families recalled fond summer memories at the location which focuses on outdoor activities.

Walston's daughters attended the summer camp and said they knew Alma and Ainsley, remembering them as energetic girls who tried to include others.

"They were sweet girls," Walston said.

Security footage captures the crash

Jamie Loftus, founder of YNOT Outdoors, said security camera footage showed a vehicle left the road "a substantial distance" away and sped across the field toward the building.

The car then crossed a road, the sidewalk and YNOT's parking lot before crashing through the building "with no apparent attempt to alter its direction," Loftus said. The vehicle then crossed a gravel road and crashed into a pole and fence.

"I cannot gather the words to express much of anything that will make sense in print," Loftus said in a social media post about the victims on Monday. "They are friends and their kids are like our kids."

Jacob Rabin, 19, who attended YNOT as a child, said the 3:20 p.m. crash happened at the worst possible time.

"They would have just gotten off the buses" at YNOT, Rabin said. "There would have been the peak amount of people there at that time."

The driver, a 44-year-old Chatham woman, wasn't injured but was taken to a hospital for evaluation. Police said toxicology reports were pending. She was not in custody on Tuesday. State police declined to offer further details, saying the crash remains under investigation.

"This does not appear to be a targeted attack," state police said.

Officials in the Ball-Chatham School District, where the four victims attended schools, said classes would be online through Thursday.

"As we mourn this unimaginable loss, we recognize the pain and grief that many are experiencing," Superintendent Becca Lamon and Chatham Village President Dave Kimsey said in a joint statement. "We are all hurting."

The deadly crash comes days after a car plowed through a crowded street during a Filipino heritage festival in Canada, killing 11 people. Similar vehicle ramming events have taken place worldwide.

For some Americans, the end of the Vietnam War after Saigon fell 50 years ago is still deeply felt

By MARK THIESSEN and JULIE WATSON Associated Press

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) — The Vietnam War greatly impacted U.S. society from the passage of the War Powers Resolution that restricts the president's ability to send troops into extended combat without

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congressional approval to the cementing of college campuses as centers of student activism.

Millions of U.S. troops fought in Vietnam. For some Americans, the war that effectively ended with the fall of Saigon 50 years ago Wednesday on April 30, 1975, continues to shape their lives.

They include: A woman dedicated to recovering her father's remains after the Navy plane he piloted disappeared over Vietnam's Gulf of Tonkin. A Vietnam veteran who was heckled like scores of other troops when he returned home and now assists fellow veterans in rural Alaska. And an anti-war movement stalwart who has spent decades advocating for free speech after her brother was wounded when Ohio National Guard troops fired into a crowd of protesters at Kent State University.

Here are their stories.

Still waiting for dad to return home

Fifty years after the fall of Saigon, Jeanie Jacobs Huffman has not lost hope of bringing her father home.

Huffman was only five months old when her father, Navy Cdr. Edward J. Jacobs Jr., was reported missing in action after the plane he was piloting to photograph enemy targets vanished in 1967 over the Gulf of Tonkin, off the coast of North Vietnam.

Huffman has dedicated her life to finding the plane and recovering his remains and those of his two crew members. She also serves on the board of directors of Mission: POW-MIA, a nonprofit group dedicated to finding unaccounted Americans from past conflicts.

"It's a lot of missing, you know, a huge void in my life," she said, breaking into tears.

A professional photographer, Huffman has made a poster featuring the faces of the 1,573 missing service members from Vietnam.

"After this many years, we should never leave anyone behind," she said.

A year ago, she visited the Gulf of Tonkin through a trip with the United States Institute of Peace, a nonprofit that promotes education and research on conflicts to prevent future wars. The group's translator, who was from North Vietnam and also lost family members in the war, walked with Huffman into the water. Holding hands, they both cried, sharing their grief.

"So that was the closest I've been to him in 58 years," Huffman said of her father.

She's pushing for the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency to conduct an underwater search operation next year in hopes of recovering the plane. The U.S. Department of Defense agency is responsible for recovering and identifying service members listed as missing in action or prisoners of war.

"He deserves to be brought back home," she said. "Even if it's just a bone or a dog tag. Even the tangible things, like a dog tag or a piece of his plane, mean a lot to me because I don't have anything else."

Finding salvation after so many decades

For George Bennett, the road to sobriety and mental health continued long after flying home through San Francisco in 1968, where "sneering" protesters met returning soldiers in the terminal.

Someone yelled out, "baby killer." Another spit at them. He and his fellow soldiers were turned away from one airport restaurant.

Only later did he realize how much Vietnam had changed him because the war went against the strict sense of values and Indigenous practices instilled by his parents.

A member of Alaska's Tlingit tribe, Bennett said, "I would go get my beer and come home ... just drink beer and do nothing."

"I think part of it was the fact that I was ashamed and guilty because I was part of the atrocity that occurred in Vietnam. I feel that I violated the value and some of our cultural norms, and it made me want to run."

And he did, from bar to bar and job to job.

Finally, he wound up receiving help for alcoholism and post-traumatic stress disorder.

It's taken him 30 years to feel better, largely because of the support of Mary, his wife of 55 years. She insisted they move to the southeast Alaska city of Sitka, where he has integrated back into his native Tlingit culture.

He's now Alaska's sole rural veteran liaison, helping veterans secure benefits in the military's health care system.

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"I really had to find my spiritual way again," he said. "It took me a while to get there, but here I am."

Kent State University protester sees lessons for today

Chic Canfora still becomes emotional when she talks about the fall of Saigon.

Canfora was part of an anti-war protest at Kent State University in 1970 when Ohio National Guard troops fired into the crowd, killing four fellow students and wounding nine others, including her brother. The bullets sent Canfora diving for cover.

She believes the protest helped galvanize public opinion that would hasten the withdrawal of U.S. troops and ultimately lead to the fall of Saigon and the war's demise.

A decade ago, Canfora visited the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall in Washington and was overcome at seeing how the number of names of the fallen dwindled after 1970.

"That was the first time it really hit me the impact of the anti-war movement and, so it's particularly meaningful for me this year," she said, choking up.

Canfora, who teaches journalism at Kent State, has spent her life sharing what she experienced. She said the lessons learned are more relevant than ever amid the Trump administration's crackdown on student protesters, fears of deportation for international students and what critics describe as unprecedented attacks on campus speech.

She said she sees echoes of the past when then Ohio Gov. James Rhodes, who sent in the National Guard, called the Kent State demonstrators "the worst type of people that we harbor in America."

"I was too young and too naive to recognize the danger of such inflammatory rhetoric because, in essence, all of these leaders in our country were putting targets on the backs of American college students who have historically served as the conscience of America," Canfora said.

"I think students today are going through that same metamorphosis of awareness that I did in 1970."

Trump marks his first 100 days in office in campaign mode, focused on grudges and grievances

By WILL WEISSERT, JOEY CAPPELLETTI and SEUNG MIN KIM Associated Press

WARREN, Mich. (AP) — President Donald Trump on Tuesday celebrated the 100th day of his second term — yet spent much of his rally marking it in campaign mode, fixated on past grudges and grievances.

He repeatedly mocked his Democratic predecessor, Joe Biden, attacking his mental acuity and even how he appears in a bathing suit. He again uttered the lie that he won the 2020 presidential election. And he attacked polling and news coverage not favorable to him.

And Trump again and again returned to immigration, his signature issue, at the rally that marked his largest political event since returning to the White House — boasting about his administration's "mass deportation" efforts that have sent arrests for illegal crossings along the U.S.-Mexico border plummeting.

"Removing the invaders is not just a campaign pledge," Trump said in his 90-minute speech. "It's my solemn duty as commander-in-chief. I have an obligation to save our country."

He paused his remarks to play a video of migrants who Trump asserts are gang members arriving at a notorious prison in El Salvador, with rallygoers cheering as images of deportees having their heads shaved were played. And while Michigan has seen unemployment rise since Trump reclaimed the White House, Trump used his speech to defend his administration's steep tariffs on cars and auto parts — hours after the White House announced it was softening those.

"We're here tonight in the heartland of our nation to celebrate the most successful first 100 days of any administration in the history of our country," Trump said, standing before large electronic screens reading "100 Day of Greatness." He later added: "We've just gotten started. You haven't even seen anything yet."

His Republican administration's strict immigration policies have pushed the boundaries of the judiciary, and its protectionist import taxes imposed on America's trade partners have also sought to reorder a global economy that the U.S. built in the decades after World War II.

Trump has also championed sweeping expansionism, refusing to rule out military intervention in Greenland and Panama, suggesting that American developers could help convert the war-torn Gaza Strip into

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a Riviera-like resort and even suggesting annexation of Canada. Meanwhile, government-slashing efforts led by billionaire adviser Elon Musk have shaken Washington to its core.

"After a lifetime of unelected bureaucrats stealing your paychecks, attacking your values and trampling your freedoms, we are stopping their gravy train, ending their power trip and telling thousands of corrupt, incompetent and unnecessary deep state bureaucrats, 'You're fired!'" Trump said.

Yet only about 4 in 10 Americans approve of how Trump is handling the presidency, and his ratings on the economy and trade are lower than that. Additionally, 46% of U.S. adults approve of Trump's immigration policies, with about half of Americans saying he has "gone too far" when it comes to deporting immigrants living in the country illegally.

Just 33% of Americans, meanwhile, have a favorable view of Musk, the Tesla CEO and the world's richest person, and about half believe the administration has gone too far in working to pare back the government workforce.

"The bottom line for the first hundred days is, lots of damage being done to the fundamentals of our government," said Max Stier, founding president and CEO of the Partnership for Public Service, a nonprofit dedicated to better government.

Typically, presidents use the 100-day mark to launch multiple rallies. But Trump is doing only the Michigan stop.

Administration officials say Trump is at his most effective when staying at the White House, having meetings and speaking to reporters nearly every day. Indeed, the speech in Macomb County was one of the few large political crowds he's addressed since Inauguration Day on Jan. 20.

The exceptions have been flying most weekends to golf in Florida or attend sporting events, including the Super Bowl and the Daytona 500. The limited travel to see supporters is a major departure from his first term, when Trump held a series of rallies before celebrating 100 days in office with a Pennsylvania speech in 2017.

Michigan was one of the battleground states Trump flipped in 2024 from the Democratic column. But it's also been deeply affected by his tariffs, including on new imported cars and auto parts.

Automaker Stellantis halted production at plants in Canada and Mexico after Trump announced a 25% tariff on imported vehicles, temporarily laying off 900 U.S. employees. Industry groups have separately urged the White House to scrap plans for tariffs on imported auto parts, warning that doing so would raise prices on cars and could trigger "layoffs and bankruptcy."

That seemingly would make the state an odd choice for Trump to hail his accomplishments.

Luis Guevara, of Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan, said outside Trump's rally that he's "cautiously optimistic" about Trump's first 100 days in office but noted that change can be hard.

"We don't look at our 401(k) or our portfolio on a daily, weekly, monthly basis or even year to year. I think the market is very skittish," Guevara said. "Now is certainly not the time to mimic the market and be skittish. I think we have to hold tight. It's going to be a rough ride. Change is difficult for a lot of people."

Earlier Tuesday, Trump issued an executive order relaxing some of his tariffs on cars and auto parts. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said the goal remained enabling automakers to create more domestic manufacturing jobs, noting Trump is concerned with "jobs of the future, not of the past."

Carolyn Martz, of Royal Oak, Michigan, said outside the Trump rally that she supports the president's tariffs. She said her husband is an auto technician and has noted how parts come from China and elsewhere overseas.

"I'd like to see more stuff made in America, by Americans, for Americans," Martz said, adding that tariffs could stimulate U.S. manufacturing.

"If we have to eat more in the beginning with higher prices, that might just be part of it," she said.

Michigan will be important for Republicans in 2026 as their party tries to pick up a Senate seat in the state for the first time in decades and regain control of the governor's office, with Gov. Gretchen Whitmer term-limited. Multiple competitive House races will also be on the midterm ballot, along with control of the state legislature.

Though she can't run again for the governor's mansion, Whitmer remains in the spotlight as a potential future Democratic presidential candidate. Long a Trump critic, Whitmer has sought to find common ground with the president lately, appearing with Trump at Selfridge Air National Guard Base earlier Tuesday to announce a new fighter jet mission in the economically valuable base.

Wisconsin high court suspends Milwaukee judge accused of helping man evade immigration authorities

By TODD RICHMOND Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — The Wisconsin Supreme Court suspended a judge accused of helping a man evade immigration authorities, saying Tuesday that it is in the public interest to relieve her of her duties as she faces two federal charges.

The FBI took Milwaukee County Circuit Judge Hannah Dugan into custody Friday morning at the county courthouse. She has been charged with concealing an individual to prevent his discovery and arrest and obstructing or impeding a proceeding.

In its two-page order, the court said it was acting to protect public confidence in Wisconsin courts during the criminal proceedings against Dugan. The order noted that the court was acting on its own initiative and was not responding to a request from anyone. Liberal justices control the court 4-3.

"It is ordered ... that Milwaukee County Circuit Judge Hannah C. Dugan is temporarily prohibited from exercising the powers of a circuit court judge in the state of Wisconsin, effective the date of this order and until further order of the court," the justices wrote.

In a statement, Dugan's legal team said it was disappointed "that the Court acted in unilateral fashion. We continue to assert Judge Dugan's innocence and look forward to her vindication in court."

A state court spokesperson said that a reserve judge began filling in for Dugan on Monday for an indefinite period.

Dugan is accused of escorting Eduardo Flores-Ruiz and his lawyer from her court through the jury door last week after learning that U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents were in the building and seeking his arrest. Flores-Ruiz, who court documents say illegally reentered the U.S. after being deported in 2013, was taken into custody outside after a foot chase.

Court documents suggest Dugan was alerted to the agents' presence by her clerk, who was informed by an attorney that they appeared to be in the hallway.

An FBI affidavit says Dugan was "visibly angry" over the agents' arrival and called the situation "absurd" before leaving the bench and retreating to her chambers. It says she and another judge later approached members of the arrest team inside the courthouse with what witnesses described as a "confrontational, angry demeanor."

After a back-and-forth with officers over the warrant for Flores-Ruiz, Dugan demanded they speak with the chief judge and led them away from the courtroom, the affidavit says.

After directing the agents to the chief judge's office, investigators say, Dugan returned to the courtroom and was heard saying words to the effect of "wait, come with me" before ushering Flores-Ruiz and his lawyer through the jury door into a nonpublic area.

The action was unusual, the affidavit says, because "only deputies, juries, court staff, and in-custody defendants being escorted by deputies used the back jury door. Defense attorneys and defendants who were not in custody never used the jury door."

Dugan's arrests has sparked outrage among Democrats, who have accused the Trump administration of trying to chill the judiciary. Demonstrators gathered outside the FBI's Milwaukee field office Saturday to protest her arrest.

She is set to appear in court for arraignment May 15.

Her attorneys include Craig Mastantuono; Paul Clement, a prominent conservative lawyer; and Steve Biskupic, a former U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of Wisconsin who was appointed by President George W. Bush.

Canada's Liberals fall short of a majority in Parliament in the wake of comeback election victory

By ROB GILLIES Associated Press

TORONTO (AP) — Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney's Liberals fell short of winning an outright majority in Parliament on Tuesday, a day after the party scored a stunning comeback victory in a vote widely seen as a rebuke of U.S. President Donald Trump.

The vote-counting agency Elections Canada finished processing nearly all ballots in an election that could leave the Liberals just three seats shy of a majority, which means they will have to seek help from another, smaller party to pass legislation.

The Liberal party seemed likely to find the extra votes necessary, but it was not clear whether they would come from the progressive party, which backed the Liberals under former Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, or from a separatist party from French-speaking Quebec.

Carney's rival, populist Conservative leader Pierre Poilievre, was in the lead until Trump took aim at Canada with a trade war and threats to annex the country as the 51st state. Poilievre not only lost his bid for prime minister Monday but was voted out of the Parliament seat that he held for 20 years.

That capped a swift decline in fortunes for the firebrand Poilievre, who a few months ago appeared to be a shoo-in to become Canada's next prime minister and shepherd the Conservatives back into power for the first time in a decade.

Poilievre, a career politician, campaigned with Trump-like bravado, taking a page from the "America First" president by adopting the slogan "Canada First." But his similarities to Trump may have ultimately cost him and his party.

The Liberals were projected to win 169 seats of Parliament's 343 seats while the Conservatives were projected to win 144. The separatist Bloc Québécois party was expected to finish with 22 seats, the progressive New Democrats with seven and the Greens with one. Recounts were expected in some districts.

Elections Canada said 68.5% of eligible voters cast ballots in the federal election — the highest turnout since 1993.

In a victory speech, Carney stressed unity in the face of Washington's threats. He said the mutually beneficial relationship Canada and the U.S. had shared since World War II was gone.

"We are over the shock of the American betrayal, but we should never forget the lessons," he said.

"As I've been warning for months, America wants our land, our resources, our water, our country," Carney added. "These are not idle threats. President Trump is trying to break us so America can own us. That will never ... ever happen. But we also must recognize the reality that our world has fundamentally changed."

In a statement issued Tuesday, White House spokesperson Anna Kelly said the Canadian election "does not affect President Trump's plan to make Canada America's cherished 51st state."

Carney spoke with Trump, and the two leaders "agreed on the importance of Canada and the United States working together — as independent, sovereign nations — for their mutual betterment," Carney's office said in a statement. The men "agreed to meet in person in the near future."

A defeat for the Conservatives

Poilievre hoped to make the election a referendum on Trudeau, whose popularity declined toward the end of his decade in power as food and housing prices rose.

But Trump attacked, Trudeau resigned and Carney, a two-time central banker, became the Liberal Party's leader and prime minister.

In a concession speech before the race call on his own seat, Poilievre vowed to keep fighting for Canadians.

"We are cognizant of the fact that we didn't get over the finish line yet," Poilievre said. "We know that change is needed, but change is hard to come by. It takes time. It takes work. And that's why we have to learn the lessons of tonight."

McGill University political science professor Daniel Béland said nothing prevents Poilievre from remaining the Conservative leader without a seat but, if he decides to stay, he would need to run in another district

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— perhaps by asking a Conservative member of Parliament from a safe Conservative district to resign.

"Still, losing your seat when some people within your own party think you're the main reason why it failed to win is a clear issue for Poilievre," Béland said.

"Moreover, not having the leader of the official opposition in the House of Commons when Parliament sits again would obviously be a problem for the Conservatives."

Even as Canadians mourned a deadly weekend attack at a Vancouver street festival, Trump was trolling them on election day, asserting that he was on their ballot and erroneously claiming that the U.S. subsidizes Canada. "It makes no sense unless Canada is a State!" he wrote.

Trump's truculence has infuriated Canadians, leading many to cancel U.S. vacations, refuse to buy American goods and possibly even to vote early. A record 7.3 million Canadians cast ballots before election day.

Reid Warren, a Toronto resident, said he voted Liberal because Poilievre "sounds like mini-Trump to me." He said Trump's tariffs are a worry.

"Canadians coming together from, you know, all the shade being thrown from the States is great, but it's definitely created some turmoil, that's for sure," he said.

Foreign policy hasn't dominated a Canadian election this much since 1988, when free trade with the United States was the prevailing issue.

The Liberal way forward

Carney and the Liberals have daunting challenges ahead.

By failing to win a majority in Parliament, the Liberals will need to rely on a smaller party. Trudeau's Liberals relied on the New Democrats to remain in power for years, but the party fared poorly on Monday, and its leader, Jagmeet Singh, said he was stepping down after eight years in charge.

The Bloc Québécois, which looked set to finish third, is a separatist party from French-speaking Quebec that seeks independence. Bloc Québécois leader Yves-François Blanchet said he would be open to working with the government for a year if it's a minority.

"The last thing that the Quebec people and Canada people want is instability in the federal Parliament," he said.

In addition to the trade war with the U.S. and a frosty relationship with Trump, Canada is dealing with a cost-of-living crisis. And more than 75% of its exports go to the U.S., so Trump's tariffs threat and his desire to get North American automakers to move Canada's production south could severely damage the economy.

Carney has vowed that every dollar the government collects from counter-tariffs on U.S. goods will go toward Canadian workers who are adversely affected. He also said he plans to offer a middle-class tax cut, return immigration to sustainable levels and increase funding to Canada's public broadcaster.

Hegseth boasts about ending 'woke' program on women and security. Trump signed it into law

By TARA COPP and FARNOUSH AMIRI Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth boasted on social media Tuesday that he had dismantled a program supporting women on security teams, an initiative that he called "woke" but actually was signed into law by his boss, President Donald Trump.

In a post on the social platform X, Hegseth called the "Women, Peace & Security" program at the Defense Department "a UNITED NATIONS program pushed by feminists and left-wing activists. Politicians fawn over it; troops HATE it."

It was, in fact, bipartisan legislation that Trump signed into law in 2017 that recognized the role women have in achieving security goals, especially overseas when their male counterparts may not be able to question or have direct access to women for cultural or religious reasons.

It's the latest controversial move from Hegseth as the Pentagon works to nix programs or content seen as promoting diversity, equity or inclusion. After Trump ordered federal agencies to purge DEI content,

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the Pentagon issued a broad edict to the military services that ignited public outcry when online images of national heroes like Jackie Robinson were briefly removed.

Some of Trump's Cabinet officials supported the Women, Peace and Security program when it was moving through the legislative process. And Gen. Dan Caine, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told Congress this month that the program had helped troops in battle.

"When we would go out into the field after concluding an assault, we would have female members who would speak with those women and children who were on the objective, and they would help us to understand the human terrain in a new and novel way," Caine said during his April confirmation hearing.

Trump met and became endeared to Caine when Caine was serving in Iraq, part of the reason Trump nominated him to the chairmanship.

Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem, while representing South Dakota in Congress, wrote the House version of the 2017 Women, Peace and Security Act with Democratic Rep. Jan Schakowsky of Illinois.

Secretary of State Marco Rubio, who as a senator co-sponsored the Senate version of that bill, said this month that it was "the first law passed by any country in the world focused on protecting women and promoting their participation in society."

The legislation stemmed from a resolution unanimously endorsed by the U.N. Security Council, the most powerful U.N. body, in October 2000, aimed at including women in peacebuilding efforts because women and girls have historically borne the brunt of global conflict.

"It's no secret that women remain largely on the periphery of formal peace processes and decision making, which is not good for the cause of peace," U.N. spokesperson Stephane Dujarric said in response to Hegseth's comments Tuesday.

Dujarric added that "one of the real-life impacts of the Women, Peace and Security program has been the increasing number of women peacekeepers who serve in U.N. missions, which has had a very clear, measurable and positive impact on the protection of civilians in conflict zones."

Hegseth's post drew fire from Democratic lawmakers who are continuing to question his qualifications for the job following his use of the commercial app Signal to share sensitive military operations with other officials, his wife and brother.

"Hegseth has absolutely no idea what he's doing," Sen. Jeanne Shaheen, D-N.H., said on X.

Sen. Tim Kaine, D-Va., read Hegseth's post aloud during a congressional hearing Tuesday.

"That tweet contains some glaring inaccuracies that are far beneath the standard we should expect from the Department of Defense," Kaine said.

Hegseth in his post called the program "yet another woke divisive/social justice/Biden initiative that overburdens our commanders and troops," pledging to do the bare minimum required by Congress while working to eliminate it altogether.

But the program has been celebrated by Trump, his administration and his family. It became a heralded part of the first Trump administration's accomplishments for women, and in 2019, Ivanka Trump celebrated that the WPS program was starting a new partnership to help train female police cadets in Colombia.

In a later post, Hegseth called the program "straight-forward & security-focused" but said it had been "distorted & weaponized" by the Biden administration. He confirmed his intention to end it.

A spokesman for Hegseth said there would be no further comment on the secretary's posts.

Judge orders Trump administration to restore \$12 million for pro-democracy Radio Free Europe

By MICHAEL KUNZELMAN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A federal judge on Tuesday ordered the Trump administration to restore \$12 million that Congress appropriated for Radio Free Europe, a pro-democracy media outlet at risk of going dark for the first time in 75 years.

U.S. District Judge Royce Lamberth also tucked a lesson on the three branches of government inside Tuesday's ruling, cautioning that the system of checks and balances established by the U.S. Constitution

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must remain intact if the nation is going to continue to thrive.

Lamberth granted the temporary restraining order for the U.S. Agency for Global Media to disburse money for April 2025 for Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty pending the outcome of a lawsuit seeking to keep the station on the air. He said the Trump administration could not unilaterally revoke funding approved by Congress.

"In interviews, podcasts, and op-eds, people from both inside and outside government have variously accused the courts — myself included — of fomenting a constitutional crisis, usurping the Article II powers of the Presidency, undercutting the popular will, or dictating how Executive agencies can and should be run," wrote Lamberth, who was appointed by President Ronald Reagan.

Those notions reflect a "fundamental misunderstanding" of the role of the federal judiciary and of the Constitution itself, he said.

"Reasonable people can reach different conclusions in complicated legal disputes such as this," Lamberth wrote, and that's why the appellate courts exist. The administration could also ask Congress to pull back the funds, he noted.

Attorneys for the media outlet say President Donald Trump's administration has terminated nearly all of its contracts with freelance journalists, missed payments on leases and furloughed 122 employees. They warn that more employees will be furloughed and more contracts will be canceled on May 1 if funding isn't restored.

"By the end of May, RFE/RL will be forced to cancel the contracts supporting its core live news broadcasting and reporting operations. In June 2025, RFE/RL will almost entirely cease its operations," plaintiffs' lawyers wrote.

Government attorneys argued that the judge doesn't have jurisdiction over what amounts to a contract dispute that belongs in the Court of Federal Claims.

"Plaintiff seeks to place this Court as the arbiter of the grant agreement terms between the parties. But doing so would put the Court in an improper policymaking role," they wrote.

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty started broadcasting during the Cold War. Its programs are aired in 27 languages in 23 countries across Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the Middle East. Its corporate headquarters are in Washington; its journalistic headquarters are based in the Czech Republic.

The Trump administration has tried to make deep cuts at other government-operated, pro-democracy media outlets, including Voice of America.

On April 22, however, Lamberth agreed to block the administration from dismantling Voice of America. The judge ruled that the administration illegally required Voice of America to cease operations for the first time since its World War II-era inception.

Congress makes the laws, but they must be signed by the president to take effect, Lamberth wrote in Tuesday's ruling, and that's exactly what happened in March when Trump signed the continuing resolution that allocated the grant funding to the government-operated media outlets.

Federal judges take an oath to render their decisions impartially, and Lamberth said he doesn't have a stake in the outcome of this case. He also said he doesn't have any animosity toward the president nor loyalty to the media outlets.

But the role of the courts is to interpret the laws of the Constitution and declare what the law is, he said — and unlike the executive branch, the courts have no means to independently enforce those laws.

By issuing the ruling, "I am humbly fulfilling my small part in this very constitutional paradigm — a framework that has propelled the United States to heights of greatness, liberty and prosperity unparalleled in the history of the world for nearly 250 years," Lamberth wrote. "If our nation is to thrive for another 250 years, each co-equal branch of government must be willing to courageously exert the authority entrusted to it by our Founders."

Amazon is not planning to break out tariff costs online as White House attacks potential move

By WYATTE GRANTHAM-PHILIPS and JOSH BOAK The Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Amazon says it's not planning to display added tariff costs next to product prices on its site — despite a report that sparked speculation the e-commerce giant would soon show the new import charges, and the White House's fiery comments denouncing the purported change.

The Trump administration's reaction appeared to be based on a misinterpretation of internal plans being considered by Amazon, rather than a final decision made by the company.

And even those talks were limited. Only Amazon's Haul service — its recently launched, low-cost storefront — "considered the idea" of listing import charges on certain products, company spokesperson Tim Doyle said in a statement sent to The Associated Press. But this "was never approved and is not going to happen."

Earlier Tuesday, Punchbowl News had reported that Amazon planned to start showing how much of each product's cost derived from tariffs "right next to" its total listed price, citing an anonymous source familiar with the matter.

The Trump administration was quick to criticize news of the potential move. At a briefing with reporters earlier in the day, White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt accused Amazon of taking a "hostile and political act" — and further attacked the company by suggesting it had "partnered with a Chinese propaganda arm."

A source familiar with the matter, who spoke of the condition of anonymity, told The Associated Press that the president also called Amazon founder Jeff Bezos to complain about the reported plans Tuesday morning.

The administration seemed to change its tune following Amazon's clarifying statement.

"Jeff Bezos was very nice. He was terrific," President Donald Trump told reporters before leaving the White House for Michigan on Tuesday afternoon. "He solved a problem very quickly and he did the right thing. He's a good guy."

Bezos was one of a handful of powerful, ultra-wealthy tech titans who attended Trump's inauguration in January — filling some of the most exclusive seats right behind the president. But Trump's relationship with much of the corporate world has been tested since, as the tariff wars he's launched with nearly all of America's trading partners continue to plunge companies into uncertainty.

Trump's tariffs — and responding retaliation from targeted countries, notably China — threaten to increase prices for both consumers and businesses. Economists warn these import taxes will hike prices for a range of goods consumers buy each day and lead to worse inflationary pressure.

There's a reason why the Trump administration responded the way it did to Tuesday's Amazon speculation, explains Rob Lalka, a professor of business at Tulane University's Freeman School — noting that such quick and harsh words from the White House signals concern about companies "redirecting customer frustration."

At the same time, volatile tariffs put a lot on the line for businesses like Amazon — and those companies may have to play ball, too, while trying to be transparent with customers. Many CEOs across industries have recently shared weaker outlooks due to the new — and at times on-again, off again — import taxes. And some big names have already raised prices while specifically pointing to the costs of tariffs, including Amazon rivals Temu and Shein.

Earlier this month, Temu and Shein said in separate but nearly identical notices that their operating expenses had gone up "due to recent changes in global trade rules and tariffs" — both announcing price hikes to take effect last Friday (April 25).

Temu, owned by the Chinese e-commerce company PDD Holdings, now lists added "import charges" — which have reportedly doubled many items' prices, although those available in local warehouses currently appear to be exempt. Meanwhile, Shein, now based in Singapore, has a checkout banner that reads, "Tariffs are included in the price you pay. You'll never have to pay extra at delivery."

Tariffs may now be in the spotlight like they never were before — but companies have long itemized added costs to the things we purchase, Lalka notes, from city occupancy taxes on a hotel bill to rideshare apps like Uber breaking out local fees. And Amazon itself “already turned to this playbook” when it began collecting state sales taxes, he adds, although another line in your online shopping cart may be less apparent than potentially seeing total import taxes next to each product you scroll by.

It’s a message regardless, he explains.

“Companies are always communicating something with us when whenever they are putting things in their receipt,” Lalka said — adding that, while Amazon later confirmed it wasn’t actually breaking out tariff prices, the idea didn’t come from nowhere. “The reality is that politics are always being played.”

Trump administration tells Congress it plans to label Haitian gangs as foreign terror organizations

By MICHELLE L. PRICE and FARNOUSH AMIRI Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration has told Congress that it intends to designate Haitian gangs as foreign terrorist organizations, people familiar with the notification told The Associated Press.

The State Department similarly labeled eight Latin American crime organizations in February as it ratcheted up pressure on cartels operating in the U.S. and anyone assisting them. The new move indicates that the administration plans to put similar pressure on gangs from Haiti. The designation carries with it sanctions and penalties for anyone providing “material support” for the group.

It comes after a series of steps against the Venezuelan gang Tren de Aragua, which was designated a foreign terror organization and then dubbed an invading force under an 18th-century wartime law to justify the deportation of Venezuelan migrants to a notorious El Salvador prison under President Donald Trump’s sweeping immigration crackdown.

That invocation of the Alien Enemies Act is significant because it gives the president wide powers to imprison and deport noncitizens who otherwise would have the right to ask for asylum in the U.S. or have their cases heard in immigration courts.

Trump, at a rally in Michigan on Tuesday, touted his designation of the six Latin American crime groups as foreign terrorist organizations, including MS-13 and Tren de Aragua.

“They’ve been designated the highest level of terrorist, and that lets us do a lot of things that you wouldn’t be able to do,” Trump said.

Notifying Congress about plan for Haitian gangs

According to the notification sent to congressional committees on April 23, the Trump administration said it intends to designate the Haitian gangs Viv Ansanm and Gran Grif as foreign terrorist organizations, according to two people familiar with the message, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss details that have not yet been made public.

A third person confirmed that the foreign relations committees in the House and Senate received the notification. The State Department and the White House did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

The designation follows a Trump administration move in February to nix protections that shielded half a million Haitians from deportation.

Tens of thousands of Haitians came to the United States under a Biden-era program permitting people from four countries including Haiti to stay for two years provided they had a financial sponsor and bought their own plane ticket. The Trump administration terminated that program and is seeking to revoke the status of those admitted under the Biden administration.

The foreign terrorist organization label has typically been reserved for groups like al-Qaida or the Islamic State group, but applying it to Haitian gangs means that the Trump White House is expanding the longstanding U.S. definition of foreign terrorism.

The gangs are behind attacks in Haiti

Viv Ansanm, which means “Living Together,” is a powerful gang coalition that formed in September 2023

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and is best known for launching a series of attacks starting in February 2024 across Port-au-Prince and beyond that shuttered Haiti's main international airport for nearly three months, freed hundreds of inmates from the country's two biggest prisons and eventually forced former Prime Minister Ariel Henry to resign.

The coalition united more than a dozen gangs, including two of Haiti's biggest ones: G-9 and G-Pép, which were fierce rivals.

Gangs control at least 85% of Haiti's capital, with Viv Ansanm attacking once peaceful communities in recent weeks in a bid to control even more territory.

Gran Grif, also known as the Savien gang, forms part of the Viv Ansanm coalition and is led by Luckson Elan, best known as "General Luckson." It is the biggest gang operating in Haiti's central Artibonite region with some 100 members.

It was blamed for an attack in the town of Pont-Sondé in October 2024 in which more than 70 people were killed in one of the biggest massacres in Haiti's recent history.

Gran Grif also was blamed for a recent attack in the Petite Riviere community in which several people were killed, including an 11-year-old child.

Gran Grif was formed after Prophane Victor, an ex-member of Haiti's Parliament who represented the Petite Riviere community in Artibonite, began arming young men in the region, according to a U.N. report. Victor was arrested in January.

Canada sanctioned him in June 2023, as did the U.S. in September 2024, accusing him of supporting gangs "that have committed serious human rights abuse."

Gangs' impact on Haiti

More than 5,600 people were killed across Haiti last year, with gang violence leaving more than 1 million homeless in the country of nearly 12 million people, according to the U.N.

While much of the violence has occurred in Port-au-Prince, gangs recently struck the city of Mirebalais in Haiti's central region and freed more than 500 inmates from a local prison. They also attacked the nearby town of Saut d'Eau, considered sacred by the thousands of Haitians who travel there yearly for a Vodou-Catholic pilgrimage.

Gangs also have seized more control in Port-au-Prince, killing more than 260 people in Kenscoff and Carrefour earlier this year. The U.N. political mission in Haiti noted that it took the country's military, police and a U.N.-backed mission led by Kenyan police roughly five hours to respond to those attacks.

Hunger also has surged to record levels as a result of the persistent gang violence, with more than half of Haiti's population expected to experience severe hunger through June, and 8,400 people living in makeshift shelters projected to starve.

Trump dismisses Biden nominees to US Holocaust Memorial Council, including Doug Emhoff

By ZEKE MILLER and DARLENE SUPERVILLE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump has dismissed many of former President Joe Biden's nominees to the United States Holocaust Memorial Council, including Doug Emhoff, the husband of former Vice President Kamala Harris.

Emhoff, who is Jewish and who led the Biden administration's efforts to combat antisemitism, criticized Trump's action, saying, "Let me be clear: Holocaust remembrance and education should never be politicized."

He added, "To turn one of the worst atrocities in history into a wedge issue is dangerous — and it dishonors the memory of six million Jews murdered by Nazis that this museum was created to preserve."

Others dismissed alongside Emhoff include former Biden chief of staff Ron Klain and former domestic policy adviser Susan Rice, who was the principal author of and the impetus behind the first-ever comprehensive National Strategy to Combat Antisemitism in 2023.

Anthony Bernal, a senior adviser to former first lady Jill Biden, confirmed he was also dismissed.

The White House did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Since taking office in January, Trump has moved to fire many Biden appointees across government

— including ostensibly apolitical roles. Biden, too, dismissed some Trump carryover appointees after he entered the White House in 2021, most notably 18 appointees named to U.S. military academy boards, but at a far smaller scale.

Harvard pledges reforms following internal reports on antisemitism and anti-Arab bias

By COLLIN BINKLEY AP Education Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Harvard University is promising to review its academic offerings and admissions policies in response to a pair of internal reports on antisemitism and anti-Arab prejudice at the Ivy League campus commissioned in the aftermath of last spring's pro-Palestinian protests.

Harvard released the reports on Tuesday while the university simultaneously battles the Trump administration over demands to limit campus activism — reforms the government says are necessary to root out campus antisemitism. The administration has frozen \$2.2 billion in federal funding and Harvard responded with a lawsuit in a clash that is being watched closely across higher education.

In a campus message, Harvard President Alan Garber said Harvard has made "necessary changes and essential progress" over the last year but promised further action.

"We will redouble our efforts to ensure that the University is a place where ideas are welcomed, entertained and contested in the spirit of seeking truth," Garber wrote.

Garber convened two panels to study campus antisemitism and anti-Muslim bias last year, with an initial round of recommendations released last June. The final reports total more than 500 pages and include dozens of recommended changes.

Harvard said it will begin implementing at least some of the recommendations, with potential updates to admissions, hiring and discipline systems.

U.S. Rep. Tim Walberg, chairman of the Education and Workforce Committee, said Harvard's internal reports suggest it tolerated antisemitism.

"Harvard's president said the school will not abide bigotry, yet that's exactly what the school's feckless leadership did," said Walberg, a Michigan Republican.

In a list of "actions and commitments," Harvard said it will review admissions processes to make sure applicants are evaluated based on their ability to "engage constructively with different perspectives, show empathy and participate in civil discourse."

It pointed to a recently added application question asking students about a time they strongly disagreed with someone. The antisemitism task force called for that kind of questioning, saying Harvard should reject anyone with a history of bias and look unfavorably on "exhibitions of hostility, derision or dismissiveness."

Still, it appears to fall short of the Trump administration's demands around admissions, which called on Harvard to end all preferences "based on race, color, national origin, or proxies thereof" and implement "merit-based" policies by August. The Supreme Court has rejected the use of race in college admissions, but many colleges look at factors including students' family income and geography to bring a diverse class to campus.

Responding to complaints that Harvard's instruction had become too politicized and anti-Israel, the university said it will work to hold professors to new standards of "excellence." Deans will make sure faculty promote intellectual openness and refrain from endorsing political positions "that may cause students to feel pressure to demonstrate allegiance," the university said.

Courses and curriculum will also be reviewed to reflect those standards.

Other changes include required antisemitism training for students and staff, along with expanded academic offerings on Hebrew, Judaic, Arab and Islamic studies. Harvard will put money toward a research project on antisemitism along with a historical overview on Muslims, Arabs and Palestinians at the university.

In his message, Garber said Harvard will accelerate a campus-wide effort to promote viewpoint diversity, though he didn't elaborate. Viewpoint diversity is among the top concerns of the White House, which demanded that Harvard hire an external auditor to make sure the student body and every academic de-

partment represent diverse views.

Harvard is the first university to openly defy the Trump administration as it uses its hold on colleges' federal funding to press its political agenda.

The administration has argued that universities did not do enough to check antisemitism at campus protests last year. Garber has said Harvard will not bend to the demands, calling it a threat to academic freedom and the autonomy of all universities.

First accuser takes the witness stand at Harvey Weinstein's #MeToo retrial

By JENNIFER PELTZ and MICHAEL R. SISAK Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — When Harvey Weinstein's landmark 2020 #MeToo conviction was overturned, accuser Miriam Haley was frank about her feelings about participating in a retrial: "I definitely don't want to actually go through that again."

But on Tuesday, Haley became the first of the former movie tycoon's accusers to take the witness stand as prosecutors seek to convict him again. Weinstein, 73, has pleaded not guilty and denies sexually assaulting anyone.

As Haley started what are expected to be multiple days of testimony, she walked quickly to the witness stand without looking at Weinstein. The ex-studio boss, sitting between his lawyers, looked at her as she passed by and again when prosecutors asked her to identify him from the stand.

Haley told the jury that when she went to meet Weinstein on the sidelines of the 2006 Cannes film festival, all she wanted was work.

But Weinstein commented on her legs, asked for a massage and, when she balked, asked her to give him one, she recalled.

"Did you have any interest whatsoever in the defendant, Harvey Weinstein, romantically or sexually?" prosecutor Nicole Blumberg asked Haley, 48.

"No, I did not, and I was there to try and find work," said Haley, who'd been an assistant to another producer.

Her testimony so far closely echoes what she told the prior jury, though she hasn't yet gotten to the July 2006 date when she has said Weinstein forcibly performed oral sex on her. She recounted earlier interactions with Weinstein that alternated between being personally off-putting and professionally encouraging for her.

Haley said she left the Cannes meeting crying and feeling humiliated. But she accepted when Weinstein arranged a basic assistant job for her on his company's reality show "Project Runway" in June 2006.

After the roughly three-week gig ended and Haley thanked him by email, Weinstein communicated that he'd heard good things about her work and invited her to meet at a Manhattan hotel lobby, she said as prosecutors displayed her 2006 calendar with the meeting noted.

She and Weinstein talked business, and he was "very respectful and quite charming" and talked about other potential job opportunities, she recalled.

"Were you flirty or suggesting anything sexual between you and the defendant at that meeting?" the prosecutor asked.

"Absolutely not," Haley replied.

She said another meeting in Weinstein's office also went pleasantly and professionally, and so did a ride with him, his assistant and his driver back to her apartment — and then the Hollywood honcho suddenly suggested she accompany him to Paris fashion shows.

Haley said she had no interest in going but gave a vague response, "trying to be polite." They said goodbye. Yet Weinstein repeatedly asked her to come to Paris with him for fashion shows, even showing up uninvited and barging into her apartment to try to persuade her, she said.

Haley told jurors she again declined, but Weinstein was "insistent and overwhelming," so she told him: "I heard about your reputation with women."

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Weinstein took a step back, seeming offended, and quizzed her about what she meant, she recalled. She told jurors she actually hadn't heard much about Weinstein at that point but was just trying to avoid the Paris trip.

Eventually, Weinstein left the apartment and backed off, she said.

Almost two decades later, a series of sexual assault and sexual harassment allegations against Weinstein would energize the #MeToo movement's demands to hold powerful men accountable for misconduct toward women.

Haley, who has also gone by the name Mimi Haley, is expected to continue testifying Wednesday.

The retrial is happening because New York's highest court found the original trial was tainted by "egregious" judicial rulings and prejudicial testimony.

The retrial includes charges based on allegations from Haley and another accuser from the original trial, Jessica Mann, who was once an aspiring actor. She alleges that Weinstein raped her in 2013.

He's also being tried, for the first time, on an allegation of forcing oral sex on former model Kaja Sokola in 2006. Her claim wasn't part of the first trial.

Mann and Sokola also are expected to testify at some point.

Weinstein's attorneys have argued that all three accusers consented to sexual encounters with him in hopes of getting work in show business.

The Associated Press generally does not name people who allege they have been sexually assaulted unless they give permission for their names to be used. Haley, Mann and Sokola have done so.

Take It Down Act, addressing nonconsensual deepfakes and 'revenge porn,' passes. What is it?

By BARBARA ORTUTAY AP Technology Writer

Congress has overwhelmingly approved bipartisan legislation to enact stricter penalties for the distribution of non-consensual intimate imagery, sometimes called "revenge porn." Known as the Take It Down Act, the bill is now headed to President Donald Trump's desk for his signature.

The measure was introduced by Sen. Ted Cruz, a Republican from Texas, and Sen. Amy Klobuchar, a Democrat from Minnesota, and later gained the support of First Lady Melania Trump. Critics of the bill, which addresses both real and artificial intelligence-generated imagery, say the language is too broad and could lead to censorship and First Amendment issues.

What is the Take It Down Act?

The bill makes it illegal to "knowingly publish" or threaten to publish intimate images without a person's consent, including AI-created "deepfakes." It also requires websites and social media companies to remove such material within 48 hours of notice from a victim. The platforms must also take steps to delete duplicate content. Many states have already banned the dissemination of sexually explicit deepfakes or revenge porn, but the Take It Down Act is a rare example of federal regulators imposing on internet companies.

Who supports it?

The Take It Down Act has garnered strong bipartisan support and has been championed by Melania Trump, who lobbied on Capitol Hill in March saying it was "heartbreaking" to see what teenagers, especially girls, go through after they are victimized by people who spread such content. President Trump is expected to sign it into law.

Cruz said the measure was inspired by Elliston Berry and her mother, who visited his office after Snapchat refused for nearly a year to remove an AI-generated "deepfake" of the then 14-year-old.

Meta, which owns and operates Facebook and Instagram, supports the legislation.

"Having an intimate image – real or AI-generated - shared without consent can be devastating and Meta developed and backs many efforts to help prevent it," Meta spokesman Andy Stone said last month.

The Information Technology and Innovation Foundation, a tech industry-supported think tank, said in a statement Monday that the bill's passage "is an important step forward that will help people pursue justice when they are victims of non-consensual intimate imagery, including deepfake images generated using AI."

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"We must provide victims of online abuse with the legal protections they need when intimate images are shared without their consent, especially now that deepfakes are creating horrifying new opportunities for abuse," Klobuchar said in a statement after the bill's passage late Monday. "These images can ruin lives and reputations, but now that our bipartisan legislation is becoming law, victims will be able to have this material removed from social media platforms and law enforcement can hold perpetrators accountable."

What are the censorship concerns?

Free speech advocates and digital rights groups say the bill is too broad and could lead to the censorship of legitimate images including legal pornography and LGBTQ content, as well as government critics.

"While the bill is meant to address a serious problem, good intentions alone are not enough to make good policy," said the nonprofit Electronic Frontier Foundation, a digital rights advocacy group. "Lawmakers should be strengthening and enforcing existing legal protections for victims, rather than inventing new takedown regimes that are ripe for abuse."

The takedown provision in the bill "applies to a much broader category of content — potentially any images involving intimate or sexual content" than the narrower definitions of non-consensual intimate imagery found elsewhere in the text, EFF said.

"The takedown provision also lacks critical safeguards against frivolous or bad-faith takedown requests. Services will rely on automated filters, which are infamously blunt tools," EFF said. "They frequently flag legal content, from fair-use commentary to news reporting. The law's tight time frame requires that apps and websites remove speech within 48 hours, rarely enough time to verify whether the speech is actually illegal."

As a result, the group said online companies, especially smaller ones that lack the resources to wade through a lot of content, "will likely choose to avoid the onerous legal risk by simply depublishing the speech rather than even attempting to verify it."

The measure, EFF said, also pressures platforms to "actively monitor speech, including speech that is presently encrypted" to address liability threats.

The Cyber Civil Rights Initiative, a nonprofit that helps victims of online crimes and abuse, said it has "serious reservations" about the bill. It called its takedown provision unconstitutionally vague, unconstitutionally overbroad, and lacking adequate safeguards against misuse.

For instance, the group said, platforms could be obligated to remove a journalist's photographs of a topless protest on a public street, photos of a subway flasher distributed by law enforcement to locate the perpetrator, commercially produced sexually explicit content or sexually explicit material that is consensual but falsely reported as being nonconsensual.

Roadside bombs kill 26 people in several vehicles on a road in Nigeria and IS claims responsibility

By HARUNA UMAR Associated Press

MAIDUGURI, Nigeria (AP) — Improvised explosive devices detonated on a road in northeastern Nigeria killing at least 26 people in several vehicles, including women and children, police said Tuesday.

An Islamic State group affiliate in the West African country claimed responsibility for the Monday attack.

The blasts happened on a busy road connecting the towns of Rann and Gamboru in Borno state, near the border with Cameroon, Nigerian police spokesperson Nahum Daso told The Associated Press. Multiple explosives planted along the route ripped into several civilian commercial vehicles coming from Rann, killing at least 26 people, he said.

Most of those killed were local farmers and traders crowded in a Toyota pick up van that drove over a land mine, Daso said. He said the mine was buried by suspected militants from the Islamic State affiliate known as IS West Africa Province.

Besides the dead, at least three people were injured and were taken to nearby medical facilities for treatment. Security forces have since secured the area and begun clearance operations.

Abba Modu, a member of the Civilian Joint Task Force, a vigilante group that supports the military in the

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fight against Islamic militants, said the explosives may have been intended for security operatives who regularly patrol the highway.

"Terrorists often plant IEDs in craters or under sand on severely damaged sections of roads, typically targeting soldiers," Modu said.

The Islamic State West Africa Province, also known as ISWAP, claimed responsibility for the attack in a statement on Telegram on Tuesday.

The IS-linked group is an offshoot of Boko Haram, Nigeria's homegrown jihadis who took up arms in 2009 to fight Western education and impose their radical version of Islamic law.

In 2016, ISWAP broke away from Boko Haram following a dispute over leadership and the strategy of attacking civilian targets such as mosques and marketplaces.

The conflict between Nigeria and Islamic extremists is Africa's longest struggle with militancy. It has spilled into Nigeria's northern neighbors Chad, Niger and Cameroon, and has left some 35,000 civilians dead and more than 2 million displaced, according to the U.N.

Nigeria's northeastern region has been particularly hard hit by Islamic militant violence.

Earlier this month, a roadside bomb suspected to have been planted by Islamic extremists in northeastern Nigeria struck a passenger bus and killed eight people.

On Tuesday, the Nigerian military appointed a new commander, Maj. Gen. Abdulsalam Abubakar, in the fight against Boko Haram and the Islamic State West Africa Province insurgencies in the northeast, the spokesperson for the operation said in a statement.

Summer Movie Guide 2025: Here's what's coming to theaters and streaming from May to August

By The Associated Press undefined

Ethan Hunt's last mission? A new Superman? Happy Gilmore as a dad? Three genre-spanning Pedro Pascal movies, including a romance, a superhero movie and an A24 Ari Aster thriller? Hollywood is pulling out the stops this summer movie season, which kicks off with the release Marvel's "Thunderbolts(asterisk)" on May 2.

May also brings big studio releases like a live-action "Lilo & Stitch," "Mission: Impossible 8" and a new Wes Anderson film. June heats up with race cars in "F1," adventure in "How to Train Your Dragon," zombies in "28 Years Later" and a New York love triangle with Dakota Johnson's matchmaker in the middle in "Materialists."

July is supercharged with "Jurassic World Rebirth," "Superman" and "Fantastic Four: The First Steps." And August closes out the season with comedies, big ("The Naked Gun") and dark ("The Roses"), horror ("Weapons") and a lighthearted body-swap ("Freakier Friday").

Here's The Associated Press' guide to help make sense of the many, many options in theaters and at home.

MAY MOVIE RELEASESMay 1

"Another Simple Favor" (Prime Video, streaming): Chill those martini glasses, Blake Lively and Anna Kendrick reunite with their "A Simple Favor" director Paul Feig for this Italy-set sequel.

May 2

"Thunderbolts" (Disney, theaters): Marvel's antiheroes Yelena Belova (Florence Pugh), Bucky Barnes (Sebastian Stan) and Red Guardian (David Harbour) kick off the summer movie season in superhero style. "It's a group of misfit toys that have been essentially thrown away at the beginning of the movie and have to figure out if they can work together to get themselves out of that mess," director Jake Schreier told the AP. (Read AP's review.)

"Bonjour Tristesse" (Greenwich Entertainment, theaters): Chloë Sevigny and Claes Bang star in this new adaptation of Françoise Sagan's lusty, stylish coming of age novel about a playboy father and his teenage daughter (Lily McInerny) on the French Riviera.

"Pavements" (Utopia, theaters): Alex Ross Perry takes an experimental approach to the traditional music biopic in his portrait of the indie rock group Pavement that's better experienced than described.

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"Rust" (Falling Forward Films, theaters and VOD): The Alec Baldwin Western "Rust" is actually coming out after years in limbo and litigation. Cinematographer Halyna Hutchins was fatally shot on set in October 2021 and director Joel Souza was wounded during a rehearsal. Souza said at the film's premiere at a festival in Poland in November that it was Hutchins' husband, Matthew, who wanted the film to be finished.

"The Surfer" (Lionsgate, Roadside Attractions, theaters): Tensions are high on a "locals-only beach" when Nicolas Cage and his son return to try to catch some waves.

"Magic Farm" (MUBI, theaters): Amalia Ulman directs this absurdist comedy about a documentary crew who ends up in the wrong town, starring Chloë Sevigny, Alex Wolff and Simon Rex.

"Words of War" (Decal, theaters): Maxine Peake and Jason Isaacs star in this political thriller about journalist and human rights activist Anna Politkovskaya. Sean Penn produced.

"Vulcanizadora" (Oscilloscope, theaters): A black comedy following friends on a dark mission deep in the woods of Michigan.

May 9

"Friendship" (A24, theaters): Paul Rudd and "I Think You Should Leave" comedian Tim Robinson star in this absurd, comedic film about male camaraderie.

"Shadow Force" (Lionsgate, theaters): Kerry Washington and Omar Sy star in this Joe Carnahan-directed action thriller about a couple of ex-assassins running from their old boss (and trying to protect their young son).

"Nonnas" (Netflix, streaming): Vince Vaughn stars in this Stephen Chbosky-movie based on a true story of a Brooklyn guy who hires Italian grandmothers to be the chefs at a restaurant after the loss of his own mother. Susan Sarandon, Lorraine Bracco, Talia Shire and Linda Cardellini also star.

"Fight or Flight" (Vertical, theaters): Josh Hartnett, sporting bleached blonde hair, is a mercenary on a flight full of assassins in this bloody action-comedy at 30,000 feet.

"Caught by the Tides" (Janus Films): Chinese filmmaker Jia Zhangke takes footage spanning 22 years to tell a story of love and longing that had Cannes critics raving last year. Zhao Tao stars.

"Juliet & Romeo" (Briarcliff Entertainment, theaters): Shakespeare's star-crossed lovers get the (pop) music treatment in this colorful take starring Clara Rugaard and Jamie Ward.

"Clown in a Cornfield" (RLJ Entertainment): This slasher from director Eli Craig ("Tucker & Dale vs. Evil") features a killer named Frendo.

"Lilly" (Blue Harbor Entertainment, theaters): Patricia Clarkson plays equal pay activist Lilly Ledbetter in this biographical drama.

May 16

"Final Destination: Bloodlines" (Warner Bros., theaters): It's been 25 years since the "Final Destination" franchise kicked off and they're still finding new horrifying ways to kill off their characters.

"Hurry Up Tomorrow" (Lionsgate, theaters): The Weeknd (Abel Tesfaye) plays a fictionalized version of himself in this psychological thriller about an insomniac musician from Trey Edward Shults, co-starring Jenna Ortega and Barry Keoghan.

"Love" (Strand Releasing): This Norwegian film about two health care workers discussing relationship philosophies closes out Dag Johan Haugerud's "Sex, Dreams, Love" trilogy.

"Sister Midnight" (Magnet Releasing, theaters): This black comedy about an unhappy arranged marriage and a series of chaotic events was a Cannes selection in 2024.

"The Ruse" (Seismic Releasing, theaters): This thriller centers on a caregiver and the mysterious patient she's caring for in a remote home on the sea.

May 23

"Lilo & Stitch" (Disney, theaters): This live-action reimagining of the 2002 classic about orphaned Hawaiian sisters who unknowingly adopt an alien was directed by "Marcel the Shell with Shoes On" filmmaker Dean Fleischer Camp. Sydney Agudong, who plays older sister Nani, said, "The beauty of this movie is that it highlights the idea of Aloha and Ohana and the family dynamics that happen here along with the aliens and the Hawaiian roller coaster ride."

"Mission: Impossible – The Final Reckoning" (Paramount, theaters): Nothing ever really ends in the land

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of franchise filmmaking, but the "final" in the title suggests this could actually be Tom Cruise's last ride as Ethan Hunt. Even if it isn't, audiences can trust it'll be full of death-defying spectacles worthy of the big screen.

"Fountain of Youth" (Apple TV+, streaming): Natalie Portman and John Krasinski play siblings on a dangerous quest for the fountain of youth in this globe-trotting adventure from Guy Ritchie.

"Pee-Wee As Himself" (Max, streaming): This riveting two-part documentary about the life of Paul Reubens was crafted from some 40 hours of interviews and thousands of hours of archival footage.

"Jane Austen Wrecked My Life" (Sony Pictures Classics, theaters): A Parisian bookseller gets invited to the Jane Austen writers' residency in this contemporary Austen-inspired romantic comedy written and directed by Laura Piani.

"Fear Street: Prom Queen" (Netflix, streaming): Prom queen candidates begin to vanish in this latest "Fear Street" installment, set in 1988.

"The Last Rodeo" (Angel Studios, theaters): Neal McDonough plays a retired cowboy who decides to return to the ring in a bid to pay his son's medical bills.

May 30

"Karate Kid: Legends" (Sony Pictures, theaters): Jackie Chan and Ralph Macchio unite for the newest "Karate Kid" film, set three years after "Cobra Kai" and focusing on a new kid, Li, played by Ben Wang. "It kind of harkens back to the previous entries in the franchise," Wang said. "It's a kid who is a fish out of water who comes to a new city and has to face down bullies."

"Bring Her Back" (A24, theaters): "Talk to Me" filmmakers Danny and Michael Philippou return with this creepy new movie about death, resurrection and the arrival of an adopted kid who is not quite right. Sally Hawkins plays the mother.

"The Phoenician Scheme" (Focus Features, theaters): Benicio del Toro stars as one of the richest men in Europe, and father to nine sons and one daughter (Mia Threapleton), in Wes Anderson's newest film, featuring a typically starry ensemble including Tom Hanks, Michael Cera, Scarlett Johansson, Riz Ahmed and Benedict Cumberbatch.

"The Kingdom" (Metrograph, theaters): This Cannes breakout is about a teenage girl who goes on the run with her estranged mob boss father one summer in Corsica.

"Ghost Trail" (Music Box Films, theaters): Jonathan Millet directed this revenge thriller about a Syrian man in France who is in pursuit of the man who tortured him at an infamous military prison.

"Tornado" (IFC Films, theaters): Kōki, Jack Lowden, Takehiro Hira and Tim Roth star in this revenge thriller set in 1790s Britain.

JUNE MOVIE RELEASES June 6

"Ballerina," (Lionsgate, theaters): Ana de Armas leads this "John Wick" spinoff about a deadly (and classically trained) assassin.

"The Life of Chuck" (Neon, theaters): This is not your typical Stephen King adaptation. Mike Flanagan directs the sentimental and supernatural story about the life of an ordinary man named Charles Krantz, told in three chapters. Tom Hiddleston, Mark Hamill, Chiwetel Ejiofor, Mia Sara, Benjamin Pajak and Karen Gillan are among the large ensemble cast.

"The Ritual" (XYZ Films, theaters): Al Pacino and Dan Stevens as men of the church performing exorcisms? Sure, why not.

"Dangerous Animals" (IFC Films, theaters): Jai Courtney plays a serial killer who feeds his victims to sharks in this bonkers-sounding movie.

"I Don't Understand You" (Vertical, theaters): Nick Kroll and Andrew Rannells are a couple vacationing in Italy in this dark comedy with an escalating body count.

"Straw" (Netflix, streaming): Taraji P. Henson leads this Tyler Perry drama about a single mother.

"Dan Da Dan: Evil Eye" (GKIDS, theaters): More adventures of Momo and Okarun in this series based on the popular manga by Yukinobu Tatsu.

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"Deep Cover" (Prime Video, streaming): Bryce Dallas Howard plays an improv comedy teacher recruited by an undercover cop (Sean Bean) for a mission for which she enlists two of her students (Orlando Bloom and Nick Mohammed).

June 13

"How to Train Your Dragon" (Universal, theaters): Unlike most live adaptations of animated movies, filmmaker Dean DeBlois is behind both. DeBlois said their goal was to make the film "really immersive," to dial up the sense of urgency and peril and "to just pull the audience in and make them feel like these dragons are real, that you could own one, you could fly on the back of one." Mason Thames plays Hiccup and Nico Parker takes on the role of Astrid in this epic fantasy sure to enchant a new generation (and the one who grew up on the original).

"Materialists" (A24, theaters): Dakota Johnson plays a matchmaker torn between two prospects (played by Chris Evans and Pedro Pascal) in love story from "Past Lives" filmmaker Celine Song. "It's a modern love story that's set in New York City and it's inspired by the brief time that I worked as a professional matchmaker," Song said. "I really tried in this film to be really honest about the marketplace of dating, as the people actually experience it and live it today."

"Echo Valley" (AppleTV+, streaming): Claire (Sydney Sweeney) shows up on her mother's (Julianne Moore) doorstep covered in someone else's blood in this thriller from Brad Ingelsby.

"The Unholy Trinity" (Roadside Attractions, theaters): Pierce Brosnan and Samuel L. Jackson lead this Western, set in 1870s Montana.

"Prime Minister" (Magnolia, theaters): This documentary follows Jacinda Ardern through her tenure as prime minister of New Zealand.

June 17

"Sally" (NatGeo/Disney+, streaming): Blue Origin who? Sally Ride, the first American woman to go to space, is the focus of this new documentary that chronicles her professional accomplishments and her lesser-known personal life.

June 20

"28 Years Later" (Sony Pictures, theaters): The original team behind "28 Days Later," including director Danny Boyle and writer Alex Garland, return with a new entry featuring Aaron Taylor-Johnson, Jodie Comer and Ralph Fiennes.

"Elio" (Disney/Pixar, theaters): This intergalactic adventure centers on an 11-year-old earthling (Yonas Kibreab) who is abducted by aliens and assumed to be a world leader. Oscar-winner Zoe Saldana is part of the voice cast.

"Marlee Matlin: Not Alone Anymore" (Kino Lorber, theaters): Marlee Matlin gives an unflinchingly honest account of her experiences as a deaf actor in this funny and revelatory documentary, directed by Shoshannah Stern, who also is deaf. The film is closed captioned and includes verbal translations for hearing audiences.

"Sovereign" (Briarcliff, theaters): Dennis Quaid, Nick Offerman and Jacob Tremblay lead this crime thriller about anti-government extremists and a police standoff.

"Bride Hard" (Magenta Light Studios, theaters): Rebel Wilson is a secret agent whose skills come in handy at her friend's wedding when a hostage situation emerges in this Simon West-directed comedy.

"Everything's Going to Be Great" (Lionsgate, theaters): Bryan Cranston and Allison Janney are lifelong actors in regional theater trying to raise their very different sons.

"Alma and the Wolf" (Republic Pictures, theaters): Ethan Embry and "Sinners" breakout Li Jun Li star in this psychological horror about a mysterious wolf attack and a police officer's missing son.

"KPop Demon Hunters" (Netflix, streaming): An animated action comedy about K-pop superstars who also hunt demons on the side.

June 27

"F1" (Warner Bros./Apple, theaters): Brad Pitt plays "the best that never was," F1 driver Sonny Hayes, who's recruited to mentor a young up-and-comer (Damson Idris) in this high-octane film from "Top Gun:

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Maverick" filmmaker Joseph Kosinski. Real racing cars were used, driver Lewis Hamilton consulted and a new camera system was developed to give audiences an immersive experience. "It's a story about a last-place team, a group of underdogs, and Sonny Hayes in his later years having one more chance to try to do something he was never able to do, which is win a race in F1," Kosinski said.

"M3GAN 2.0" (Universal, theaters): The creepy, dancing doll is back — as is an even more dangerous version on a killing spree whom she has to stop. Any questions?

"Sorry, Baby" (A24, theaters): One of the big breakouts from this year's Sundance Film Festival, the debut feature of writer-director-star Eva Victor follows Agnes, a grad student, in the aftermath of a sexual assault. "I wanted to make a film that was about feeling stuck when everyone around you keeps moving," Victor said. "I really think the thing it's about is trying to heal and the slow pace at which healing comes and how it's really not linear and how there are joys to be found in the everyday and especially in very affirming friendships and sometimes, like, a sandwich depending on the day."

JULY MOVIE RELEASES July 2

"Jurassic World Rebirth" (Universal, theaters): Filmmaker Gareth Edwards (a "Jurassic Park" superfan and the director of "The Creator") is ushering in a new era of "Jurassic" movies and harkening back to the Steven Spielberg originals in this film with Scarlett Johansson, Mahershala Ali and Jonathan Bailey. Much about the film is being kept top secret, but Edwards said David Koepp's script read like a love letter to Spielberg's early work. "It's basically a mission story where these military types go to this island to get this DNA, then there's a twist," Edwards said. "This family ends up involved and it becomes a story of survival. It's like one giant roller coaster ride and once it gets going, it sort of doesn't stop."

"The Old Guard 2" (Netflix, streaming): Charlize Theron is back with her immortal team for a new mission. Kiki Layne, Matthias Schoenaerts, Marwan Kenzari and Luca Marinelli also reprise their roles.

"40 Acres" (Magnolia, theaters): Danielle Deadwyler and Michael Greyeyes lead this post-apocalyptic thriller about a plague that has caused worldwide famine.

July 10

"Brick" (Netflix, streaming): In this German horror, a couple wakes up to find they're trapped in their apartment.

July 11

"Superman" (Warner Bros., theaters): James Gunn is ushering in a new era of Superman, with a fresh face in David Corenswet and the promise that he's a different Superman than what audiences have seen before. Gunn told the AP that this is "a Superman that's both more grounded in his own personality and his relationship, which is much more complex than has been in the past. And then also the big magic world of Superman being in the world of the DCU with flying dogs and robots and giant monsters." There's romance with Rachel Brosnahan's Lois Lane, and a "pretty scary" Lex Luthor in Nicholas Hoult. "He's actually going to kill (Superman)," Gunn said. "And that's cool to see."

"Don't Let's Go to the Dogs Tonight " (Sony Pictures Classics, theaters): Actor Embeth Davidtz directs and stars in this critically acclaimed adaptation of Alexandra Fuller's bestselling memoir of growing up on a farm in the former Rhodesia before and after the 1980 election, as the colonial system crumbles. The story is told through the eyes of 8-year-old Bobo (Lexi Venter).

"Tyler Perry's Destination Wedding" (Netflix, streaming): Madea goes to the Bahamas.

"Skillhouse" (Fathom, theaters): 50 Cent stars in this horror about influencers who are lured into a "content house" and forced to compete in deadly challenges.

July 18

"I Know What You Did Last Summer" (Sony Pictures, theaters): Jennifer Love Hewitt and Freddie Prinze Jr. reprise their roles from the 1997 slasher in this new installment featuring an eerily similar situation and a cast of pretty young up-and-comers including Madelyn Cline, Chase Sui Wonders, Jonah Hauer-King and Tyriq Withers.

"Smurfs" (Paramount, theaters): Rihanna produced and stars as Smurfette in this new musical adventure. "There's a purity to the Smurfs mythos," said Nick Offerman, who voices Papa Smurf's brother Ken. "That, I think, is what makes their appeal so timeless. They're a benevolent group of wee blue villagers

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who, you know, want to love one another and lead productive lives while fending off the world's forces of evil, usually represented by the machinations of some wizards out for ill gotten gains."

"Eddington" (A24, theaters): Ari Aster re-teams with Joaquin Phoenix for this film about a standoff between a small-town sheriff and a mayor in the early months of the COVID-19 lockdowns. Pedro Pascal, Emma Stone and Austin Butler also star.

"Unicorns" (Cohen Media Group, theaters): A young, single father from Essex (Ben Hardy) is disarmed when he falls for a drag queen.

July 25

"The Fantastic Four: First Steps" (Disney, theaters): Pedro Pascal, Vanessa Kirby, Joseph Quinn and Ebon Moss-Bachrach unite to play "Marvel's first family" in this retro-futuristic world set in 1960s New York. Director Matt Shakman ("WandaVision," "It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia") said they are the only superheroes in their world and are the leading lights of their age. While the scale and world building were on another level, Shakman said, "it's also no different from all of the great comedies and dramas that I've done — in the end, it comes down to character, to relationships and to heart and humor."

"Happy Gilmore 2" (Netflix, streaming): Adam Sandler returns to the green (and one of his most beloved roles) after almost 30 years, along with Shooter McGavin (Christopher McDonald), Hal (Ben Stiller), Virginia (Julie Bowen) and Doug (Dennis Dugan) and an army of newcomers, including some Gilmore offspring. "The first one is so iconic, we all kind of knew the world that we were stepping into," said Conor Sherry, who plays one of his sons. "We were like the newest additions to a long, long, long family."

"Oh, Hi!" (Sony Pictures Classics, theaters): Molly Gordon and Logan Lerman lead this dark romantic comedy about a married couple's first romantic weekend getaway.

"Diciannove" (Oscilloscope, theaters): Luca Guadagnino produced this coming-of-age film about a 19-year-old's journey of self-discovery.

July 30

"Together" (Neon, theaters): Real life couple Dave Franco and Alison Brie play a frighteningly codependent couple in this inventive body horror that had Sundance crowds raving.

AUGUST MOVIE RELEASES Aug. 1

"The Bad Guys 2" (Universal, theaters): Sam Rockwell, Marc Maron, Craig Robinson, Awkwafina and Anthony Ramos return for another animated heist, but this time they're teaming up with a new squad called the Bad Girls (voiced by Danielle Brooks, Maria Bakalova and Natasha Lyonne).

"The Naked Gun" (Paramount, theaters): Liam Neeson flexes his particular set of comedy skills as Frank Drebin Jr. in this irreverent new entry from Lonely Island veteran Akiva Schaffer, featuring Paul Walter Hauser and Pamela Anderson.

Aug. 6

"Sketch" (Angel Studios, theaters): This horror comedy about a girl's drawings that come to life stars Tony Hale and D'Arcy Carden.

Aug. 8

"Weapons" (Warner Bros., theaters): Children are disappearing in filmmaker Zach Cregger's eerie follow-up to "Barbarian," starring Josh Brolin, Julia Garner and Alden Ehrenreich.

"Freakier Friday" (Disney, theaters): Jamie Lee Curtis and Lindsay Lohan are back as the body-swapping mother and daughter duo.

"My Mother's Wedding" (Vertical, theaters): Kristin Scott Thomas directs and stars in this drama about a woman getting married for the third time, which is an occasion for her three daughters (Scarlett Johansson, Sienna Miller, Emily Beecham) to come home.

Aug. 13

"Fixed" (Netflix, streaming): An adult animated comedy from Genndy Tartakovsky about a dog's quest for one last adventure before being neutered.

Aug. 15

"Nobody 2" (Universal Pictures, theaters): Bob Odenkirk's former assassin Hutch Mansell can't catch a

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break. This time, Keanu Reeves joins the bloody fun.

"Clika" (Sony Pictures, theaters): A small-town musician (Jay Dee) goes viral in this drama set in the world of Mexican American music. It's the debut feature of Rancho Humilde CEO Jimmy Humilde's production company.

"East of Wall" (Sony Pictures Classics, theaters): Kate Beecroft's debut film about a young horse trainer grappling with financial insecurity and grief in the South Dakota Badlands won the audience award in the NEXT section at the Sundance Film Festival.

"Eli Roth Presents: Jimmy and Stiggs" (Iconic Events, theaters): A low budget "splatter fest" for horror devotees, Joe Begos wrote, directed and stars.

"Witchboard" (Atlas, theaters): "Stranger Things" Jamie Campbell Bower stars in this supernatural horror set in New Orleans (a remake of a 1986 cult classic).

Aug. 22

"Lurker" (MUBI, theaters): Another Sundance gem, this paranoid thriller is the feature debut of "The Bear" and "Beef" writer Alex Russell, about celebrity, fandom and being very online, featuring a buzzy young cast led by Théodore Pellerin and Archie Madekwe.

"HONEY DON'T!" (Focus Features, theaters): Margaret Qualley, Aubrey Plaza, Charlie Day, Billy Eichner and Chris Evans star in this dark comedy from Ethan Coen about a small-town private investigator and a string of mysterious deaths.

"Americana" (Lionsgate, theaters): This Sydney Sweeney-led crime thriller, a revisionist Western set in South Dakota, debuted at South by Southwest in 2023 and concerns the theft of a valuable artifact.

"Eden" (Vertical, theaters): Ron Howard directs Jude Law, Ana de Armas, Vanessa Kirby and Sydney Sweeney in this survival thriller set in the Galapagos after the first World War.

"Relay" (Bleecker Street, theaters): Riz Ahmed plays a corporate fixer in this contemporary riff on the paranoid thriller from "Hell or High Water" filmmaker David Mackenzie.

"Grand Prix of Europe" (Viva Pictures, theaters): "F1" for the preschool set? This animated film is also set in the world of car racing.

Aug. 28

"The Thursday Murder Club" (Netflix, streaming): Helen Mirren, Pierce Brosnan, Ben Kingsley and Celia Imrie play retirees who spend their time solving cold cases in this adaptation of Richard Osman's bestseller, directed by Chris Columbus.

Aug. 29

"Caught Stealing" (Sony Pictures, theaters): Filmmaker Darren Aronofsky's film is written by and based on the Charlie Huston books about an ex-baseball player (Austin Butler) who gets tangled up in New York's criminal underworld in the 1990s. Zoë Kravitz, Regina King, Liev Schreiber, Matt Smith and Bad Bunny also star.

"The Roses" (Searchlight Pictures, theaters): The modern reimagining of "The War of the Roses" stars Olivia Colman and Benedict Cumberbatch as the feuding couple. It was written by Tony McNamara, the Oscar-nominated screenwriter of "Poor Things" and creator of "The Great," and directed by Jay Roach.

"The Toxic Avenger" (Cineverse and Iconic Events Releasing, theaters): Peter Dinklage stars as the titular superhero in this supremely gory and graphic film, which sat on the shelf for a few years in search of a distributor. Elijah Wood, Jacob Tremblay, Kevin Bacon and Taylour Paige also star.

Power returns to Spain and Portugal. The outage's cause remains a mystery

By SUMAN NAISHADHAM Associated Press

MADRID (AP) — The cause of Spain and Portugal's widespread blackouts remained a mystery on Tuesday, with some isolated disruption remaining after power was largely restored.

One of Europe's most severe blackouts grounded flights, paralyzed train systems, disrupted mobile communications and shut down ATMs across the Iberian Peninsula on Monday.

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By 11 a.m. on Tuesday, the Spanish electrical system was functioning normally, electricity operator Red Eléctrica said. Portuguese grid operator REN said power had been restored to all 6.4 million customers.

As life began to return to normal, authorities in Spain had yet to provide further explanation for why the nation of 49 million people lost 15 gigawatts — equivalent to 60% of its national demand — in five seconds.

On Tuesday, Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez said the government's priorities were restoring Spain's electrical system and finding the causes of the blackout so that a similar event "never takes place again."

Deaths are investigated

Spanish news agency EFE reported that authorities were investigating five deaths — including three members of the same family — that could be related to the blackout.

The three relatives died in Galicia due to possible carbon monoxide inhalation from a generator, a woman died in Valencia from problems with an oxygen supply machine and another died in a fire caused by a candle in Madrid, EFE said.

Sabotage ruled out

Eduardo Prieto, director of services for system operations at Spain's electricity operator, noted two steep, back-to-back "disconnection events" before Monday's blackout. He told journalists that more investigation was needed.

Spain's meteorological agency, AEMET, said it hadn't detected any "unusual meteorological or atmospheric phenomena," and no sudden temperature fluctuations were recorded at its weather stations.

Portugal's National Cybersecurity Center said there was no sign that the outage resulted from a cyber-attack. Teresa Ribera, an executive vice president of the European Commission, also ruled out sabotage.

Travel and tennis resume

The Madrid Open tennis tournament resumed after the blackout caused 22 matches to be postponed. A packed schedule Tuesday included second-ranked Iga Swiatek advancing to the quarterfinals.

At Spain's largest train stations, droves of travelers waited Tuesday to board trains, or to rebook journeys. At Madrid's Atocha station, hundreds stood near screens waiting for updates. Many had spent the night at the station, wrapped in blankets provided by the Red Cross.

By 11 a.m. Tuesday, service on Madrid's subway system was fully restored. In Barcelona, the system was operating normally, but some commuter trains remained suspended in the afternoon because of "electrical instability," the company that runs the service, Rodalies Catalunya, said on X.

In some parts of Spain, commuter and mid-distance services were still suspended or running at reduced capacity.

Emergency workers in Spain said they had rescued around 35,000 passengers on Monday stranded along railways and underground. The blackout was especially disruptive for transit systems, turning sports centers, train stations and airports into makeshift refuges.

Rubén Carión was stranded on a commuter train outside Madrid but opened a window and walked to the nearest station. He and a friend later spent the night in Atocha station.

Sleeping on the floor "hungry, thirsty and tired," the 24-year-old described his experience in two words: "pure chaos."

Key things to know about the upcoming summer movie season

By LINDSEY BAHR AP Film Writer

Superman already has a lot on his shoulders. It seems unfair to add the fate of the summer movie season to his list. But he's not alone — Marvel Studios is also returning to theaters in a big way with two movies this summer, "Thunderbolts" and "The Fantastic Four: First Steps."

Five years after the COVID-19 pandemic brought the movie business to a halt, and two years after the strikes, the industry has yet to fully recover. Critics may have complained of superhero fatigue, but after several summers of depleted offerings, it's clear that they're a vital part of the mix.

Superheroes alone don't make for a healthy marketplace, however, and this year studios have set a full slate for every kind of moviegoer, with over 40 wide releases spanning genres.

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"This is the summer where all this product that we've all been working on for the last few years is finally coming into the marketplace, so I'm very optimistic," says Joseph Kosinski, who directed "F1" with Brad Pitt. Key movies in the summer 2025 lineup

Summer begins early in Hollywood, on the first weekend in May and that kick-off can make or break that pivotal 123 day corridor that has historically accounted for around 40% of the annual box office.

After the strikes upended the 2024 summer calendar, this year Disney is back in that familiar first weekend spot with "Thunderbolts." Memorial Day weekend could also be a behemoth with the live action "Lilo & Stitch" and "Mission: Impossible – The Final Reckoning." With a new "Jurassic World," a live action "How to Train Your Dragon" and the Formula One movie also on the schedule through June and July, the summer season has the potential to be the biggest in the post-COVID era.

There are also family pics ("Smurfs," "Elio"); action and adventures ("Ballerina," "The Karate Kid: Legends"); horrors, thrillers and slashers ("28 Years Later," "I Know What You Did Last Summer," "M3GAN 2.0"); romances ("Materialists," "Jane Austen Wrecked My Life"); dramas ("Sorry, Baby," "The Life of Chuck"); a new Wes Anderson movie ("The Phonecian Scheme"); and comedies ("Freakier Friday," "Bride Hard," "The Naked Gun").

"Draw me a blueprint of a perfect summer lineup: 2025 is it," says Paul Dergarabedian, the senior media analyst for Comscore.

What this summer's big directors are saying

"It's a fun twist on what a movie like this could be," says "Thunderbolts" director Jake Schreier.

"It's a personal journey for Superman that's entirely new," says "Superman" director James Gunn. "But it's also about the robots and the flying dogs and all that stuff. It's taking a very real person and putting them in the middle of this outrageous situation and outrageous world and playing with that. I think it's a lot of fun because of that."

"It's working on an incredibly large scale in terms of world building, but it's also no different from all of the great comedies and dramas that I've done," says "The Fantastic Four: First Steps" director Matt Shakman. "In the end, it comes down to character, it comes down to relationships, it comes down to heart and humor."

"People say, like, do you feel pressure and the most pressure I feel is from myself as a fan and to Steven Spielberg, to not disappoint him," says "Jurassic World Rebirth" director Gareth Edwards. "Weirdly what's great about doing a Jurassic movie is that everybody knows deep down that like half the reason they're in this business is because of that film and Steven's work."

Why summer 2025 might be a big one for movies

Before the pandemic, all but one summer since 2007 broke the \$4 billion mark. Since 2020, only one has: 2023, led by "Barbie."

The unstable economy might work in the industry's favor, at least when it comes to moviegoing. Even with increased ticket prices, theatrical movies remain the most affordable entertainment outside of the home and attendance tends to increase during recession years. The annual domestic box office crossed \$10 billion for the first time in 2009.

"By the end of this summer, hopefully people aren't talking about being in a funk anymore and it feels like we got our mojo back and we're off to the races," Kosinski, who directed the pandemic-era hit "Top Gun: Maverick," says.

Betsy Arakawa, Gene Hackman's wife, died from hantavirus, autopsy confirms

SANTA FE, N.M. (AP) — Betsy Arakawa, the concert pianist who was married to actor Gene Hackman, died from hantavirus pulmonary syndrome, according to an autopsy report released Tuesday that said that her lungs were heavy and congested.

Arakawa, 65, had fluid accumulation in her chest and mild hardening of the vessels that supplied blood to the heart and body, according to the autopsy reports

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Hantavirus is a rare but potentially fatal disease spread by infected rodent droppings.

Arakawa tested negative for COVID-19 and the flu and showed no signs of trauma, the autopsy report said. Her carbon monoxide levels were within normal range, and she tested positive for caffeine and negative for alcohol and intoxicating drugs.

Arakawa's autopsy and toxicology reports were released two days after similar documents on Hackman's death were made public, confirming his main cause of death was heart disease.

The 95-year-old actor also was in the advanced stages of Alzheimer's disease and likely had not eaten for a long time, according to his autopsy. He tested negative for hantavirus.

Records released earlier in the investigation showed Arakawa made phone calls and internet searches as she scoured for information on flu-like symptoms and breathing techniques.

Recently released videos outline the scope of the investigation into the deaths of Hackman and Arakawa.

Before they understood how Hackman and Arakawa died, authorities recorded themselves conducting interviews with workers and returning to Hackman's home to search for more evidence. Detectives searched the home in early March for Arakawa's laptop and other clues.

US consumer confidence plummets to Covid-era low as trade war stokes anxiety

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Americans' confidence in the economy slumped for the fifth straight month to the lowest level since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic as anxiety over the impact of tariffs takes a heavy toll.

The Conference Board said Tuesday that its consumer confidence index fell 7.9 points in April to 86, its lowest reading since May 2020. Nearly one-third of consumers expect hiring to slow in the coming months, nearly matching the level reached in April 2009, when the economy was mired in the Great Recession.

The figures reflect a rapidly souring mood among Americans, most of whom expect prices to rise because of the widespread tariffs imposed by President Donald Trump. About half of Americans are also worried about the potential for a recession, according to a survey by The Associated Press-NORC Center.

"Rattled consumers spend less than confident consumers," said Carl Weinberg, chief economist at High Frequency Economics, in an email. "If confidence sags and consumers retrench, growth will go down."

A measure of Americans' short-term expectations for their income, business conditions and the job market plunged 12.5 points to 54.4, the lowest level in more than 13 years. The reading is well below 80, which typically signals a recession ahead.

How this gloomy mood translates into spending, hiring, and growth will become clearer in the coming days and weeks. On Wednesday, the government will report on U.S. economic growth during the first three months of the year, and economists are expecting a sharp slowdown as Americans pulled back on spending after a strong winter holiday shopping season.

And on Friday the Labor Department will release its latest report on hiring and the unemployment rate. Overall, economists expect it should still show steady job gains, though some forecast it could report sharply reduced hiring.

The stark decline in consumer confidence also likely reflected the sharp swings in stock and bond prices that roiled financial markets earlier this month. While all age groups and most income brackets reported lower confidence, the decline was steepest among households earning more than \$125,000 and among consumers 35 to 55 years old.

Though major U.S. markets rebounded over the past week, the S&P 500 is still down 6% for the year and the Dow Jones has lost 5%. The growth-heavy Nasdaq is down 10% in 2025.

The Conference Board said that mentions of tariffs in write-in responses reached an all-time high this month, with the duties on the top of consumers' minds. Trump has imposed a tariff of 10% on nearly all imports, as well as a huge 145% tariff on most goods from China. He has imposed separate import taxes on steel, aluminum, and cars.

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More Americans are also now worried that the economy could tip into a recession, with the proportion of consumers expecting a downturn in the next 12 months reaching a two-year high.

Fewer consumers said they were planning to buy a home or car in the next six months. Sales of previously occupied U.S. homes slowed last month in a lackluster start to the spring homebuying season as elevated mortgage rates and rising prices discouraged those looking.

And Americans also said they would spend less on services. The proportion of Americans planning an overseas vacation in the next six months fell to 16.4%, down from 24.1% in December. And the proportion of consumers planning to spend more on dining out plummeted by nearly the most on record in April, the Conference Board said.

George Kittle agrees to an extension with the 49ers that makes him the highest-paid tight end ever

By JOSH DUBOW AP Pro Football Writer

SANTA CLARA, Calif. (AP) — George Kittle agreed to a four-year contract extension with the San Francisco 49ers that will make him the highest-paid tight end in NFL history.

Kittle announced the deal on the "Bussin' With The Boys" podcast on Tuesday, saying the extension was worth \$76.4 million over four years with \$35 million guaranteed at signing. The deal keeps Kittle under contract with San Francisco through the 2029 season.

The 49ers confirmed the deal with the only remaining member of the original draft class under coach Kyle Shanahan and general manager John Lynch.

"In 2017, our first year with the 49ers, we selected a skinny tight end from Iowa whom we were really excited about. We had high hopes, but no one knew that he would become the player that he is today," Lynch said in a statement. "George's leadership, enthusiasm for the game, for his teammates, and the faithful are truly unique and special. He is an outstanding representation for the 49ers on the field and is an outstanding representative for the organization off the field with his investment in the local and military communities. He has a great sense of pride in his role and has put in the work to be one of the best tight ends in the NFL."

The 31-year-old Kittle was entering the final year of a five-year, \$75 million extension that he signed in 2020. Kittle didn't show up for the first few days of the team's voluntary offseason program last week but arrived later in the week in a sign that a deal could get done soon.

The \$19.1 million average annual value of the extension tops the previous record for a tight end of \$19 million set earlier this offseason when Trey McBride signed an extension with Arizona. The \$35 million guaranteed to Kittle at the signing of the deal is also the most for any tight end.

After having several recent contract negotiations run deep into the summer, causing players like Deebo Samuel, Nick Bosa, Brandon Aiyuk and Trent Williams to miss at least some time in training camp, the Niners got this deal done with Kittle quickly.

They still have one more big contract extension to finalize this offseason: They are in talks with quarterback Brock Purdy about a deal that is expected to pay him more than \$50 million a year.

Kittle has been one of the best all-around tight ends since entering the league; he thrives as a receiver, a blocker and is one of the best at making big plays after the catch.

Kittle has been a first or second-team All-Pro five times in eight seasons and has made six Pro Bowls. His four seasons with at least 1,000 yards receiving ranks tied for the second most of all time for a tight end, trailing only the seven for Kansas City's Travis Kelce.

Kittle was a second-team All-Pro last season when he had 78 catches for 1,106 yards and eight TDs. Since being drafted in the fifth round in 2017, Kittle has had 538 catches for 7,380 yards and 45 TDs. He has the second-most yards ever for a tight end through eight seasons.

Chinese authorities say 22 people killed, 3 injured in restaurant fire in northern city of Liaoyang

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) — Chinese authorities say 22 people have been killed and 3 injured in a fire at restaurant in the northern city of Liaoyang.

No word was given on the cause of the fire, which broke out shortly after noon, but images from the scene showed huge flames spurting from the windows and doors of the two- or three-story building. State broadcaster CCTV said the restaurant's manager had been placed in police custody as part of the investigation.

A slightly longer report released several hours later through the provincial radio and television bureau said the fire had been extinguished and the search for survivors ended. As is usual in China, no additional information was given about the possible cause of the fire. However, a long list of responding regional politicians — from the governor down — was provided, along with a pledge to get to the bottom of the disaster and severely punish those responsible.

A total of 22 firetrucks and 85 firefighters were dispatched to put out the flames, the reports said.

Industrial accidents occur frequently in China, usually due to staff ignoring safety features due to a lack of training or pressure from their superiors.

Poorly maintained infrastructure, illegally stored chemicals and a lack of fire exits and fire retardant, often abetted by corruption, are often factors in such disasters.

If the fire began in the kitchen, it may be related to the traditional use of large open fires over which iron woks are used to braise dishes. Diners across China also enjoy a dish known simply as "hot pot" in which meat and vegetables are stewed over open flames.

Liaoyang, in Liaoning province, is part of China's rust belt, a former industrial powerhouse that has fallen on hard times with considerable population outflow.

Disgraced Cardinal Becciu formally withdraws from participation in conclave to elect pope

By NICOLE WINFIELD Associated Press

VATICAN CITY (AP) — The Italian cardinal at the heart of the Vatican's "trial of the century" announced Tuesday he was withdrawing from participating in the upcoming conclave to elect a new pope for "the good of the church," ending days of drama that had overshadowed the proceedings.

Cardinal Angelo Becciu's status has dominated discussions in the days after Pope Francis' death amid questions about whether he would participate in the conclave to elect Francis' successor or not.

After his 2020 downfall, Becciu had said he would not participate in any future conclave. But in recent days he had asserted he had a right to enter the Sistine Chapel with other cardinals on May 7.

On Tuesday, the 76-year-old Italian issued a statement through his lawyers that said: "Having at heart the good of the church, which I have served and will continue to serve with fidelity and love, as well as to contribute to the communion and serenity of the conclave, I have decided to obey as I have always done the will of Pope Francis not to enter the conclave while remaining convinced of my innocence."

Becciu was once an influential Vatican chief of staff who was a leading papal contender himself. But he fell from grace in 2020 when Francis forced him to resign his job as head of the Vatican's saint-making office and his rights as a cardinal because of allegations of financial misconduct.

Becciu denied wrongdoing but was put on trial in the Vatican criminal court and convicted of finance-related charges in December 2023. He is appealing the conviction and 5 1/2-year prison sentence and had participated in the pre-conclave meetings, including on Monday.

Becciu's withdrawal doesn't affect the Vatican's official statistics about the conclave because internally it never considered him eligible to vote. There remain 135 cardinal electors, though Vatican spokesman Matteo Bruni confirmed Tuesday that two had formally announced they weren't coming due to health reasons, bringing the number of electors down to 133.

Becciu is under the age limit of 80 and technically eligible to vote, but the Vatican's official statistics list

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him as a "non-elect." "

The Vatican document regulating a conclave, known by its Latin name *Universi Dominici Gregis*, lays out the criteria for electors, making clear that cardinals under 80 have the right to elect the pope, except those who have been "canonically deposed or who with the consent of the Roman Pontiff have renounced the cardinalate." It adds that after a pope has died, "the College of Cardinals cannot readmit or rehabilitate them."

There has never been any clarity on what exactly Becciu renounced or how: The one-line statement issued by the Vatican press office on Sept. 24, 2020, said merely that Francis had accepted Becciu's resignation as prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints "and his rights connected to the cardinalate." There is no indication he has been sanctioned canonically.

Italian daily *Domani* reported last week that during the initial pre-conclave discussions, Becciu was presented with two letters signed by Francis before he died saying he should not participate in the conclave. Becciu's reference to Francis' will in his statement Tuesday suggests that the letters were the tipping point that convinced him to withdraw from the vote.

Becciu rose to prominence and power under conservative Pope Benedict XVI and is very much affiliated with the conservative Vatican old guard. While he initially became a close adviser to Pope Francis, Becciu's subsequent downfall at the hands of Francis might suggest he would have voted for someone keen to undo some of Francis' reforms.

After he forced Becciu's resignation, Francis visited Becciu on occasions and allowed him to participate in the life of the Vatican. But Francis also changed Vatican law to allow the city state's criminal tribunal to prosecute him.

Questions, meanwhile, have continued to swirl about the integrity of the trial that convicted Becciu and eight others. During the proceedings, the court heard that Francis intervened on several occasions on behalf of the prosecutors and that the prosecution's prime witness against Becciu was coached and manipulated by outsiders.

Defense lawyers discovered that the pope had secretly issued four decrees during the investigation to benefit prosecutors, allowing them to conduct intercepts and detain suspects without a judge's warrant.

Lawyers cried foul, arguing such interference by an absolute monarch in a legal system where the pope exercises supreme legislative, executive and judicial power violated their clients' fundamental rights and robbed them of a fair trial.

The tribunal rejected their objections, but in recent weeks even more evidence has emerged about the outside manipulation of the witness and apparent collusion with Vatican prosecutors and gendarmes to target Becciu.

The appeal is scheduled to begin in September.

Trump's first 100 days: What he did, and how the world responded, as told through AP alerts

By HUMERA LODHI, MAYA SWEEDLER, SARA BURNETT and LINDA GORMAN Associated Press

Donald Trump's second presidency has produced a seemingly constant stream of news. The Associated Press has shared the headlines with people worldwide, flagging the most notable developments in hundreds of news alerts.

The alerts reflect a dizzying stretch of activity by Trump, those who oppose him, the courts and the world. To show the back-and-forth on those issues, we sorted the alerts into six categories.

The largest number were about actions taken by Trump or his administration. Others indicated lawsuits filed or other steps taken to oppose the administration. In dozens of cases, courts blocked or reversed these actions, or Trump reversed himself.

Many alerts showed reaction or fallout throughout the world. Others highlighted newsworthy statements by Trump.

About four dozen — such as alerts about Congress approving Trump-backed bills and nominees — were

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marked as "other."

We identified the areas that saw the most action, based on the alerts, from Trump's inauguration on Jan. 20 to the 100th day of his administration on Tuesday.

The alerts show how the days played out in some of the areas where Trump focused most, which included immigration, federal spending, foreign policy and tariffs. Here are some examples:

Swift action on immigration met resistance

Trump's earliest actions cracked down on immigration.

Breaking News: Jan. 20, 1:04 p.m. The Trump administration ended use of a border app called CBP One that has allowed nearly 1 million people to legally enter the U.S. with eligibility to work.

The courts got involved almost immediately.

Breaking News: Jan. 21, 1:45 p.m. Eighteen states and two cities sue to block President Trump's executive order ending birthright citizenship.

Some of Trump's actions were paused as they worked their way through the courts.

Breaking News: Jan. 23, 1:35 p.m. A federal judge temporarily blocks President Donald Trump's order ending the constitutional guarantee of birthright citizenship.

Breaking News: Feb. 25, 2:04 p.m. A federal judge in Seattle has blocked President Donald Trump's effort to halt the nation's refugee admissions system.

As judges sorted through cases, the Trump administration began mass deportations.

Breaking News: March 15, 5:12 p.m.

President Trump has invoked the Alien Enemies Act of 1798, a sweeping war time authority last invoked in World War II, to deport members of a Venezuelan gang.

These actions also came under scrutiny.

Breaking News: April 9, 12:23 p.m.

A judge in Texas temporarily barred the U.S. government from invoking the Alien Enemies Act to deport Venezuelans held at a facility in the state.

The administration also arrested and attempted to deport students who participated in anti-Israel demonstrations.

Breaking News: March 10, 5:50 p.m.

Judge orders the Trump administration not to deport a Palestinian activist pending legal fight over his detention.

Start-and-stop tariffs shook global markets

Trump announced – then paused – the first round of tariffs on U.S. trading partners shortly after taking office.

Breaking News: Feb. 3, 11:03 a.m.

President Trump says tariffs on goods from Mexico paused for a month for negotiations. Mexico's president said it will put 10,000 troops at the border.

He then declared April 2 "Liberation Day" ...

Watch live: April 2, 4:19 p.m.

President Trump announces sweeping "reciprocal" tariffs to promote U.S. manufacturing, raising risks of higher costs and trade wars.

... and markets quickly responded.

Breaking News: April 3, 4:14 p.m.

Dow suffers its biggest wipeout since 2020 as fears of fallout from President Trump's tariffs shake markets.

Market meltdown: April 7, 4:04 a.m.

European and Asian stocks nosedive as Trump doubles down on tariffs and China accuses the US of economic bullying and protectionism.

Trump backtracked, pausing the tariffs he announced on "Liberation Day" — on all countries except one.

Breaking News: April 9, 1:33 p.m.

Stocks surge after President Trump announces a 90-day pause on tariffs, except for China, which he raises to 125%.

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Trade war escalates: April 11, 4:27 a.m.

China raises retaliatory tariffs on U.S. goods to 125% from 84%.

Foreign policy focus has bounced around

Trump's term began with the president suggesting Palestinians be entirely displaced from Gaza.

Breaking News: Feb. 4, 7:06 p.m.

President Trump says he wants the U.S. to take ownership of the Gaza Strip and redevelop it after Palestinians are resettled elsewhere.

After a blow-up in the Oval Office, the U.S.-Ukrainian relationship dominated the news.

Breaking News: Feb. 28, 12:37 p.m.

President Trump and Vice President Vance call Zelenskyy "disrespectful" in an Oval Office meeting, as the Ukrainian leader asks for U.S. security commitment.

And for a week, headlines covered fallout from The Atlantic's reporting about the sharing of military plans in a group chat that included a journalist.

Happening Now: March 25, 10:07 a.m.

Trump intelligence officials face Congress for hearings on national security a day after it was revealed that war plans were texted to a journalist.

Breaking News: April 3, 2:45 p.m.

The Pentagon's acting inspector general announces an investigation into Pete Hegseth's use of a Signal chat for Houthi attack plans.

DOGE took drastic action to cut the federal workforce

Trump began cutting the federal workforce from the start – from eliminating thousands of workers across agencies to more targeted firings.

Breaking News: Jan. 21, 9:34 p.m.

Trump administration directs all federal diversity, equity and inclusion staff be put on leave and plans to lay them off.

Trump fires watchdogs: Jan. 25, 1:54 p.m.

Donald Trump has fired more than a dozen inspectors general at federal agencies in a sweeping action that removes oversight of his new administration.

Billionaire Trump adviser Elon Musk and the newly created Department of Government Efficiency were soon directing cuts at federal agencies.

Breaking News: Feb. 24, 9:53 a.m.

A lawsuit says that Elon Musk's demand that federal employees explain their accomplishments or risk being fired violated the law.

Among the hardest hit was the U.S. Agency for International Development, which provides aid to other countries.

Breaking News: Feb. 11, 7:19 p.m.

The White House fires USAID inspector general a day after a warning about oversight of humanitarian aid, an official says.

Some of these federal firings were cleared by the courts, while judges temporarily blocked others.

Breaking News: March 18, 3:30 p.m.

A federal judge rules the dismantling of USAID likely violated the Constitution and blocks Elon Musk's DOGE from further cuts.

Carney wins Canadian election, while Conservative leader loses his seat in Parliament

By ROB GILLIES Associated Press

TORONTO (AP) — Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney's Liberal Party has won the federal election, capping a stunning turnaround in fortunes fueled by U.S. President Donald Trump's annexation threats and trade war.

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Carney's rival, populist Conservative Party leader Pierre Poilievre, was voted out of his seat in Parliament, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation projected Tuesday.

The loss of his seat representing his Ottawa district in Monday's election capped a swift decline in fortunes for the firebrand Poilievre, who a few months ago appeared to be a shoo-in to become Canada's next prime minister and shepherd the Conservatives back into power for the first time in a decade.

But then Trump launched a trade war with Canada and suggested the country should become the 51st state, outraging voters and upending the election.

Poilievre, a career politician, campaigned with Trump-like bravado, taking a page from the "America First" president by adopting the slogan "Canada First." But his similarities to Trump may have ultimately cost him and his party.

The Liberals were projected to win more of Parliament's 343 seats than the Conservatives. It wasn't immediately clear if they would win an outright majority — at least 172 — or would need to rely on a smaller party to pass legislation and remain in power.

Elections Canada said it has decided to pause counting of special ballots — cast by voters who are away from their districts during the election — until later Tuesday morning. The Liberals were leading or elected in 168 seats when the counting was paused, four short of a majority. Elections Canada estimated that the uncounted votes could affect the result in about a dozen districts.

The decision means Canadians won't know until later in the day whether Carney's Liberals have won a minority or majority mandate.

In a victory speech, Carney stressed the importance of unity in the face of Washington's threats. He also said the mutually beneficial system Canada and the U.S. had shared since World War II had ended.

"We are over the shock of the American betrayal, but we should never forget the lessons," he said.

"As I've been warning for months, America wants our land, our resources, our water, our country," Carney added. "These are not idle threats. President Trump is trying to break us so America can own us. That will never ... ever happen. But we also must recognize the reality that our world has fundamentally changed."

A defeat for the Conservatives

Poilievre hoped to make the election a referendum on former Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, whose popularity declined toward the end of his decade in power as food and housing prices rose.

But Trump attacked, Trudeau resigned and Carney, a two-time central banker, became the Liberal Party's leader and prime minister.

In a concession speech before the race call on his own seat, Poilievre vowed to keep fighting for Canadians.

"We are cognizant of the fact that we didn't get over the finish line yet," Poilievre told supporters. "We know that change is needed, but change is hard to come by. It takes time. It takes work. And that's why we have to learn the lessons of tonight — so that we can have an even better result the next time Canadians decide the future of the country."

Poilievre can still lead the Conservative Party.

Even with Canadians grappling with the fallout from a deadly weekend attack at a Vancouver street festival, Trump was trolling them on election day, suggesting again on social media that Canada should become the 51st state and saying he was on their ballot. He also erroneously claimed that the U.S. subsidizes Canada, writing, "It makes no sense unless Canada is a State!"

Trump's truculence has infuriated Canadians, leading many to cancel U.S. vacations, refuse to buy American goods and possibly even vote early. A record 7.3 million Canadians cast ballots before election day.

Reid Warren, a Toronto resident, said he voted Liberal because Poilievre "sounds like mini-Trump to me." He said Trump's tariffs are a worry.

"Canadians coming together from, you know, all the shade being thrown from the States is great, but it's definitely created some turmoil, that's for sure," he said.

Historian Robert Bothwell said Poilievre appealed to the "same sense of grievance" as Trump, but that it ultimately worked against him.

"The Liberals ought to pay him," Bothwell said, referring to the U.S. president. "Trump talking is not

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good for the Conservatives.”

The Liberal way forward

Carney and the Liberals secured a new term, but they have daunting challenges ahead.

If they don't win a majority in Parliament, the Liberals might need rely on one of the smaller parties. The Bloc Québécois, which looked set to finish third, is a separatist party from French-speaking Quebec that seeks independence. Trudeau's Liberals relied on the New Democrats to remain in power for four years, but the progressive party fared poorly on Monday and its leader, Jagmeet Singh, said he was stepping down after eight years in charge.

“This is a dramatic comeback, but if the Liberals cannot win a majority of seats, political uncertainty in a new minority Parliament could complicate things for them,” said McGill University political science professor Daniel Béland.

Foreign policy hasn't dominated a Canadian election this much since 1988, when, ironically, free trade with the United States was the prevailing issue.

In addition to the trade war with the U.S. and frosty relationship with Trump, Canada is dealing with a cost-of-living crisis. And more than 75% of its exports go to the U.S., so Trump's tariffs threat and his desire to get North American automakers to move Canada's production south could severely damage the Canadian economy.

While campaigning, Carney vowed that every dollar the government collects from counter-tariffs on U.S. goods will go toward Canadian workers who are adversely affected by the trade war. He also said he plans to keep dental care in place, offer a middle-class tax cut, return immigration to sustainable levels and increase funding to Canada's public broadcaster, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation.

Today in History: April 30, Vietnam War ends

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Wednesday, April 30, the 120th day of 2025. There are 245 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On April 30, 1975, the Vietnam War ended as the South Vietnamese capital of Saigon fell to Communist forces.

Also on this date:

In 1789, George Washington took the oath of office at Federal Hall in New York as the first president of the United States.

In 1803, the United States completed its purchase of the 828,000 square mile (2,140,000 square km) Louisiana Territory from France for 60 million francs, the equivalent of about \$15 million; the acquisition roughly doubled the size of the United States.

In 1900, engineer John Luther “Casey” Jones of the Illinois Central Railroad died in a train wreck near Vaughan, Mississippi, staying at the controls to slow his passenger train before it struck a stalled train near an approaching station; Jones was the only fatality of the accident.

In 1945, as Soviet troops approached his Berlin bunker, Adolf Hitler took his own life, as did Eva Braun, whom Hitler married the previous day.

In 1973, as the Watergate scandal deepened, President Richard Nixon announced the resignations of top aides H.R. Haldeman and John Ehrlichman, Attorney General Richard G. Kleindienst and White House counsel John Dean (though Dean was actually fired by Nixon).

In 1993, top-ranked women's tennis player Monica Seles was stabbed in the back during a match in Hamburg, Germany, by a man who described himself as a fan of second-ranked German player Steffi Graf. (The man was convicted of causing grievous bodily injury, but was given only a two-year suspended sentence.)

In 1993, the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) announced that the World Wide Web, which was invented at CERN four years earlier by Tim Berners-Lee, was free for anyone to use, and released its source code to the public domain.

Today's Birthdays: UN Secretary-General António Guterres is 76. Filmmaker Jane Campion is 71. Film-

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maker Lars von Trier is 69. Basketball Hall of Famer Isiah Thomas is 64. Actor Johnny Galecki is 50. Actor Sam Heughan is 45. Actor Kunal Nayyar is 44. Rapper Lloyd Banks is 43. Actor Kirsten Dunst is 43. Basketball Hall of Famer Seimone Augustus is 41. Actor Gal Gadot is 40. Actor Dianna Agron is 39. Actor Ana de Armas is 37. Rapper-producer Travis Scott is 34.