

Groton Daily Independent

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Monday, June 9

Senior Menu: Hamburger gravy over mashed potatoes, mixed vegetables, apricots, whole wheat bread.

Emmanuel Lutheran Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.

Senior Citizens meet at the Groton Community Center, 1 p.m.

School Board Meeting, 7 p.m.

Jr. Legion at Sisseton, 5:30 p.m. (DH)

Jr. Teeners at Britton, 5:30 p.m. (DH)

U12 B&W at Milbank, 5:30 p.m. (DH); U10 W&R hosts Columbia, 5:30 p.m. (DH); U8 R&B hosts Columbia, 5:30 p.m. (DH)

T-Ball G at Warner, 6 p.m., B at Warner, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, June 10

Senior Menu: New England ham dinner, green beans, baked apples, whole wheat bread.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Council 6 p.m.

United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.

U12 R&B at Roslyn, 5:30 p.m. (DH)

Wednesday, June 11

Senior Menu: Bratwurst on bun, baked beans coleslaw, fruit.

U10 R&B hosts Aberdeen, 5:30 p.m. (DH); U8 B&W hosts Aberdeen, 5:30 p.m. (DH)

Softball: U8G at Redfield, 5:30 p.m.; U10G at Redfield, 5:30 p.m.; U10B at Frankfort, 6 p.m. (DH)

T-Ball: Black at Andover, 6 p.m.

Groton Daily Independent

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If you don't challenge yourself
You will never realize what you can become



Thursday June 12

Senior Menu: Beef noodle stroganoff, Normandy blend, mixed fruit, whole wheat bread.

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

U12 R&B hosts Aberdeen, 5:30 p.m. (DH); U10 B&W at Webster, 6 p.m. (DH); U8 W&R at Webster, 6 p.m. (DH)

Softball: U8 at Mellette, 6 p.m. (DH)

T-Ball: Gold practice, 6 p.m.

Friday, June 13

Senior Menu: Chicken salad sandwich, tomato juice, cauliflower/pea/carrot salad, Mandarin orange salad.

SDSU Golf Tourney at Olive Grove

Legion hosts Milbank, 5:30 p.m. (DH)

Jr. Teeners at Clark, 5:30 p.m. (DH)

T-Ball Black practice, 6 p.m.

Saturday, June 14

FLAG DAY

Jr. Legion at Platte (vs. Platte, 10 a.m.; vs. Mt. Vernon/Plankinton, noon)

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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.

Los Angeles Clashes

President Donald Trump has deployed about 2,000 National Guard troops to Los Angeles after protests over immigration arrests turned violent. At least three people were reported injured, including two sheriff's deputies and a union leader arrested for obstruction.

The decision came after roughly 350 to 400 people gathered Friday and Saturday to protest immigration arrests in downtown Los Angeles and nearby Paramount. Demonstrators clashed with Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents, with some throwing Molotov cocktails and chunks of concrete, burning a car, and defacing a building. Officers released tear gas, pepper spray, and flash-bang explosives. ICE reported 118 arrests last week in Los Angeles, including five people the agency said were tied to criminal organizations.

The president nationalized California's Guard using Title 10 authority, which placed him at the head of the chain of command. In this case, he bypassed California Gov. Gavin Newsom (D) to do so, an approach last taken in the Civil Rights era.

Colombia Assassination Attempt

Colombian opposition presidential candidate Miguel Uribe Turbay remains in critical condition as of this writing after an assassination attempt Saturday in Bogotá. A 15-year-old suspect has been arrested; officials are searching for potential accomplices.

The shooting took place at a campaign rally in the Fontibón neighborhood of Colombia's capital. In the middle of his speech, the 39-year-old conservative was reportedly shot three times and underwent both head and leg surgery. Uribe has served as a senator since 2022 and has called for a crackdown on crime. Recent polls show him lagging frontrunners in the lead-up to Colombia's May 31, 2026, election; officials have not identified a motive as of this writing.

Uribe comes from a prominent political family. His grandfather was former President Julio César Turbay Ayala, a liberal politician who served from 1978 to 1982. His mother was journalist Diana Turbay, who was kidnapped by a group linked to Pablo Escobar and killed in a 1991 rescue attempt.

Pay Day for College Athletes

A federal judge approved a \$2.8B agreement by the NCAA to settle three separate antitrust cases Friday evening, a long-anticipated decision expected to overhaul the nature of collegiate sports. In addition to compensating current and former athletes, the ruling will allow schools to directly pay athletes up to a capped amount (\$20.5M per school for 2025-26) for the first time.

Despite generating more than \$1B in annual revenue, the NCAA had maintained strict amateurism rules around player compensation dating back to its launch in 1906. A landmark 2021 legal ruling allowed players to earn income based on their name, image, and likeness. This led to largely unregulated booster collectives at the largest schools; the top 15 groups reportedly spent more than \$200M last year. Friday's decision allows schools to vet third-party payments to individual players.

Payments could begin as early as July 1, barring appeal.

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Sports, Entertainment, & Culture

"Maybe Happy Ending" wins best musical, "Purpose" wins best play at 78th Tony Awards; see full list of winners.

Actor Jared Leto accused by nine women of sexual misconduct.

Portugal beats Spain to win second UEFA Nations League title.

Kentucky Derby winner Sovereignty edges Preakness winner Journalism to win 157th Belmont Stakes.

Texas beats Texas Tech to win the Women's College World Series for its first NCAA softball national championship.

American Coco Gauff tops world No. 1 Aryna Sabalenka to win French Open, her second Grand Slam title.

Spain's Carlos Alcaraz bests Jannik Sinner in 5.5-hour match to win his second straight French Open.

Science & Technology

Walmart expands drone delivery to 100 additional stores across five US cities (Tampa, Orlando, Charlotte, Houston, Atlanta), significantly expanding the effort from 15 current stores.

Scientists discover 230 new "giant" viruses—larger than 250 nanometers, with complex genomes—capable of infecting microscopic marine organisms; may help combat issues like toxic algae blooms.

Researchers find molecule involved in animals' metabolism can boost growth in plants; use of itaconate led to taller seedlings, may provide a safer method of improving crop yields.

Business & Markets

US stock markets close higher Friday (S&P 500 +1.0%, Dow +1.1%, Nasdaq +1.2%) after nonfarm payroll data showed unemployment held steady at 4.2%, job growth slowed in May but beat estimates.

US and China trade talks to begin today in London; sticking points expected over AI chips, rare earth minerals.

Apple's 2025 Worldwide Developers Conference begins today at 1 pm ET.

President Donald Trump suggests decision coming soon on next Federal Reserve chair amid pressure on Fed Chair Jerome Powell to lower interest rates.

Politics & World Affairs

Tens of thousands of people protest current government in Madrid, call on Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez to resign amid corruption allegations.

Rwanda to exit 11-member Economic Community of Central African States after group withholds rotating leadership role to Kigali; comes amid tensions with Democratic Republic of Congo over Rwandan-backed militant group M23.

M23 has seized large areas of eastern Congo, including the country's two largest cities in conflict that has killed 7,000 people, displaced 5 million.

Russia launches drone, missile attack on Ukraine's second-largest city, Kharkiv; attack reportedly kills four people, wounds 60 others.

Ukraine launches drones against Moscow.

DPS Warns Public of Scam Text Messages Claiming Unpaid Traffic Tickets

PIERRE, S.D.: The South Dakota Department of Public Safety (DPS) is warning residents about a scam text message campaign circulating across the state that falsely claims recipients owe traffic ticket fines and face legal action if they do not pay immediately.

These messages are not legitimate. The State of South Dakota does not send traffic ticket notices via text messages.

The fraudulent messages appear to come from the "South Dakota Department of Vehicles (DMV)" and include threatening language such as:

"South Dakota Department of Vehicles (DMV) Final Notice: Enforcement Penalties Begin on June 10. Our records show that as of today, you still have an outstanding traffic ticket. Please pay immediately before enforcement to avoid license suspension and further legal disputes."

What You Should Know:

- Do not click on any links or open any attachments in suspicious messages.
- Do not respond to the text, and do not send payment to any unverified source.
- Do not provide personal or financial information in response to these messages.

How to Stay Safe:

Verify ticket status through official channels only, such as the South Dakota Unified Judicial System (UJS) or by contacting your local Clerk of Courts office.

If you receive a suspicious message, report it to the South Dakota Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division at 1-800-300-1986 or consumerhelp@state.sd.us.

Consider blocking the sender and deleting the message after reporting it.

Keep your devices updated and install trusted antivirus or anti-phishing protection.

Residents are urged to remain cautious and help spread the word, especially to those who may be less familiar with digital scams.

For more information and resources on identifying and reporting scams, visit the South Dakota Consumer Protection website at consumer.sd.gov.

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GROTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT #06-6

School Board Meeting

June 9, 2025 – 7:00 PM – GHS Conference Room

AGENDA:

1. Call to Order with members present. Approve agenda as proposed or amended.

POTENTIAL CONFLICTS DISCLOSURE PURSUANT SDCL 23-3

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Approval of minutes of May 12, 2025 school board meeting as drafted.
2. Approval of May 2025 District bills for payment.
3. Approval of May 2025 Financial Report, Agency Accounts, and Investments.
4. Approval of May 2025 School Transportation Report.
5. Approval of May 2025 School Lunch Report.
6. Authorize Business Manager to publish FY2026 Groton Area School District Budget with 7:30 PM public hearing set for July 9, 2025.
7. Authorize the Business Manager to pay district bills up to \$75,000 in advance, using the custodial advance payment account to be approved by the board for reimbursement at the following regular board meeting.
8. Approve Open Enrollment Application #26-08.

OLD/CONTINUING BUSINESS:

1. Open Forum for Public Participation...in accordance with Board Policy & Guidelines.
2. Discussion/Action on Football Field Work – Crow's Nest and Playing Field
3. Administrative Reports: (a) Superintendent's Report; (b) Principal's Reports; (c) Business Manager Report

NEW BUSINESS:

1. First Reading of Recommended Policy Changes: BD School Board Meetings (Amended); BDDG Minutes (Amended); FC Facilities Capitalization Program (Amended); IGBA Special Education and Related Services (Amended); KLB Public Complaints About the Curriculum or Instructional Materials (Amended); IIAC Library Materials Selection and Adoption (Amended); JEA Compulsory Attendance Ages (Amended); JEG Exemptions from School Attendance (Amended); ECABB Multi-Occupancy Room Use (New Policy); IKFB Graduation Ceremony Decoration (New Policy)
2. Approve renewal of Property/Liability Insurance with EMC Insurance.
3. Pre-authorize the business manager to pay the EMC Insurance monthly invoice on July 1, 2025.
4. Cast ballot for SDHSAA Board Runoff Election.
5. Approve hiring Greg Kjellsen, Head Boys Basketball Coach, for the 2025-26 school year.
6. Approve hiring Becky Hubsch, Head Cross Country Coach, for the 2025-26 school year.
7. Approve hiring Sarah Schuster, JH Volleyball Coach, for the 2025-26 school year.
8. Approve list of surplus items at no value for disposal.

ADJOURN

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Weekly Vikings Roundup

By Jordan Wright

When Kwesi Adofo-Mensah took over the Minnesota Vikings in 2022, he had an enormous task in front of him: get the team's cap space under control. After years of kicking the can down the road to compete for a championship, the Vikings were riddled with dead cap and bad contracts. Kwesi, to his credit, has done a great job getting the team into a comfortable position in regard to the salary cap. Now, entering their fourth season together, Kwesi and head coach Kevin O'Connell have been able to build depth at nearly every position. And with good depth comes great position battles. So let's jump in and look at the top five heading into the 2025 season.

5. Jordan Mason vs. Aaron Jones Sr. for RB1

This will be a fun battle to watch, but the outcome may not have a huge impact on the offense - hence the No. 5 ranking. Aaron Jones was the lead back last season and has the inside track to remain the starter in 2025. However, he's now on the wrong side of 30, which is typically when running backs begin to decline. The Vikings traded for Jordan Mason this offseason and gave him a new contract, signaling they expect him to play a significant role. According to reports, Mason was brought in to lighten Jones' load, with the two likely splitting reps pretty evenly. But if Mason shines in training camp - or if Jones starts to fade - Mason could take the lion's share of carries.

4. Theo Jackson vs. Jay Ward for the Third Safety Spot

The Vikings have used three-safety sets more than any other team in recent years. With Camryn Bynum now in Indianapolis, there are real questions at the position. Harrison Smith and Josh Metellus are locked in as the starters, but if Brian Flores continues to deploy three safeties, the battle between Theo Jackson and Jay Ward will be worth watching. There's also the possibility the team brings in a veteran before the season starts if they aren't confident either Jackson or Ward can handle extended snaps.

3. Jalen Nailor vs. Rondale Moore for WR3

Justin Jefferson and Jordan Addison have WR1 and WR2 locked down, and tight end T.J. Hockenson serves as a reliable third option. Aaron Jones can catch passes out of the backfield as well. But when the Vikings spread defenses out, who lines up as WR3? Nailor has the early edge, but the team brought in Moore through free agency to push him for the spot. Both players will also be in the mix for kick return duties now that Brandon Powell has moved on.

2. Jonathan Greenard vs. Andrew Van Ginkel vs. Dallas Turner at EDGE

After losing Danielle Hunter in free agency last offseason, the Vikings responded by adding multiple players to the EDGE group, hoping someone would rise to the occasion. The good news: all three have. Greenard and Van Ginkel both made the Pro Bowl in their first season with Minnesota, and Dallas Turner was a first-round pick. All three will see plenty of snaps, but the question is whether Turner can take over a starting role from either of the established veterans.

1. Mekhi Blackmon vs. Isaiah Rodgers for CB2

If you read last week's article, you already know this is the position I'm most concerned about. Byron Murphy Jr. - a 2024 Pro Bowler - is firmly locked in at CB1, but the CB2 spot remains wide open. The team was high on Blackmon a year ago, but he missed the entire 2024 season due to injury. Rodgers has been making plays in OTAs, but his track record is inconsistent. He started just 10 games over three seasons with the Colts before missing all of 2023 due to a gambling suspension. He was signed by the Eagles last year, started three games, and was released this offseason. In today's NFL, teams need at least three solid cornerbacks, so the hope is that both Rodgers and Blackmon elevate their games and lock down those roles. It's also possible the team signs another veteran before camp. As it stands now, cornerback remains the Vikings' biggest question mark entering the 2025 season.

"Pain Science: Rethinking How We Experience Pain"

Pain is a universal human experience, yet it remains one of the most misunderstood aspects of health. Traditional views often equate pain directly with physical injury, but modern pain science challenges this simplistic understanding. Pain is a multifaceted phenomenon involving sensory, emotional, and cognitive factors. This perspective advocates for a holistic approach to pain management, emphasizing the nervous system's role and empowering individuals to retrain their pain response.

Pain and Injury Are Not Always the Same

Most of us can think of a time when we had an injury but no pain. Maybe you noticed blood on your body when out gardening, only to see a significant cut on your arm, or waking up and noticing a large bruise on your body, and you don't recall what caused it. Sometimes, pain may have emerged after you saw the cut or bruise, but not when the injury happened. The opposite side further exemplifies the disconnect between pain and actual tissue damage: we can use the example of phantom limb pain, where individuals experience pain in a limb that no longer exists. These examples highlight that pain is not always a direct indicator of physical damage. In the first situation, we have injury and no pain; in the second, we have pain with no injury.

Pain as a Complex, Multidimensional Experience

Pain is not a simple signal proportional to the extent of tissue damage. The pathway of sensory information from the body travels to multiple areas of the nervous system, including the somatosensory cortex (for location and sensation) and the limbic system (for emotional processing). This interconnectedness underscores the sensory and emotional components of pain, making it a complex experience.

The Brain's Role in Predicting and Protecting

The brain plays a crucial role in interpreting signals and predicting potential threats, which can influence the experience of pain. For instance, gently stretching your finger backwards can cause discomfort before actual tissue damage occurs – a protective mechanism. Chronic pain often results from an oversensitive or overprotective nervous system, where the brain's predictions sensitize the pain response. People are not faking pain, and the pain is not made up in their head; the nervous system actually changes to make it more sensitive. Think of it like the motion detection lights outside your house, the sensitivity dial has been ramped up, a leaf falls off your neighbor's tree, and your lights go on, it is overprotective. Your brain also uses more than just sensory information to process pain or potential threats. Psychological factors (for example trauma, fear, thoughts, and emotions) and sociological factors (such as environment, stress, and lifestyle) interact with biological factors (immune and endocrine systems) to shape an individual's pain experience.

Understanding Pain is Crucial for Recovery

Understanding that pain doesn't always mean your body is damaged and that your sensitive nervous system can be retrained empowers individuals to challenge limiting beliefs and actively participate in their pain management. It involves a holistic approach, including improving lifestyle factors (diet, exercise, quitting smoking, etc.), addressing psychological factors (decreasing stress, reframing negative thoughts, and more), and promoting movement and daily activities.

Understanding the complex nature of pain empowers individuals to actively participate in retraining their nervous system to reduce the impact of chronic pain and improve overall well-being.

Kory Zimney, PT, DPT, PhD is a professor at the University of South Dakota, School of Health Sciences Physical Therapy Department and director of the PhD in Health Science program. He received his Master of Physical Therapy from the University of North Dakota in 1994. He completed his post-professional Doctorate of Physical Therapy from Des Moines University in 2010 and graduated with a PhD in Physical Therapy from Nova Southeastern University in 2020. Dr. Zimney is part of the Center for Brain and Behavioral Research at the University of South Dakota and the Therapeutic Neuroscience Research Group conducting research specifically in the areas of pain science and therapeutic alliance. Understanding Pain and What to do about it | Kory Zimney | TEDxUSD. Follow The Prairie Doc® at www.prairiedoc.org, and on social media. Watch On Call with the Prairie Doc, most Thursday's at 7PM on SDPB and streaming on Facebook and listen to Prairie Doc Radio Sunday's at 6am and 1pm on SDPB Radio.



By Kory Zimney, PT, DPT, PhD is a professor at the University of South Dakota

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Nick Morris A Difficult Out As Groton Legion Post 39 Defeat Chamberlain Legion

By GameChanger Media

Nick Morris collected three hits in three at bats, as Groton Legion Post 39 defeated Chamberlain Legion 11-1 on Sunday at Chamberlain. Morris singled in the third inning, doubled in the fifth inning, and singled in the sixth inning.

Groton Legion Post 39 jumped out to the lead in the top of the first inning after Carter Simon singled, scoring one run, and a steal of home scored two runs.

Groton Legion Post 39 added to their early lead in the top of the third inning after Gavin Englund grounded out, and Morris singled to center field, each scoring one run.

Jarrett Erdmann earned the win for Groton Legion Post 39. The starter allowed five hits and one run over five and two-thirds innings, striking out six and walking three. Hunter Frederick took the loss for Chamberlain Legion. The starter went three innings, allowing five runs on six hits, striking out four and walking one.

Groton Legion Post 39 tallied 13 hits in the game. Korbin Kucker led Groton Legion Post 39 with three runs batted in. The infielder went 2-for-4 on the day. Lincoln Krause, Nick Groeblichhoff, and Simon each collected multiple hits for Groton Legion Post 39. Groton Legion Post 39 ran wild on the base paths, piling up five stolen bases for the game. Groton Legion Post 39 didn't commit a single error in the field. Karsten Fliehs had the most chances in the field with six.

Frederick went 1-for-2 at the plate and led the team with one run batted in. Brandon Flowers, Conway Collins, Cannon Speer, Isaac Shepherd, and Frederick each collected one hit for Chamberlain Legion.

Carter Simon Drives 6 Runners Home In Groton Legion Post 39 Victory Over Chamberlain Legion

By GameChanger Media

Carter Simon drove in six runs on two hits to lead Groton Legion Post 39 past Chamberlain Legion 13-7 on Sunday at Chamberlain. Simon hit a grand slam to left field in the sixth inning, scoring four runs, and doubled in the seventh inning, scoring two.

Groton Legion Post 39 got on the board in the top of the first inning after Brevin Fliehs singled to the right side of the infield, Korbin Kucker stole home, and Nick Morris singled to center field, each scoring one run.

Groton Legion Post 39 added to their early lead in the top of the second inning after Fliehs tripled to center field, and Chamberlain Legion committed an error, each scoring one run.

Groton Legion Post 39 scored six runs on four hits in the top of the sixth inning. Kucker singled, scoring one run, Simon hit a grand slam to left field, and one run scored on another play.

Fliehs earned the win for Groton Legion Post 39. The right-handed pitcher allowed seven hits and four runs over four innings, striking out four and walking four. Eli Donovan took the loss for Chamberlain Legion. The starter went three innings, giving up five runs (four earned) on five hits, striking out one and walking four. Kucker stepped on the mound first for Groton Legion Post 39. The right-handed pitcher gave up four hits and three runs (two earned) over three innings, striking out four and walking four.

Groton Legion Post 39 accumulated 11 hits in the game. Kucker led Groton Legion Post 39 with three hits in four at bats. Fliehs collected two hits for Groton Legion Post 39 in four at bats. Groton Legion Post 39 had a strong eye at the plate, tallying eight walks for the game. Karsten Fliehs and Gavin Englund led the team with three free passes each. Groton Legion Post 39 turned one double play in the game. Groton Legion Post 39 didn't commit a single error in the field. Kucker had the most chances in the field with seven.

Chamberlain Legion piled up 11 hits in the game. Jeric Klages went 3-for-4 at the plate to lead Chamberlain Legion in hits. Cannon Speer and Klages each drove in two runs for Chamberlain Legion. Donovan, Conway Collins, and London Houska each collected multiple hits for Chamberlain Legion. Chamberlain Legion had patience at the plate, tallying eight walks for the game. Brandon Flowers and Hunter Frederick led the team with two free passes each.

Groton Legion Post 39 welcome Milbank on Friday for their next game.

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Groton Legion Post 39 11 - 1 Chamberlain Legion

📍 Away 📅 Sunday June 08, 2025

	1	2	3	4	5	6	R	H	E
GRTN	3	0	2	1	3	2	11	13	0
CHMB	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	5	1

BATTING

Groton Legion Post 39	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
T Diegel #7 (CF)	4	2	0	0	1	1
K Kucker #9 (2B)	4	0	2	3	0	1
B Fliehs #6 (SS)	2	2	1	0	0	0
C Simon #4 (1B)	4	2	2	1	0	1
G Englund #18 (3B)	3	1	0	1	0	1
N Morris #17 (DH)	3	1	3	1	1	0
N Groebl... #12 (RF)	4	1	2	0	0	1
K Fliehs #10 (C)	3	1	1	0	0	1
L Krause #2 (LF)	4	0	2	2	0	0
CR: A Abeln #5	0	1	0	0	0	0
Totals	31	11	13	8	2	6

2B: N Morris, N Groeblinghoff, **3B:** L Krause, B Fliehs, K Kucker, **TB:** L Krause 4, B Fliehs 3, K Kucker 4, K Fliehs, C Simon 2, N Morris 4, N Groeblinghoff 3, **HBP:** B Fliehs 2, G Englund, K Fliehs, **SB:** L Krause, B Fliehs, G Englund, C Simon, N Morris, **LOB:** 8

PITCHING

Groton Legion Post 39	P	IP	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
J Erdmann #0	5.2	5	1	1	3	6	0
Totals	5.2	5	1	1	3	6	0

W: J Erdmann, **P-S:** J Erdmann 88-56, **HBP:** J Erdmann, **BF:** J Erdmann 26

Chamberlain Legion	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
C Collins #5 (C)	3	1	1	0	0	1
I Shepherd #2 (3B)	3	0	1	0	0	0
L Houska #1 (2B)	2	0	0	0	1	0
H Frederick #19 (P)	2	0	1	1	1	0
E Donovan #4 (LF)	3	0	0	0	0	3
J Klages #15 (CF)	3	0	0	0	0	0
B Flowers #6 (SS)	3	0	1	0	0	0
C Speer #18 (1B)	2	0	1	0	0	1
T Johnson #16 (RF)	1	0	0	0	1	1
Totals	22	1	5	1	3	6

2B: C Collins, **TB:** H Frederick, I Shepherd, C Speer, C Collins 2, B Flowers, **HBP:** C Speer, **SB:** I Shepherd, **LOB:** 6

Chamberlain Legion	P	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
H Frede... #19	3.0	6	5	5	5	1	4	0
J Klages #15	3.0	7	6	3	3	1	2	0
Totals	6.0	13	11	8	8	2	6	0

L: H Frederick, **P-S:** J Klages 54-33, H Frederick 61-33, **WP:** H Frederick 2, **HBP:** J Klages 2, H Frederick 2, **BF:** J Klages 19, H Frederick 18

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Groton Legion Post 39 13 - 7 Chamberlain Legion

📍 Away 📅 Sunday June 08, 2025

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	R	H	E
GRTN	3	2	0	0	0	6	2	13	11	0
CHMB	0	1	1	1	0	4	0	7	11	7

BATTING

Groton Legion Post 39	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
T Diegel #7 (CF)	5	2	1	0	0	1
K Kucker #9 (P)	4	3	3	1	1	0
B Fliehs #6 (C)	4	4	2	2	0	0
C Simon #4 (1B)	5	1	2	6	0	0
G Englund #18	2	1	1	0	3	0
N Morris #17 (3B)	5	0	1	1	0	1
N Groebl... #12 (2B)	2	0	0	0	0	0
K Fliehs #10 (LF)	1	0	0	0	3	0
J Erdmann #0 (RF)	3	1	0	0	1	0
A Abeln #5 (SS)	4	1	1	0	0	1
Totals	35	13	11	10	8	3

2B: C Simon, **3B:** B Fliehs, **HR:** C Simon, **TB:** G Englund, A Abeln, N Morris, C Simon 6, B Fliehs 4, T Diegel, K Kucker 3, **HBP:** N Groeblinghoff 2, B Fliehs, **SB:** B Fliehs, K Kucker, **LOB:** 12

PITCHING

Groton Legion Post 39	P	IP	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
K Kucker #9	3.0	4	3	2	4	4	0
B Fliehs #6	4.0	7	4	4	4	4	0
Totals	7.0	11	7	6	8	8	0

W: B Fliehs, **P-S:** B Fliehs 82-46, K Kucker 79-41, **WP:** K Kucker, **HBP:** K Kucker, **BF:** B Fliehs 21, K Kucker 18

Chamberlain Legion	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
C Collins #5 (SS)	4	1	2	0	1	1
I Shepherd #2 (3B)	4	1	1	0	1	2
L Houska #1 (2B)	5	1	2	0	0	0
J Klages #15 (CF)	4	1	3	2	0	1
H Frederi... #19 (LF)	2	1	0	0	2	0
E Donovan #4 (P)	4	1	2	0	0	2
B Flowers #6 (C)	2	0	0	1	2	0
C Speer #18 (1B)	1	0	1	2	1	0
T Johnson #16 (RF)	3	1	0	0	1	2
Totals	29	7	11	5	8	8

3B: C Collins, **TB:** C Speer, C Collins 4, I Shepherd, L Houska 2, J Klages 3, E Donovan 2, **SAC:** C Speer, **HBP:** C Speer, **LOB:** 10

Chamberlain Legion	P	IP	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
E Donovan #4	3.0	5	5	4	4	1	0
I Shephe... #2	2.2	5	6	6	2	2	1
C Collins #5	1.1	1	2	0	2	0	0
Totals	7.0	11	13	10	8	3	1

L: E Donovan, **P-S:** C Collins 30-12, I Shepherd 58-26, E Donovan 69-36, **HBP:** I Shepherd 3, **BF:** C Collins 9, I Shepherd 18, E Donovan 19



SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

Mobile clinics aim to boost rural health care measles vaccinations amid outbreak

BY: MAKENZIE HUBER - JUNE 8, 2025 10:00 AM



The "Wellness on Wheels" program launched in spring of 2024. (Courtesy of South Dakota Department of Health)

The South Dakota Department of Health plans to send its fledgling mobile clinics to underserved and undervaccinated areas of the state in response to the nationwide measles outbreak making its way to the state.

Last year, South Dakota reported its first measles case in nine years.

The state Department of Health recently reported the state's first case this year in Meade County in western South Dakota. Last week, on Friday, a second case was reported in Rapid City. People who visited Sam's Club in that city on June 1, or Dakota Premier Medical Center the following day were urged by the department to monitor themselves for symptoms for 21 days.

Measles is a highly contagious viral disease that spreads through the air. Those who lack immunity from vaccination or past infection are highly likely to catch it from an infected person.

As surrounding states report more cases, Health Department Secretary Melissa Magstadt said the state's "Wellness on Wheels" clinics can help encourage vaccinations.

The fleet boasts five vehicles equipped to provide immunizations, test for sexually transmitted diseases such as syphilis, as well as provide screenings, prenatal care and other support. The effort fills in gaps to public health care access across the state, especially in rural and tribal communities, Magstadt said.

"It's about how we can actively use these tools to reach underserved populations," Magstadt said. "It's not something I would have thought about looking to leverage for something like measles vaccinations before."

The department hasn't decided where to send their fleet. Counties with the fewest kindergarteners vaccinated per capita for measles, mumps and rubella include Faulk, Jones and Hutchinson, state data shows.

South Dakota counties that share tribal land and rural counties in south-central areas of the state rank the worst for clinical care use and access in the state, according to the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute's 2023 report.

Federal COVID relief funds paid for Wellness on Wheels.

"Because of the pandemic, public health infrastructure was found to be wanting," Magstadt said. That infrastructure missed "critical pieces" that hadn't been invested in, she said, such as health care access in rural areas. More than a hundred rural hospitals in the U.S. have closed in the last decade.

The program, launched in April of last year, cost about \$800,000 in federal funding. The state's public

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health COVID funding was also used to support a community health worker program, update emergency medical service equipment and telemedicine access, analyze the state of emergency medical services in South Dakota, and build a Public Health Lab and department training center.

Magstadt said staff working with the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program requested the mobile units. WIC is a federal-state program that provides healthy food, nutrition education and health care referrals to low-income women and their young children.

So far, Wellness on Wheels staff have mainly driven to events. Magstadt said the department has focused on increasing awareness of the program and building trust in communities and among tribal leaders. She plans to have staff drive the buses to rural communities more regularly to increase exposure and encourage use.

"Being consistently at a facility or place every other week will help people find it," Magstadt said. "We talk about the importance of STI testing, for example, but if you don't know where to get tested then that's another barrier."

Magstadt plans to have the department park one of the vehicles at a homeless shelter in Rapid City this summer as well to encourage underserved urban communities to seek services.

"We like people to be connected to primary care services, but there are unique situations where it's harder to get to health care facilities," Magstadt said.

She compared the mobile clinics as a return to home visits by doctors. That practice largely ceased in the 1960s due to cost efficiencies.

"It's a part of this menu of health care access and options no longer requiring people to come to a clinic or health care system," Magstadt said, "but health care being taken to patients and families who need it."

Mobile clinics grow in SD

Mobile health care clinics are available in every state. They range from public entities like South Dakota's Wellness on Wheels, to specialized, private care. Other mobile clinics operating in South Dakota, according to Mobile Health Map, include:

- Delta Dental Mobile Program
- Horizon Health on Wheels
- Midwest Street Medicine
- Mobile Women's Health Unit
- VA Mobile Counseling Program

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

EARTHTALK

AI Threatens Efforts To Combat Climate Change

Prakruti Bhatt June 5, 2025

Dear EarthTalk: Why do some environmentalists fear that Artificial Intelligence may be the biggest threat to our efforts to stave off cataclysmic climate change?

—Kyle Baldwin, Paris, TX



Data centers are huge users of energy and as such constitute a major climate threat. Credit: Pexels.com.

Data centers are huge users of energy and as such constitute a major climate threat. Credit: Pexels.com. Artificial Intelligence (AI) is quickly becoming a part of our everyday lives—we now have chatbots and search engines and virtual assistants that can mimic real conversation. But as AI technologies grow, so do environmental concerns. Environmental advocates warn that AI's rising energy use, increased emissions from building infrastructure, and the potential to slow down clean energy efforts may become serious threats in our fight against climate change.

AI systems, including generative models like Stable Diffusion XL or ChatGPT, use tons of power to run. Creating a singular image can use as much energy as fully charging a smartphone. Multiply that by millions of users generating images and text daily, and the eco-impact grows fast. The International Energy Agency says that electricity uses from AI, data centers and cryptocurrency could double between 2022 and 2026. That's like adding "at least one Sweden or at most one Germany" to global energy demand. AI also causes more pollution because of the buildings and equipment needed to run it. Big tech companies like Microsoft spend huge amounts of money—Microsoft plans to spend \$50 billion in a year just to build more data centers, giant buildings full of powerful computers that use a lot of energy.

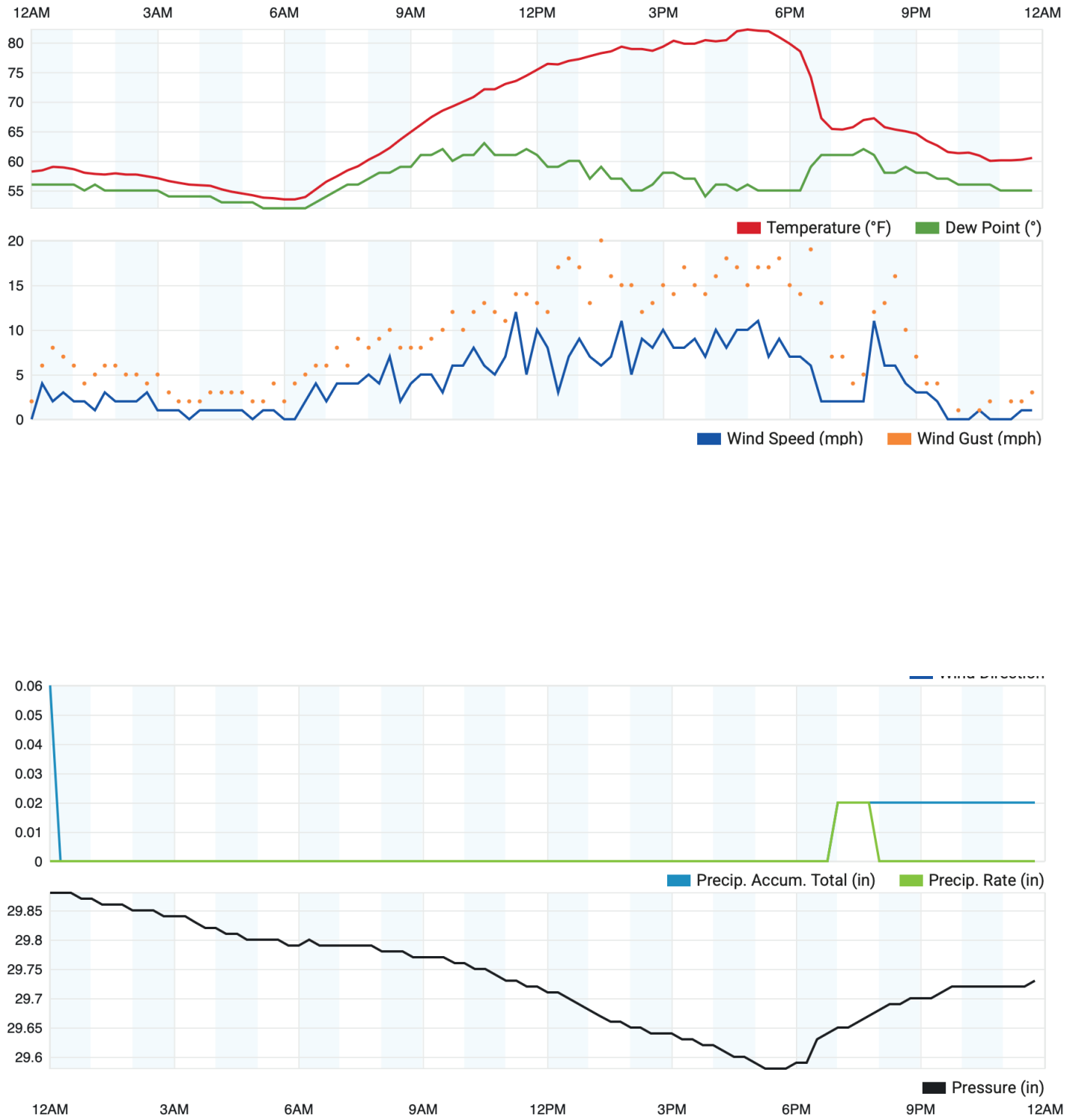
Building these data centers also calls for carbon-intensive materials: steel, cement and semiconductors that add even more emissions. These developments also go against company claimed climate promises. Microsoft, for example, pledged to reach net-zero emissions by 2030. But according to NPR tech correspondent, Dara Kerr, "Microsoft has also reported surging emissions because of data centers. It says its greenhouse gas emissions are up nearly 30 percent since 2020." Google also reported that AI has significantly increased its emissions, mainly because of the electricity that is used to power data centers.

One major concern is how we'll meet this growing electricity demand. If fossil fuel plants are used to supply the energy needed for AI, it could roll back the progress made on cutting carbon emissions. While there's hope that AI could push innovation in clean energy and efficiency, that path is very expensive and not fully guaranteed. According to Friends of the Earth, AI could in fact delay the clean energy transition if governments and companies fail to regulate it. Not all experts believe that AI is the biggest climate threat. Some argue that other sectors, like electric vehicles and factories, also drive up energy demand. Still, how we power and manage AI will determine whether it helps or harms the climate.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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Today



High: 71 °F

Cloudy then
Areas Smoke

Tonight



Low: 47 °F

Areas Smoke

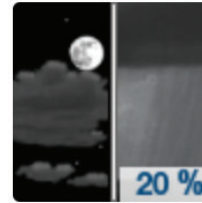
Tuesday



High: 87 °F

Sunny

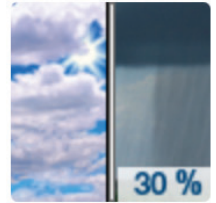
Tuesday Night



Low: 54 °F

Partly Cloudy
then Slight
Chance
Showers

Wednesday



High: 76 °F

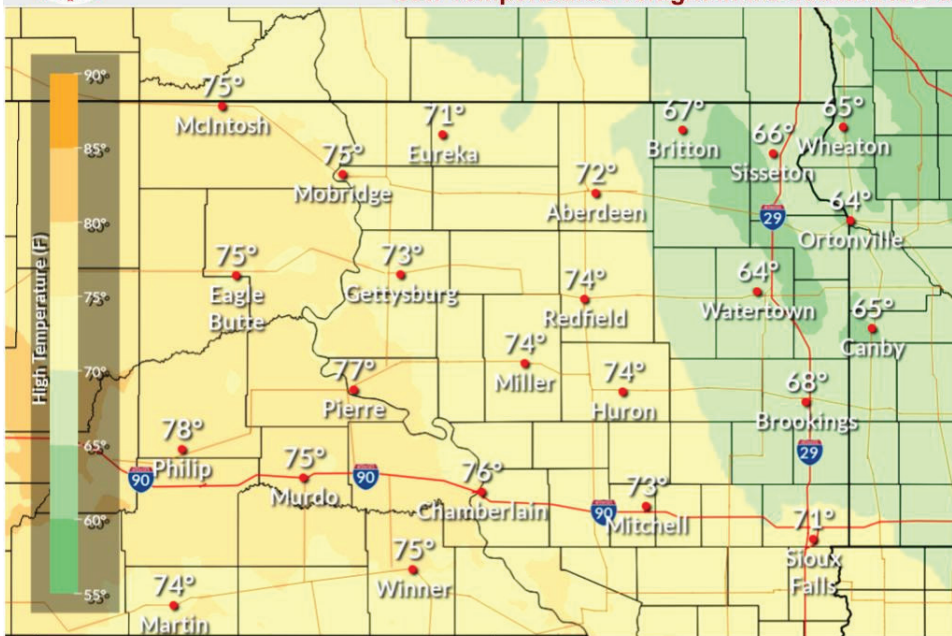
Mostly Cloudy
then Chance
Showers



Seasonally Cool Today

June 9, 2025
4:30 AM

Low Temperatures Tonight in the 40s and low 50s



Key Messages:

- Northwesterly winds with gusts of 25 to 35 mph.
- Patchy to areas of smoke from wildfires in Canada.
- Warmer on Tuesday with highs in the 80s and low 90s.



National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

Today will feature seasonally cool temperatures with highs in the 60s and 70s. These readings are 5 to 15 degrees below average for this time of year. Northwesterly winds will bring patchy to areas of smoke from Canadian wildfires. Warmer temperatures are expected to move into the area on Tuesday.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 70 °F at 4:21 PM

Low Temp: 48 °F at 5:49 AM

Wind: 27 mph at 4:29 PM

Precip: : 0.06

Day length: 15 hours, 39 minutes

Today's Info

Record High: 100 in 2016

Record Low: 33 in 1915

Average High: 79

Average Low: 54

Average Precip in June.: 1.02

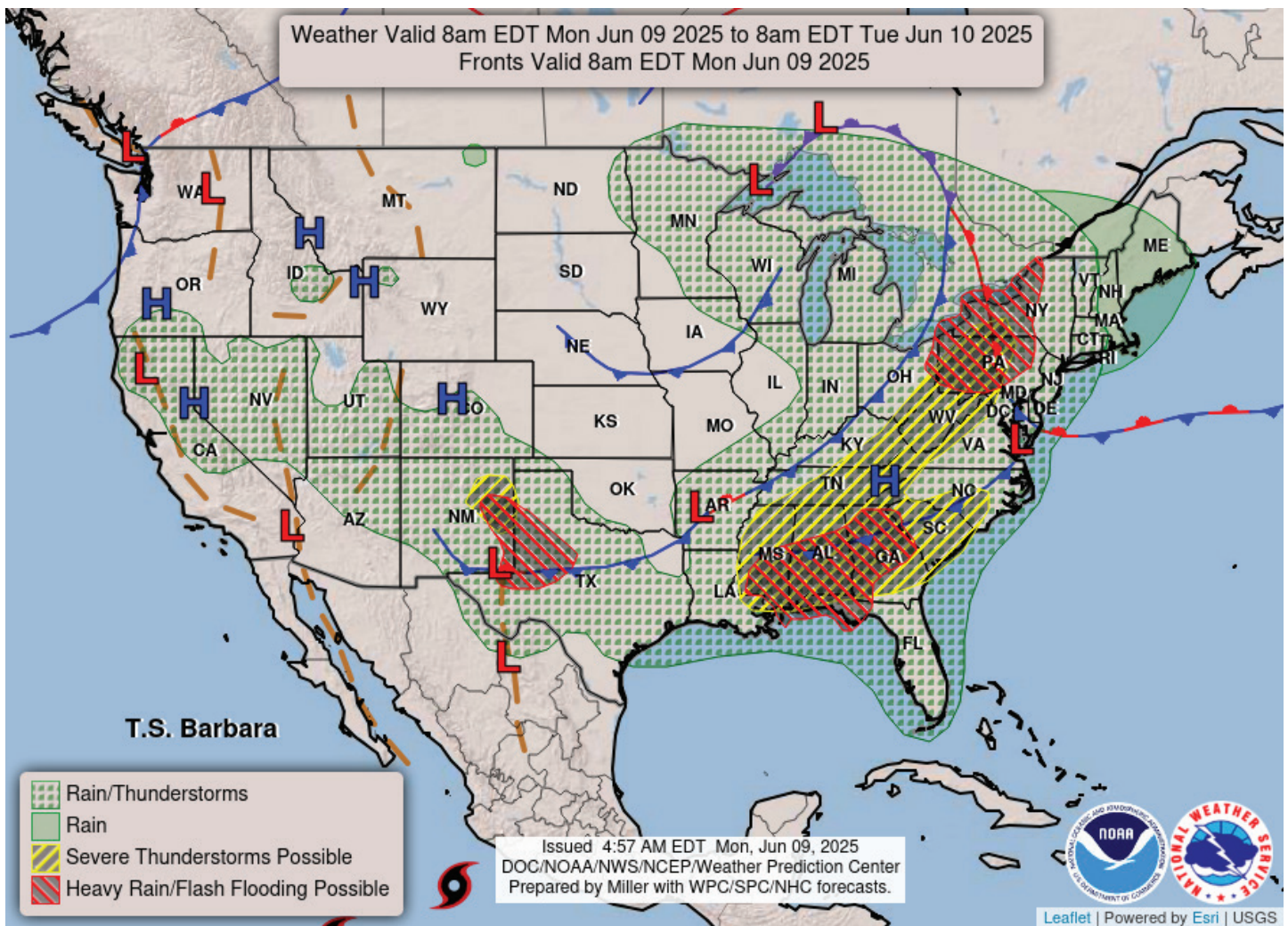
Precip to date in June: 0.44

Average Precip to date: 8.27

Precip Year to Date: 6.49

Sunset Tonight: 9:21:30 pm

Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:41:51 am



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Today in Weather History

June 9th, 1957: Southwest of Faulkton, one of four funnel clouds finally touched down and cut an unusual path to the northeast. The estimated F3 tornado reduced one home to "matchsticks and tidbits."

June 9th, 1968: A brief F2 tornado moved northeast from 6 miles northeast of Britton, destroying barns and uprooting trees on three farms. The tornado picked up two cars and tossed them into a ditch. One person in a vehicle was hospitalized. Damage was estimated at \$150,000 to property and another \$80,000 to crops.

June 9th, 1972: A steady flow of warm, moist air near the surface fed storms and anchored them against the Black Hills for six to eight hours. A flash flood killed 238 people in the Rapid City area after as much as fifteen inches of rain had fallen over the eastern Black Hills.

1953 - A tornado hit the town of Worcester MA killing ninety persons. The northeastern states usually remain free of destructive tornadoes, however in this case a low pressure system, responsible for producing severe thunderstorms in Michigan and Ohio the previous day, brought severe weather to New Hampshire and central Massachusetts. The tornado, up to a mile in width at times, tracked 46 miles through Worcester County. It mangled steel towers built to withstand winds of 375 mph. Debris from the tornado fell in the Boston area, and adjacent Atlantic Ocea. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1972 - A cloudburst along the eastern slopes of the Black Hills of South Dakota produced as much as 14 inches of rain resulting in the Rapid City flash flood disaster. The rains, which fell in about four hours time, caused the Canyon Lake Dam to collapse. A wall of water swept through the city drowning 237 persons, and causing more than 100 million dollars property damage. (David Ludlum)

1987 - Lightning struck Tire Mountain near Denver CO, destroying two million tires out of a huge pile of six million tires. Thunderstorms spawned three tornadoes around Denver, and a man was killed at Conifer CO when strong thunderstorm winds lifted up a porch and dropped it on him. A thunderstorm near Compton MD produced two inch hail, and high winds which destroyed twenty barns and ten houses injuring five persons. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather from North Carolina to the Central Gulf Coast Region. Hail in North Carolina caused more than five million dollars damage to property, and more than sixty million dollars damage to crops. Hail three and a half inches in diameter was reported at New Bern NC. Thunderstorms in the Central High Plains produced eighteen inches of hail at Fountain CO. The temperature at Del Rio TX soared to an all-time record high of 112 degrees. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Severe weather abated for a date, however, showers and thunderstorms continued to drench the eastern U.S. with torrential rains. Milton, FL, was deluged with 15.47 inches in 24 hours. Record heat and prolonged drought in south central Texas left salt deposits on power lines and insulators near the coast, and when nighttime dew caused arcing, the city of Brownsville was plunged into darkness. (The National Weather Summary)



THE FOUR "T'S" OF LIFE

Writing in his diary, a young man predicted his future: "Someday I'm going to do something special with my life. I will become famous!"

Years later, an old man said to his family, "I could have done great things with my life, but I didn't. I am so sorry. I wish I had. I am a failure."

What a tragic disclosure! The old man now talking was once the young man dreaming

God gives each of us a limited number of days, a select number of skills, and with them the ability to do something honorable. None of us know the number of our days or the length of our life. Some of us never develop the skills God has given us. Many do not invest the talents God has given them wisely, wasting their lives on the frivolous unaware of God's gifts.

An important question to ask ourselves every day is this: "What am I going to do with the time, the talents and treasures God has given me today?" For this day may be our last.

We have no assurance of tomorrow. We may lose the skills that we have through a tragedy or our treasures may be taken from us without warning. When we attach our lives to God's power and His plan, we will have no regrets. Our lives will honor God and bless others.

Prayer: Teach us, Lord, to be faithful to You and to make the most of all You have given us. May we take Your gifts, invest them wisely, and do what honors You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take. Proverbs 3:5-6

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: 06.06.25

16 40 54 56 57 3

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$243,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 17 Hrs 29 Mins
13 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS: 06.07.25

1 17 19 36 43 3

All Star Bonus: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$2,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 44 Mins 13
Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS: 06.08.25

5 11 20 42 43 10

TOP PRIZE:

\$7,000/week

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 59 Mins 12
Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS: 06.07.25

14 15 17 24 29

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$24,000

NEXT DRAW: 2 Days 16 Hrs 59
Mins 12 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS: 06.07.25

6 7 16 22 28 17

TOP PRIZE:

\$10,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 17 Hrs 28 Mins 13
Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS: 06.07.25

31 36 43 48 62 25

Power Play: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$54,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 17 Hrs 28 Mins 13
Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

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Upcoming Groton Events

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

News from the **AP** Associated Press

South Dakota is on track to spend \$2 billion on prisons in the next decade

By SARAH RAZA Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Two years after approving a tough-on-crime sentencing law, South Dakota is scrambling to deal with the price tag for that legislation: Housing thousands of additional inmates could require up to \$2 billion to build new prisons in the next decade.

That's a lot of money for a state with one of the lowest populations in the U.S., but a consultant said it's needed to keep pace with an anticipated 34% surge of new inmates in the next decade as a result of South Dakota's tough criminal justice laws. And while officials are grumbling about the cost, they don't seem concerned with the laws that are driving the need even as national crime rates are dropping.

"Crime has been falling everywhere in the country, with historic drops in crime in the last year or two," said Bob Libal, senior campaign strategist at the criminal justice nonprofit The Sentencing Project. "It's a particularly unusual time to be investing \$2 billion in prisons."

Some Democratic-led states have worked to close prisons and enact changes to lower inmate populations, but that's a tough sell in Republican-majority states such as South Dakota that believe in a tough-on-crime approach, even if that leads to more inmates.

The South Dakota State Penitentiary

For now, state lawmakers have set aside a \$600 million fund to replace the overcrowded 144-year-old South Dakota State Penitentiary in Sioux Falls, making it one of the most expensive taxpayer-funded projects in South Dakota history.

But South Dakota will likely need more prisons. Phoenix-based Arrington Watkins Architects, which the state hired as a consultant, has said South Dakota will need 3,300 additional beds in coming years, bringing the cost to \$2 billion.

Driving up costs is the need for facilities with different security levels to accommodate the inmate population.

Concerns about South Dakota's prisons first arose four years ago, when the state was flush with COVID-19 relief funds. Lawmakers wanted to replace the penitentiary, but they couldn't agree on where to put the prison and how big it should be.

A task force of state lawmakers assembled by Republican Gov. Larry Rhoden is expected to decide that in a plan for prison facilities this July. Many lawmakers have questioned the proposed cost, but few have called for criminal justice changes that would make such a large prison unnecessary.

"One thing I'm trying to do as the chairman of this task force is keep us very focused on our mission," said Lieutenant Gov. Tony Venhuizen. "There are people who want to talk about policies in the prisons or the administration or the criminal justice system more broadly, and that would be a much larger project than the fairly narrow scope that we have."

South Dakota's laws mean more people are in prison

South Dakota's incarceration rate of 370 per 100,000 people is an outlier in the Upper Midwest. Neighbors Minnesota and North Dakota have rates of under 250 per 100,000 people, according to the Sentencing Project, a criminal justice advocacy nonprofit.

Nearly half of South Dakota's projected inmate population growth can be attributed to a law approved in 2023 that requires some violent offenders to serve the full-length of their sentences before parole, according to a report by Arrington Watkins.

When South Dakota inmates are paroled, about 40% are ordered to return to prison, the majority of those due to technical violations such as failing a drug test or missing a meeting with a parole officer. Those returning inmates made up nearly half of prison admissions in 2024.

Sioux Falls criminal justice attorney Ryan Kolbeck blamed the high number of parolees returning in part

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on the lack of services in prison for people with drug addictions.

"People are being sent to the penitentiary but there's no programs there for them. There's no way it's going to help them become better people," he said. "Essentially we're going to put them out there and house them for a little bit, leave them on parole and expect them to do well."

South Dakota also has the second-greatest disparity of Native Americans in its prisons. While Native Americans make up one-tenth of South Dakota's population, they make up 35% of those in state prisons, according to Prison Policy Initiative, a nonprofit public policy group.

Though legislators in the state capital, Pierre, have been talking about prison overcrowding for years, they're reluctant to dial back on tough-on-crime laws. For example, it took repeated efforts over six years before South Dakota reduced a controlled substance ingestion law to a misdemeanor from a felony for the first offense, aligning with all other states.

"It was a huge, Herculean task to get ingestion to be a misdemeanor," Kolbeck said.

Former penitentiary warden Darin Young said the state needs to upgrade its prisons, but he also thinks it should spend up to \$300 million on addiction and mental illness treatment.

"Until we fix the reasons why people come to prison and address that issue, the numbers are not going to stop," he said.

Without policy changes, the new prisons are sure to fill up, criminal justice experts agreed.

"We might be good for a few years, now that we've got more capacity, but in a couple years it'll be full again," Kolbeck said. "Under our policies, you're going to reach capacity again soon."

Israeli forces seize Gaza-bound aid boat and detain Greta Thunberg and other activists

By YESICA FISCH Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israeli forces seized a Gaza-bound aid boat and detained Greta Thunberg and other activists who were on board early Monday, enforcing a longstanding blockade of the Palestinian territory that has been tightened during the war with Hamas.

The activists had set out to protest Israel's ongoing military campaign in the Gaza Strip, which is among the deadliest and most destructive since World War II, and its restrictions on the entry of humanitarian aid, both of which have put the territory of some 2 million Palestinians at risk of famine.

The Freedom Flotilla Coalition, which had organized the voyage, said the activists were "kidnapped by Israeli forces" while trying to deliver desperately needed aid to the territory.

"The ship was unlawfully boarded, its unarmed civilian crew abducted, and its life-saving cargo — including baby formula, food and medical supplies — confiscated," it said in a statement. It said the ship was seized in international waters some 200 kilometers (120 miles) from Gaza.

Israel's Foreign Ministry portrayed the voyage as a public relations stunt, saying in a post on X that "the 'selfie yacht' of the 'celebrities' is safely making its way to the shores of Israel." The boat was expected to arrive at the Israeli port of Ashdod later on Monday.

The Foreign Ministry said the activists would return to their home countries and the aid would be sent to Gaza through established channels. It circulated footage of what appeared to be Israeli military personnel handing out sandwiches and water to the activists, who were wearing orange life vests.

A weeklong voyage

Thunberg, a climate campaigner, was among 12 activists aboard the Madleen, which set sail from Sicily a week ago. Along the way, it had stopped on Thursday to rescue four migrants who had jumped overboard to avoid being detained by the Libyan coast guard.

"I urge all my friends, family and comrades to put pressure on the Swedish government to release me and the others as soon as possible," Thunberg said in a pre-recorded message released after the ship was halted.

Rima Hassan, a French member of the European Parliament who is of Palestinian descent, was also among the volunteers on board. She has been barred from entering Israel because of her opposition to

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Israeli policies toward the Palestinians.

After a 2½-month total blockade aimed at pressuring Hamas, Israel started allowing some basic aid into Gaza last month, but humanitarian workers and experts have warned of famine unless the blockade is lifted and Israel ends its military offensive.

An attempt last month by Freedom Flotilla to reach Gaza by sea failed after another of the group's vessels was attacked by two drones while sailing in international waters off Malta, organizers said. The group blamed Israel for the attack, which damaged the front section of the ship.

An 18-year blockade

Israel and Egypt have imposed varying degrees of blockade on Gaza since Hamas seized power from rival Palestinian forces in 2007. Israel says the blockade is needed to prevent Hamas from importing arms, while critics say it amounts to collective punishment of Gaza's Palestinian population.

Israel sealed Gaza off from all aid in the early days of the war ignited by the Hamas-led attack on southern Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, but later relented under U.S. pressure. In early March, shortly before Israel ended a ceasefire with Hamas, the country again blocked all imports, including food, fuel and medicine.

Hamas-led militants killed around 1,200 people, mostly civilians, in the Oct. 7 attack and abducted 251 hostages, most of whom have since been released in ceasefire agreements or other deals. Hamas is still holding 55 hostages, more than half of them believed to be dead.

Israel's military campaign has killed more than 54,000 Palestinians, according to the Gaza Health Ministry, which doesn't distinguish between civilians and combatants but has said women and children make up most of the dead.

The war has destroyed vast areas of Gaza and displaced around 90% of the territory's population, leaving people there almost completely dependent on international aid.

Efforts to broker another truce have been deadlocked for months. Hamas says it will only release the remaining hostages in exchange for a lasting ceasefire and an Israeli withdrawal, while Israel has vowed to continue the war until all the captives are returned and Hamas is defeated or disarmed and exiled.

China says its exports to the US fell 35% in May, as trade talks are due to start in London

By ELAINE KURTENBACH AP Business Writer

China's exports to the United States fell 35% in May from a year earlier, new customs data show, adding to pressure on the world's second largest economy as a new round of trade talks with Washington was due to start later Monday in London.

China's total exports rose 4.8% last month, slowing from an 8.1% year-on-year increase in April. Imports declined 3.4% year-on-year, leaving a trade surplus of \$103.2 billion.

China exported \$28.8 billion to the United States in May, compared with \$44 billion a year earlier. Its imports from the U.S. fell to \$10.8 billion, the report said.

Still, exports to Southeast Asia and the European Union remained robust, growing 14.8% and 12%, year-on-year. Exports to Thailand, Vietnam and Indonesia were sharply higher, and exports to Germany jumped more than 12%.

"The acceleration of exports to other economies has helped China's exports to remain relatively buoyant in the face of the trade war," Lynne Song of ING Economics said in a commentary.

Many businesses had rushed orders earlier in the year to try to beat higher tariffs. Once new import duties took effect, shipments slowed. Exports will likely rebound somewhat in June thanks to a 90-day suspension of most of the tariffs China and the U.S. imposed on each other in their escalating trade war, Zichun Huang of Capital Economics said in a report.

"But with tariffs likely to remain elevated and Chinese manufacturers facing broader constraints on their ability to sustain rapid gains in global market share, we think export growth will slow further by year-end," Huang said.

Despite the tariffs truce, rancor between Beijing and Washington has persisted, with angry exchanges

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over advanced semiconductors, "rare earths" that are vital to many industries and visas for Chinese students at American universities.

The round of negotiations due to take place later Monday in London follow a phone call last week between Trump and Chinese leader Xi Jinping.

It's unclear if that exchange will lead to any significant progress during the talks this week.

Speaking to reporters on Air Force One on Friday, Trump said Xi had agreed to restart exports of rare earth minerals and magnets to the U.S. which China had slowed, threatening a range of U.S. manufacturers that relied on the critical materials.

There was no immediate confirmation from China. The trade data released on Monday showed a nearly 21% plunge in the value of China's rare earths exports in January to May compared with a year earlier. In terms of volume, those exports rose 2.3%.

Similar trends can be seen in exports of other products and commodities, such as shoes, ceramics and cell phones, as slowing demand causes prices to fall.

Other data released Monday highlighted the pressure on China's own economy from slowing exports. Imports have faltered since manufacturers import many of the components and materials needed for the goods they assemble for the world.

At the same time, China's own domestic markets are suffering. The government reported that consumer prices fell 0.1% in May, evidence of sluggish demand. The persisting deflation partly reflects lower food prices, economists said.

Producer price deflation was worse, contracting 3.3% in May, its lowest level in almost two years, after falling 2.7% in April.

Protests intensify in Los Angeles after Trump deploys hundreds of National Guard troops

By JASON DEAREN, JAIMIE DING and JAKE OFFENHARTZ Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Tensions in Los Angeles escalated Sunday as thousands of protesters took to the streets in response to President Donald Trump's extraordinary deployment of the National Guard, blocking off a major freeway and setting self-driving cars on fire as law enforcement used tear gas, rubber bullets and flash bangs to control the crowd.

Many protesters dispersed as evening fell and police declared an unlawful assembly, a precursor to officers moving in and making arrests of people who don't leave. Some of those remaining threw objects at police from behind a makeshift barrier that spanned the width of a street and others hurled chunks of concrete, rocks, electric scooters and fireworks at California Highway Patrol officers and their vehicles parked on the closed southbound 101 Freeway. Officers ran under an overpass to take cover.

Sunday's protests in Los Angeles, a sprawling city of 4 million people, were centered in several blocks of downtown. It was the third and most intense day of demonstrations against Trump's immigration crackdown in the region, as the arrival of around 300 Guard troops spurred anger and fear among many residents.

The Guard was deployed specifically to protect federal buildings, including the downtown detention center where protesters concentrated.

Los Angeles Police Chief Jim McDonnell said officers were "overwhelmed" by the remaining protesters. He said they included regular agitators who show up at demonstrations to cause trouble.

Several dozen people were arrested throughout the weekend of protest. One was detained Sunday for throwing a Molotov cocktail at police, and another for ramming a motorcycle into a line of officers.

Trump responded to McDonnell on Truth Social, telling him to arrest protesters in face masks.

"Looking really bad in L.A. BRING IN THE TROOPS!!!" he wrote.

Clashes escalate as National Guard troops arrive

Starting in the morning, the troops stood shoulder to shoulder, carrying long guns and riot shields as protesters shouted "shame" and "go home." After some closely approached the guard members, another set of uniformed officers advanced on the group, shooting smoke-filled canisters into the street.

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Minutes later, the Los Angeles Police Department fired rounds of crowd-control munitions to disperse the protesters, who they said were assembled unlawfully. Much of the group then moved to block traffic on the 101 freeway until state patrol officers cleared them from the roadway by late afternoon.

Nearby, at least four self-driving Waymo cars were set on fire, sending large plumes of black smoke into the sky and exploding intermittently as the electric vehicles burned. By evening, police had issued an unlawful assembly order shutting down several blocks of downtown Los Angeles.

Flash bangs echoed out every few seconds into the evening.

Governor says Guard not needed

Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom requested Trump remove the guard members in a letter Sunday afternoon, calling their deployment a "serious breach of state sovereignty." He was in Los Angeles meeting with local law enforcement and officials.

The deployment appeared to be the first time in decades that a state's national guard was activated without a request from its governor, a significant escalation against those who have sought to hinder the administration's mass deportation efforts.

Newsom and Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass blamed the increasingly aggressive protests on Trump's decision to deploy the Guard, calling it a move designed to enflame tensions. They've both urged protesters to remain peaceful.

"What we're seeing in Los Angeles is chaos that is provoked by the administration," she said in an afternoon press conference. "This is about another agenda, this isn't about public safety."

But McDonnell, the LAPD chief, said the protests were following a similar pattern for episodes of civil unrest, with things ramping up in the second and third days.

He pushed back against claims by the Trump administration that the LAPD had failed to help federal authorities when protests broke out Friday after a series of immigration raids. His department responded as quickly as it could, and had not been notified in advance of the raids and therefore was not pre-positioned for protests, he said.

Newsom, meanwhile, has repeatedly said that California authorities had the situation under control. He mocked Trump for posting a congratulatory message to the Guard on social media before troops had even arrived in Los Angeles, and said on MSNBC that Trump never floated deploying the Guard during a Friday phone call. He called Trump a "stone cold liar."

The admonishments did not deter the administration.

"It's a bald-faced lie for Newsom to claim there was no problem in Los Angeles before President Trump got involved," White House spokesperson Abigail Jackson said in a statement.

Deployment follows days of protest

The arrival of the National Guard followed two days of protests that began Friday in downtown Los Angeles before spreading on Saturday to Paramount, a heavily Latino city south of the city, and neighboring Compton.

Federal agents arrested immigrants in LA's fashion district, in a Home Depot parking lot and at several other locations on Friday. The next day, they were staging at a Department of Homeland Security office near another Home Depot in Paramount, which drew out protesters who suspected another raid. Federal authorities later said there was no enforcement activity at that Home Depot.

The weeklong tally of immigrant arrests in the LA area climbed above 100, federal authorities said. Many more were arrested while protesting, including a prominent union leader who was accused of impeding law enforcement.

The protests did not reach the size of past demonstrations that brought the National Guard to Los Angeles, including the Watts and Rodney King riots, and the 2020 protests against police violence, in which Newsom requested the assistance of federal troops.

The last time the National Guard was activated without a governor's permission was in 1965, when President Lyndon B. Johnson sent troops to protect a civil rights march in Alabama, according to the Brennan Center for Justice.

Trump says there will be 'very strong law and order'

In a directive Saturday, Trump invoked a legal provision allowing him to deploy federal service members when there is "a rebellion or danger of a rebellion against the authority of the Government of the United States."

He said he had authorized the deployment of 2,000 members of the National Guard.

Trump told reporters as he prepared to board Air Force One in Morristown, New Jersey, Sunday that there were "violent people" in Los Angeles "and they're not gonna get away with it."

Asked if he planned to send U.S. troops to Los Angeles, Trump replied: "We're gonna have troops everywhere. We're not going to let this happen to our country." He didn't elaborate.

About 500 Marines stationed at Twentynine Palms, about 125 miles (200 kilometers) east of Los Angeles were in a "prepared to deploy status" Sunday afternoon, according to the U.S. Northern Command.

As the UN Ocean Conference opens in France, a push to turn promises into protection

By ANNIKA HAMMERSCHLAG Associated Press

NICE, France (AP) — The third U.N. Ocean Conference opens Monday as pressure mounts for nations to turn decades of promises into real protection for the sea.

The summit comes as just 2.7% of the ocean is effectively protected from destructive extractive activities, according to the nonprofit Marine Conservation Institute. That's far below the target agreed under the "30x30" pledge to conserve 30% of land and sea by 2030.

Atop this year's agenda is ratification of the High Seas Treaty. Adopted in 2023, the treaty would for the first time allow nations to establish marine protected areas in international waters, which cover nearly two-thirds of the ocean and are largely ungoverned.

"It's the Wild West out there with countries just fishing anywhere without any sort of regulation, and that needs to change," said Mauro Randone, regional projects manager at the World Wildlife Fund's Mediterranean Marine Initiative. "The high seas belong to everyone and no one practically at the same time, and countries are finally committing to establish some rules."

The ocean is critical in stabilizing Earth's climate and sustaining life. It generates 50% of the oxygen we breathe, absorbs around 30% of carbon dioxide emissions and captures more than 90% of the excess heat caused by those emissions. Without a healthy ocean, experts warn, climate goals will remain out of reach.

The treaty will only come into force once 60 countries ratify it. As of Monday, just 32 countries had. Advocates hope UNOC can build enough momentum to cross the threshold, which would allow for the first official Oceans Conference of Parties.

"Two-thirds of the ocean is areas beyond national jurisdiction — that's half our planet," said Minna Epps, director of global ocean policy the International Union for Conservation of Nature. "We cannot possibly protect 30% of the ocean if it doesn't include the high seas."

South Korea, France and the European Union have championed the treaty, but most large ocean nations have yet to ratify it, including the rest of the G20. Thousands of attendees are expected in Nice — from delegates and heads of state to scientists and industry leaders. The United States has yet to confirm a formal delegation.

Moving from protections on paper to something real

Beyond new commitments, the conference highlights the growing gap between marine protection declarations and real-world conservation.

France, the conference co-host, claims to have surpassed the 30% target for marine protection. But environmental groups say only 3% of French waters are fully protected from harmful activities like bottom trawling and industrial fishing.

In 2024 alone, more than 100 bottom-trawling vessels were recorded spending over 17,000 hours fishing within France's six marine nature parks, according to ocean advocacy group Oceana.

"The government declares these as protected areas, but this is a lie," said Enric Sala, founder of National

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Geographic Pristine Seas marine reserve project. "Most of it is political box-ticking. It's all paper parks."

That criticism is echoed across the continent. A new World Wildlife Fund report found that although more than 11% of Europe's marine area is designated for protection, just 2% of EU waters have management plans in place.

Fabien Boileau, director of marine protected areas at France's Office for Biodiversity, acknowledged the presence of bottom trawling in French protected areas, but said it was part of a phased strategy.

"In France, we made the choice to designate large marine protected areas with relatively low levels of regulation at first, betting that stronger protections would be developed over time through local governance," he said. "Today, we're gradually increasing the number of zones with stricter protections within those areas."

France's Port-Cros: A model for conservation

While many marine protected areas struggle with enforcement, others show what real protection can achieve. Off the southern coast of France, Port-Cros National Park is one of the oldest marine reserves in the Mediterranean. There, strict anchoring bans have allowed vast seagrass meadows to grow undisturbed. Massive groupers patrol rocky outcrops, brightly colored nudibranchs munch on algae, and schools of large corbs glide through the shallows, undisturbed by fishing lines.

"Thanks to the protections that have been in place since 1963, we can observe species that are much larger than elsewhere in the Mediterranean and at a much higher density than in other areas," said Hubert Flavigny, manager of Mio Palmo dive center in Hyeres, France.

Still, such examples remain exceptions.

Advocates say industrial fishing lobbies continue to resist stricter protections, despite evidence that well-managed reserves boost long-term fisheries through the "spillover effect," whereby marine life flourishes in nearby waters.

"Protection is not the problem — overfishing is the problem," said Sala. "The worst enemy of the fishing industry is themselves."

Frustrated by government inaction, environmental groups have taken enforcement into their own hands. In May, Greenpeace dropped 15 limestone boulders into France's Golfe du Lion, aiming to physically block bottom trawling in a marine area that has long been designated for protection. The protected zone was established in 2008 to preserve deep-sea ecosystems, yet 12 trawlers continue to operate there, despite scientific warnings of ecological collapse, according to activist group MedReAct. The Golfe is now one of the most overfished areas in the Mediterranean.

What will UNOC deliver?

The conference will feature 10 panels on topics such as blue finance, sustainable fisheries and plastic pollution. Deep sea mining is expected to feature in broader discussions, while small island states are likely to use the platform to advocate for increased climate adaptation funding. The outcome of these discussions will form the basis of the Nice Ocean Action Plan — a declaration of voluntary commitments to be adopted by consensus and presented at the United Nations in New York this July.

"There cannot be a healthy planet without a healthy ocean," said Peter Thomson, U.N. special envoy for the ocean. "It's urgent business for us all." —

Follow Annika Hammerschlag on Instagram @ahammergram.

Tony Awards laud android rom-com 'Maybe Happy Ending' and history-making 'Purpose'

By MARK KENNEDY AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — "Maybe Happy Ending," a rom-com about androids that crackles with humanity, had a definite happy ending at Sunday's Tony Awards. It won best new musical on a night when Kara Young made history as the first Black person to win two Tonys consecutively for "Purpose," which also won best new play.

Starring Darren Criss and Helen J. Shen, "Maybe Happy Ending" charts the relationship between two

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decommissioned robots, becoming a commentary on human themes and the passage of time. It won a leading six Tonys.

With "Purpose," a drawing-room drama about an accomplished Black family exposing hypocrisy and pressures during a snowed-in gathering, playwright Branden Jacobs-Jenkins caps a remarkable year: In addition to winning back-to-back Tonys — his "Appropriate" won best play revival last year — he earned the Pulitzer Prize for "Purpose." (That win came the day of the Met Gala, where he served on the host committee.)

Jacobs-Jenkins is the first Black playwright to win the category since August Wilson for "Fences" in 1987. He urged viewers to support regional theaters; "Purpose" was nurtured in Chicago.

"Theater is a sacred space that we have to honor and treasure, and it makes us united," Young said in her own acceptance speech.

Notable Tony moments

"Sunset Blvd.," with Nicole Scherzinger as a fallen screen idol desperate to reclaim her fame, won best musical revival, handing composer Andrew Lloyd Webber his first competitive Tony since 1995 — when the original show won. The current version is a stripped-down, minimalist production.

Scherzinger also won for best lead actress in a musical, muscling aside a considerable challenge from Audra McDonald in a remarkable career pivot for the former lead singer of pop group Pussycat Dolls and TV talent show judge.

"Growing up, I always felt like I didn't belong, but you all have made me feel like I belong and I have come home at last," she said. "So if there's anyone out there who feels like they don't belong, or your time hasn't come, don't give up. Just keep on giving and giving because the world needs your love and your light now more than ever."

Criss, who has starred in everything from "Glee" to "The Assassination of Gianni Versace: American Crime Story," won his first Tony for "Maybe Happy Ending," which he also co-produced. He said he shared it with Shen, who was not nominated.

Sarah Snook won leading actress in a play for her tireless work in "The Picture of Dorian Gray," where she plays all 26 roles.

"I don't feel alone any night that I do this show," Snook said, dismissing the idea of it as a one-woman show. "There are so many people onstage making it work and behind the stage making it work."

Downtown cabaret star Cole Escola won best actor in a play for their deranged, repressed and over-the-top ahistorical version of Mary Todd Lincoln in "Oh Mary!," beating such Hollywood stars as George Clooney and Daniel Dae Kim. Sam Pinkleton won best director for "Oh, Mary!" and thanked Escola, saying they taught him, "Do what you love, not what you think people want to see."

Francis Jue won best featured actor in a play for the revival of "Yellow Face." He said he was gifted his tuxedo from another Asian actor who wanted him to wear it to the Tonys.

"I'm only here because of the encouragement and inspiration of generations of wonderful deserving Asian artists who came before me," he said.

Jak Malone won best featured actor in a musical for the British import "Operation Mincemeat: A New Musical," playing a woman every performance. He hoped his win could be powerful advocacy for trans rights. "Eureka Day," Jonathan Spector's social satire about well-meaning liberals debating a school's vaccine policy, won best play revival.

The original cast of "Hamilton," including creator Lin-Manuel Miranda, did a victory lap dressed in black to mark the show's 10th anniversary on Broadway, with a medley including "My Shot," "The Schuyler Sisters," "History Has Its Eyes on You" and "The Room Where It Happens."

The host with the most

First-time host Cynthia Erivo kicked off the show from her Radio City Music Hall dressing room, unsure of her opening number. As she made her way through the backstage warren, she ran into various people offering advice until she reached Oprah Winfrey, who advised, "The only thing you need to do is just be yourself."

Erivo then appeared at the stage in a red, spangly gown with white accents, hip cocked, as she launched

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into the slow-burning original "Sometimes All You Need Is a Song," written by Marc Shaiman, Scott Witman, Benj Pasek and Justin Paul. Initially alone with a pianist, Erivo's soaring voice was soon joined by members of the Broadway Inspirational Voices choir, all dressed in white, making her look like a powerful strawberry in a bowl of whipped cream.

In her opening comments, she singled out first-time nominees Escola, Louis McCartney, Sadie Sink, and "an up-and-comer that I think you're going to really be hearing quite a bit about — George Clooney."

She noted that the 2024-2025 season took in \$1.9 billion, making it the highest-grossing ever and signaling Broadway has finally emerged from the COVID-19 blues.

"Broadway is officially back," Erivo said. "Provided we don't run out of cast members from 'Succession,'" a nod to appearances this season by former co-stars Snook and Kieran Culkin and last season by Jeremy Strong.

She and Sara Bareilles dueted for a moving in memoriam, singing "The Sun Will Come Out" from "Annie," and honoring its composer Charles Strouse as well as George Wendt, Richard Chamberlain, Athol Fugard, Joan Plowright, Quincy Jones, Linda Lavin, James Earl Jones and Gavin Creel.

Erivo was an amiable host, at one point appearing in the second mezzanine to comment that everyone likes the view from theater balconies — except perhaps Abraham Lincoln. She had fun with Winfrey later on, telling her to check under her chair, where she found a gift bag with a toy automobile. "You get a car!" Erivo cracked.

Pre-show results

The best book and best score awards went to "Maybe Happy Ending," with lyrics written by Hue Park and music composed by Will Aronson. Its director, Michael Arden, won — "Happy Pride!" he said — and it also picked up best scenic design.

Justin Peck and Patricia Delgado won for choreographing "Buena Vista Social Club" and Peck noted a song from the renowned original album was played at their wedding. The musical takes its inspiration from Wim Wenders' 1999 Oscar-nominated documentary on the making of the Cuban album. It won four Tonys.

Best costumes in a play went to Marg Hornwell for "The Picture of Dorian Gray," while "Death Becomes Her" won the musical counterpart for Paul Tazewell months after he became the first Black man to win an Oscar for designing costumes.

Harvey Fierstein, the four-time Tony winner behind "Torch Song Trilogy" and "Kinky Boots," was honored with a lifetime achievement Tony and became emotional during his speech.

"There is nothing quite like bathing in the applause of a curtain call, but when I bow, I bow to the audience, with gratitude, knowing that without them I might as well be lip-syncing showtunes in my bedroom mirror," he said. "And so I dedicate this award to the people in the dark."

Trump's new travel ban takes effect as tensions escalate over immigration enforcement

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's new ban on travel to the U.S. by citizens from 12 mainly African and Middle Eastern countries took effect Monday amid rising tension over the president's escalating campaign of immigration enforcement.

The new proclamation, which Trump signed last week, applies to citizens of Afghanistan, Myanmar, Chad, the Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Haiti, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen. It also imposes heightened restrictions on people from Burundi, Cuba, Laos, Sierra Leone, Togo, Turkmenistan and Venezuela who are outside the U.S. and don't hold a valid visa.

The new ban does not revoke visas previously issued to people from countries on the list, according to guidance issued Friday to all U.S. diplomatic missions. However, unless an applicant meets narrow criteria for an exemption to the ban, his or her application will be rejected starting Monday. Travelers with previously issued visas should still be able to enter the U.S. even after the ban takes effect.

During Trump's first term, a hastily written executive order ordering the denial of entry to citizens of

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mainly Muslim countries created chaos at numerous airports and other ports of entry, prompting successful legal challenges and major revisions to the policy.

No such disruption was immediately discernible at Los Angeles International Airport in the hours after the new ban took effect.

Haitian-American Elvanise Louis-Juste, who was at the airport earlier Sunday in Newark, New Jersey, awaiting a flight to her home state of Florida, said many Haitians wanting to come to the U.S. are simply seeking to escape violence and unrest.

"I have family in Haiti, so it's pretty upsetting to see and hear," Louis-Juste, 23, said of the travel ban. "I don't think it's a good thing. I think it's very upsetting."

Many immigration experts say the new ban is more carefully crafted and appears designed to beat court challenges that hampered the first by focusing on the visa application process.

Trump said this time that some countries had "deficient" screening for passports and other public documents or have historically refused to take back their own citizens. He relied extensively on an annual Homeland Security report of people who remain in the U.S. after their visas expired.

Measuring overstay rates has challenged experts for decades, but the government has made a limited attempt annually since 2016. Trump's proclamation cites overstay rates for eight of the 12 banned countries.

Trump also tied the new ban to a terrorist attack in Boulder, Colorado, saying it underscored the dangers posed by some visitors who overstay visas. U.S. officials say the man charged in the attack overstayed a tourist visa. He is from Egypt, a country that is not on Trump's restricted list.

The ban was quickly denounced by groups that provide aid and resettlement help to refugees.

"This policy is not about national security — it is about sowing division and vilifying communities that are seeking safety and opportunity in the United States," said Abby Maxman, president of Oxfam America, a nonprofit international relief organization.

The inclusion of Afghanistan angered some supporters who have worked to resettle its people. The ban does make exceptions for Afghans on Special Immigrant Visas, generally people who worked most closely with the U.S. government during the two-decade-long war there.

Afghanistan had been one of the largest sources of resettled refugees, with about 14,000 arrivals in a 12-month period through September 2024. Trump suspended refugee resettlement his first day in office.

Palestinians say Israeli fire kills 12 near aid sites.

Israel says it fired warning shots

By WAFAA SHURAF and KAREEM CHEHAYEB Associated Press

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip (AP) — Israeli fire killed at least 12 people and wounded others as they headed toward two aid distribution points in the Gaza Strip run by an Israeli and U.S.-backed group, Palestinian health officials and witnesses said Sunday. Israel's military said it fired warning shots at people who approached its forces.

The past two weeks have seen frequent shootings near the new hubs where thousands of Palestinians — desperate after 20 months of war — are being directed to collect food. Witnesses say nearby Israeli troops have opened fire, and more than 80 people have been killed, according to Gaza hospital officials.

In all, at least 108 bodies were brought to hospitals in Gaza over the past 24 hours, the territory's Health Ministry said. Israel's military said it struck dozens of militant targets throughout Gaza over the past day.

Eleven of the latest bodies were brought to Nasser Hospital in the southern city of Khan Younis. Palestinian witnesses said Israeli forces fired on some at a roundabout around a kilometer (half-mile) from a site run by the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation, or GHF, in nearby Rafah.

Israel's military said it fired warning shots at approaching "suspects" who ignored warnings to turn away. It said the shooting happened in an area that is considered an active combat zone at night.

Al-Awda Hospital said it received the body of a man and 29 people who were wounded near another GHF aid distribution point in central Gaza. The military said it fired warning shots in the area at around 6:40 a.m., but didn't see any casualties.

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A GHF official said there was no violence in or around its distribution sites, all three of which delivered aid on Sunday. The group closed them temporarily last week to discuss safety measures with Israel's military and has warned people to stay on designated access routes. The official spoke on condition of anonymity in line with regulations.

The new aid hubs are set up inside Israeli military zones where independent media have no access. The GHF also said it was piloting direct delivery to a community north of Rafah.

Witnesses fear for their safety

Witnesses said the first shootings in southern Gaza took place at around 6 a.m., when they were told the site would open. Many headed toward it early, seeking desperately needed food before crowds arrived.

Gaza's roughly 2 million Palestinians are almost completely reliant on international aid because nearly all food production capabilities have been destroyed.

Adham Dahman, who was at Nasser Hospital with a bandage on his chin, said a tank fired toward them.

"We didn't know how to escape," he said. "This is trap for us, not aid."

Zahed Ben Hassan said someone next to him was shot in the head.

"They said it was a safe area from 6 a.m. until 6 p.m. ... So why did they start shooting at us?" he said. "There was light out, and they have their cameras and can clearly see us."

The military announced on Friday that the sites would be open during those hours, and the areas would be a closed military zone the rest of the time.

Children cried over their father's body at the hospital.

"I can't see you like this, Dad!" one girl said.

Aid distributed inside Israeli military zones

The new aid hubs are run by GHF, a new group of mainly American contractors. Israel wants it to replace a system coordinated by the United Nations and international aid groups.

Israel and the United States accuse the Hamas militant group of stealing aid. The U.N. denies there is systematic diversion. The U.N. says the new system is unable to meet mounting needs, allows Israel to use aid as a weapon by determining who can receive it and forces people to relocate to where aid sites are positioned.

The U.N. system has struggled to deliver aid, even after Israel eased its blockade of Gaza last month. U.N. officials say their efforts are hindered by Israeli military restrictions, the breakdown of law and order and widespread looting.

Experts warned earlier this year that Gaza was at critical risk of famine, if Israel didn't lift its blockade and halt its military campaign. Both were renewed in March.

Israeli officials have said the offensive will continue until all hostages are returned and Hamas is defeated or disarmed and sent into exile.

Israel says it identified Hamas chief Mohammed Sinwar's body

On Sunday, Israel's military invited journalists into Khan Younis to show a tunnel under the European Hospital, saying they found the body of Mohammed Sinwar, the head of Hamas' armed wing, there after he was killed last month. Israel has barred international journalists from entering Gaza independently since the war began.

"(Israeli forces) would prefer not to hit or target hospitals," army spokesperson Brig. Gen. Effie Defrin said. Sinwar's body was found in a room under the hospital's emergency room, Defrin said.

Hamas has said it will only release the remaining hostages in return for Palestinian prisoners, a lasting ceasefire and an Israeli withdrawal from Gaza. Talks mediated by the U.S., Egypt and Qatar have been deadlocked for months.

Hamas started the war with its attack on southern Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, when Palestinian militants killed around 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and took another 251 hostage. They still hold 55 hostages, fewer than half of them alive, after most of the rest were released in ceasefire agreements or other deals.

Israel's military campaign has killed more than 54,800 Palestinians, according to Gaza's Health Ministry. It says women and children make up most of the dead, but doesn't say how many civilians or combatants

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were killed. Israel says it has killed more than 20,000 militants, without providing evidence. The war has destroyed vast areas of Gaza and displaced around 90% of its population.

Tropical Storm Barbara strengthens off Mexico's Pacific coast, bringing heavy rain

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Tropical Storm Barbara was strengthening off Mexico's Pacific coast and could become a hurricane Monday, forecasters said.

Barbara was centered about 235 miles (375 kilometers) west-southwest of the touristic port of Zihuatanejo in Guerrero state late Sunday, according to the U.S. National Hurricane Center in Miami. It had maximum sustained winds of 65 mph (100 kph) and was moving west-northwest at 10 mph (17 kph).

The storm was forecast to remain at sea, though heavy rainfall may cause localized flooding and mudslides on Mexico's western coast. Around 2 to 4 inches (5 to 10 centimeters) of rain are possible across portions of Guerrero, Michoacan, Colima, and Jalisco states through Monday.

Swells affecting portions of the southwestern Mexico coast for the next few days could produce life-threatening surf and rip current conditions, the hurricane center said.

Another tropical storm, Cosme, formed southwest of Barbara's position and was posing no threat to land.

Cosme had 45 mph (75 kph) maximum sustained winds late Sunday and may be near hurricane strength Monday, U.S. forecasters said. It was blowing to the northwest at 9 mph (15 kph) and was centered about 650 miles (1,045 kilometers) south-southwest of the southern tip of Baja California.

Protests intensify in Los Angeles after Trump deploys hundreds of National Guard troops

By JASON DEAREN, JAIMIE DING and JAKE OFFENHARTZ Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Tensions in Los Angeles escalated Sunday as thousands of protesters took to the streets in response to President Donald Trump's extraordinary deployment of the National Guard, blocking off a major freeway and setting self-driving cars on fire as law enforcement used tear gas, rubber bullets, and flash bangs to control the crowd.

Some police patrolled the streets on horseback while others with riot gear lined up behind Guard troops deployed to protect federal facilities including a detention center where some immigrants were taken in recent days. Police declared an unlawful assembly, and by early evening many people had left.

But protesters who remained grabbed chairs from a nearby public park to form a makeshift barrier, throwing objects at police on the other side. Others standing above the closed southbound 101 Freeway threw chunks of concrete, rocks, electric scooters and fireworks at California Highway Patrol officers and their vehicles that were parked on the highway. Officers ran under an overpass to take cover.

It was the third day of demonstrations against Trump's immigration crackdown in the region, as the arrival of around 300 federal troops spurred anger and fear among some residents. Sunday's protests in Los Angeles, a city of 4 million people, were centered in several blocks of downtown.

Starting in the morning, National Guard troops stood shoulder to shoulder, carrying long guns and riot shields outside the Metropolitan Detention Center in downtown Los Angeles. Protesters shouted "shame" and "go home." After some closely approached the guard members, another set of uniformed officers advanced on the group, shooting smoke-filled canisters into the street.

Minutes later, the Los Angeles Police Department fired rounds of crowd-control munitions to disperse the protesters, who they said were assembled unlawfully. Much of the group then moved to block traffic on the 101 freeway until state patrol officers cleared them from the roadway by late afternoon, while southbound lanes remained shut down.

Nearby, at least four self-driving Waymo cars were set on fire, sending large plumes of black smoke into the sky and exploding intermittently as the electric vehicles burned. By evening, police had issued an unlawful assembly order shutting down several blocks of downtown Los Angeles.

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Flash bangs echoed out every few seconds into the evening.

Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom requested Trump remove the guard members in a letter Sunday afternoon, calling their deployment a "serious breach of state sovereignty." He was in Los Angeles meeting with local law enforcement and officials. It wasn't clear if he'd spoken to Trump since Friday.

Their deployment appeared to be the first time in decades that a state's national guard was activated without a request from its governor, a significant escalation against those who have sought to hinder the administration's mass deportation efforts.

Mayor Karen Bass echoed Newsom's comments.

"What we're seeing in Los Angeles is chaos that is provoked by the administration," she said in an afternoon press conference. "This is about another agenda, this isn't about public safety."

Their admonishments did not deter the administration.

"It's a bald-faced lie for Newsom to claim there was no problem in Los Angeles before President Trump got involved," White House spokesperson Abigail Jackson said in a statement in response.

Deployment follows days of protest

The arrival of the National Guard followed two days of protests that began Friday in downtown Los Angeles before spreading on Saturday to Paramount, a heavily Latino city south of the city, and neighboring Compton.

Federal agents arrested immigrants in LA's fashion district, in a Home Depot parking lot and at several other locations on Friday. The next day, they were staging at a Department of Homeland Security office near another Home Depot in Paramount, which drew out protesters who suspected another raid. Federal authorities later said there was no enforcement activity at that Home Depot.

Demonstrators attempted to block Border Patrol vehicles by hurling rocks and chunks of cement. In response, agents in riot gear unleashed tear gas, flash-bang explosives and pepper balls.

The weeklong tally of immigrant arrests in the LA area climbed above 100, federal authorities said. Many more were arrested while protesting, including a prominent union leader who was accused of impeding law enforcement.

The protests did not reach the size of past demonstrations that brought the National Guard to Los Angeles, including the Watts and Rodney King riots, and the 2020 protests against police violence, in which Newsom requested the assistance of federal troops.

The last time the National Guard was activated without a governor's permission was in 1965, when President Lyndon B. Johnson sent troops to protect a civil rights march in Alabama, according to the Brennan Center for Justice.

Trump says there will be 'very strong law and order'

In a directive Saturday, Trump invoked a legal provision allowing him to deploy federal service members when there is "a rebellion or danger of a rebellion against the authority of the Government of the United States."

He said he had authorized the deployment of 2,000 members of the National Guard.

Trump told reporters as he prepared to board Air Force One in Morristown, New Jersey, Sunday that there were "violent people" in Los Angeles "and they're not gonna get away with it."

Asked if he planned to send U.S. troops to Los Angeles, Trump replied: "We're gonna have troops everywhere. We're not going to let this happen to our country. We're not going to let our country be torn apart like it was under Biden." He didn't elaborate.

About 500 Marines stationed at Twentynine Palms, about 125 miles (200 kilometers) east of Los Angeles were in a "prepared to deploy status" Sunday afternoon, according to the U.S. Northern Command.

Former Vice President Kamala Harris, who lives in Los Angeles, said the immigration arrests and Guard deployment were designed as part of a "cruel, calculated agenda to spread panic and division."

She said she supports those "standing up to protect our most fundamental rights and freedoms."

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New disputes emerge ahead of US-China trade talks in London

By KEN MORITSUGU Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — U.S.-China trade talks in London this week are expected to take up a series of fresh disputes that have buffeted relations, threatening a fragile truce over tariffs.

Both sides agreed in Geneva last month to a 90-day suspension of most of the 100%-plus tariffs they had imposed on each other in an escalating trade war that had sparked fears of recession.

Since then, the U.S. and China have exchanged angry words over advanced semiconductors that power artificial intelligence, "rare earths" that are vital to carmakers and other industries, and visas for Chinese students at American universities.

President Donald Trump spoke at length with Chinese leader Xi Jinping by phone last Thursday in an attempt to put relations back on track. Trump announced on social media the next day that trade talks would be held on Monday in London.

Technology is a major sticking point

The latest frictions began just a day after the May 12 announcement of the Geneva agreement to "pause" tariffs for 90 days.

The U.S. Commerce Department issued guidance saying the use of Ascend AI chips from Huawei, a leading Chinese tech company, could violate U.S. export controls. That's because the chips were likely developed with American technology despite restrictions on its export to China, the guidance said.

The Chinese government wasn't pleased. One of its biggest beefs in recent years has been over U.S. moves to limit the access of Chinese companies to technology, and in particular to equipment and processes needed to produce the most advanced semiconductors.

"The Chinese side urges the U.S. side to immediately correct its erroneous practices," a Commerce Ministry spokesperson said.

U.S. Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick wasn't in Geneva but will join the talks in London. Analysts say that suggests at least a willingness on the U.S. side to hear out China's concerns on export controls.

China shows signs of easing up on rare earths

One area where China holds the upper hand is in the mining and processing of rare earths. They are crucial for not only autos but also a range of other products from robots to military equipment.

The Chinese government started requiring producers to obtain a license to export seven rare earth elements in April. Resulting shortages sent automakers worldwide into a tizzy. As stockpiles ran down, some worried they would have to halt production.

Trump, without mentioning rare earths specifically, took to social media to attack China.

"The bad news is that China, perhaps not surprisingly to some, HAS TOTALLY VIOLATED ITS AGREEMENT WITH US," Trump posted on May 30.

The Chinese government indicated Saturday that it is addressing the concerns, which have come from European companies as well. A Commerce Ministry statement said it had granted some approvals and "will continue to strengthen the approval of applications that comply with regulations."

The scramble to resolve the rare earth issue shows that China has a strong card to play if it wants to strike back against tariffs or other measures.

Plan to revoke student visas adds to tensions

Student visas don't normally figure in trade talks, but a U.S. announcement that it would begin revoking the visas of some Chinese students has emerged as another thorn in the relationship.

China's Commerce Ministry raised the issue when asked last week about the accusation that it had violated the consensus reached in Geneva.

It replied that the U.S. had undermined the agreement by issuing export control guidelines for AI chips, stopping the sale of chip design software to China and saying it would revoke Chinese student visas.

"The United States has unilaterally provoked new economic and trade frictions," the ministry said in a statement posted on its website.

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio said in a May 28 statement that the United States would "aggres-

sively revoke visas for Chinese students, including those with connections to the Chinese Communist Party or studying in critical fields.”

More than 270,000 Chinese students studied in the U.S. in the 2023-24 academic year.

Alcaraz produces another major comeback to win French Open final in five-set thriller against Sinner

By JEROME PUGMIRE AP Sports Writer

PARIS (AP) — Bad starts in Grand Slam finals are nothing new for Carlos Alcaraz, and each time it's happened he has won the tournament anyway.

But not in such dramatic style as Sunday's French Open final, when the Spaniard rallied from two sets down and saved three match points to beat top-ranked Jannik Sinner 4-6, 6-7 (4), 6-4, 7-6 (3), 7-6 (10-2) for his fifth major title in as many finals.

It was Alcaraz's second straight French Open title with a comeback, after trailing 2-1 in sets to Alexander Zverev in last year's final, and a third major title from behind, following his five-set win against Novak Djokovic in the 2023 Wimbledon final.

“When the situations are against you, then you have to keep fighting. It's a Grand Slam final, it's no time to be tired, no time to give up,” Alcaraz said. “Do I enjoy that? The real champions are made in those situations.”

In producing one of the greatest comebacks in the history of the clay-court tournament on Sunday, he emulated Djokovic's feat from the 2021 final at Roland-Garros — when the now 24-time major winner fought back from two sets down to beat Stefanos Tsitsipas.

“Today it was all about the belief in myself,” Alcaraz said.

He became just the ninth player to rally from two sets down and win a Grand Slam final in the Open Era, which began in 1968. The first was Bjorn Borg in 1974 against Manuel Orantes at the French Open, where Ivan Lendl and Andre Agassi achieved the same feat. Rafael Nadal also did so, at the Australian Open, and Sinner too.

It was the first time that Sinner had lost a Grand Slam final, but the fifth time in succession he has now lost to Alcaraz, who clinched the 20th title of his career at the age of 22.

Unending drama

It was also the longest-ever French Open final — 5 hours, 29 minutes — in the Open Era. It was so tight that Sinner won 193 points, Alcaraz 192.

It might not have been close to those numbers.

For after 3 hours, 43 minutes, Sinner had his first match point. But with just over five hours since the match began, Alcaraz served for the title at 5-4 up.

The drama was still not over.

Sinner made a remarkable retrieve from yet another superb Alcaraz drop shot. At the very limit he could stretch to, Sinner glided the ball over the net, with the ball landing with the softness of an autumn leaf and out of Alcaraz's reach to make it 15-40.

When Sinner won the game to make it 5-5, it was his turn to milk the applause and he was two points away from victory in the 12th game, with Alcaraz on serve and at 15-30 and at deuce.

But Alcaraz made a staggering cross-court backhand to make it 6-6 and force a tiebreaker, with the crowd going wild when Alcaraz's cross-court winner made it 4-0.

“Just amazing the support you have given me today,” Alcaraz said. “During the whole tournament.”

Little sleep for Sinner

Alcaraz won the match with a superb forehand pass down the line, fell onto his back to celebrate, then rushed over to dance and hug the team members in his box.

“I'm very happy for you, and you deserve it, so congrats,” the 23-year-old Sinner told Alcaraz. “It's an amazing trophy, so I won't sleep tonight very well, but it's okay.”

Nightmare ninth

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Sinner may have nightmares about the ninth game of the fourth set.

Serving to stay in the match at 5-3 down, Alcaraz trailed 0-40 to give Sinner three match points.

On the second match point, and with Alcaraz on second serve, he hit a hurried backhand which landed just out. He then hit a forehand into the net for another unforced error, making it deuce.

The crowd chanted "Carlos, Carlos," and roared when Alcaraz hit an ace, then gave him a standing ovation when his audacious forehand down the line went in — to win that game — and again when he broke Sinner's serve to level at 5-5.

"That's what the real champions have done in their whole careers. Not being afraid," Alcaraz said. "That's why I had my best tennis in crucial moments."

Sinner's sportsmanship

Despite having just lost a chance to win another major, Sinner showed great sportsmanship to give Alcaraz the point for a 30-0 lead in the 11th game.

Alcaraz's forehand landed at the back of the court and, as the chair umpire prepared to come down and inspect the mark, Sinner told her to go back because he saw the ball was in.

The crowd applauded him politely, but the noise level erupted when Alcaraz won the fourth-set tiebreaker to level the match.

By now, the fans had what they wanted — an Alcaraz comeback — and fans showed their unbridled delight when he won points with astounding drop shots from deep or leapt to bang cross-court forehand winners.

Alcaraz hit 70 winners, compared to 53 for Sinner, who might have been feeling like it was a case of déjà vu.

Alcaraz beat Sinner in the French Open semifinals last year, coming back from 2-1 down in sets. He beat Sinner last month in the Italian Open final — the tournament where Sinner returned from his doping ban.

Alcaraz now owns a 22-1 record on clay this year.

Celebrities watch a classic final

On a warm day with a light breeze caressing Court Philippe-Chatrier, big names turned out.

Dustin Hoffman and Natalie Portman, movie director Spike Lee, singer Pharrell Williams, Formula 1 driver George Russell and world rugby star Antoine Dupont watched what promised to be a tight contest.

Sinner seemed on the way to victory, but No. 2-ranked Alcaraz fought back. After clinching the third set with a volley at the net, he stood in the middle of the court, shaking his fist in celebration.

One of the greatest finals in French Open history was just getting started.

What to know about Trump's deployment of National Guard troops to LA protests

By REBECCA BOONE Associated Press

President Donald Trump says he's deploying 2,000 California National Guard troops to Los Angeles to respond to immigration protests, over the objections of California Gov. Gavin Newsom.

It's not the first time Trump has activated the National Guard to quell protests. In 2020, he asked governors of several states to send troops to Washington, D.C., to respond to demonstrations that arose after George Floyd was killed by Minneapolis police officers. Many of the governors he asked agreed, sending troops to the federal district. The governors that refused the request were allowed to do so, keeping their troops on home soil.

This time, however, Trump is acting in opposition to Newsom, who under normal circumstances would retain control and command of California's National Guard. While Trump said that federalizing the troops was necessary to "address the lawlessness" in California, the Democratic governor said the move was "purposely inflammatory and will only escalate tensions."

Here are some things to know about when and how the president can deploy troops on U.S. soil.

The laws are a bit vague

Generally, federal military forces are not allowed to carry out civilian law enforcement duties against U.S.

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citizens except in times of emergency.

An 18th-century wartime law called the Insurrection Act is the main legal mechanism that a president can use to activate the military or National Guard during times of rebellion or unrest. But Trump didn't invoke the Insurrection Act on Saturday.

Instead, he relied on a similar federal law that allows the president to federalize National Guard troops under certain circumstances. He federalized part of California's National Guard under what is known as Title 10 authority, which places him, not the governor, atop the chain of command, according to Newsom's office.

The National Guard is a hybrid entity that serves both state and federal interests. Often it operates under state command and control, using state funding. Sometimes National Guard troops will be assigned by their state to serve federal missions, remaining under state command but using federal funding.

The law cited by Trump's proclamation places National Guard troops under federal command. The law says that can be done under three circumstances: When the U.S. is invaded or in danger of invasion; when there is a rebellion or danger of rebellion against the authority of the U.S. government, or when the President is unable to "execute the laws of the United States," with regular forces.

But the law also says that orders for those purposes "shall be issued through the governors of the States." It's not immediately clear if the president can activate National Guard troops without the order of that state's governor.

The role of the National Guard troops will be limited

Notably, Trump's proclamation says the National Guard troops will play a supporting role by protecting ICE officers as they enforce the law, rather than having the troops perform law enforcement work.

Steve Vladeck, a professor at the Georgetown University Law Center who specializes in military justice and national security law, says that's because the National Guard troops can't legally engage in ordinary law enforcement activities unless Trump first invokes the Insurrection Act.

Vladeck said the move raises the risk that the troops could end up using force while filling that "protection" role. The move could also be a precursor to other, more aggressive troop deployments down the road, he wrote on his website.

"There's nothing these troops will be allowed to do that, for example, the ICE officers against whom these protests have been directed could not do themselves," Vladeck wrote.

Troops have been mobilized before

The Insurrection Act and related laws were used during the Civil Rights era to protect activists and students desegregating schools. President Dwight Eisenhower sent the 101st Airborne to Little Rock, Arkansas, to protect Black students integrating Central High School after that state's governor activated the National Guard to keep the students out.

George H.W. Bush used the Insurrection Act to respond to riots in Los Angeles in 1992 after the acquittal of white police officers who were videotaped beating Black motorist Rodney King.

National Guard troops have been deployed for a variety of emergencies, including the COVID pandemic, hurricanes and other natural disasters. But generally, those deployments are carried out with the agreements of the governors of the responding states.

Trump is willing to use the military on home soil

On Sunday, Trump was asked if he plans to send U.S. troops to Los Angeles and he said, "We're gonna have troops everywhere. We're not going to let this happen to our country. We're not going to let our country be torn apart like it was under Biden." Trump didn't elaborate.

In 2020, Trump asked governors of several states to deploy their National Guard troops to Washington, D.C. to quell protests that arose after George Floyd was killed by Minneapolis police officers. Many of the governors agreed, sending troops to the federal district.

At the time, Trump also threatened to invoke the Insurrection Act for protests following Floyd's death in Minneapolis – an intervention rarely seen in modern American history. But then-Defense Secretary Mark Esper pushed back, saying the law should be invoked "only in the most urgent and dire of situations."

Trump never did invoke the Insurrection Act during his first term.

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But while campaigning for his second term, he suggested that would change. Trump told an audience in Iowa in 2023 that he was prevented from using the military to suppress violence in cities and states during his first term, and said if the issue came up again in his next term, "I'm not waiting."

Trump also promised to deploy the National Guard to help carry out his immigration enforcement goals, and his top adviser Stephen Miller explained how that would be carried out: Troops under sympathetic Republican governors would send troops to nearby states that refuse to participate, Miller said on "The Charlie Kirk Show," in 2023.

After Trump announced he was federalizing the National Guard troops on Saturday, Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth said other measures could follow.

Hegseth wrote on the social media platform X that active duty Marines at Camp Pendleton were on high alert and would also be mobilized "if violence continues."

'Not just a party:'

World Pride celebrations end with defiant politics on display

BY CHRISTINE FERNANDO, FATIMA HUSSEIN, JACQUELYN MARTIN AND MIKE PESOLI Associated Press Washington (AP) — After the raucous rainbow-hued festivities of Saturday's parade, the final day of World Pride 2025 in the nation's capital kicked off on a more downbeat note.

Thousands gathered under grey skies Sunday morning at the Lincoln Memorial for a rally and protest march, as the community gathers its strength for a looming fight under President Donald Trump's second administration.

"This is not just a party," Ashley Smith, board president of Capital Pride Alliance. "This is a rally for our lives."

Smith acknowledged that international attendance numbers for the bi-annual World Pride were measurably down, with many potential attendees avoiding travel to the U.S. due to either fear of harassment or in protest of Trump's policies.

"That should disturb us and mobilize us," Smith said.

Protesters cheered on LGBTQ+ activists taking the stage while waving both traditional Pride flags and flags representing transgender, bisexual, intersex and other communities. Many had rainbow glitter and rhinestones adorning their faces. They held signs declaring "Fight back," "Gay is good," "Ban bombs not bathrooms" and "We will not be erased."

Trump's campaign against transgender protections and oft-stated antipathy for drag shows have set the community on edge, with some hoping to see a renewed wave of street politics in response.

"Trans people just want to be loved. Everybody wants to live their own lives and I don't understand the problem with it all," said Tyler Cargill, who came wearing an elaborate costume with a hat topped by a replica of the U.S. Capitol building.

Wes Kincaid drove roughly 6 hours from Charlotte, North Carolina to attend this year. Sitting on a park bench near the reflecting pond, Kincaid said he made a point of attending this year, "because it's more important than ever to show up for our community."

Reminders of the cuts to federal government programs were on full display, Sunday. One attendee waved a pole bearing a massive rainbow flag along with a large USAID flag; another held a "Proud gay federal worker" sign; and a third held an umbrella with the logos of various federal program facing cuts — including the PBS logo.

Trump's anti-trans rhetoric had fueled fears of violence or protests targeting World Pride participants; at one point earlier this spring, rumors circulated that the Proud Boys were planning to disrupt this weekend's celebrations. Those concerns prompted organizers to install security fencing around the entire two-day street party on a multi-block stretch of Pennsylvania Avenue.

But so far, the only clear act of aggression has been the vandalizing of a queer bar last week. Late Saturday night, there was a pair of violent incidents near Dupont Circle — one of the epicenters of the World Pride celebrations. Two juveniles were stabbed and a man was shot in the foot in separate incidents. The

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Metropolitan Police Department says it is not clear if either incident was directly related to World Pride.

A cold rain began falling around noon Sunday as the rally speakers cut short their comments and prepared to march. Some attendees filtered away while others huddled under umbrellas and ponchos.

"Rain will not stop us, and after rain comes rainbows," said one speaker from the stage.

The speeches didn't just target the Trump administration or the Republican party. Some turned their ire on Democratic politicians, who they say have wilted under the pressure of Republican control of the White House and both houses of Congress.

"We have to call out people who have abandoned our movement," said Tyler Hack of the Christopher Street Project.

"Being a Democrat is more than carrying the party affiliation," Hack added. "It's about unapologetic support for the trans community."

While the main march headed toward the U.S. Capitol, a separate group splintered off and headed toward the White House, unfurling a large "TRUMP MUST GO NOW" banner.

Those who stayed to brave the weather said their presence amid less-than-ideal circumstances was vital.

"People are still out here, despite the rain, despite their exhaustion," said Gillian Brewer, a university student studying physics from Silver Spring, Maryland. "We're not going anywhere."

Brewer expressed some frustration that the turnout for Sunday's protest march was lower than for the World Pride parade the day before, which she decided to skip.

"This is more important," Brewer added. "You can party all you want but at the end of the day, the protest is why we can party."

Natalie Farmer, who traveled from San Diego with her wife, attributed the difference in numbers between the march and Saturday's parade to people being tired from celebrating the previous night.

"Some of us have to do the rallying to keep the party going," Farmer said. "We all fight in different ways."

Travel ban may shut door for Afghan family to bring niece to US for a better life

By JEFFREY COLLINS Associated Press

IRMO, S.C. (AP) — Mohammad Sharafoddin, his wife and young son walked at times for 36 hours in a row over mountain passes as they left Afghanistan as refugees to end up less than a decade later talking about their journey on a plush love seat in the family's three-bedroom suburban American home.

He and his wife dreamed of bringing her niece to the United States to share in that bounty. Maybe she could study to become a doctor and then decide her own path.

But that door slams shut on Monday as America put in place a travel ban for people from Afghanistan and a dozen other countries.

"It's kind of shock for us when we hear about Afghanistan, especially right now for ladies who are affected more than others with the new government," Mohammad Sharafoddin said, referring to the country's Taliban rulers. "We didn't think about this travel ban."

Since the Taliban took control of Afghanistan in August 2021 as the Western forces were in the final phase of their withdrawal from the country, they have barred education for women and girls beyond sixth grade, most employment and many public spaces. Last August, the Taliban introduced laws that ban women's voices and bare faces outside the home.

President Donald Trump signed the travel ban Wednesday. It is similar to one in place during his first administration but covers more countries. Along with Afghanistan, travel to the U.S. is banned from Myanmar, Chad, the Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Haiti, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen.

Trump said visitors who overstay visas, like the man charged in an attack that injured dozens of demonstrators in Boulder, Colorado, earlier this month, are a danger to the country. The suspect in the attack is from Egypt, which isn't included in the ban.

The countries chosen for the ban have deficient screening of their citizens, often refuse to take them back and have a high percentage of people who stay in the U.S. after their visas expire, Trump said.

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The ban makes exceptions for people from Afghanistan on Special Immigrant Visas who generally worked most closely with the U.S. government during the two-decade war there.

Thousands of refugees came from Afghanistan

Afghanistan was also one of the largest sources of resettled refugees, with about 14,000 arrivals in a 12-month period through September 2024. Trump suspended refugee resettlement on his first day in office.

It is a path Sharafoddin took with his wife and son out of Afghanistan walking on those mountain roads in the dark then through Pakistan, Iran and into Turkey. He worked in a factory for years in Turkey, listening to YouTube videos on headphones to learn English before he was resettled in Irmo, South Carolina, a suburb of Columbia.

His son is now 11, and he and his wife had a daughter in the U.S. who is now 3. There is a job at a jewelry maker that allows him to afford a two-story, three-bedroom house. Food was laid out on two tables Saturday for a celebration of the Muslim Eid al-Adha holiday.

Sharafoddin's wife, Nuriya, said she is learning English and driving — two things she couldn't do in Afghanistan under Taliban rule.

"I'm very happy to be here now, because my son is very good at school and my daughter also. I think after 18 years they are going to work, and my daughter is going to be able to go to college," she said.

The family wants to help a niece

It is a life she wanted for her niece too. The couple show videos from their cellphones of her drawing and painting. When the Taliban returned to power in 2021, their niece could no longer study. So they started to plan to get her to the U.S. at least to further her education.

Nuriya Sharafoddin doesn't know if her niece has heard the news from America yet. She hasn't had the heart to call and tell her.

"I'm not ready to call her. This is not good news. This is very sad news because she is worried and wants to come," Nuriya Sharafoddin said.

While the couple spoke, Jim Ray came by. He has helped a number of refugee families settle in Columbia and helped the Sharafoddins navigate questions in their second language.

Ray said Afghans in Columbia know the return of the Taliban changed how the U.S. deals with their native country.

But while the ban allows spouses, children or parents to travel to America, other family members aren't included. Many Afghans know their extended families are starving or suffering, and suddenly a path to help is closed, Ray said.

"We'll have to wait and see how the travel ban and the specifics of it actually play out," Ray said. "This kind of thing that they're experiencing where family cannot be reunited is actually where it hurts the most."

The Taliban criticize the travel ban

The Taliban have criticized Trump for the ban, with their top leader Hibatullah Akhundzada saying the U.S. was now the oppressor of the world.

"Citizens from 12 countries are barred from entering their land — and Afghans are not allowed either," he said on a recording shared on social media. "Why? Because they claim the Afghan government has no control over its people and that people are leaving the country. So, oppressor! Is this what you call friendship with humanity?"

Who is Colombian Sen. Miguel Uribe Turbay who was shot during a campaign rally in Bogota?

By The Associated Press undefined

Conservative Colombian Sen. Miguel Uribe Turbay was shot and seriously injured during a campaign rally in the capital, Bogota. The brazen attack captured on video shook a nation that decades ago regularly saw kidnappings and killings of politicians and high profile people.

Uribe Turbay, 39, who has announced he intends to run for president next year, was in serious condition

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following surgery Sunday, a day after the shooting, and doctors said he was going through "critical hours."

Here's what to know about the conservative politician:

A conservative presidential hopeful

A member of the right-wing Democratic Center party, Uribe Turbay launched his presidential bid in March. He has become a prominent opposition voice against the government of President Gustavo Petro, the first leftist politician to become the leader of Colombia. Petro cannot seek reelection in 2026.

Uribe Turbay, whose family had also suffered political violence, launched his presidential bid in March. In October last year, he had posted a video on social media announcing his intention to run, choosing the mountains of Copacabana in the department of Antioquia as a backdrop.

The country will hold a presidential election on May 31, 2026.

"A place with deep meaning for me," he said in the video. "It was here that my mother was kidnapped by Pablo Escobar and was killed when I was about to turn five."

His mother, journalist Diana Turbay, was abducted by the Medellin Cartel and killed in 1991, one of Colombia's most violent periods.

The attack on Uribe Turbay on Saturday shocked the nation and revived memories of an era when political violence affected Colombian public life.

A life as part of a politically well-known family

Uribe Turbay entered politics early, being elected to Bogota's City Council at age 25 in 2012. In 2016, he was appointed the city's secretary of government by then-Mayor Enrique Peñalosa.

In 2022, he became senator after being invited to run by former President Álvaro Uribe Vélez, no relation.

Uribe Turbay was born into a prominent political family. He is the grandson of former President Julio César Turbay Ayala, who served from 1978 to 1982, and the paternal grandson of Rodrigo Uribe Echavarría, a former director of the Liberal Party.

He was not considered a front-runner in next year's race, according to recent polls, and was still facing competition within his political coalition. In his pre-campaign messaging, Uribe Turbay focused heavily on security, seeking to inspire investments and promote economic stability.

'Reserved prognosis'

The senator is going through what authorities have described as "critical hours" after undergoing surgery at a private clinic in Bogotá.

"He survived the procedure; these are critical moments and hours for his survival," said Bogotá Mayor Carlos Galán early Sunday after receiving information from the medical staff at the Fundación Santa Fe clinic.

"His condition is extremely serious and the prognosis is reserved," the clinic added hours later in a new medical report.

Police arrested a 15-year-old boy for the shooting who they considered the perpetrator. Authorities have not disclosed a motive.

Colombia's Ombudsman's Office condemned the attack, saying the country "cannot allow a return to dark times when violence sought to silence ideas, candidacies or political leadership."

'Lilo & Stitch' cruises to No. 1 again; John Wick spinoff 'Ballerina' dances to 2nd place

By LINDSEY BAHR AP Film Writer

In the box office showdown between a deadly assassin and a chaotic CG alien, "Lilo & Stitch" still had the edge. The Disney juggernaut celebrated a third weekend at the top of the charts, while the John Wick spinoff "Ballerina" did not jeté as high as expected.

According to studio estimates Sunday, "From the World of John Wick: Ballerina" earned \$25 million from 3,409 theaters in the U.S. and Canada. Several weeks ago it was tracking to open in the \$35 to \$40 million range, but that was adjusted down several times. Ultimately, it still came in lower than forecasts. The movie, directed by Len Wiseman, makes a sideline character out of Keanu Reeves' John Wick and focuses on Ana de Armas. It takes place during the events of "John Wick 3."

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The box office performance is a bit perplexing result considering that "Ballerina" got good critic reviews and audience exit polls. Conventional wisdom would say that word of mouth might have given it a boost over the weekend. But, recently, opening weekend isn't the end all that it used to be. "Ballerina" could be in the game for the long haul.

"Even though its part of the John Wick franchise, it's playing like a true original. And that's not a bad thing," said Paul Dergarabedian, the senior media analyst for Comscore. "This was not a movie that was ever going to open like a 'Mission: Impossible' or another huge franchise."

The Lionsgate release, a Thunder Road Films and 87Eleven Entertainment production, had a hefty production price tag reported to be in the \$90 million range. But much of that cost has already been offset by foreign pre-sales. Internationally, it earned \$26 million from 82 countries, bringing its global opening to \$51 million.

As the first spinoff, it's the second lowest opening of the five-film franchise – above only the first film which opened just over \$14 million in 2014, which does not account for inflation. The franchise overall has grossed more than \$1 billion worldwide.

Dergarabedian added that the R-rated "Ballerina" could also be positioned for a strong second weekend, when it goes up against family-targeted "How to Train Your Dragon."

First place once again went to "Lilo & Stitch," which added another \$32.5 million in North America, bringing its domestic total to \$335.8 and global tally to \$772.6 million. In just 17 days, it's already made more domestically than the live-action "The Little Mermaid" did in its entire run (\$298 million).

"Mission: Impossible — The Final Reckoning" slid to third place with \$15 million, bringing its worldwide total to \$450.4 million. "Karate Kid: Legends" earned \$8.7 million to take fourth place. And "Final Destination: Bloodlines" rounded out the top five with \$6.5 million.

The new Wes Anderson movie "The Phoenician Scheme" expanded beyond New York and Los Angeles to 1,678 theaters nationwide. The Focus Features release starring Benicio del Toro made an estimated \$6.3 million and landed in sixth place.

The R-rated anime "Dan Da Dan: Evil Eye" also made the top 10 in its first weekend. The GKIDS release made \$3.1 million from 1,080 theaters.

Overall, the box office is up over 26% from this point in 2024.

Top 10 movies by domestic box office

With final domestic figures being released Monday, this list factors in the estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Comscore:

1. "Lilo & Stitch," \$32.5 million.
2. "From the World of John Wick: Ballerina," \$25 million.
3. "Mission: Impossible – The Final Reckoning," \$15 million.
4. "Karate Kid: Legends," \$8.7 million.
5. "Final Destination: Bloodlines," \$6.5 million.
6. "The Phoenician Scheme," \$6.3 million.
7. "Bring Her Back," \$3.5 million.
8. "Dan Da Dan: Evil Eye," \$3.1 million.
9. "Sinners," \$2.9 million.
10. "Thunderbolts," \$2.5 million.

At least 2 people killed as storms push through South

The Associated Press undefined

Two people were killed by falling trees and tens of thousands were left without power as severe storms rolled through the South over the weekend.

The storms downed trees and powerlines and brought heavy rainfall, hail and gusty winds as they pushed through the region. Nearly 150,000 people across southern states from Texas to South Carolina were without power Sunday morning, according to poweroutage.us.

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Mississippi Gov. Tate Reeves said one person was killed in Lafayette County when a tree fell on a vehicle. Multiple tornado warnings were issued across northern Mississippi on Saturday.

Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp said one person was killed in Georgia on Saturday night. A spokesperson for the Georgia Emergency Management said the fatality occurred in Banks County when a tree fell on a vehicle. "Join us in praying for the loved ones of a Georgian tragically lost tonight due to the severe storms," Kemp wrote on social media.

The National Weather Service said a confirmed EF-1 tornado damaged multiple homes and injured one person Friday in the city of Van Buren in western Arkansas.

Another round of severe weather is expected to push through the southern Plains and the South on Sunday evening and Monday. The highest risk for severe weather is in southwest Oklahoma and northern Texas.

The National Weather Service said destructive wind gusts of up to 100 miles per hour, giant hail up to five inches in diameter and a few tornadoes are likely.

Pope Leo criticizes political nationalism and prays for reconciliation and dialogue

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope Leo XIV criticized the surge of nationalist political movements in the world as he prayed Sunday for reconciliation and dialogue — a message in line with his pledges to make the Catholic Church a symbol of peace.

The pope celebrated Sunday Mass in St. Peter's Square in front of tens of thousands faithful, and asked the Holy Spirit to "break down barriers and tear down the walls of indifference and hatred."

"Where there is love, there is no room for prejudice, for 'security' zones separating us from our neighbors, for the exclusionary mindset that, tragically, we now see emerging also in political nationalisms," the first American pontiff said.

He did not name any specific country or politician.

Leo also recalled the words of late Pope Francis, who — on the feast of Pentecost in May 2023 — observed that in our world "we are all connected, yet find ourselves disconnected from one another, anaesthetized by indifference and overwhelmed by solitude."

The pope also condemned wars, which "are plaguing our world," and asked the Holy Spirit for "the gift of peace."

"First of all, peace in our hearts, for only a peaceful heart can spread peace in the family, society and international relations," Leo said, then prayed for reconciliation and dialogue wherever there is war in the world.

Soon after becoming pope, Leo pledged to work for unity and peace. His first message, "Peace be with you all," set the importance of peace as a pillar of his papacy.

He has also appealed for a genuine and just peace in Ukraine and a ceasefire in Gaza.

A 6.3 magnitude earthquake hits central Colombia, with no casualties reported

Associated Press undefined

BOGOTA (AP) — A 6.3 magnitude earthquake struck central Colombia early Sunday, authorities said. No casualties were immediately reported.

The quake hit 17 kilometers (10.5 miles) northeast of Paratebueno, a city about 116 miles southeast of the capital, Bogota. The U.S. Geological Service reported the quake hit at 8:08 a.m. (1308 GMT) at a depth of 10 kilometers (6.2 miles).

The Colombian Geological Service reported additional tremors with magnitudes ranging from 4 to 4.6 occurred in the same area minutes later.

The National Unit for Disaster Risk Management said on X that it was assessing the situation in several

municipalities.

Images posted on social media showed people in Bogota who felt the tremor — some left their work-places to seek safety. Footage from rural areas indicated there was no damage.

Colombia lies in the Pacific Ring of Fire, a region known for frequent seismic and volcanic activity.

Russia awaits Ukraine's confirmation on a planned exchange of dead fighters, officials say

By The Associated Press undefined

Russian officials said Sunday that Moscow is still awaiting official confirmation from Ukraine that a planned exchange of 6,000 bodies of soldiers killed in action will take place, reiterating allegations that Kyiv had postponed the swap.

On the front line in the war, Russia said that it had pushed into Ukraine's Dnipropetrovsk region.

Russian state media quoted Lt. Gen. Alexander Zorin, a representative of the Russian negotiating group, as saying that Russia delivered the first batch of 1,212 bodies of Ukrainian soldiers to the exchange site at the border and is waiting for confirmation from Ukraine, but that there were "signals" that the process of transferring the bodies would be postponed until next week.

Citing Zorin on her Telegram channel, Russian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Maria Zakharova asked whether it was Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's "personal decision not to take the bodies of the Ukrainians" or whether "someone from NATO prohibited it."

Ukrainian authorities said plans agreed upon during direct talks in Istanbul on Monday were proceeding accordingly, despite what Ukraine's intelligence chief, Kyrylo Budanov, called Russian attempts to "unilaterally dictate the parameters of the exchange process."

"We are carefully adhering to the agreements reached in Istanbul. Who, when and how to exchange should not be someone's sole decision. Careful preparation is ongoing. Pressure and manipulation are unacceptable here," he said in a statement on Telegram on Sunday.

"The start of repatriation activities based on the results of the negotiations in Istanbul is scheduled for next week, as authorized persons were informed about on Tuesday," the statement said. "Everything is moving according to plan, despite the enemy's dirty information game."

Russia and Ukraine each accused the other on Saturday of endangering plans to swap 6,000 bodies of soldiers killed in action, which was agreed upon during the talks in Istanbul, which otherwise made no progress toward ending the war.

Vladimir Medinsky, an aide to Russian President Vladimir Putin, led the Russian delegation. Medinsky said that Kyiv called a last-minute halt to an imminent swap. In a Telegram post on Saturday, he said that refrigerated trucks carrying more than 1,200 bodies of Ukrainian troops from Russia had already reached the agreed exchange site at the border when the news came.

According to the main Ukrainian authority dealing with such swaps, no date had been set for repatriating the bodies. In a statement on Saturday, the agency also accused Russia of submitting lists of prisoners of war for repatriation that didn't correspond to agreements reached on Monday.

It wasn't immediately possible to reconcile the conflicting claims.

Russia says it is heading into Dnipropetrovsk region

In other developments, Russia's Defense Ministry said Sunday that its forces had reached the western edge of the Donetsk region, one of the four provinces Russia illegally annexed in 2022, and that troops were "developing the offensive" in the neighboring Dnipropetrovsk region. This would be the first time Russian troops had pushed into the region in the more than three-year-old war.

Ukraine didn't immediately respond to the claim, and The Associated Press couldn't immediately verify it.

Russia's advance would mark a significant setback for Ukraine's already stretched forces as peace talks remain stalled and Russian troops have made incremental gains elsewhere.

Russia and Ukraine exchange aerial attacks

One person was killed and another seriously wounded in Russian aerial strikes on the eastern Ukrainian

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Kharkiv region. These strikes came after Russian attacks targeted the regional capital, also called Kharkiv, on Saturday. Regional police in Kharkiv said on Sunday that the death toll from Saturday's attacks had increased to six people. More than two dozen others were wounded.

Russia fired a total of 49 exploding drones and decoys and three missiles overnight, Ukraine's air force said Sunday. Forty drones were shot down or electronically jammed.

Russia's defense ministry said that its forces shot down 61 Ukrainian drones overnight, including near the capital.

Five people were wounded Sunday in a Ukrainian drone attack on a parking lot in Russia's Belgorod region, according to regional Gov. Vyacheslav Gladkov. Two people were wounded when a Ukrainian drone attack sparked a fire at a chemical plant in the Tula region, local authorities said.

Russian authorities said early Sunday that Vnukovo and Domodedovo airports, two international airports serving Moscow, temporarily suspended flights because of a Ukrainian drone attack. Later in the day, Domodedovo halted flights temporarily for a second time, along with Zhukovsky airport.

Iran claims without evidence that it took Israeli nuclear files

By JON GAMBRELL Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Iran's intelligence minister claimed without offering evidence Sunday that Tehran seized an "important treasury" of information regarding Israel's nuclear program, ahead of a week in which the Islamic Republic likely will face new diplomatic pressure over its own program.

The remarks by Esmail Khatib follow Iranian state television claiming Saturday that Iranian intelligence officials seized documents, again without any evidence. Israel, whose undeclared atomic weapons program makes it the only country in the Mideast with nuclear bombs, has not acknowledged any such Iranian operation targeting it — though there have been arrests of Israelis allegedly spying for Tehran amid the Israel-Hamas war in the Gaza Strip.

Iran, meanwhile, will likely face censure this week from the Board of Governors at the International Atomic Energy Agency over longstanding questions about its program. Iran has also signaled it will reject a proposal from the United States after five rounds of negotiations over its nuclear program — setting the stage for that long-running crisis to potentially spike as well.

'Treasury' of secrets claim comes without evidence

Responding to questions from an Iranian state TV reporter Sunday after a Cabinet meeting, Khatib said members of the Intelligence Ministry "achieved an important treasury of strategic, operational and scientific intelligence of the Zionist regime and it was transferred into the country with God's help."

He claimed thousands of pages of documents had been obtained and insisted they would be made public soon. Among them were documents related to the U.S., Europe and other countries, he claimed, obtained through "infiltration" and "access to the sources."

He did not elaborate on the methods used. However, Khatib, a Shiite cleric, was sanctioned by the U.S. Treasury in 2022 over directing "cyber espionage and ransomware attacks in support of Iran's political goals."

For Iran, the claim may be designed to show the public that the theocracy was able to respond to a 2018 Israeli operation that spirited out what Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu described as a "half ton" of documents related to Iran's program. That Israeli announcement came just before President Donald Trump in his first term unilaterally withdrew America from Iran's 2015 nuclear deal with world powers, which greatly limited its program in exchange for the lifting of economic sanctions.

Announcement ahead of IAEA board vote, as US talks waver

This week, Western nations are expected to go before the IAEA's Board of Governors with a proposal to find Iran in noncompliance with the United Nations' nuclear watchdog. It could be the first time in decades — and likely would kick the issue to the U.N. Security Council.

That could see one of the Western countries involved in the 2015 nuclear deal invoke the so-called "snapback" of U.N. sanctions on the Islamic Republic. The authority to reestablish those sanctions by the

complaint of any member of the original 2015 nuclear deal expires in October — putting the West on a clock to exert pressure on Tehran over its program before losing that power.

Iran now enriches uranium up to 60% purity — a short, technical step away from weapons-grade levels of 90%. Tehran has enough highly enriched uranium to build multiple atomic bombs should it choose to do so.

Without a deal with the U.S., Iran's long-ailing economy could enter a freefall that could worsen the simmering unrest at home. Israel or the U.S. might carry out long-threatened airstrikes targeting Iranian nuclear facilities. Experts fear Tehran in response could decide to fully end its cooperation with the IAEA and rush toward a bomb.

Israel vows to prevent an aid boat carrying Greta Thunberg and other activists from reaching Gaza

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) — Israel's government on Sunday vowed to prevent an aid boat carrying Greta Thunberg and other activists from reaching the Gaza Strip.

Defense Minister Israel Katz said that Israel wouldn't allow anyone to break its naval blockade of the Palestinian territory, which he said was aimed at preventing Hamas from importing arms.

"To the antisemitic Greta and her fellow Hamas propagandists — I will say this clearly: You should turn back, because you will not make it to Gaza," he said in a statement.

Thunberg, a climate campaigner, is among 12 activists aboard the *Madleen*, which is operated by the Freedom Flotilla Coalition. The vessel departed Sicily last Sunday on a mission that aims to break the sea blockade of Gaza and deliver humanitarian aid, while raising awareness over the growing humanitarian crisis 20 months into the Israel-Hamas war.

The activists had said they planned to reach Gaza's territorial waters as early as Sunday.

Thiago Ávila, a Brazilian activist on board the boat, posted a video on social media Sunday afternoon saying someone appeared to be jamming their tracking and communication devices about 160 nautical miles from Gaza.

Rima Hassan, a French member of the European Parliament who is of Palestinian descent, is among the others onboard. She has been barred from entering Israel because of her opposition to Israeli policies toward the Palestinians.

After a 2½-month total blockade aimed at pressuring Hamas, Israel started allowing some basic aid into Gaza last month, but humanitarian workers have warned of famine unless the blockade is lifted and Israel ends its military offensive.

An attempt last month by Freedom Flotilla to reach Gaza by sea failed after another of the group's vessels was attacked by two drones while sailing in international waters off Malta. The group blamed Israel for the attack, which damaged the front section of the ship.

Israel and Egypt have imposed varying degrees of blockade on Gaza since Hamas seized power from rival Palestinian forces in 2007. Critics of the blockade say it amounts to collective punishment of Gaza's roughly 2 million Palestinians.

Israel sealed Gaza off from all aid in the early days of the war ignited by the Hamas-led attack on southern Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, but later relented under U.S. pressure. In early March, shortly before Israel ended a ceasefire with Hamas, the country again blocked all imports, including food, fuel and medicine.

Hamas-led militants killed around 1,200 people, mostly civilians, in the Oct. 7 attack and abducted 251 hostages, more than half of whom have since been released in ceasefire agreements or other deals. Hamas is still holding 55 hostages, more than half of them believed to be dead.

Israel's military campaign has killed more than 54,000 Palestinians, according to the Gaza Health Ministry, which has said women and children make up most of the dead. It doesn't say whether those killed are civilians or combatants.

The war has destroyed vast areas of Gaza and displaced around 90% of the territory's population, leaving people there almost completely dependent on international aid.

Chinese hackers and user lapses turn smartphones into a 'mobile security crisis'

By DAVID KLEPPER Associated Press
WASHINGTON (AP) —

Cybersecurity investigators noticed a highly unusual software crash — it was affecting a small number of smartphones belonging to people who worked in government, politics, tech and journalism.

The crashes, which began late last year and carried into 2025, were the tipoff to a sophisticated cyberattack that may have allowed hackers to infiltrate a phone without a single click from the user.

The attackers left no clues about their identities, but investigators at the cybersecurity firm iVerify noticed that the victims all had something in common: They worked in fields of interest to China's government and had been targeted by Chinese hackers in the past.

Foreign hackers have increasingly identified smartphones, other mobile devices and the apps they use as a weak link in U.S. cyberdefenses. Groups linked to China's military and intelligence service have targeted the smartphones of prominent Americans and burrowed deep into telecommunication networks, according to national security and tech experts.

It shows how vulnerable mobile devices and apps are and the risk that security failures could expose sensitive information or leave American interests open to cyberattack, those experts say.

"The world is in a mobile security crisis right now," said Rocky Cole, a former cybersecurity expert at the National Security Agency and Google and now chief operations officer at iVerify. "No one is watching the phones."

US zeroes in on China as a threat, and Beijing levels its own accusations

U.S. authorities warned in December of a sprawling Chinese hacking campaign designed to gain access to the texts and phone conversations of an unknown number of Americans.

"They were able to listen in on phone calls in real time and able to read text messages," said Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi of Illinois. He is a member of the House Intelligence Committee and the senior Democrat on the Committee on the Chinese Communist Party, created to study the geopolitical threat from China.

Chinese hackers also sought access to phones used by Donald Trump and running mate JD Vance during the 2024 campaign.

The Chinese government has denied allegations of cyberespionage, and accused the U.S. of mounting its own cyberoperations. It says America cites national security as an excuse to issue sanctions against Chinese organizations and keep Chinese technology companies from the global market.

"The U.S. has long been using all kinds of despicable methods to steal other countries' secrets," Lin Jian, a spokesman for China's foreign ministry, said at a recent press conference in response to questions about a CIA push to recruit Chinese informants.

U.S. intelligence officials have said China poses a significant, persistent threat to U.S. economic and political interests, and it has harnessed the tools of digital conflict: online propaganda and disinformation, artificial intelligence and cyber surveillance and espionage designed to deliver a significant advantage in any military conflict.

Mobile networks are a top concern. The U.S. and many of its closest allies have banned Chinese telecom companies from their networks. Other countries, including Germany, are phasing out Chinese involvement because of security concerns. But Chinese tech firms remain a big part of the systems in many nations, giving state-controlled companies a global footprint they could exploit for cyberattacks, experts say.

Chinese telecom firms still maintain some routing and cloud storage systems in the U.S. — a growing concern to lawmakers.

"The American people deserve to know if Beijing is quietly using state-owned firms to infiltrate our critical infrastructure," U.S. Rep. John Moolenaar, R-Mich. and chairman of the China committee, which in April issued subpoenas to Chinese telecom companies seeking information about their U.S. operations.

Mobile devices have become an intel treasure trove

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Mobile devices can buy stocks, launch drones and run power plants. Their proliferation has often outpaced their security.

The phones of top government officials are especially valuable, containing sensitive government information, passwords and an insider's glimpse into policy discussions and decision-making.

The White House said last week that someone impersonating Susie Wiles, Trump's chief of staff, reached out to governors, senators and business leaders with texts and phone calls.

It's unclear how the person obtained Wiles' connections, but they apparently gained access to the contacts in her personal cellphone, The Wall Street Journal reported. The messages and calls were not coming from Wiles' number, the newspaper reported.

While most smartphones and tablets come with robust security, apps and connected devices often lack these protections or the regular software updates needed to stay ahead of new threats. That makes every fitness tracker, baby monitor or smart appliance another potential foothold for hackers looking to penetrate networks, retrieve information or infect systems with malware.

Federal officials launched a program this year creating a "cyber trust mark" for connected devices that meet federal security standards. But consumers and officials shouldn't lower their guard, said Snehal Antani, former chief technology officer for the Pentagon's Joint Special Operations Command.

"They're finding backdoors in Barbie dolls," said Antani, now CEO of Horizon3.ai, a cybersecurity firm, referring to concerns from researchers who successfully hacked the microphone of a digitally connected version of the toy.

Risks emerge when smartphone users don't take precautions

It doesn't matter how secure a mobile device is if the user doesn't follow basic security precautions, especially if their device contains classified or sensitive information, experts say.

Mike Waltz, who departed as Trump's national security adviser, inadvertently added The Atlantic's editor-in-chief to a Signal chat used to discuss military plans with other top officials.

Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth had an internet connection that bypassed the Pentagon's security protocols set up in his office so he could use the Signal messaging app on a personal computer, the AP has reported.

Hegseth has rejected assertions that he shared classified information on Signal, a popular encrypted messaging app not approved for the use of communicating classified information.

China and other nations will try to take advantage of such lapses, and national security officials must take steps to prevent them from recurring, said Michael Williams, a national security expert at Syracuse University.

"They all have access to a variety of secure communications platforms," Williams said. "We just can't share things willy-nilly."

Raising school fees torments many Africans.

Some expect the Catholic Church to do more to help

By RODNEY MUHUMUZA and FARAI MUTSAKA Associated Press

KAMPALA, Uganda (AP) — A crying parent with an unpaid tuition balance walked into the staff room of a Catholic private school and begged the teachers to help enroll her son.

The school's policy required the woman pay at least 60% of her son's full tuition bill before he could join the student body. She didn't have the money and was led away.

"She was pleading, 'Please help me,'" said Beatrice Akite, a teacher at St. Kizito Secondary School in Uganda's capital city, who witnessed the outburst. "It was very embarrassing. We had never seen something like that."

Two weeks into second term, Akite recounted the woman's desperate moment to highlight how distressed parents are being crushed by unpredictable fees they can't pay, forcing their children to drop out of school. It's leaving many in sub-Saharan Africa — which has the world's highest dropout rates — to criticize the mission-driven Catholic Church for not doing enough to ease the financial pressure families face.

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Legacy of Catholic education across Africa

The Catholic Church is the region's largest nongovernmental investor in education. Catholic schools have long been a pillar of affordable but high-quality education, especially for poor families.

Their appeal remains strong even with competition from other nongovernmental investors now eying schools as enterprises for profit. The growing trend toward privatization is sparking concern that the Catholic Church may price out the people who need uplifting.

Akite hopes Catholic leaders support measures that would streamline fees across schools of comparable quality. Firm fee ceilings need to be set, she said.

Kampala's St. Kizito Secondary School, where Akite teaches literature, was founded by priests of the Comboni missionary order, known for its dedication to serving poor communities. Its students come mostly from working-class families and tuition per term is roughly \$300, a substantial sum in a country where GDP per capita was about \$1,000 in 2023.

Yet that tuition is lower than at many other Catholic-run schools in Kampala, where many students report later in the term because they can't raise school fees in time, Akite said.

Late starts, long lines, extension requests

One of the most expensive private schools in Kampala, the Catholic-run Uganda Martyrs' Secondary School Namugongo, maintains a policy of "zero balance" when a child reports to school at the beginning of a three-month term. This means students must be fully paid by the time they report to school.

Tuition at the school was once as high as \$800 but has since dropped to about \$600 as enrollment swelled to nearly 5,000, said deputy headmaster James Batte. On a recent morning, there was a queue of parents waiting outside Batte's office to request more time to clear tuition balances.

Daniel Birungi, an electrical engineer in Kampala whose son enrolled this year at St. Mary's College Kisubi, a leading school for boys in Uganda, said the emerging risk for traditional Catholic schools is to cater only to the rich.

There is hot water in the bathrooms, he said, describing what he felt was a trend toward levels of luxury he never imagined as a student there in the 1990s. Now, students are prohibited from packing snacks and instead encouraged to buy what they need from school-owned canteens, he said.

That has "put us under a lot of pressure," he said.

Tuition at St. Mary's College Kisubi is roughly \$800 per term, and Birungi doubts he will be able to regularly pay school fees on time. "You can go there and see the brother and negotiate," he said, referring to the headmaster. "I am planning to go there and see him and ask for that consideration."

The effects of a private education system

The World Bank reported in 2023 that 54% of adults in sub-Saharan Africa rank the issue of paying school fees higher than medical bills and other expenses. That's partly because education is largely in private hands, with the most desirable schools controlled by profit-seeking owners.

Schools run by the Catholic Church are not usually registered as profit-making entities, but those who run those schools say they wouldn't be competitive if they were run merely as charities. They say they face the same maintenance costs as others in the field and offer scholarships to exceptional students.

Regulating tuition is not easy, said Ronald Reagan Okello, a priest who oversees education at the Catholic Secretariat in Kampala. He urges parents to send their children to schools they can afford.

"As the Catholic Church, also we are competing with those who are in the private sector," said Okello, the national executive secretary for education with the Ugandan bishops conference. "Now, as you are competing, the other ones are setting the bar high. They are giving you good services. But now putting the standard to that level, we are forced to raise the school fees to match the demands of the people who can afford."

Across the region, the Catholic Church has built a reputation as a key provider of formal education in areas often underserved by the state. Its schools are cherished by families of all means for their values, discipline and academic success.

In Zimbabwe, the Catholic Church operates about 100 schools, ranging from dozens in impoverished

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areas where annual tuition is as low as \$150 to elite boarding schools that can charge thousands of dollars.

But a legacy of inclusion is under pressure in the southern African nation due to fee increases at boarding schools and efforts by Catholic leaders to fully privatize some schools. Many boarding schools already charge tuition fees between \$600 and \$800, prohibitive for the working class in a country where most civil servants make less than a \$300 per month.

Privatization will raise tuition fees even higher, warned Peter Muzawazi, a prominent educator in Zimbabwe.

Muzawazi, who attended Catholic schools, once was the headmaster of Marist Brothers, a top Catholic school for boys in Zimbabwe. That school in Nyanga is among those earmarked for privatization.

"I know in the Catholic Church there is a lot of space for reasonable fees for day scholars, but for boarders there is need to be watching because the possibility that they would be out of reach for the vulnerable is there," he said.

The church needs to be actively engaged, he said. "How do we continue to guarantee education for the poor?"

Efforts to privatize church-founded schools have sparked debate in Zimbabwe, which for years has been in economic decline stemming in part from sanctions imposed by the U.S. and others. Authorities say privatizing these schools is necessary to maintain standards, even as critics warn Catholic leaders not to turn their backs on poor people.

"Schools have now turned into businesses," Martin Chaburumunda, president of the Zimbabwe Rural Teachers' Union, told The Manica Post, a state-run weekly. "Churches now appear only hungry for money as opposed to educating the communities they operate in."

Rather than privatizing old mission schools, the church should invest in building new ones if it's useful to experiment with different funding models, said Muzawazi, a lay Catholic who serves on the governing council of the Catholic University of Zimbabwe.

"The bright people who advance the cause of countries are not the rich ones," he said. "We want every church and every nation to tap the potential of every person, regardless of economic status."

Today in History: June 9

Secretariat wins Triple Crown in record time

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Monday, June 9, the 160th day of 2025. There are 205 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On June 9, 1973, Secretariat won the Belmont Stakes by 31 lengths, winning horse racing's Triple Crown and setting a still-standing record by running the 1 1/2-mile dirt course in 2 minutes, 24 seconds.

Also on this date:

In 1732, James Oglethorpe received a charter from Britain's King George II to establish the colony of Georgia.

In 1954, during the Senate Army-McCarthy hearings, Army special counsel Joseph N. Welch berated Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy, a Republican from Wisconsin, asking: "Have you no sense of decency, sir? At long last, have you left no sense of decency?"

In 1972, heavy rains triggered record flooding in the Black Hills of South Dakota. The resulting disaster left at least 238 people dead and more than 1,300 homes destroyed.

In 1978, leaders of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints struck down a policy of excluding Black men from the Mormon priesthood that had been in place for more than 125 years.

In 1986, the Rogers Commission released its report on the Challenger disaster, criticizing NASA and rocket-builder Morton Thiokol for management problems leading to the explosion that claimed the lives of seven astronauts.

In 2013, Rafael Nadal became the first man to win eight titles at the same Grand Slam tennis tournament after beating fellow Spaniard David Ferrer in the French Open final. (Nadal would finish his career with 14 French Open titles.)

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In 2022, at its first public hearing on the matter, the House panel investigating the Jan. 6 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol placed blame squarely on Donald Trump, saying the assault was not spontaneous but an "attempted coup" and a direct result of the defeated president's effort to overturn the 2020 election.

Today's Birthdays: Sportscaster Dick Vitale is 86. Baseball Hall of Famer Dave Parker is 74. Film composer James Newton Howard is 74. Author Patricia Cornwell is 69. Actor Michael J. Fox is 64. Writer-filmmaker Aaron Sorkin is 64. Actor Johnny Depp is 62. Actor Gloria Reuben is 61. Actor Michaela Conlin is 47. Actor Natalie Portman is 44. Musician Anoushka Shankar is 44. Olympic gymnastics gold medalist Laurie Hernandez is 25.