

Groton Daily Independent

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Week #1 of Ace of Hearts

The first drawing for the new game, Ace of Hearts, was done Thursday evening. The jackpot was \$1,700 and the name of Heidi Krueger was drawn. She won the consolation prize of \$70. She picked card number 9 which was the King of Hearts.

Friday, May 30:

Senior Menu: Hot pork sandwich, cucumber salad, oven roasted potato, honey fruit salad.
State Track Meet in Sioux Falls
Legion at Refield, 5:30 p.m.
Jr. Legion at Redfield 7:30 p.m.
Jr. Teeners hosts Clark, 5:30 p.m. (DH)

Saturday, May 31

State Track Meet in Sioux Falls



Sunday, June 1:

St. John's Lutheran: Worship with communion at St. John's, 9 a.m.; at Zion 11 a.m.
Emmanuel Lutheran worship 9 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 with communion at Conde, 8:15 a.m.; at Groton, 9:30 a.m.; at Britton, 11:15 a.m.; Coffee Hour, 10:30 a.m.
Legion at Volga (vs. Canton at 2 p.m., Volga at 4 p.m.)

Monday, June 2:

Senior Menu: Creamed chicken, mixed vegetables, fruit, biscuit.
State Girls Golf Meet in Madison
Emmanuel Lutheran Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.
Legion at Aberdeen Smitty's, 6 p.m.
U12 W&R hosts Sisseton, 5:30 p.m. (DH); U10 W&R hosts Clark 5:30 p.m. (DH); U8 B&W at Aberdeen (north complex), 5:30 p.m. (DH)
T-Ball practice at 6 p.m. at soccer field.

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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.

Tariff Ruling Whiplash

A US appeals court temporarily reinstated the Trump administration's reciprocal tariffs yesterday while it reviews a lower court ruling blocking the new import levies.

The latest action comes a day after the US Court of International Trade ordered the administration to stop most of its new levies, including a 10% baseline import tariff, on nearly all US trading partners within 10 days. The ruling argued President Donald Trump exceeded his authority by using a 1977 emergency powers law to impose tariffs. Trump has used the tariffs to lure manufacturing back to the US, potentially reduce federal deficits, and gain leverage to negotiate more favorable trade deals.

The federal court decision is now stayed through June 9, when the appeals court will hear arguments in the case. The tariffs, however, remain blocked for two small Illinois-based toy importers under a separate ruling issued by a federal judge in Washington, DC. Analysts say the legal back-and-forth has introduced uncertainty into US trade policy, potentially impacting ongoing negotiations.

China Visas Interrupted

The US says it will begin revoking visas for some Chinese students, particularly those tied to the Chinese Communist Party or enrolled in critical fields, citing concerns over intellectual property theft and espionage. The move is part of a broader effort to protect critical technologies and will be paired with increased scrutiny of future visa applications from China and Hong Kong.

Targeted disciplines likely include areas of intense US-China competition, like semiconductors, artificial intelligence, and aerospace. While academic espionage is rare, officials say China's efforts are coordinated, and the openness of US universities creates vulnerabilities. Officials cited cases of students transferring sensitive research to China and participating in state-backed recruitment programs, like the "Thousand Talents Plan."

China is the second-largest source of international students in the US, with about 277,000 students enrolled in 2023–24, or roughly one in four foreign students. International students contributed \$43.8B to the US economy last year and supported over 378,000 jobs. Officials haven't said how many students may be affected.

Mount Everest Climbing Season

Climbing season at Mount Everest ends this weekend, capping a weeklong period in which 468 foreign people from 57 countries received permits from Nepal to ascend the mountain.

Among the records set this season was the shortest climb without acclimatizing, with four Brits climbing to the summit at 29,032 feet of elevation in four days and 18 hours. (The record for the shortest climb after a weeklong acclimatizing period is 10 hours and 56 minutes.) The Brits were aided by the use of xenon gas. Separately, Nepali guide Kami Rita broke his own record for the number of lifetime Everest climbs, with 31 total.

Mount Everest is the world's tallest mountain, roughly 780 feet taller than K2. It was first summited by New Zealander Sir Edmund Hillary and Sherpa guide Tenzing Norgay in 1953.

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Sports, Entertainment, & Culture

Music legend Smokey Robinson files \$500M defamation lawsuit against four women who accused him in lawsuit of sexual assault.

Michael Sumler, member of iconic R&B band Kool & the Gang, dies in car crash at age 71.

Texas seventh grader Faizan Zaki spells "éclairsissement" correctly to win 97th Scripps National Spelling Bee after finishing runner-up last year.

The 2025 NCAA baseball tournament kicks off today; see previews for all 16 regional sites.

MLB to invest in upstart women's professional softball league; Athletes Unlimited Softball League set to launch in June .

Science & Technology

Leinweber Foundation makes largest philanthropic gift ever in the field of theoretical physics, granting a total of \$90M to Princeton, MIT, and the universities of Michigan, Chicago, and California, Berkeley.

Meta and Anduril to develop combat-ready virtual reality glasses and wearables for the US military; Anduril cofounder Palmer Luckey previously founded VR startup Oculus, acquired by Meta in 2014.

White-nose syndrome in bats can be traced to two separate strains of fungi originating from Ukrainian caves; an epidemic responsible for killing 90% of certain North American bat species likely brought over by cave explorers.

Business & Markets

US stock markets close up (S&P 500 +0.4%, Dow +0.3%, Nasdaq +0.4%).

Gap shares drop 15% in after-hours trading after retailer reports it expects tariffs to cost between \$100M to \$150M with mitigation efforts.

Dell shares rise in after-hours trading after raising full-year earnings outlook on AI demand.

Ex-Goldman Sachs banker sentenced to two years in prison for role in taking more than \$4.5B in kickbacks and stolen funds from a Malaysian sovereign wealth fund intended for energy and infrastructure projects.

CEO compensation in 2024 for S&P 500 executives up nearly 10% over previous year to a median of \$17.1M.

Politics & World Affairs

Health and Human Services cancels \$766M award to pharmaceutical company Moderna to develop bird flu vaccine.

No H5N1 bird flu cases have been found in humans in three months.

Supreme Court rules to greenlight 88-mile expansion of oil and gas railroad project in Utah, curbing judicial authority to block projects on environmental grounds.

State Department notifies Congress of plan to reduce staff by 18%, above the 15% flagged weeks earlier; will also eliminate a division focused on resettling Afghan refugees.

Elon Musk ends tenure as chief operating officer at the Department of Government Efficiency, returns full time to businesses,

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Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion Fall Victim To Watertown Rally

By GameChanger Media

Despite leading by as many as five runs, Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion fell to Watertown 9-8 on Thursday. Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion opened the scoring in the first after Ryder Schelle grounded out, scoring one run. Andrew Dahl singled to center field, which helped Watertown tie the game at one in the top of the fourth. Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion flipped the game on its head in the bottom of the fourth, scoring five runs on three hits to take the lead, 6-1. The biggest blow in the inning was a single by Nick Groeblichhoff that drove in three.

Max Marlenson grounded out, which helped Watertown tie the game at six in the top of the seventh.

In the top of the eighth, Watertown broke up the tie when Kooper Heiser drew a walk, scoring one run. Then a single by Marlenson followed to extend the lead to 9-6.

Sam Olson earned the win for Watertown. The hurler gave up three hits and two runs over three innings, striking out two and walking one. Groeblichhoff took the loss for Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion. The right-handed pitcher went four innings, surrendering three runs on three hits, striking out two and walking four. Heiser started on the bump for Watertown. The hurler gave up four hits and six runs (zero earned) over five innings, striking out six and walking five.

Groeblichhoff provided pop in the middle of the lineup, and led Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion with two runs batted in. The pitcher went 1-for-3 on the day. Schelle led Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion with two hits in five at bats. John Bisbee led Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion with three walks. Overall, the team had a strong eye at the plate, tallying six walks for the game.

Dahl provided pop in the middle of the lineup, and led Watertown with two runs batted in. The third baseman went 3-for-4 on the day. Hunter Halajian collected two hits for Watertown in three at bats. Jaxon Falak paced Watertown with three walks. Overall, the team had patience at the plate, amassing nine walks for the game. Falak and Tripp Jorgenson each stole multiple bases for Watertown.

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Big Fifth Inning Leads Watertown Past Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion

By GameChanger Media

Watertown scored seven runs in the fifth inning, which helped them defeat Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion 10-0 on Thursday.

Watertown got on the board in the first inning after Sam Olson tripled, scoring one run.

Watertown added one run in the second. Hunter Halajian scored after tagging up, making the score 2-0.

Watertown added one run in the third. Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion committed an error, making the score 3-0.

Watertown scored seven runs on five hits in the top of the fifth inning. Kasen Jensen drew a walk, scoring one run, Halajian doubled, scoring two runs, Jaxon Falak doubled, scoring two runs, Tripp Jorgenson singled, scoring one run, and an error scored one run.

Jorgenson earned the win for Watertown. The starter allowed five hits and zero runs over five innings, striking out eight and walking one. Kason Oswald took the loss for Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion. The starter went two innings, giving up two runs (one earned) on two hits, striking out none and walking one.

Ryder Schelle led Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion with two hits in three at bats. Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion turned one double play in the game.

Falak went 1-for-2 at the plate and led the team with three runs batted in. Jorgenson led Watertown with three hits in three at bats. Olson paced Watertown with two walks. Overall, the team had patience at the plate, amassing nine walks for the game. Falak stole two bases.

Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion will travel to Redfield for their next game on Friday.

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Watertown 10 - 0 Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion

📍 Home 📅 Thursday May 29, 2025

	1	2	3	4	5	R	H	E
WTRT	1	1	1	0	7	10	8	1
GRTN	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	4

BATTING

Watertown	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
J Falak #13 (CF)	2	2	1	3	1	0
A Dahl #3 (2B)	3	1	1	0	1	0
S Olson #7 (C)	2	1	1	1	2	0
T Jorgens... #11 (P)	3	1	3	1	1	0
K Heiser #12 (3B)	3	0	0	0	1	0
K Jensen #16 (1B)	3	1	1	0	1	0
H Halajian #8 (RF)	4	2	1	2	0	0
M Marle... #10 (SS)	1	1	0	0	1	0
C Corey #6 (LF)	2	1	0	0	1	0
Totals	23	10	8	7	9	0

2B: T Jorgenson, H Halajian, A Dahl, J Falak, **3B:** T Jorgenson, S Olson, **TB:** T Jorgenson 6, S Olson 3, H Halajian 2, K Jensen, A Dahl 2, J Falak 2, **CS:** S Olson, **HBP:** M Marlenson, J Falak, **SB:** S Olson, J Falak 2, **LOB:** 8

PITCHING

Watertown	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
T Jorge... #11	5.0	5	0	0	1	8	0
Totals	5.0	5	0	0	1	8	0

W: T Jorgenson, **P-S:** T Jorgenson 76-50, **HBP:** T Jorgenson, **BF:** T Jorgenson 21

Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
A Abeln #5 (C)	3	0	0	0	0	0
R Schelle #8 (3B)	3	0	2	0	0	0
N Groebl... #13 (1B)	2	0	1	0	1	1
I Scean... #20 (CF)	2	0	0	0	0	2
T Schuster #3 (SS)	2	0	1	0	0	0
Z Fliehs #23 (RF)	1	0	0	0	0	1
J Bisbee #15 (2B)	2	0	1	0	0	1
N Scea... #13 (LF)	1	0	0	0	0	1
X Ellene... #21 (LF)	1	0	0	0	0	1
L Shilha... #22 (DH)	1	0	0	0	0	1
B Fliehs #19 (P)	1	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	19	0	5	0	1	8

TB: J Bisbee, T Schuster, R Schelle 2, N Groebelinghoff, **HBP:** Z Fliehs, **LOB:** 6

Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
K Oswald #12	2.0	2	2	1	1	0	0
B Fliehs #19	1.1	1	1	0	1	0	0
J Bisbee #15	1.2	5	7	7	7	0	0
Totals	5.0	8	10	8	9	0	0

L: K Oswald, **P-S:** J Bisbee 57-21, B Fliehs 28-17, K Oswald 26-14, **WP:** J Bisbee 3, **HBP:** K Oswald 2, **BF:** J Bisbee 16, B Fliehs 7, K Oswald 11

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Watertown 9 - 8 Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion

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	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	R	H	E
WTRT	0	0	0	1	4	0	1	3	9	8	3
GRTN	1	0	0	5	0	0	0	2	8	7	1

BATTING

Watertown	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
J Falak #13 (CF)	2	2	0	0	3	0
S Olson #7 (2B)	3	1	0	0	1	0
T Jorgens... #11 (C)	4	3	1	0	1	2
K Heiser #12 (P)	4	1	0	0	1	1
A Dahl #3 (3B)	4	2	3	2	1	0
M Marle... #10 (SS)	4	0	1	1	1	1
K Jensen #16 (1B)	4	0	1	1	0	2
H Halajian #8 (RF)	3	0	2	1	1	0
C Corey #6 (LF)	4	0	0	0	0	2
Totals	32	9	8	5	9	8

2B: A Dahl, **TB:** H Halajian 2, K Jensen, T Jorgenson, A Dahl 4, M Marlenson, **CS:** M Marlenson, **HBP:** S Olson, **SB:** J Falak 3, T Jorgenson 2, **LOB:** 9

PITCHING

Watertown	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
K Heiser #12	5.0	4	6	0	5	6	0
S Olson #7	3.0	3	2	2	1	2	0
Totals	8.0	7	8	2	6	8	0

W: S Olson, **P-S:** K Heiser 101-60, S Olson 38-22, **HBP:** K Heiser, **BF:** K Heiser 26, S Olson 12

Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
A Abeln #5 (SS)	5	2	1	1	0	0
R Schelle #8 (CF)	5	1	2	1	0	0
N Groebli... #13 (P)	3	0	1	2	1	0
I Scean... #20 (3B)	4	0	0	0	0	1
T Schuster #3 (2B)	4	0	1	0	0	1
K Oswald #12 (C)	3	0	0	0	1	2
J Bisbee #15 (LF)	1	2	0	0	3	1
B Fliehs #19 (1B)	3	2	1	0	0	1
X Ellene... #21 (RF)	3	1	1	1	1	2
Totals	31	8	7	5	6	8

2B: B Fliehs, **TB:** X Ellenecker, B Fliehs 2, T Schuster, A Abeln, N Groeblichhoff, R Schelle 2, **CS:** T Schuster, **HBP:** B Fliehs, **LOB:** 6

Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion	IP	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
N Groe... #13	4.0	3	3	3	4	2
A Abeln #5	4.0	5	6	1	5	6
Totals	8.0	8	9	2	9	0

L: N Groeblichhoff, **P-S:** A Abeln 102-59, N Groeblichhoff 55-28, **HBP:** N Groeblichhoff, **BF:** A Abeln 22, N Groeblichhoff 20

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New School Record for the Girls 3200m Relay!

Earlier this season, these four ladies broke the 37-year old school record and today they set the bar even lower! Their previous time was a 9:51.40 and today, at the State Meet, they ran a 9:48.65! Team members and school record holders are: Ryelle Gilbert, Taryn Traphagen, Kella Tracy, and Faith Traphagen! (Photo

by Alexa Sperry)



New School Record for the Boys 1600m Sprint Medley Relay!

The team of Brevin Fliehs, Lincoln Krause, Keegen Tracy, and Blake Pauli broke the 45 year old school record today at the State Meet with a time of 3:38.49! The school record was previously held by Sippel, Everson, Gravatt, and Goehring in 1980 with at time of 3:38.95.

(Photo by Alexa Sperry)

First Day of State Track Recap From Groton Area Facebook Page

The Tigers had a great first day at the State Track Meet! Here is a Recap of Day 1:

- The Boys Sprint Medley Relay Team consisting of Brevin Fliehs, Lincoln Krause, Keegen Tracy, and Blake Pauli finished with a 4th Place time of 3:38.49!
- The Girls Sprint Medley Relay Team consisting of Makenna Krause, Taryn Traphagen, Laila Roberts, and Kella Tracy finished 8th Place with a time of 4:17.12!
- The Girls 4X800m Relay Team finished with a 4th Place finish with a time of 9:48.65. Team members include: Ryelle Gilbert, Faith Traphagen, Taryn Traphagen, and Kella Tracy!
- The Girls 4X100m Relay Team just missed qualifying for finals, as they placed 9th with a time of 51.42. Team members include: Laila Roberts, Rylee Dunker, McKenna Tietz, Makenna Krause!
- The Boys 4X800m Relay Team finished 16th, with a time of 8:45.25. Team members include: Jayden Schwan, Jace Johnson, Ethan Kroll, and Tristin McGannon!
- Makenna Krause finished 13th in the 100m Dash, with a time of 13.12!
- Keegen Tracy finished 18th in the 100m Dash, with a time of 11.57!

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Day 1 of the South Dakota Track meet at the Howard Wood Track Complex in Sioux Falls.

(Photo by Bruce Babcock)



Groton Area Boys 4x800m relay. L-R Triston McGannon, Ethan Kroll, Jace Johnson, and Jayden Schwan. (Photo by Bruce Babcock)



Girls 1600 SMR 8th place. L-R Kella Tracy, Laila Roberts, Taryn Traphagen, and MaKenna Krause. (Photo by Bruce Babcock)

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Photos from State Track Meet by
Jodi Schwan and Bruce Babcock



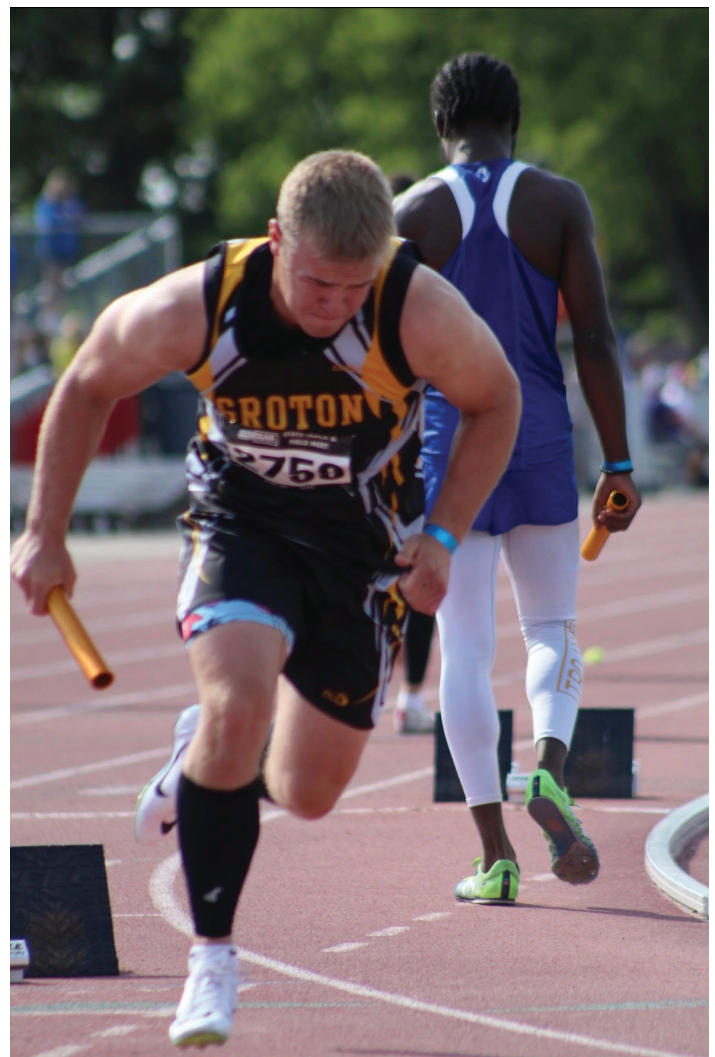
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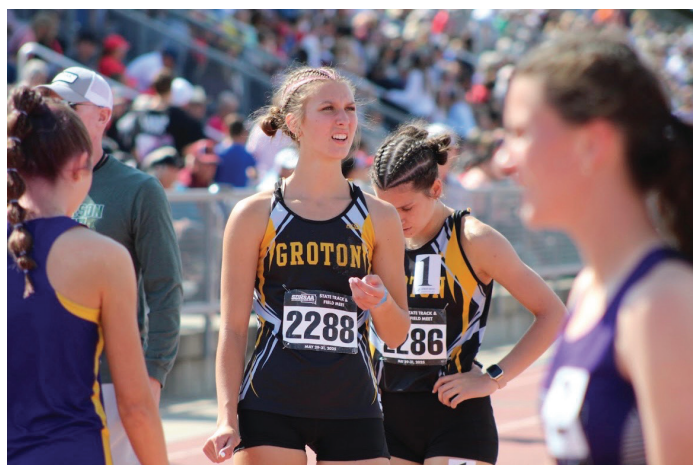
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OPENING MAY 2ND
CLOSING JUNE 2ND

WEBER LANDSCAPING GREENHOUSE

620 WEST THIRD AVENUE

GROTON

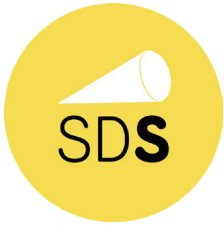
HOURS OF OPERATION

M-F 10-6

SAT 10-4

SUN 12-4





SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

Prison drug smuggling ring busted, state corrections officials say

BY: SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT STAFF - MAY 29, 2025 2:57 PM

Following a protest in response to a string of violence and deaths at state prisons and amid continuing talks about potential prison construction, South Dakota officials say they've busted a ring of drug smuggling in prison facilities and imposed a non-contact visit policy.

No drug charges have been filed, according to a Thursday news release from the state Department of Corrections, which said an investigation is ongoing involving its Inspector General's Office, the state Division of Criminal Investigation and the U.S. postmaster general.

"If the results of the investigation warrant prosecution, criminal charges will be sought," the news release said. "We will continue to counter every attempt to introduce dangerous contraband into our facilities."

The news release said three methods of drug delivery into prisons were identified and stopped:

Through the use of counterfeit packages imitating well-known manufacturers with drugs sent in through the packages.

Through false use of the privileged mail system, such as counterfeit legal mail.

And through the actions of visitors, including family members and friends, bringing drugs into the prison during visitation.

The press release went on to say that three inmate deaths — one in February and two this month — were linked to drug overdoses on the penitentiary campus in Sioux Falls.

The Department of Corrections has also imposed non-contact visits for family and friends of inmates "in certain facilities," the press release said. It also said "non-contact visits may be expanded to other prison facilities" and "additional policy changes are also under review."

"We wanted to ensure that the public is aware of the work that has been done in these cases. We are taking action to keep staff and inmates safe," said a quote in the news release from Secretary of Corrections Kellie Wasko.

The drug investigation is occurring against the backdrop of activism against prison conditions and inmate treatment, including a protest Friday by about 50 people. Meanwhile, the state's Project Prison Reset task force is considering plans to construct new prison facilities. The group's next meeting is Tuesday in Pierre.

Health care advocates form coalition urging Republicans to take their 'Hands Off Medicaid'

BY: JOSHUA HAIAR - MAY 29, 2025 1:49 PM

A group of South Dakota health care advocates launched a "Hands Off Medicaid" coalition Thursday, pleading with the state's all-Republican congressional delegation to avoid proposed cuts.

Medicaid is a federal-state health care program for low-income people. A U.S. House-approved budget reconciliation bill would reduce the program by \$625 billion over 10 years under an estimate by the Congressional Budget Office.

Shelley Ten Napel, CEO of the Community HealthCare Association of the Dakotas, is a member of Hands Off Medicaid.

"The proposed cuts will be especially harmful to rural South Dakota," Ten Napel said. "When coverage rates fall, rural health centers lose critical funding — putting access to primary care, maternal care, dental services and behavioral health at risk for everyone in those communities."

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U.S. Rep. Dusty Johnson, R-South Dakota, voted for the bill last week. It's now under consideration by the Senate.

"This bill is a strong conservative work product, and one that is long overdue," Johnson said last week in a press release. "It delivers a historic spending reduction and roots out abuse of federal programs. These changes are a meaningful attempt to turn our fiscal house in the right direction."

Hands Off Medicaid's introductory press conference included Democrat Earl Pomeroy, who served as a U.S. representative for North Dakota from 1993 to 2011. He said millions of Americans could lose care.

"This bill represents a complete retreat from decades of bipartisan progress in expanding access to health care," Pomeroy said. "It will drive up the number of uninsured South Dakotans and leave rural hospitals drowning in tens of millions of dollars in uncompensated care."

That fear is shared by retired family physician Tom Dean. Born and raised near Wessington Springs, he retired after 43 years of practice and still lives in the small South Dakota town.

"I'm really frightened about the impact it will have on nursing homes," Dean said.

About 147,000 South Dakotans are enrolled in Medicaid. The advocates said 49% of seniors and people with disabilities receive nursing home and community-based care through Medicaid. They also say one out of four births in the state is covered by Medicaid.

"Medicaid is a major payer for prenatal, delivery and postpartum care," Dean said. "And that's a major concern, especially in rural areas, but across the country. This country has an alarmingly high maternal mortality rate."

The U.S. maternal mortality rate in 2022 was 22.3 deaths per 100,000 live births, according to a report from the Commonwealth Fund, compared to zero in Norway, 1.2 in Switzerland, 3.4 in Japan, 3.5 in Germany, and 8.4 in Canada.

Shannon Bacon is the director of external affairs at Community HealthCare Association of the Dakotas. She said access to obstetric care is declining across the state because fewer facilities are offering those services, in part because it "typically is a money-loser for hospitals, and especially for small rural hospitals that are already financially stressed."

"And if we lose Medicaid coverage, it will make that problem even worse," Bacon said. "And as a result, it will have a direct impact on outcomes."

The bill includes a policy change that would require Medicaid enrollees who are between the ages of 19 and 65 to work, participate in community service, or attend an educational program at least 80 hours a month.

The language has numerous exceptions, including for pregnant women, parents of dependent children, people who have complex medical conditions, tribal community members, those in the foster care system, people who were in foster care who are below the age of 26, and individuals released from incarceration in the last 90 days, among others.

Meanwhile, South Dakota officials are considering imposing their own work requirements on adult Medicaid expansion enrollees who don't qualify for a list of exceptions. South Dakotans voted in 2022 to expand Medicaid to adults with incomes up to 138% of the poverty level, a decision that allowed the state to capitalize on a 90% federal funding match.

The first of two public hearings on the state's Medicaid expansion work requirements proposal is at 10:30 a.m. Friday at the state Department of Social Services in Pierre.

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.

COMMENTARY

The land ethic of our grandparents is key to our grandchildren's future

by Barry Dunn

EDITOR'S NOTE: This commentary is adapted from a speech to the 2025 Big Sioux Stewardship Summit in Sioux Falls.

My grandfather, Claude Lamoureux, was a cowboy and an Indian. For a boy growing up in the 1950s and '60s, that was just about the coolest thing ever.

He and my grandmother, Hattie, ranched south of Mission on the Rosebud Reservation. My boyhood memories are of driving across the ranch in a two-wheel-drive, green Chevy pickup with my grandfather, checking the cattle and the windmills and making sure all the gates were closed and the fences were tight. Many times we rode horses, and from early on I saddled my own.

Grandpa was never very talkative, but I peppered him with questions to the point of annoyance, and I learned by some sharp looks that I needed to be quiet. I have no memory of him tucking me into bed or telling me he loved me or playing games. That was Grandma's job. But on horseback, in his truck, around the supper table, he taught me many lessons, most of which I understand better today.

I graduated from high school at Christmastime and immediately went to the ranch working full time. Sadly, my grandma died soon after, and I found myself alone with Grandpa Claude. He was grieving, and I was trying to grow up, so it was a poignant time for both of us.

By then, his brown skin had darkened even more and he had wrinkles from a hard life defined by scarcity. He wasn't a tall man, but he was still rugged and straight, and his love for the land was obvious.

He was a member of the Sicangu Lakota. He was born on the Rosebud Reservation south of what is now Winner, into extreme poverty and just two years after the Wounded Knee Massacre on the Pine Ridge Reservation, a few miles to the west.

As a teenager, Grandpa rode in the last open range roundups in the Dakotas, clearing the reservations of Texas cattle to open the way for homesteaders. He described the landscape back then as beautiful, endless grassland, except for an occasional cottonwood grove, which was a sign of water and perhaps some shelter.

Right after World War II, he bought a place called the Antelope Ranch. He used his Indian preference status and was very entrepreneurial, buying abandoned homesteads for dollars an acre. He put together 12,500 contiguous acres and renamed it the L7 Ranch, after his brand. He received that brand from his father, and I still have it.

Most ranchers talk about their prize cattle and their best horses, and Grandpa was very proud of his livestock. He ran a band of mares with a stallion. But his true love was for the land.

During the homestead era, farmers had plowed up nearly every flat acre in Todd County they could find. When they failed during the Dust Bowl, they left the land abandoned, scarred and unproductive. Grandpa used to say that weeds were Mother Nature's way of covering her nakedness. He found the old fields that he bought covered with weeds and annual grasses.

Without understanding the modern concepts of ecological succession, he called those fields "go back" — meaning to him that they were trying to go back to their native condition. As I reflect on that, I'm left wondering where that understanding of the power of succession, of Mother Nature to reclaim herself, came from.

He also knew that planting grasses would hurry the healing, and he worked with the Soil Conservation Service, which is now the Natural Resources Conservation Service. He planted hundreds of acres of scarred and blowing land back to introduced and native grasses, way back in the 1940s and '50s.

He planted alfalfa with cool-season grasses because he knew it was a natural fertilizer for hay ground, like he knew that purple prairie clover was a natural legume in grasslands. He knew the pastures needed to be properly stocked, so he was careful to put just the right number of cattle in each one.

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Beavers had been eliminated from the landscape a century earlier by fur trappers — some of them my ancestors — and he understood that by building a series of small dams on Antelope Creek, he could raise the water table of the entire valley, increase its productivity and provide water for livestock and wildlife. An interesting phenomenon occurred after that: The beavers came back.

My grandpa didn't use fancy words when he talked about conservation and stewardship. He was pragmatic, blunt, usually quiet. He didn't mention his Lakota heritage as part of his values, but upon reflection, they were on clear display. His principles and practices are timeless and elegant. He loved the treeless prairie, and taught me to love it.

One year, he won a small award from the Todd County Conservation District. He was so proud of it, and I was proud of him. My lifetime commitment to conservation was inspired by my grandfather and then solidified by education at South Dakota State University.

From earning my undergraduate degree in biological sciences way back in 1975 to securing a master's and then a doctorate, I've had many opportunities to learn more about the ecology of our great state and the grassland biome that runs from Canada all the way to northern Mexico, and from the Rockies to the Mississippi River.

Many years after that eventful spring and summer following my grandma's death, I saw a quote by the famous conservationist Aldo Leopold that reminds me of my grandfather. Leopold said, "The land ethic simply enlarges the boundaries of the community to include soils, water, plants, and animals, or collectively: the land."

In short, a land ethic changes the role of homo sapiens from conqueror of the land community to a plain member and citizen of it. It implies a respect for the fellow members of the community.

Leopold also said, "Teach the student to see the land, understand what he sees, and enjoy what he understands." In those terms, my grandfather was a successful teacher.

He was an old man when he built dams, planted grass and stocked his pastures. He didn't live much longer than my grandma, because he couldn't live without her. He wasn't around to see or personally benefit from most of the conservation work that he did. He didn't have to take the responsibility to leave the land better than when he found it, but I am certain he believed he did. His conservation work and land stewardship were an expression of his values and ethics.

It inspired me then and still does today. I clearly remember the moment when Grandpa's land ethic clicked with me. It was 1971, during that pivotal time I spent with Grandpa after Grandma died.

It was a spring morning following some really good rains, which aren't frequent in Todd County. It was a picture-perfect scene, something you'd expect to see in a Western movie. I was by myself, atop a horse, checking fences in an area I had ridden a hundred times before. And there it hit me, as vividly as Dorothy's world went from black and white to color when she landed in the Land of Oz.

We all know how South Dakota's prairie can be that earthy amber color, a warm and sun-kissed reddish brown with golden undertones. But not that morning. Grandpa Claude's hillsides were lit up. Wildflowers were everywhere in response to those infrequent rains, and it was amazing. But the experience was much deeper than that.

When I looked across the great expanse before me, I could see the difference in land ethics based upon land ownership. Grandpa Claude's hills were a quilt of blossoms stitched together by sun, wind and open sky. I didn't even need the fences to mark the boundaries.

The lack of conservation methods and stewardship and a land ethic contrasted drastically before me. The adjacent lands next to Grandpa's pasture were being farmed for potatoes in Todd County, believe it or not. They looked like drouth-scabbed earth — patchy, uneven, gray, brown. They looked worn and diseased.

Beyond the beauty, there are important reasons why we all need those flower-covered hills. The journal Science recently reported that butterfly populations in the United States are dropping dramatically. In conservation terms, butterflies are what is known as a key species. The relative health of their population is an excellent indicator of the health of the ecosystem in which they live, and the health of all insects.

Conservation, another science journal, reports that 40% of all insect species in America are on a dramatic

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decline. Insects help pollinate crops, and they're on the food chain for birds and other animals. They're critically important in the loop that Leopold described, because it's an interconnected world. Conservation ethics — or land ethics, as Leopold called them — are an important link in life's fragile chain, whether we live in cities or in rural settings.

As I mentioned, Grandpa wasn't much for talking, but his actions and results spoke volumes. His land ethic instilled in me a love and respect for every blade of grass, every butterfly that flutters by, and even a bird's nest where we don't want it. He's the reason I brush worms back into the dirt from the sidewalk, why I pick up litter, why I recycle everything I possibly can.

My question for you today is, will our grandchildren or great-grandchildren have the same opportunities? Will they experience the beauty of a swallowtail butterfly in its natural environment, or just view them in a museum of natural history or butterfly house? Will they hear a meadowlark sing or marvel at a red-tailed hawk on the hunt flying low across the prairie? I'm concerned that they will not.

Over the last several decades, native grasslands in South Dakota and the entire grassland biome that I described earlier have dramatically declined in total acres, and with it biodiversity, whose value we can't possibly measure. Fortunately, we know what to do. We know the basics of ecology. We know the importance of soil health. We know the principles of good range management. We know that with the right tillage systems, we wouldn't have dust storms. We know that conservation pays. We know what to do.

What we need is ethics. We need core values that reflect a love for the land on which we live and receive our sustenance. But can we muster the common sense and selfless spirit of our grandparents to do that? I'm not sure.

I think we need to commit again, every day, individually and collectively, to have a land ethic that expresses our care and compassion and our responsibility for the land.

I'll leave you with another quote from Theodore Roosevelt, one of my favorite presidents.

"Here is your country," he said. "Cherish these natural wonders, cherish the natural resources, cherish the history and romance as a sacred heritage, for your children and your children's children."

Barry Dunn is the 20th president of South Dakota State University. He is a member of the Sicangu Lakota and is believed to be the first enrolled member of a federally recognized tribe to serve as president or chancellor of an 1862 land-grant institution. From 1979 to 1996, he managed his family's cattle ranch in Mission; today, Dunn and his wife, Jane, maintain her family's original homestead north of Brookings, where they raised their two sons.

Appeals court restores Trump tariffs for now, after trade court blocks most

BY: ASHLEY MURRAY - MAY 29, 2025 3:28 PM

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump's global tariffs can remain in place while the courts examine whether the sweeping import taxes that have roiled worldwide trade reach beyond his presidential authority.

The U.S. Appeals Court for the Federal Circuit delivered the order swiftly Thursday, handing Trump a win after a lower trade court blocked nearly all of the president's unprecedented emergency tariffs that affect U.S. trade with nearly every other nation.

The administration had immediately appealed the ruling and threatened to take the case to the Supreme Court as early as Friday if a stay was not granted.

White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt slammed the earlier decision Thursday, saying the three-judge panel for the U.S. Court of International Trade "brazenly abused their judicial power."

"Our trade agenda is moving forward, and we've already heard from countries around the world today who will continue to negotiate in good faith with the United States so we can cut good trade deals on behalf of the American people, and we fully expect to win this case in court," Leavitt said at the daily press briefing.

Canada's Prime Minister Mark Carney took to social media Thursday to say that his country "welcomes" the U.S. trade court's decision.

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"It confirmed what we've always held: that the American tariffs against Canadian goods are unlawful and unjustified," Carney wrote on X.

Most tariffs blocked

The U.S. Court of International Trade had sided Wednesday with several businesses and a dozen states that sued the administration for using emergency powers to trigger the steep import taxes — the first time a U.S. president had ever done so.

Arizona, Colorado, Maine, Minnesota, Nevada, New Mexico and Oregon were among states, led by Democratic attorneys general, that brought the suit.

The trade court's ruling did not apply to tariffs Trump imposed under other statutes, including national security-related duties on foreign automobiles, as well as steel and aluminum. Some of the steel tariffs, imposed during Trump's first term, were left in place under former President Joe Biden.

Tariffs are taxes paid to the U.S. government by American companies and purchasers who want to bring imported products into the country.

Tariffs began earlier this year

Trump began issuing emergency tariffs in February and March on products from Canada, Mexico and China, declaring national emergencies with respect to fentanyl smuggling from all three nations.

The president escalated his trade policy on April 2, which he dubbed "liberation day," when he announced tariffs on nearly every other nation after declaring a national emergency under the 1977 International Emergency Economic Powers Act, or IEEPA. Trump slapped some of the highest levies on countries that export more products to the U.S. than they buy in American goods.

The announcement sent world markets plummeting and small businesses panicking, and ignited a trade war with China, peaking at a 145% tariff on Chinese goods.

Trump paused his worldwide "reciprocal" tariffs until July 9, imposing a universal 10% import tax on every country while he said his administration negotiates new trade agreements — usually a lengthy, meticulous process.

Trump lowered import taxes on Chinese goods to an effective baseline of 30% in mid-May to allow for three months of negotiations, according to the administration.

Judges' conclusions

The trade court judges found that trade deficits — meaning we buy more from a country than they buy from us — do not constitute an emergency under the law and do not give the president unfettered power to impose unlimited tariffs.

"Because of the Constitution's express allocation of the tariff power to Congress, we do not read IEEPA to delegate an unbounded tariff authority to the President," according to the court's 61-page opinion.

In its appeal to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, the Trump administration argued IEEPA "clearly authorizes" the president to impose the tariffs.

"Absent at least interim relief from this Court, the United States plans to seek emergency relief from the Supreme Court tomorrow to avoid the irreparable national-security and economic harms at stake," the administration wrote.

Separately, Judge Rudolph Contreras for the U.S. District Court in Washington, D.C., delivered a similar, but narrow, ruling Thursday for two businesses that sued the Trump administration. Contreras wrote in a 33-page opinion that the businesses faced "significant and unrecoverable" financial losses as a result of the import taxes.

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

Visa crackdown on Chinese students coming, State Department's Rubio says

BY: SHAUNEEN MIRANDA - MAY 29, 2025 3:24 PM

WASHINGTON — U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio says his agency and the Department of Homeland Security will work to “aggressively revoke” visas for Chinese students.

Rubio’s announcement offered few details but said “under President Trump’s leadership, the U.S. State Department will work with the Department of Homeland Security to aggressively revoke visas for Chinese students, including those with connections to the Chinese Communist Party or studying in critical fields.”

Chinese students comprise the second-largest group of international students in the United States, behind Indian students.

The move is part of the Trump administration’s continuing immigration crackdown and battle with higher education.

In an ongoing scuffle with Harvard University, a reflection of the administration’s efforts to crack down on “woke” institutions and go after campuses they say are harboring antisemitism, the government moved to halt the school’s ability to enroll international students last week.

But Harvard sued over the effort, and the revocation has been temporarily blocked in court.

Under the Trump administration, the State Department has revoked visas of international students who were involved in campus protests and other activities related to Israel’s war in Gaza. Some students were detained by immigration authorities as part of that effort.

Focus on China

In his Wednesday announcement, Rubio said the State Department would also “revise visa criteria to enhance scrutiny of all future visa applications from the People’s Republic of China and Hong Kong.”

At the department’s Thursday press briefing, spokesperson Tammy Bruce declined to get into specifics regarding the number of students who would be impacted or what falls within “critical fields,” as Rubio’s statement noted.

Bruce said the United States “will not tolerate the CCP’s exploitation of U.S. universities, or theft of U.S. research, intellectual property or technologies to grow its military power, conduct intelligence collection or repress voices of opposition.”

More than 277,000 Chinese students studied in the United States during the 2023-24 academic year — making up nearly one-quarter of the more than 1,126,000 total international students in that school year, according to a report from the Institute of International Education and the State Department.

However, the total number of students from China declined slightly from the 2022-23 school year, when that figure stood at more than 289,000.

In the 2023-24 academic year, Chinese students made up one-quarter or more of the total international student population within California, Connecticut, the District of Columbia, Georgia, Maryland, Massachusetts, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Washington state and Wisconsin.

New York University, Northeastern University in Massachusetts and Columbia University in New York hosted the highest number of international students during that academic year.

Students from South Korea, Canada, Taiwan, Vietnam and Nigeria also comprised large groups of international students in the United States during the 2023-24 school year.

The announcement raises myriad logistical questions over how the United States would carry out the effort, as well as how officials would determine who has “connections to the Chinese Communist Party.”

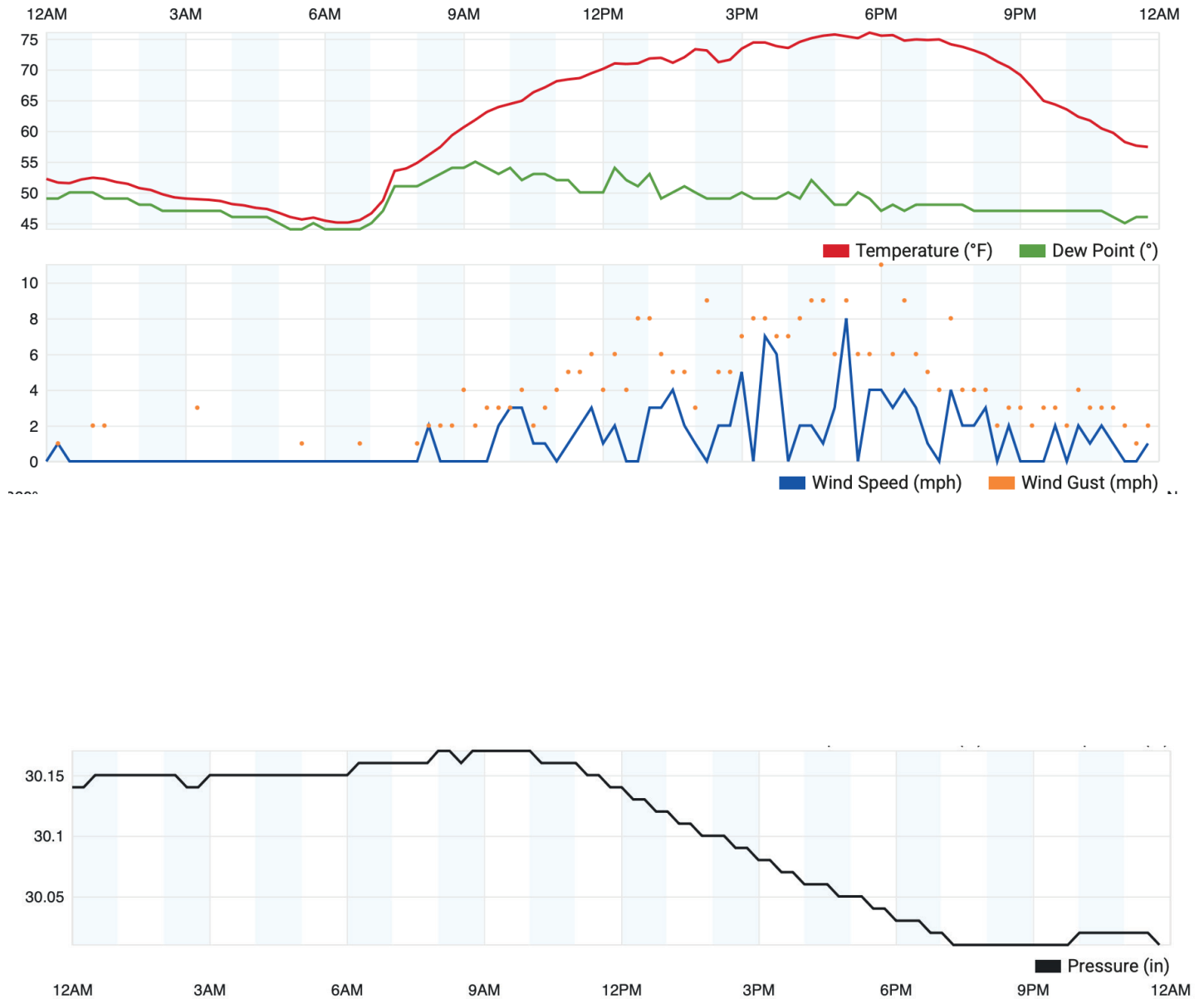
Meanwhile, the State Department temporarily paused new student visa interviews earlier this week as the administration prepares to expand the screening of applicants’ activity on social media, according to multiple reports.

Shauneen Miranda is a reporter for States Newsroom’s Washington bureau. An alumna of the University of Maryland, she previously covered breaking news for Axios.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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Today



High: 81 °F

Mostly Sunny

Tonight



Low: 51 °F

Partly Cloudy
then Patchy
Smoke

Saturday



High: 86 °F

Areas Smoke

Saturday Night



Low: 56 °F

Mostly Clear

Sunday



High: 89 °F

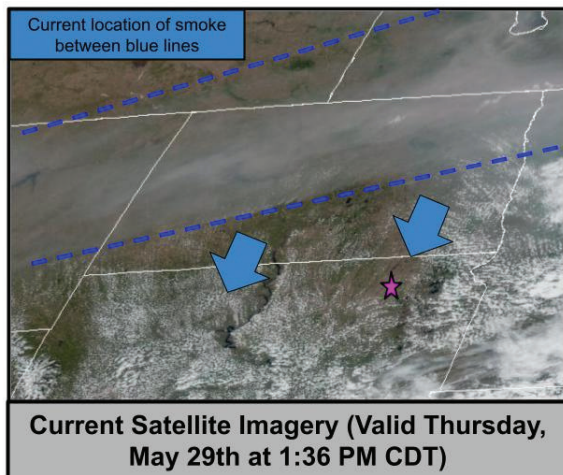
Sunny



Wildfire Smoke Moving In

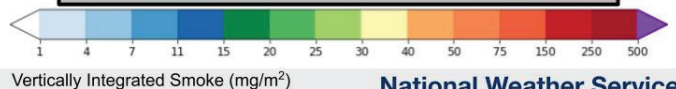
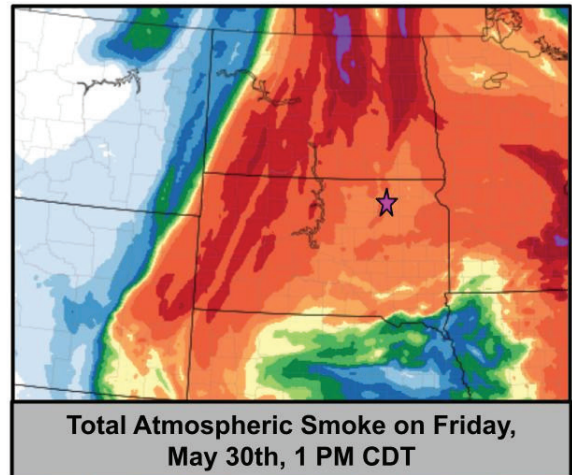
May 29, 2025
2:11 PM

- ★ Elevated wildfire smoke from Canada is expected to move over the area later this evening, bringing hazy skies on Friday.
- ★ Surface smoke, reduced visibility and poor air quality are a possibility for Saturday.



★ = Aberdeen

➡ = Expected motion of smoke



National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

Wildfire Smoke has made its way down over the northern plains from Canada, and will continue southward tonight and into the weekend. Smoke will remain elevated on Friday creating hazy skies, but we may see some near-surface smoke moving in Saturday.

Air Quality and Health

Exposure to air pollutants such as particulate matter and ground-level ozone can cause:



Headaches



Difficulty breathing



Irritated eyes,
sinuses



Chest pains,
asthma attacks



Fatigue



Irritated throat,
increased coughing

Poor air quality can be hazardous to anyone, and it can aggravate health problems such as asthma, heart disease, and lung disease.

Seniors, children and those with compromised immune systems are especially at risk.

weather.gov



Poor air quality can be hazardous to anyone. Before spending time outdoors, check the air quality forecast to ensure that you aren't doing yourself more harm than good. Check out the EPA's forecast for air quality forecasts and current conditions... <https://www.airnow.gov/> <https://gispub.epa.gov/airnow> <https://fire.airnow.gov/>

Wildfires Are A Health Risk.

Smoke from wildfires can...

...hurt your eyes

...irritate your lungs

...and worsen
respiratory illness



weather.gov

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Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 76 °F at 4:47 PM

Low Temp: 45 °F at 6:15 AM

Wind: 11 mph at 5:32 PM

Precip: : 0.01

Day length: 15 hours, 27 minutes

Today's Info

Record High: 110 in 1934

Record Low: 27 in 1947

Average High: 76

Average Low: 50

Average Precip in May.: 3.17

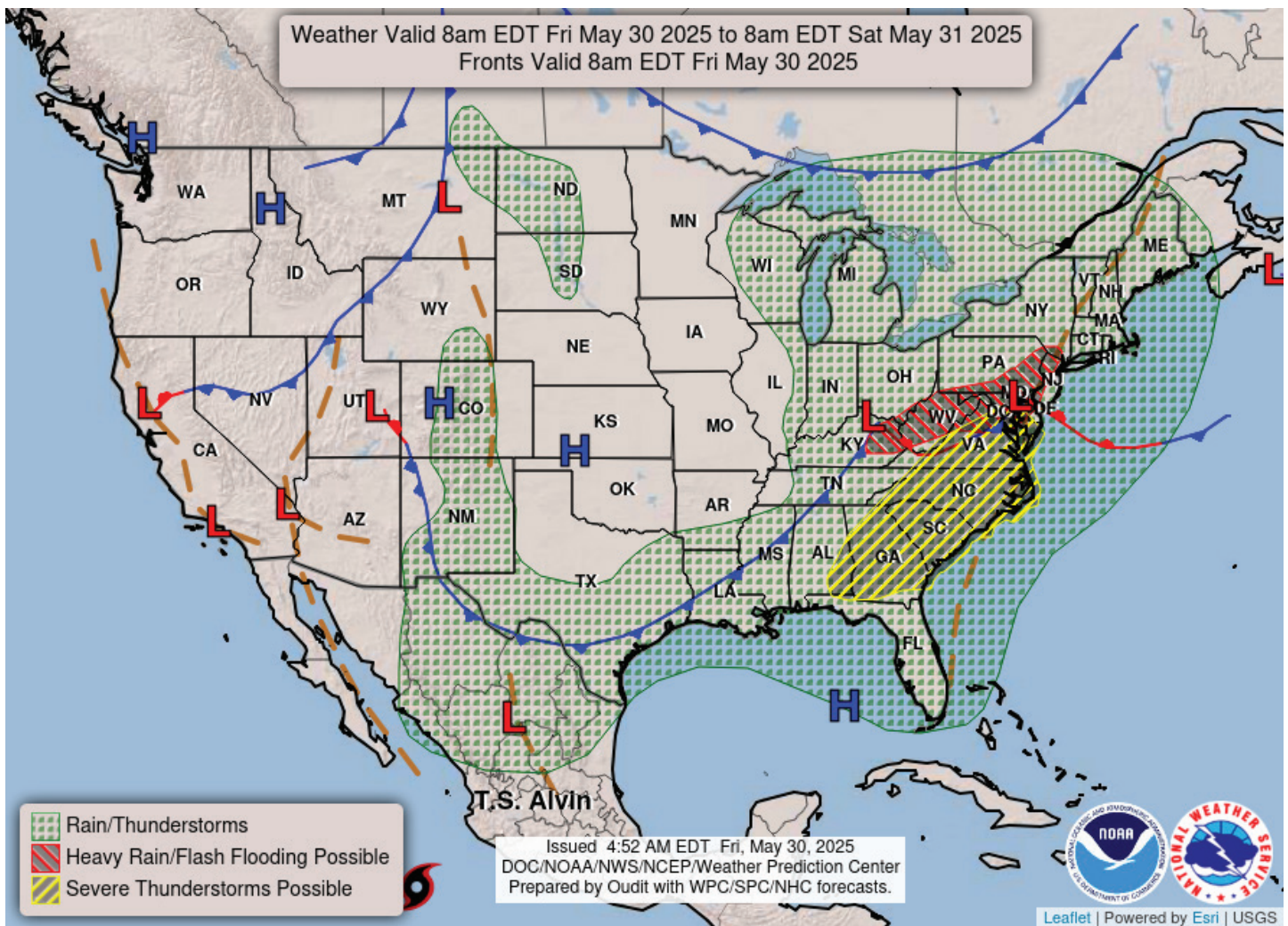
Precip to date in May.: 3.42

Average Precip to date: 7.14

Precip Year to Date: 6.05

Sunset Tonight: 9:13:48 pm

Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:45:40 am



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Today in Weather History

May 30th, 1998: An F4 tornado moved through southeast South Dakota, killing six people and injuring another 150. The tornado crossed into McCook County at approximately 7:38 pm CST and moved through downtown Spencer at about 7:39 pm CST. The total cost of damage was more than \$18 million, with an additional half million in crop damage.

1879 - A major outbreak of severe weather occurred in Kansas and western Missouri. In Kansas, tornadoes killed eighteen persons at Delphos, and thirty persons at Irving. Two tornadoes struck the town of Irving within a few minutes time virtually wiping the small Kansas community off the map. The second tornado was perhaps two miles wide, and exhibited multiple vortices. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1948 - A railroad bed acting as a dam gave way during a flood along the Columbia River destroying the town of Vanport, OR. The nearly 19,000 residents escaped with little more than the clothes on their backs. (David Ludlum)

1948 - Twenty carloads of glass were needed in Denver, CO, to replace that destroyed by a severe hail-storm. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Unseasonably warm weather prevailed across the eastern U.S. Eighteen cities, from Virginia to Ohio and Michigan, reported record high temperatures for the date. Afternoon highs of 97 degrees at Baltimore, MD, and Washington, DC, and 98 degrees at Newark, NJ, were records for the date. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Memorial Day heralded heavy snow in some of the mountains and higher passes of Wyoming, closing roads in Yellowstone Park. McDonald Pass, MT, was blanketed with eight inches of snow, while the temperature at Miles City, MT, soared to 94 degrees. A "supercell" thunderstorm in west Texas produced baseball size hail in Bailey and Lamb counties, and up to five inches of rain in less than an hour. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather from the Upper Mississippi Valley to the Upper Ohio Valley during the day. A powerful (F-4) tornado injured three persons and caused a million dollars damage at New Providence, IA. Baseball size hail was reported at Blue Earth, MN. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1990 - Thunderstorms developing along a warm front spawned fourteen tornadoes in northeastern Texas during the late afternoon and evening hours. The thunderstorms also produced baseball size hail near Marshall, wind gusts to 77 mph at Commerce, and up to five inches of rain. Thunderstorms over southwestern Kansas produced up to six inches of rain. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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"Finds life" or "loves death." From one extreme to another. A contrast that is unmistakable and a choice that is crystal clear. It is one of the great "either/or" in God's Word. There is a way of life or a path to death. And it is strange that some would not search for a way to live wisely and enjoy the blessings of God.

One translation recognizes the choice as "one who finds me...vs...he who misses me." There is a reward for searching for and applying God's wisdom: "life and favor from the Lord."

Conversely, those who "fail to find God's wisdom - or those who sin against God - harm themselves; all who hate me love death." Can the extremes be more clearly defined? Described?

Here is a clear picture of a self-centered life - a picture of one who has made a willful, thoughtful choice after careful deliberation. It is a choice that is void of emotions or feelings. But, a choice, nonetheless.

Earlier in the chapter wisdom is described as "a tree of life." And if one chooses the "other path," it is a "path to death." Unfortunately, at the time the decision is made, the one making the decision may not be aware of that choice. Life may be too exciting, or too much fun, or too enjoyable, or death is "so far away" there is nothing to fear.

The choice should matter to us. If we know someone, anyone who is without Christ, we are responsible to God to take His message of love, salvation, hope and eternal life. Otherwise, we contribute to that one's death without hope of God. Witness and share His grace constantly!

Prayer: Awaken us, Father, to our obligation to speak to those who are on the wrong path and unsaved. May we recognize our responsibility to You as well as others. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Today's Scripture:

"For whoever finds me finds life and receives favor from the Lord. But those who miss me injure themselves. All who hate me love death." — Proverbs 8:35–36

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: 05.27.25

6 28 34 48 62 9

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$189,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 17 Hrs 30 Mins 57 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS: 05.28.25

4 6 8 33 35 5

All Star Bonus: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$37,220,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 16 Hrs 45 Mins 57 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS: 05.29.25

9 14 20 31 46 7

TOP PRIZE:

\$7,000/week

NEXT DRAW: 17 Hrs 58 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS: 05.28.25

5 16 17 19 30

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$20,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 17 Hrs 58 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS: 05.28.25

14 30 41 48 69 12

TOP PRIZE:

\$10,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 17 Hrs 29 Mins 58 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS: 05.28.25

23 27 32 35 59 11

Power Play: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$207,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 17 Hrs 29 Mins 58 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

European benchmarks rise while Asian shares finished lower amid uncertainty over Trump's tariffs

By YURI KAGEYAMA AP Business Writer

TOKYO (AP) — European shares rose while Asian benchmarks finished mostly lower Friday as uncertainty grew about what will happen next after a U.S. court blocked many of President Donald Trump's sweeping tariffs.

France's CAC 40 rose 0.2% in early trading to 7,796.14, while Germany's DAX jumped 0.6% to 24,122.42. Britain's FTSE 100 added 0.6% to 8,771.71. U.S. shares were set to drift lower with Dow futures down 0.1% at 42,217.00. S&P 500 futures declined 0.1% to 5,914.75.

Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 lost 1.2% to finish at 37,965.10. Government data showed Tokyo core inflation, excluding fresh food, rising to a higher-than-expected 3.6% in May. Some analysts say that makes it more likely the Bank of Japan will raise interest rates.

Australia's S&P/ASX 200 rose 0.3% to 8,434.70. South Korea's Kospi declined 0.8% to 2,697.67, ahead of a presidential election set for next week.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng slipped 1.2% to 23,289.77, while the Shanghai Composite shed 0.5% to 3,347.49.

Earlier this week, the U.S. Court of International Trade said that the 1977 International Emergency Economic Powers Act that Trump cited for ordering massive increases in taxes on imports from around the world does not authorize the use of tariffs.

The ruling at first raised hopes in financial markets that a hamstrung Trump would not be able to drive the economy into a recession with his tariffs, which had threatened to grind down on global trade and raise prices for consumers already sick of high inflation.

But the tariffs remain in place for now while the White House appeals the ruling, and the ultimate outcome is still uncertain. The court's ruling also affects only some of Trump's tariffs, not those on foreign steel, aluminum and autos, which were invoked under a different law.

The Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit on Thursday allowed the president to temporarily continue collecting the tariffs under the emergency powers law while he appeals the trade court's decision.

Un energy trading, benchmark U.S. crude rose 24 cents to \$61.18 a barrel. Brent crude, the international standard, edged up 23 cents to \$64.38 a barrel.

In currency trading, the U.S. dollar declined to 143.96 Japanese yen from 144.12 yen. The euro cost \$1.1342, down from \$1.1367.

Faizan Zaki overcomes a shocking, self-inflicted flub and wins the Scripps National Spelling Bee

By BEN NUCKOLS Associated Press

OXON HILL, Md. (AP) — Faizan Zaki's enthusiasm for spelling nearly got the better of him. Ultimately, his joyful approach made him the Scripps National Spelling Bee champion.

The favorite entering the bee after his runner-up finish last year — during which he never misspelled a word in a conventional spelling round, only to lose a lightning-round tiebreaker that he didn't practice for — the shaggy-haired Faizan wore the burden of expectations lightly, sauntering to the microphone in a black hoodie and spelling his words with casual glee.

Throughout Thursday night's finals, the 13-year-old from Allen, Texas, looked like a champion in waiting. Then he nearly threw it away. But even a shocking moment of overconfidence couldn't prevent him from seizing the title of best speller in the English language.

With the bee down to three spellers, Sarvadnya Kadam and Sarv Dharavane missed their words back-to-back, putting Faizan two words away from victory. The first was "commelina," but instead of asking the

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requisite questions — definition, language of origin — to make sure he knew it, Faizan let his showman's instincts take over.

"K-A-M," he said, then stopped himself. "OK, let me do this. Oh, shoot!"

"Just ring the bell," he told head judge Mary Brooks, who obliged.

"So now you know what happens," Brooks said, and the other two spellers returned to the stage.

Later, standing next to the trophy with confetti at his feet, Faizan said: "I'm definitely going to be having nightmares about that tonight."

Even pronouncer Jacques Bailly tried to slow Faizan down before his winning word, "eclaircissement," but Faizan didn't ask a single question before spelling it correctly, and he pumped his fists and collapsed to the stage after saying the final letter.

The bee celebrated its 100th anniversary this year, and Faizan may be the first champion who's remembered more for a word he got wrong than one he got right.

"I think he cared too much about his aura," said Bruhat Soma, Faizan's buddy who beat him in the "spell-off" tiebreaker last year.

Faizan had a more nuanced explanation: After not preparing for the spell-off last year, he overcorrected, emphasizing speed during his study sessions.

Although Bruhat was fast last year when he needed to be, he followed the familiar playbook for champion spellers: asking thorough questions, spelling slowly and metronomically, showing little emotion. Those are among the hallmarks of well-coached spellers, and Faizan had three coaches: Scott Remer, Sam Evans and Sohum Sukhantankar.

None of them could turn Faizan into a robot on stage.

"He's crazy. He's having a good time, and he's doing what he loves, which is spelling," Evans said.

Said Zaki Anwar, Faizan's father: "He's the GOAT. I actually believe that. He's really good, man. He's been doing it for so long, and he knows the dictionary in and out."

A thrilling centennial

After last year's bee had little drama before an abrupt move to the spell-off, Scripps tweaked the competition rules, giving judges more leeway to let the competition play out before going to the tiebreaker. The nine finalists delivered.

During one stretch, six spellers got 28 consecutive words right, and there were three perfect rounds during the finals. The last time there was a single perfect round was the infamous 2019 bee, which ended in an eight-way tie.

Sarv, an 11-year-old fifth-grader from Dunwoody, Georgia, who ultimately finished third, would have been the youngest champion since Nihar Janga in 2016. He has three years of eligibility remaining.

The most poised and mature of the final three, Sarvadnya — who's from Visalia, California — ends his career as the runner-up. He's 14 and in the eighth grade, which means he has aged out of the competition. It's not a bad way to go out, considering that Faizan became just the fifth runner-up in a century to come back and win, and the first since Sean Conley in 2001.

Including Faizan, whose parents emigrated from southern India, 30 of the past 36 champions have been Indian American, a run that began with Nupur Lala's victory in 1999, which was later featured in the documentary "Spellbound." Lala was among the dozens of past champions who attended this year and signed autographs for spellers, families and bee fans to honor the anniversary.

With the winner's haul of \$52,500 added to his second-place prize of \$25,000, Faizan increased his bee earnings to \$77,500. His big splurge with his winnings last year? A \$1,500 Rubik's cube with 21 squares on each side. This time, he said he'd donate a large portion of his winnings to charity.

The bee began in 1925 when the Louisville Courier-Journal invited other newspapers to host spelling bees and send their champions to Washington. For the past 14 years, Scripps has hosted the competition at a convention center just outside the nation's capital, but the bee returns downtown next year to Constitution Hall, a nearly century-old concert venue near the White House.

A passionate champion

Faizan has been spelling for more than half his life. He competed in the 2019 bee as a 7-year-old, getting

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in through a wild-card program that has since been discontinued. He qualified again in 2023 and made the semifinals before last year's second-place finish.

"One thing that differentiates him is he really has a passion for this. In his free time, when he's not studying for the bee, he's literally looking up archaic, obsolete words that have no chance of being asked," Bruhat said. "I don't think he cares as much about the title as his passion for language and words."

Faizan had no regrets about showing that enthusiasm, even though it nearly cost him.

"No offense to Bruhat, but I think he really took the bee a little too seriously," Faizan said. "I decided to have fun with this bee, and I did well, and here I am."

Witnesses in Gaza describe more chaos at food distribution sites

By ABDEL KAREEM HANA, MOHAMMED JAHJOUH and SARAH EL DEEB Associated Press

NUSEIRAT, Gaza Strip (AP) — Chaos erupted again Thursday as tens of thousands of desperate Palestinians in the Gaza Strip tried to collect food from distribution sites run by a new U.S.- and Israeli-backed foundation. Multiple witnesses reported a free-for-all of people grabbing aid, and they said Israeli troops opened fire to control crowds.

In central Gaza, Associated Press video showed smoke bombs arching through the air around a distribution center, and gunfire was audible as an Israeli tank moved nearby. Witnesses said it was Israeli troops who fired the projectiles to clear large crowds of Palestinians after the center ran out of supplies Thursday.

"I came to get a sack of flour ... a sardine tin or anything," said Mahmoud Ismael, a man on crutches from an earlier leg injury who said he walked for miles to get to the center, only to leave empty-handed.

"There is no food in my house, and I can't get food for my children," he said.

Turmoil has plagued the aid system launched this week by the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation, which runs three distribution centers in the territory. Israel has slated GHF to take over food distribution in Gaza despite opposition from the United Nations and most humanitarian groups.

Over the past three days, there have been reports of gunfire at GHF centers, and Gaza health officials have said at least one person has been killed and dozens wounded.

The Israeli military said it has facilitated the entry of nearly 1,000 truckloads of supplies into Gaza recently and accused the U.N. of failing to distribute the goods. It claimed Hamas was responsible for the crisis by stealing aid and refusing to release the remaining hostages.

The military's spokesman, Brig. Gen. Efeï Defrin, said the army will continue "to provide for the humanitarian needs of the civilian population while taking necessary steps to ensure that the aid does not reach the hands of Hamas."

With media not allowed to access the centers, the circumstances remain unclear. The distribution points are guarded by armed private contractors, and Israeli forces are positioned in the vicinity. On Tuesday, the Israeli military said it fired warning shots to control a crowd outside one center.

Dr. Khaled Elser, a surgeon at Nasser Hospital in the southern city of Khan Younis, told the AP he treated two people wounded at distribution centers on Thursday -- a 17-year-old girl and a man in his 20s. Both had gunshot wounds in the chest and stomach, he said, adding that other casualties had come in from the centers but that he did not have an exact number.

In a statement Thursday, GHF said no shots had been fired at any of its distribution centers the past three days and there have been no casualties, saying reports of deaths "originated from Hamas."

Separately on Thursday, Israeli strikes in Gaza killed at least 34 people, according to local health officials. Israel said it would establish 22 more Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank. Most of the international community views settlements as illegal and an obstacle to resolving the decades-old conflict.

Turmoil at aid distribution sites

Hunger and malnutrition have mounted among Gaza's 2.3 million Palestinians since Israel barred entry of food, fuel, medicine and other supplies nearly three months ago, allowing a trickle of aid in only the past two weeks.

GHF has opened hubs in three locations -- two in the far south around the city of Rafah, and the other

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in central Gaza near the Netzarim corridor, a strip of territory controlled by Israeli forces. The large crowds have to walk miles to reach the locations.

More than a dozen Palestinians described chaos at all three Thursday.

At one of the Rafah sites near the Morag Corridor, another Israeli-held strip, one man told the AP he and his cousin arrived at 5:30 a.m., and found thousands of people massed outside, waiting to be let in. When it was opened, the crowd flowed into an outdoor area ringed by barbed wire and earth berms, where pallets of food boxes had been left.

Armed contractors stood on the berms watching, and beyond them Israeli troops and tanks were visible, said the 41-year-old man, who spoke on condition he be identified only by his first name, Shehada, for fear of reprisals. The crowd descended on the food boxes, and pushing and shoving got out of control, he said.

Shehada said the contractors pulled back and Israeli troops shot at people's feet. His cousin was wounded in the left foot, he said. "The gunfire was very intense," he said. "The sand was jumping all around us."

At the other Rafah site, several people told AP of a similar scene of pallets of food boxes left on the ground for the crowds to take whatever they could with no control by staff. Mohammad Abu-Elinin, said "gangs" carried off cartloads of flour bags and multiple aid boxes.

Samira Z'urob said by the time she arrived at 6 a.m., "the thieves had stolen people's aid." When she begged, one person gave her a bag of pasta and a can of beans. "I said, Thank God, and took it to my children," she said. "I haven't had flour for more than a week."

Another woman, Heba Joda, said people tore down metal fences and took wooden pallets. When the food boxes ran out, staff told people to leave, then fired sound grenades to disperse them, she said.

As people fled through a nearby roundabout outside the center, Israeli troops fired gunshots, causing a panic, she said. Abu-Elinin said he saw one man wounded by shrapnel.

At the center in central Gaza, witnesses told the AP that Israeli troops fired tear gas and smoke grenades to disperse the crowds when aid ran out. AP video showed crowds of people returning from the site, some with carts full of boxes and many with nothing.

Aisha Na'na said all she managed to grab were some sticks to use as firewood. "We had come to get food for our children, but it was all in vain — we returned with nothing," she said.

Israel says the GHF system will replace the massive aid operation that the U.N. and other aid groups have carried out throughout the war. It says the new mechanism is necessary, accusing Hamas of siphoning off large amounts of aid. The U.N. denies that significant diversion takes place.

In its statement Thursday, GHF said it has distributed more than 32,200 boxes of food since Monday. It says each box, which contains basics like sugar, lentils, pasta and rice, can make 58 meals. It said it will scale up to start operations at a fourth center and will build additional hubs in the weeks ahead.

The U.N. and other aid groups have refused to participate in the mechanism, saying it violates humanitarian principles. They say it allows Israel to use food as a weapon, forcing people to move to the hubs, potentially emptying large swaths of Gaza. They also say it cannot meet the massive needs of the population.

Israel has allowed in some trucks of aid for the U.N. to distribute, but the U.N. has struggled to deliver the material amid looting and Israeli military restrictions.

U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric told reporters Thursday that Israeli authorities hadn't given permission for U.N. trucks to move to the border to retrieve the arriving supplies for the previous three days.

Google, Justice Department face off in climactic showdown in search monopoly case

By MICHAEL LIEDTKE AP Technology Writer

Google will return to federal court Friday to fend off the U.S. Justice Department's attempt to topple its internet empire at the same time it's navigating a pivotal shift to artificial intelligence that could undercut its power.

The legal and technological threats facing Google are among the key issues that will be dissected during the closing arguments of a legal proceeding that will determine the changes imposed upon the company

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in the wake of its dominant search engine being declared as an illegal monopoly by U.S. District Judge Amit Mehta last year.

Brandishing evidence presented during a recent three-week stretch of hearings, Justice Department lawyers will attempt to persuade Mehta to order a radical shake-up that includes a ban on Google paying to lock its search engine in as the default on smart devices and an order requiring the company to sell its Chrome browser.

Google lawyers are expected to assert only minor concessions are needed, especially as the upheaval triggered by advances in artificial intelligence already are reshaping the search landscape, as alternative, conversational search options are rolling out from AI startups that are hoping to use the Department of Justice's four-and-half-year-old case to gain the upper hand in the next technological frontier.

"Over weeks of testimony, we heard from a series of well-funded companies eager to gain access to Google's technology so they don't have to innovate themselves," Lee-Anne Mulholland, Google's vice president of regulatory affairs, wrote in a blog post earlier this month. "What we didn't hear was how DOJ's extreme proposals would benefit consumers."

After the day-long closing arguments, Mehta will spend much of the summer mulling a decision that he plans to issue before Labor Day. Google has already vowed to appeal the ruling that branded its search engine as a monopoly, a step it can't take until the judge orders a remedy.

While both sides of this showdown agree that AI is an inflection point for the industry's future, they have disparate views on how the shift will affect Google.

The Justice Department contends that AI technology by itself won't rein in Google's power, arguing additional legal restraints must be slapped on a search engine that's the main reason its parent company, Alphabet Inc., is valued at \$2 trillion.

Google has already been deploying AI to transform its search engine into an answer engine, an effort that has so far helped maintain its perch as the internet's main gateway despite inroads being made by alternatives from the likes of OpenAI and Perplexity.

The Justice Department contends a divestiture of the Chrome browser that Google CEO Sundar Pichai helped build nearly 20 years ago would be among the most effective countermeasures against Google continuing to amass massive volumes of browser traffic and personal data that could be leveraged to retain its dominance in the AI era. Executives from both OpenAI and Perplexity testified last month that they would be eager bidders for the Chrome browser if Mehta orders its sale.

The debate over Google's fate also has pulled in opinions from Apple, mobile app developers, legal scholars and startups.

Apple, which collects more than \$20 billion annually to make Google the default search engine on the iPhone and its other devices, filed briefs arguing against the Justice Department's proposed 10-year ban on such lucrative lock-in agreements. Apple told the judge that prohibiting the contracts would deprive the company of money that it funnels into its own research, and that the ban might even make Google even more powerful because the company would be able to hold onto its money while consumers would end up choosing its search engine anyway. The Cupertino, California, company also told the judge a ban wouldn't compel it to build its own search engine to compete against Google.

In other filings, a group of legal scholars said the Justice Department's proposed divestiture of Chrome would be an improper penalty that would inject unwarranted government interference in a company's business. Meanwhile, former Federal Trade Commission officials James Cooper and Andrew Stivers warned that another proposal that would require Google to share its data with rival search engines "does not account for the expectations users have developed over time regarding the privacy, security, and stewardship" of their personal information.

The App Association, a group that represents mostly small software developers, also advised Mehta not to adopt the Justice Department's proposed changes because of the ripple effects they would have across the tech industry.

Hobbling Google in the way the Justice Department envisions would make it more difficult for startups

to realize their goal of being acquired, the App Association wrote. "Developers will be overcome by uncertainty" if Google is torn apart, the group argues.

Buy Y Combinator, an incubator that has helped create hundreds of startups collectively worth about \$800 billion filed documents pushing for the dramatic overhaul of Google, whose immense power has discouraged venture capitalists from investing in areas that are considered to be part of the company's "kill zone."

Startups "also need to be able to get their products into the hands of users, free from restrictive dealing and self-preferencing that locks up important distribution channels. As things stand, Google has locked up the most critical distribution channels, freezing the general search and search text advertising markets into static competition for more than a decade," Y Combinator told Mehta.

Israel accepts a US proposal for a temporary Gaza ceasefire and Hamas gives a cool response

By SAMY MAGDY and JOSEPH KRAUSS Associated Press

Israel has accepted a new U.S. proposal for a temporary ceasefire with Hamas, the White House said Thursday.

U.S. President Donald Trump's special envoy, Steve Witkoff, expressed optimism earlier this week about brokering an agreement to halt the Israel-Hamas war and return more of the hostages captured in the attack that ignited it.

White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt told reporters that Israel "backed and supported" the new proposal.

Hamas officials gave the Israeli-approved draft a cool response, but said they wanted to study the proposal more closely before giving a formal answer.

"The Zionist response, in essence, means perpetuating the occupation and continuing the killing and famine," Bassem Naim, a top Hamas official, told The Associated Press. He said it "does not respond to any of our people's demands, foremost among which is stopping the war and famine."

Nonetheless, he said the group would study the proposal "with all national responsibility."

Hamas had previously said it had agreed with Witkoff on a "general framework" of an agreement that would lead to a lasting ceasefire, a full Israeli withdrawal from Gaza, an influx of aid, and a transfer of power from the militant group to a politically independent committee of Palestinians.

Here's what's known about the emerging negotiations that aim to bring about an extended truce in the war in exchange for hostages that remain in captivity:

What do Israel and Hamas want?

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has refused to end the war until all the hostages are released and Hamas is either destroyed or disarmed and sent into exile. He has said Israel will control Gaza indefinitely and facilitate what he refers to as the voluntary emigration of much of its population.

Palestinians and most of the international community have rejected plans to resettle Gaza's population, a move experts say would likely violate international law.

Hamas has said it will only release the remaining hostages — its only bargaining chip — in return for more Palestinian prisoners, a lasting ceasefire and a full Israeli withdrawal. It has offered to give up power to a committee of politically independent Palestinians that could oversee reconstruction.

Hamas is still holding 58 hostages. Around a third are believed to be alive, though many fear they are in grave danger the longer the war goes on. Thousands of Palestinians have been killed since Israel renewed its airstrikes and ground operations after ending a ceasefire in March.

The dispute over whether there should be a temporary ceasefire to release more hostages — as Israel has called for — or a permanent one — as Hamas wants — has bedeviled talks brokered by the U.S., Egypt and Qatar for more than a year and a half, and there's no indication it has been resolved.

What is the latest ceasefire proposal?

Witkoff has not publicized his latest proposal, but a Hamas official and an Egyptian official independently confirmed some of the details. They spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the sensitive talks.

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They say it calls for a 60-day pause in fighting, guarantees of serious negotiations leading to a long-term truce and assurances that Israel will not resume hostilities after the release of hostages, as it did in March. Israeli forces would pull back to the positions they held during the ceasefire Israel ended that month.

Hamas would release 10 living hostages and a number of bodies during the 60-day pause in exchange for more than 1,100 Palestinians imprisoned by Israel, including 100 serving long sentences after being convicted of deadly attacks.

Each day, hundreds of trucks carrying food and humanitarian aid would be allowed to enter Gaza, where experts say a nearly three-month Israeli blockade — slightly eased in recent days — has pushed the population to the brink of famine.

Why is it so hard to end the war?

Hamas-led militants stormed southern Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, killing some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and abducting 251 hostages. More than half the hostages have been released in ceasefires or other deals. Israel has rescued eight and recovered dozens of bodies.

Israel's ensuing military campaign has killed over 54,000 Palestinians, mostly women and children, according to the Gaza Health Ministry, which does not say how many of the dead were civilians or combatants.

The offensive has destroyed vast areas of Gaza and displaced around 90% of its population of roughly 2 million Palestinians, with hundreds of thousands living in squalid tent camps and unused schools.

Hamas has been vastly depleted militarily and lost nearly all of its top leaders in Gaza. It most likely fears that releasing all the hostages without securing a permanent ceasefire would allow Israel to launch an even more devastating campaign to ultimately destroy the group.

Israel fears that a lasting ceasefire and withdrawal now would leave Hamas with significant influence in Gaza, even if it surrenders formal power. With time, Hamas might be able to rebuild its military might and eventually launch more Oct. 7-style attacks.

Netanyahu also faces political constraints: His far-right coalition partners have threatened to bring down his government if he ends the war too soon. That would leave him more vulnerable to prosecution on longstanding corruption charges and to investigations into the failures surrounding the Oct. 7 attack.

A broader resolution to the decades-old Israeli-Palestinian conflict appears more distant than ever.

The Palestinians are weak and divided, and Israel's current government — the most nationalist and religious in its history — is opposed to Palestinian demands for a state in Gaza, the West Bank and east Jerusalem, territories Israel occupied in the 1967 Mideast war.

The last serious peace talks broke down more than 15 years ago.

Trump administration increases pressure on 'sanctuary jurisdictions' with public listing

By REBECCA SANTANA Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Department of Homeland Security is putting more than 500 "sanctuary jurisdictions" across the country on notice that the Trump administration views them as obstructing immigration enforcement as it attempts to increase pressure on communities it believes are standing in the way of the president's mass deportations agenda.

The department on Thursday published a list of the jurisdictions and said each one will receive formal notification that the government has deemed them noncompliant and if they're believed to be in violation of any federal criminal statutes. The list was published on the department's website.

"These sanctuary city politicians are endangering Americans and our law enforcement in order to protect violent criminal illegal aliens," DHS Secretary Kristi Noem said in a press release.

The Trump administration has repeatedly targeted communities, states and jurisdictions that it says aren't doing enough to help Immigration and Customs Enforcement as it seeks to make good on President Donald Trump's campaign promises to remove millions of people in the country illegally.

The list was compiled using a number of factors, including whether the cities or localities identified themselves as sanctuary jurisdictions, how much they complied already with federal officials enforcing

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immigration laws, if they had restrictions on sharing information with immigration enforcement or had any legal protections for people in the country illegally, according to the department.

Trump signed an executive order on April 28 requiring the secretary of Homeland Security and the attorney general to publish a list of states and local jurisdictions that they considered to be obstructing federal immigration laws. The list is to be regularly updated.

Federal departments and agencies, working with the Office of Management and Budget, would then be tasked with identifying federal grants or contracts with those states or local jurisdictions that the federal government identified as "sanctuary jurisdictions" and suspending or terminating the money, according to the executive order.

If "sanctuary jurisdictions" are notified and the Trump administration determines that they "remain in defiance," the attorney general and the secretary of Homeland Security are then empowered to pursue whatever "legal remedies and enforcement measures" they consider necessary to make them comply.

There's no specific or legal definition of what constitutes a "sanctuary jurisdiction." The term is often used to refer to law enforcement agencies, states or communities that don't cooperate with immigration enforcement.

Some cities pushed back after finding themselves on the list.

Baltimore's Mayor Brandon Scott said on X that Baltimore is "not a sanctuary city," noting that Baltimore does not control the city's jails. Jails are a key area where ICE cooperates with local law enforcement authorities so it can be notified when immigrants are going to be released.

But Scott also said the city made no apologies for being a "welcoming city" and said it was preparing for litigation if needed to protect the city's immigrant community and the money it gets from the federal government.

"We are better because of our immigrant neighbors, and are not about to sell them out to this administration," Scott said.

In a statement on X, the Las Vegas government said they weren't sure why DHS included it on the list and that they hoped to "clear up this misunderstanding." The city said that law enforcement and jail facilities there comply with federal law.

ICE enforces immigration laws nationwide, but often seeks state and local help in alerting federal authorities of immigrants wanted for deportation and holding that person until federal officers take custody.

One way that the administration seeks to enlist state and local support is through 287(g) agreements with local law enforcement agencies. Those agreements allow local law enforcement agencies to assume some immigration enforcement duties and greatly expand ICE's capabilities. The number of those agreements has skyrocketed in just a matter of months under the Trump administration.

ICE has about 6,000 law enforcement officers — a number that has remained largely static for years — who are able to find, arrest and remove immigrants it is targeting. By relying on local law enforcement, it can quickly scale up the number of staff available to help carry out Trump's mass deportations agenda.

Communities that don't cooperate with ICE often say they do so because immigrants then feel safer coming forward if they're a witness to or victim of a crime. And they argue that immigration enforcement is a federal task, and they need to focus their limited dollars on fighting crime.

"Sanctuary policies are legal and make us all safer," said a coalition of local officials from across the country and a nonprofit called Public Rights Project in a statement Thursday. They said the list was a fear tactic designed to bully local governments into cooperating with ICE.

The Trump administration has already taken a number of steps targeting states and communities that don't cooperate with ICE — and has met with pushback in the courts. One executive order issued by Trump directs the Attorney General and Homeland Security Secretary to withhold federal money from sanctuary jurisdictions. Another directs federal agencies to ensure that payments to state and local governments do not "abet so-called 'sanctuary' policies that seek to shield illegal aliens from deportation."

Ex-assistant testifies Sean 'Diddy' Combs sexually assaulted her and used violence to get his way

By MICHAEL R. SISAK and LARRY NEUMEISTER Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Sean "Diddy" Combs' former personal assistant testified Thursday that the hip-hop mogul sexually assaulted her, threw her into a swimming pool, dumped a bucket of ice on her and slammed a door against her arm during a torturous eight-year tenure.

The woman, testifying at Combs' sex trafficking trial under the pseudonym "Mia," said Combs put his hand up her dress and forcibly kissed her at his 40th birthday party in 2009, forced her to perform oral sex while she helped him pack for a trip and raped her in guest quarters at his Los Angeles home in 2010 after climbing into her bed.

"I couldn't tell him 'no' about anything," Mia said, telling jurors she felt "terrified and confused and ashamed and scared" when Combs raped her. The assaults, she said, were unpredictable: "always random, sporadic, so oddly spaced out where I would think they would never happen again."

If she hadn't been called to testify, Mia said, "I was going to die with this. I didn't want anyone to know ever."

Speaking slowly and haltingly, Mia portrayed Combs as a controlling taskmaster who put his desires above the wellbeing of staff and loved ones. She said Combs berated her for mistakes, even ones other employees made, and piled on so many tasks she didn't sleep for days.

"It was chaotic. It was toxic," said Mia, who worked for Combs from 2009 to 2017, including a stint as an executive at his film studio. "It could be exciting. The highs were really high and the lows were really low."

Asked what determined how her days would unfold, Mia said: "Puff's mood," using one of his many nicknames.

Mia said employees were always on edge because Combs' mood could change "in a split second" causing everything to go from "happy to chaotic." She said Combs once threw a computer at her when he couldn't get a Wi-Fi connection.

Her testimony echoed that of Combs' other personal assistants and his longtime girlfriend Cassie, who said he was demanding, mercurial and prone to violence. She is the second of three women testifying that Combs sexually abused them.

Cassie, an R&B singer whose legal name is Casandra Ventura, testified for four days during the trial's first week, telling jurors Combs subjected her to hundreds of "freak-offs" — drug-fueled marathons in which she said she engaged in sex acts with male sex workers while Combs watched, filmed and coached them.

A third woman, "Jane," is expected to testify about participating in freak-offs. Judge Arun Subramanian has permitted some of Combs' sexual abuse accusers to testify under pseudonyms for their privacy and safety.

The Associated Press does not identify people who say they're victims of sexual abuse unless they choose to make their names public, as Cassie has done.

Combs, 55, has pleaded not guilty to sex trafficking and racketeering charges. His lawyers concede he could be violent, but he denies using threats or his clout to commit abuse.

Mia testified that she saw Combs beat Cassie numerous times, detailing a brutal assault at Cassie's Los Angeles home in 2013 that the singer and her longtime stylist Deonte Nash also recounted in their testimony. Mia said she was terrified Combs was going to kill them all, describing the melee as "a little tornado."

The witness recalled jumping on Combs' back in an attempt to stop him from hurting Nash and Cassie. Mia said Combs threw her into a wall and slammed Cassie's head into a bed corner, causing a deep, bloody gash on the singer's forehead. Other times, she said, Combs' abuse caused Cassie black eyes and fat lips.

Mia said Combs sometimes had her working for up to five days at a time without rest as he hopped from city to city for club appearances and other engagements, and she started relying on her ADHD medication, the stimulant Adderall, as a sleep substitute.

Combs, with residences in Miami, Los Angeles and the New York area, let Mia and other employees stay

in his guest houses — but she wasn't allowed to leave without his permission and couldn't lock the doors, she testified.

"This is my house. No one locks my doors," Combs said, according to Mia.

Mia didn't appear to make eye contact with Combs, who sat back in his chair and looked forward, sometimes with his hands folded in front him, as she testified. Occasionally, he leaned over to speak with one of his lawyers or donned glasses to read exhibits. Mia kept her head down as she left the courtroom for breaks.

She testified that she remains friends with Cassie.

Trump's latest pardons benefit an array of political allies and public figures

By ERIC TUCKER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A governor who resigned amid a corruption scandal and served two stints in federal prison. A New York Republican who resigned from Congress after a tax fraud conviction and who made headlines for threatening to throw a reporter off a Capitol balcony over a question he didn't like. Reality TV stars convicted of cheating banks and evading taxes.

All were unlikely beneficiaries this week of pardons, with President Donald Trump flexing his executive power to bestow clemency on political allies, prominent public figures and others convicted of defrauding the public. The moves not only take aim at criminal cases once touted as just by the Justice Department but also come amid a continuing Trump administration erosion of public integrity guardrails, including the firing of the department's pardon attorney and the near-dismantling of a prosecution unit established to hold public officials accountable for abusing the public trust.

"He is using pardons to essentially override the verdicts of juries, to set aside the sentences that have been imposed by judges and to accomplish political objectives," said Liz Oyer, who was fired in March as the Justice Department's pardon attorney after she says she refused to endorse restoring the gun rights of actor Mel Gibson, a Trump supporter. "That is very damaging and destructive to our system of justice."

To be sure, other presidents have courted controversy with their clemency decisions. President Gerald Ford famously pardoned his predecessor, Richard Nixon, and Bill Clinton pardoned fugitive financier Marc Rich just hours before the Democratic president left office. More recently, President Joe Biden pardoned his son, Hunter, sparing the younger Biden a possible prison sentence for federal felony gun and tax convictions and reversing his past promises not to use the extraordinary powers of the presidency for the benefit of his family.

But the pardons announced Wednesday are part of a pattern of clemency grants that began in Trump's first term and has continued in the current one in which bold-faced names, prominent supporters and defendants whose causes are championed by friends time and again have an edge on ordinary citizens who lack connections to the White House.

In 2020, for instance, he pardoned allies convicted in the Russia election interference investigation that shadowed his first term as well as his son-in-law's father, Charles Kushner, who was later named ambassador to France.

On his first day back in office, he pardoned, commuted the prison sentences or vowed to dismiss the cases of all of the 1,500-plus people charged with crimes in the Jan. 6, 2021, U.S. Capitol riot, using his clemency powers to undo the massive prosecution of the unprecedented assault on the seat of American democracy.

Twice indicted by the Justice Department, and entangled in criminal investigations in the White House and in his post-presidency life, Trump has long conveyed public suspicion about prosecutorial power and found common cause with politicians — including on the other side of the aisle — he sees as having been mistreated like he believes he was.

In February, for instance, the Republican president pardoned former Democratic Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich after having earlier commuted his 14-year sentence on political corruption charges. Blagojevich, he

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said, "was set up by a lot of bad people, some of the same people I had to deal with."

The most recent pardon beneficiaries include former GOP New York Rep. Michael Grimm, who pleaded guilty in 2014 to underreporting wages and revenue at a restaurant he ran in Manhattan. The former Marine and FBI agent resigned from Congress the following year and was sentenced to eight months in prison. Grimm tried to reenter politics in 2018 but lost a primary for his old district.

Others include former Republican Connecticut Gov. John Rowland, whose once-promising political career was cut short by a criminal case over gifts and favors from state contractors. Rowland was later convicted and imprisoned a second time for conspiring to hide his work on political campaigns and was sentenced to 30 months in federal prison.

The White House also announced pardons for rap artist NBA YoungBoy on gun-related charges and TV stars Todd and Julie Chrisley, famous for "Chrisley Knows Best," a reality show that followed their family and extravagant lifestyle that prosecutors said was boosted by bank fraud and hiding earnings from tax authorities. The couple was convicted in 2022 of conspiring to defraud banks out of more than \$30 million in loans by submitting false documents.

The latest pardons unfold as Trump has departed from the norms and protocols of the clemency process and as the Justice Department has signaled a tweaked approach to public corruption and white-collar fraud.

The department, for instance, has long had a pardon attorney tasked with sifting through applications from defendants and recommending clemency to the White House for those seen as having served their debt to society and accepted responsibility for their crimes, including drug offenders serving long sentences and not generally known to the public or connected to the powerful.

In place of Oyer, the fired pardon attorney, the administration installed Ed Martin, a Trump loyalist who briefly served as interim U.S. attorney in Washington. He has already pledged to scrutinize pardons that Biden issued on his way out of office and has said he would take a "hard look" at two men serving long prison terms for leading a conspiracy to kidnap Democratic Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer.

Meanwhile, the department's vaunted public integrity section, created in the post-Watergate era to investigate and prosecute public officials for abusing their powers, has been dramatically slashed, whittled down to just a handful of lawyers.

The section endured an exodus of prosecutors after Justice Department leaders demanded the dismissal of a corruption case against New York Mayor Eric Adams in part so he could assist in the Trump administration's immigration crackdown.

The pardons, said Princeton University presidential historian Julian Zelizer, fit "within the fold of his presidency, where he uses a lot of his power either for retribution or reward rather than for just kind of pure policy-making. We have to understand the pardons in that framework."

What happens to Trump's tariffs now that a court has knocked them down?

By PAUL WISEMAN and LINDSAY WHITEHURST Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump has audaciously claimed virtually unlimited power to bypass Congress and impose sweeping taxes on foreign products.

Now a federal court has thrown a roadblock in his path.

A three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of International Trade ruled Wednesday that Trump overstepped his authority when he invoked the 1977 International Emergency Economic Powers Act to declare a national emergency and plaster taxes – tariffs – on imports from almost every country in the world.

The ruling was a big setback for Trump, whose erratic trade policies have rocked financial markets, paralyzed businesses with uncertainty and raised fears of higher prices and slower economic growth. On his Truth Social platform Thursday, he wrote: "The ruling by the U.S. Court of International Trade is so wrong, and so political! Hopefully, the Supreme Court will reverse this horrible, Country threatening decision, QUICKLY and DECISIVELY."

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Trump's trade wars are far from over. The Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit on Thursday allowed the president to temporarily continue collecting the tariffs under the emergency powers law while he appeals the trade court's decision.

Jeffrey Schwab, senior counsel at the nonprofit Liberty Justice Center who represented the five small businesses that sued, called the appeals court order a mere "procedural step." He expressed confidence that courts would block the tariffs, which represent "a direct threat" to his clients' livelihoods.

The administration has other ways to pursue the president's goal of using tariffs to lure factories back to America, raise money for the U.S. Treasury and pressure other countries into bending to his will.

Financial markets, which would welcome an end to Trump's tariffs, had a muted response to the news Thursday; stocks rose modestly.

"Investors are not getting too carried away, presumably in the expectation that the White House will find a workaround that allows them to continue to pursue their trade agenda," said Matthew Ryan, head of market strategy at the financial services firm Ebury.

Trump's IEEPA tariffs are being challenged in at least seven lawsuits. In the ruling Wednesday, the trade court combined two of the cases — one brought by five small businesses and another by 12 U.S. states.

The U.S. Court of International Trade has jurisdiction over civil cases involving trade. The legal challenge to Trump's tariff is widely expected to end up at the U.S. Supreme Court.

Which tariffs did the court block?

The court's decision blocks the tariffs Trump slapped last month on almost all U.S. trading partners and levies he imposed before that on China, Mexico and Canada.

Trump on April 2 — Liberation Day, he called it — imposed so-called reciprocal tariffs of up to 50% on countries with which the United States runs a trade deficit and 10% baseline tariffs on almost everybody else. He later suspended the reciprocal tariffs for 90 days to give countries time to negotiate trade agreements with the United States — and reduce their barriers to American exports. But he kept the baseline tariffs in place.

Claiming extraordinary power to act without congressional approval, he justified the taxes under IEEPA by declaring the United States' longstanding trade deficits "a national emergency."

"The reason that he chose IEEPA was he thought he could do this unilaterally without much oversight by Congress," Schwab said.

In February, he'd invoked the law to impose tariffs on Canada, Mexico and China, saying that the illegal flow of immigrants and drugs across the U.S. border amounted to a national emergency and that the three countries needed to do more to stop it.

The U.S. Constitution gives Congress the power to set taxes, including tariffs. But lawmakers have gradually let presidents assume more power over tariffs — and Trump has made the most of it.

Why did the court rule against the president?

The administration had argued that courts had approved then-President Richard Nixon's emergency use of tariffs in the economic chaos that followed his decision to end a policy that linked the U.S. dollar to the price of gold. The Nixon administration successfully cited its authority under the 1917 Trading With Enemy Act, which preceded and supplied some of the legal language later used in IEEPA.

The court rejected the administration's argument this time, deciding that Trump's sweeping tariffs exceeded his authority to regulate imports under IEEPA. It also said the tariffs did nothing to deal with problems they were supposed to address. In their case, the states noted that America's trade deficits hardly amount to a sudden emergency. The United States has racked them up for 49 straight years in good times and bad.

Another federal judge also blocked Trump's use of an emergency powers law to impose tariffs on Thursday. The ruling from U.S. District Judge Rudolph Contreras came in a lawsuit from two Illinois-based educational toy companies. The ruling only blocks the collection of tariffs from the companies that sued, and was handed down the day after the trade court's broader finding.

So where does this leave Trump's trade agenda?

Wendy Cutler, a former U.S. trade official who is now vice president at the Asia Society Policy Institute,

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says Wednesday's decision "throws the president's trade policy into turmoil."

Other countries may be reluctant to make concessions during Trump's 90-day pause if there's a chance the courts will uphold the decision striking down the IEEPA tariffs. "Can those negotiations move forward?" said Antonio Rivera, a partner at ArentFox Schiff and a former Customs and Border Protection attorney.

Likewise, companies will have to reassess the way they run their supply chains, perhaps speeding up shipments to the United States to offset the risk that the tariffs will be reinstated on appeal.

Still, the ruling leaves in place other Trump tariffs, including those on foreign steel, aluminum and autos. Those levies were invoked under a different legal authority — Section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962 — that requires a Commerce Department investigation and cannot simply be imposed at the president's own discretion.

Trump still has the authority to raise those Section 232 tariffs. He can also pursue new ones. The Commerce Department, for instance, last month launched a Section 232 investigation into the national security implications of pharmaceutical imports.

The court also left in place tariffs Trump imposed on China in his first term— and President Joe Biden kept — in a dispute over Beijing's use of hard-nose tactics to give Chinese companies an edge in advanced technology. The U.S. alleged that China unfairly subsidized its own firms, forced companies from the U.S. and other foreign countries to hand over trade secrets and even engaged in cybertheft. Trump has leeway to expand those tariffs if he wants to put more pressure on China.

The trade court also noted Wednesday that Trump retains more limited power to impose tariffs to address trade deficits under another statute, the Trade Act of 1974. But that law restricts tariffs to 15% and to just 150 days on countries with which the United States runs big trade deficits.

What is the likely the economic and financial fallout from the decision?

When the IEEPA tariffs were in place, America's average tariff rate was 15%, the highest in decades and up from 2.5% before Trump's tariff onslaught began this year. Without them, the U.S. tariff rate is still a hefty 6.5%, according to economists Stephen Brown and Jennifer McKeown of Capital Economics.

They say the U.S. economy would grow faster in the second half of 2025 — at a 2% annual rate, up from the 1.5% they'd been forecasting — without the weight of the IEEPA tariffs. Prices also wouldn't rise as fast.

Importers may get relief. Posting on X, formerly known as Twitter, on Thursday, lawyer Peter Harrell, a fellow at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, wrote that if the trade court's decision "is upheld, importers should eventually be able to get a refund of (IEEPA) tariffs paid to date. But the government will probably seek to avoid paying refunds until appeals are exhausted."

Elon Musk came to Washington wielding a chain saw. He leaves behind upheaval and unmet expectations

By CHRIS MEGERIAN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Elon Musk arrived in the nation's capital with the chain saw-wielding swagger of a tech titan who had never met a problem he couldn't solve with lots of money, long hours or a well-calibrated algorithm.

President Donald Trump was delighted to have the world's richest person — and a top campaign donor — working in his administration, talking about how he was "a smart guy" who "really cares for our country."

Musk was suddenly everywhere — holding forth in Cabinet meetings while wearing a "tech support" shirt and black MAGA hat, hoisting his young son on his shoulders in the Oval Office, flying aboard Air Force One, sleeping in the White House. Democrats described the billionaire entrepreneur as Trump's "co-president," and senior officials bristled at his imperial approach to overhauling the federal government.

After establishing Tesla as a premier electric automaker, building rockets at SpaceX and reshaping the social media landscape by buying Twitter, Musk was confident that he could bend Washington to his vision.

Now that's over. Musk said this week that he's leaving his job as a senior adviser, an announcement that came after he revealed his plan to curtail political donations and he criticized the centerpiece of Trump's

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legislative agenda.

It's a quiet exit after a turbulent entrance, and he's trailed by upheaval and unmet expectations. Thousands of people were indiscriminately laid off or pushed out — hundreds of whom had to be rehired — and some federal agencies were eviscerated.

But no one has been prosecuted for the fraud that Musk and Trump said was widespread within the government. Musk reduced his target for cutting spending from \$2 trillion to \$1 trillion to \$150 billion, and even that goal may not be reached.

In Silicon Valley, where Musk got his start as a founder of PayPal, his kind of promises are known as vaporware — a product that sounds extraordinary yet never gets shipped to market.

Trump said Thursday on his Truth Social platform that he would hold a press conference Friday with Musk. "This will be his last day, but not really, because he will, always, be with us, helping all the way," Trump added. "Elon is terrific!"

Musk's position was always designed to be temporary, and he had previously announced his intention to dedicate more of his time to his companies. But he also told reporters last month that he was willing to work part-time for Trump "indefinitely, as long as the president wants me to do it."

Musk got a seat at Trump's table and put \$250 million behind his campaign

It was clear that Musk wouldn't be the typical kind of presidential adviser around the time that he showed the world his belly button.

Racing on stage at a campaign rally one month before the election, he jumped for joy next to Trump, his T-shirt rising to expose his midriff. Musk had already sold Trump on his idea for a Department of Government Efficiency while also putting at least \$250 million behind his candidacy.

The plan called for a task force to hunt for waste, fraud and abuse, a timeworn idea with a new twist. Instead of putting together a blue-ribbon panel of government experts, Trump would give his top donor a desk in the White House and what appeared to be carte blanche to make changes.

Musk deployed software engineers who burrowed into sensitive databases, troubling career officials who sometimes chose to resign rather than go along. Trump brushed off concerns about Musk's lack of experience in public service or conflicts of interest from his billions of dollars in federal contracts.

Their unlikely partnership had the potential for a generational impact on American politics and government. While Musk dictated orders for government departments from his perch in the White House, he was poised to use his wealth to enforce loyalty to the president.

His language was that of catastrophism. Excessive spending was a crisis that could only be solved by drastic measures, Musk claimed, and "if we don't do this, America will go bankrupt."

But even though he talked about his work in existential terms, he treated the White House like a playground. He brought his children to a meeting with the Indian prime minister. He let the president turn the driveway into a makeshift Tesla showroom to help boost sales. He installed an oversized screen in his office that he occasionally used to play video games.

Sometimes, Trump invited Musk to sleep over in the Lincoln Bedroom.

"We'll be on Air Force One, Marine One, and he'll be like, 'do you want to stay over?'" Musk told reporters. The president made sure he got some caramel ice cream from the kitchen. "This stuff's amazing," Musk said. "I ate a whole tub of it."

Looking back on his experience in government, he described it as a lark.

"It is funny that we've got DOGE," an acronym that references an online meme featuring a surprised-looking dog from Japan. "How did we get here?"

Musk did not give federal workers the benefit of the doubt

From the beginning, Musk treated federal workers with contempt. At best, they were inefficient; at worst, they were committing fraud.

His team offered them a "fork in the road," meaning they could get paid to quit. Probationary employees, generally people new on the job without full civil service protection, were shown the door.

Anyone who stayed faced escalating demands, such as what became known as the "five things" emails.

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Musk wanted every government employee to submit a list of five things they accomplished in the previous week, and he claimed that "failure to respond will be taken as a resignation."

Some administration officials curtailed the plan, concerned that it could jeopardize security in more sensitive areas of the government, and it eventually faded, an early sign of Musk's struggle to get traction.

But in the meantime, he continued issuing orders like thunderbolts.

One day in February, Musk posted "CFPB RIP," plus an emoji of a tombstone. The headquarters of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, created after the Great Recession to protect Americans from fraud and deceptive practices, was shut down and employees were ordered to stop working.

Musk had already started gutting the U.S. Agency for International Development, a pillar of the country's foreign policy establishment and the world's largest provider of humanitarian assistance.

"Spent the weekend feeding USAID into a wood chipper," he bragged.

Thousands of contacts were cut off, pleasing conservatives who disliked the agency's progressive initiatives on climate change and gay rights.

Musk rejected concerns about the loss of a crucial lifeline for impoverished people around the globe, saying, "no one has died." However, children who once relied on American assistance perished from malnutrition, and the death toll is expected to increase.

The lawsuits began piling up. Sometimes workers got their jobs back, only to lose them again.

The Food and Drug Administration, which is responsible for ensuring the safety of everything from baby formula to biotech drugs, planned to lay off 3,500 employees. But again and again, the agency was forced to rehire people who were initially deemed expendable, including laboratory scientists, travel bookers and document specialists.

Commissioner Marty Makary, who started his job after many of the cuts took place, told attendees at a recent conference that "it was hard and my job is to make sure we can heal from that."

Only 1,900 layoffs took place, but another 1,200 staffers took buyouts or early retirement. Experts fear the agency has lost much of its institutional knowledge and expertise in areas like vaccines, tobacco and food.

There are also concerns about safety on public lands. The National Park Service has been bleeding staff, leaving fewer people to maintain trails, clean restrooms and guide visitors. More cuts at the Forest Service could undermine efforts to prevent and fight wildfires.

The Environmental Protection Agency faces a broad overhaul, such as gutting the Office of Research and Development, which was responsible for improving air pollution monitoring and discovering harmful chemicals in drinking water.

Not even low-profile organizations were exempt. Trump ordered the downsizing of the U.S. Institute of Peace, a nonprofit think tank created by Congress, and Musk's team showed up to carry out his plan. The organizations' leaders were deposed, then reinstated after a court battle.

Musk made little headway at the top sources of federal spending

The bulk of federal spending goes to health care programs like Medicaid and Medicare, plus Social Security and the military.

Unfortunately for Musk, all of those areas are politically sensitive and generally require congressional approval to make changes.

Thousands of civilian workers were pushed out at the Pentagon, and Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth is reducing the ranks of top generals and looking to consolidate various commands. A plan to downsize an office for testing and evaluating new weapons systems could save \$300 million per year. Hegseth recently asked employees to submit one idea per week for cutting waste.

However, the Pentagon budget would increase by \$150 billion, for a total of more than \$900 billion, under Trump's spending proposal working its way through Congress. The money includes \$25 billion to lay the groundwork for Trump's "golden dome" missile defense program and \$34 billion to expand the naval fleet with more shipbuilding.

Another \$45 million is expected to be spent on a military parade on June 14, which is the 250th anniversary of the Army's founding and Trump's 79th birthday.

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Musk also faced blowback for targeting Social Security, which provides monthly benefits to retirees and some children. He suggested that the popular program was “a Ponzi scheme” and the government could save between \$500 billion and \$700 billion by tackling waste and fraud.

However, his estimates were inflated. Social Security’s inspector general said there was only \$71.8 billion in improper payments over eight years. Nor was there any evidence that millions of dead people were receiving benefits.

Changes to Social Security phone services, pitched as a way to eliminate opportunities for fraud, were walked back after an outcry from lawmakers and beneficiaries. But the agency could still shed 7,000 workers while closing some of its offices.

Musk’s popularity cratered even though Americans often agreed with his premise that the federal government is bloated and wasteful, according to polling from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

Just 33% of U.S. adults had a favorable view of Musk in April, down from 41% in December. In addition, 65% said Musk had too much influence over the federal government.

Musk talked of staggering savings but delivered modest results

During a campaign rally in October, Musk said he could find “at least \$2 trillion” in spending cuts. In January, before Trump was inaugurated, he revised by saying, “if we try for \$2 trillion, we’ve got a good shot at getting one.”

But in April, at a Cabinet meeting, Musk provided a different target. He was “excited to announce” that they could reach \$150 billion in savings during the current fiscal year.

Whether that figure proves to be accurate is difficult to measure, especially because DOGE routinely inflated or mischaracterized its work. But it falls short of President Bill Clinton’s initiative three decades ago, which resulted in \$136 billion in savings — the equivalent of more than \$240 billion today.

Elaine Kamarck, a key figure in the Clinton administration, said they focused on making the government more responsive and updating antiquated internal procedures. The work took years.

“We went about it methodically, department by department,” she said. The effort also reduced the federal workforce by more than 400,000 employees.

However, Musk did little to seek insight from people who knew the inner workings of government.

“They made some changes without really knowing what they were doing,” said Alex Nowrasteh, vice president for economic and social policy studies for the libertarian think tank Cato Institute. He said there were “a lot of unforced errors.”

In the end, Nowrasteh said, “they set themselves up for failure.”

Authorities eyeing whether a kitchen job had a role in the ‘Devil in the Ozarks’ prison escape

By NICK INGRAM, ANDREW DeMILLO, JEFF MARTIN and SAFIYAH RIDDLE The Associated Press
CALICO ROCK, Ark. (AP) — Arkansas authorities are looking at whether a job in the prison kitchen played a role in the weekend escape of a convicted former police chief known as the “Devil in the Ozarks.”

Grant Hardin, 56, was housed in a maximum-security wing of the medium-security Calico Rock prison, where he also held a job in the kitchen, Arkansas Department of Corrections spokesperson Rand Champion said Thursday. Authorities have said Hardin escaped Sunday by donning an outfit designed to look like a law enforcement uniform.

“His job assignment was in the kitchen, so just looking to see if that played a part in it as well,” Champion told The Associated Press.

The kitchen is divided into two shifts of about 25 workers each, according to a 2021 accreditation report that involved an extensive review of the prison. In the kitchen, “tools and utensils were stored on shadow boards with proper controls for sign out/in of all tools,” the report states. “A check of the inventory control sheets found them to be accurate and up to date.”

The kitchen is in one of 16 buildings on over 700 acres (280 hectares) of prison land. The sprawling

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grounds include a garden, two greenhouses, and extensive pasture lands where a herd of more than 100 horses is raised and trained by staff and inmates.

Hardin, the former police chief in the small town of Gateway near the Arkansas-Missouri border, was serving lengthy sentences for murder and rape. He was the subject of the TV documentary "Devil in the Ozarks."

A prison expert said corrections officials are likely investigating whether the kitchen job gave Hardin access to other parts of the prison or to tools in the kitchen that could have helped him, including fashioning the makeshift uniform.

Bryce Peterson, a criminal justice expert at security-based research organization CNA, said prison escapes are usually a combination of motivation and opportunity.

"You wouldn't immediately think of a kitchen as a source of a bunch of escape tools," Peterson said. "But these people are really smart and what they're thinking about day in and day out is how they can escape if that's what their motivation is."

Local, state and federal law enforcement are continuing their search for Hardin, and the FBI announced Thursday it was offering a reward of up to \$10,000 for information leading to his arrest. Champion said officials remained confident that Hardin was in the north-central Arkansas area.

Officials have said there are plenty of hideouts in the Ozark Mountains area, from caves to campsites.

Authorities on Thursday continued to stop cars at a checkpoint near Calico Rock, and fliers featuring photos of Hardin could be seen in local store windows.

Elsewhere Thursday, a sheriff's office in southern Missouri said it had received a report of a sighting of someone resembling Hardin's description in the Moody/Bakersfield area, less than an hour's drive north of Calico Rock.

Deputies with the Howell County Sheriff's Office responded but were unable to locate anyone though agents were continuing to canvass the area, the agency said in a Facebook post.

"At this time, we have no information indicating with any degree of certainty this suspicious person was the escapee or that he is even in the state of Missouri," the post said.

Champion said Arkansas authorities were aware of the tip and were looking into it.

The department late Wednesday said search teams also responded to Faulkner County in the central Arkansas area after receiving a tip.

Champion did not immediately know how many other inmates were housed in the prison's maximum-security wing.

Hardin's assignment to the prison, formally known as the North Central Unit, has drawn questions from legislators in the area and family members of the former chief's victims.

Hardin received culinary training at some point during his incarceration, said Cheryl Tillman, whose brother James Appleton was shot to death by Hardin in 2017.

Tillman said she was aware that Hardin had been working in the kitchen at the Calico Rock prison and questioned why he would be allowed to do so.

"It sounds like to me that he was given free range down there," she said this week during an interview.

Now that he's free, "it makes it uneasy for all of us, the whole family," she said.

Musk came to Washington wielding a chain saw. He leaves behind upheaval and unmet expectations

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But no one has been prosecuted for the fraud. Musk reduced his target for cutting spending from \$2 trillion to \$1 trillion to \$150 billion, and even that goal may not be reached.

Musk got a seat at Trump's table and put \$250 million behind his campaign

Musk deployed software engineers who burrowed into sensitive databases, troubling career officials who sometimes chose to resign rather than go along. Trump brushed off concerns about Musk's lack of experience in public service or conflicts of interest from his billions of dollars in federal contracts.

His language was that of catastrophism. Excessive spending was a crisis that could only be solved by drastic measures, Musk claimed, and "if we don't do this, America will go bankrupt."

But even though he talked about his work in existential terms, he treated the White House like a playground. He brought his children to a meeting with the Indian prime minister. He let the president turn the driveway into a makeshift Tesla showroom to help boost sales. He installed an oversized screen in his office that he occasionally used to play video games.

Musk did not give federal workers the benefit of the doubt

From the beginning, Musk treated federal workers with contempt. At best, they were inefficient; at worst, they were committing fraud.

His team offered them a "fork in the road," meaning they could get paid to quit. Probationary employees, generally people new on the job without full civil service protection, were shown the door.

Anyone who stayed faced escalating demands, such as what became known as the "five things" emails. Musk wanted every government employee to submit a list of five things they accomplished in the previous week, and he claimed that "failure to respond will be taken as a resignation."

One day in February, Musk posted "CFPB RIP," plus an emoji of a tombstone. The headquarters of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, created after the Great Recession to protect Americans from fraud and deceptive practices, was shut down and employees were ordered to stop working.

Musk had already started gutting the U.S. Agency for International Development, a pillar of the country's foreign policy establishment and the world's largest provider of humanitarian assistance.

"Spent the weekend feeding USAID into a wood chipper," he bragged.

The Food and Drug Administration, which is responsible for ensuring the safety of everything from baby formula to biotech drugs, planned to lay off 3,500 employees. But the agency was forced to rehire people who were initially deemed expendable.

Commissioner Marty Makary, who started his job after many of the cuts took place, told attendees at a recent conference that "it was hard and my job is to make sure we can heal from that."

There are also concerns about safety on public lands. The National Park Service has been bleeding staff, leaving fewer people to maintain trails, clean restrooms and guide visitors. More cuts at the Forest Service could undermine efforts to prevent and fight wildfires.

The Environmental Protection Agency faces a broad overhaul, such as gutting the Office of Research and Development, which was responsible for improving air pollution monitoring and discovering harmful chemicals in drinking water.

Not even low-profile organizations were exempt. Trump ordered the downsizing of the U.S. Institute of Peace, a nonprofit think tank created by Congress, and Musk's team showed up to carry out his plan. The organizations' leaders were deposed, then reinstated after a court battle.

Musk made little headway at the top sources of federal spending

Thousands of civilian workers were pushed out at the Pentagon, and Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth is reducing the ranks of top generals and looking to consolidate various commands and save money.

However, the Pentagon budget would increase by \$150 billion, for a total of more than \$900 billion, under

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Trump's spending proposal working its way through Congress.

Musk also faced blowback for targeting Social Security, which provides monthly benefits to retirees and some children. He suggested that the popular program was "a Ponzi scheme" and the government could save between \$500 billion and \$700 billion by tackling waste and fraud.

His popularity cratered even though Americans often agreed with his premise that the federal government is bloated and wasteful, according to polling from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

Just 33% of U.S. adults had a favorable view of Musk in April, down from 41% in December. In addition, 65% said Musk had too much influence over the federal government.

Musk talked of staggering savings but delivered modest results

During a campaign rally in October, Musk said he could find "at least \$2 trillion" in spending cuts. In January, before Trump was inaugurated, he revised by saying, "if we try for \$2 trillion, we've got a good shot at getting one."

But in April, at a Cabinet meeting, Musk provided a different target. He was "excited to announce" that they could reach \$150 billion in savings during the current fiscal year.

In the end, said Alex Nowrasteh, vice president for economic and social policy studies for the libertarian think tank Cato Institute, "they set themselves up for failure."

Harvard grads cheer commencement speakers who urge the school to stand strong

By MICHAEL CASEY and LEAH WILLINGHAM Associated Press

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (AP) — Harvard graduates celebrated commencement on Thursday at a pivotal time for the Ivy League school, cheering speakers who emphasized maintaining a diverse and international student body and standing up for truth in the face of attacks by the Trump administration.

Harvard's battles with President Donald Trump over funding and restrictions on teaching and admissions presented another challenge for the thousands of graduates who started college as the world was emerging from a pandemic and later grappled with student-led protests over the war in Gaza.

"We leave a campus much different than the one we entered, with Harvard at the center of a national battle of higher education in America," one of the student speakers, Thor Reimann, told his fellow graduates. "Our university is certainly imperfect, but I am proud to stand today alongside our graduating class, our faculty, our president with the shared conviction that this ongoing project of veritas is one that is worth defending."

Other schools face the loss of federal funding and their ability to enroll international students if they don't agree to the Trump administration's shifting demands. But Harvard, which was founded more than a century before the nation itself, has taken the lead in defying the White House in court and is paying a heavy price.

A school under threat

Among the Trump administration's latest salvos was asking federal agencies to cancel about \$100 million in contracts with the university. The government already canceled more than \$2.6 billion in federal research grants, moved to cut off Harvard's enrollment of international students and threatened its tax-exempt status.

Visa interviews for international students admitted to schools nationwide were halted on Tuesday, and Trump said Wednesday that Harvard should reduce its international enrollment from 25% to about 15%.

Sustained by a \$53 billion endowment, the nation's wealthiest university is testing whether it can be a bulwark against Trump's efforts to limit what his administration calls antisemitic activism on campus, which Harvard sees as an affront to the freedom to teach and learn nationwide.

Citing campus protests against Israel as proof of "antisemitic violence and harassment," the Trump administration has demanded that Harvard make broad leadership changes, revise its admissions policies, and audit its faculty and student body to ensure the campus is home to many viewpoints.

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Harvard President Alan Garber disputed the government's allegations, saying in a letter this month that the school is nonpartisan and has taken steps to root out antisemitism on campus. He insisted that Harvard is in compliance with the law, calling the federal sanctions an "unlawful attempt to control fundamental aspects of our university's operations."

In response to the administration's threats, Harvard has sued to block the funding freeze and persuaded a federal judge to temporarily halt the ban on enrolling international students. During a hearing in Boston on Thursday, the judge extended her order blocking the ban.

Nicholas Burns, a career diplomat who served as the U.S. ambassador to China from 2021 to 2025 and now teaches at the university, said "Harvard can't be Harvard without its international students."

"There's a lot of collective pride at the university about who we are and the decisions we've made, and obviously what we want to do is make sure that international students can return to Harvard, can stay at Harvard this summer and return in September," Burns said, adding that it is important for American students to study alongside their international peers.

Calls for Harvard to stand strong

Garber didn't directly touch on the Trump administration threats Thursday. But he did get a rousing applause when he referenced the university's global reach, noting that it is "just as it should be."

Other speakers were more direct. Speaking in Latin, salutatorian Aidan Robert Scully delivered a speech laced with references to Trump policies.

"I say this: ... Neither powers nor princes can change the truth and deny that diversity is our strength," Scully said.

It was a sentiment echoed by Yurong "Luanna" Jiang, a Chinese graduate who studied international development. She described growing up believing that the "world was becoming a small village" and finding a global community at Harvard. But she worries that world view is increasingly under threat.

"We're starting to believe those who think differently, vote differently or pray differently, whether they are across the ocean or sitting right next to us, are not just wrong — we mistakenly see them as evil," she said. "But it doesn't have to be this way."

Verghese speaks of a 'besieged community'

Dr. Abraham Verghese, a bestselling author and Stanford University expert on infectious diseases, opened his keynote address by saying he felt like a medieval messenger "slipping into a besieged community." He praised Harvard for "courageously defending the essential values of this university and indeed of this nation," and told students that more people than they realize have noticed the example they've set.

"No recent events can diminish what each of you have accomplished here," Verghese said.

On Wednesday, basketball Hall of Famer and activist Kareem Abdul-Jabbar was the "Class Day" speaker, praising Harvard for standing up to the Trump administration and comparing Garber's response to Rosa Parks' stand against racist segregation.

"After seeing so many cowering billionaires, media moguls, law firms, politicians and other universities bend their knee to an administration that is systematically strip-mining the U.S. Constitution, it is inspiring to me to see Harvard University take a stand for freedom," he said.

Brynn Macaulay, who received a master's degree in public and global health, said she hopes such students will keep enrolling because they bring a wealth of knowledge and perspective.

"On a personal level, it feels like somebody is attacking people that I love and that I consider to be family," she said.

A global rally for stocks loses steam amid questions about what will happen to Trump's tariffs

By STAN CHOE AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — A big rally for stocks that began in Asia on Thursday lost steam after sweeping into Europe and the United States amid uncertainty about what will happen next after a U.S. court blocked

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many of President Donald Trump's sweeping tariffs.

The S&P 500 rose 0.4% after giving up more than half of an early gain. The Dow Jones Industrial Average added 117 points, or 0.3%, and the Nasdaq composite rose 0.4%.

It's a downshift after stocks initially leaped nearly 2% in Tokyo and Seoul, where markets had the first chance to react to the ruling late Wednesday by the U.S. Court of International Trade. The court said that the 1977 International Emergency Economic Powers Act that Trump cited for ordering massive increases in taxes on imports from around the world does not authorize the use of tariffs.

The ruling at first raised hopes in financial markets that a hamstrung Trump would not be able to drive the economy into a recession with his tariffs, which had threatened to grind down on global trade and raise prices for consumers already sick of high inflation. Trump has said he wants to bring manufacturing jobs back to the United States, and he warned the process could cause some pain for U.S. households.

But the tariffs remain in place for now while the White House appeals the ruling, and the ultimate outcome is still uncertain. The court's ruling also affects only some of Trump's tariffs, not those on foreign steel, aluminum and autos, which were invoked under a different law.

Trump "is still able to impose significant and wide-ranging tariffs over the longer-term through other means," according to Ulrike Hoffmann-Burchardi, chief investment officer of global equities at UBS Global Wealth Management.

Such uncertainty helped dampen the excitement in financial markets as trading headed through Europe into the United States, where the moves were much more modest than in Asia. The U.S. court's move was nevertheless seen as a positive for financial markets.

"The bar is raised for President Trump to resurrect his tariffs," said Brian Jacobsen, chief economist at Annex Wealth Management.

"Markets are pricing that this is a better type of uncertainty than what we've had since Liberation Day," which is what Trump called his April 2 announcement of a worldwide set of sweeping tariffs.

The S&P 500 has pulled within 3.8% of its all-time high after dropping roughly 20% below at one point last month.

On Wall Street, tech stocks led the way after Nvidia once again topped analysts' expectations for profit and revenue in the latest quarter.

The chip company has grown into one of the U.S. market's largest and most influential stocks because of the frenzy around artificial-intelligence technology, and its 3.2% rise was the strongest force by far lifting the S&P 500.

C3.ai, an AI application software company, jumped 20.8% after it reported stronger profit than analysts expected for its latest quarter. It also said the U.S. Air Force increased the maximum possible value for its contract by \$350 million to \$450 million. The company's revenue last quarter totaled \$108.7 million.

E.l.f. Beauty was another big winner and rose 23.6% after the cosmetics company delivered a stronger profit for the latest quarter than analysts expected. It also said it agreed to buy Hailey Bieber's Rhode skincare brand in a \$1 billion deal. Rhode had \$212 million in net sales in the 12 months through March.

Bieber, a model and the wife of singer Justin Bieber, will be Rhode's chief creative officer and head of innovation and also a strategic advisor to the combined companies.

They helped offset a drop for Best Buy, which fell 7.3% even though it reported a stronger profit than expected. Its revenue fell short of analysts' forecasts.

The electronics retailer also cut its forecasted ranges for revenue and profit over the full year on the assumption that "tariffs stay at the current levels for the rest of the year, and there is no material change in consumer behavior from the trends we have seen in recent quarters," Chief Financial Officer Matt Bilunas said.

Many companies have recently said that the uncertainty caused by tariffs is making it too difficult to offer any financial forecasts for the upcoming year.

All told, the S&P 500 rose 23.62 points to 5,912.17. The Dow Jones Industrial Average added 117.03 to 42,215.73, and the Nasdaq composite gained 74.93 to 19,175.87.

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In the bond market, Treasury yields eased following some mixed reports on the economy. One said that the U.S. economy likely shrunk by less in the first three months of the year than earlier estimated. Another said slightly more U.S. workers applied for unemployment benefits last week than economists expected.

The yield on the 10-year Treasury fell to 4.43% from 4.47% late Wednesday.

In stock markets abroad, Japan's Nikkei 225 jumped 1.9% to help lead Asian markets higher, while stocks rose 1.4% in Hong Kong and 0.7% in Shanghai. South Korea's Kospi rallied 1.9% after the Bank of Korea cut its key interest rate to ease pressure on the economy.

The moves for European stocks were much more muted. France's CAC 40 and Germany's DAX both swung from early gains to modest losses.

Harvey Weinstein weighs whether to testify in sex crimes retrial

By JENNIFER PELTZ Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — After five weeks of testimony from Harvey Weinstein's accusers and other prosecution witnesses at his sex crimes retrial, his defense has started presenting its own witnesses. But it's unclear whether the ex-studio boss himself will be one of them.

He's due to decide in the coming days whether to testify. His lawyers have spent last weekend and recent evenings talking through pros and cons with him, and the discussions were ongoing Thursday evening.

"There's no easy answer," attorney Arthur Aidala said outside court.

If Weinstein does take the stand, it would be a remarkable twist — and potentially risky legal move — in the yearslong saga of the onetime Hollywood honcho-turned-#MeToo outcast.

Weinstein, 73, is being retried on rape and sexual assault charges because New York's highest court overturned his 2020 conviction. He denies the allegations, and his attorneys maintain that anything that happened between him and his accusers was consensual.

Weinstein didn't testify at his first trial, nor at a separate rape trial in Los Angeles, where he also was convicted and has appealed the verdict. Many defendants in U.S. criminal cases don't take the stand: The Constitution guarantees that they don't have to, and jurors are told they can't hold such silence against the accused. Plus, testifying opens a defendant up to pointed questioning from prosecutors.

Weinstein has been watching the New York retrial intently from the defense table, sometimes shaking his head at accusers' testimony and often leaning over to one or another of his attorneys to convey his thoughts.

"He thinks that the evidence in this trial has been challenged very forcefully and that many of the complainants' stories have been torn apart," Aidala said after court Thursday.

But "there is a part of him that is seriously contemplating whether — in a he-said, she-said case — human beings feel obligated to hear the other side of the story," the attorney added.

Weinstein's lawyers began calling witnesses late Wednesday, starting with a physician-pharmacist discussing a medication that had come up in testimony.

Jurors heard Thursday from Helga Samuelsen, who shared a New York apartment in fall 2005 with Kaja Sokola, one of Weinstein's accusers. Sokola alleges that Weinstein forced oral sex on her the following year, after a series of unwanted advances that began when she was a 16-year-old fashion model in 2002.

Sokola told jurors weeks ago that she never spent time with Weinstein in the apartment where she and Samuelsen stayed. But Samuelsen testified Thursday that one evening the doorbell rang, Sokola answered it and there was Weinstein.

Samuelsen recalled that he and Sokola went into a bedroom, closed the door and emerged about a half-hour later, when Sokola saw Weinstein out. Samuelsen said she never spoke to Sokola about the visit.

"I think I kind of chose to not, really," said Samuelsen, who was then a photographer's assistant.

Having met Weinstein briefly in summer 2005, she later sought his help as she tried to launch a music career. He made some introductions and invited her to write a never-used movie score, Samuelsen said, and she formed a New York-area cabaret act around 2019 with a woman close to him. Samuelsen now works in insurance in her native Denmark.

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During the prosecution's phase of the trial, Weinstein's lawyers asked plenty of questions aimed at raising doubts about the credibility and accuracy of what jurors were hearing from prosecution witnesses, particularly Weinstein's three accusers in the case: Sokola, Miriam Haley and Jessica Mann.

All three women were trying to build careers in show business and say he preyed on them by dangling work prospects. Mann alleges he raped her in 2013. Haley, like Sokola, accuses Weinstein of forcibly performing oral sex on her in 2006.

The Associated Press generally does not name people who say they have been sexually assaulted, but Sokola, Mann and Haley have given their permission to be identified.

Argentine court declares a mistrial in the death of soccer star Maradona

By SERGIO FARELLA and ALMUDENA CALATRAVA Associated Press

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) — An Argentine court on Thursday declared a mistrial in the case of seven health professionals accused of negligence in the death of soccer legend Diego Maradona, the latest soap-operatic turn in the trial that has tranfixed the soccer world.

The judges ruled there would be a new trial, without specifying when.

The pivot comes after one of the three judges overseeing the trial stepped down over criticism surrounding her participation in a forthcoming documentary series about the case, "Divine Justice," which spanned from the aftermath of Maradona's death, as scandals and suspicions of foul play began to emerge, to the start of the trial.

In calling for the judge, Julieta Makintach, to be recused, the prosecutor on Tuesday presented the trailer for her documentary — a one-and-a-half-minute teaser that intercuts archival footage of Maradona scoring iconic goals with shots of Makintach strutting through the corridors of the Buenos Aires courthouse in high heels and a short skirt as a string soundtrack heightens suspense.

The prosecutor asked judges to investigate allegations that Makintach had violated judicial ethics in allowing a camera crew inside the courthouse to film her overseeing closed-door hearings for the reality TV-style series.

As the claims snowballed into a national scandal, Makintach on Tuesday said that she had "no choice" but to resign from the case.

The judges decided on Thursday to retry the entire case, effectively turning the clock back on all proceedings since March 11, when the trial began amid intense media scrutiny and called dozens of distraught witnesses to testify over 21 hearings.

"Judge Makintach did not act impartially. Her conduct caused harm to both the plaintiffs and the defense," Judge Maximiliano Savarino said in declaring the mistrial. "The only person responsible is the recused judge."

He added: "This is an unpleasant decision."

At the courthouse, two of the soccer star's daughters, Gianinna and Dalma Maradona, began to weep.

The decision threw into doubt the timeline of the trial, which was initially expected to last until July. Thursday's ruling said that a higher court would select the three new judges by lottery "within a reasonable period of time."

The case accuses Maradona's medical team of failing to provide adequate care for the soccer star in weeks leading up to his sudden death on November 25, 2020. Maradona died at age 60 from cardiac arrest while recovering from surgery for a blood clot on the brain at a rented home outside Buenos Aires.

Although the case largely hinges on medical technicalities, the biweekly testimonies have also become tabloid fodder — like much in Maradona's life, which included long spates of drug and alcohol abuse.

Experts have taken the stand to allege that Maradona agonized for 12 hours before his death while his sisters and daughters have tearfully accused his medics of leaving him alone in squalor when he should have been hospitalized.

The defendants, who deny all accusations, were charged with culpable homicide, a crime similar to involuntary manslaughter in that it implies the accused were aware of the risk caused by their reckless

conduct and ignored it.

They include Leopoldo Luque, Maradona's primary physician at the time of his death, as well as his psychologist, psychiatrist, medical coordinator and nurses.

The crime carries a maximum penalty of 25 years in prison. The defendants say Maradona was a difficult patient who did not allow himself to be treated.

Maradona, who famously led Argentina to victory in the 1986 World Cup, is regarded as one of the greatest soccer players of all time. His rags-to-riches story resonated with his fellow Argentines and he is widely revered as a national hero.

Federal judge extends order blocking Trump administration ban on foreign students at Harvard

By MICHAEL CASEY and ANNIE MA AP Education Writer

BOSTON (AP) — A federal judge on Thursday extended an order blocking the Trump administration's attempt to bar Harvard University from enrolling foreign students.

U.S. District Judge Allison Burroughs extended the block she imposed last week with a temporary restraining order, which allows the Ivy League school to continue enrolling international students as a lawsuit proceeds.

Harvard sued the federal government on Friday after Department of Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem revoked its ability to host foreign students at its campus in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

"Harvard will continue to take steps to protect the rights of our international students and scholars, members of our community who are vital to the University's academic mission and community — and whose presence here benefits our country immeasurably," a university spokesman said in a statement.

On Wednesday, the Trump administration introduced a new effort to revoke Harvard's certification to enroll foreign students. In a letter sent by the acting Immigration and Customs Enforcement director, Todd Lyons, the government gave Harvard 30 days to respond to the alleged grounds for withdrawal, which include accusations that Harvard coordinated with foreign entities and failed to respond sufficiently to antisemitism on campus.

The developments unfolded in a courtroom not far from the Harvard campus, where speakers at Thursday's commencement ceremony stressed the importance of maintaining a diverse and international student body.

The dispute over international enrollment at Harvard is the latest escalation in a battle between the White House and the nation's oldest and wealthiest college. In April, Noem sent a letter to the school, demanding a range of records related to foreign students, including discipline records and anything related to "dangerous or violent activity." Noem said it was in response to accusations of antisemitism on Harvard's campus.

Harvard says it complied. But on May 22, Noem sent a letter saying the school's response fell short. She said Harvard was being pulled from the federal program that allows colleges to sponsor international students to get U.S. visas. It took effect immediately and prevented Harvard from hosting foreign students in the upcoming school year.

In its lawsuit, Harvard argued the government failed to follow administrative procedures and regulations for removing schools from eligibility to host international students, which include giving schools the opportunity to appeal and a 30-day window to respond.

Noem's earlier letter to Harvard notified the school that its eligibility was revoked immediately. It did not cite any regulations or statutes that Harvard allegedly violated. The Wednesday letter accuses Harvard of violating regulations around reporting requirements and violating an executive order regarding combating antisemitism.

Already, despite the restraining order, the Trump administration's efforts to stop Harvard from enrolling international students have created an environment of "profound fear, concern, and confusion," the university's director of immigration services said in a court filing on Wednesday.

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In a court filing, immigration services director Maureen Martin said that countless international students had asked about transferring.

Martin said that international Harvard students arriving in Boston were sent to additional screening by Customs and Border Protection agents, and that international students seeking to obtain their visas were being denied or facing delays at consulates and embassies.

More than 7,000 international students, exchange scholars and alumni participating in a post-graduate career training period rely on Harvard for their sponsorship and legal status in the United States.

The sanction, if allowed to proceed, could upend some graduate schools that draw heavily from abroad. Among those at risk was Belgium's Princess Elisabeth, who just finished her first year in a Harvard graduate program.

Trump railed against Harvard on social media after Burroughs temporarily halted the action last week, saying "the best thing Harvard has going for it is that they have shopped around and found the absolute best Judge (for them!) - But have no fear, the Government will, in the end, WIN!"

The Trump administration has levied a range of grievances against Harvard, accusing it of being a hot-bed of liberalism and failing to protect Jewish students from harassment. The government is demanding changes to Harvard's governance and policies to bring it in line with the president's vision.

Harvard was the first university to reject the government's demands, saying it threatened the autonomy that has long made U.S. higher education a magnet for the world's top scholars. In a pair of lawsuits, Harvard accused the government of retaliating against the university for rebuffing political demands.

Harrison Ruffin Tyler, preserver of Virginia history and grandson of 10th US president, dies at 96

Associated Press undefined

CHARLES CITY, Va. (AP) — Harrison Ruffin Tyler, the last living grandson of U.S. President John Tyler born 83 years after his grandfather left the White House in 1845, died. He was 96.

The cause of Tyler's death on Sunday was not immediately released. John Tyler was 63 years old when Harrison Tyler's father, Lyon Gardiner Tyler Sr., was born. And Harrison Ruffin Tyler was born in 1928 when that father was 75 years old and the presidential grandfather had been dead for more than 60 years.

The grandson was known for preserving his grandfather's plantation and nearby Civil War fort. In a statement, Annique Dunning, the executive director of Sherwood Forest, a national landmark of President Tyler's residence, said the president's grandson, whose brother died in 2020, was a "beloved father and grandfather, he will be missed immeasurably by those who survive him."

"He will be remembered for his considerable charm, generosity and unfailing good humor by all who knew him," Dunning said.

Over the course of his life, Tyler preserved Sherwood Forest, his grandfather's plantation that enslaved dozens of people, including 43 people in 1860, just before the Civil War began. The grandson also helped restore and maintain Fort Pocahontas, a Union fort during the Civil War.

Tyler's grandfather was a Democrat nicknamed the "Accidental President" after unexpectedly assuming the presidency when President William Henry Harrison died in office. President Tyler was the first vice president to gain control of the White House in the wake of a death.

The University of Virginia's Miller Center described the president as "the last gasp of the Old Virginia aristocracy in the White House." He had married twice and had 15 children, including Lyon Gardiner Tyler Sr.

The time between the president's birth and his grandson's death spans 235 years.

Trump meets with the Federal Reserve chairman he has repeatedly scorned

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump met with Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell on Thursday and the two discussed the economy but not Powell's outlook for interest rates, the Fed said.

Powell told Trump that the central bank would make decisions about the short-term interest rate it controls "based solely on careful, objective, and non-political analysis." The Fed's rate typically influences borrowing costs across the economy, including for mortgages, car loans, and business borrowing.

The meeting comes as Trump has assailed Powell for not reducing the Fed's key interest rate, calling him "Too Late Powell." The president initiated the meeting, the Fed said.

Trump argues that there is "no inflation" and so Powell should cut rates, though such a move might not necessarily reduce the borrowing costs consumers face. Inflation is down substantially from a year ago, yet it remains above the Fed's 2% target. Trump has also called Powell a "fool" and earlier this year suggested he would fire the Fed chair.

After financial markets reacted negatively, Trump said he had "no intention" of removing Powell, whose term as chair ends in May 2026.

The meeting is the first during Trump's second term, though the two met and had lunch together in his first term. Fed chairs regularly meet with Treasury secretaries but less often with presidents, given that the Fed's interest rate decisions are intended to be separate from political concerns.

Earlier this month, Powell said he had never requested a meeting with a president and added, "I never will," suggesting it was inappropriate given the Fed's political independence.

"I can't imagine myself doing that," Powell said at a press conference May 7. "It's always—comes the other way: A President wants to meet with you."

CEO pay rose nearly 10% in 2024 as stock prices and profits soared

By MAE ANDERSON and PAUL HARLOFF AP Business Writers

NEW YORK (AP) — The typical compensation package for chief executives who run companies in the S&P 500 jumped nearly 10% in 2024 as the stock market enjoyed another banner year and corporate profits rose sharply.

Many companies have heeded calls from shareholders to tie CEO compensation more closely to performance. As a result, a large proportion of pay packages consist of stock awards, which the CEO often can't cash in for years, if at all, unless the company meets certain targets, typically a higher stock price or market value or improved operating profits.

The Associated Press' CEO compensation survey, which uses data analyzed for The AP by Equilar, included pay data for 344 executives at S&P 500 companies who have served at least two full consecutive fiscal years at their companies, which filed proxy statements between Jan. 1 and April 30.

Here are the key takeaways from the survey:

A good year at the top

The median pay package for CEOs rose to \$17.1 million, up 9.7%. Meanwhile, the median employee at companies in the survey earned \$85,419, reflecting a 1.7% increase year over year.

CEOs had to navigate sticky inflation and relatively high interest rates last year, as well as declining consumer confidence. But the economy also provided some tail winds: Consumers kept spending despite their misgivings about the economy; inflation did subside somewhat; the Fed lowered interest rates; and the job market stayed strong.

The stock market's main benchmark, the S&P 500, rose more than 23% last year. Profits for companies in the index rose more than 9%.

"2024 was expected to be a strong year, so the (nearly) 10% increases are commensurate with the tim-

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ing of the pay decisions,” said Dan Laddin, a partner at Compensation Advisory Partners.

Sarah Anderson, who directs the Global Economy Project at the progressive Institute for Policy Studies, said there have been some recent “long-overdue” increases in worker pay, especially for those at the bottom of the wage scale. But she said too many workers in the world’s richest countries still struggle to pay their bills.

The top earners

Rick Smith, the founder and CEO of Axon Enterprises, topped the survey with a pay package valued at \$164.5 million. Axon, which makes Taser stun guns and body cameras, saw revenue grow more than 30% for three straight years and posted record annual net income of \$377 million in 2024. Axon’s shares more than doubled last year after rising more than 50% in 2023.

Almost all of Smith’s pay package consists of stock awards, which he can only receive if the company meets targets tied to its stock price and operations for the period from 2024 to 2030. Companies are required to assign a value to the stock awards when they are granted.

Other top earners in the survey include Lawrence Culp, CEO of what is now GE Aerospace (\$87.4 million), Tim Cook at Apple (\$74.6 million), David Gitlin at Carrier Global (\$65.6 million) and Ted Sarandos at Netflix (\$61.9 million). The bulk of those pay packages consisted of stock or options awards.

The median stock award rose almost 15% last year compared to a 4% increase in base salaries, according to Equilar.

“For CEOs, target long-term incentives consistently increase more each year than salaries or bonuses,” said Melissa Burek, also a partner at Compensation Advisory Partners. “Given the significant role that long-term incentives play in executive pay, this trend makes sense.”

Jackie Cook at Morningstar Sustainalytics said the benefit of tying CEO pay to performance is “that share-based pay appears to provide a clear market signal that most shareholders care about.” But she notes that the greater use of share-based pay has led to a “phenomenal rise” in CEO compensation “tracking recent years’ market performance,” which has “widened the pay gap within workplaces.”

Some well-known billionaire CEOs are low in the AP survey. Warren Buffett’s compensation was valued at \$405,000, about five times what a worker at Berkshire Hathaway makes. According to Tesla’s proxy, Elon Musk received no compensation for 2024, but in 2018 he was awarded a multiyear package that has been valued at \$56 billion and is the subject of a court battle.

Other notable CEOs didn’t meet the criteria for inclusion the survey. Starbucks’ Brian Niccol received a pay package valued at \$95.8 million, but he only took over as CEO on Sept. 9. Nvidia’s Jensen Huang saw his compensation grow to \$49.9 million, but the company filed its proxy after April 30.

The pay gap

At half the companies in AP’s annual pay survey, it would take the worker at the middle of the company’s pay scale 192 years to make what the CEO did in one. Companies have been required to disclose this so-called pay ratio since 2018.

The pay ratio tends to be highest at companies in industries where wages are typically low. For instance, at cruise line company Carnival Corp., its CEO earned nearly 1,300 times the median pay of \$16,900 for its workers. McDonald’s CEO makes about 1,000 times what a worker making the company’s median pay does. Both companies have operations that span numerous countries.

Overall, wages and benefits netted by private-sector workers in the U.S. rose 3.6% through 2024, according to the Labor Department. The average worker in the U.S. makes \$65,460 a year. That figure rises to \$92,000 when benefits such as health care and other insurance are included.

“With CEO pay continuing to climb, we still have an enormous problem with excessive pay gaps,” Anderson said. “These huge disparities are not only unfair to lower-level workers who are making significant contributions to company value – they also undercut enterprise effectiveness by lowering employee morale and boosting turnover rates.”

Some gains for female CEOs

For the 27 women who made the AP survey — the highest number dating back to 2014 — median pay

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rose 10.7% to \$20 million. That compares to a 9.7% increase to \$16.8 million for their male counterparts.

The highest earner among female CEOs was Judith Marks of Otis Worldwide, with a pay package valued at \$42.1 million. The company, known for its elevators and escalators, has had operating profit above \$2 billion for four straight years. About \$35 million of Marks' compensations was in the form of stock awards.

Other top earners among female CEOs were Jane Fraser of Citigroup (\$31.1 million), Lisa Su of Advanced Micro Devices (\$31 million), Mary Barra at General Motors (\$29.5 million) and Laura Alber at Williams-Sonoma (\$27.7 million).

Christy Glass, a professor of sociology at Utah State University who studies equity, inclusion and leadership, said while there may be a few more women on the top paid CEO list, overall equity trends are stagnating, particularly as companies cut back on DEI programs.

"There are maybe a couple more names on the list, but we're really not moving the needle significantly," she said.

Prioritizing security

Equilar found that a larger number of companies are offering security perquisites as part of executive compensation packages, possibly in reaction to the December shooting of UnitedHealthCare CEO Brian Thompson.

Equilar said an analysis of 208 companies in the S&P 500 that filed proxy statements by April 2 showed that the median spending on security rose to \$94,276 last year from \$69,180 in 2023.

Among the companies that increased their security perks were Centene, which provides health care services to Medicare and Medicaid, and the chipmaker Intel.

Prosecution rests in trial of Karen Read who's charged in death of Boston police officer boyfriend

By PATRICK WHITTLE and MICHAEL CASEY Associated Press

The prosecution in the second trial of Karen Read rested Thursday after about a month of testimony spotlighting evidence from the scene and witnesses who heard the defendant repeatedly say "I hit him" in reference to the killing of her Boston police officer boyfriend.

Read, 45, is accused of backing her SUV into her boyfriend, John O'Keefe, and leaving the 46-year-old officer to die on a snowy night in the front yard of another officer's home after she dropped him off at a party there in January 2022. Her lawyers say she was framed in a police conspiracy and someone in the home that night killed him.

A mistrial was declared last year and the second trial has attracted massive media attention and become the subject of a Hulu documentary series. Read's second trial on charges of second-degree murder, manslaughter and leaving the scene has often looked similar to the first trial. If she is found guilty of the most serious charge of second-degree murder, she could spend the rest of her life in prison.

Simplified approach

The prosecution, led this time by Hank Brennan, has taken a more streamlined, focused approach.

Unlike the first trial where witness after witness undermined the prosecution's case, Brennan did everything to avoid those mistakes. Most significantly, he refrained from putting Michael Proctor, the lead investigator in the case, on the stand.

Proctor was fired in March after a disciplinary board found he sent sexist and crude text messages about Read to his family and colleagues. His testimony played a key role in the first trial. Defense attorneys used his text messages to attempt to show Proctor was biased and ignored the possibility of other suspects.

Brennan also didn't put Brian Albert, the Boston officer who owned the house where O'Keefe's body was found, on the stand. He also passed on putting on Brian Higgins, a federal agent who had exchanged flirty texts with Read, on the stand.

All three testified in the first trial and could be called by the defense as it seeks to show O'Keefe was beaten at the house party hosted by Albert and left outside to die.

Read's attorney, Alan Jackson, still managed to raise concerns about Higgins and Proctor.

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During the cross-examination of Massachusetts State Police Sgt. Yuriy Bukhenik, he made him read all the flirtatious texts between Higgins and Read.

Jackson also brought up a text message chain with Bukhenik in which Proctor said, "I hate that man, I truly hate him" about David Yannetti, an attorney for Read.

Stick to the evidence

Broken pieces of Read's taillight. A broken cocktail glass. Read's words the scene.

Prosecutors have spent much of the trial building their case through evidence from the scene. Like before, they started by introducing several law enforcement witnesses who were among the first responders and recalled hearing Read repeatedly say "I hit him" after she found O'Keefe.

They also played several clips of interviews Read has done since the first trial, in which she talked about how much she drank and made comments suggesting she knew what she did. She also talked about pulling a piece of glass from O'Keefe's nose.

"Could I have clipped him? Could I have tapped him in the knee and incapacitated him?" she said during an interview for a documentary on the case. "He didn't look mortally wounded, as far as I could see" but "could I have done something that knocked him out and in his drunkenness and in the cold didn't come to again."

Prosecutors called a neurosurgeon who testified O'Keefe suffered a "classic blunt trauma injury" associated with falling backward and hitting the back of his head.

Prosecutors also showed jurors pieces of the Read's broken taillight, which they say was damaged when she hit O'Keefe. The defense argues the taillight was damaged later when she was backing out of O'Keefe's house and hit O'Keefe's car.

Prosecutors also introduced evidence of a broken cocktail glass, found at the scene, which they said O'Keefe was holding when Read backed into him.

DNA evidence played a part

Andre Porto, a forensic scientist who works in the DNA unit of the Massachusetts State Police Crime Lab, detailed various items he tested, including the broken rear taillight and pieces of a broken cocktail glass found in in the yard. Only O'Keefe was a likely match for both.

Porto found three DNA contributors but only O'Keefe was a likely match. He also tested DNA from parts of a broken cocktail glass found in the yard and only O'Keefe was seen as a likely match. Porto also tested a hair found on the taillight.

Later in the trial, analyst Karl Miyasako of Bode Technology testified that tests of the hair sample taken from Read's vehicle found a mitochondrial DNA match to O'Keefe. He said that means the DNA could be a match to O'Keefe or any one of his maternal relatives.

What's next for defense

The trial could easily continue several more weeks as Read's defense team makes its case. Read has said the defense's case will be "more robust" this time. It listed over 90 witnesses who could testify.

"I'm anxious for everyone to learn what we know," she said last week.

Read's defense has vigorously questioned the prosecution's witnesses and called into question evidence presented about O'Keefe's death. During opening statements in April, Brennan said Read "admitted what she did that night" and pointed to a television interview in which Read said "could I have clipped him?" about O'Keefe's death.

Oil and gas have boomed in New Mexico. Its schools are contending with pollution's effects

By ED WILLIAMS of Searchlight New Mexico and SUSAN MONTOYA BRYAN of The Associated Press
undefined

COUNSELOR, N.M. (AP) — On a Tuesday in March, Billton Werito drove his son Amari toward his house in Counselor, New Mexico, driving past natural gas pipelines, wellheads and water tanks. Amari should have been in school, but a bout of nausea and a dull headache kept him from class.

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"It happens a lot," Amari explained from the backseat. The symptoms usually show up when the sixth grader smells an odor of "rotten egg with propane" that rises from nearby gas wells and wafts over Lybrook Elementary School, where he and some 70 other Navajo students attend class. His little brother often misses school for the same reason.

"They just keep getting sick," Amari's father, Billton, said. "Especially the younger one, he's been throwing up and won't eat." The symptoms are putting the kids at risk of falling further behind in school.

Lybrook sits in the heart of New Mexico's San Juan Basin, a major oil and gas deposit that, along with the Permian Basin in the state's southeast, is supplying natural gas that meets much of the nation's electricity demand.

The New Mexican gas has reaped huge benefits. Natural gas has become a go-to fuel for power plants, sometimes replacing dirtier coal-fired plants and improving air quality. Oil and gas companies employ thousands of workers, often in areas with few other opportunities, and their revenue boosts the state's budget.

But those benefits may come at a cost for thousands of students in New Mexico whose schools sit near pipelines, wellheads and flare stacks. An Associated Press analysis found 694 oil and gas wells with new or active permits within a mile of a school in the state. This means around 29,500 students in 74 schools and preschools potentially face exposure to noxious emissions that can be released during extraction.

At Lybrook, Amari's school, fewer than 6% of students are proficient at math, and only a fifth meet state standards for science and reading proficiency.

Other factors could help explain poor achievement. AP's analysis found two-thirds of the schools within a mile of an oil or gas well are low-income.

But research has found student learning is directly harmed by air pollution from fossil fuels — even when socioeconomic factors are taken into account.

The risks go far beyond New Mexico. An AP analysis of data from the Global Oil and Gas Extraction Tracker found over 1,000 public schools across 13 states within five miles of a major oil or gas field.

"This kind of air pollution has a real, measurable effect on students," said Mike Gilraine, an economics professor at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver, Canada. Gilraine's research has shown student test scores are closely associated with air contamination.

America's shift to natural gas has resulted in substantial increases in student achievement nationwide, Gilraine's research shows, as it has displaced dirtier coal and led to cleaner air on the whole. But there has been little data on air quality across New Mexico, even as it has become one of the most productive states in the nation for natural gas. State regulators have installed only 20 permanent air monitors, most in areas without oil or gas production.

Independent researchers have extensively studied the air quality near schools in at least two locations in the state, however. One is Lybrook, which sits within a mile of 17 active oil and gas wells.

In 2024, a study at the school found levels of pollutants — including benzene, a cancer-causing byproduct of natural gas production that is particularly harmful to children — were spiking during school hours, to nearly double the levels known to cause chronic or acute health effects.

That research followed a 2021 health impact assessment that found more than 90% of area residents surveyed suffered from sinus problems. Nosebleeds, shortness of breath and nausea were widespread. The report attributed the symptoms to the high levels of pollutants — including, near Lybrook, hydrogen sulfide, a compound that gives off the sulfur smell that Amari associates with his headaches.

Those studies helped confirm what many community members already knew, said Daniel Tso, a community leader who helped oversee the 2021 health impact assessment.

"The children and the grandchildren need a safe homeland," Tso said in March, standing outside a cluster of gas wells within a mile of Lybrook Elementary.

"You smell that?" he said, nodding towards a nearby wellhead, which smelled like propane. "I've had people visiting this area from New York. They spend five minutes here and say, 'Hey, I got a headache.' And the kids are what, six hours a day at the school breathing this?"

Lybrook school officials did not respond to requests for comment.

Researchers have identified similar air quality problems in New Mexico's southeast. In 2023, a yearlong

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study of the air in Loving found air quality was worse than in downtown Los Angeles, containing the fifth-highest level of measured ozone contamination in the U.S.

The source of the ozone — a pollutant that's especially hazardous to children — was the area's network of gas wells. Some of that infrastructure sits within a half-mile of Loving's schools.

For most locals, any concerns about pollution are outweighed by the industry's economic benefits. Representatives of the oil and gas industry have claimed the air quality studies themselves are not trustworthy. Andrea Felix, vice president of the New Mexico Oil and Gas Association (NMOGA), said other sources of emissions, such as cars and trucks, are likely a larger source of air quality problems near wells.

Officials with Loving schools are also skeptical. Superintendent Lee White said funds from the oil and gas industry paid for a new wing at the elementary school, a science lab for students, turf on the sports field and training for teachers. In the most recent fiscal year, oil and gas revenue supported \$1.7 billion in K-12 spending in New Mexico, according to a NMOGA report.

"Are we willing to give that up because people say our air is not clean?" White asked. "It's just as clean as anywhere else."

Efforts to limit drilling near schools were boosted in 2023, when State Land Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richard issued an executive order prohibiting new oil and gas leases on state-owned land within a mile of schools.

Federal court blocks Trump from imposing sweeping tariffs under emergency powers law

By LINDSAY WHITEHURST and JOSH BOAK Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A federal court on Wednesday blocked President Donald Trump from imposing sweeping tariffs on imports under an emergency-powers law, swiftly throwing into doubt Trump's signature set of economic policies that have rattled global financial markets, frustrated trade partners and raised broader fears about inflation intensifying and the economy slumping.

The ruling from a three-judge panel at the New York-based U.S. Court of International Trade came after several lawsuits arguing Trump's "Liberation Day" tariffs exceeded his authority and left the country's trade policy dependent on his whims.

Trump has repeatedly said the tariffs would force manufacturers to bring back factory jobs to the U.S. and generate enough revenue to reduce federal budget deficits. He used the tariffs as a negotiating cudgel in hopes of forcing other nations to negotiate agreements that favored the U.S., suggesting he would simply set the rates himself if the terms were unsatisfactory.

White House spokesperson Kush Desai said that trade deficits amount to a national emergency "that has decimated American communities, left our workers behind, and weakened our defense industrial base — facts that the court did not dispute."

The administration, he said, remains "committed to using every lever of executive power to address this crisis and restore American Greatness."

But for now, Trump might not have the threat of import taxes to exact his will on the world economy as he had intended, since doing so would require congressional approval. What remains unclear is whether the White House will respond to the ruling by pausing all of its emergency power tariffs in the interim.

Trump might still be able to temporarily launch import taxes of 15% for 150 days on nations with which the U.S. runs a substantial trade deficit. The ruling notes that a president has this authority under Section 122 of the Trade Act of 1974.

The ruling amounted to a categorical rejection of the legal underpinnings of some of Trump's signature and most controversial actions of his four-month-old second term. The administration swiftly filed notice of appeal — and the Supreme Court will almost certainly be called upon to lend a final answer — but it casts a sharp blow.

The case was heard by three judges: Timothy Reif, who was appointed by Trump, Jane Restani, named to the bench by President Ronald Reagan and Gary Katzmman, an appointee of President Barack Obama.

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"The Worldwide and Retaliatory Tariff Orders exceed any authority granted to the President by IEEPA to regulate importation by means of tariffs," the court wrote, referring to the 1977 International Emergency Economic Powers Act.

The ruling left in place any tariffs that Trump put in place using his Section 232 powers from the Trade Expansion Act of 1962. He put a 25% tax on most imported autos and parts, as well as on all foreign-made steel and aluminum. Those tariffs depend on a Commerce Department investigation that reveals national security risks from imported products.

It was filed in the U.S. Court of International Trade, a federal court that deals specifically with civil lawsuits involving international trade law.

While tariffs must typically be approved by Congress, Trump has said he has the power to act to address the trade deficits he calls a national emergency.

He is facing at least seven lawsuits challenging the levies. The plaintiffs argued that the emergency powers law does not authorize the use of tariffs, and even if it did, the trade deficit is not an emergency because the U.S. has run a trade deficit with the rest of the world for 49 consecutive years.

Trump imposed tariffs on most of the countries in the world in an effort to reverse America's massive and long-standing trade deficits. He earlier plastered levies on imports from Canada, China and Mexico to combat the illegal flow of immigrants and the synthetic opioids across the U.S. border.

His administration argues that courts approved then-President Richard Nixon's emergency use of tariffs in 1971, and that only Congress, and not the courts, can determine the "political" question of whether the president's rationale for declaring an emergency complies with the law.

Trump's Liberation Day tariffs shook global financial markets and led many economists to downgrade the outlook for U.S. economic growth. So far, though, the tariffs appear to have had little impact on the world's largest economy.

The lawsuit was filed by a group of small businesses, including a wine importer, V.O.S. Selections, whose owner has said the tariffs are having a major impact and his company may not survive.

A dozen states also filed suit, led by Oregon. "This ruling reaffirms that our laws matter, and that trade decisions can't be made on the president's whim," Attorney General Dan Rayfield said.

Oregon Sen. Ron Wyden, top Democrat on the Senate Finance Committee, said the tariffs had "jacked up prices on groceries and cars, threatened shortages of essential goods and wrecked supply chains for American businesses large and small."

Chinese students anxious and angry after Rubio vows to revoke visas

By FU TING, KANIS LEUNG, and HUIZHONG WU Associated Press

HONG KONG (AP) — Chinese students studying in the U.S. are scrambling to figure out their futures after Secretary of State Marco Rubio announced Wednesday that some of them would have their visas revoked.

The U.S. will begin revoking the visas of some Chinese students, including those studying in "critical fields" and "those with connections to the Chinese Communist Party," according to the announcement.

China is the second-largest country of origin for international students in the United States, behind only India. In the 2023-2024 school year, more than 270,000 international students were from China, making up roughly a quarter of all foreign students in the U.S.

Rubio's announcement was a "new version of the Chinese Exclusion Act," said Liqin, a Chinese student at Johns Hopkins University, who asked to be identified only by his first name out of fear of retaliation. He was referring to a 19th-century law that prohibited Chinese from immigrating to the U.S. and banned Chinese people already in the U.S. from getting citizenship. He said Wednesday was the first time he thought about leaving the U.S. after spending a third of his life here.

Chinese international students are a point of tension

China's Foreign Ministry spokesperson, Mao Ning, called the U.S. decision unreasonable.

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"Such a politicized and discriminatory action lays bare the U.S. lie that it upholds so-called freedom and openness," she said Thursday, adding that China has lodged a protest with the U.S.

The issue of Chinese students studying overseas has long been a point of tension in the bilateral relationship. In 2019, during Trump's first term, China's Ministry of Education warned students about visa issues in the U.S., with rising rejection rates and shortening of visas.

Last year, the Chinese Foreign Ministry protested that a number of Chinese students were unfairly interrogated and sent home upon arrival at U.S. airports.

Chinese state media has long hyped gun violence in the U.S. and violent protests during the pandemic, and portrayed the U.S. as a dangerous place that wasn't safe for its citizens. The tense bilateral relationship has also meant that some Chinese students are opting to study in the U.K. or other countries over the U.S. after the pandemic.

Zou Renge, a 27-year-old public policy master's student at the University of Chicago, said she had planned to take some time off and work in humanitarian aid programs abroad after graduating at the end of this year.

But now, she will refrain from leaving the U.S. and will look for jobs in the meantime. "In a very uncertain environment, I'll try my best to find myself a solution," she said.

Hong Kong seeks to draw in talent amid uncertainty

Some were eager to capitalize on the uncertainty facing international students in the U.S. Hong Kong's leader John Lee told lawmakers on Thursday that the city would welcome any students who have been discriminated against by American policies to study in the city.

"The students who face unfair treatment can come from different countries beyond the U.S. I think this is an opportunity for Hong Kong," he said. "We will work with our universities to provide the best support and assistance."

That followed a widely shared post by the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST) inviting Harvard students to "continue their academic pursuits" there after Trump said he would revoke the university's ability to accept international students.

Other Hong Kong universities including the Chinese University of Hong Kong and City University of Hong Kong also said they would streamline or facilitate applications from international students coming from top universities in the U.S.

Hong Kong, a former British colony that returned to China in 1997, is a popular destination for mainland Chinese students to pursue their university degrees because of its international image and relative freedoms.

The city launched a new visa scheme in 2022 to counter the exodus of expatriates and local professionals that occurred after Beijing imposed a national security law to quell dissent and during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Will Kwong, managing director at Hong Kong's AAS Education Consultancy, said his company was helping students with offers from American universities to apply to other institutions, predominantly in Britain and Australia, so that they had alternative choices.

U.S. was known for diversity and this will hurt it, students say

"Having fewer international exchanges is definitely not good for America's development," said Zhang Qi, a postdoctoral fellow in Beijing. "This could be a positive change for China's development. More talented individuals may choose to stay at Tsinghua or Peking University, or with the Chinese Academy of Sciences and other top institutions in China, which would benefit the development of domestic science and technology."

For many, there is little they can do as they now wait for the fallout from the move.

Chen, a Chinese student at Purdue University who only gave his last name out of concern for retaliation by the Trump administration, has been waiting anxiously in China for his visa approval. But he was also angry, and said this was the exact opposite of what he thought the U.S. stood for.

"I was expecting freedom and tolerance. The U.S. was known for its diversity which allows international students to fit in, but it is a pity to see such change," he said.

Most LGBTQ+ adults feel Americans don't accept transgender people, Pew poll finds

By GEOFF MULVIHILL Associated Press

LGBTQ+ people in the U.S. see lower social acceptance for transgender people than those who are lesbian, gay or bisexual, a new Pew Research Center poll found.

Pew found that about 6 in 10 LGBTQ+ adults said there is "a great deal" or "a fair amount" of social acceptance in the U.S. for gay and lesbian people. Only about 1 in 10 said the same for nonbinary and transgender people — and about half said there was "not much" or no acceptance at all for transgender people.

Giovonni Santiago, a 39-year-old transgender man and Air Force veteran who lives in Northeast Ohio and was not a participant in the survey, said he feels that acceptance for transgender people has declined in the last few years — roughly in step with the rise of state laws banning gender-affirming care for transgender minors, regulating which school and public bathrooms transgender people can use and which sports they can play.

He said he's seen acceptance get worse nationally, following the lead of some places that were early adopters of restrictions.

"They were like the anomaly for ignorance and in hatred, especially towards trans people," Santiago said. "But now we see that it's just kind of sweeping the nation, unfortunately."

Still, Santiago said he doesn't fear for his own personal safety — a contrast with most transgender people, who said they have feared for their safety at some point.

"I guess I don't feel it as much because I live a life that most people don't know that I'm trans unless I specifically tell them," said Santiago, who runs a nonprofit dedicated to supporting transgender youth.

The survey of 3,959 LGBTQ+ adults was conducted in January, after President Donald Trump was elected but just before he returned to office and set into motion a series of policies that question the existence of transgender people.

On his first day, Trump signed an executive order calling on the government to recognize people as male or female based on the "biological truth" of their future cells at conception, rather than accept scientific evidence that gender is a spectrum. Since then, he's begun ousting transgender service members from the military, and tried to bar transgender women and girls from sports competitions for females and block federal funding for gender-affirming care for transgender people under 19, among other orders.

A poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research conducted in May found that about half of U.S. adults approve of how Trump is handling transgender issues, with a range of views on specific actions.

According to the Pew poll, about two-thirds of LGBTQ+ adults said the U.S. Supreme Court ruling that legalized same-sex marriage nationally 10 years ago boosted acceptance of same-sex couples "a lot more" or "somewhat more." The Supreme Court is expected to rule in coming weeks on a major case regarding transgender people — deciding whether Tennessee can enforce a ban on gender-affirming care for minors.

Transgender people are less likely than gay or lesbian adults to say they're accepted by all their family members. The majority of LGBTQ+ said their siblings and friends accepted them, though the rates were slightly higher among gay or lesbian people. About half of gay and lesbian people said their parents did, compared with about one-third of transgender people. Only about 1 in 10 transgender people reported feeling accepted by their extended family, compared with about 3 in 10 gay or lesbian people.

Transgender people are more likely than gay, lesbian or bisexual people to say they feel "extremely" or "very" connected to a broader LGBTQ+ community and to say that all or most of their friends are also LGBTQ+.

Some elements of the experience are similar. About one-third of transgender and lesbian or gay adults said they first felt they might be LGBTQ+ by the time they were 10 and most did by age 13. About half waited until they were at least 18 to first tell someone.

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Aubrey Campos, 41, runs a taco truck near a hub of LGBTQ+ bars in Fort Worth, Texas, and also serves as a community organizer. She says her parents were supportive when she came out as transgender at about age 12. But the younger trans people she works with often have very different experiences — including some who were kicked out of their homes.

"Now the times are a little bit dark," she said. "This is a time that we to come together and make it brighter and make it known that we aren't going to just disappear."

Nepal's mountaineering community celebrates 72nd anniversary of Mount Everest conquest

By BINAJ GURUBACHARYA Associated Press

KATHMANDU, Nepal (AP) — Nepal's mountaineering community celebrated the conquest of the world's highest mountain with a rally of climbers, guides and others who gathered for International Everest Day.

The event Thursday marked the 72nd anniversary of the first summit climb of Mount Everest on May 29, 1953, by New Zealander Edmund Hillary and Sherpa guide Tenzing Norgay.

Nepal's minister for culture and tourism led the celebration in the capital, Kathmandu, that included a walk around the city and a gathering at the old palace.

"We are celebrating May 29 as the international Sagarmatha (Everest) day because the world needs to continue to recognize the achievement and contribution of Sir Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay," said Ang Tshering, who runs Kathmandu-based Asian Trekking.

The event was not just a celebration for the mountaineering community but also a festival for Nepal and the world, said Tshering, who has helped hundreds of clients scale the Himalayan peaks.

Nepal contains eight of the highest peaks in the world and every year hundreds of foreign climbers fly to the country in South Asia to tackle the mountains. The climbers hire thousands of people in Nepal to assist their climbs by carrying gear, cooking food and generally taking care of them as they spend weeks in the mountains.

Nepal's government collects money from the climbers through permit fees.

The end of May also marks the end of the popular spring mountaineering season, when climbers finish their adventures and retreat from the peaks before the monsoon season brings foul weather.

"This day is celebrated also to mark the end of the climbing season where we gather climbers and the community," Jiban Ghimire of Shangri-La Nepal Trek said.

According to Nepal's Department of Mountaineering, 468 foreign climbers from 57 countries received permits to climb Everest by the end of May, along with a roughly equal number of Nepalese mountain guides.

Many were able to scale the peak, but officials were still working to verify how many reached the 8,849-meter (29,032-foot) summit. Climbers must report to the department with proof they reached the summit and cleared their garbage before they are issued the official certificate.

Famed Sherpa guide Kami Rita reached the Everest summit for the 31st time Tuesday, breaking his own record for the most climbs to the top of the famed mountain.

Patriots say they will handle video of receiver Stefon Diggs internally

By JIMMY GOLEN AP Sports Writer

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP) — New England Patriots coach Mike Vrabel said Wednesday that he is aware of a video that showed receiver Stefon Diggs passing a bag of pink crystals to women on a boat. Vrabel declined to comment on whether he has spoken to Diggs about it.

"Any conversations that I've had with Stefon will remain between him, I and the club," Vrabel said before an optional practice that Diggs did not attend.

"It's something that we're aware of," Vrabel said. "Obviously, we want to make great decisions on and off the field. ... The message will be the same for all our players, that we're trying to make great decisions."

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An NFL spokesman said the league would not comment. Diggs' agents did not immediately respond to a text from The Associated Press requesting comment.

Diggs, who has been linked to hip-hop star Cardi B this offseason, is shown in a video on social media talking to three women on a boat before he produces a bag of pink crystals. It's not clear what the pink substance was.

Other videos from what appears to be the same boat trip show a larger crowd that includes Cardi B, the Grammy-winning rapper who was spotted leaving the Met Gala with Diggs earlier this month. They also sat together at a Boston Celtics-New York Knicks playoff game at Madison Square Garden.

Cardi B, who is known for hits such as "Bodak Yellow," "I Like It" and "WAP," filed for divorce from the rapper Offset last year.

Diggs, 31, signed with the Patriots this offseason as a free agent, getting a three-year, \$69 million deal that guarantees him \$26 million. The four-time Pro Bowl selection posted six straight 1,000-yard receiving seasons for the Vikings and Bills before he was traded from Buffalo to Houston last spring.

He had 47 catches for 496 yards and three touchdowns in eight games for the Texans before he tore the ACL in his right knee in October.

If healthy, he is expected to be a top target for second-year quarterback Drake Maye as Vrabel, in his first year coaching the team he played on for eight of his 14 NFL seasons, tries to improve on back-to-back four-win finishes under Bill Belichick and Jerod Mayo.

Today in History: May 30, Trump found guilty on 34 felony charges

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Friday, May 30, the 150th day of 2025. There are 215 days left in the year.

On May 30, 2024, Donald Trump became the first former American president to be convicted of felony crimes as a New York jury found him guilty of all 34 charges in a scheme to illegally influence the 2016 election through a hush money payment to a porn actor who said the two had sex.

Also on this date:

In 1431, Joan of Arc, condemned as a heretic, was burned at the stake in Rouen, France.

In 1911, the first Indianapolis 500 auto race was held at Indianapolis Motor Speedway; driver Ray Harroun won the race with an average speed of 74.6 mph (120 kph).

In 1922, the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., was dedicated in a ceremony attended by President Warren G. Harding, Chief Justice William Howard Taft and Abraham Lincoln's surviving son, 78-year-old Robert Todd Lincoln.

In 1935, Babe Ruth played in his last major league baseball game for the Boston Braves, leaving after the first inning of the first game of a double-header against the Philadelphia Phillies. (Ruth announced his retirement three days later.)

In 1937, ten people were killed when police fired on steelworkers demonstrating near the Republic Steel plant in South Chicago.

In 1971, the American space probe Mariner 9 blasted off from Cape Kennedy on a journey to Mars.

In 1972, three members of the militant group known as the Japanese Red Army opened fire at Tel Aviv's Lod Airport, now Ben-Gurion Airport, killing 26 people. Two attackers died; the third was captured.

In 2002, a solemn, wordless ceremony marked the end of the cleanup at ground zero in New York, 8 1/2 months after the terror attacks of September 11th brought down the World Trade Center's twin towers.

In 2012, former Liberian President Charles Taylor was sentenced to 50 years in prison after being convicted on 11 counts of aiding and abetting war crimes and crimes against humanity at a trial at The Hague.

In 2023, disgraced Theranos CEO Elizabeth Holmes was taken into custody at the Texas prison where she was sentenced to spend the next 11 years for overseeing an infamous blood-testing hoax.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Keir Dullea is 89. Actor Stephen Tobolowsky is 74. Actor Colm Meaney is 72. Country singer Wynonna Judd is 61. Musician Tom Morello (Audioslave; Rage Against The Machine) is 61. Filmmaker Antoine Fuqua is 60. Actor-singer Idina Menzel is 54. Rapper-singer Cee Lo Green is 50.