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Wednesday, May 14

Senior Menu: Baked fish, rice pilaf, pea and cheese salad, fruit, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Biscuits.

School Lunch: Chicken pasta, mixed vegetables.

Groton United Methodist: Community Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.

Groton C&MA: Kid's Club, Youth Group, Adult Bible Study, 7 p.m.

Thursday, May 15

Senior Menu: Baked turkey crunch with dressing, catalina blend, baked apples, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Cereals.

School Lunch: Sack lunch made by the kitchen.

School dismisses at noon.

End of Fourth Quarter

Northeast Conference Track at Redfield, 11 a.m.



Friday, May 16

Senior Menu: Bratwurst on bun, creamy coleslaw, corn, peach crisp.

Faculty In-Service

Saturday, May 17

GHS Graduation, 2 p.m.

Sunday, May 18

St. John's Lutheran: Worship with communion at St. John's, 9 a.m.; at Zion, 11 a.m.

Catholic: SEAS Confession, 7:45-8:15 a.m.; SEAS Mass, 8:30 a.m.; Turton Confession, 10:30-10:45 a.m.; Turton Mass, 11 a.m.

First Presbyterian Church: Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.; Worship, 11 a.m.

Groton CM&A: Sunday School, 9:15 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m.

United Methodist: Worship at Conde, 8:15 a.m.; at Groton, 9:30 a.m.; at Britton, 11:15 a.m.; Coffee Hour, 10:30 a.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.

Russia-Ukraine Talks

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy will be in Turkey this week for peace talks with Russia. The talks, scheduled for tomorrow in Istanbul, will be the first direct negotiations between the two countries since shortly after the war broke out in early 2022.

Russian President Vladimir Putin proposed the negotiations Sunday, in response to European pressure for a 30-day ceasefire. Putin has punted on whether he will attend this week's negotiations; a delegation could reportedly be led by Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov. Putin's offer was meant to forestall fresh sanctions on Russia's oil and financial sectors from the UK, Germany, Poland, and France. The countries now intend to levy the sanctions if talks fail to deliver a ceasefire.

The negotiations come as Russia holds part of four southeastern regions in Ukraine.

Menendez Resentencing

Erik and Lyle Menendez were resentenced yesterday to 50 years to life in prison, more than three decades after the brothers were convicted of murdering their parents, Jose and Kitty Menendez, in 1989. The decision makes the brothers eligible for parole, with separate hearings scheduled for next month.

The proceedings followed several delays, including a recent request from prosecutors for more time to review a state parole board risk assessment. That report found the brothers pose a "moderate" risk if released, citing some prison violations, many of them years old. Prosecutors opposed resentencing, arguing the brothers haven't fully accepted responsibility. The defense pointed to evidence of rehabilitation and support from multiple family members.

While the reduced sentence makes the brothers eligible for parole, any release still requires approval from the state parole board. If the board recommends release, the decision would then go to California Gov. Gavin Newsom (D), who can approve or reject it.

Tax and Immigration Bill

Details of House Republicans' tax and immigration bill began to emerge yesterday, lifting the hood on a sweeping package meant to enshrine several priorities of the Trump administration. The mega-bill—involving 11 separate committees—would provide an estimated \$5T in tax cuts while targeting around \$1.5T in savings.

The bulk of cost savings (\$625B) is estimated to come from changes to Medicaid, which provides health-care assistance to more than 70 million people (largely low-income households). Separately, the bill raises limits on the state and local tax, or SALT, deduction—but not as much as requested by a number of House Republicans, a key sticking point. Other key components include funding to extend a US-Mexico border wall, a \$500 increase in the child tax credit, as much as a 21% tax on university endowments, a \$4T debt ceiling increase, and more.

The package faces full floor votes in both the House and Senate—and must overcome opposition from a number of GOP members.

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Sports, Entertainment, & Culture

Pete Rose, "Shoeless" Joe Jackson among 16 deceased baseball players removed from MLB's banned list, making them eligible for Baseball Hall of Fame.

Boston Celtics star Jayson Tatum will miss rest of NBA playoffs with torn Achilles tendon.

Robert Benton, three-time Oscar-winning director and screenwriter best known for "Kramer vs. Kramer," dies at age 92.

French actor Gérard Depardieu found guilty of sexual assault of two women on film set, receives 18-month suspended sentence.

YouTube to stream NFL's Sept. 5 international game in São Paulo, Brazil, for free; full NFL schedule to be released tonight (8 pm ET, ESPN2).

ESPN sets price of upcoming all-access streaming app at \$29.99/month; standalone app will include all of the network's live games.

Science & Technology

Apple partners with tech startup Synchron to create brain-computer interfaces allowing people with disabilities to control iPhones with their thoughts.

Engineers develop eldercare robots capable of helping seniors sit and stand; can also help protect them from a fall.

Researchers observe what is believed to be collective memory loss in schools of Norwegian herring, resulting in shifting of spawning grounds by 500 miles.

Business & Markets

US stock markets close mixed (S&P 500 +0.7%, Dow -0.6%, Nasdaq +1.6%) with Nvidia closing above \$3T amid Saudi-US investment summit.

US consumer price index rose 0.2% in April, bringing annual inflation rate to 2.3%, the slowest pace of inflation since February 2021.

UnitedHealth Group suspends its 2025 forecast amid higher-than-expected medical costs, with shares closing down 17.8%; CEO Andrew Witty steps down, to be replaced by Stephen Hemsley, company's CEO from 2006 to 2017.

Microsoft will reportedly lay off 3% of its workforce to reduce management layers, potentially impacting 6,500 people—biggest round of layoffs since 2023.

Politics & World Affairs

President Donald Trump announces \$142B weapons deal with Saudi Arabia; Trump says the US will drop sanctions on Syria following the fall of the Assad regime.

Israeli strike in Gaza targets Hamas leader Mohammed Sinwar; outcome of strike unclear.

Food and Drug Administration announces plan to remove ingestible fluoride supplements for kids at elevated risk of developing cavities; agency will conduct scientific review of the products by Oct. 31.

Trump administration cancels \$450M in research grants to Harvard University, adding to over \$2.2B cut earlier this year after the university rejected requests to overhaul its policies and processes.

Ownership of Red Horse changes

by Dorene Nelson

The Red Horse has been sold to Keith Landwehr, Sauk Centre, MN, who intends to continue some of the regular business activity of the previous owners but will also make some day-to-day changes.

The large parking lot that surrounds the Red Horse will be used for Landwehr's trucking business, American Grain LLC. In addition to that four of the six motel rooms will be for his truck drivers' use and not for the general public. His drivers will have a room to spend the night as well as a convenient place to park their rigs nearby.

The Red Horse, located at the junction of Highways 12 and 37, was first simply a service station in 1935. The business changed hands many times after being constructed by Harry Buck. Buck sold the business to Andy Anderson who then sold it to Carl Sundberg in the 1950s.

By 1955 the Mobil station had become S & A Service, with a six-lane bowling alley added by Benjamin Schaller and Raymond Adler. The next owner, David Young, lost the business to a fire that destroyed the building in 1971.

Emery Sippel, the Mobil bulk agent in Putney, built a new building and opened the Red Horse Inn on October 1, 1972. Sippel's business included a restaurant, service station, and Emery's bulk offices. Sippel continued his oil business there after leasing the station and café to Bill Kramin. In 1975 Sippel sold the business to Ervin and Rose Locke, whose family has owned it ever since.

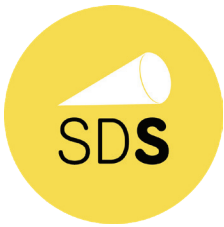
Due to issues with new oil regulations being imposed upon gas stations, the Lockes removed the gas pumps. Following their removal, a large addition was put on the north end of the building for Coach's Corner Youth Center with games and tables.

Senior nutrition meals were relocated to the Red Horse, resulting in the conversion of the north room into a nice dining room. In 1985 the Lockes sold this property to Marc Hanson, with Rose continuing to cook Senior Nutrition meals by renting the Groton Community Center.

Marc Hanson remodeled the Red Horse, changing the dining room into a bar and adding to the kitchen area. He changed the name to Coco's and added a special menu of steaks, seafood, and pasta for evening meals. In 2008 Hanson sold the building to Darren and Lisa Locke who returned many of the local favorites to the menu such as the Red Horse Special.

After their purchase of Coco's, Lockes changed the name back to the Red Horse and added 6 motel rooms on the north side. They also took over the Senior Nutrition meals. In 2025, the Lockes decided it was time to retire so they sold the restaurant to Landwehr.

For the immediate future, the menu and the continuation of senior meals will stay the same as it has been. Home deliveries will also continue as will the convenience of coming in between 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. for the daily noon special. There will most likely be some other changes in the near future, but these are not completely decided at this time. Decisions about hours of operation and menu items will be made as soon as possible.



SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

ICE makes 8 arrests in South Dakota city where Noem was subjected to a protest three days earlier

BY: JOSHUA HAIAR AND SETH TUPPER - MAY 13, 2025 2:13 PM

U.S. immigration officials conducted a "worksite enforcement action" that resulted in eight arrests Tuesday in Madison, three days after their boss, Kristi Noem, was subjected to a protest in the same South Dakota city.

At least one of the two targeted businesses, Manitou Equipment, was awarded financial support from the state while Noem was governor.

The media office for Immigration and Customs Enforcement said in a written statement that the agency's action was at Manitou and also at Global Polymer Industries "in response to information or allegations received by ICE Homeland Security Investigations."

ICE later issued a news release saying two people from Nicaragua and one from El Salvador were arrested at Manitou, and three from Nicaragua and two from Guatemala were arrested at Global Polymer. The release alleged that all eight people were in the country illegally and said they're being held by ICE pending deportation proceedings.

The news release did not say whether the businesses would face consequences, but they were criticized in a statement from ICE Homeland Security Investigations St. Paul Special Agent in Charge Jamie Holt.

"Employers who knowingly hire individuals without legal work authorization not only undermine our nation's immigration laws but also exploit vulnerable populations," Holt's statement said. "These enforcement actions make it clear: illegal hiring practices aren't limited to major metropolitan areas — they are happening in small towns across rural America, and we will continue to hold violators accountable, wherever they operate."

In response to follow-up questions from South Dakota Searchlight, an ICE spokesperson said "this is all the information I can provide at this time." Madison Mayor Roy Lindsay Jr. said Tuesday when reached by phone that he was out of town and suggested calling Police Chief Justin Meyer, who said all questions should go to ICE.

ICE's statement said it enforces business compliance with federal employment eligibility requirements, and has the responsibility to conduct worksite enforcement initiatives "targeting employers who violate employment laws."

"During these operations, any alien determined to be in violation of U.S. immigration laws may be subject to arrest, detention, and, if ordered removed by an immigration judge or other authority, subject to removal from the United States," the statement said.

Action follows protest

Noem delivered the commencement address and received an honorary degree Saturday at Dakota State University in Madison. Around 200 demonstrators gathered outside the graduation ceremony to protest the actions of Noem and the Department of Homeland Security that she leads, which includes Immigration and Customs Enforcement, known as ICE.

The protesters were especially concerned about the targeting of more than 1,000 international students nationwide, including one at South Dakota Mines in Rapid City — Priya Saxena — who is suing the government after it revoked her visa.

Her revocation was triggered by a criminal records check that turned up a four-year-old misdemeanor traffic conviction against her, and a charge of driving under the influence from the same traffic stop that

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was dropped after a test showed her blood-alcohol content to be within the legal limit. On Tuesday morning, while ICE was making arrests in Madison, Saxena was participating in a court hearing in Rapid City, where she's seeking an order preventing further immigration enforcement against her.

Anden Wieseler is a member of the Dakota State University Student Senate who opposed Noem's invitation to the university and helped organize Saturday's protest. He wasn't surprised by news of the immigration enforcement action.

"I had several conversations with members of the DSU student body and a lot of us kind of expected something like this to happen after bringing Kristi Noem to Madison," Wieseler said.

A student who graduated Saturday, Carter Gordon, said the dual immigration enforcement action in Madison "reeks of retribution."

"You could make the argument that they would've happened even had she not been protested, but it feels very vengeful," Gordon said.

The nonprofit South Dakota Voices for Peace, which advocates for immigrants, is trying to gather information about the arrests and affected families. The nonprofit works with local rapid-response observers around the state, including one that reported seeing ICE helicopters Tuesday morning in Madison.

Chief Executive Director Taneza Islam said the group's main initial worry is whether the arrested people have children, and where they are.

"These kids are our top concern at the moment," Islam said.

About the companies

One of the companies targeted, Manitou, is a France-based global manufacturer of construction equipment. Plant manager Jeff Minnaert told South Dakota Searchlight in 2023 that the Madison location employed about 250 people, and about 25% of them were Hispanic.

The company was seeking additional employees at the time to support a planned \$60 million expansion that was set to add a combined 125 jobs to the Madison plant and another location in Yankton. In December 2022, while Noem was governor of South Dakota, the board of the Governor's Office of Economic Development awarded Manitou nearly \$1 million through a construction sales-tax refund program to help with the expansion.

In July 2023, also while Noem was governor, the Governor's Office of Economic Development received a Silver Shovel award from Area Development magazine, which the magazine said was due to activity including the Manitou expansion.

The other targeted business, Global Polymer Industries, is a Madison-based company that was founded in a garage in the small town of Arlington in 1993. It describes itself as one of the nation's largest manufacturers of ultra-high molecular weight polyethylene, which is a flexible product that retains its shape and melts only under extremely high temperatures. The company's wide range of products includes conveyor components, sprockets, guide rails and custom-molded parts.

South Dakota Searchlight attempts to speak with officials at both companies were unsuccessful Tuesday.

Participating agencies

A news release from Immigration and Customs Enforcement said the following agencies supported its May 13, 2025, enforcement action in Madison:

FBI.

Internal Revenue Service.

Drug Enforcement Administration.

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

U.S. Marshals Service.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection's Air and Marine Operations.

Madison Police Department.

South Dakota Highway Patrol.

South Dakota Division of Criminal Investigation.

This story was updated at 4:45 p.m. Central on May 13, 2025.

Joshua Haiar is a reporter based in Sioux Falls. Born and raised in Mitchell, he joined the Navy as a public affairs specialist after high school and then earned a degree from the University of South Dakota. Prior to joining South Dakota Searchlight, Joshua worked for five years as a multimedia specialist and journalist with South Dakota Public Broadcasting.

Seth is editor-in-chief of South Dakota Searchlight. He was previously a supervising senior producer for South Dakota Public Broadcasting and a newspaper journalist in Rapid City and Mitchell.

International student recounts 'numb' feeling after receiving email about her potential deportation

Recent graduate is seeking a court order allowing her to remain in South Dakota

BY: SETH TUPPER - MAY 13, 2025 2:53 PM

RAPID CITY — Priya Saxena was staying up late to read comments about her doctoral dissertation around 1 a.m. on April 7 when she saw the message in her email.

"I was numb at the time," she testified through tears Tuesday in a Rapid City courtroom, where she continued her fight to remain in the country.

The email from U.S. immigration officials said her visa was revoked. Saxena called some friends and holed up in her bedroom.

"I was scared," she said, "and I had no idea what to do next."

Her fear was based on the realization that "I could be deported at any time," she said. A student from India, she was less than a month away from graduating with master's and doctoral degrees from South Dakota Mines, something she'd been working toward for five years.

Her visa revocation was triggered by a criminal records check of international students undertaken by the Trump administration. The check turned up a four-year-old misdemeanor traffic conviction against Saxena, for failing to pull over for an emergency vehicle in Meade County.

The check also turned up a charge of driving under the influence against her from the same 2021 traffic stop, but her blood tested within the legal limit and the charge was dismissed. She had disclosed those legal matters to immigration officials when she obtained her most recent visa in 2022.

The criminal records check was part of a broader action by the Trump administration against more than 1,000 international students nationwide, not only for items appearing on their records but also for activity the administration described as "anti-Semitic," such as publicly protesting Israel's war against Hamas in Gaza.

The administration initially terminated students' records in the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System, which is used by colleges to verify and manage international student eligibility. Then the administration backtracked, leaving students such as Saxena with restored educational status but in limbo with their visas and their future.

Saxena testified that she decided to book a plane ticket to India and leave the country voluntarily, but then postponed the ticket and ultimately canceled it after speaking to a defense attorney in Rapid City, Jim Leach. Since then, they've sued U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem — the former governor of South Dakota — and Noem's agency. The lawsuit alleges it's illegal for the government to instigate an immigration enforcement action against Saxena for something the government already knew about before it issued her current visa.

With her degrees now in hand, and her visa not scheduled to expire until 2027, Saxena would like to apply for a program that allows international students to remain in the country and work in fields related to their degrees. Saxena has a doctorate in chemical and biological engineering and a master's in chemical engineering.

U.S. District Judge Karen Schreier granted Saxena a temporary restraining order last month and extended it long enough for her to walk across the graduation stage and collect her degrees on Saturday at South Dakota Mines — the same day Noem appeared at another South Dakota institution, Dakota State

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University in Madison, to receive an honorary degree and deliver a commencement address. Noem was met by hundreds of protesters outside that ceremony.

On Tuesday, as Saxena was in court in Rapid City, Immigration and Customs Enforcement was conducting a "worksite enforcement action" in Madison, where the agency made an undisclosed number of arrests at two Madison businesses.

Saxena's restraining order is scheduled to expire at the end of this week. Her court hearing Tuesday was about her request for a temporary injunction. That would stop the government from pursuing any further immigration enforcement proceedings against her while her lawsuit is pending. Judge Schreier heard testimony and arguments and said she'll issue a written decision in the next few days.

Leach argued that Saxena needs protection from unlawful and unpredictable actions by Immigration and Customs Enforcement. He referenced the agency's widespread deportation efforts under President Donald Trump and its shifting policies.

"Everybody's afraid of ICE now, and she's afraid," Leach said of Saxena.

Michael Hofmann, an assistant U.S. attorney, argued that a temporary injunction would improperly restrain the government from taking further action if Saxena engages in additional criminal activity, or if Saxena violates the terms of her U.S. residency in other ways. Hofmann argued that if a temporary injunction is granted, it should be narrowly tailored to allow the government to act in response to those possibilities.

Seth is editor-in-chief of South Dakota Searchlight. He was previously a supervising senior producer for South Dakota Public Broadcasting and a newspaper journalist in Rapid City and Mitchell.

Iowa Senate passes limits on eminent domain for carbon pipelines, sends bill to governor

Action follows passage of ban and denial of project permit in South Dakota

BY: CAMI KOONS, IOWA CAPITAL DISPATCH - MAY 13, 2025 8:53 AM

Iowa senators voted 27-22 late Monday to pass a bill to limit the ability of carbon sequestration pipelines to use eminent domain, sending it to the governor's desk after a drawn-out debate.

The decision follows four years of Iowans and House lawmakers urging for eminent domain reform in response to the proposed Summit Carbon Solutions pipeline.

House File 639 comprised a number of bills passed by the House aimed at eminent domain. Senators tried repeatedly to change the scope of the bill with various amendments, none of which were adopted.

Sen. Tim Kraayenbrink, R- Fort Dodge, said amid debates on eminent domain and carbon capture pipelines, that senators were "missing the point" that the bill was poorly written and likely to create problems.

"The point is a crappy bill that we're going to be voting on here in a little bit," Kraayenbrink said.

Four years coming

Landowners opposed to the Summit Carbon Solutions pipeline have traveled to the Capitol countless times over the past four years, urging lawmakers to move on the issue.

Many of those opposed to the pipeline own land in its path and fear its impact to their land, property values and safety.

The pipeline would transport carbon dioxide, captured from ethanol facilities, across Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, the Dakotas and into underground storage in North Dakota. The Iowa Utilities Commission granted the project eminent domain rights in June, though the project cannot begin construction until it has permits in North Dakota, South Dakota and Minnesota.

Proponents of the pipeline say it will allow Iowa to enter new, low-carbon ethanol markets, which would in turn help corn and soybean farmers.

The company's permit in South Dakota was recently denied, following the state's passage of a law preventing hazardous liquid pipelines carrying carbon dioxide from using eminent domain in the state. Summit

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has said it plans to reapply.

HF 639, as written, changed definitions of a common carrier, increased insurance requirements to cover any damages to property and reimburse landowners for increases in premiums due to the pipeline, set requirements for the IUC and expanded who can intervene in IUC proceedings.

A group of 12 senators signed a letter last week saying they would not vote on budget legislation until the eminent domain bill was debated. Their move stalled action on budget bills and contributed to pushing the session into overtime. Lawmakers have not received part of their per diem expense payments since May 2.

After the pipeline bill passed, senators approved the budgets for education and agriculture and natural resources, sending them to the House.

Senators planned to debate the issue on Friday, and drew a crowd of interested constituents to the Capitol, but the chambers leaders did not bring the bill to the floor.

Bousselot's amendment fails

Sen. Mike Bousselot, R-Ankeny, the bill's floor manager, proposed an amendment that would rewrite the bill, similar to what he had proposed in committee, that would have allowed companies to pursue voluntary easements outside of the project corridor, in order to avoid using eminent domain.

Bousselot called the original bill a "Trojan horse" bill written by "climate extremists" trying to kill the Summit pipeline project.

Rep. Steven Holt, R-Denison, who sponsored HF 639, said it's "ridiculous" to suggest the bill is about environmental extremists.

"This is not about environmental extremism at all, it's about protecting landowners," Holt said. "I think that the arrogance the Senate is showing, the disrespect to property owners is frankly unacceptable."

Bousselot's amendment would have kept HF 639 provisions requiring Iowa Utilities Commission members' attendance at permit hearings, created a one-year deadline for permit decisions, and would have held project operators responsible for damage to the land during the lifetime of the project.

Under the amendment, the eminent domain changes would have applied to all projects seeking government permission to force unwilling landowners to give up easements for a court-determined price, not just carbon sequestration projects.

Bousselot said the amendment "protects Iowans, protects landowners of all types, for all project types."

His amendment would have stopped carbon sequestration pipelines from using eminent domain, unless the project had been granted a permit by the IUC before the enactment date, or had a sole purpose of connecting to another project that was already granted eminent domain.

"It ends eminent domain on CO2 pipelines in a constitutional manner, on a go forward basis," Bousselot said.

Sen. Jeff Taylor, R-Sioux Center, said it's "not correct" to say the bill is all about killing the Summit project.

"We're just saying you have to follow the law," Taylor said.

Taylor said the requirement to use eminent domain is public use.

"It's not a positive business climate, it's not helping the agribusinesses in the state, it's not the price of corn or helping the ethanol plants, it's public use," Taylor said.

Bousselot's amendment failed narrowly, 28-22.

Democrats push for simplified, eminent domain only amendment

Democrats submitted an amendment, with language from House File 943, which the House passed in March, to ban the use of eminent domain on pipelines transporting liquified carbon dioxide.

Sen. Zach Wahls, D-Coralville, sponsored the amendment and said it would get at the "fundamental question" of eminent domain, which constituents have asked the body to debate.

Wahls said bipartisan conversations over the past several weeks have been "fractured" and "raucous."

"I think most of the people in this room are quite tired, but I'm quite positive that there is nobody in

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this room more tired than the landowners who are sitting in the gallery because they've been taking time out of their lives, not being paid to come to this building, and ask for their voice to be heard," Wahls said.

Bousselot argued that the amendment was not germane, since it was a "major change to the scope of the bill" and Senate President Amy Sinclair, R-Allerton, agreed and the amendment was scrapped.

On the 'crappy' bill

Sen. Mike Klimesh, R-Spillville, asked Sen. Kevin Alons, R-Salix, about some of the issues he had with the bill, including multiple definitions of a common carrier and an "elevated standard" for judicial review that he said would "bog the system down."

Klimesh also noted a lack of specificity in some of the language of the bill, like the section expanding intervenors in utility board cases that does not specify that members of the general assembly, city or county officials must be in Iowa.

"I mean is that the intention really, to bog this system down with interveners from any place or anywhere, any elected official, any city council, county official, or any resident with plausible interest in the proceedings?" Klimesh said.

Following the decision, Rep. Charley Thomson, R-Charles City, said the arguments brought up on the Senate floor about the bill providing for out-of-state individuals to intervene with the Iowa permitting process were incorrect, and "it reflects a misunderstanding of the IUC system and administrative law."

He said the process of intervention only gives individuals the right to file motions and get copies of meetings by email.

"It's not an invitation to sue," Thomson said. "And there is a limitation on there, that you have to have some connection with what's going on. It's absurd to say that we're opening the process up to endless litigation."

Klimesh asked on the floor how the insurance clauses of the bill would be determined.

He said the bill, as written, would make it more difficult for all pipeline projects in the future, tie up "critical infrastructure projects" in court and pass costs onto consumers who would have increased utility costs.

Klimesh said in the future, companies that want to build pipelines in the state would be deterred by the requirements in the bill that would be costly.

Alons said much of the language was a "codification" of what is already in the IUC rules.

Klimesh said the bill would lead to increasing costs on energy for Iowans.

"Cost drivers, cost increases — they're based off decisions we make here in this chamber," Klimesh said. "This is one of those decisions that is going to affect pipeline companies, again, far beyond CO2 pipeline companies, and places an onerous burden on them to ascertain and achieve this coverage."

Klimesh also worried that enactment language in the bill would open the door to lawsuits from Iowans who have already signed an easement contract with the state when Summit is no longer able to uphold that contract without eminent domain to complete the project.

"I'm concerned about putting the state of Iowa and our taxpayers at a legal risk," Klimesh said.

"This bill sets up a whole avalanche of potential bad policy. While we were trying to squash a fly, we took a nuclear bomb to it."

Taylor said senators tried to swap HF 639 for a different version, via the Democrats' amendment, but "it was rejected out of hand."

"So it makes me wonder if it wasn't really just any opposition to tampering with the Summit pipeline, rather than the particulars of 639," Taylor said.

Taylor said the group of GOP senators who stepped forward to push for a debate on this faced criticism for it, but Taylor said he was standing for Republican values and the motto of Iowa.

"When it says our liberties we prize and our rights we will maintain, there's not an asterisk there," he said. "It doesn't say unless we're threatened by a billion dollar lawsuit."

Sen. Mike Zimmer, D-DeWitt, said he was "flummoxed" that the Democrat's amendment was turned down, because it made the argument "really simple."

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"You can be for the pipeline, you can be for ethanol production, you can be for union workers putting that pipeline together, and say, 'we can do this without having to use eminent domain,'" Zimmer said.

Klimesh said when he met with the 12 senators who pushed for a debate on the bill, he offered to work with them and to amend the bill to resemble HF 943, but the group declined.

"In that week's time, we could have sat around and crafted probably a much better piece of legislation," Klimesh said.

Sen. Bill Dotzler, D-Waterloo, said "hogwash" and that there was an opportunity for a cleaner bill on the floor and the majority chose to ignore it.

Sen. Tony Bisignano, D-Des Moines, criticized the majority party for not working on the bill sooner.

"Where have you been? This bill didn't start a week ago ... we've had years," Bisignano said.

Sen. Dan Zumbach, R-Ryan, said "emotions got ahead of reality" on the issue and as a result, the body is stuck with "horrible" legislation.

"This bill is about killing a project, not about constitutionality, not about property rights — we missed that boat, folks," Zumbach said. "Had it laid out there in front of us and we were too stubborn to listen to the actual words."

Bousselot said in his closing comments on the bill that everyone will leave the Capitol Monday claiming they "voted to protect private property rights" because everyone either voted for his amendment, or for the bill.

"I hope we have a plan for infrastructure, to grow our state, for the jobs that are going to be harder to build, for the farmers that produce the wealth and the great crops and commodities that we rely on," Bousselot said.

The bill advanced from the Senate and will now go to Gov. Kim Reynolds for final approval. Reynolds has not said publicly whether she would sign or veto it. Summit Carbon Solutions did not respond to a request for comment.

Reactions

Kathy Stockdale, a landowner from Iowa Falls, said she was happy to see the bill pass and was "extremely proud" of the 12 GOP senators who took a stand to force the legislation to come to a vote. At the same time, Stockdale said she was "deeply upset" as a Republican, with Senate leadership, and that she and many landowners would have preferred to see House File 943 pass.

"It doesn't protect our private property rights," she said.

However, she said the bill passed does provide some benefits to landowners: "It helps us in the IUC hearings. It does provide insurance for us. ... It defines what a common carrier is, just like in South Dakota."

While the measure passed the Senate, she said she is not sure it will be signed by Reynolds.

Thomson and Holt, who led the legislation in the House, hugged and shook hands with activists and landowners outside the Senate chambers after the bill's passage.

Holt said Bousselot talking about being supportive of property rights was "disrespectful" considering his role in similar bills stalling in the Senate in recent sessions.

"Everybody that's followed this knows that it has been Senator Bousselot, who formerly worked for Summit, who killed these pieces of legislation over and over again," Holt said. "It's so disingenuous and so disrespectful treating the citizens of Iowa like fools, so it was not a proud moment for me as a Republican."

Holt said the bill's Senate passage Monday was because of landowners and supporters who worked for years to push lawmakers to vote on the bill. He also credited House Republicans for introducing and passing measures in response to these calls in recent legislative sessions.

"We listened to the people of Iowa, and that is why this finally got done," Holt said. "That is why the governor needs to sign it just as soon as possible."

Robin Opsahl contributed to this report.

Cami Koons is an Iowa Capital Dispatch reporter covering agriculture and the environment. She previously worked at publications in Kansas and Missouri, covering rural affairs.

Amid protests and Democratic pushback, U.S. House GOP launches work on Medicaid cuts

BY: JENNIFER SHUTT - MAY 13, 2025 4:50 PM

WASHINGTON — The U.S. House committee tasked with overhauling energy policy and Medicaid to achieve \$880 billion in spending cuts on Tuesday began what was expected to be a long, grueling session with debate on dozens of amendments.

Republicans on the panel argued during opening statements the proposed changes are necessary to realign several programs with President Donald Trump's campaign promises and some long-standing GOP policy goals, primarily an extension of the 2017 tax cuts.

Democrats contend the legislation, one of 11 measures that will make up the GOP's "big, beautiful bill," would kick millions of people out of Medicaid, the state-federal program for lower income Americans, some people with disabilities and a considerable number of nursing home patients.

Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Brett Guthrie, R-Ky., said the GOP bill is aimed at reducing waste, fraud and abuse within Medicaid "by beginning to rein in the loopholes, by ensuring states have the flexibility to remove ineligible recipients from their roles and removing beneficiaries who enrolled in multiple states."

"We make no apologies for prioritizing Americans in need over illegal immigrants and those who are capable but choose not to work," Guthrie said. "Our priority remains the same: strengthen and sustain Medicaid for those whom the program was intended to serve — expectant mothers, children, people with disabilities and the elderly."

Democratic New Jersey Rep. Frank Pallone, ranking member on the panel, rejected comments that the GOP bill was "moderate" and said it clearly was not aimed at addressing waste, fraud and abuse.

"Medicaid is a life-saving program that 80 million Americans count on every day," Pallone said. "It provides health care to 1 in 3 Americans and nearly half of all children in the United States. It covers close to half of all births. And it's the largest source of funding for long-term care for seniors and people living with disabilities. With this bill, Republicans are essentially telling millions of Americans, 'Gotcha, no more health care for you.'"

Pallone added that Republican lawmakers were "intentionally taking health care away from millions of Americans, so they can give giant tax breaks to the ultra-rich, who frankly don't need them."

Just before Pallone spoke, several protesters in the room, including at least three people in wheelchairs, began chanting "No cuts to Medicaid" and were led out by U.S. Capitol Police, who charged 25 people with illegally demonstrating in the Rayburn House Office Building.

Photos of constituents

Democrats gave numerous opening statements at the start of the markup, each holding up a large photograph of one of their constituents on Medicaid and sharing stories of how the program helped them get or keep access to health care after complex diagnoses, like congestive heart failure, leukemia and cerebral palsy.

Democratic lawmakers expressed concern those people would lose access to the health care program if the GOP bill becomes law.

"You don't just gut the largest insurer of low income Americans without real harm," said Illinois Democratic Rep. Robin Kelly. "Call it what it is — abandonment, disinvestment and pure disregard for human life."

Florida Republican Rep. Kat Cammack rebuked some of the Democrats' comments, which she said sought to fearmonger and lie to people about what was in the GOP bill.

"The posters that our colleagues on the left have held up are touching. The stories, they're very emotional. And I agree that we want to protect those most vulnerable," Cammack said. "As a pregnant woman, I want to make sure that pregnant women, expectant mothers have access to resources around the country."

Cammack added that "not a single person in those posters is going to be impacted by this legislation."

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Floor action as soon as next week

Republicans have already approved eight of the reconciliation bills in committee and are scheduled to wrap up work on the remaining three measures this week. The Ways and Means Committee began debating the tax bill shortly after Energy and Commerce began its markup, and the Agriculture panel was scheduled to begin its debate Tuesday evening.

Later this week, the House Budget Committee plans to bundle all 11 bills together and send the full package to the floor. The entire House is set to vote on the legislation before Memorial Day.

GOP leaders cannot afford much disagreement over the entire package, given their paper-thin majority in the House. If all of the current members are present at the vote, just three Republicans can oppose the package and still have it pass.

The same margin exists in the Senate, which is expected to make substantial changes to the package should the House approve the measure and send it across the Capitol.

\$880 billion cut

The Energy and Commerce Committee's bill up for debate Tuesday met the panel's goal of cutting at least \$880 billion in federal spending during the next decade, according to a letter from the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office.

Congress' official scorekeepers, however, hadn't released their full analysis of the panel's bill before the start of the debate and amendment process, known in Congress as a markup.

Once those details are made public, lawmakers and the voters who elected them will have a much more detailed look at how each of the proposed changes will affect federal revenue, spending and the number of people who could lose access to Medicaid.

Democrats released a CBO analysis last week showing the impact of various proposals, though Energy and Commerce GOP staff cautioned Monday during a background briefing that what they proposed in the actual bill didn't completely align with those scenarios.

The bill would make considerable changes to Medicaid if the House and Senate approve the legislation as written, which seems highly unlikely, given objections from several GOP senators, including Missouri's Josh Hawley.

The House legislation would require able-bodied people between the ages of 19 and 65 to work, participate in community service, or attend an education program for at least 80 hours a month. There would be exceptions for pregnant people, Medicaid enrollees with dependent children and people with complex medical issues, among other exclusions.

That provision would take effect on Jan. 1, 2029, according to an explainer on the bill from nonpartisan health research organization KFF.

States would be required to check eligibility for all Medicaid patients every six months, lowering the threshold from one year for people eligible for the program under the expansion in the 2010 Affordable Care Act. That would need to begin by Oct. 1, 2027.

Republicans are seeking to get the 12 states that allow immigrants without legal status into their Medicaid programs to change course by lowering the percent the federal government pays for those states' expansion population enrollees from 90% to 80%. That would take effect Oct. 1, 2027.

The legislation seeks to block Medicaid funding for a narrow subset of health care providers who offer abortion services, which appeared to target Planned Parenthood.

The prohibition would apply to "providers that are nonprofit organizations, that are essential community providers that are primarily engaged in family planning services or reproductive services, provide for abortions other than for Hyde Amendment exceptions, and which received \$1,000,000 or more (to either the provider or the provider's affiliates) in payments from Medicaid payments in 2024," according to a summary of the GOP bill. It would take effect as soon as the bill becomes law and last for a decade.

The Hyde Amendment allows federal funding for abortions that are the result of rape, or incest, or that endanger the life of the pregnant patient.

Planned Parenthood, SBA Pro-Life react

Planned Parenthood Action Fund President and CEO Alexis McGill wrote in a statement that defunding the organization and overhauling Medicaid would mean that "cancers will go undetected; it will be harder than ever to get birth control; the nation's (sexually transmitted infection) crisis will worsen; Planned Parenthood health centers will close, making it significantly harder to get abortion care; and people across the country will suffer — all so the supremely wealthy can become even richer."

SBA Pro-Life America President Marjorie Dannenfelser applauded the potential change to federal funding. "It's time to stop forcing taxpayers to fund the Big Abortion industry. Thanks to Speaker (Mike) Johnson and Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Brett Guthrie, this year's budget reconciliation bill contains the commonsense language to make that happen," Dannenfelser wrote. "Taxpayers should never be mandated to prop up an industry that profits from ending lives and harming women and girls."

More than 80 organizations, including the National Women's Law Center and the Center for Reproductive Rights, wrote in a letter to congressional leaders that cutting off Medicaid funding for Planned Parenthood "would be catastrophic, shutting down health centers and stripping millions of patients across the country of access to essential and affordable health care."

"In many communities, Planned Parenthood health centers are the only affordable provider with expertise in sexual and reproductive health," the organizations wrote. "For those communities, the gap left by Planned Parenthood health centers would mean that many patients would have nowhere to turn for care."

President of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists Stella Dantas wrote in a statement the GOP's changes to Medicaid might create challenges for pregnant patients seeking to access care and that some states may roll back their expansion of postpartum coverage from a full year.

"Pregnant patients who keep their coverage under Medicaid will still face challenges accessing care as labor and delivery unit closures escalate as a result of Medicaid cuts, leaving patients to travel longer distances to give birth," Dantas wrote. "Ob-gyns are also concerned that the cuts will threaten the 12 months of postpartum coverage that we have fought so hard to achieve, and which will leave so many without access to medical care during the year after delivery when two-thirds of maternal deaths occur."

"Backsliding on our recent progress in increasing access to postpartum coverage puts lives at risk."

American Public Health Association Executive Director Georges Benjamin wrote in a statement that House Republicans' planned overhaul of Medicaid "does nothing to improve public health."

"Instead, it would undermine much of the progress we have made to expand access to affordable, quality health insurance and implement other evidence-based measures to protect the public's health," Benjamin wrote. "We urge the House to reject this bill and instead work in a bipartisan manner on legislation to improve public health and expand access to health care for all Americans."

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

U.S. House Republican plan would force states to pay for a portion of SNAP benefits

South Dakota would qualify for lowest state cost-share

BY: JACOB FISCHLER AND JULIA SHUMWAY - MAY 13, 2025 4:13 PM

The U.S. House Agriculture Committee's portion of Republicans' massive taxes and spending bill would partially shift to states the costs of the country's largest food assistance program, which some experts and Democrats predicted will lead to major cuts in the program — and possibly even an end to it in some states.

The measure will be taken up by the panel Tuesday night and is expected to be voted on late Tuesday or early Wednesday, after which it will be folded into a larger reconciliation package with 10 other bills

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passed out of committees and sent to the floor. The entire House is set to vote on the legislation before Memorial Day.

The federal government currently pays for all Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, benefits. A provision in the Agriculture Committee's piece of Republicans' "big, beautiful bill" to enact President Donald Trump's agenda would transfer between 5% and 25% of that cost to states, depending on each state's payment error rate, starting in 2028.

The program provided about \$100 billion in food assistance to nearly 42 million Americans last year, according to data from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Eligibility currently depends on tests related to income, assets, work requirements and more.

Republicans plan to use the reconciliation package to permanently extend the 2017 tax law, increase spending on border security and defense by hundreds of billions of dollars, overhaul American energy production, restructure higher education aid and cut spending.

"Our budget reconciliation text restores SNAP to its original intent—promoting work, not welfare—while saving taxpayer dollars and investing in American agriculture," House Committee on Agriculture Republicans said on X on Monday night.

Funding tied to error rate

Under the bill, states' responsibility would rise with the broadly defined error rate of payments, which includes fraud as well as paperwork mistakes by a beneficiary or caseworker.

States with an error rate of 6% or less would be responsible for paying 5% of benefits, and those with an error rate higher than 10% would shoulder one-quarter of the cost of benefits.

Two other intermediate categories would exist for states with error rates between 6% and 10%.

Based on current data, more than half of states would fall into the highest category of error rates. The national average is 11.7% and more than two dozen states and territories have rates higher than 10%.

The states are: Alaska, Arizona, California, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Indiana, Kansas, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee and West Virginia. The District of Columbia also has an error rate over 10%, as do Guam and the Virgin Islands.

Alaska's nation-leading 60% error rate would be nearly impossible to bring under 10% by the time the provision goes into effect, Jones Cox said in a Tuesday interview.

Only seven states — Idaho, Iowa, South Dakota, Utah, Vermont, Wisconsin and Wyoming — would qualify for the lowest state cost-share.

\$290 billion in cuts overall

The measure would incentivize states to control the \$13 billion per year in erroneous payments, a House Agriculture Committee summary of the legislation said. The bill as a whole would cut \$290 billion in federal spending over a 10-year budget window, according to the summary.

While congressional Republicans can claim they are not cutting benefits with the bill, the program would shrink with a lower federal cost-share, Jones Cox said.

"They can say it's not a cut, because they're going to say it's just shifting those costs to the states," she said. "But it is a cut because states, if they cannot fill the gap... that brings down the program, period."

The changes would force state budget officers to choose from among a host of unattractive options: cutting SNAP, offsetting costs with corresponding cuts to other programs or raising revenues through taxes or other measures.

States "have a few options," Jones Cox said. "None look good."

Republicans are using the complex reconciliation process to move the package through Congress with simple majority votes in each chamber, avoiding the Senate's 60-vote legislative filibuster, which would otherwise require bipartisanship.

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Reconciliation measures must address federal revenue, spending, or the debt limit in a way not deemed “merely incidental” by the Senate parliamentarian. That means the GOP proposals must carry some sort of price tag and cannot focus simply on changing federal policy.

Democrats slam bill

On a press call Tuesday, Democratic officials and an anti-hunger nonprofit blasted the proposal.

Sen. Peter Welch, a Vermont Democrat, expressed skepticism that U.S. DOGE Service head Elon Musk could find a more efficient use of the \$2 per meal SNAP provides during the call with other Democratic senators, Oregon Gov. Tina Kotek and the nonprofit, Hunger Free Vermont.

“This is not a waste, fraud and abuse deal,” Welch said. “This is really about taking away basic nutritional security that is so absolutely essential to the well-being of our families and our kids in Vermont and in every single state across the nation.”

Kotek, who started her political career as a policy advocate for the Oregon Food Bank, said she saw firsthand the effect of food insecurity. More than 700,000 Oregonians receive benefits from SNAP, and every dollar spent on SNAP generates another \$1.50 to \$1.80 in economic activity at grocery stores, farmers’ markets and other local businesses, Kotek said.

“When you cut SNAP, you’re not cutting bureaucracy,” she said. “You’re cutting a child’s dinner. You’re cutting their breakfast. You’re cutting their family’s dignity.”

One in four New Mexicans rely on SNAP, said Sen. Ben Ray Luján, D-N.M. The farmers and ranchers he represents also plan their farming season based on what grocery stores and food banks will need, and farmers already planted seeds with the idea that those vegetables will be used for school lunches and other food programs.

“The way to look at this is it’s not fiscally responsible,” Luján said. “It’s taking away from the hungry across America to make billionaires and millionaires even wealthier, and it’s going to even explode the deficit.”

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

Julia Shumway is the Oregon Capital Chronicle’s editor. Before joining the Capital Chronicle in 2021, she was a legislative reporter for the Arizona Capitol Times in Phoenix and reported on local and state government and politics in Iowa, Nebraska and Bend. An award-winning journalist, Julia also serves as president of the Oregon Legislative Correspondents Association, or Capitol press corps.

OPENING MAY 2ND
CLOSING JUNE 2ND

WEBER LANDSCAPING GREENHOUSE

620 WEST THIRD AVENUE

GROTON

HOURS OF OPERATION

M-F 10-6

SAT 10-4

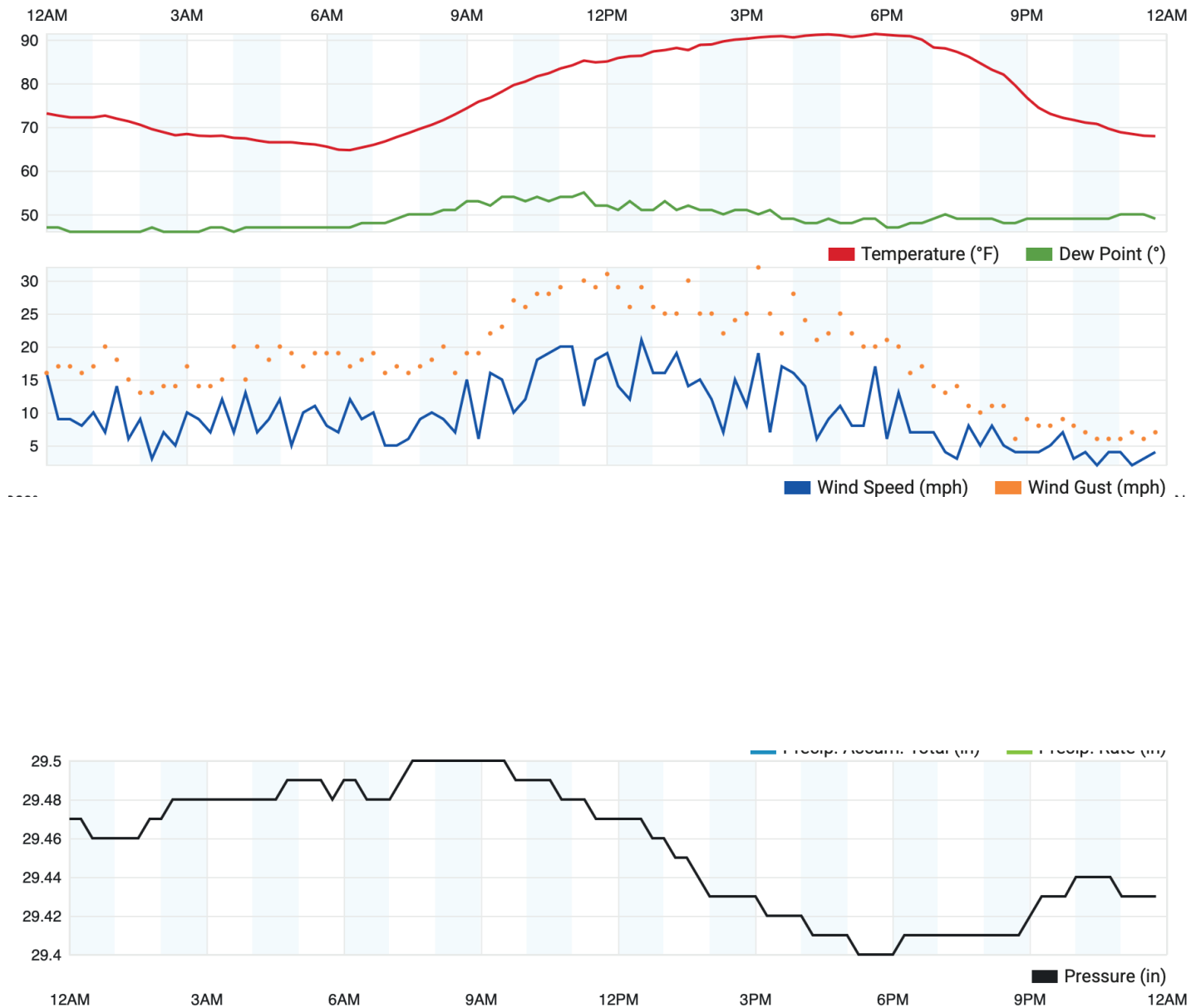
SUN 12-4



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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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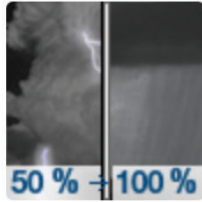
Today



High: 88 °F

Mostly Sunny
then Sunny
and Breezy

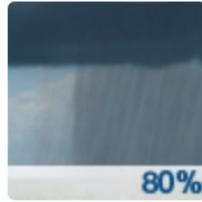
Tonight



Low: 55 °F

Chance
T-storms then
Showers

Thursday



High: 68 °F

Showers and
Breezy

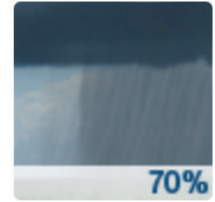
Thursday
Night



Low: 43 °F

Showers and
Breezy

Friday



High: 53 °F

Showers
Likely and
Breezy



Severe Weather Threat Overview

May 13, 2025
2:03 PM

Severe Weather Possible beginning Wednesday afternoon and continuing through Wednesday night.

Timing/Location

Severe storms are possible over central SD Wednesday afternoon and evening, moving into northeastern SD & west central MN Wednesday night.

The threats for the area in **Yellow** are below.

Tornado Potential

Very Low **Low** Medium High

Max Hail Size

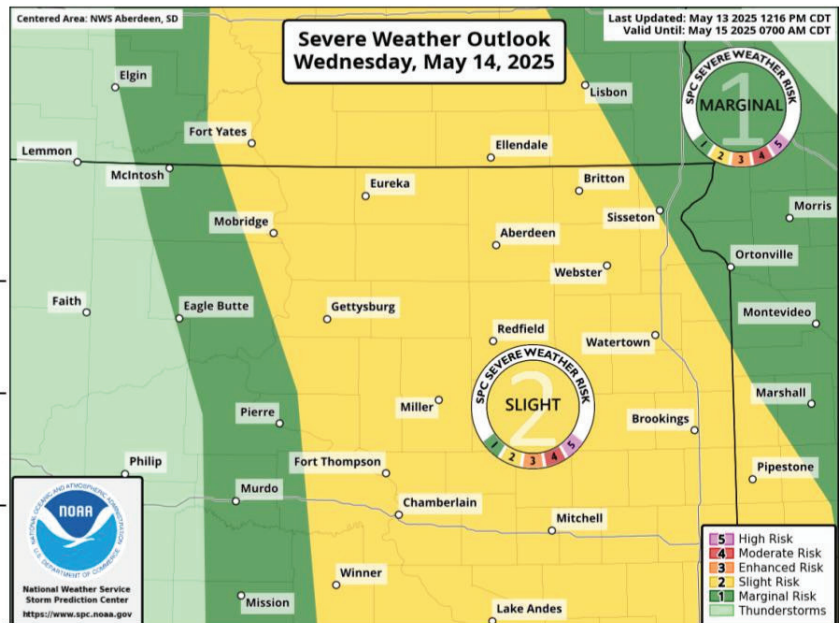
Dimes **Quarters** Golfball Baseball

Max Wind Speed

< 60 mph **60-70 mph** 70-80 mph > 80mph

Heavy Rain/Flooding Potential

Very Low **Low** Medium High



National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

Severe storms are possible over central South Dakota beginning Wednesday afternoon before moving into northeastern South Dakota and west central Minnesota into the evening hours. Wind and hail are the main threats, but isolated tornadoes and flooding cannot be ruled out.

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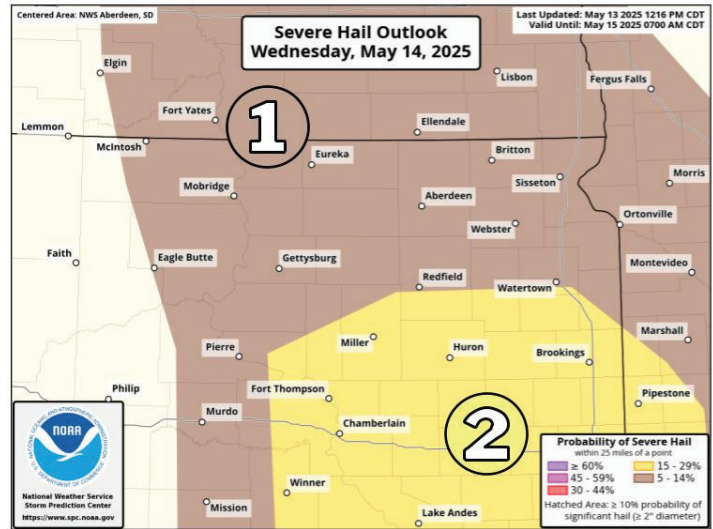
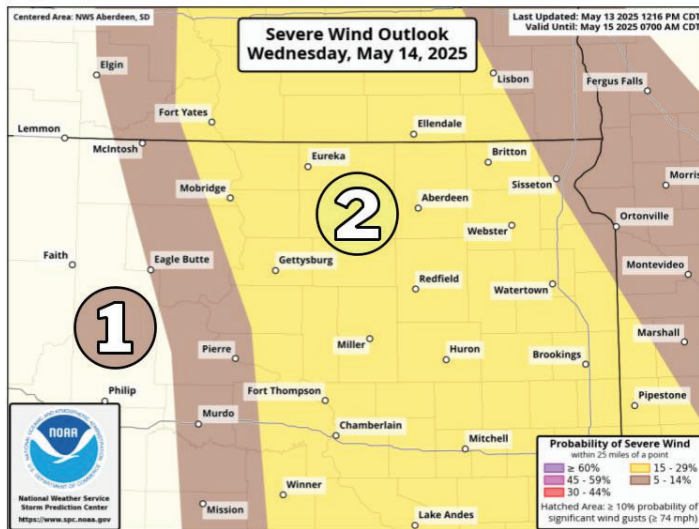


Specific Hazards Wed afternoon into Wed Night

May 13, 2025
2:03 PM

All hazards are possible, but wind and hail will be the primary threats.

- **Strong to Severe winds** (60-70 mph) over northeastern SD & west central MN expected Wed evening through Wed night.
- **Large Hail** (diameter of 1- 1.5") and an **isolated tornado** are also possible.



National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

Strong to severe wind of 60-70 miles per hour is the main threat across most of central and northeastern South Dakota on Wednesday. Hail of 1 inch in diameter or greater is also possible, but the best chances are south of Watertown and Redfield.



Winds and Lowest Humidity Wednesday

May 13, 2025
3:11 PM

Strong winds and low humidity will persist over the James River Valley and eastward

Maximum Wind Gust Forecast (mph)

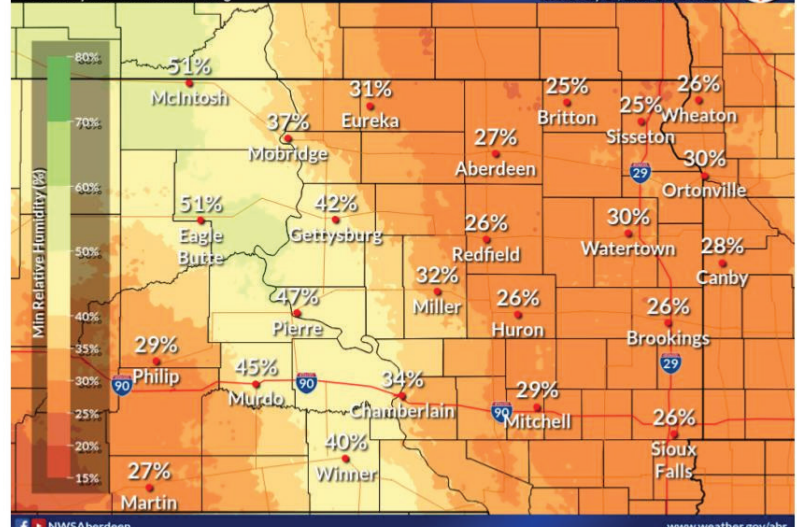
	5/13		5/14		5/15		5/16	
	Tue		Wed		Thu		Fri	
	6pm	9pm	12am	3am	6am	9am	12pm	3pm
Aberdeen	32	26	26	25	26	35	36	31
Britton	31	26	26	26	26	31	33	35
Brookings	25	20	18	18	20	23	31	31
Chamberlain	30	26	24	22	21	28	32	31
Clark	31	28	28	26	28	31	36	36
Eagle Butte	21	23	24	24	24	25	25	26
Ellendale	35	29	26	25	26	35	38	37
Eureka	32	29	28	26	28	36	40	39
Gettysburg	31	29	28	26	28	35	36	35
Huron	29	25	25	24	23	29	36	35
Kennebec	35	32	30	26	25	32	35	33
McIntosh	21	22	24	23	24	26	28	29
Milbank	24	18	18	17	18	25	29	30
Miller	32	29	28	28	29	36	37	37
Mobridge	25	24	24	23	24	30	30	30
Murdo	30	30	28	26	24	26	28	28
Pierre	30	28	25	22	21	26	29	29
Redfield	35	29	28	26	29	36	39	39
Sisseton	28	21	22	21	22	26	30	31
Watertown	26	22	23	22	22	26	30	30
Webster	30	25	26	25	25	31	33	35
Wheaton	26	21	21	21	21	25	29	30

Minimum Relative Humidity

Wednesday Afternoon and Evening

Weather Forecast Office
Aberdeen, SD

Issued May 13, 2025 1:49 PM CDT



→ Southerly winds with gusts up to 35 mph this evening and gusts up to 40 mph Wednesday.

→ Relative humidity will be higher over central SD from 35 to 55%.
→ Relative humidity will fall between 25 to 30% over northeastern SD into west central MN.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 91 °F at 4:30 PM

Low Temp: 65 °F at 6:16 AM

Wind: 32 mph at 3:06 PM

Precip: : 0.00

Day length: 14 hours, 56 minutes

Today's Info

Record High: 94 in 2001

Record Low: 24 in 2004

Average High: 70

Average Low: 44

Average Precip in May.: 1.54

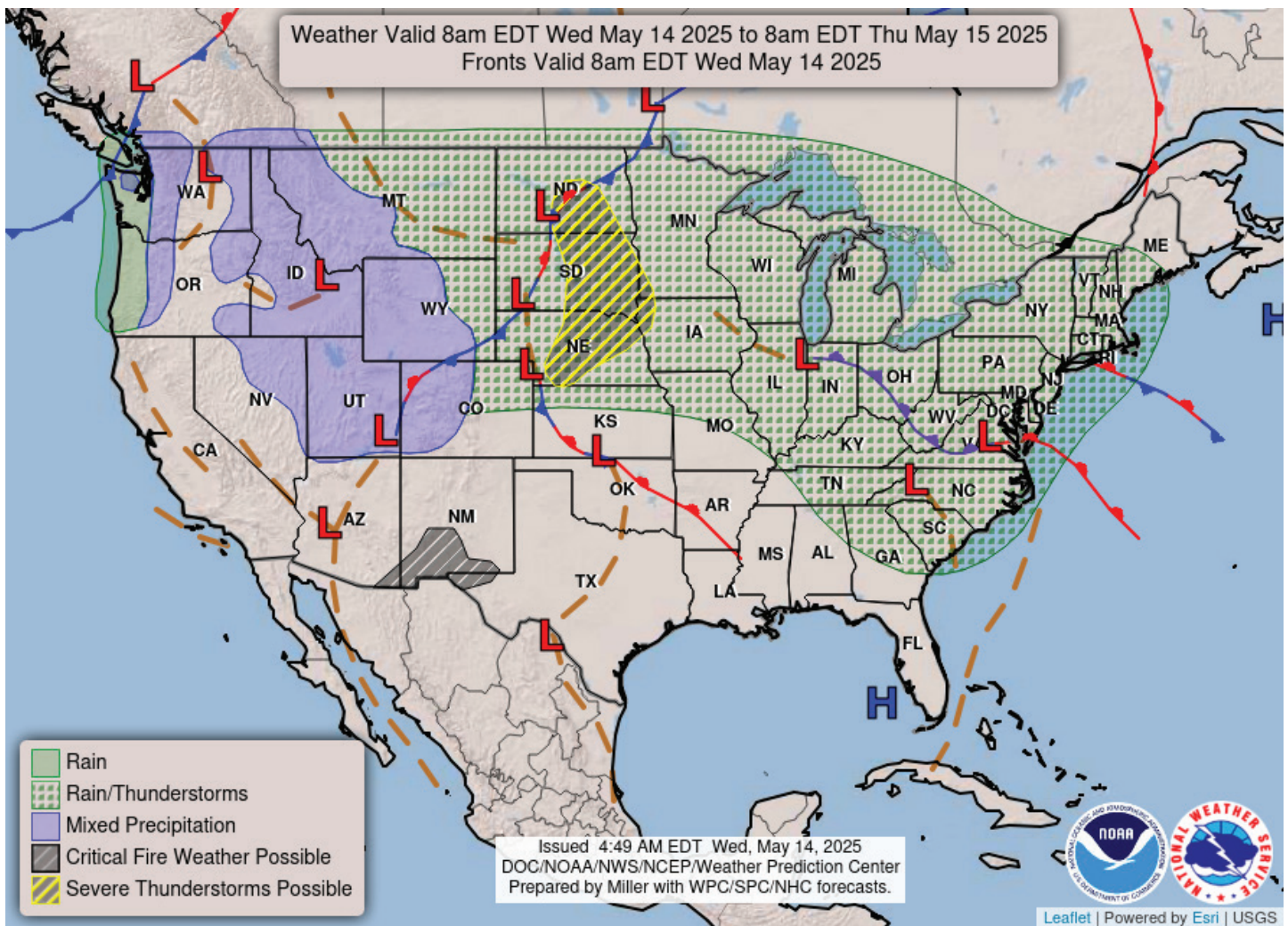
Precip to date in May.: 0.30

Average Precip to date: 5.51

Precip Year to Date: 2.93

Sunset Tonight: 8:56:52 pm

Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:59:29 am



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Today in Weather History

May 14th, 1982: Torrential rains pushed the Bad River over the banks at Fort Pierre. One house four miles outside of Fort Pierre had to be sandbagged. A rainfall of 3.83 inches was recorded in Pierre.

1896 - The mercury plunged to 10 degrees below zero at Climax, CO. It was the lowest reading of record for the U.S. during the month of May. (David Ludlum)

1898 - A severe thunderstorm, with some hailstones up to 9.5 inches in circumference, pounded a four mile wide path across Kansas City MO. South-facing windows were broken in nearly every house in central and eastern parts of the city, and several persons were injured. An even larger hailstone was thought to have been found, but it turned out to be a chunk of ice tossed out the window of a building by a prankster. (The Kansas City Weather Almanac) (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Seven cities across the western U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date as unseasonably hot weather made a comeback. The record high of 103 degrees at Sacramento CA was their ninth in eleven days, and also marked a record seven days of 100 degree heat for the month. Their previous record was two days of 100 degree heat in May. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Sunny and dry weather prevailed across the nation. Temperatures warmed into the 80s and lower 90s in the Great Plains Region and the Mississippi Valley. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Thunderstorms developing along a stationary front produced severe weather in south central Texas and the Southern High Plains Region during the afternoon and evening hours. Thunderstorms produced softball size hail at Spearman and Hitchcock, TX. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1990 - Thunderstorms developing ahead of a cold front produced severe weather from northwest Texas to western Missouri. Severe thunderstorms spawned seventeen tornadoes, including nine in Texas. Four tornadoes in Texas injured a total of nine persons. Thunderstorms in Texas also produced hail four inches in diameter at Shamrock, and hail four and a half inches in diameter near Guthrie. Thunderstorms over northeastern Kansas produced more than seven inches of rain in Chautauqua County between 9 PM and midnight. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

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THE POTENTIAL OF PRAISE

He had a burning desire to be a writer even though everything seemed to be against him. As a young man in London, he was only able to attend school for four years. His father was jailed for bad debts, and he had no one to help him.

Finally, he got a job pasting labels on bottles. The owner of the business was kind enough to allow him to sleep in the warehouse where he worked. Every spare moment he had was invested in writing stories. For several years every editor rejected every story he ever wrote. But he refused to give up. He kept writing and submitting his stories.

Finally, one day, one editor wrote him and said that one of his stories had been accepted for publication. He went on in his letter and complimented him for his work. A word of praise and the publication of one story were all that he needed. He continued to write and, after many years, perfected his passion. Today, libraries and bookstores around the world contain many books written by Charles Dickens.

A word of encouragement goes a long way. And a word of encouragement is all that most of us need to "keep on keeping on." Be an "encourager" to someone today!

Prayer: Lord, keep our eyes open and our minds alert to find and help any in need of encouragement. Help us to be an "encourager" that changes lives. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. Hebrews 10:24

We all need the encouragement, comfort, and peace that comes through God's grace. Our daily devotionals, known as Seeds of Hope, have been a means through which thousands of people have experienced this grace. Each devotional comes from God's Word and we pray this good "seed" finds good soil in your heart. Our aim is that the Seeds of Hope will be a great source of daily encouragement to you and that God will use them to draw you near to Him

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WINNING NUMBERS

MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS: 05.13.25

6 29 33 47 68 20

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$122,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 2 Days 17 Hrs 40 Mins 22 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS: 05.12.25

2 8 9 20 42 3

All Star Bonus: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$34,030,000

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 55 Mins 22 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS: 05.13.25

4 14 17 43 44 12

TOP PRIZE:

\$7,000/week

NEXT DRAW: 17 Hrs 10 Mins 22 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS: 05.10.25

11 22 24 26 29

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$20,000

NEXT DRAW: 17 Hrs 10 Mins 23 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS: 05.12.25

23 45 53 54 57 18

TOP PRIZE:

\$10,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 17 Hrs 39 Mins 23 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS: 05.12.25

15 16 41 48 60 21

Power Play: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$106,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 17 Hrs 39 Mins 23 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

Carbon dioxide pipeline regulations pass in testy Iowa Senate but still need governor's signature

By HANNAH FINGERHUT Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — The Iowa Senate advanced a bill that could further complicate a massive carbon-capture pipeline project routed across several Midwestern states after a long-winded and testy debate that exposed a clear rift among Republicans over property rights and the future of the state's agricultural dominance.

The legislation that narrowly passed late Monday would prohibit the renewal of permits for a carbon dioxide pipeline, limit the use of such a pipeline to 25 years and significantly increase the insurance coverage requirements for the pipeline company. Those provisions would likely make it less financially feasible for a company to build the pipeline.

Already passed by the House, the measure now goes to Republican Gov. Kim Reynolds' desk. A spokesperson for the governor said Tuesday that the governor's office is reviewing the bill.

The legislation could force adjustments to Summit Carbon Solutions' plans for the estimated \$8.9 billion, 2,500-mile (4,023-kilometer) project, which are already strained after South Dakota's governor signed a ban on the use of eminent domain — the government seizure of private property with compensation — to acquire land for carbon dioxide pipelines.

The project received permit approvals in Iowa, Minnesota and North Dakota, but it does face various court challenges, and its application was rejected in South Dakota.

The Iowa Senate, already operating in overtime as legislative session drags on, came to a halt after a dozen Republican state senators insisted that their leaders bring a pipeline bill to the floor.

In response, Summit spokesperson Sabrina Zenor this month outlined the company's investment to date, saying that the company remained committed to building the project and to Iowa.

"Summit Carbon Solutions has invested four years and nearly \$175 million on voluntary agreements in Iowa, signing agreements with more than 1,300 landowners and securing 75% of the Phase One route," Zenor said in a May 1 statement.

Zenor declined to comment Tuesday.

Dozens of Summit employees and leaders and members of the Iowa Corn Growers Association, the Iowa Renewable Fuels Association and labor unions made a big showing as debate in the state Senate seemed inevitable. They told lawmakers that the project is essential for the future of Iowa's ethanol industry, for farmers and for construction jobs.

The pipeline would carry carbon emissions from ethanol plants in Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota to be stored underground permanently in North Dakota. By lowering carbon emissions from the plants, the pipeline would lower their carbon intensity scores and make them more competitive in the renewable fuels market.

The project would also allow ethanol producers and Summit to tap into federal tax credits.

A majority of the Iowa Senate "turned their back on Iowa agriculture tonight," Iowa Renewable Fuels Association Executive Director Monte Shaw said in a statement.

"For 25 years, Iowa has benefited greatly from being the most profitable place in the world to convert corn kernels into ethanol," said Shaw, who predicts that there will be severe economic consequences if the legislation is signed into law. "Iowa is poised to be left behind."

The pipeline's critics accuse Summit of stepping on their property rights and downplaying the safety risks of building the pipeline alongside family homes, near schools and across ranches.

Lee Enterprises and The Associated Press reviewed hundreds of cases that reveal the great legal lengths the company went to to get the project built. In South Dakota, in particular, a slew of eminent domain legal actions to obtain land sparked a groundswell of opposition that was closely watched by lawmakers

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in Iowa as well.

Tensions flared among the Iowa Senate's Republican supermajority, with senators openly criticizing one another and exposing the closed-door discussions that got them there. Thirteen Republican senators joined with 14 Democrats in voting in favor of the bill. Twenty-one Republicans and one Democrat voted against it.

The Republicans who opposed it stressed that they, too, respect private property rights. But they said the bill has holes that will threaten any infrastructure development in Iowa, not just carbon-capture pipelines.

They criticized the bill for drawing out the permitting process by muddying up the standards of public use, allowing anyone, anywhere to intervene, and creating unnecessary insurance disputes between the company and landowners that may be miles away.

The bill's backers said those criticisms are overblown interpretations of the legislation and distractions from the issue at hand.

Republican state Sen. Jeff Taylor, who supports the bill, said it would fundamentally ensure that companies respect the constitutional requirement for eminent domain.

"Both the Iowa Constitution and the federal Constitution specify what the requirement is for eminent domain: It's public use," Taylor said. "It's not anything else. It's not a positive business climate, it's not helping the agribusiness in the state, it's not the price of corn or helping the ethanol plants. It's public use."

Trump meets with Syria's former-insurgent-turned-leader in Saudi Arabia

By ZEKE MILLER, JON GAMBRELL and AAMER MADHANI Associated Press

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP) — U.S. President Donald Trump met with Syria's interim President Ahmad al-Sharaa in Saudi Arabia on Wednesday, the first such encounter between the two nations' leaders in 25 years.

The meeting, on the sidelines of Trump's get-together with the leaders of the Gulf Cooperation Council, marks a major turn of events for a Syria still adjusting to life after the over 50-year, iron-gripped rule of the Assad family.

Trump had announced the day before as he kicked off his three-nation Middle East tour in Riyadh that he would also move to lift U.S. sanctions imposed on Syria under former autocrat Bashar Assad.

People across Syria cheered in the streets and shot off fireworks on Tuesday night to celebrate, hopeful their nation — locked out of credit cards and global finance — might rejoin the world's economy when they need investments the most.

Wednesday's meeting was also remarkable given al-Sharaa, under the nom de guerre Abu Mohammed al-Golani, had ties to al-Qaida and joined insurgents battling U.S. forces in Iraq before entering the Syrian war. He was even imprisoned by U.S. troops there for several years.

And the meeting came even after Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had earlier asked Trump not to lift sanctions on Syria, again underscoring a growing discontent between the White House and the Israeli government as its war on Hamas in the Gaza Strip rages on.

I am "ordering the cessation of sanctions against Syria to give them a fresh start," Trump told the Gulf Cooperation Council after his meeting with al-Sharaa. "It gives them a chance for greatness. The sanctions were really crippling, very powerful."

A historic closed-door meeting

Trump said on Tuesday he would meet al-Sharaa, who had flown in to the Saudi capital for the face-to-face. Even before its ruinous civil war that began in 2011, Syria struggled under a tightly controlled socialist economy and under sanctions by the U.S. as a state-sponsor of terror since 1979.

The Trump-al-Sharaa meeting took place behind closed doors and reporters were not permitted to witness the engagement. The White House later said it ran for just over 30 minutes, making al-Sharaa the first Syrian leader to meet an American president since Hafez Assad met Bill Clinton in Geneva in 2000.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan joined the meeting between Trump, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and al-Sharaa via a phone call. Turkey was a main backer to al-Sharaa and his rebel faction.

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"I felt very strongly that this would give them a chance," Trump said of Syria. "It's not going to be easy anyway, so gives them a good strong chance. And, it was my honor to do so."

He added: "We made a speech last night and, that was the thing that got the biggest applause from the room."

Trump cited the intervention of Saudi Prince Mohammed as key to his decision.

"We commend the decision made yesterday by President Trump to lift the sanctions on the brotherly Syrian Arab Republic, which will alleviate the suffering of the Syrian people," he said in a speech to the GCC.

White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt said in a statement that Trump urged al-Sharaa to diplomatically recognize Israel, "tell all foreign terrorists to leave Syria" and help the U.S. stop any resurgence of the Islamic State group.

Trump also asked for the Syrian government to "assume responsibility" for detention centers holding Islamic State fighters, Leavitt added.

Al-Sharaa's militant past sparks Israeli concern

Al-Sharaa was named interim president of Syria in January, a month after a stunning offensive by insurgent groups led by al-Sharaa's Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, or HTS, that stormed Damascus, ending the 54-year rule of the Assad family.

Many Gulf Arab leaders have rallied behind the new government in Damascus and want Trump to follow, believing it is a bulwark against Iran's return to influence in Syria, where it had helped prop up Assad's government during a decadelong civil war.

But longtime U.S. ally Israel has been deeply skeptical of al-Sharaa's extremist past and cautioned against swift recognition of the new government. The request came during Netanyahu's visit to Washington last month, according to an Israeli official who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the subject.

Israel was concerned a cross-border attack similar to Hamas' Oct. 7, 2023, assault, could come from Syria. Israel also fears al-Sharaa and his Islamist past could pose a threat on its northern border.

Trump's move draws cheers from Syrians

Syrians cheered the announcement by Trump that the U.S. will move to lift sanctions on the beleaguered Middle Eastern nation.

The state-run SANA news agency published video and photographs of Syrians cheering in Umayyad Square, the largest in the country's capital, Damascus. Others honked their car horns or waved the new Syrian flag in celebration.

People whistled and cheered as fireworks lit the night sky.

A statement from Syria's Foreign Ministry on Tuesday night called the announcement "a pivotal turning point for the Syrian people as we seek to emerge from a long and painful chapter of war."

It was careful to describe the sanctions as coming "in response to the war crimes committed by the Assad regime against the Syrian people," rather than the war-torn nation's new interim government.

"The removal of these sanctions offers a vital opportunity for Syria to pursue stability, self-sufficiency and meaningful national reconstruction, led by and for the Syrian people," the statement added.

Trump tells Gulf leaders Iran must cease support of proxy groups as part of any nuclear deal

By ZEKE MILLER, JON GAMBRELL and AAMER MADHANI Associated Press

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP) — President Donald Trump told Gulf leaders on Wednesday that he urgently wants "to make a deal" with Iran to wind down its nuclear program but that Tehran must end its support of proxy groups throughout the region as part of any potential agreement.

(Iran) "must stop sponsoring terror, halt its bloody proxy wars, and permanently and verifiably cease pursuit of nuclear weapons," Trump said in remarks at a meeting of leaders from the Gulf Cooperation Council hosted by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman in the Saudi capital. "They cannot have a nuclear weapon."

The U.S. and Iran have engaged in four rounds of talks since early last month focused on Iran's nuclear

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program. Trump has repeatedly said that he believes brokering a deal is possible, but that the window is closing.

The president's strongly worded push on Iran to cease support of Hamas in Gaza, Hezbollah in Lebanon, and the Houthis in Yemen come as its proxy network has faced significant setbacks in the 19 months since Hamas launched its Oct. 7, 2023, attack on Israel.

Trump added that he believed the moment was ripe "for a future free from the grip of Hezbollah terrorists." Hezbollah is severely weakened after its war last year with Israel in which much of its top leadership was killed, and after losing a key ally with the fall of former Syrian President Bashar Assad, a conduit for Iran to send arms.

"If they do, (the) president and prime minister can rebuild that effective Lebanese state," Trump said.

Trump's comments on Iran came after he met Wednesday with Syrian President Ahmad al-Sharaa, a face-to-face engagement with the onetime insurgent leader who spent years imprisoned by U.S. forces after being captured in Iraq.

Trump agreed to "say hello" to al-Sharaa before the U.S. leader wraps up his stay in Saudi Arabia and heads to Qatar, where Trump is to be honored with a state visit. His Mideast tour also will take him to the United Arab Emirates.

Al-Sharaa was named president of Syria in January, a month after a stunning offensive by insurgent groups led by al-Sharaa's Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, or HTS, stormed Damascus and ended the 54-year rule of the Assad family.

Trump said he decided to meet with al-Sharaa after being encouraged to do so by Prince Mohammed and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. The president also pledged to lift yearslong sanctions on Syria.

Prince Mohammed joined Trump and al-Sharaa for the meeting, which lasted about 33 minutes. Erdogan also took part in the talks via video conference.

"The sanctions were really crippling and very powerful," Trump said of Syria sanctions that will be lifted following his meeting with al-Sharaa. "It's not going to be easy anyway, so it gives them a good, strong chance."

Formerly known by the nom de guerre Abu Mohammed al-Golani, al-Sharaa joined the ranks of al-Qaida insurgents battling U.S. forces in Iraq after the U.S.-led invasion and still faces a warrant for his arrest on terrorism charges in Iraq. The U.S. once offered \$10 million for information about his whereabouts because of his links to al-Qaida.

Al-Sharaa came back to his home country of Syria after the conflict began in 2011 and led al-Qaida's branch that used to be known as the Nusra Front. He later changed the name of his group to Hayat Tahrir al-Sham and cut links with al-Qaida.

The sanctions go back to the rule of Bashar Assad, who was ousted in December, and were intended to inflict major pain on his economy.

Both the Biden and Trump administrations had left the sanctions in place after Assad's fall as they sought to take the measure of al-Sharaa, who has renounced his past affiliation with al-Qaida.

After his meeting with members of the GCC — which includes Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates — Trump will head to Qatar, the second stop in his Mideast tour.

Qatar, like the other Gulf Arab states, is an autocratic nation where political parties are banned and speech is tightly controlled. It is overseen by its ruling emir, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani. Sheikh Tamim, 44, took power in June 2013 when his father stepped down.

Qatar has also played a central role in pay-to-play-style scandals around the globe.

In Israel, authorities are investigating allegations that Qatar hired close advisers to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to launch PR campaigns to improve the Gulf nation's image among Israelis.

Two European Union lawmakers found themselves accused of taking money from Doha in a scandal dubbed "Qatar-gate." U.S. prosecutors in 2020 accused Qatar of bribing FIFA executive committee members to secure the tournament in the country in 2022.

In 2024, RTX Corporation, the defense contractor formerly known as Raytheon, agreed to pay more

than \$950 million to resolve allegations that it defrauded the U.S. government and paid bribes to secure business with Qatar. Doha always has denied wrongdoing and sponsors an annual anti-corruption prize.

Qatar follows an ultraconservative form of Sunni Islam known as Wahhabism born out of Saudi Arabia. However, Qatar struck a different tack in the Arab Spring by backing Islamists, including Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood and former Egyptian President Mohammed Morsi, as well as those who rose up against Assad.

Its support of Islamists, in part, led to a yearslong boycott of the country by Bahrain, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. That boycott only ended as then-President Joe Biden prepared to enter the White House in 2021.

Qatar also has served as a key mediator, particularly with the militant group Hamas as the international community pursues a ceasefire for the Israel-Hamas war in the Gaza Strip. Qatar also served as host of the negotiations between the United States and the Taliban that led to America's 2021 withdrawal from Afghanistan.

Qatar is home to Al-Udeid Air Base, a sprawling facility that hosts the forward headquarters of the U.S. military's Central Command.

The oil-rich country is also in the center of a controversy over its offer to provide Trump with the gift of a luxury Boeing 747-8 that the U.S. could use as Air Force One while new versions of the plane are under construction by Boeing.

The Qatari government has said a final decision hasn't been made. But Trump has defended the idea even as critics argue it would amount to a president accepting an astonishingly valuable gift from a foreign government.

Trump has indicated he would refurbish the aircraft and it would later be donated to his post-White House presidential library. He says he would not use the plane once he leaves office.

The president, early Wednesday in a social media post, said the plane "is a gift from a Nation, Qatar, that we have successfully defended for many years."

"Why should our military, and therefore our taxpayers, be forced to pay hundreds of millions of Dollars when they can get it for FREE from a country that wants to reward us for a job well done," Trump added. "This big savings will be spent, instead, to MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN! Only a FOOL would not accept this gift on behalf of our Country."

In one Indian city, reflective paint and bus stop sprinklers offer relief from killer heat

By SIBI ARASU Associated Press

AHMEDABAD, India (AP) — For 20-year-old Mayank Yadav, riding a crowded bus in the summer months in this western Indian city can be like sitting in an oven. That makes it a treat when he steps off and into a bus stop outfitted with sprinklers that bathe overheated commuters in a cooling mist.

"Everyone is suffering from the heat," Yadav said. "I hope they do more of this across the city."

Rising heat is a problem for millions of people in India. In Ahmedabad, temperatures this year have already reached 42 degrees Celsius (107 Fahrenheit), a level usually not seen for several more weeks, prompting city officials to advise people to stay indoors and stay hydrated.

And yet, coping with that heat is a familiar challenge in Ahmedabad. After a 2010 heat wave killed more than 1,300 people, city and health officials rushed to develop South Asia's first heat action plan.

The plan, rolled out in 2013 and now replicated across India and South Asia, includes strategies for hospitals, government officials and citizens to react immediately when temperatures rise beyond human tolerance. Public health officials said it's helped save hundreds of lives every summer.

City officials, with help from climate and health researchers, have implemented two simple yet effective solutions to help those affected most by heat: the poor and those who work outdoors. By painting tin-roofed households with reflective paint, they've reduced indoor temperatures, which otherwise might be up to 5 degrees Celsius (9 degrees Fahrenheit) hotter than outside. More recently, the city hung curtains

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woven of straw and water sprinklers at one bus stop so commuters can get relief from the sun and heat. Officials said they plan to expand the idea to other bus stops in the city.

Residents said both measures have been a relief even as they brace for at least three more months of sweltering summer.

A simple coat of paint makes all the difference

Throughout the city's low-income neighborhoods, hundreds of tin-roofed homes have been painted with reflective paint that helps keep the indoors cooler. Residents said their houses were so hot before the roofs were painted that they would spend most of their time outdoors under any shade they could find.

"Earlier, it was really difficult to sleep inside the house," said Akashbhai Thakor, who works as a delivery van driver and lives with his wife and three-month-old child in Ahmedabad. Thakor's roof was painted as part of a research project that is trying to measure the impact of the so-called cool roofs.

Early results have been promising. "After the roof was painted, the house is much cooler, especially at night," said Thakor.

People like Thakor are much more vulnerable to extreme heat because their houses aren't insulated and, since most of them depend on a daily wage, they must work regardless of the weather, said Priya Bhavsar of the Indian Institute of Public Health Gandhinagar, who is working on the project. Bhavsar said low-cost solutions could be the only respite for thousands of people in the city who can't afford to buy an air conditioner.

Veer Vanzara, who lives in the same area as Thakor and works in a nearby garment factory, said the heat makes his job much worse, especially since his factory has no ventilation. So his family is grateful for the cool roofs. "The evenings and night are much cooler than before inside our house," he said.

A bus stop that's become an oasis from the heat

In Ahmedabad's city center, a 25-meter stretch of a bus stop has been draped with mats made of straw which, when sprinkled with water, immediately cool the hot wind. Sprinklers installed on the bus stop roof lightly spray cool water on the commuters below, providing instant relief from the blazing heat just a step away.

"When nothing like this was here, it was really hot. What they've done is really good. Senior citizens like me can get some cooling from the heat," said 77-year-old Ratilal Bhoire, who was waiting under the sprinklers with his daughter. Bhoire said when he was younger, Ahmedabad was hot, but it was still possible to walk many kilometers without feeling dizzy, even at the height of summer. "Nowadays you can't do that," he said.

Heat is the city's biggest problem and heat waves — continuous days of extreme heat — are increasing, said Dr. Tejas Shah of Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation, who oversees the city's heat action plan. "We are in the period of climate change, and it has already shown its effect," said Shah.

Shah and other city officials said the onset of summer has become a testing time and efforts such as cool roofs and cool bus stops are reducing heat-related illness and deaths. As climate projections predict only hotter and longer summers for his city, Shah said being prepared is the only thing to do.

"It (the heat) needs to be addressed in the proper way," he said.

New Zealand's unofficial fruit is the feijoa, not the kiwi. And part of the fun is in giving it away

By CHARLOTTE GRAHAM-McLAY Associated Press

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP) — The unofficial national fruit of New Zealand isn't native to the country — it's South American. It isn't exclusively found in New Zealand. And it's not, perhaps surprisingly, the kiwi. It's the feijoa.

Known as pineapple guava elsewhere, the fruit — a green perfumed oval with a polarizing taste — can be purchased in California or Canberra. Yet no country has embraced the feijoa with quite the fervor or the fixation of New Zealanders.

Due to its short shelf life, New Zealand — a nation of thriving fruit exports — has never been able to

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spin the feijoa (pronounced fee-jo-ah) into a global brand, as growers have done with apples and kiwi. But during the brief span of weeks each year when the fruit is ripe, the country goes feijoa wild.

A backyard boom

The feijoa's allure comes partly from how it's acquired. In autumn, fallen fruit forms fragrant carpets beneath backyard trees and is swept into boxes, bags and buckets to be offered for free outside homes, in office breakrooms and on neighborhood Facebook groups. There's such abundance that some feijoa lovers take pride in never having paid for one.

"It's sort of non-commercialized. We turn up our noses at the idea of buying them in the shop," said Kate Evans, author of the book *Feijoa: A Story of Obsession and Belonging*. "You just sort of expect to get them for free."

In suburban Wellington, Diana Ward-Pickering said she had given away "thousands" of feijoas from her five backyard trees this season: in a box on the sidewalk, to neighbors, to coworkers, to her daughter's eyelash technician — in short, to any friend or stranger who wanted some.

On a recent Sunday, Ward-Pickering selected a feijoa from dozens on the ground, halved it with a spoon, and scooped the pale, creamy flesh into her mouth.

"Delicious," she said. But while she could eat a kilogram (2.2 pounds) of the fruit in a sitting, she said, even her appetite couldn't keep up with the sudden and generous bounty that arrives each April.

"There are people who can't afford to pay for them," Ward-Pickering said. "We happily give them away."

Love it or hate it

Not everyone's an enthusiast, and every New Zealander has an opinion. What devotees of the fruit savor as a distinctive texture, flavor and smell, is gritty, soapy or sour to others.

Diana Ward-Pickering's daughter, Lizzy, gingerly slurped a piece of feijoa into her mouth and grimaced.

"It's giving snot," she said. "My mind has not changed."

But for New Zealanders abroad who love the fruit, feijoas are a nostalgic taste evocative of a kiwi childhood. Evans, who admitted to once paying 3 Australian dollars (\$1.90) for a single feijoa at a market in Australia, said that in 12 years living overseas she often saw expatriates asking the same question online: Where can I find feijoas?

A strange history

How a fruit that hails from the Brazilian highlands, Uruguay and a corner of Argentina first came to New Zealand remains something of a mystery, Evans said. But what's known is that feijoas have been in New Zealand for just over 100 years, probably originating from California, via Australia.

The trees grow "extremely well" in New Zealand, growers say, due to the soil, subtropical climate and relative lack of destructive insect species.

In spite of New Zealand's booming backyard feijoa economy there's still demand for them in stores, where they are currently sold for about 9 to 10 New Zealand dollars (\$5-6) per kilogram. There are about 100 commercial feijoa growers in New Zealand almost solely supplying the domestic market, including for popular beverages such as feijoa cider, kombucha and juice.

But exporting the fruit is "tricky," said Brent Fuller, spokesperson for the New Zealand Feijoa Growers Association. "They'll keep in the chiller for two or three weeks, but that's about it."

Research is underway to increase the shelf life of the fruit. But with the name feijoa still unknown abroad, it remains for now an institution of New Zealand's autumn.

"It's something that kind of bonds us and gives us an excuse to talk to people around us," Evans said. The kiwi, she added, has been a lucrative export for New Zealand.

"But we don't love it the way that we love feijoas."

House works into the night as Republicans push ahead on Trump's big bill

By LISA MASCARO and KEVIN FREKING Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Tax breaks tallying more than \$5 trillion — but also sizable reductions in Medicaid

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health care, food stamps and green energy strategies to fight climate change — faced sharp debate as House lawmakers slogged through marathon overnight hearings on Republicans' "big, beautiful bill."

Tensions rose and emotions flared as the hours dragged on into early Wednesday morning. House Republicans are working to push President Donald Trump's signature legislative package through a gauntlet of committees and mounting opposition from Democrats, advocacy groups and even some wary Republicans themselves.

Right from the start, one meeting was immediately disrupted by protesters shouting down what the panel's top Democrat called "cruel" cuts to Medicaid.

"People feel very strong because they know they're losing their health care," said Rep. Frank Pallone, D-N.J., on the Energy & Commerce Committee, Tuesday afternoon.

And on it went. As midnight passed, two panels were still going, processing more than 100 amendments from Democrats that were largely failing, as Republicans marched ahead with their plan.

It's the biggest political and legislative debate for the Republicans leading Congress since Trump's first term, setting up a career-defining clash over the nation's priorities, all coming at a time of economic unease with Trump's trade war and other uncertainties.

Trump, speaking at a forum in the Middle East, struck an ambitious chord, saying Congress was "on the verge of passing the largest tax cut and regulation cut in American history."

"If we get that, that will be like a rocket ship for our country," Trump said in Saudi Arabia.

But to be sure, there are many more steps before the package becomes law.

At its core, the goal for GOP lawmakers is to extend — and enhance — tax cuts approved in 2017, adding the president's 2024 campaign promises for no taxes on tips, Social Security income and car loan interest.

There's also larger standard deduction, \$32,000 for couples, a boost to the Child Tax Credit and a potentially higher cap of \$30,000 on state and local tax deductions, known as SALT, that's still being negotiated.

That's offset by \$1.9 trillion in savings largely from the rollback of green energy tax credits, for a net tally of \$3.7 trillion in costs over the decade, according to the most recent estimates — along with billions more in savings from the safety net cuts

Additionally, the Republicans are boosting spending on their GOP priorities, with \$350 billion for Trump's mass deportation plans and funding for the Pentagon.

At the same time, the Republicans are seeking to defray the lost tax revenue and avoid skyrocketing national deficits by with another GOP goal, which is scaling back federal spending.

The Republicans are proposing cuts of nearly \$800 billion over the decade to the Medicaid health care program, which is used by 70 million Americans; \$290 billion to food aid in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, known as SNAP; and others.

Tucked into the package is a smattering of other provisions important to the White House — including one that would allow the Trump administration to yank the tax exempt status of groups it says support terrorists, sending a chill through civil society organizations who warn it's a way to punish opponents.

House Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries accused Republicans of "jamming another GOP tax scam" that benefits the wealthy at the expense of programs and services used by many Americans.

Speaker Mike Johnson is determined to push the package through the House by Memorial Day, sending it to the Senate, where Republicans are working on their own version.

Johnson and his leadership team have been conferring constantly with Trump at every step.

Rep. Jason Smith, the Republican chairman of the Ways & Means tax writing committee said he met with Trump on Friday and went over the tax provisions "line by line."

"He was very happy with what we're delivering," Smith said.

On Tuesday, the final three of 11 House committees working on the package launched what would become lengthy meetings drilling down on some of the largest components.

Early on, Rep. Brett Guthrie, the Republican chairman of the Energy & Commerce Committee, banned lawmakers from accusing colleagues of "lying."

As the minority party in Congress, Democrats are unable to stop the bill on their own, but used the procedural tools to slow down the process.

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Democrats put up posters of constituents with the words "Medicaid Matters." One, Rep. Marc Veasey of Texas, put one on speakerphone to share her story — until her testimony was ruled out of order.

The U.S. Capitol Police said 26 people were arrested in the Rayburn House Office Building where the panel was meeting.

Estimates from the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office show that at least 7.6 million people could lose health insurance with the Medicaid cuts, and potentially more with the changes to the Affordable Care Act. Mostly, the health care changes involve imposing new work requirements for aid recipients, starting Jan. 1, 2029.

But Republican Rep. Gary Palmer of Alabama said his side is trying to make the health care program work better by rooting out waste and inefficiencies.

"We're trying to save Medicaid," he said.

At the Ways & Means committee Democrats offered amendments into the night — to provide taxpayers relief from Trump's tariff policies, enhance a child tax credit, and others that were all being turned back by Republicans.

As the Agriculture Committee began its work, CBO also told lawmakers the work requirements for SNAP would reduce participation by roughly 3 million people in an average month.

Republicans are working to resolve dissent within their own ranks, which shows the pressure points ahead.

Smith suggested that some changes could be made to the bill to win over those high-tax state lawmakers from New York and California who believe the proposed SALT cap is inadequate.

"There's a little bit of wiggle room there to try to deliver additional priorities," Smith said.

But Rep. Nick LaLota, R-N.Y., said after an hourlong meeting with the speaker and staff that they were "still far from a deal."

With the slimmest majority in the House, Johnson has just a few votes to spare, and is running into resistance from his party, including lawmakers in the Senate, which also has thin GOP margins.

The lawmakers are racing for a July 4 deadline to have the whole package sent to Trump's desk in time to also avoid a dangerous debt default. The Treasury Secretary has said federal tax revenues are running short and Congress needs to raise the spending limit to keep paying the bills.

The package includes a \$4 trillion boost to the nation's now \$36 trillion debt limit, enough to fund operations past the 2026 midterm election.

Tom Cruise returns to Cannes with 'Mission: Impossible — The Final Reckoning'

CANNES, France (AP) — Three years after Tom Cruise and "Top Gun: Maverick" flew into the Cannes Film Festival, he's coming back Wednesday to the Croisette with "Mission: Impossible — Final Reckoning."

Christopher McQuarrie's latest "Mission: Impossible" installment is the biggest Hollywood tentpole wading ashore in Cannes this year, which will only magnify the spotlight on Cruise's Cannes return.

In 2022, Cruise received an honorary Palme d'Or from the festival and the "Top Gun: Maverick" premiere included an impressively timed jet fly over. Whether the 62-year-old Cruise has anything up his sleeve this time will be much anticipated at Cannes. On Sunday, Cruise climbed atop the roof of the British Film Institute in London.

"The Final Reckoning," which launched in Tokyo last week, opens in North American theaters on May 23.

What to know about possible Russia-Ukraine peace talks in Turkey

By DASHA LITVINOVA Associated Press

TALLINN, Estonia (AP) — The talks have taken place in the warring capitals of Moscow and Kyiv, from Washington and Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, to countries across Europe. Now, all eyes are finally turning to Istanbul to seek an end to Russia's 3-year-old, full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

Russian President Vladimir Putin proposed restarting direct peace talks Thursday with Ukraine in the

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Turkish city that straddles Asia and Europe. And President Volodymyr Zelenskyy challenged the Kremlin leader to meet in Turkey in person.

What will unfold remains unclear. The Kremlin has refused to confirm who's going to Turkey and whether it will include Putin. Ukrainian presidential adviser Mykhailo Podolyak said Zelenskyy will only sit down with the Russian leader.

Zelenskyy said Tuesday that "if Putin does not arrive and plays games, it is the final point that he does not want to end the war."

What's known about the possible talks:

How did the idea of talks in Turkey arise?

On Saturday, Zelenskyy hosted French President Emmanuel Macron, U.K. Prime Minister Keir Starmer, German Chancellor Friedrich Merz and Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk in a show of unity. They issued a coordinated call for a 30-day ceasefire in Ukraine starting Monday.

The plan has received backing from the European Union and U.S. President Donald Trump, who had promised during his campaign to swiftly end the war that is now in its fourth year. The leaders pledged tougher sanctions on Russia if Putin did not accept the proposal.

In remarks to the media early Sunday, however, Putin effectively rejected the offer and proposed re-starting direct talks with Ukraine in Istanbul instead "without preconditions." He did not specify whether he envisioned the talks to involve Zelenskyy and himself personally, or with lower-level officials.

Zelenskyy responded by insisting on a ceasefire, saying he will travel to Turkey — and challenged Putin to do the same: "I will be waiting for Putin in (Turkey) on Thursday. Personally. I hope that this time the Russians will not look for excuses."

Who's coming and why?

Pressed by reporters on who will represent Russia in Istanbul, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov refused to say, stressing that Putin had outlined Russia's position clearly enough.

Trump's administration initiated separate talks with Russia and Ukraine in Saudi Arabia in March. But since then, the administration has indicated it might withdraw from the process if no tangible progress is made. Trump said Monday he was optimistic about the talks — a sharp contrast to a contentious Oval Office meeting with Zelenskyy on Feb. 28. There is "the potential for a good meeting" between Putin and Zelenskyy, Trump said in Washington. He added he was "thinking about flying over" after his visit to Qatar and the United Arab Emirates but later said Secretary of State Marco Rubio and others from the U.S. will go to Turkey for the talks.

Podolyak on Tuesday told a YouTube broadcast by prominent Russian journalists in exile that the Ukrainian leader won't be meeting any Russian officials in Istanbul other than Putin.

He added that "there are always people" in Zelenskyy's entourage who can "conduct certain negotiations at corresponding levels" with the Russians but questioned the point of a lower-level meeting. "Undoubtedly, only Putin can make the decision to continue the war or stop the war," he said.

Zelenskyy said Tuesday he will meet with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in the capital Ankara, and wait there. If the Russian leader chooses Istanbul for the meeting, Zelenskyy said, then he and Erdogan will travel there.

If Putin doesn't show, European and U.S. leaders should follow through with additional sanctions against Russia, he added.

What happened at talks in Istanbul in 2022?

The Kremlin billed Thursday's talks as a "restarting" of peace negotiations in Istanbul in 2022, early on in the war, that quickly fell apart. Moscow had blamed Ukraine and the West for their alleged desire to continue fighting, while Kyiv said Russia's demands amounted to an ultimatum rather than something the sides could mutually agree on.

Zelenskyy has said the Russian delegation's demands included Ukraine's recognition of Russian control over the Donbas, an area in eastern Ukraine consisting of Donetsk and Luhansk regions; constitutional amendments to declare neutrality; a significant reduction of Ukraine's armed forces; and the surrender of long-range weaponry. "There were never any negotiations; it was an ultimatum from a murderer," he

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said in 2022.

Putin accused Ukraine of derailing a peace deal that was basically agreed on and included clauses of Ukraine's neutral and nonnuclear status and details on how much its army would be reduced. "The Kyiv authorities ... just threw it all away. They turned it down," Putin said in 2023.

The Kremlin has said repeatedly "the Istanbul agreements" could serve as a basis for further peace talks. After Moscow illegally annexed the Ukrainian regions of Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia in September 2022, Russian authorities started saying that Kyiv should also recognize "the reality on the ground."

What are both sides' demands to end the war?

Putin last year demanded that Ukraine cede the four regions, which it still does not fully control. He also wants Kyiv to recognize the Crimean Peninsula, also illegally annexed by Moscow in 2014, as Russian; Ukraine also must renounce its bid to join NATO and drastically reduce its army. He also demanded that the West lift sanctions imposed on Moscow after the invasion.

Kyiv, in turn, refused to cede any land and wants robust security guarantees against future Russian aggression.

Trump, who has engaged in a broad diplomatic effort to end the war since taking office, has said that Crimea, "will stay with Russia." He has also said that Kyiv was unlikely to ever join NATO.

What's happening on the battlefield?

Both sides are preparing a warm weather campaign on the battlefield, where a war of attrition has killed tens of thousands of soldiers on both sides along the roughly 1,000-kilometer (620-mile) front line.

The Institute for the Study of War, a Washington think tank, said Russia is "quickly replenishing front-line units with new recruits to maintain the battlefield initiative."

In 2024 and more recently, Russian troops have made slow but steady gains in several sections along the front.

Putin said in March that Russian troops have "gained steam" and "are holding strategic initiative all along the line of contact." Zelenskyy warned that Russia was delaying talks in preparation for bigger offensives.

Last month, Moscow's forces also declared that they fully reclaimed chunks of Russia's Kursk region bordering Ukraine that Kyiv's forces seized in a surprise incursion in August 2024. Kyiv denied the claim, but it has been steadily losing ground there as Moscow, aided by North Korean soldiers, worked to push them out and leave Ukraine without a key negotiating chip.

Several attempts to establish at least a partial ceasefire have been unsuccessful. Russia effectively rejected a 30-day unconditional truce; the Kremlin instead declared two short, unilateral ceasefires for holidays in the last two months — one for 30 hours at Easter and another for 72 hours to coincide with Russia's World War II Victory Day celebrations. In both cases, Kyiv and Moscow accused each other of failing to halt the fighting.

Russia and Ukraine also pledged in March to observe a 30-day halt to attacking energy infrastructure that was brokered by the Trump administration. Both sides repeatedly accused each other of massive violations until the measure expired.

Newark problems and recent crashes put focus on air traffic controller shortage and aging equipment

By JOSH FUNK Associated Press

The recent chronic delays and cancellations at New Jersey's largest airport have highlighted the shortage of air traffic controllers and the aging equipment they use, which President Donald Trump's administration wants to replace.

The Federal Aviation Administration is working on a short-term fix to the problems at the Newark airport that includes technical repairs and cutting flights to keep traffic manageable while dealing with a shortage of controllers. Officials are meeting with all the airlines that fly out of Newark starting Wednesday to

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discuss the plan.

But even before those problems, aviation was already in the spotlight ever since the deadly midair collision of a passenger jet and a U.S. Army helicopter above Washington, D.C., in January, and a string of other crashes and mishaps since then. The investigations into those crashes continue while the U.S. Department of Transportation tries to make progress on the long-standing issues of not having enough air traffic controllers and relying on outdated equipment. A U.S. Senate hearing Wednesday morning will focus on the FAA's efforts.

What happened in Newark?

Twice in the past two-and-a-half weeks, the radar and communications systems that air traffic controllers in Philadelphia who direct planes in and out of Newark rely on failed for a short time. That happened because the lines that carry the radar signal down from another FAA facility in New York failed, and the backup system didn't work immediately.

So the controllers were left unable to see or talk to the planes around Newark Liberty International Airport for as long as 90 seconds on April 28 and May 9. The lines — some of which were old copper wires — failed a third time on Sunday, but that time the backup system worked and the radar stayed online.

But the first one of those stressful situations prompted five to seven controllers to take a 45-day trauma leave, and that worsened the existing staff shortage at the Philadelphia control facility, prompting the FAA to limit the number of flights in Newark each day.

The FAA currently has 22 fully certified air traffic controllers and five supervisors assigned to Newark in the Philadelphia facility, but the agency wants to have 38 controllers there. Another 21 controllers are in training there, and 10 of them are certified on at least part of the area.

What has been done in Newark?

The FAA quickly limited the number of flights in Newark to between 24 and 28 arrivals and the same number of departures every hour to make sure the remaining controllers could handle them safely. At times when controller staffing is especially lean, like Monday, the FAA is limiting traffic even further. Before the problems, 38 or 39 flights would take off and land every hour in Newark.

The meetings FAA officials are having with all the airlines starting Wednesday are focused on a plan that continues limiting takeoffs and landings to no more than 28 apiece an hour until at least mid-June. By then, a runway construction project should be wrapped up, and the controllers who took trauma leave would be scheduled to return. After that, the FAA has said it might be able to bump up the limit to 34 arrivals and 34 departures an hour.

Meanwhile, the number of flights a day must be cut because the airport can't handle everyone on the schedule. That's why Newark has generally led the nation in cancellations and delays in recent weeks. After the FAA meets with the airlines, it will give them a couple of weeks to submit information in writing, so it won't issue a decision before May 28.

The FAA has been able to install new fiber optic lines at Newark airport and the two other major airports in the New York area — Kennedy International and LaGuardia — but those are still being tested and won't come online until the end of the month. Officials were able to update some computer software last week that kept the radar from going offline a third time on Sunday when the primary line failed yet again.

Longer-term, the FAA is also planning to build a new radar system in Philadelphia, so that controllers there won't have to rely on the signal piped down from New York anymore. But that might not be done for months, although officials are working with contractors to speed up that project.

Why not hire more controllers?

The FAA has been working for a long time to hire more air traffic controllers to replace retiring workers and handle the growing air traffic. But it can be hard to find good candidates for the stressful positions, and it takes years to train controllers to do the job.

Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy has made several moves to try to hire more controllers. The FAA is trying to shorten the time it takes between when someone applies to the air traffic controller academy in Oklahoma City and when they start, and the agency is also trying to improve the graduation rate there by offering more support to the students. The candidates with the highest scores on the entrance exam

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are also getting top priority.

The FAA is also offering bonuses to experienced controllers if they opt not to retire early and continue working to help ease the shortage.

More high-tech simulators are also being used at airports across the country, including Newark, to train air traffic controllers. The FAA said Tuesday that controllers tend to complete training more quickly when they use one of the 111 simulators it has.

"These new simulators give air traffic control trainees a high-tech space to learn, develop and practice their skills," said acting FAA Administrator Chris Rocheleau.

What about the outdated equipment?

The Transportation Department plans to ask Congress for billions and billions of dollars to pay for an overhaul of the air traffic control system nationwide to replace the 618 radars, install 4,600 new high-speed connections and upgrade all the computers controllers use. The exact price tag hasn't been determined.

Duffy blames former President Joe Biden's administration for failing to upgrade the air traffic control system, but Congress first recognized the system was struggling to keep up with the growing number of flights as far back as the 1990s, so the problems go back decades — long before the Biden or first Trump administrations. Biden's former Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg has defended their efforts to upgrade some of the technology and expand air traffic controller hiring.

Some of the decades-old computer equipment that controllers rely on was on display at last week's news conference about the plan, which has drawn broad support from more than 50 groups across the industry. Duffy has used an assortment of colorful metaphors to emphasize how old the equipment is, saying the gear looks like it came off the set of the movie "Apollo 13" and comparing it to a 1967 Volkswagen Beetle.

Judge reduces Menendez brothers' murder sentences, putting them a step closer to freedom

By JAIMIE DING Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Erik and Lyle Menendez will have a new shot at freedom after 35 years behind bars for murdering their parents, a judge ruled Tuesday.

The ruling from Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Michael Jesic reduced the brothers' sentences from life in prison without parole to 50 years to life, making them immediately eligible for parole. The state parole board must decide whether to release them.

The judge's decision followed months of pushback from prosecutors who opposed resentencing, arguing the brothers hadn't taken adequate responsibility for their crimes. Ultimately prosecutors did not call any witnesses, saying they had presented all of their evidence.

The defense turned to family members and those who knew the brothers since their conviction to speak to their character and rehabilitation. The brothers also addressed the court via video as family members listened on tearfully. Most of the brothers' family members, including aunts and uncles, have long supported their bid for freedom.

"On Aug. 20, 1989, I killed my mom and dad. I make no excuses and also no justification," Lyle Menendez said, choking up as he addressed the room. "The impact of my violent actions on my family ... is unfathomable."

A fast decision

Jesic issued his decision immediately after the brothers spoke. The hearing was slated to last two days, but Jesic made his decision in one, offering the brothers new hope after years of unsuccessful appeals and attempts to win freedom in a case that has captured public attention from the start.

The brothers were convicted in 1996 for murdering their father, Jose Menendez — a powerful record executive — and their mother, Kitty Menendez, in their Beverly Hills home in 1989. The brothers were 18 and 21 at the time. While defense attorneys argued the brothers acted out of self-defense after years of sexual abuse by their father, prosecutors said the brothers killed their parents for a multimillion-dollar

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inheritance.

While the sentence reduction is a major win for the brothers, defense attorney Mark Geragos said he had been seeking to have their charges reduced to manslaughter, which would have allowed them be immediately released. The judge did not go that far.

"I'm not saying they should be released; it's not for me to decide," Jesic said. "I do believe they've done enough in the past 35 years, that they should get that chance."

The brothers have an appearance before the parole board on June 13 as part of a risk assessment report ordered by California Gov. Gavin Newsom to aid in his clemency decision.

Erik Menendez also spoke about taking responsibility for his actions and apologized to his family.

"You did not deserve what I did to you, but you inspire me to do better," he said.

The judge said he was especially moved by a letter from a prison official who supported resentencing, something the official had never done for any incarcerated person in the 25 years of his career.

Defense witnesses spoke of brothers' character

The defense called several of the brothers' cousins, a former judge and a former fellow inmate to the witness stand to testify that the brothers were not only rehabilitated but helped others. Prosecutors cross-examined the witnesses but didn't call any of their own.

"We all, on both sides of the family, believe that 35 years is enough," said Anamaria Baralt, a cousin. "They are universally forgiven by our family."

Diane Hernandez, a cousin who also testified during the brothers' first trial, spoke about the abuse she witnessed in the Menendez household when she lived with them.

"When Jose was with one of the boys ... you couldn't even go up the stairs to be on the same floor," Hernandez said of the brothers' father.

The Associated Press does not typically name people who say they have been sexually abused unless they come forward publicly.

"They are a real family," said Mark Geragos, the brothers' lead attorney, after the hearing. "Real people who have lived through unimaginable horrors. And I'm hopeful and glad that we're one huge step closer to bringing the boys home."

Los Angeles County prosecutors argued against the resentencing. Los Angeles District Attorney Nathan Hochman has said the brothers had not taken complete responsibility for the crime.

Geragos emphasized that the purpose of resentencing is to "encourage rehabilitation," not relitigate the original crime.

"We have evolved," Geragos said. "This is not the '90s anymore. We have a more robust understanding of a lot of things."

Former district attorney and family support resentencing

The previous LA County District Attorney George Gascón had opened the door to possible freedom for the brothers last fall by asking a judge to reduce their sentences. Since their conviction, the brothers have gotten an education, participated in self-help classes and started various support groups for fellow people in prison, his office said in a petition.

A former judge who said he considered himself tough on crime, Jonathan Colby, told the court that spending time with the brothers and witnessing their growth made him believe in rehabilitation.

Anerae Brown, who had been formerly incarcerated, cried as he testified about how the brothers helped him heal and eventually be released through parole.

"I have children now," he said. "Without Lyle and Erik I might still be sitting in there doing stupid things."

Mexican security chief confirms cartel family members entered US in a deal with Trump administration

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Mexico's security chief confirmed Tuesday that 17 family members of cartel leaders crossed into the U.S. last week as part of a deal between a son of the former head of the Sinaloa Cartel and the Trump administration.

Mexican Security Secretary Omar García Harfuch confirmed a report by independent journalist Luis Chaparro that family members of Ovidio Guzmán López, who was extradited to the United States in 2023, had entered the U.S.

Guzmán López is one of the brothers left running a faction of the Sinaloa Cartel after notorious capo Joaquín "El Chapo" Guzmán was imprisoned in the U.S. Video showed the family members walking across the border from Tijuana with their suitcases to waiting U.S. agents.

Rumors had circulated last week that the younger Guzmán would plead guilty to avoid trial for several drug trafficking charges in the U.S. after being extradited in 2023.

García Harfuch confirmed the family members' crossing in a radio interview and said it was clear to Mexican authorities that they were doing so after negotiations between Guzmán López and the U.S. government.

He believed that was the case because the former cartel boss, whose lawyer said in January he had entered negotiations with U.S. authorities, had been pointing fingers at members of other criminal organizations likely as part of a cooperation agreement.

"It is evident that his family is going to the U.S. because of a negotiation or an offer that the Department of Justice is giving him," García Harfuch said.

He said that none of the family members were being pursued by Mexican authorities and that the government of U.S. President Donald Trump "has to share information" with Mexican prosecutors, something it has not yet done.

The confirmation by García Harfuch comes the same day that the U.S. Attorney General's Office announced it was charging a number of top cartel leaders with "narcoterrorism" for the first time since the Trump administration declared a number of cartels as foreign terrorist organizations.

While prosecutors declined to comment on the video of the family, U.S. Attorney Adam Gordon for the Southern District of California and other officials sent a warning to cartel members, repeatedly citing the Sinaloa Cartel by name.

"Let me be direct, to the leaders of the Sinaloa Cartel, you are no longer the hunters, you are the hunted. You will be betrayed by your friends, you will be hounded by your enemies, and you will ultimately find yourself and your face here in a courtroom in the Southern District of California," Gordon said.

Wisconsin judge Hannah Dugan is indicted on accusations she helped a man evade immigration agents

By TODD RICHMOND Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — A federal grand jury indicted a Wisconsin judge Tuesday on charges she helped a man in the country illegally evade U.S. immigration authorities looking to arrest him as he appeared before her in a local domestic abuse case.

Milwaukee County Circuit Judge Hannah Dugan's arrest and ensuing indictment has escalated a clash between President Donald Trump's administration and local authorities over the Republican's sweeping immigration crackdown. Democrats have accused the Trump administration of trying to make a national example of Dugan to chill judicial opposition to the crackdown.

Prosecutors charged Dugan in April via complaint with concealing an individual to prevent arrest and obstruction. In the federal criminal justice system, prosecutors can initiate charges against a defendant directly by filing a complaint or present evidence to a grand jury and let that body decide whether to issue charges.

A grand jury still reviews charges brought by complaint to determine whether enough probable cause

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exists to continue the case as a check on prosecutors' power. If the grand jury determines there's probable cause, it issues a written statement of the charges known as an indictment. That's what happened in Dugan's case.

Dugan faces up to six years in prison if she's convicted on both counts. Her team of defense attorneys responded to the indictment with a one-sentence statement saying that she maintains her innocence and looks forward to being vindicated in court. She was scheduled to enter a plea on Thursday.

Kenneth Gales, a spokesperson for the U.S. attorney's office in Milwaukee, declined to comment on the indictment Tuesday evening.

Dugan's case is similar to one brought during the first Trump administration against a Massachusetts judge, who was accused of helping a man sneak out a courthouse back door to evade a waiting immigration enforcement agent. That case was eventually dismissed.

Prosecutors say Dugan escorted Eduardo Flores-Ruiz and his lawyer out of her courtroom through a back jury door on April 18 after learning that U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents were in the courthouse seeking his arrest.

According to court documents, Flores-Ruiz illegally reentered the U.S. after being deported in 2013. Online state court records show he was charged with three counts of misdemeanor domestic abuse in Milwaukee County in March. He was in Dugan's courtroom that morning of April 18 for a hearing.

Court documents suggest Dugan was alerted to the agents' presence by her clerk, who was informed by an attorney that the agents appeared to be in the hallway. An affidavit says Dugan was visibly angry over the agents' arrival and called the situation "absurd" before leaving the bench and retreating to her chambers. She and another judge later approached members of the arrest team in the courthouse with what witnesses described as a "confrontational, angry demeanor."

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

She then returned to the courtroom and was heard saying words to the effect of "wait, come with me" and ushered Flores-Ruiz and his attorney out through a back jury door typically used only by deputies, jurors, court staff and in-custody defendants, according to the affidavit. Flores-Ruiz was free on a signature bond in the abuse case at the time, according to online state court records.

Federal agents ultimately captured him outside the courthouse after a foot chase.

The state Supreme Court suspended Dugan from the bench in late April, saying the move was necessary to preserve public confidence in the judiciary. A reserve judge is filling in for her.

Zelenskyy says he will be waiting for Putin in Ankara on Thursday for talks

By SAMYA KULLAB and ILLIA NOVIKOV Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Tuesday that he will be waiting for his Russian counterpart, Vladimir Putin, in the Turkish capital this week to conduct face-to-face talks about the more than 3-year war, amid heavy pressure from the U.S. and European leaders to reach a settlement.

Putin hasn't yet said whether he will be at the talks, which U.S. President Donald Trump has urged the two sides to attend as part of Washington's efforts to stop the fighting.

Zelenskyy told reporters in Kyiv that he will be in Ankara on Thursday to conduct the negotiations. He will meet with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and the two will wait for Putin to arrive, he said.

Zelenskyy said he would "do everything to agree on a ceasefire, because it is with (Putin) that I must negotiate a ceasefire, as only he can decide on it."

Zelenskyy said that if Putin chooses Istanbul to hold the meeting, then both leaders will travel there from Ankara.

"If Putin does not arrive and plays games, it is the final point that he does not want to end the war," Zelenskyy said.

The Ukrainian leader added that if Putin doesn't show up, European and U.S. leaders should follow

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through with threats of additional and heavy sanctions against Russia.

Trump, who is on a four-day Middle East trip, said Tuesday that Secretary of State Marco Rubio would attend the talks. Special envoy Steve Witkoff also is set to take part, according to a U.S. official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to preview plans that have not been made public.

Washington has been applying strong pressure on both sides to come to the table since Trump took office in January with a promise to end the war.

Military analysts say that both sides are preparing a spring-summer campaign on the battlefield, where a war of attrition has killed tens of thousands of soldiers on both sides along the roughly 1,000-kilometer (620-mile) front line. The Institute for the Study of War, a Washington-based think tank, said Monday that Russia is "quickly replenishing front-line units with new recruits to maintain the battlefield initiative."

German leader says ball is in Putin's court

International pressure has been growing to push Ukraine and Russia into finding a settlement.

German Chancellor Friedrich Merz pressed again for an unconditional 30-day ceasefire as he met his Greek counterpart in Berlin on Tuesday.

"We are waiting for Putin's agreement," he said.

"We agree that, in case there is no real progress this week, we then want to push at European level for a significant tightening of sanctions," Merz added. He said that "we will focus on further areas, such as the energy sector and the financial market."

Merz welcomed Zelenskyy's readiness to travel personally to Turkey, "but now it is really up to Putin to accept this offer of negotiations and agree to a ceasefire. The ball is exclusively in Russia."

Russia isn't saying whether Putin will attend talks

Overnight, Russia launched 10 Shahed and decoy drones at Ukraine, the Ukrainian air force said. It was Russia's smallest drone bombardment this year.

The Kremlin hasn't directly responded to Zelenskyy's challenge for Putin to meet him in person at the negotiating table.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov declined for the second straight day Tuesday to tell reporters whether Putin will travel to Istanbul and who else will represent Russia at the potential talks.

"As soon as the president considers it necessary, we will make an announcement," Peskov said.

Russia has said that it will send a delegation to Istanbul without preconditions.

European leaders say Putin is dragging his feet

Zelenskyy won't be meeting with any Russian officials in Istanbul other than Putin, Mykhailo Podolyak, an adviser to Zelenskyy, said Tuesday on a YouTube show run by prominent Russian journalists in exile.

Lower-level talks would amount to simply "dragging out" any peace process, Podolyak said.

European leaders have recently accused Putin of dragging his feet in peace efforts, while he attempts to press his bigger army's battlefield initiative and capture more Ukrainian land.

Russia effectively rejected an unconditional 30-day ceasefire, starting Monday, that was demanded by Ukraine and Western European leaders, when it fired more than 100 drones at Ukraine. Putin instead offered direct peace talks.

But the wrangling over whether a ceasefire should come before the talks begin has continued.

"Ukraine is ready for any format of negotiations with Russia, but a ceasefire must come first," Andrii Yermak, the head of Ukraine's presidential office, said Tuesday.

Negotiations are impossible while "the Ukrainian people are under attack by Russian missiles and drones around the clock," Yermak said in a video address to the Copenhagen Democracy Summit 2025.

Putin has repeatedly questioned the legitimacy of the Ukrainian government, especially Zelenskyy himself, saying his term expired last year. Under Ukraine's constitution, it's illegal for the country to hold a national election while it's under martial law, as it now is.

Zelenskyy dismissed claims that a decree enacted by him in 2022 prohibited him from meeting Putin, saying that the claim was Russian propaganda.

Putin and Zelenskyy have only met once, in 2019.

In the war's early months, Zelenskyy repeatedly called for a personal meeting with Putin but was rebuffed. After the Kremlin's decision in September 2022 to illegally annex four regions of Ukraine — Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia — Zelenskyy issued the decree declaring that holding negotiations with Putin had become impossible.

On Tuesday, Zelenskyy said that this decree affected other Ukrainian officials who were directly negotiating with the Russian leader.

Trump's Middle East visit comes as his family deepens its business, crypto ties in the region

By WILL WEISSERT Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — It's not just the "gesture" of a \$400 million luxury plane that President Donald Trump says he's smart to accept from Qatar. Or that he effectively auctioned off the first destination on his first major foreign trip, heading to Saudi Arabia because the kingdom was ready to make big investments in U.S. companies.

It's not even that the Trump family has fast-growing business ties in the Middle East, ones that run deep and offer the potential of vast profits.

Instead, it's the idea that the combination of these things and more — deals that show the close ties between a family whose patriarch oversees the U.S. government and a region whose leaders are fond of currying favor through money and lavish gifts — could cause the United States to show preferential treatment to Middle Eastern leaders when it comes to American affairs of state.

Before Trump began this week's visit to Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates, his sons Eric and Donald Jr. had already traveled the Middle East extensively in recent weeks. They were drumming up business for The Trump Organization, which they are running in their father's stead while he's in the White House.

Their travels included Eric Trump announcing plans for a glitzy, 80-story Trump Tower in Dubai, the UAE's largest city. He also attended a recent cryptocurrency conference there with Zach Witkoff, a founder of the Trump family crypto firm, World Liberty Financial, and son of Trump's do-everything envoy to the Middle East, Steve Witkoff.

"We are proud to expand our presence in the region," Eric Trump said last month in announcing that Trump Tower Dubai was set to start construction this fall.

The presidential visit to the region as his children work the same part of the world for the family's money-making opportunities puts a spotlight on Trump's willingness to embrace foreign dealmaking as president — even in the face of mounting concerns that doing so could tempt him to shape U.S. foreign policy in ways that benefit his family's bottom line.

Nowhere is the potential overlap more prevalent than in the Middle East.

The Trump family's business interests in the region include a new deal to build a luxury golf resort in Qatar, partnering with Qatari Diar, a real estate company backed by that country's sovereign wealth fund. The family is also leasing its brand to two new real estate projects in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia's capital, in partnership with Dar Global, a London-based luxury real estate developer and subsidiary of private Saudi real estate firm Al Arkan.

The Trump Organization has similarly partnered with Dar Global on a Trump Tower set to be built in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, and an upcoming Trump International Hotel and luxury golf development in neighboring Oman.

During the crypto conference, meanwhile, a state-backed investment company in Abu Dhabi announced it had chosen USD, World Liberty Financial's stablecoin, to back a \$2 billion investment in Binance, the world's largest cryptocurrency exchange. Critics say that allows Trump family-aligned interests to essentially take a cut of each dollar invested.

Then there's the Saudi government-backed LIV Golf, which has forged close business relationships with the president and hosted tournaments at Trump's Doral resort in South Florida.

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"Given the extensive ties between LIV Golf and the PIF, or between Trump enterprises more generally and the Gulf, I'd say there's a pretty glaring conflict of interest here," said Jon Hoffman, a research fellow in defense and foreign policy at the libertarian think tank the Cato Institute. He was referring to Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund, which has invested heavily in everything from global sports giants to video game maker Nintendo with the aim of diversifying the kingdom's economy beyond oil.

Trump further announced in January a \$20 billion investment for U.S. data centers promised by DAMAC Properties, an Emirati company led by billionaire Dubai developer Hussain Sajwani. Trump bills that as benefiting the country's technological and economic standing rather than his family business. But Sajwani was a close business partner of Trump and his family since long before the 2016 election.

White House bristles at conflict of interest concerns

Asked before he left for the Middle East if Trump might use the trip to meet with people tied to his family's business, White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt said it was "ridiculous" to "suggest that President Trump is doing anything for his own benefit."

"The president is abiding by all conflict of interest laws," she said.

Administration officials have similarly brushed off such concerns about the president's policy decisions bleeding into the business interests of his family by noting that Trump's assets are in a trust managed by his children. A voluntary ethics agreement released by the Trump Organization also bars the firm from striking deals directly with foreign governments.

But that same agreement still allows deals with private companies abroad — a key departure from Trump's first term, when the organization released an ethics pact prohibiting deals with both foreign governments and foreign companies.

The president, according to the second-term ethics agreement, isn't involved in any day-to-day decision-making for the family business. But his political and corporate brands remain inextricably linked.

"The president is a successful businessman," Leavitt said, "and I think, frankly, that it's one of the many reasons that people reelected him back to this office."

Timothy P. Carney, senior fellow at the conservative American Enterprise Institute, said he doesn't want to see U.S. foreign policy being affected by Trump's feelings about how other countries have treated his family's business.

"Even if he's not running the company, he profits when the company does well," Carney said. "When he leaves the White House, the company is worth more, his personal wealth goes up."

Promises of US investment shaped Trump's trip

His family business aside, the president wasn't shy about saying he'd shape the itinerary of his first extended overseas trip on quid pro quo.

Trump's first stop on this week's trip was Saudi Arabia, just as during his first term. He picked the destination after he said the kingdom had pledged to spend \$1 trillion on U.S. companies over four years. The White House has since announced that the actual figure is \$600 billion, and how much of that will actually be new investment — or come to fruition — remains to be seen.

The president is also stopping in the United Arab Emirates, which has pledged \$1.4 trillion in U.S. investments over the next 10 years, and in Qatar, where Trump says accepting the gift of a Boeing 747 from the ruling family is a no-brainer, dismissing security and ethical concerns raised by Democrats and even some conservatives.

Trump's Middle East business ties predate his presidencies

Trump's first commercial foray in the Middle East came in 2005, during just his second year of starring on "The Apprentice." A Trump Tower Dubai project was envisioned as a tulip-shaped hotel to be perched on the city's manmade island shaped like a palm tree.

It never materialized.

Instead, February 2017 saw the announced opening of Trump International Golf Club Dubai, with Sajwani's DAMAC Properties. Just a month earlier, Trump had said that Sajwani had tried to make a \$2 billion deal with him, "And I turned it down."

"I didn't have to turn it down, because as you know, I have a no-conflict situation because I'm president,"

Trump said then.

This January, there was a beaming Sajwani standing triumphantly by Trump's side at his Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida, to announce DAMAC's investment in U.S. data centers.

"It's been amazing news for me and my family when he was elected in November," Sajwani said. "For the last four years, we've been waiting for this moment."

MLB reinstates Pete Rose and Shoeless Joe Jackson, making them Hall of Fame eligible

By RONALD BLUM AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Pete Rose and Shoeless Joe Jackson were reinstated by baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred on Tuesday, making both eligible for the sport's Hall of Fame after their careers were tarnished by gambling scandals.

Rose's permanent ban was lifted eight months after his death and came a day before the Cincinnati Reds will honor baseball's career hits leader with Pete Rose Night.

Manfred announced Tuesday he was changing the league's policy on permanent ineligibility, saying bans would expire at death. MLB said 17 individuals had their status changed by the decision, including all eight banned members of the 1919 Chicago Black Sox, former Philadelphia Phillies president Williams D. Cox and former New York Giants outfielder Benny Kauff.

Under the Hall of Fame's current rules, the earliest Rose or Jackson could be inducted would be in 2028.

Rose agreed with then-Commissioner A. Bartlett Giamatti to a permanent ban on Aug. 23, 1989, following an investigation commissioned by Major League Baseball concluded Rose repeatedly bet on the Reds as a player and manager of the team from 1985-87, a violation of a long-standing MLB rule.

Rose first applied for reinstatement in September 1997, but Commissioner Bud Selig never ruled on the request. Manfred in 2015 rejected a petition for reinstatement, saying "Rose has not presented credible evidence of a reconfigured life."

Rose died Sept. 30 at age 83, and a new petition was filed Jan. 8 by Jeffrey Lenkov, a lawyer who represented Rose. Lenkov and Rose's daughter Fawn had met with Manfred on Dec. 17.

Rose's supporters have included U.S. President Donald Trump, who has said he intends to pardon Rose posthumously. Manfred discussed Rose with Trump when the pair met in April, but he hasn't disclosed specifics of their conversation.

In a letter to Lenkov, Manfred wrote, "In my view, a determination must be made regarding how the phrase 'permanently ineligible' should be interpreted in light of the purposes and policies behind Rule 21, which are to: (1) protect the game from individuals who pose a risk to the integrity of the sport by prohibiting the participation of such individuals; and (2) create a deterrent effect that reduces the likelihood of future violations by others.

"In my view, once an individual has passed away, the purposes of Rule 21 have been served."

Marcus Giamatti, son of the former commissioner who signed the agreement banning Rose, said in a statement he was "incredibly disappointed" in Manfred's decision.

"I am also disappointed that my family was not consulted prior to this decision," he said. "The Commissioner's decision makes this a very dark day for baseball, the country and the fans.

"My father's mission by banning Rose was to uphold the integrity of the game. Therefore, reinstating Rose in this manner puts that integrity, Rule 21 and everything that my father fought to uphold in peril."

A 17-time All-Star during a playing career from 1963-86, Rose holds record for hits (4,256), games (3,562), at-bats (14,053), plate appearances (15,890) and singles (3,215). He was the 1963 NL Rookie of the Year, 1973 MVP and 1975 World Series MVP. A three-time NL batting champion, he broke the prior hits record of 4,191 set by Ty Cobb from 1905-28.

Jackson was a .356 career hitter who was among the eight Black Sox banned for throwing the 1919 World Series. He died in 1951, but he remains one of baseball's most recognizable names in part for his

depiction by Ray Liotta in the 1989 movie Field of Dreams.

What else needs to happen for Rose or Jackson to reach the Hall of Fame?

Under a rule adopted by the Hall's board of directors in 1991, anyone on the permanently ineligible list can't be considered for election to the Hall. Jackson was twice considered on ballots by the Baseball Writers' Association of America, but received just 0.9% in 1936 and 1% of a nominating vote in 1940.

Rose's reinstatement occurred too late for him to be considered for the BBWAA ballot. If not on the permanently banned list, Rose would have been eligible on the ballots each from 1992 through 2006. He was written in on 41 votes in 1992 and on 243 of 7,232 ballots (3.4%) over the 15 years, votes that were not counted.

Without the ban, both players are eligible for the Hall's Classic Baseball Era, which next meets to consider players in December 2027 and considers those whose greatest contributions to the sport were before 1980.

A 10-person historical overview committee selects eight ballot candidates with the approval of the Hall's board, and the ballot is considered by 16 members at the winter meetings, with a 75% or higher vote needed. The committee members include Hall of Fame members, team executives and media/historians.

Hall of Fame Chairman of the Board Jane Forbes Clark confirmed in a statement that players affected by Manfred's ruling Tuesday would be considered.

"The National Baseball Hall of Fame has always maintained that anyone removed from Baseball's permanently ineligible list will become eligible for Hall of Fame consideration," she said. "Major League Baseball's decision to remove deceased individuals from the permanently ineligible list will allow for the Hall of Fame candidacy of such individuals to now be considered."

Among the players in the 2028 class eligible for the BBWAA ballot are Albert Pujols and Yadier Molina.

Did Trump help get Rose reinstated?

Trump has said he would pardon Rose, but it's not clear what a presidential pardon for Rose would entail.

Rose entered guilty pleas on April 20, 1990, to two counts of filing false tax returns, admitting he failed to report \$354,968 during a four-year period. Rose was sentenced on July 19, 1990, by U.S. District Judge S. Arthur Spiegel in Cincinnati to five months in prison. He also was fined \$50,000 and ordered to perform 1,000 hours of community service as a gym teacher's assistant with inner-city youths in Cincinnati as part of a one-year probation period. The first three months of the probation were to be spent at the halfway house. Rose repaid the Internal Revenue Service \$366,042.

Sean 'Diddy' Combs' ex-girlfriend Cassie testifies at his trial about abuse and 'freak offs'

By MICHAEL R. SISAK and LARRY NEUMEISTER Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Cassie, the R&B singer and former girlfriend of Sean "Diddy" Combs, testified Tuesday that the mercurial music mogul — powerful, abusive and controlling — beat her mercilessly and ordered her to have "disgusting" sex with strangers during drug-fueled, multi-day marathons he called "freak offs."

Cassie, whose legal name is Casandra Ventura, sniffled and dabbed her eyes with a tissue, sighed heavily and paused to compose herself through about five hours of testimony at Combs' sex trafficking trial.

In humiliating detail, she recounted a turbulent 10-year relationship with Combs that she said was consumed by violence and his obsession with a form of voyeurism where "he was controlling the whole situation." That included directing her encounters with male sex workers right down to the copious amounts of baby oil she applied to maintain the "glistening" look he desired.

The "Me & U" singer told jurors that his demands for her to engage in sometimes-revolting sex acts — sometimes as he watched from another room via FaceTime — left her feeling "heavily objectified." But, she said, she endured them because she was in love with Combs.

At the same time, Cassie said, Combs controlled every aspect of her life, from her career to her living arrangements, and she didn't feel like she could tell him "no."

When she did try to leave, she said, Combs punished her — most notably in a 2016 assault captured on a security camera at a Los Angeles hotel. In the video, played in court for a fifth time, Combs is seen

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hitting, kicking and attempting to drag her back to their room. After the footage was leaked last year, Combs apologized.

Asked how many other times Combs had knocked her to the ground, Cassie replied: "Too many to count."

Due to give birth soon to her third child, Cassie occasionally rested her hands on her pregnant belly as she testified. Her supporters in the courtroom included her husband, Alex Fine.

She is scheduled to return to the witness stand Wednesday. After prosecutors are done questioning her, Combs' lawyers will get their turn.

Prosecutors allege the three-time Grammy winner used his fame and fortune to orchestrate a deviant empire of exploitation, coercing women into abusive sex parties. His lawyers argue that, although he could be violent, he never veered into sex trafficking and racketeering. They contend all sexual acts were consensual.

Combs, 55, has pleaded not guilty. He interacted with his lawyers but remained largely stoic as Cassie testified. During a break, he made a heart shape with his hands and mouthed "thank you" to one of his twin daughters. He also blew a kiss to his mother.

Jailed since his arrest last September, he could get at least 15 years and up to life in prison if convicted.

Cassie testifies about violence and abuse

Cassie sued Combs in 2023 alleging years of abuse. He settled within hours, but dozens of similar lawsuits followed.

Cassie testified Tuesday that she met Combs in 2005, when she was 19 and he was 37. Combs signed her to a 10-year contract with his Bad Boy Records label. Within a few years, they started dating, Cassie said.

Her 2006 single, "Me & U," reached No. 1 on the Billboard Hot R&B/Hip-Hop chart and was the signature song on her first studio album. She was working on a follow up, but Combs "chose what was next for me" and didn't release any others, she said.

Cassie told jurors she was "sexually inexperienced" when she met Combs and that he introduced her to various sex acts before asking her to engaged in her first "freak off" when she was barely 22. Cassie said she was "confused, nervous, but also loved him very much" and "wanted to make him happy."

Cassie, now 38, said her relationship with Combs ran the gamut from good times to arguments and physical altercations. She said the abuse happened "too frequently" and sometimes came after the smallest perceived slights.

Cassie said Combs ordered her to recruit male sex workers for "freak offs" and that he would pay them thousands of dollars to have sex with her. The encounters, fueled by ecstasy and other drugs, would go on for 36 or 48 hours, and she said the longest lasted four days. They took place in private, often in dark hotel rooms, unlike Combs' very public White Parties in the Hamptons that attracted A-list celebrities.

Cassie felt she couldn't refuse Combs' demands

Cassie said her first "freak off" occurred in Combs' Los Angeles home with a male stripper from Las Vegas. She told jurors she felt dirty and confused afterward, but also relieved that Combs was happy.

Still, she said she felt obligated to go along with future "freak offs."

"I just didn't want to make him upset," she said. "I just didn't want to make him angry and regret telling me about this experience that was so personal."

Cassie began crying when asked if she liked any aspect of the "freak offs." She said she enjoyed "time spent with him."

She said she used drugs at every "freak off" to numb herself during "emotionless sex with a stranger that I didn't really want to have sex with."

The Associated Press doesn't generally identify people who say they are victims of sexual abuse unless they come forward publicly, as Cassie has done.

'Freak offs' became a 'job'

Soon, she said, she was doing "freak offs" weekly. They went on for a decade, with the final one in 2017 or 2018, she said. Each time, she said, she had to recuperate from lack of sleep, alcohol, drugs and "having sex with a stranger for days."

She described the situation as: "Freak offs' became a job where there was no space to do anything else but to recover and just try to feel normal again."

During her opening statement, prosecutor Emily Johnson told the jury that Cassie was not the only woman Combs beat and sexually exploited.

Combs was among the most influential hip-hop producers and executives of the past three decades, working with artists including Notorious B.I.G., Mary J. Blige and Usher. He also created the fashion clothing line Sean John and produced the reality show "Making the Band."

Federal judge OKs use of Alien Enemies Act to deport Venezuelans who are labeled gang members

By REBECCA BOONE Associated Press

A federal judge says President Donald Trump can use the Alien Enemies Act to deport Venezuelan citizens who are shown to be members of the Tren de Aragua gang.

The ruling Tuesday from U.S. District Judge Stephanie Haines in Pennsylvania appears to be the first time a federal judge has signed off on Trump's proclamation calling Tren de Aragua a foreign terrorist organization and invoking the 18th century wartime law to deport people labeled as being members of the gang.

Also Tuesday, another federal judge in the western district of Texas temporarily barred the Trump administration from using the Alien Enemies Act to deport people in that region. At least three other federal judges have said Trump was improperly using the AEA to speed deportations of people the administration says are Venezuelan gang members.

Haines, a Trump appointee, also said the administration hasn't been giving enough notice to people facing removal under the AEA. She ordered the administration to provide at least 21 days notice — far longer than the 12 hours that some deportees have been given.

"This case poses significant issues that are deeply interwoven with the constitutional principles upon which this Nation's government is founded," Haines wrote. "In approaching these issues, the Court begins by stressing the questions that it is not resolving at this time."

The ruling doesn't address whether the administration can remove people under other immigration laws, nor does it address whether Trump can invoke the Alien Enemies Act to deport people who simply migrated to the U.S. and who aren't members of a foreign terrorist organization, Haines wrote. She also did not weigh in on whether people suspected of being members of other gangs could be removed under the act.

But she did say the Act can be used to remove Venezuelan citizens who are at least 14 years old, who are in the U.S. without legal immigration status, and who are members of Tren de Aragua.

"Having done its job, the Court now leaves it to the Political Branches of the government, and ultimately to the people who elect those individuals, to decide whether the laws and those executing them continue to reflect their will," Haines wrote.

Trump issued a proclamation in March claiming that Tren de Aragua was invading the U.S. He said he had special powers to deport immigrants, identified by his administration as gang members, without the usual court proceedings. After the proclamation, the administration began deporting people designated as Tren de Aragua members to a notorious prison in El Salvador.

The proclamation and deportations sparked a flurry of lawsuits in multiple states — including the one that led to Haines' ruling Tuesday. That case was brought a Venezuelan national who says he fled to the U.S. with his wife and children in 2023 after facing extortion in his own country. He was arrested in February after a neighbor reported that he is a member of Tren de Aragua — a claim the man vehemently denies.

Haines initially approved the case as a class action, temporarily blocking the Trump administration from using the AEA to deport any migrants in her district. But she lifted that designation Tuesday, clearing the way for deportations to resume as long as the people being removed are given at least 21 days notice in English and Spanish as well as an "opportunity to be heard" on any objections they might have.

In the Texas case, a woman said she fled Venezuela after she was subjected to repeated harassment, assault and intimidation as a form of political persecution. She came to the U.S. in 2023 and was granted

temporary protected status, and is currently seeking asylum.

But last month she was arrested in Ohio and accused of being a gang member, which she denies. She is currently being held in El Paso, and asked Senior U.S. District Judge David Briones to stop the Trump administration from deporting her and other detainees in the region because, she said, the president's proclamation violates the due process rights of people facing removal and wrongly equates Tren de Aragua as an invasion by a foreign government.

Briones said she was likely to succeed on the merits, and temporarily barred the administration from transferring the woman or other people in the region accused of being Tren de Aragua members into other districts or deporting them under the Alien Enemies Act.

Injuries are becoming the story of the NBA playoffs. And not even the game's stars are safe

By TIM REYNOLDS AP Basketball Writer

These are the NBA playoffs of survival, where not even the stars are safe.

The latest blow to this postseason: Jayson Tatum was wheeled off Monday night, his season with the defending champion Boston Celtics over because of a right Achilles tendon tear that surely will mean he misses at least some of next season as well.

Golden State's Stephen Curry may run out of time before his injured hamstring allows him to play again. Cleveland's Donovan Mitchell is dealing with an ankle issue. If the Los Angeles Lakers' season had gone any deeper, LeBron James would have been sidelined with a knee sprain. And Milwaukee's Damian Lillard tore his Achilles, putting next season in some doubt and raising questions about Giannis Antetokounmpo's future as well.

The star power is gone in some cases, aching in others, and there's no question that injuries are becoming the story of this postseason. For Lillard — and now Tatum, too — the issues will linger into next season or rob of them of the chance to play in 2025-26 entirely.

"Obviously we want to go out there and compete, but when a player of his caliber goes down and he's rolling in pain like that, you know something's wrong," New York guard Jalen Brunson said after seeing Tatum's injury on Monday night. "So, that's why I just gave my thoughts and prayers — because you never want to see something like that, ever."

Injuries are a constant, and the regular season saw some big-name players forced to shut down much earlier than they wanted. Philadelphia's Joel Embiid wasn't right for basically the entire season because of knee issues, Dallas' Kyrie Irving tore his ACL in March, San Antonio's Victor Wembanyama developed a blood clot that forced his season to end in February, New Orleans' Dejounte Murray tore his Achilles in January, Orlando's Moritz Wagner tore his ACL in December and two stars with long injury histories — the Los Angeles Clippers' Kawhi Leonard and New Orleans' Zion Williamson — both were inactive for more than half the season.

Overcoming injuries is just part of NBA life, Bucks coach Doc Rivers said.

"The human spirit is amazing," Rivers said. "It really is."

And in the playoffs, the hits keep coming. Stars are hurting, most of Cleveland's starting lineup has been banged-up in these playoffs, Denver's Michael Porter Jr. is playing through a shoulder issue that typically needs weeks to deal with, and Memphis' Ja Morant had a hip problem that kept him from being on the floor at the end of the Grizzlies' season. Even teams that are winning aren't doing so at anywhere near 100% — case in point, Brunson has been dealing with an ankle issue and it somehow isn't slowing him down.

"Every year, playoffs are about adapting, whether it's a game plan, or an injury, or a lineup," Golden State coach Steve Kerr said shortly after Curry got hurt in the Warriors' second-round series against Minnesota. "So, we just have to adapt."

Down 3-1 in the series and facing a win-or-else game Wednesday, the Warriors are running out of time to adapt. There will be an update on Curry's status Wednesday, Kerr said. It wouldn't seem likely that Curry plays in Game 5.

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"We're not going to Superman this thing," Warriors forward Draymond Green said. "If he's in a place where he can play, I'm sure he will. ... But we don't need Superman. I play the long game. If he can, we know he will, but there's no pressure. We've got to figure out how to win, whether he plays or not."

James got hurt in a collision with Minnesota's Donte DiVincenzo late in what became the Lakers' final game of the season, a loss in Game 5 of an opening-round matchup. James later revealed that he probably couldn't have continued even if the Lakers won that game because of a knee sprain that won't need surgery but will need weeks to heal.

"Even if we would have won Game 5 at home, I probably would have missed 6 and 7 and even further," James said on his "Mind the Game" podcast with Steve Nash. "I have some time, though. I have some time to get it right."

Tatum was having an absolutely monster game for Boston on Monday: 42 points, eight rebounds, four assists, four steals and two blocked shots — numbers that nobody in Celtics history, at least since each of those stats started being charted, had ever finished a game with.

Those stats were largely forgotten by night's end, given the gravity of the injury and what it now means for the Celtics — a team that is in the process of being sold for a record figure exceeding \$6 billion, is on track to face a potential record salary and luxury tax bill that could exceed \$500 million next season and now has a franchise cornerstone in Tatum facing a long road back to the court.

Tatum has logged nearly 25,000 minutes in his eight seasons with the Celtics, more than any other player in the NBA over that span when counting both regular-season and playoff games. He's been an All-Star in six consecutive seasons, won two Olympic gold medals and likely will be All-NBA for a fourth consecutive season when that team is revealed in the coming weeks.

And in the blink of an eye Monday, his story drastically changed.

"He's been a great player," Knicks coach Tom Thibodeau said. "And he's a great guy, too."

FDA and RFK Jr. aim to remove ingestible fluoride products used to protect kids' teeth

By MATTHEW PERRONE AP Health Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. health regulators announced an effort Tuesday to phase out ingestible fluoride supplements sometimes used to strengthen children's teeth, opening a new front in Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr.'s effort against a mainstay of dental care.

The Food and Drug Administration said it will conduct a scientific review of the children's products by late October with the aim of removing them from the market. Formally withdrawing medical products requires a lengthy rulemaking process that can take years. Instead, the FDA will ask manufacturers to voluntarily pull their products, according to an administration official.

Fluoride tablets and lozenges are sometimes recommended for children and teens at increased risk of tooth decay or cavities because of low fluoride in their local drinking water. Companies also sell drops for babies.

FDA Commissioner Marty Makary said the products pose a risk when swallowed because they may interfere with healthy gut bacteria that are critical to digestion, immunity and other key bodily functions. He also referenced studies showing possible associations between excess fluoride intake and other problems, including decreased IQ.

The nation's leading dental group said Tuesday the studies "do not in fact demonstrate any harmful effects" from fluoride at the levels used by dentists.

"Proposals like this stand to hurt rural America, not make them healthier," American Dental Association President Dr. Brett Kessler said. "More than ever, at this critical time in American health care policy, it is vital that we slow down to properly study the full implications of actions like this on the health of the nation."

Officials in Utah — the first U.S. state to ban fluoride from drinking water — recently made fluoride supplements available without a prescription. As more state and local governments begin removing fluoride from their water, the need for supplemental fluoride is expected to grow.

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Fluoride strengthens teeth and reduces cavities by replacing minerals lost during normal wear and tear, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In 1962, the agency set guidelines for how much should be added to water.

Kennedy, a former environmental lawyer, has called fluoride a "dangerous neurotoxin" tied to a range of health dangers. Last month, he announced a task force to scrutinize fluoride's use, while at the same time saying he would order the CDC to stop recommending that it be added to tap water.

A report last year by the federal government's National Toxicology Program concluded that drinking water with more than twice the CDC's recommended level was associated with lower IQs in kids. The study was based on research conducted in Canada, China, India, Iran, Pakistan and Mexico.

"Ending the use of ingestible fluoride is long overdue," Kennedy said in a statement Tuesday. "This decision brings us one step closer to delivering on President Trump's promise to Make America Healthy Again."

An influential government health panel recommends fluoride supplements for children between the ages of six months and 5 years if they live in areas with low fluoridation levels. The U.S. Preventative Services Task Forces judged the recommendation to have "high certainty," based on the available evidence.

A 2010 paper from the ADA recommended supplemental fluoride for children up to 16 years old who are at high risk of cavities. The recommendation was based on a review of studies across different age groups. The most common side effect associated with the products is spotting or discoloration of the teeth, caused by extra fluoride.

ADA's Kessler said the FDA's plan "will be particularly harmful to the most vulnerable and those who lack access to care."

The FDA regulates most dental products, including fluoride-containing toothpastes, supplements, mouthwashes and rinses. But in Tuesday's press release, the FDA said the ingestible products targeted by the agency have "never been approved." The agency's plan wouldn't affect toothpastes, mouthwash or fluoride treatments used by adults or those offered in dentists' offices.

In recent weeks fluoride-containing products have increasingly been targeted with lawsuits and legal actions.

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton announced an investigation early this month into the marketing of fluoride toothpastes by Colgate-Palmolive and Procter and Gamble. A press release from his office described the companies' promotions as "misleading, deceptive and dangerous."

Wall Street rises again as the S&P 500 erases its loss for 2025

By STAN CHOE AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Most U.S. stocks rose Tuesday following an encouraging report that showed inflation unexpectedly slowed across the country last month.

The S&P 500 climbed 0.7%, coming off an even bigger gain to start the week after the United States and China announced a 90-day pause in their trade war to allow for negotiations. The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 269 points, or 0.6%, and the Nasdaq composite jumped 1.6% as AI and other tech stocks led the way.

Stocks have been roaring back since the S&P 500 fell nearly 20% below its record last month on hopes that President Donald Trump will ease his stiff tariffs on trading partners worldwide before they create a recession and send inflation spiking higher. The S&P 500, which sits at the center of many 401(k) accounts, is back within 4.2% of its all-time high set in February and positive again for the year so far.

Tuesday's report said that even with all the uncertainty around trade, and even with many businesses rushing to import products from other countries before tariffs raise their prices, inflation slowed to 2.3% last month from 2.4% in March.

It's encouraging because such data pulls the economy further from a worst-case scenario called "stagflation," one where the economy stagnates but inflation remains high. The Federal Reserve has no good way to fix that toxic combination. It could try to lower rates to help the economy, for example, but that would likely worsen inflation in the short term.

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Even with Tuesday's encouraging report, though, economists and analysts say inflation may still run higher in coming months because of Trump's tariffs. That will likely leave the Fed waiting for more data to guide their decision on whether and when to cut interest rates in order to help the economy.

It's similar to the wait that investors in general are enduring. With the Fed set to make no moves on interest rates for the time being, markets will likely trade "with negotiation and reconciliation headlines," according to Alexandra Wilson-Elizondo, global co-head and co-chief investment officer of multi-asset solutions within Goldman Sachs Asset Management.

"I think investors are aware that the trade deal is not done yet," said Louis Wong, director for Phillip Securities Group in Hong Kong.

"I would advise investors to remain cautious in the near term and to be prepared for unexpected news from the trade front," he added.

On Wall Street, Coinbase Global jumped 24% after the cryptocurrency exchange learned its stock will join the widely followed S&P 500 index next week. That means many investment funds will likewise add it before trading begins on Monday. Coinbase will replace Discover Financial Services, which is getting bought by Capital One Financial.

Stocks in the artificial-intelligence industry were also strong. Nvidia rose 5.6% and was the biggest single force pushing upward on the S&P 500. It's partnering with Saudi Arabia's sovereign wealth fund-owned AI startup Humain to ship 18,000 chips to the Middle Eastern nation to help power a new data center project.

Super Micro Computer, which builds servers used in AI, jumped 16%. GE Vernova, which is hoping to power vast AI data centers, rose 4%. Palantir Technologies gained 8.1%.

They helped offset UnitedHealth Group, whose shares tumbled 17.8% after it suspended its full-year financial forecast due to higher-than-expected medical costs. The nation's largest health insurer also announced that CEO Andrew Witty was stepping down for personal reasons and that Chairman Stephen Hemsley will become CEO, effective immediately.

UnitedHealth was the main reason the Dow lagged behind other U.S. stock indexes.

All told, the S&P 500 rose 42.36 points to 5,886.55. The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 269.67 to 42,140.43, and the Nasdaq composite climbed 301.74 to 19,010.08.

In the bond market, Treasury yields ticked higher with hopes for the U.S. economy. The yield on the 10-year Treasury rose to 4.48% from 4.45% late Monday.

The two-year Treasury yield, which moves more closely with expectations for Fed action, ticked up to 4.01% from 3.98%.

In stock markets abroad, indexes rose across much of Europe and Asia. Stocks fell 1.9% in Hong Kong but rose 1.4% in Tokyo.

Automakers were among the big gainers in Japan. Nissan Motor Co. added 3% ahead of an announcement that it plans to lay off 20,000 of its workers as part of its restructuring efforts. The automaker said Tuesday that it racked up a loss of 670.9 billion yen (\$4.5 billion) in the last fiscal year.

Inflation cooled again even as some tariffs took effect. But economists don't expect that to last

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Inflation cooled for the third straight month in April even after some of President Donald Trump's tariffs took effect, though economists and many business owners expect inflation will climb by this summer.

Consumer prices rose 2.3% in April from a year ago, the Labor Department said Tuesday, down from 2.4% in March and the smallest increase in more than four years. On a monthly basis, prices rose modestly, increasing 0.2% from March to April after falling 0.1% the previous month, the first drop in five years.

Grocery prices dipped 0.4% from March to April in what will come as a relief to many people stretching family budgets for the basics. It was the biggest decline in food costs at home since September 2020, the government said. Egg prices fell sharply, declining 12.7%, the most in 41 years. Yet they are still 49%

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higher than a year ago.

Overall, the report suggests tariffs haven't yet impacted prices for many items. Economists say the impact will more likely be seen by June or July. The 10% tariff on all goods that took effect April 5 could take two to three months to feed into the inflation data. And many companies built stockpiles of products earlier this year, enabling them to delay price hikes in hopes that the trade war will cool.

The cost of clothing, which is mostly imported, declined 0.2% from March to April, Tuesday's report said. New car prices were unchanged. And grocery prices fell despite fears that tariffs on some goods from Mexico would boost food costs.

"It's early days for tariff effects," said Laura Rosner-Warburton, co-founder of MacroPolicy Perspectives and formerly an economist at the Federal Reserve's New York branch. "More will come in May, June, and July. There are plenty of price increases already scheduled and on the way."

And there were some early signs that the duties are having an impact. Computer prices rose 0.3% from March to April, a category that is heavily imported from China and usually sees mild price declines. Sporting goods and toys, where many products are imported, also saw increases. And a category that includes baby strollers and car seats also got more expensive.

Still, excluding the volatile food and energy categories, core prices were also muted, rising 2.8% in April compared with a year ago, the same as in March. On a monthly basis, they increased a mild 0.2%. Economists watch core prices because they typically provide a better read on where inflation is headed.

Rosner-Warburton noted that some prices fell as business weakened, particularly in travel. Air fares and hotel prices dropped noticeably last month, contributing to lower inflation, but that may have been driven by a decline in foreign visitors to the U.S.

Some companies have raised prices and others have said they plan to do so as a result of the duties. Mattel Inc., the maker of Barbie dolls and Hot Wheels cars, said earlier this month it would have to raise prices on some products. The company makes 40% of its products in China.

Tool maker Stanley Black & Decker said it raised prices in April and plans to do so again in the July-September quarter because of higher tariffs. And executives at Procter & Gamble, the consumer products giant that makes household name brands such as Crest toothpaste, Tide detergent, and Charmin toilet paper, said last month it will likely have to pass on higher prices to consumers as soon as July.

Only some early tariffs imposed by Trump were in effect in April, including 25% duties on steel and aluminum and 25% on some imports from Canada and Mexico. Trump's initial 20% import taxes on goods from China were also in place. The steel and aluminum duties will take time to feed through into consumer products, such as cars, and may not affect retail prices for months.

Trump's huge 145% import taxes on Chinese goods were reduced to 30% in a deal announced Monday, with some of the higher tariffs on pause for 90 days. Retailers and importers had largely stopped shipping shoes, clothes, toys, and other items when the duties were so high, but many will now resume importing from China, which should reduce the chances of empty shelves this fall.

Yet the additional 30% duties, on top of other import taxes, will likely affect prices. The Footwear Distributors and Retailers of America, a trade group, says children's shoes from China will now pay a nearly 100% tariff, because the latest duties are on top of previous import taxes.

Matt Priest, president and CEO of the FDRA, said that the cost of shipping goods from China will likely rise as many companies scramble to get orders to the U.S. during the 90-day window.

"We're not out of the inflationary cost woods yet," he said.

And economists say average tariffs are now at about 18%, roughly six times higher than before Trump took office and the highest in about 90 years.

Consumer prices cooled noticeably in February and March, prompting Trump to claim repeatedly on social media that there is "NO INFLATION." Inflation has fallen to nearly the 2% target set by the Federal Reserve, the agency charged with fighting higher prices.

The Fed would have likely been gearing up to restart interest rate cuts in the absence of tariffs because inflation is down. It reduced its benchmark rate three times last year. However, it has since frozen rates while it awaits further evidence of how the tariffs — and other policy changes, such as immigration re-

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strictions and potential tax cuts — affect the economy.

The smaller import taxes on Chinese goods will limit the damage to the U.S. economy, but combined with all the other tariffs, economists forecast they will still slow growth this year and worsen inflation.

The Yale Budget Lab, for example, estimates the tariffs will lift prices 1.7% and cost the average household about \$2,800 this year.

"This is still a very, very substantial tariff hike, but it will take awhile" to show up in the inflation data, Alan Detmeister, an economist at UBS, said.

Many small businesses are relieved that the U.S. has cut its tariffs on goods from China but say they still aren't sure what their costs will be for the remainder of this year, or whether they can avoid raising prices themselves.

Rick Woldenberg, CEO of Learning Resources, an educational toy company, said that the 145% tariffs would have pushed his tariff bill to \$100.2 million from \$2.3 million last year.

He paused shipments and production but is now strategizing how to work with the lower tariffs. He has 13 containers stored in warehouses in Los Angeles, which allows importers to defer duty payments for up to five years. And he may bring \$11 million of goods from China and pay the 30% tariffs, but he's not sure how to price them.

"We just don't know what our costs are," he said. "We do not know what our tariff costs are. We do not know what our freight costs are."

Trump lays out Mideast vision as he looks to revamp US approach in Iran, Syria and beyond

By ZEKE MILLER, AAMER MADHANI and JON GAMBRELL Associated Press

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP) — President Donald Trump on Tuesday held out Saudi Arabia as a model for a reimagined Middle East, using the first major foreign trip of his term to emphasize the promise of economic prosperity over instability in a region reeling from multiple wars.

Offering partnership to longtime foes, Trump said he would move to lift sanctions on Syria and normalize relations with the new government led by a former insurgent, and he touted the U.S. role in bringing about a fragile ceasefire with Yemen's Houthis. But Trump also indicated his patience was not endless, as he urged Iran to make a new nuclear deal with the U.S. or risk severe economic and military consequences.

With his carrot and stick approach, Trump gave the clearest indication yet of his vision for remaking the region, where goals of fostering human rights and democracy promotion have been replaced by an emphasis on economic prosperity and regional stability.

Trump also made a pitch to Saudi Arabia to join the Abraham Accords started in his first term and recognize Israel. And he envisioned a hopeful future for the people of Gaza — emphasizing they must first cast off the influence of Hamas.

"As I have shown repeatedly, I am willing to end past conflicts and forge new partnerships for a better and more stable world, even if our differences may be profound," Trump said as he laid out his outlook for the region in a speech at an investment forum.

Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the de facto ruler, welcomed Trump to the kingdom with royal flourishes and lavished attention on him at every turn. It was a stark contrast to the crown prince's awkward fist bump in 2022 with then-President Joe Biden, who tried to avoid being seen on camera shaking hands with him during a visit to the kingdom.

Trump shows disdain for 'nation-builders' and interventionists

The Republican president made the case for a vision centered in pragmatism. It's something he sees as a necessity for the U.S., which he believes is still feeling the ill effects of 20 years of "endless war" in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"In the end, the so-called nation builders wrecked far more nations than they built, and the interventionists were intervening in complex societies that they did not even understand themselves," Trump said.

Trump used the moment to extend an olive branch to Iran and urge its leaders to come to terms with

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his administration on a deal to curb its nuclear program. But he also warned that this opportunity to find a diplomatic solution "won't last forever."

"If Iran's leadership rejects this olive branch ... we will have no choice but to inflict massive maximum pressure, drive Iranian oil exports to zero," he said.

The latest entreaty to Tehran comes days after Trump dispatched special envoy Steve Witkoff to meet with Iranian officials for a fourth round of talks aimed at persuading Iran to abandon its nuclear program.

Trump, in his speech, also said he hoped Saudi Arabia will recognize Israel "in your own time."

Saudi Arabia long has maintained that recognition of Israel is tied to the establishment of a Palestinian state along the lines of Israel's 1967 borders. Under the Biden administration, there was a push for Saudi Arabia to recognize Israel as part of a major diplomatic deal. However, the Oct. 7, 2023, Hamas attack on Israel upended those plans and sent the region into one of the worst periods it has faced.

Trump moving to restore relations with new leader of Syria

Separately, Trump announced he was lifting U.S. sanctions on Syria. He is expected to meet Wednesday in Saudi Arabia with Syrian President Ahmad al-Sharaa, the onetime insurgent who last year led the overthrow of longtime leader Bashar Assad.

The U.S. has been weighing how to handle al-Sharaa since he took power in December. Gulf leaders have rallied behind the new government in Damascus and want Trump to follow suit, believing it is a bulwark against Iran's return to influence in Syria, where it had helped prop up Assad's government during a decadelong civil war.

Trump said calls from Gulf leaders as well as Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan shaped his surprise announcement.

"So I say, good luck, Syria, show us something very special like they've done, frankly, in Saudi Arabia," Trump said.

Prince Mohammed carefully choreographed the visit as he looked to flatter Trump.

The de facto Saudi leader greeted Trump warmly as he stepped off Air Force One at King Khalid International Airport. The two leaders then retreated to a grand hall at the Riyadh airport, where Trump and his aides were served traditional Arabic coffee by waiting attendants wearing ceremonial gun belts.

The leaders signed more than a dozen agreements to increase cooperation between their governments' militaries, justice departments and cultural institutions.

The crown prince has already committed to some \$600 billion in new Saudi investment in the U.S. And Trump teased \$1 trillion would be even better.

Fighter jet escort

The pomp began before Trump even landed. Royal Saudi Air Force F-15s provided an honorary escort for Air Force One as it approached the kingdom's capital — an exceptionally rare sight.

Trump and Prince Mohammed also took part in a formal greeting and lunch at the Royal Court at Al Yamamah Palace, gathering with guests and aides in an ornate room with blue and gold accents and massive crystal chandeliers. As he greeted business titans with Trump by his side, the crown prince was animated and smiling.

Biden's 2022 visit was far more restrained. At the time, Prince Mohammed's reputation had been badly damaged by a U.S. intelligence determination that he had ordered the 2018 killing of journalist Jamal Khashoggi.

But that dark moment appeared to be distant memory for the prince on Tuesday as he rubbed elbows with high-profile business executives — including Blackstone Group CEO Stephen Schwarzman, BlackRock CEO Larry Fink and Tesla and SpaceX CEO Elon Musk — in front of the cameras and with Trump by his side.

Trump slammed Biden for "spurning" a "most trusted and long-standing partner."

"We have great partners in the world, but we have none stronger and nobody like the gentleman that's right before me," Trump said of the prince. "He's your greatest representative."

Later, the crown prince feted Trump with an intimate state dinner at Ad-Diriyah, a UNESCO heritage site that is the birthplace of the first Saudi state and the location of a major development project championed by the crown prince.

Qatar and UAE next

The three countries on Trump's itinerary — Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates — are places where the Trump Organization, run by Trump's two oldest sons, is developing major real estate projects. They include a high-rise tower in Jeddah, a luxury hotel in Dubai and a golf course and villa complex in Qatar.

Trump planned to announce deals at all three stops during the Mideast swing, initiatives that will touch on artificial intelligence, expanding energy cooperation and beyond.

And Trump believes more deals with Saudi Arabia should be in the offing.

"I really believe we like each other a lot," Trump said at one point with a smiling crown prince sitting nearby.

Kim Kardashian testifies about being bound and held at gunpoint during Paris robbery

By THOMAS ADAMSON, JOHN LEICESTER and NICOLAS VAUX-MONTAGNY Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — Kim Kardashian said a silent prayer — for her sister, her best friend, her family — as a masked man pulled her toward him in a Paris hotel room during the 2016 jewelry heist that changed her life. She wore a bathrobe. Her hands were zip-tied. Her mouth was taped. She thought she wouldn't survive.

"I was certain that was the moment that he was going to rape me," she told a Paris court Tuesday. "I absolutely did think I was going to die."

She said she was getting ready for bed when she heard stomping on the stairs. At first, she thought it was her sister Kourtney and a friend returning drunk from a night out at Paris Fashion Week.

"Hello? Hello? Who is it?" she called out. Then masked men stormed the room.

She grabbed her phone but didn't know the French emergency number. She tried to call her sister and bodyguard, but one man stopped her. The men threw her on the bed, zip-tied her hands and pressed a gun to her.

"I have babies," Kardashian said, according to her testimony. "I have to make it home. They can take everything. I just have to make it home."

She was carried into the bathroom. One man taped her mouth. She was told she'd be OK if she stayed quiet.

The last time Kardashian saw the men that police say robbed her, she was locked in the marble bathroom while masked assailants stole more than \$6 million in jewelry. On Tuesday, nearly a decade later, she faced them again — this time, from the witness stand.

Her testimony marked the emotional climax of a trial that has gripped France and reignited debates about the cost of fame and what it means to live in public.

Following digital breadcrumbs

At the time of the robbery, Kardashian was one of the most recognized women on the planet. A fashion icon. A reality star. A billionaire business mogul. She had mastered a new kind of celebrity — one broadcast in real time, post by post, to millions of followers.

But in the early hours of Oct. 3, 2016, that visibility became a weapon against her. The robbery marked a turning point for Kardashian, and for how the world understood vulnerability in the digital age.

Investigators believe the attackers followed Kardashian's digital breadcrumbs — images, timestamps, geotags — and exploited them with old-school criminal methods.

Dressed in black with defiant sparkling diamonds, Kardashian on Tuesday stood across from her mother, Kris Jenner, in the heavily secured courtroom. Her voice trembled as she thanked French authorities for "allowing me to share my truth."

She described how the attackers arrived at her hotel disguised as police officers, dragging the concierge upstairs in handcuffs. "I thought it was some sort of terrorist attack," she said.

One attacker demanded she turn over her diamond ring valued at \$4 million on the bedside table. "He said, 'Ring! Ring!' and he pointed to his hand," she recalled.

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French prosecutors say the assailants — most in their 60s and 70s — were part of a seasoned criminal ring. Two defendants have admitted being at the scene. One claims he didn't know who she was.

Twelve suspects were originally charged. One has since died. Another was excused due to illness. The French press dubbed them les papys braqueurs — “the grandpa robbers” — but prosecutors insist they were no harmless retirees.

They face charges including armed robbery, kidnapping and membership in a criminal gang, offenses that carry the potential for life imprisonment.

‘Take everything. I need to live’

After the men fled, Kardashian rubbed the tape against the bathroom sink to free her hands. She hopped downstairs, still bound, to find her friend and stylist, Simone Harouche. Fearing the robbers might return, they went onto the balcony and hid in bushes. While lying there, Kardashian called her mother.

Earlier in the trial, Harouche recalled hearing Kardashian scream from upstairs: “I need to live.’ That is what she kept on saying, ‘Take everything. I need to live.’”

Harouche locked herself in a bathroom and texted Kardashian's sister and bodyguard: “Something is very wrong.”

She described how her friend was “beside herself ... she just was screaming.”

Judge David de Pas asked whether Kardashian had made herself a target by posting images of herself with “jewels of great value.” Harouche rejected the premise. “Just because a woman wears jewelry, that doesn't make her a target,” she said. “That's like saying that because a woman wears a short skirt that she deserves to be raped.”

After the robbery, critics slammed Kardashian for flaunting her wealth, including designer Karl Lagerfeld who told the Associated Press she was “too public” with her jewelry. But as details of the heist emerged, public opinion grew sympathetic.

The heist triggered a cultural shift, prompting publicists and managers to urge clients to delay social media posts, remove location tags and think twice before flashing luxury online. Yet Kardashian's own image, some say, continues to complicate that narrative. As she testified Tuesday about her trauma, journalists received a press release touting her Paris courthouse appearance: “Kim Kardashian stuns ... wearing a show-stopping \$1.5 million diamond necklace by Samer Halimeh New York, featuring 80 flawless diamonds.” Visibility, it seemed, remains currency.

She told the court her house in Los Angeles was robbed shortly afterward in what appeared to be a copycat attack. Without security guards, she said, “I can't even sleep at night.” She now keeps between four and six guards at home.

“I started to get this phobia of going out,” Kardashian said. “This experience really changed everything for us.”

At the time of the 2016 robbery, she said, her bodyguard was staying in a separate hotel: “We assumed that if we were in a hotel it was safe, it was secure.”

She said Paris had once been a sanctuary, a place where she would walk at 3 or 4 a.m., window shopping, sometimes stopping for hot chocolate. It “always felt really safe,” she said. “It was always a magical place.”

Kardashian, who is studying to become a lawyer herself, said she was grateful for the opportunity “to tell my truth” in the packed Paris courtroom.

“This is my closure,” she said. “This is me putting this, hopefully, to rest.”

About 3 in 10 US adults follow women's sports, a new AP-NORC poll finds

By MAYA SWEEDLER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — When Meghan Sells heads to Providence Park to watch Oregon's professional women's soccer team, she finds herself among a fairly mixed crowd — groups of young women, dads bringing their children, youth players checking out the Thorns' latest match.

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The physician's assistant is a self-described lifelong sports fan and former softball player who "will watch any sport." That includes both collegiate and professional sports for women, putting Sells squarely in a fan base that suddenly has more options than ever before and is seen as fertile ground for teams and advertisers eager to ride the rising interest in the women's game.

About 3 in 10 U.S. adults follow women's professional or college sports "extremely," "very" or "somewhat" closely, according to a new poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. That's lower than the share who follow men's sports by the same measurements — about half — but it also shows that Sells is far from alone.

As interest and investment in women's sports have picked up in recent years, so have the entry points for fans. The meteoric rise of Caitlin Clark, the University of Iowa phenom-turned-WNBA star, helped bring wider attention to women's basketball, and increased streaming availability, international success and name, image and likeness deals have elevated the value and viewership of women's sports.

"Growing up, I feel like the only sports I was able to really see on TV were men's — which is fine, I like men's sports," Sells said. "But I enjoy watching women's sports more. ... I think the more that you see it on TV, the more you're going to have younger people interested in it."

The poll found that women's sports fans — those who follow women's sports at least "somewhat" closely — are different from men's sports fans. Fans of women's sports, while not a majority-female group, are more gender balanced than men's sports fans. Those who follow women's pro sports also are more casual in their fandom than men's pro sports fans, tending to say they attend or watch games occasionally rather than frequently. People who follow men's sports, by contrast, are more likely to identify attachments to teams as opposed to players.

The survey was conducted just before the start of the 2025 WNBA season, an expansion year for the league. Coming off a season in which attendance records were set (and reset), the league will debut a new franchise — the Golden State Valkyries — and up the number of regular season games from 40 to 44.

In 2026, two additional teams will join the league, including one in Portland, Oregon. Sells, who's been in the city for about a decade, said she is prepared to get season tickets.

Different fan bases

Men's sports at both the collegiate and professional levels remain more popular than women's sports, the poll found. About one-third of U.S. adults said they watch, listen to or read about men's collegiate sports at least "somewhat" closely, and more than 4 in 10 say they follow men's pro sports. By contrast, about 2 in 10 say they follow women's collegiate sports at least "somewhat" closely, and a similar share say they follow women's pro sports.

A greater share of men than women say they follow professional or collegiate sports overall, but the gender balance was more even among women's sports fans. Around half of fans of women's sports are male, the survey found, compared with about two-thirds of fans of men's sports.

This could be in part due to the overlap between the fandoms: About 90% of U.S. adults who follow women's sports at least "somewhat" closely also say the same about men's sports, though about half of people who follow men's sports said they also followed women's sports.

As women's sports increase in popularity and accessibility, a relatively large share are casual fans. While close to 9 in 10 of both men's and women's pro sports fans say they frequently or occasionally watch, listen to or read about their respective professional sports, a higher percentage of women's sports fans say they are only occasional consumers.

That includes people like Matthew Behr, 58, a lifelong fan of the Green Bay Packers and Milwaukee Brewers in his home state of Wisconsin. He doesn't watch a lot of basketball, he said, but when the sport crosses into news coverage, he will read up on it.

That's how he started following Clark, whose final seasons at Iowa were credited with bringing new viewers to the sport and who now plays for the Indiana Fever.

"I was seeing it on MSNBC," he said. "I don't watch a lot of basketball. It's not a men's and women's thing. If she was playing in a women's football league, I'd probably watch that."

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Attending games

Men's sports — with larger leagues, bigger TV deals and a more expansive media ecosystem — have a more fervent audience. About two-thirds of men's sports fans said they "frequently" or "occasionally" attend a professional sporting event in person, compared with roughly half of women's sports fans.

One possible reason women's sports fans aren't showing up at sporting events is they're less likely to be attached to a specific team. Only about one-third of women's sports fans said the teams they support or follow are "extremely" or "very" important to why they follow the sport. For men's fans, the figure was around 50%.

However, nearly identical shares of men's and women's sports fans said that certain athletes they support were at least "very" important to why they follow women's sports.

Bernard Seltzer, a high school administrator and math and science teacher in Tampa, Florida, considers himself a general sports fan and said he enjoys watching the most skillful athletes, regardless of their gender. Even at the high school level, he is impressed by the finesse he sees female athletes demonstrate.

"Sometimes it's more impressive than watching masculine people banging their heads against the wall," he said.

The US has 1,001 measles cases and 11 states with active outbreaks

By DEVI SHASTRI AP Health Writer

Texas confirmed eight more measles cases over the span of four days, continuing a short streak of shrinking increases in a state that has been dealing with a large outbreak for nearly four months.

The U.S. surpassed 1,000 measles cases Friday, and Texas still accounts for the vast majority of cases in an outbreak that also spread measles to New Mexico, Oklahoma and Kansas. Two unvaccinated elementary school-aged children died from measles-related illnesses in the epicenter in West Texas, and an adult in New Mexico who was not vaccinated died of a measles-related illness.

Other states with active outbreaks — which the CDC defines as three or more related cases — include Indiana, Michigan, Montana, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Tennessee.

North America has two other ongoing outbreaks, all of which are the same measles strain. One outbreak in Ontario, Canada, has resulted in 1,440 cases from mid-October through May 6, up 197 cases in a week. And the Mexican state of Chihuahua had 1,094 measles cases and one death as of Tuesday, according to data from the state health ministry.

Measles is caused by a highly contagious virus that's airborne and spreads easily when an infected person breathes, sneezes or coughs. It is preventable through vaccines, and has been considered eliminated from the U.S. since 2000.

As the virus takes hold in U.S. communities with low vaccination rates, health experts fear that spread could stretch on for a year. Here's what else you need to know about measles in the U.S.

How many measles cases are there in Texas?

There are a total of 717 cases across 32 counties, most of them in West Texas, state health officials said Tuesday. The state confirmed only eight more cases since its update Friday.

The state also added one hospitalization to its count, for a total of 93 throughout the outbreak.

State health officials estimated about 1% of cases — fewer than 10 — are actively infectious. Fifty-seven percent of Texas' cases are in Gaines County, population 22,892, where the virus started spreading in a close-knit, undervaccinated Mennonite community. The county has had 405 cases since late January — just over 1.7% of the county's residents.

The April 3 death in Texas was an 8-year-old child, according to Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. Local health officials said the child did not have underlying health conditions and died of "what the child's doctor described as measles pulmonary failure." A unvaccinated child with no underlying conditions died of measles in Texas in late February; Kennedy said the child was 6.

How many measles cases are there in New Mexico?

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New Mexico remained steady with 71 total cases Tuesday. Seven people have been hospitalized since the outbreak started. Most of the state's cases are in Lea County. Three are in Eddy County, two in Doña Ana County and Chaves and Curry counties have one each.

An unvaccinated adult died of measles-related illness March 6. The person did not seek medical care.

How many cases are there in Oklahoma?

Oklahoma held steady with a total of 14 confirmed and three probable cases as of Tuesday.

The state health department is not releasing which counties have cases, but Cleveland, Oklahoma and Sequoyah counties have had public exposures in the past couple of months.

How many cases are there in Kansas?

Kansas has a total of 48 cases across eight counties in the southwestern part of the state, with one hospitalization. Most of the cases are in Gray, Haskell and Stevens counties.

How many cases are there in Indiana?

Indiana has eight cases, all of them in Allen County in the northeast part of the state. The cases have no known link to other outbreaks, the Allen County Department of Health has said.

How many cases are there in Michigan?

Michigan has nine confirmed cases of measles, with an outbreak of four connected cases in Montcalm County in the western part of the state that state health officials say is tied to the Ontario outbreak.

How many cases are there in Montana?

Montana added three new measles cases in the last two weeks, bringing the total to eight. The state's outbreak started in mid-April in southwestern Gallatin County — Montana's first measles cases in 35 years. Health officials didn't say whether the cases are linked to other outbreaks in North America.

How many cases are there in North Dakota?

North Dakota has 11 cases of measles as of Sunday. The state hadn't seen measles since 2011, health officials said.

State health officials announced two new cases in Cass County on the eastern side of the state. The rest are in Williams County in western North Dakota on the Montana border and are not linked to Cass County.

The state health department says three of the confirmed cases in Williams County are linked to the first case — an unvaccinated child who health officials believe got it from an out-of-state visitor.

The other five cases were people who were not vaccinated and did not have contact with the other cases, causing concern about community transmission. The state health department said four people diagnosed with measles attended classes while infectious at a Williston elementary school, middle school and high school.

How many cases are there in Ohio?

Ohio has 34 measles cases and one hospitalization, according to the Ohio Department of Health. That count includes only Ohio residents.

The state has two outbreaks: Ashtabula County near Cleveland has 16 cases, and Knox County in east-central Ohio has 20 — 14 among Ohio residents and the rest among visitors.

Allen, Cuyahoga, Holmes and Defiance counties have one case each.

How many cases are there in Pennsylvania?

Pennsylvania has 15 cases overall in 2025 as of Friday, including international travel-related cases in Montgomery County and one in Philadelphia.

There were eight measles cases in Erie County in far northwest Pennsylvania in late April; the county declared an outbreak in mid-April.

How many cases are there in Tennessee?

Tennessee had six measles cases as of early May. Health department spokesman Bill Christian said all cases are the middle part of the state, and that "at least three of these cases are linked to each other" but declined to specify further. The state also did not say whether the cases were linked to other outbreaks or when Tennessee's outbreak started.

Where else is measles showing up in the U.S.?

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Measles cases also have been reported in Alaska, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Minnesota, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia and Washington.

Cases and outbreaks in the U.S. are frequently traced to someone who caught the disease abroad. In 2019, the U.S. saw 1,274 cases and almost lost its status of having eliminated measles.

What do you need to know about the MMR vaccine?

The best way to avoid measles is to get the measles, mumps and rubella vaccine. The first shot is recommended for children between 12 and 15 months old and the second between 4 and 6 years old.

Getting another MMR shot as an adult is harmless if there are concerns about waning immunity, the CDC says. People who have documentation of receiving a live measles vaccine in the 1960s don't need to be revaccinated, but people who were immunized before 1968 with an ineffective vaccine made from "killed" virus should be revaccinated with at least one dose, the agency said.

People who have documentation that they had measles are immune, and those born before 1957 generally don't need the shots because so many children got measles back then that they have "presumptive immunity."

Measles has a harder time spreading through communities with high vaccination rates — above 95% — due to "herd immunity." But childhood vaccination rates have declined nationwide since the pandemic and more parents are claiming religious or personal conscience waivers to exempt their kids from required shots.

What are the symptoms of measles?

Measles first infects the respiratory tract, then spreads throughout the body, causing a high fever, runny nose, cough, red, watery eyes and a rash.

The rash generally appears three to five days after the first symptoms, beginning as flat red spots on the face and then spreading downward to the neck, trunk, arms, legs and feet. When the rash appears, the fever may spike over 104 degrees Fahrenheit, according to the CDC.

Most kids will recover from measles, but infection can lead to dangerous complications such as pneumonia, blindness, brain swelling and death.

How can you treat measles?

There's no specific treatment for measles, so doctors generally try to alleviate symptoms, prevent complications and keep patients comfortable.

Trump says he will ease sanctions on Syria and move to restore relations with new leader

By ZEKE MILLER, BASSEM MROUE and AAMER MADHANI Associated Press

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP) — President Donald Trump said Tuesday that he will ease sanctions on Syria and move to normalize relations with its new government to give the country "a chance at peace."

Trump made the announcement shortly before he was set to meet Wednesday in Saudi Arabia with Syrian President Ahmad al-Sharaa, the onetime insurgent who last year led the overthrow of longtime leader Bashar Assad. Trump said the effort at rapprochement came at the urging of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the Saudi de facto ruler, and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

"There is a new government that will hopefully succeed," Trump said of Syria, adding, "I say, good luck, Syria. Show us something special."

The developments were a major boost for the Syrian president, who had been imprisoned in Iraq for his role in the insurgency following the 2003 U.S.-led invasion of the Arab country. Al-Sharaa was named president of Syria in January, a month after a stunning offensive by insurgent groups led by al-Sharaa's Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, or HTS, that stormed Damascus, ending the 54-year rule of the Assad family.

The U.S. has been weighing how to handle al-Sharaa since he took power in December. Gulf leaders have rallied behind the new government in Damascus and want Trump to follow, believing it is a bulwark against Iran's return to influence in Syria, where it had helped prop up Assad's government during a decade-long civil war.

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Then-President Joe Biden left the decision to Trump, whose administration has yet to formally recognize the new Syrian government. Sanctions imposed on Damascus under Assad also remain in place.

Before Trump spoke, the White House said he had "agreed to say hello" to the Syrian president while in Saudi Arabia.

The comments marked a striking change in tone from Trump and put him at odds with longtime U.S. ally Israel, which has been deeply skeptical of al-Sharaa's extremist past and cautioned against swift recognition of the new government.

Formerly known by the nom de guerre Abu Mohammed al-Golani, al-Sharaa joined the ranks of al-Qaida insurgents battling U.S. forces in Iraq after the U.S.-led invasion and still faces a warrant for his arrest on terrorism charges in Iraq. The U.S. once offered \$10 million for information about his whereabouts because of his links to al-Qaida.

Al-Sharaa came back to his home country after the conflict began in 2011 and led al-Qaida's branch that used to be known as the Nusra Front. He later changed the name of his group to Hayat Tahrir al-Sham and cut links with al-Qaida.

He is set to become the first Syrian leader to meet an American president since Hafez Assad met Bill Clinton in Geneva in 2000.

Syria has historically had fraught relations with Washington since the days of the Cold War, when Damascus had close links with the Soviet Union and later when Syria became Iran's closest ally in the Arab world. The removal of the Assad family could change the track.

Ibrahim Hamidi, a London-based Syrian analyst, said Trump's planned meeting with al-Sharaa marks a "strategic shift" for the country.

"The Syrian-American meetings in Riyadh open the gate for the two sides to start discussing issues of disagreement between them in a positive atmosphere," said Hamidi, editor-in-chief of the Arab magazine Al Majalla. "This is important."

US egg prices fall for the first time in months but remain near record highs

By DEE-ANN DURBIN AP Business Writer

U.S. retail egg prices fell in April from the record-high prices they hit earlier this year, according to government data released Tuesday.

The average price for a dozen Grade A eggs declined to \$5.12 last month after reaching a record \$6.23 in March, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. It was the first month-to-month drop in egg prices since October 2024.

Overall, the average price of eggs of all sizes fell 12.7%, the steepest monthly decline since March 1984.

Still, retail egg prices remain near historic highs as a persistent outbreak of bird flu wipes out flocks of egg-laying hens. The April average price for a dozen large eggs was 79% higher than the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported for the same month a year ago, when the price averaged \$2.86 per dozen.

David L. Ortega, a professor of food economics and policy at Michigan State University, said he thinks U.S. egg prices will continue to fall in May and June. Consumer demand tends to fall after Easter, which helps lower prices, he said.

Fewer bird flu outbreaks at commercial poultry operations in recent weeks also has helped to stabilize the country's egg supply, Ortega said.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, there were 59 bird flu outbreaks at commercial poultry operations in February, 12 in March and three in April.

But Ortega said the progress of the virus is uncertain, and prices could edge up again if outbreaks expand again.

Bird flu has killed more than 169 million birds since early 2022. Any time a bird gets sick, the entire flock is killed to help keep the virus from spreading. Once a flock is slaughtered, it can take as long as a year to clean a farm and raise new birds to egg-laying age.

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Even one outbreak at a commercial facility can impact supply, because massive egg farms may have millions of birds. Outbreaks on two farms in Ohio and South Dakota in April affected more than 927,000 egg-laying hens.

Lowering egg prices has been a particular focus of President Donald Trump. In February, the U.S. Department of Agriculture said it would invest \$1 billion to help farmers improve their biosecurity measures to fight bird flu.

The U.S. has also increased imports of eggs from South Korea, Turkey, Brazil and other countries. According to Wells Fargo Agri-Food Institute Sector Manager Kevin Bergquist, the volume of egg and egg product imports increased 77.5% during the first three months of the year compared to the same period a year ago.

The antitrust division of the U.S. Department of Justice is also investigating Cal-Maine Foods, the largest U.S. egg producer, which supplies around 20% of America's eggs. Cal-Maine confirmed the investigation in early April..

Ridgeland, Mississippi-based Cal-Maine said its net income more than tripled to \$508.5 million in its most recent quarter, which ended March 1.

Trump trade war faces legal challenge as businesses, states argue his tariffs exceeded his power

By PAUL WISEMAN and LINDSAY WHITEHURST Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump is waging a trade war without getting approval from Congress: He declared a national emergency to slap import taxes — tariffs — on almost every country on earth.

The president is now facing at least seven lawsuits that argue he's gone too far and asserted power he does not have.

A three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of International Trade, which deals specifically with civil lawsuits involving international trade law, held the first hearing on the challenges Tuesday morning in New York. Five small businesses are asking the court to block the sweeping import taxes that Trump announced April 2 — "Liberation Day," he called it.

Declaring that the United States' huge and long-running trade deficits add up to a national emergency, Trump invoked the 1977 International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEPPA) and rolled out 10% tariffs on many countries. He imposed higher— up to 50% -- "reciprocal" tariffs on countries that sold more goods to the United States than the U.S. sold them. (Trump later suspended those higher tariffs for 90 days.)

Trump's tariffs rattled global markets and raised fears that they would disrupt commerce and slow U.S. and global economic growth.

Jeffrey Schwab, senior counsel and director of litigation at the nonprofit Liberty Justice Center, said the president is exceeding the act's authority. "That statute doesn't actually say anything about giving the president the power to tariff," said Schwab, who is representing the small businesses. "It doesn't say the word tariff."

In their complaint, the businesses also call Trump's emergency "a figment of his own imagination: trade deficits, which have persisted for decades without causing economic harm, are not an emergency." The U.S. has, in fact, run a trade deficit — the gap between exports and imports — with the rest of the world for 49 straight years, through good times and bad.

But the Trump administration argues that courts approved President Richard Nixon's emergency use of tariffs in a 1971 economic crisis. The Nixon administration successfully cited its authority under the 1917 Trading With Enemy Act, which preceded and supplied some of the legal language used in IEPPA.

The legal battle against Trump's tariffs has created unusual bedfellows, uniting states led by Democratic governors with libertarian groups — including the Liberty Justice Center — that often seek to overturn government regulation of businesses. A dozen states have filed suit against Trump's tariffs in the New York trade court. A hearing in that case is scheduled for May 21.

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Kathleen Claussen, a professor and trade-law expert at Georgetown Law, said Tuesday's hearing and another scheduled for the states' lawsuit in the coming weeks will likely set the tone for legal battles over tariffs to come. If the court agrees to block the tariffs under the emergency economic-powers act, the Trump administration will certainly appeal. "It strikes me probably this probably is something that has to be decided by the Supreme Court," she said.

And if the cases do go to the Supreme Court, legal experts say, it's possible the justices will use conservative legal doctrines they cited to rein in government powers claimed by Democratic President Joe Biden administration to strike down or limit tariffs imposed by Trump, a Republican.

The U.S. Constitution gives the power to impose taxes — including tariffs — to Congress. But over the years lawmakers ceded power over trade policy to the White House, clearing the way for Trump's expansive use of tariffs.

Some lawmakers now want to reclaim some of the authority they've given up.

Republican Sen. Chuck Grassley of Iowa and Democratic Sen. Maria Cantwell of Washington, for instance, have introduced legislation that would require presidents to justify new tariffs to Congress. Lawmakers would then have 60 days to approve the tariffs. Otherwise, they would expire.

But their proposal appears to stand little chance of becoming law, given most Republican lawmakers' deference to Trump and the president's veto power. "That train has left the station," said trade lawyer Warren Maruyama, who was general counsel for the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative in the administration of President George W. Bush.

For now, many American businesses are struggling to cope with Trump's tariffs, which have lifted America's average tariff to the highest level since 1934 — even after a trade truce with China was announced Monday, according to Yale University's Budget Lab.

Victor Schwartz of New York City has spent the last 39 years building a business importing wine and spirits from small producers across the world. The tariffs are hitting his business hard. His customers want regional wines from around the world, so he can't just shift to American vintages. And the state requires him to post prices a month in advance so it's tough to keep up with Trump's ever-changing tariffs.

His business — V.O.S. Selections — is one of the five plaintiffs in Tuesday's hearing. "It's a race against time," he said. "Will we get through it? I'm not sure exactly."

UnitedHealth Group CEO steps down as company lowers, then withdraws financial outlook for 2025

By MICHELLE CHAPMAN AP Business Writer

UnitedHealth CEO Andrew Witty is stepping down for personal reasons and the nation's largest health insurer suspended its full-year financial outlook due to higher-than-expected medical costs.

Chairman Stephen Hemsley will become CEO, effective immediately, the Minnesota company said.

Hemsley was UnitedHealth Group CEO from 2006 to 2017. He will remain chairman of the company's board. Witty will serve as a senior adviser to Hemsley.

It has been a punishing period for UnitedHealth, starting in December when executive Brian Thompson was targeted outside of a New York City hotel and killed. While unrelated to the financial operations of the \$340 billion healthcare giant, its shares have tumbled severely since the attack.

"I'm deeply disappointed in and apologize for the performance setbacks we have encountered from both external and internal challenges," Hemsley said during an early Tuesday conference call. "Many of the issues standing in the way of achieving our goals as well as our opportunities are largely within our control. I am optimistic about our future as these issues are within our capacity to resolve. We will approach them with humility, rigor and urgency."

The 60 year-old Witty joined the company in 2018 after serving about nine years as CEO of the British drugmaker GlaxoSmithKline. He was named UnitedHealth's CEO in February 2021, replacing Dave Wichmann.

UnitedHealth became one of the nation's largest companies under Witty's leadership. Total revenue topped \$400 billion last year, a 55% increase from the \$257 billion UnitedHealth brought in the year before

Witty became CEO.

Shares of UnitedHealth rocketed higher under Witty, too, up 60.5% since he took the company's top job. Yet there have been several setbacks for UnitedHealth over the past five months as it wrestles with the national attention on Luigi Mangione, who was indicted last month on a federal murder charge in the killing of Thompson.

The case has captured the American imagination, setting off a cascade of resentment and online vitriol toward U.S. health insurers while rattling corporate executives concerned about security.

UnitedHealth cut its 2025 forecast last month following its first quarterly earnings miss in more than a decade. On Tuesday the company withdrew that financial forecast entirely, saying that medical costs from new Medicare Advantage members were higher than expected.

Shares of UnitedHealth, which have plummeted 38% since the deadly Dec. 4 ambush of Thompson in midtown Manhattan, fell more than 16% Tuesday to levels last seen almost five years ago.

Other big insurers tumbled as well, with Elevance, Humana and Cigna falling between 4% and 7%.

More than 50 million people have health insurance under UnitedHealth Group Inc. It also has a large pharmacy benefit manager that runs prescription drug coverage and a growing Optum segment that delivers care and provides technical support.

UnitedHealthcare is the nation's largest provider of Medicare Advantage plans, with more than 8 million customers. Those are privately run versions of the federal government coverage program mostly for people ages 65 and older.

French actor Gérard Depardieu convicted of sexual assault and given 18-month suspended sentence

By SYLVIE CORBET Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — French movie star Gérard Depardieu was convicted Tuesday of sexually assaulting two women on a set and received an 18-month suspended prison sentence in a case that was widely seen as a post-#MeToo test for the country's film industry.

The 76-year-old Depardieu, one of the most prominent figures in French cinema for decades, must also pay both accusers a total of 29,040 euros (around \$32,350) in fines, and the court ordered that his name be listed in the national sex offender database.

The actor was convicted of groping a 54-year-old woman responsible for decorating the set and a 34-year-old assistant during the filming of "Les Volets Verts" ("The Green Shutters") in 2021.

Depardieu, who has denied the accusations, did not attend the hearing in Paris. His lawyer said that his client would appeal the decision.

Accuser praises the verdict

The case offered a fresh assessment of how French society and its filmmakers would handle sexual misconduct allegations against a top actor in the wake of the #MeToo movement.

One of the accusers, the set dresser, said she was "very much satisfied" with the verdict.

"I'm very moved," she told reporters. "That's a victory for me, really, and a big progress, a step forward. I feel justice was made."

Her lawyer, Carine Durrieu Diebolt, said "it is the victory of two women, and it is the victory of all women beyond this trial."

"Today we hope to see the end of impunity for an artist in the world of cinema," Durrieu Diebolt said. "I think that with this decision, we can no longer say that he is not a sexual abuser. And today, as the Cannes Film Festival opens, I'd like the film world to spare a thought for Gérard Depardieu's victims."

A suspended sentence means that Depardieu does not have to go to prison unless he commits another offense. Suspended sentences are common in France for a wide range of crimes.

The court said it took into account Depardieu's age, his poor health and his criminal record, which included one prior unrelated conviction, although the court offered no details.

Other misconduct allegations arose

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Depardieu's long and storied career — he told the court that he's made more than 250 films — has turned him into a French movie giant. He was nominated for an Oscar in 1991 for his performance as the swordsman and poet Cyrano de Bergerac.

In recent years, the actor has been accused publicly or in formal complaints of misconduct by more than 20 women, but so far only the sexual assault case has proceeded to court. Some other cases were dropped because of a lack of evidence or an expired statute of limitations.

During the four-day trial in March, Depardieu rejected the accusations, saying he's "not like that." He acknowledged using vulgar and sexual language on the film set and that he grabbed the set dresser's hips during an argument, but denied that his behavior was sexual.

The court, composed of a panel of three judges, concluded that Depardieu's explanations in court were "unpersuasive" and "not credible" and stressed both accusers' "constant, reiterated and substantiated declarations."

The court also said that both plaintiffs have been faced with an "aggressive" defense strategy "based on comments meant to offend them." The judges therefore concluded that comments by Depardieu's lawyer in court aggravated the harm to the accusers and justified higher fines.

Depardieu lawyer Jérémie Assous regretted that the court "considered that questioning the accusations is an additional assault ... which means that now the defense, even in this type of trial, is no longer accepted."

The two accusers testified in court

The set dresser, whose duties could include choosing the furniture and paintings that will appear in a movie, said the actor used his legs as pincers to hold her as she squeezed past him in a narrow corridor.

She said he grabbed her hips then started groping her behind and "in front, around." She ran her hands near her buttocks, hips and pubic area to show where she was touched. She said he then grabbed her chest.

The woman also testified that Depardieu used an obscene expression to ask her to touch his penis and suggested he wanted to rape her. She told the court that the actor's calm and cooperative attitude during the trial bore no resemblance to his behavior at work.

The other plaintiff, an assistant, said Depardieu groped her buttocks and breasts during three separate incidents on the film set.

The Associated Press does not identify by name people who say they were sexually assaulted unless they consent to be named. Neither woman has done so in this case, although one has agreed to be pictured.

Some expressed support for Depardieu

Some figures in the French cinema world have expressed their support for Depardieu. Actors Vincent Perez and Fanny Ardant were among those who took seats on his side of the courtroom.

French media reported last week that Depardieu was shooting a film directed by Ardant in the Azores archipelago, in Portugal.

The actor may have to face other legal proceedings soon.

In 2018, actor Charlotte Arnould accused him of raping her at his home. That case is still active, and in August 2024 prosecutors requested that it go to trial.

For more than a half-century, Depardieu stood as a towering figure in French cinema, a titan known for his commanding physical presence, instinct, sensibility and remarkable versatility.

A bon vivant who overcame a speech impediment and a turbulent youth, Depardieu rose to prominence in the 1970s and became one of France's most prolific and acclaimed actors, portraying a vast array of characters, from volatile outsiders to deeply introspective figures.

In recent years, his behavior toward women has come under renewed scrutiny, including after a documentary showed him repeatedly making obscene remarks and gestures during a 2018 trip to North Korea.

Actor Juliette Binoche, who presides over the jury for the 78th Cannes Film Festival, said Tuesday that Depardieu is "apparently no longer sacred," adding "it makes us reflect on the power some people have."

Trump's plan to accept free Air Force One replacement from Qatar raises ethical and security worries

By CHRIS MEGERIAN, ZEKE MILLER and BERNARD CONDON Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — For President Donald Trump, accepting a free Air Force One replacement from Qatar is a no-brainer.

"I would never be one to turn down that kind of an offer," the Republican told reporters on Monday. "I could be a stupid person and say, 'No, we don't want a free, very expensive airplane.'"

Critics of the plan worry that the move threatens to turn a global symbol of American power into an airborne collection of ethical, legal, security and counterintelligence concerns.

"This is unprecedented," said Jessica Levinson, a constitutional law expert at Loyola Law School. "We just haven't tested these boundaries before."

Trump tried to tamp down some of the opposition by saying he wouldn't fly around in the gifted Boeing 747 when his term ends. Instead, he said, the \$400 million plane would be donated to a future presidential library, similar to how the Boeing 707 used by President Ronald Reagan was decommissioned and put on display as a museum piece.

"It would go directly to the library after I leave office," Trump said. "I wouldn't be using it."

However, that did little to quell the controversy over the plane. Democrats are united in outrage, and even some of the Republican president's allies are worried. Laura Loomer, an outspoken conspiracy theorist who has tried to purge disloyal officials from the administration, wrote on social media that she would "take a bullet for Trump" but said she's "so disappointed."

Congressional Republicans have also expressed some doubts about the plan.

"My view is that it would be better if Air Force One were a big, beautiful jet made in the United States of America. That would be ideal," said Missouri Sen. Josh Hawley.

And Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul flatly said he was a "No" on whether Trump should accept the plane. When asked to elaborate on his reasoning, Paul replied: "I don't think it looks good or smells good." The Republican shrugged when asked by a reporter if there were "constitutional questions."

Trump will likely face persistent questions about the plane in the coming days as he travels to the Middle East, including a stop in Qatar.

Why does Trump want the Qatari plane?

The two planes currently used as Air Force One have been flying for nearly four decades, and Trump is eager to replace them. During his first term, he displayed a model of a new jumbo jet in the Oval Office, complete with a revised paint scheme that echoed the red, white and dark blue design of his personal plane.

Boeing has been working on retrofitting 747s that were originally built for a now-defunct Russian airliner. But the program has faced nearly a decade of delays — with perhaps more on the way — from a series of issues, including a critical subcontractor's bankruptcy and the difficulty of finding and retaining qualified staff who could be awarded high-level security clearances.

The new planes aren't due to be finished until near the end of Trump's term, and he's out of patience. He has described the situation as "a total mess," and he has complained that Air Force One isn't as nice as the planes flown by some Arab leaders.

"It's not even the same ballgame," he said.

Trump said Qatar, which hosts the largest U.S. military base in the Middle East, offered a replacement plane that could be used while the government was waiting for Boeing to finish.

"We give free things out," he said. "We'll take one, too."

He bristled at suggestions that he should turn down the plane, comparing the potential gift to favors on the golf course.

"When they give you a putt, you pick it up and you walk to the next hole and you say, 'Thank you very much,'" he said.

Senate Majority Leader John Thune of South Dakota expressed skepticism.

"I understand his frustration. They're way behind schedule on delivering the next Air Force One," the

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Republican told reporters. "Whether or not this is the right solution or not, I don't know."

Mississippi GOP Sen. Roger Wicker said that any plane "needs to be gifted to the United States of America."

He added that whether the U.S. should accept a Qatari plane warranted further inquiry. "There'll be some questions about that, and this issue, I expect, will be vetted by the time a decision needs to be made," he said.

Will the new plane be secure?

The Qatari plane has been described as a "palace in the sky," complete with luxurious accommodations and top-of-the-line finishes.

But security is the primary concern when it comes to presidential travel. The current Air Force One planes were built from scratch near the end of the Cold War. They are hardened against the effects of a nuclear blast and include a range of security features, such as anti-missile countermeasures and an onboard operating room. They are also equipped with air-to-air refueling capabilities for contingencies, though it has never been utilized with a president on board.

A former U.S. official briefed on the Air Force One replacement project said that while it would be possible to add some features to the Qatari jet, there was no way to add the full suite of capabilities to the plane on a tight timetable.

The official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss the sensitive program, said it would be a risk for presidents to fly on such a jet.

One of the most important features of Air Force One is the communications capabilities. Presidents can use the plane as a flying Situation Room, allowing them to respond to crises anywhere on the globe.

However, on Sept. 11, 2001, Republican President George W. Bush was frustrated by communications issues and ordered up massive technology upgrades over subsequent years to improve the president's ability to monitor events and communicate with people around the world.

The new ones under development by Boeing are being stripped down so workers can replace the standard wiring with shielded cabling. They're also modifying the jet with an array of classified security measures and communications capabilities.

Because of the high standards for ensuring a president can communicate clearly and securely, there are fears that Trump would be compromising safety by rushing to modify the Qatari jet.

"Disassembling and evaluating the plane for collection/spy devices will take years," William Evanina, who served as director of the National Counterintelligence and Security Center during Trump's first term, wrote on social media.

He said the plane should be considered nothing more than "a gracious presidential museum piece."

Is any of this legal or ethical?

Even for a president who has blurred traditional lines around public service and personal gain, Trump's plans to receive a jumbo jet as a gift has rattled Washington.

The Constitution prohibits federal officials from accepting things of value, or "emoluments," from foreign governments without congressional approval.

"This is a classic example of what the founders worried about," said Richard Painter, a law professor at the University of Minnesota and former White House ethics chief under Bush. "But I don't think the founders anticipated it would get this bad."

White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt told Fox News on Monday that the details of the donation are "still being worked out" but would be done "in full compliance with the law."

She dismissed the idea that Qatar wanted to influence Trump.

"They know President Trump, and they know he only works with the interests of the American public in mind," she said.

Trump faced a legal fight over emoluments during his first term, when he opened the doors of his D.C. hotel to lobbyists, business executives and diplomats. His lawyers argued that the founders didn't intend to ban transactions representing an exchange of a service like hotel space for money, only outright gifts. But some ethics lawyers disagreed, and it's not clear if Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the Philippines and other countries were paying full price or more for when they used the hotel.

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In his second term, Trump's family business has been very busy overseas. In December, it struck a deal for two Trump-branded real estate projects in Riyadh with a Saudi firm that two years earlier it had partnered with for a Trump golf resort and villas in Oman. And in Qatar, the Trump Organization announced last month another Trump branded resort along the coast.

Four Democratic senators on the Foreign Relations Committee — Brian Schatz of Hawaii, Chris Coons of Delaware, Cory Booker of New Jersey and Chris Murphy of Connecticut — issued a statement saying Trump's plan "creates a clear conflict of interest, raises serious national security questions, invites foreign influence, and undermines public trust in our government."

"No one — not even the president — is above the law," they said.

Today in History: May 14, Lewis and Clark Expedition begins

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Wednesday, May 14, the 134th day of 2025. There are 231 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On May 14, 1804, the Lewis and Clark expedition, organized to explore the Louisiana Territory as well as the Pacific Northwest, began its journey near present-day Hartford, Illinois.

Also on this date:

In 1607, Jamestown, the first permanent English settlement in North America, was established by members of the Virginia Company.

In 1796, English physician Edward Jenner successfully inoculated 8-year-old James Phipps against smallpox by using cowpox matter. (Smallpox would be declared the first fully eradicated human disease in 1980.)

In 1948, the independent state of Israel was proclaimed in Tel Aviv by David Ben-Gurion, who became its first prime minister.

In 1955, representatives from eight Communist bloc countries, including the Soviet Union, signed the Warsaw Pact in Poland. (The pact was dissolved in 1991.)

In 1961, Freedom Rider civil rights activists were attacked by violent mobs in Anniston and Birmingham, Alabama.

In 1973, NASA launched Skylab, the first American space station, from Kennedy Space Center in Florida.

In 2022, an 18-year-old white supremacist wearing body armor opened fire in a supermarket in a predominantly Black neighborhood in Buffalo, New York, killing 10 people before being taken into custody. (The gunman, Payton Gendron, was sentenced to life in prison without parole in February 2023.)

Today's Birthdays: Baseball Hall of Famer Tony Pérez is 83. Filmmaker George Lucas is 81. Filmmaker Robert Zemeckis is 74. Musician David Byrne is 73. Actor Tim Roth is 64. Actor Cate Blanchett is 56. Filmmaker Sofia Coppola is 54. Former NFL running back Frank Gore is 42. Actor Amber Tamblyn is 42. Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg is 41. Former NFL tight end Rob Gronkowski is 36. Actor Miranda Cosgrove is 32.