

Groton Daily Independent

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Tuesday, June 10

Senior Menu: New Englund 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.



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.

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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.

Marines Head to LA

The Pentagon deployed 700 Marines and an additional 2,000 National Guard troops to Los Angeles yesterday, as tensions between the federal government and California escalated over immigration-related protests and clashes in the city. The action marks a rare domestic deployment of Marines and brings the total Guard troops to 4,000, as demonstrations over immigration arrests continued for a fourth day.

The deployments came the same day California Gov. Gavin Newsom (D) filed a lawsuit over President Donald Trump's decision to deploy the first batch of 2,000 National Guard troops to Los Angeles over the weekend. Trump threatened to arrest Newsom and Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass (D) if they impeded the Guard's work. The Marines and Guard have been ordered to protect federal property and personnel in the nation's second-largest city.

Trump used Article 10 authority to bypass Newsom and take charge of the Guard Saturday. The approach was last used in 1965 by President Lyndon B. Johnson to protect civil rights marchers.

Media Powerhouse Splits

Warner Bros. Discovery is breaking up into two publicly traded companies by mid-2026, separating its film and streaming operations from its global cable networks. The new Studios & Streaming company—including HBO, HBO Max, Warner Bros. Television, and DC Studios—will be led by current CEO David Zaslav. The Global Networks unit—including CNN, TNT Sports, and Discovery—will be run by current CFO Gunnar Wiedenfels.

The move follows a corporate reorganization late last year that split the company into two internal divisions. Executives say the split will let the streaming group respond more quickly to market trends, while the networks group focuses on managing its legacy portfolio. Streaming now accounts for 44.3% of total TV usage in the US, surpassing cable (24.5%) and broadcast (20.8%).

A significant portion of the company's debt will go with Global Networks, which will retain a 20% stake in the streaming business with plans to monetize that stake in the future to help reduce its debt. As of March, Warner Bros. Discovery reported about \$34B in debt, much of it tied to the 2022 WarnerMedia-Discovery merger.

Getty Images v. Stability AI

Oral arguments in Getty Images' landmark case against Stability AI began in the British High Court yesterday, marking the first major copyright trial involving a generative AI company. The outcome could shape how intellectual property law applies to training AI models.

The Seattle-based Getty Images alleges the London-based AI startup used around 12 million copyrighted images without permission or payment to train its text-to-image tool, Stable Diffusion. The tool draws on a repository of outsourced images to generate artwork and hyperrealistic photos from text prompts. Stability argues its use of Getty's content is protected under narrow exceptions in copyright law—known as "fair dealings" in the UK and "fair use" in the US. Stability also says the trial, which could last three weeks, shouldn't be heard in the UK since the trainings were run on computers in the US.

Getty filed a parallel suit against Stability in the US in early 2023; it's one of many pending cases on a growing docket of litigation involving AI and media companies.

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Sports, Entertainment, & Culture

Federal judge dismisses Justin Baldoni's \$400M countersuit against "It Ends With Us" costar Blake Lively; Lively is suing Baldoni over alleged sexual harassment on the set of the film

Frederick Forsyth, English novelist and journalist whose books sold more than 75 million copies worldwide, dies at age 86

Sly Stone, frontman for influential funk band Sly and the Family Stone, dies at age 82

Tampa Bay Rays star Wander Franco, currently on trial for sexual abuse, faces new charge of illegal possession of a firearm

"Call Her Daddy" host Alex Cooper accuses her former Boston University soccer coach of sexual harassment

Science & Technology

Apple's WWDC 2025 begins, see highlights from day one of the company's biggest developer event of the year

Fossilized stomach contents provide first direct evidence sauropods—massive, long-necked dinosaurs like the brontosaurus—were vegetarians

Researchers discover signs of accelerated aging in children with multiple sclerosis; biological age, measured by changes at the cellular level, was up to two years older in some patients

Business & Markets

US stock markets close mixed (S&P 500 +0.1%, Dow -0.0%, Nasdaq +0.3%) as US-China trade talks kicked off in London and resume today

Disney to pay an extra \$438.7M to Comcast, on top of the \$8.6B it committed in 2023, to complete the purchase of Comcast's 33% stake in Hulu; Disney's acquisition of Hulu is expected to close by July 24

OpenAI reaches \$10B in annual recurring revenue; comes 2.5 years after the release of its ChatGPT chatbot

Amazon to spend \$20B on data centers in Pennsylvania, including building one next to an existing nuclear power plant

Politics & World Affairs

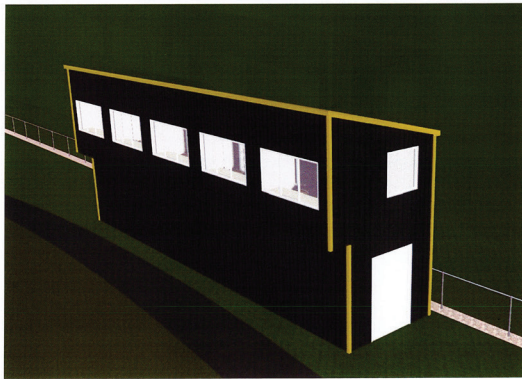
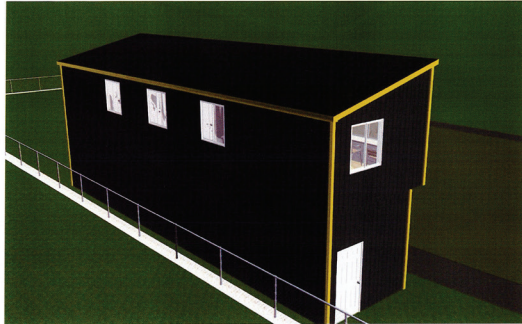
Israel intercepts Gaza-bound aid boat carrying climate activist Greta Thunberg as it enters Israel's naval blockade of Gaza; says it will deport Thunberg and 11 other activists

Russia and Ukraine begin prisoner of war exchanges, hours after Ukraine says Russia launched record 479 drones overnight Sunday

Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. removes all 17 members of independent panel advising the CDC on immunization

Executive order banning or limiting travel to the US from 19 countries goes into effect

Tropical Storm Barbara strengthens into hurricane, the first of the eastern Pacific season; dangerous surf and rip current conditions predicted to impact southwestern Mexico's coast.



New crows nest is coming

A new crows nest for the football/track field is on the way. Superintendent Joe Schwan reported to the Groton Area Board of Education Monday night that the new facility will cost around \$80,000. "That is significantly lower in price than some of the original designs," he said. There would be five rooms - one for home team, one for visiting room, one for the scorekeepers and two for media. Original design was around \$150,000. Schwan said this is a basic design.

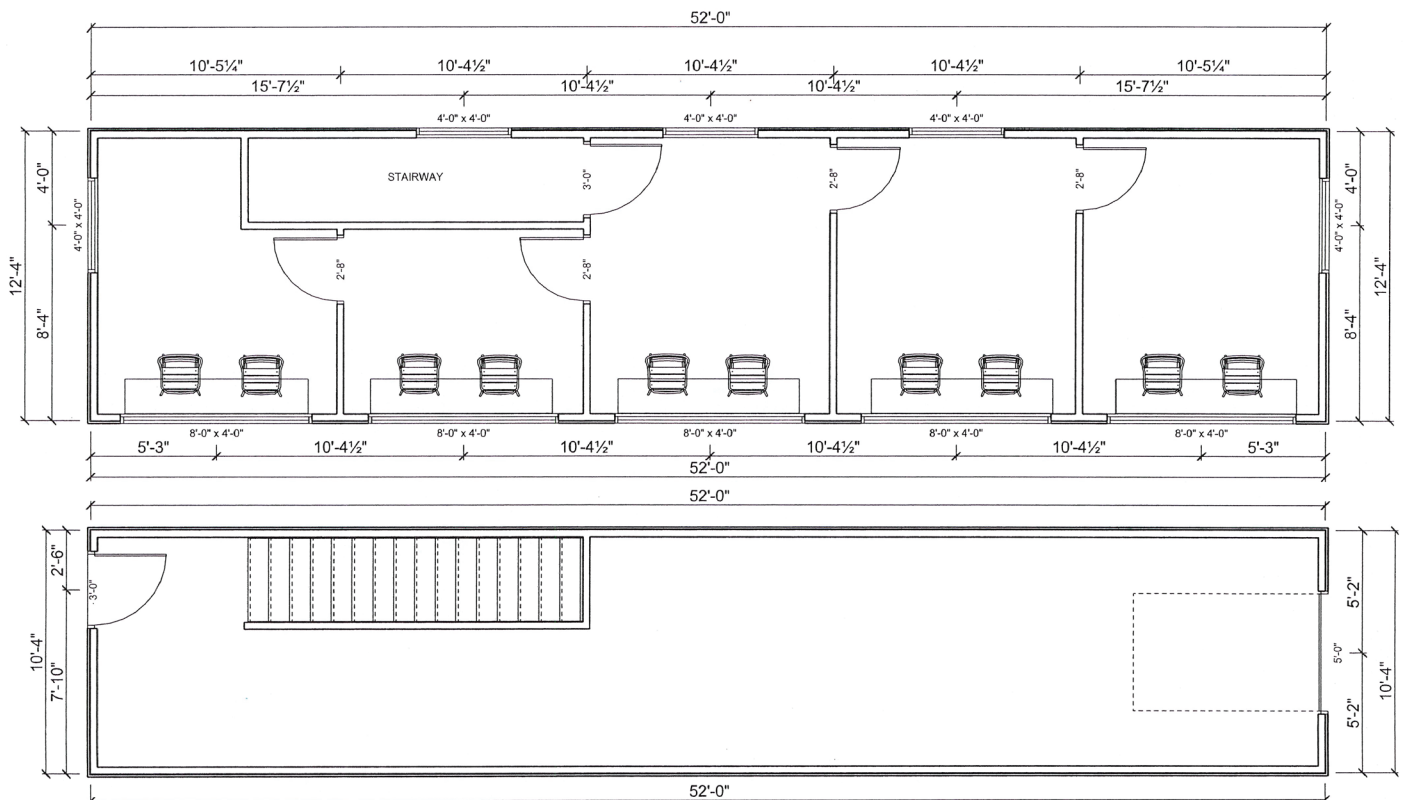
Board member Tigh Fliehs said there is about \$50,000 raised by the TJ Johnson family.

The board approved the project and will name the crows nest after T.J. Johnson. The motion passed 4-1 with Marty Weismantel voting no. He said he was not in favor of naming the facility at this time.

The speaker system is a separate system which is also in the works.

There will be separate discussion on the field itself as well. There will be money put into capital outlay reserve for work on the field.

The track was resurfaced in 2015. There is work that needs to be done on that as well.



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Roofing concerns and insurance an issue

Schwan reported that parts of the 1934 addition may soon be uninsurable due to its age. "There are schools that have removed parts of their buildings due to the insurance issue," he said. There is only one insurance company that will insure the Groton Area buildings. Becky Hubsch, business manager, said once an insurance company drops you, "You have one year to get into compliance," she said. There was discussion on the cost of repairs on the roof at the elementary school and the middle/high school buildings. An inspection report was done and submitted to the school for the roof repairs. Hubsch said the district will see a 9 percent increase in insurance cost. She said most places are seeing a 12 to 15 percent increase. The board approved the renewal of the property/liability insurance with EMC Insurance.

Groton Area School District - Roof Analysis Summary

2025

Fiscal Year 2026

\$89,538

Priority A Repairs - Elementary

\$11,240

Roof A (Lower Pod)	\$4,275
Roof B (Music/JK/SPED)	\$0
Roof C (Library/Computer Labs)	\$3,360
Roof D (Upper Pod)	\$2,275
Roof E (Boiler Room)	\$1,045
Roof F (Gym)	\$25
Roof G (2016 Addition)	\$155
Roof H (2016 Commons)	\$105

Priority A Repairs - MS/HS

\$78,298

Roof A (GHS Arena)	\$7,375
Roof B (GHS Arena Entry Canopy Roof)	\$75
Roof C (2009 Addn, FACS, Music, Kitchen)	\$2,275
Roof D (1969 Gymnasium)	\$33,185
Roof E (1969 Shop Addition)	\$7,710
Roof F (1957 English Hall)	\$24,850
Roof G (1934 Classroom Building)	\$2,828

Total Priority A Repairs Recommended for FY2026

\$89,538

Roof Section Estimated Remaining Service Life

2025 Report

2022 Report

Elementary Roof A (Lower Pod)	10+ Yrs	4-6 Yrs
Elementary Roof B (Preschool/Music/SPED)	10+ Yrs	4-6 Yrs
Elementary Roof C (Library)	10+ Yrs	10+ Yrs
Elementary Room D (Upper Pod)	10+ Yrs	4-6 Yrs
Elementary Roof E (Gym Storage/Boiler)	10+ Yrs	10+ Yrs
Elementary Roof F (2016 Commons)	10+ Yrs	10+ Yrs
Elementary Roof G (2016 Addition)	10+ Yrs	10+ Yrs
Elementary Roof H (Gymnasium)	10+ Yrs	10+ Yrs
MS/HS Roof A (Metal Arena Roof)	7-9 Yrs	7-9 Yrs
MS/HS Roof B (Arena Entry Cover)	7-9 Yrs	10+ Yrs
MS/HS Roof C (2009 Addn, FACS, Music, Kitchen)	7-9 Yrs	10+ Yrs
MS/HS Roof D (1969 Gymnasium)	4-6 Yrs	4-6 Yrs
MS/HS Roof E (1969 Shop Addn)	4-6 Yrs	4-6 Yrs
MS/HS Roof F (1957 English Hall)	4-6 Yrs	4-6 Yrs
MS/HS Roof G (1934 Classroom Addition)	7-9 Yrs	10+ Yrs
MS/HS Roof H (2009 Office Entry)	10+ Yrs	10+ Yrs



Greg Kjellsen

Kjellsen returns as head boys basketball coach

The Groton Area Board of Education has hired Greg Kjellsen as the head boys basketball coach.

Kjellsen was head coach in Groton from 1987 through 2016 when he retired. Kjellsen came back into the district a few years ago and has been teaching and coaching junior high teams.

When Brian Dolan submitted his resignation, there were several candidates applying for the position, including Kjellsen. Kjellsen said there were several reasons he decided to return to the helm of the boys basketball team. "Former players talked to me, some with sons on the team and my own sons encouraged me. The kids coming back are great kids, and I still have the desire."

Becky Hubsch was hired as the head cross country coach and Sarah Schuster as the junior high volleyball coach.



Becky Hubsch

The Life of Linn Arnold Wellman

March 17, 1945 – June 4, 2025



Linn A. Wellman, age 80, of Willmar, Minnesota, died Wednesday, June 4, 2025, at CentraCare – St. Cloud Hospital in St. Cloud, Minnesota. Visitation will be held from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. Tuesday, June 10, 2025, at Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church in Benson, Minnesota, followed by the funeral service at 1:00 p.m. There will be a private family burial at a later date. Zniwski Funeral Home of Benson is assisting the family with the arrangements.

As the sun rose up over the Mississippi River, Linn left this earth and joined family members who passed before him in his heavenly home.

Linn Arnold Wellman was born on March 17, 1945, in Aberdeen, South Dakota, the son of Albert Davis and Violet (Mistelski) Wellman. He was the second child out of ten children, five boys and five girls. He was baptized and confirmed in the Lutheran Christian Faith. Linn grew up in the Aberdeen, South Dakota area and graduated from Aberdeen High School. He then attended a trade school for people with disabilities in Oklahoma. Linn moved to St. Louis, Missouri, where he worked as a print setter and a printer for Concordia Publishing House before retiring due to his disability.

When Linn was 17, he was paralyzed in a water-skiing accident. He had to learn to walk, talk, read, and write all over again. He never let life get the best of him, he maintained a positive attitude even when he had one of his nasty headaches or at the end struggling to breathe. When asked how he was, Linn would turn it back and say, "How are you?" It was never about himself, always concerned for others. Linn will always be remembered for his strong faith and the kind, caring, and gentle way he lived his life. He enjoyed reading his Bible, doing puzzles, visiting with friends, watching baseball and football.

Linn is survived by his two daughters Lise Swift of Rolla, Missouri and Laurel Vernia of San Diego, California; grandchildren: Jordan (Patrick) Powell, Dillon (Kate) Swift, twins Autumn and Morgan Swift, Peter Jensen, and Grace Jensen; two great-grandchildren Van and Banks Powell; estranged wife Doris Wellman; four siblings: LaReta Keppert of Waukesha, Wisconsin, Ilene Helmer of Andover, South Dakota, Albert (Peggy) of Brooklyn Park, and Anita (Rick) Horecka of Benson, and many relatives and friends. Linn was preceded in death by his daughter Linnette Jensen, parents Albert and Violet Wellman, brothers: Allan, Alvin, and Arlin, sisters Marlene Schmid and Alonda (James) Wittenberg, brother-in-law Orville Helmer, niece Julie Cook, and nephews Chad Wellman and Norm High Elk.

Service Notice: Theresa Schuring

Mass of Christian Burial for Theresa "Trea" Schuring, 96, of Andover will be 10:00 a.m., Saturday, June 14th at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church. Father Gregory Tschakert will officiate. Burial will follow in All Saint's Catholic Cemetery, Andover under the direction of Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel.

Visitation will be held at the funeral chapel on Friday from 5-7 p.m. with a wake service and rosary at 7:00 p.m.

Trea passed away June 7, 2025 at Sun Dial Manor in Bristol.

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Groton Jr. Legion Fall To Sisseton After Surrendering Big 4th Inning

By GameChanger Media

Sisseton scored nine runs in the fourth inning, which helped them defeat Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion 15-8 on Monday.

Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion got on the board in the top of the first inning after an error scored two runs, and T.C Schuster grounded out, scoring one run.

Sisseton flipped the game on its head in the bottom of the first, scoring six runs on five hits to take the lead, 6-3. The biggest blow in the inning was a single by Luke Neilson that drove in one.

Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion tied the game up in the top of the third thanks to two singles. Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion tied the game at six on a single by Kason Oswald.

Sisseton flipped the game on its head in the bottom of the fourth, scoring nine runs on seven hits to take the lead, 15-6. The biggest blow in the inning was a double by Max Dahlen that drove in three.

Bryson Hanson earned the win for Sisseton. The hurler surrendered six hits and eight runs (five earned) over five innings, striking out seven and walking four. Ethan Kroll took the loss for Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion. The pitcher went three and two-thirds innings, allowing 15 runs (nine earned) on 13 hits, striking out one and walking five.

Lincoln Krause and Schuster each collected two hits for Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion. Oswald, Schuster, and Kroll each drove in two runs for Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion. Krause stole three bases.

Sisseton amassed 14 hits in the game. Dahlen provided pop in the middle of the lineup, and led Sisseton with four runs batted in. The infielder went 3-for-4 on the day. Dahlen and Reggie Lincoln each collected three hits for Sisseton. Neilson, Rylan Anderson, and Levi Nelson each collected multiple hits for Sisseton. Nelson stole two bases.

Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion will travel to Sisseton for their next game on Monday.

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Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion 8 - 15 Sisseton

📍 Away 📅 Monday June 09, 2025

	1	2	3	4	5	R	H	E
GRTN	3	0	3	0	2	8	6	2
SSST	6	0	0	9	X	15	14	2

BATTING

Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
L Krause #2 (CF)	4	1	2	0	0	1
A Abeln #5 (SS)	1	2	0	0	2	0
N Groebel... #13 (1B)	2	2	0	0	1	0
T Schuster #3 (2B)	3	2	2	2	0	0
I Scepan... #20 (3B)	1	0	0	0	0	1
R Schelle #8 (3B)	1	1	0	0	0	0
T McGan... #22 (LF)	2	0	0	0	1	0
K Oswald #12 (C)	3	0	1	2	0	1
B Fliehs #19 (DH)	1	0	0	0	0	1
E Kroll #14 (P)	2	0	1	2	0	0
J Bisbee #15 (RF)	2	0	0	0	0	2
X Ellen... #21 (RF)	1	0	0	0	0	1
Totals	23	8	6	6	4	7

2B: E Kroll, **TB:** T Schuster 2, L Krause 2, E Kroll 2, K Oswald, **HBP:** R Schelle, **SB:** L Krause 3, A Abeln, **LOB:** 5

PITCHING

Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion	IP	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
E Kroll #14	3.2	13	15	9	5	1
R Schelle #8	0.1	1	0	0	0	0
Totals	4.0	14	15	9	5	1

L: E Kroll, **P-S:** R Schelle 3-3, E Kroll 106-56, **HBP:** E Kroll, **BF:** R Schelle 2, E Kroll 29

Sisseton	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
L Nelson #12 (SS)	3	3	2	2	1	1
L Neilson #22 (3B)	3	3	2	1	1	0
M Dahlen #3 (1B)	4	2	3	4	0	0
R Anderson #10 (C)	4	1	2	0	0	0
R Lincoln #7 (CF)	3	1	3	3	0	0
B Hanson #11 (P)	2	1	0	1	1	0
J Hamm #5 (LF)	2	1	1	2	0	0
K Deutch #18 (RF)	1	1	0	0	2	0
I Deutch #27 (2B)	3	1	1	0	0	0
CR: Kenny Ger... #9	0	1	0	0	0	0
Totals	25	15	14	13	5	1

2B: R Lincoln, M Dahlen, **TB:** I Deutch, R Lincoln 4, L Neilson 2, L Nelson 2, M Dahlen 4, R Anderson 2, J Hamm, **HBP:** J Hamm, **SB:** R Lincoln, B Hanson, L Nelson 2, J Hamm, **LOB:** 4

Sisseton	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
B Hanson #11	5.0	6	8	5	4	7	0
Totals	5.0	6	8	5	4	7	0

W: B Hanson, **P-S:** B Hanson 105-62, **HBP:** B Hanson, **BF:** B Hanson 28

Groton Jr. Legion Surge Past Sisseton Thanks To Big Third Inning

By GameChanger Media

Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion scored nine runs in the third inning, which helped them defeat Sisseton 11-5 on Monday. Nick Groeblichhoff singled, scoring one run, John Bisbee singled, scoring two runs, Lincoln Krause singled, scoring three runs, Groeblichhoff singled, scoring two runs, and Ryder Schelle singled, scoring one run.

Sisseton opened the scoring in the bottom of the first thanks to two walks. Sisseton first got on the board when Rylan Anderson drew a walk, scoring one run.

Sisseton added one run in the second. Levi Nelson doubled to center field, making the score 3-0.

Tristin McGannon earned the win for Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion. The pitcher allowed four hits and five runs over three innings, striking out four and walking eight. Luke Neilson took the loss for Sisseton. The hurler went two and two-thirds innings, giving up nine runs on six hits, striking out one and walking six. Isaiah Scepaniak tossed two innings of zero-run ball for Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion in relief. The hurler gave up three hits, striking out four and walking two.

Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion amassed 10 hits in the game. Groeblichhoff provided pop in the middle of the lineup, and led Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion with three runs batted in. The cleanup hitter went 2-for-2 on the day. Krause, Schelle, and Groeblichhoff each collected two hits for Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion. Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion had patience at the plate, amassing nine walks for the game. Braeden Fliehs, Alex Abeln, and Xavier Ellenecker led the team with two walks each. Krause stole three bases. Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion stole six bases in the game. Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion turned one double play in the game. Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion were sure-handed in the field and didn't commit a single error. Abeln had the most chances in the field with nine.

Nelson led Sisseton with three hits in four at bats from the leadoff position. Max Dahlen, Anderson, JJ Hamm, and Nelson each drove in one run for Sisseton. Sisseton had patience at the plate, amassing 10 walks for the game. Dahlen, Anderson, and Isaiah Deutch led the team with two walks each. Nelson stole three bases.

Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion will travel to Platte for their next game on Saturday.

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Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion 11 - 5 Sisseton

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	1	2	3	4	5	R	H	E
GRTN	0	0	9	2	0	11	10	0
SSST	2	1	0	2	0	5	7	2

BATTING

Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
L Krause #2 (CF)	4	1	2	2	1	0
A Abeln #5 (C)	2	0	1	1	2	0
T Schuster #3 (SS)	3	1	0	1	1	0
N Groeb... #13 (DH)	2	1	2	3	0	0
R Schelle #8 (LF)	4	1	2	1	0	0
I Scean... #20 (3B)	4	0	0	0	0	0
B Flihs #19 (1B)	2	2	1	0	2	0
J Bisbee #15 (2B)	3	2	1	2	1	1
X Ellene... #21 (RF)	0	1	0	0	2	0
K Oswald #12 (RF)	1	0	0	0	0	1
E Kroll #14 (RF)	1	2	1	0	0	0
Totals	26	11	10	10	9	2

2B: B Flihs, **TB:** B Flihs 2, R Schelle 2, J Bisbee, E Kroll, L Krause 2, A Abeln, N Groebelinghoff 2, **HBP:** N Groebelinghoff 2, **SB:** J Bisbee, E Kroll, L Krause 3, N Groebelinghoff, **LOB:** 11

PITCHING

Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion	IP	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
T McGa... #22	3.0	4	5	8	4	0
I Scea... #20	2.0	3	0	2	4	0
Totals	5.0	7	5	10	8	0

W: T McGannon, **P-S:** I Scepaniak 41-22, T McGannon 99-51, **WP:** I Scepaniak 2, T McGannon, **HBP:** T McGannon, **BF:** I Scepaniak 11, T McGannon 21

Sisseton	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
L Nelson #12 (SS)	4	2	3	1	0	1
L Neilson #22 (P)	3	1	0	0	1	2
M Dahlen #3 (1B)	1	0	0	1	2	0
R Anderson #10 (C)	1	0	1	1	2	0
K Deutch #18 (C)	0	0	0	0	0	0
R Lincoln #7 (CF)	3	0	1	0	0	1
B Hanson #11 (3B)	1	0	0	0	1	1
J Hamm #5 (LF)	2	0	1	1	1	0
Kenny Ge... #9 (RF)	3	0	0	0	0	2
I Deutch #27 (2B)	1	1	0	0	2	1
K Siriban #42	2	1	1	0	1	0
Totals	21	5	7	4	10	8

2B: R Lincoln, L Nelson 2, **TB:** R Lincoln 2, L Nelson 5, J Hamm, K Siriban, R Anderson, **HBP:** B Hanson, **SB:** L Nelson 3, L Neilson, **LOB:** 12

Sisseton	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
L Neilson #22	2.2	6	9	9	6	1	0
I Deutch #27	0.2	2	2	2	3	1	0
L Nelson #12	1.2	2	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	5.0	10	11	11	9	2	0

L: L Neilson, **P-S:** I Deutch 28-12, L Nelson 12-9, L Neilson 75-33, **WP:** I Deutch 2, **HBP:** L Nelson, L Neilson, **BF:** I Deutch 7, L Nelson 9, L Neilson 21

Groton Jr. Teeners Loses Despite Out Hitting Britton Jr Teeners

By GameChanger Media

Groton Jr. Teeners fell 6-5 to Britton Jr Teeners on Monday despite out-hitting them 11 to six. Kolton Antonsen led Groton Jr. Teeners with three hits.

A single by Jordan Schwan put Groton Jr. Teeners on the board in the top of the first.

Britton Jr Teeners took the lead in the bottom of the fourth inning after Chaz Vietor doubled down the left field line, Max Suther doubled down the left field line, and Britton Jr Teeners scored on a wild pitch, each scoring one run.

Luke Bosse earned the win for Britton Jr Teeners. The reliever allowed three hits and one run (zero earned) over two and one-third innings, striking out two and walking two. Trayce Schelle took the loss for Groton Jr. Teeners. The hurler went five and one-third innings, surrendering six runs (three earned) on six hits, striking out seven and walking three. Levi Mills began the game for Britton Jr Teeners. The right-handed pitcher surrendered four hits and two runs (one earned) over three and two-thirds innings, striking out five and walking one.

Groton Jr. Teeners tallied 11 hits in the game. Asher Zimmerman, Schwan, and Lincoln Shilhanek each drove in one run for Groton Jr. Teeners. Wesley Borg collected two hits for Groton Jr. Teeners in four at bats. Schwan stole four bases. Groton Jr. Teeners ran wild on the base paths, collecting six stolen bases for the game.

Suther went 3-for-3 at the plate to lead Britton Jr Teeners in hits. Suther and Carter Grobe each stole multiple bases for Britton Jr Teeners. Britton Jr Teeners turned one double play in the game.

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Groton Jr. Teeners Fall After Strong Showing By Britton Jr Teeners

By GameChanger Media

Groton Jr. Teeners had trouble keeping up with Britton Jr Teeners in a 10-4 loss on Monday.

Groton Jr. Teeners were the first to get on the board in the first when an error scored two runs.

Britton Jr Teeners jumped into the lead in the bottom of the second when Liam Peters singled, scoring two runs, an error scored one run, and a passed ball scored one run.

Britton Jr Teeners added to their early lead in the bottom of the third inning after Henry Kilker singled down the left field line, and Luke Bosse walked, each scoring one run.

Max Suther earned the win for Britton Jr Teeners. The righty gave up two hits and one run (zero earned) over one and two-thirds innings, striking out two and walking one. Lincoln Shilhanek took the loss for Groton Jr. Teeners. The right-handed pitcher went two innings, surrendering four runs (two earned) on four hits, striking out two and walking four. Jack Teveldal led things off on the mound for Britton Jr Teeners. The pitcher allowed two hits and two runs (zero earned) over one and one-third innings, striking out two and walking one.

Jordan Schwan and Trayce Schelle each collected two hits for Groton Jr. Teeners. Zach Fliehs and Shilhanek were tough to handle back-to-back in the lineup, as each drove in two runs for Groton Jr. Teeners. Schelle stole two bases.

Number nine hitter, Kilker, showed the depth of Britton Jr Teeners's lineup, by leading them with two hits in three at bats. Peters led Britton Jr Teeners with two runs batted in. The infielder went 1-for-2 on the day. Bosse led Britton Jr Teeners with two walks. Overall, the team had a strong eye at the plate, piling up eight walks for the game. Peters and Carter Grobe each stole multiple bases for Britton Jr Teeners. Britton Jr Teeners ran wild on the base paths, amassing seven stolen bases for the game.

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SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

13,000 South Dakotans would lose Medicaid if 'Big, Beautiful Bill' passes, research group says

BY: MAKENZIE HUBER - JUNE 9, 2025 4:07 PM

If Republicans in the U.S. Senate pass the "One Big Beautiful Bill Act" as written, 13,000 South Dakotans would lose Medicaid and the state would lose \$931 million in federal funding for the program by 2034, according to a new analysis.

Medicaid is a federal-state health insurance program for low-income people. The budget reconciliation bill, which passed the U.S. House, aims to reduce federal Medicaid spending through various policy changes by about \$793 billion. The biggest changes include setting a work requirement for some enrollees and mandating more frequent eligibility checks. The work requirement would take effect in January 2027.

Republicans, including South Dakota's delegates, say the policies would reduce waste, fraud and abuse in the program. Democrats say they would increase barriers, resulting in eligible people losing health insurance.

South Dakota Medicaid enrollments would decline by about 10%, or around 13,000 people, by 2034, according to an updated analysis from health policy organization KFF. The projections use Congressional Budget Office estimates to unpack the potential state-by-state impacts. Nationwide, 10.3 million fewer people would be enrolled in Medicaid by 2034, according to the CBO.

Combined with the expected expiration of the Obama-era Affordable Care Act's enhanced premium tax credits at the end of this year, the projected number of uninsured South Dakotans rises to about 20,000.

Medicaid cuts would "force states to make tough choices," KFF reported: "maintain current spending on Medicaid by raising taxes or reducing spending on other programs; or cut Medicaid spending by covering fewer people, offering fewer benefits, or paying providers less."

The majority of the cuts, according to KFF, would come from three sources:

Work requirements mandating that adults who are eligible for Medicaid expansion must meet work and reporting requirements (estimated to save \$344 billion as people become ineligible).

Repealing a Biden administration rule simplifying eligibility and renewal processes (estimated to save \$167 billion).

Setting a moratorium on new or increased provider taxes (estimated to save \$89 billion).

The cost estimates can be uncertain because states might choose to implement a work requirement with easier or harder reporting requirements than other states. South Dakota is exploring implementing its own work requirements, which are more relaxed than the federal proposal.

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.

South Dakota governor leads trade mission to Israel

BY: SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT STAFF - JUNE 9, 2025 2:14 PM

South Dakota Gov. Larry Rhoden is leading a trade mission in Israel, he announced Monday.

The trade delegation is hosting a seminar “focused on recruiting foreign direct investment into the state,” according to a press release from the governor’s office. The release says the delegation includes South Dakota defense and agriculture businesses “seeking sales in the Israeli market.”

“By working together with countries across the globe, we will keep South Dakota Open for Opportunity for generations to come,” Rhoden said in the release.

Rhoden is also joined by South Dakota Trade, a nonprofit association that aims to help the state better navigate global trade.

“We had a successful mission in November of last year and are back because our businesses are generating real opportunities that have already produced millions in sales and a robust pipeline for even more expansion,” Jesse Fonkert, president & CEO of South Dakota Trade, said in the release.

The release says Rhoden will meet with Israeli President Isaac Herzog, Speaker of the Knesset Amir Ohana and Foreign Minister Gideon Sa’ar. It says he conducted a wreath-laying ceremony at the World Holocaust Remembrance Center and visited a hospital to meet with recovering soldiers who have been injured in the war in Gaza, and that U.S. Ambassador to Israel Mike Huckabee will host a reception for the governor.

COMMENTARY

We deserve better than costly, wasteful carbon capture schemes

by Autumn Hanna and Rick Bonander

Across the Northern Great Plains, opposition to carbon capture projects is growing — nowhere more so than in South Dakota, where lawmakers recently blocked carbon capture companies from using eminent domain. The backlash to these projects is driven by concerns about the impact on farmers and ranchers, public safety, private property rights, and the billions in taxpayer dollars being funneled into unproven technology.

Let’s be clear: oil and gas and ethanol companies want to use public subsidies to bury millions of tons of pollution underground — threatening South Dakota’s land, water and communities. To protect our communities and prevent waste, fraud and abuse of taxpayer funds, we deserve better than carbon capture schemes.

That’s why one of us is working to protect taxpayers from wasting billions on subsidies for a technology that has never been proven to deliver net reductions in carbon emissions. In fact, it may actually result in public health and safety liabilities for nearby communities. The other is organizing to defend rural communities from the false promises and harmful impacts of carbon capture and storage. We agree: Carbon capture and storage should not be propped up at the expense of federal taxpayers and South Dakotans.

In recent years, we’ve watched Summit Carbon Solutions try to win support for a multi-state carbon dioxide pipeline — and when that failed, attempt to force it through using eminent domain. That’s a process meant for public benefit, not private industry. After the Legislature blocked carbon capture companies from using it, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission required Summit to reapply for a permit — another major setback for the company’s risky proposal.

At Dakota Rural Action, we organize people, build leadership, and foster partnerships that protect our environmental resources and strengthen our communities. We advocate for resilient agriculture, clean air and water, and energy systems that work for all South Dakotans — now and for generations to come.

At Taxpayers for Common Sense, we advocate for a federal government that uses resources wisely and serves the people, not special interests. Our research shows that tens of billions in taxpayer dollars have already gone to grants, loans and tax credits for carbon capture — often with little to show for it.

After more than a decade and billions spent, carbon capture has consistently failed to deliver any mean-

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ingful emissions reduction. In 2023, U.S. CCS facilities captured just 22 million tons of CO₂ annually — only about 0.4% of national emissions. Not only is CCS ineffective at capturing emissions at scale, CCS projects also expand oil and gas infrastructure, prolonging oil and gas dependence — often at the risk of private property rights, as CCS pipeline infrastructure grows. CCS also poses significant threats to local communities, as the transportation and storage of carbon risk poisoning the air and groundwater.

What's more, carbon capture technology remains prohibitively expensive and is unlikely to be deployed at scale without breaking the bank for taxpayers. Independent analyses confirm what we've seen time and again: major carbon capture projects routinely fail or fall short — due to cost overruns, delays and inability to secure private investment. Instead, projects must rely on federal handouts at taxpayers' expense, often without producing any benefits.

As the federal government continues to pour funding into carbon capture technology, its programs have been subject to mismanagement, waste and fraud. For example, in an analysis of 11 carbon capture projects funded by the Department of Energy — awarded a combined \$1.1 billion — the Government Accountability Office found that three were actually completed, partially due to the lack of economic viability of coal CCS projects but also due to DOE's own mismanagement. The carbon capture tax credit, known as 45Q, also has a history of abuse. In 2020, the Treasury Department's inspector general reported that \$894 million worth of the credits were claimed without complying with reporting requirements.

The oil and gas industry supports carbon capture because it protects their profits. And throughout the Midwest, they have partnered with the ethanol industry to tap into a steady and, thanks to taxpayer-backed subsidies, profitable source of carbon emissions. Not only can companies benefit from the lucrative 45Q tax credit for every ton of carbon they produce and then capture, they can use the captured carbon to extract more oil and generate more revenue, by injecting the carbon into depleted reservoirs to stimulate more production. Despite this track record, out-of-state corporations have secured even more federal support. With the help of aggressive lobbying, they won billions in new subsidies and expanded tax breaks, then moved to push projects into South Dakota communities, prioritizing profits over people.

Despite a well-documented history of tax fraud and project failures, Congress continued to expand CCS in recent years, providing over \$12 billion for research and demonstration projects and expanding the 45Q tax credit, which is now expected to cost taxpayers over \$36 billion over the next decade.

The reality is simple: Carbon capture has become a conduit for shifting public dollars into corporate bank accounts with no real results to show for it.

South Dakotans deserve better. Real clean energy solutions start with protecting what already works — our native prairies — and not schemes that waste public resources.

Autumn Hanna is vice president of Taxpayers for Common Sense, an independent, nonpartisan government watchdog based in Washington, D.C.

Rick Bonander is a lifelong South Dakotan and member of Dakota Rural Action. He and his wife, Tammy, live near Valley Springs on land his family homesteaded in 1873.

State-federal tensions over ICE rise as Trump deploys troops against Los Angeles protests

BY: JACOB FISCHLER - JUNE 9, 2025 4:54 PM

President Donald Trump called for California Gov. Gavin Newsom to be arrested Monday and dispatched Marines to Los Angeles, shortly after Trump's mobilization this weekend of California National Guard troops to quell protests without the governor's consent.

Protests of Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents' activity in Los Angeles sparked a weekend of conflict between protesters and federal agents downtown and in nearby Paramount, California. Newsom on Monday said California is suing the administration over the violation of its state sovereignty.

Trump told reporters on the White House South Lawn that he endorsed the idea of White House border czar Tom Homan arresting Newsom. Homan had said elected officials could be arrested for impeding

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raids by ICE agents.

Newsom on Sunday challenged Homan, saying, "Come after me, arrest me, let's get it over with, tough guy."

"I'd do it if I were Tom," Trump said when asked if Homan should arrest Newsom. "I think it's great. Gavin likes the publicity.... He's done a terrible job. I like Gavin Newsom, he's a nice guy but he's grossly incompetent, everybody knows."

Newsom, a Democrat, has framed the conflict with the White House as a fundamental test of every state's ability to self-govern.

"This is a preview for things to come," he told the progressive podcast host Brian Tyler Cohen in a clip the governor's X account shared Monday morning. "This isn't about LA, per se. It's about us today. It's about you, everyone watching, tomorrow. I promise you. I mean, this guy is unhinged. Donald Trump is unhinged right now."

Marines deploying

About 700 U.S. Marines will travel to Los Angeles as part of the federal response, according to the U.S. military, with the objective of "protecting federal personnel and federal property in the greater Los Angeles area." CNN first reported the Marines' mobilization. The move could further aggravate the state-federal tension surrounding the protests.

That deployment followed Sunday's mobilization by Trump of 2,000 California National Guard members, even as Newsom and Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass vocally objected, saying the troops' presence would only inflame the situation.

It marked the first time since 1965 — when President Lyndon Johnson sent troops to Alabama to protect civil rights protesters — that a president deployed the National Guard to a state over the governor's objections.

Trump has also not ruled out invoking the 1807 Insurrection Act to take greater operational control of the situation. He and allies have referred to the protesters as "insurrectionists" several times.

He told reporters Sunday night that he was not invoking the act, which allows the president to use the military domestically, saying a decision to do so would depend "on whether or not there's an insurrection." On Monday, he said "insurrectionists" were causing problems in California.

According to CalMatters, "protesters on Sunday faced off with police officers who fired dozens of less-lethal rounds attempting to disperse people in the streets surrounding the 300 North Los Angeles Federal Building.

"At least two self-driving vehicles were set on fire near the protest, and police continued to pepper the rally with rubber bullets well into the late afternoon."

Law and order

Trump, who took hours on Jan. 6, 2021, to implore his supporters storming the U.S. Capitol to disperse, and later pardoned hundreds of people charged with crimes that day, has said repeatedly controlling the California protests is necessary to protect ICE agents and Californians from protesters.

Trump has called "law and order" a top priority and has floated extreme methods to preserve order.

Asked Sunday about what the bar should be for sending U.S. Marines to Los Angeles, he responded, "The bar is what I think it is."

On X, Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth suggested Marines could be used in the situation.

"The National Guard, and Marines if need be, stand with ICE," he posted Sunday.

State sovereignty at issue

Newsom and other Democrats have called the deployment of National Guard troops a violation of state sovereignty.

Newsom and California Attorney General Rob Bonta said they'd filed a lawsuit Monday challenging the

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move on 10th Amendment grounds. The Constitution's 10th Amendment protects states' rights.

"Donald Trump is creating fear and terror by failing to adhere to the U.S. Constitution and overstepping his authority. This is a manufactured crisis to allow him to take over a state militia, damaging the very foundation of our republic," said Newsom in a written statement announcing the suit.

"Every governor, red or blue, should reject this outrageous overreach. This is beyond incompetence — this is him intentionally causing chaos, terrorizing communities, and endangering the principles of our great democracy. It is an unmistakable step toward authoritarianism. We will not let this stand."

A copy of the lawsuit was not immediately available Monday.

Newsom won backing from his Democratic colleagues across the country, including a Sunday statement from the Democratic Governors Association, a political group that includes every blue-state governor in the country.

"President Trump's move to deploy California's National Guard is an alarming abuse of power," the governors said. "Governors are the Commanders in Chief of their National Guard and the federal government activating them in their own borders without consulting or working with a state's governor is ineffective and dangerous. Further, threatening to send the U.S. Marines into American neighborhoods undermines the mission of our service members, erodes public trust, and shows the Trump administration does not trust local law enforcement."

Republican governors saw the issue differently, backing Trump and praising his approach to law enforcement.

"Every Democrat governor just endorsed lawlessness and chaos on American streets," the RGA said on social media in response to the DGA statement.

Republicans in Congress broadcast similar messages, describing the deployment as a step toward law and order.

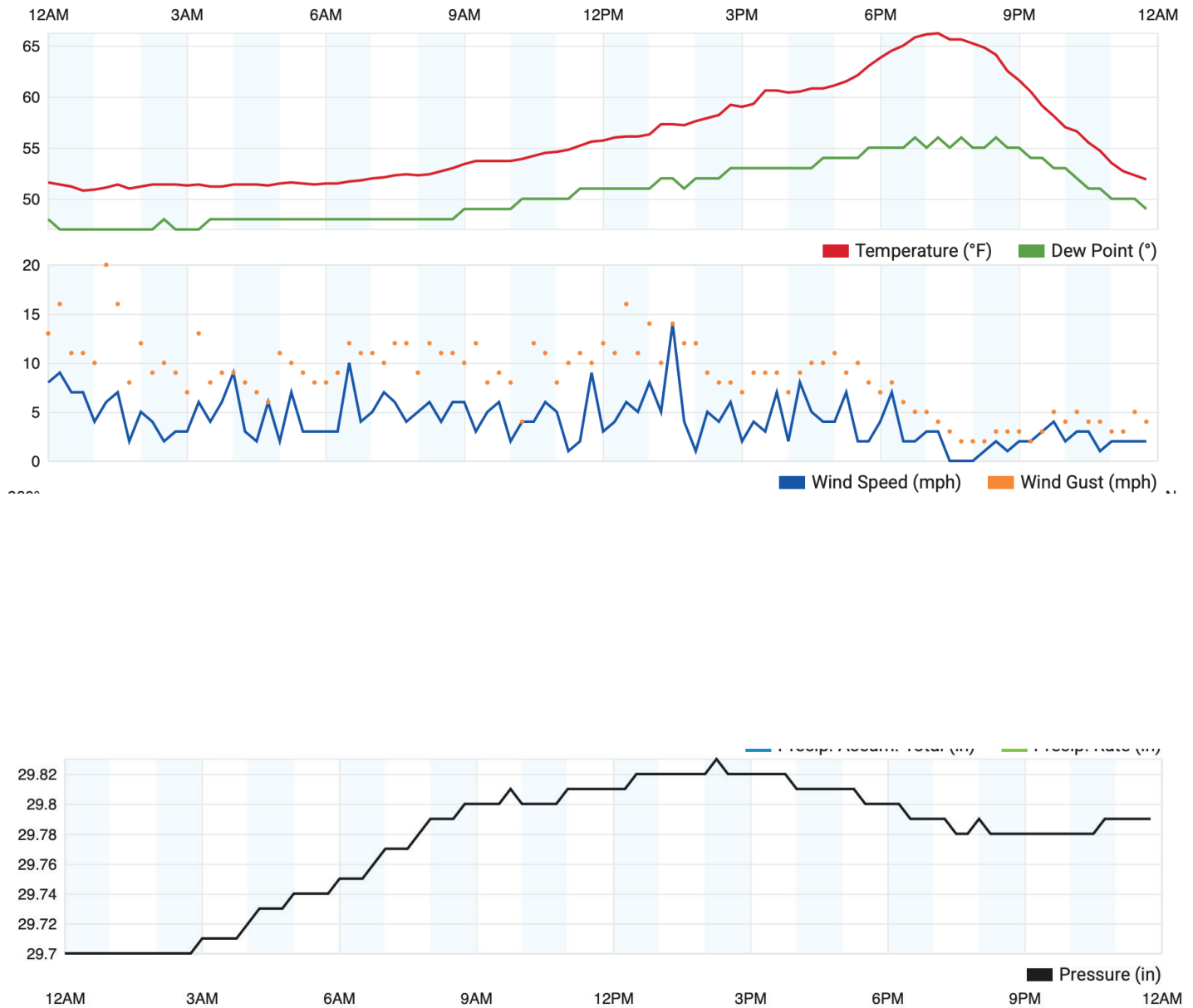
"If Gavin Newsom won't enforce the law, President Trump will," Oklahoma U.S. Sen. Markwayne Mullin wrote on X.

Jacob covers federal policy and helps direct national coverage as deputy Washington bureau chief for States Newsroom. Based in Oregon, he focuses on Western issues. His coverage areas include climate, energy development, public lands and infrastructure.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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Today



High: 87 °F

Mostly Sunny

Tonight



Low: 53 °F

Areas Smoke

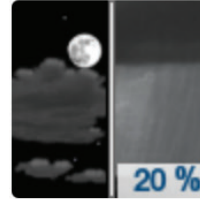
Wednesday



High: 77 °F

Patchy Smoke
then Mostly
Sunny

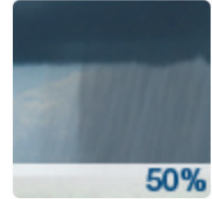
Wednesday
Night



Low: 52 °F

Partly Cloudy
then Slight
Chance
Showers

Thursday



High: 70 °F

Chance
Showers



Through The Week

June 9, 2025
3:52 PM

Heat Tuesday With Near-Seasonal Temperatures Rest of Week

Tuesday



**Pockets of
Smoke Aloft &
Near-Surface**

Highs:
mid 80s to low 90s

Wednesday



**30-40% Chance
For Storms**

Highs:
mid 70s to upper 70s

Thursday



**60-80% Chance
For Storms**

Highs:
mid 60s to mid 70s

Friday



**20-30% Chance
For Storms**

Highs:
upper 60s to mid 70s



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

National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

Heat moves into the area today, with a little bit of smoke but nothing too serious. Then it will be a pattern that features several systems that could bring moisture to the region.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 66 °F at 6:55 PM

Low Temp: 51 °F at 12:34 AM

Wind: 20 mph at 1:10 AM

Precip: : 0.01

Day length: 15 hours, 40 minutes

Today's Info

Record High: 101 in 2021

Record Low: 37 in 1964

Average High: 79

Average Low: 54

Average Precip in June.: 1.15

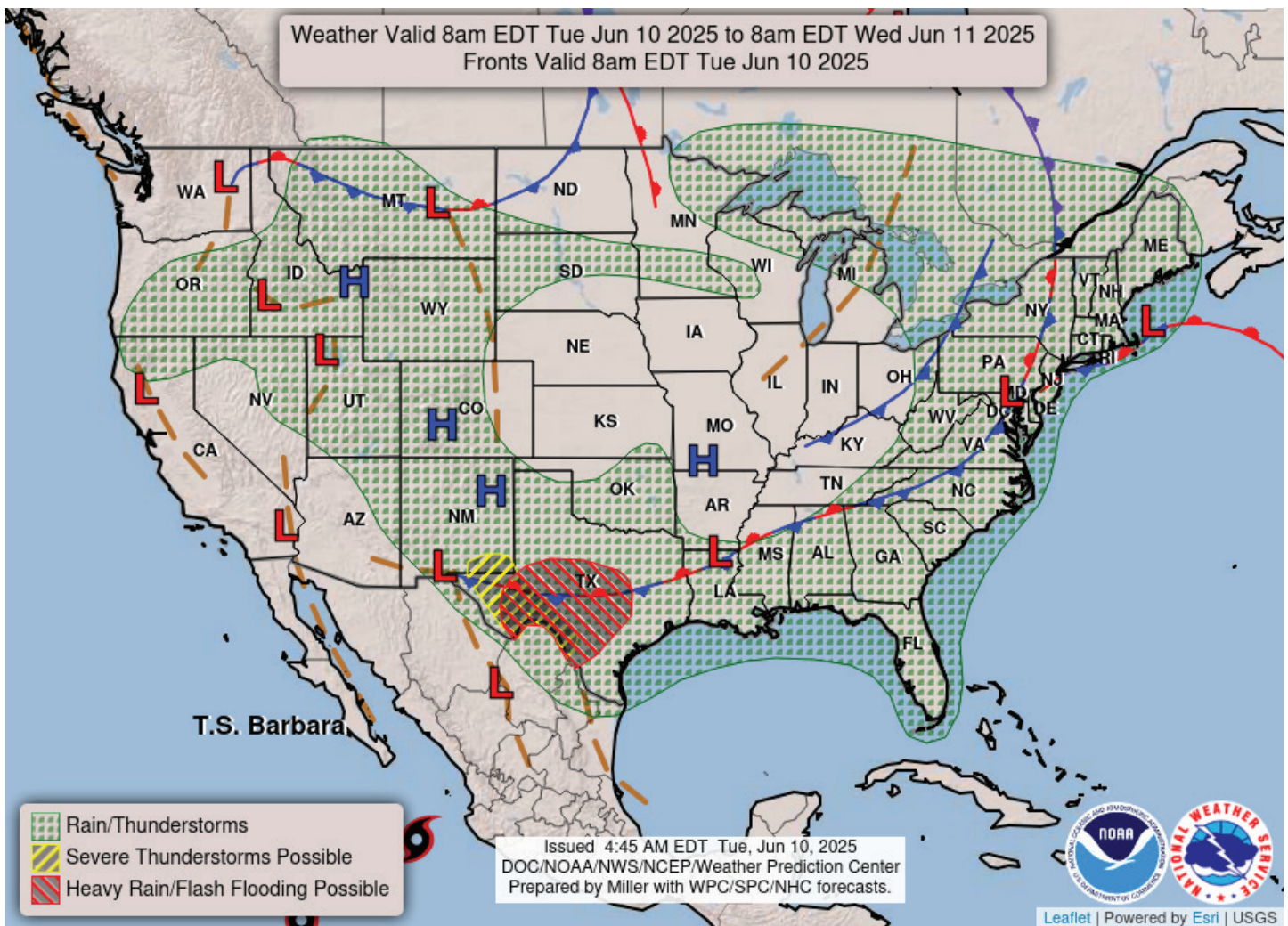
Precip to date in June: 0.45

Average Precip to date: 8.40

Precip Year to Date: 6.50

Sunset Tonight: 9:22:06 pm

Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:41:41 am



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Today in Weather History

June 10th, 1998: Torrential rains of two to three inches in a short period caused flash flooding on Crow Creek near Gann Valley. The flash flooding washed out roads and some dams.

June 10th, 2004: An F1 tornado damaged 3 barns and numerous other buildings on a farm 22 miles west of Fort Pierre. The tornado also downed power lines and broke windows in a home. No injuries were reported.

1752 - It is believed that this was the day Benjamin Franklin narrowly missed electrocution while flying a kite during a thunderstorm to determine if lightning is related to electricity. (David Ludlum)

1957 - A dust devil at North Yarmouth, ME, lifted a 600 to 1000 pound chicken shelter into the air and carried it 25 feet. It landed upright with only slight damage. It is unknown whether any eggs were scrambled. (The Weather Channel)

1958 - A woman was sucked through the window of her home in El Dorado, KS, by a powerful tornado, and was carried sixty feet away. Beside her was found a broken phonograph record entitled Stormy Weather . (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Thunderstorms produced 2 to 4 inch rains in southern Texas. Two and a half inches of rain at Juno TX caused flooding and closed a nearby highway. Flooding on the northwest side of San Antonio claimed one life as a boy was swept into a culvert. Thunderstorms in the north central U.S. produced an inch and a half of small hail at Monida Pass MT. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Three dozen cities, mostly in the eastern U.S., reported record low temperatures for the date, including Elkins, WV, with a reading of 33 degrees. Unseasonably hot weather continued in the Northern High Plains Region. The record high of 105 degeees at Williston, ND, was their seventh in eight days. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather through the day and night across much of the southern half of the Great Plains Region. Thunderstorms spawned 14 tornadoes, and there were 142 reports of large hail and damaging winds. Hail three inches in diameter caused three millions dollars damage at Carlsbad, NM. Hail four inches in diameter was reported at Estelline TX and Stinnett, TX. Thunderstorm winds gusted to 80 mph at Odessa TX. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

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There is a theme throughout the Old Testament that needs constant attention: God will not tolerate business practices that are dishonest, false, or even questionable.

It has its roots in the Law, is emphasized by the prophets, and has a place of prominence in Wisdom Literature.

In Biblical times the phrase "dishonest scales" was used and meant "scales of deceit." Also used was the phrase "a just weight" or "an accurate" or "perfect stone."

Merchants used "stones" as measures in place of coins and conducted their businesses by using balances and weighted stones. It was common knowledge that merchants had two sets of stones: one for selling and one for purchasing goods.

When purchasing products for selling, they would use the heavier stone to gain an advantage over the person who was selling them goods to be resold. When selling their product to others, they would use the lighter stone, which resulted in the customer getting much less than what was paid for. Each stone was labeled, so the merchant knew he had the advantage.

Doing business like this was an "abomination to the Lord," was unacceptable to Him, and one He would not tolerate. On the other hand, "an accurate weight" found "favor with Him."

This comes as no surprise to His faithful. God will honor and bless those whose life is consistent with His ways, His Word, and in agreement with His teachings. He will "favor" them.

Remember, the lives of those who profess to be His followers are always under His surveillance. He will honor their faithfulness to Him for the way they honor and treat others.

Prayer: Convict us, Lord, when we are less than honest in any of our ways. May we live lives that honor You.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Today's Scripture: "The Lord detests dishonest scales, but accurate weights find favor with him." Proverbs 11:1

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: 17 Hrs 39 Mins 6 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS: 06.09.25

6 14 35 44 49 5

All Star Bonus: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$2,050,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 16 Hrs 54 Mins 6 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS: 06.09.25

3 7 17 29 46 15

TOP PRIZE:

\$7,000/week

NEXT DRAW: 17 Hrs 9 Mins 6 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS: 06.07.25

14 15 17 24 29

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$24,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 17 Hrs 9 Mins 6 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS: 06.09.25

1 7 24 50 59 11

TOP PRIZE:

\$10,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 17 Hrs 38 Mins 6 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS: 06.09.25

30 33 40 43 52 25

Power Play: 4x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$65,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 17 Hrs 38 Mins 6 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
11/30/2025 Snow Queen Contest, 4 p.m.
12/06/2025 Olive Grove Holiday Party and Silent Live Auction Fundraiser

News from the **AP** Associated Press

Russian drone and missile attack, one of the biggest in the war, kills 2 and wounds 13 in Ukraine

By VASILISA STEPANENKO and SAMYA KULLAB Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Russia sent waves of drones and missiles in an attack on two Ukrainian cities early Tuesday that killed two people and wounded at least thirteen others, Ukrainian officials said.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in an online statement called the attack on Kyiv “one of the biggest” in the war that has raged for over three years, and said that Moscow’s forces had fired over 315 drones, mostly Shaheds, and seven missiles at Ukraine overnight.

“Russian missile and Shahed strikes are louder than the efforts of the United States and others around the world to force Russia into peace,” Zelenskyy wrote, urging “concrete action” from the U.S. and Europe in response to the attack.

A maternity hospital and residential buildings in the center of the southern port city of Odesa were damaged in the attack, regional head Oleh Kiper said. Two people were killed and nine injured in the city, according to a statement from the regional prosecutor’s office.

Four people were injured in the attack on the capital, Kyiv Mayor Vitali Klitschko said. Associated Press journalists heard explosions and the buzzing of drones around the city for hours.

The fresh attacks came a day after Moscow launched almost 500 drones at Ukraine in the biggest overnight drone bombardment in the three-year war. Ukrainian and Western officials have been anticipating a Russian response to Ukraine’s audacious June 1 drone attack on distant Russian air bases.

Russia has been launching a record-breaking number of drones and missiles targeting Ukraine while the two countries continue to swap prisoners of war, the only tangible outcome of recent direct peace talks held in Istanbul on June 2.

Both sides traded memoranda during the meeting setting out conditions for a potential ceasefire in the more than 3-year-old war - but the inclusion of clauses that both sides see as nonstarters make any quick deal unlikely. A ceasefire, long sought by Kyiv, remains elusive.

Plumes of smoke were visible in Kyiv as air defense forces worked to shoot down drones and missiles Tuesday morning.

Meanwhile, Ukrainian residents took shelter and slept in metro stations during the hourslong attack. Nina Nosivets, 32, and her 8-month-old son, Levko, were among them.

“I just try not to think about all this, silently curled up like a mouse, wait until it all passes, the attacks. Distract the child somehow because it’s probably the hardest thing for him to bear,” she said.

Krystyna Semak, a 37-year-old Kyiv resident, said the explosions frightened her and she ran to the metro at 2 a.m. with her rug.

Russia has been launching a record-breaking number of drones and missiles targeting Ukraine while the two countries continue to swap prisoners of war, the only tangible outcome of recent direct peace talks held in Istanbul. A ceasefire, long sought by Kyiv, remains elusive.

In Kyiv, fires broke out in at least four districts after debris from shot down drones fell on the roofs of residential buildings and warehouses, according to the Kyiv City Military Administration.

Vasyl Pesenko, 25, stood in his kitchen, damaged in the attack.

“I was lying in bed, as always hoping that these Shaheds (drones) would fly past me, and I heard that Shahed (that hit the house),” he said. “I thought that it would fly away, but it flew closer and closer and everything blew away.”

The Russian attack sparked 19 fires across Ukraine, Interior Minister Ihor Klymenko wrote on Telegram. “Russia must answer for every crime it commits. Until there is justice, there will be no security. For Ukraine. And for the world,” he said.

The death tolls from previous Russian strikes also continued to rise Tuesday. In Kharkiv, rescuers found

the body of a person trapped under the rubble of a building that was hit in a drone-and-missile attack Saturday, city mayor Ihor Terekhov wrote on Telegram. The discovery brings the number of casualties to five, with five more people potentially still trapped under the debris, Terekhov said.

Meanwhile, in the northern city of Sumy, a 17-year-old boy died in the hospital Tuesday morning after being injured in a Russian strike on June 3, acting mayor Artem Kobzar wrote on Telegram. It brings the number killed in the attack to six.

Airports close amid strikes on Russia

Elsewhere, the Russian Defense Ministry on Tuesday morning reported downing 102 Ukrainian drones over Russian regions and Crimea, the Black Sea peninsula Moscow illegally annexed from Ukraine in 2014.

The drones were downed both over regions on the border with Ukraine and deeper inside Russia, including central Moscow and Leningrad regions, according to the Defense Ministry's statement.

Because of the drone attack, flights were temporarily restricted in and out of multiple airports across Russia, including all four airports in Moscow and the Pulkovo airport in St. Petersburg, the country's second largest city.

Israel deports Greta Thunberg after Gaza-bound ship she was on was seized

By ISAAC SCHARF and AREEJ HAZBOUN Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel deported activist Greta Thunberg on Tuesday, the country's Foreign Ministry said, a day after the Gaza-bound ship she was on was seized by the Israeli military.

Thunberg left on a flight to France and was then headed to her home country of Sweden, the Foreign Ministry said in a post on X. It posted a photo of Thunberg, a climate activist who shuns air travel, seated on a plane.

Thunberg was one of 12 passengers on the Madleen, a ship carrying aid to Gaza that was meant to protest Israel's ongoing war there and shed light on the humanitarian crisis in the Palestinian territory, according to the Freedom Flotilla Coalition, the group behind the journey.

Israeli naval forces seized the boat without incident early Monday about 200 kilometers (125 miles) off of Gaza's coast, according to the coalition, which along with rights groups, said Israel's actions were a violation of international law. Israel rejects that charge because it says such ships intend to breach what it argues is a lawful naval blockade of Gaza.

The boat, accompanied by Israel's navy, arrived in the Israeli port of Ashdod Monday evening, according to the Foreign Ministry.

Other activists face deportation

Adalah, a legal rights group in Israel representing the activists, said Thunberg, two other activists and a journalist had agreed to be deported and leave Israel. The other eight activists refused deportation, were being held in detention and their case was set to be heard by Israeli authorities, Adalah said. The activists were expected to be brought before a court later Tuesday, the group added.

Sabine Haddad, a spokeswoman for Israel's Interior Ministry, said the activists who were being deported Tuesday had waived their right to appear before a judge. Those who did not will face one and will be held for 96 hours before being deported, she said.

Rima Hassan, a French member of the European Parliament who is of Palestinian descent, was also among the passengers on board the Madleen. She has previously been barred from entering Israel because of her opposition to Israeli policies toward the Palestinians. It was not clear whether she was being immediately deported or detained.

French Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot said Tuesday that one of the detained French activists signed an expulsion order and will leave Israel on Tuesday for France. The other five refused. He said all the activists received consular visits.

Questions over a breach of international law

On Monday, Adalah, the rights group, said that Israel had "no legal authority" to take over the ship, be-

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cause the group said it was in international waters and it was headed not to Israel but to the "territorial waters of the state of Palestine."

"The arrest of the unarmed activists, who operated in a civilian manner to provide humanitarian aid, amounts to a serious breach of international law," Adalah said in a statement.

Amnesty International said Israel was flouting international law with the naval raid and called on Israel to release the activists immediately and unconditionally.

Israel said its actions were consistent with international law.

Israel viewed the ship as a publicity stunt, calling it the "selfie yacht." Israeli officials said that the flotilla was bringing "meager" aid with what amounted to less than a truckload of goods.

A longstanding blockade of Gaza

Israel and Egypt have imposed varying degrees of a 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.

During the 20-month-long war in Gaza, Israel has restricted and sometimes blocked all aid into the territory, including food, fuel and medicine. Experts say that policy has pushed Gaza toward famine. Israel says Hamas siphons off the aid to bolster its rule.

Hamas-led militants killed around 1,200 people, mostly civilians, in the Oct. 7 attack that ignited the war and took 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 that 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.

BET Awards bring star power as Doechii, Jamie Foxx, Mariah Carey shine in 25th anniversary show

By JONATHAN LANDRUM Jr. AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The BET Awards delivered a night of major star power and poignant moments Monday night, marking the ceremony's 25th anniversary with a mix of comedy, emotion and calls for justice.

The night delivered a stirring mix of purpose and entertainment from Doechii's powerful speech, Jamie Foxx's emotional reflection and Kevin Hart's sharp comedic opener.

Doechii made her presence felt early during the five-hour ceremony, using her acceptance speech for best female hip-hop artist to draw attention to the immigration raids and protest crackdowns taking place just miles from the venue. Her message added urgency and depth to a ceremony meant to honor both Black excellence and social impact.

After being named best female hip-hop artist — her first-ever BET Award — Doechii acknowledged her fellow nominees, then shifted the spotlight to the issues unfolding outside the venue.

"There are ruthless attacks that are creating fear and chaos in our communities in the name of law and order," said Doechii, who won a Grammy for best rap album, only the third woman to win in that category.

"Trump is using military forces to stop a protest," she said. "I want you all to consider what kind of government it appears to be when every time we exercise our democratic right to protest, the military is deployed against us. What type of government is that?"

Doechii's words drew applause from the audience at the Peacock Theater, where the awards aired live.

"People are being swept up and torn from their families," she continued. "I feel like it's my responsibility as an artist to use this moment to speak up for all oppressed people. ... We all deserve to live in hope and not fear. I hope we stand together."

Ultimate Icon Award honorees

Foxx, Mariah Carey, Snoop Dogg and Kirk Franklin received the Ultimate Icon Award. They were selected

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due to their impact on entertainment as well as their community impact and advocacy.

Foxx was the first to receive his award. He was visibly moved during a heartfelt moment at the awards, being brought to tears while accepting his trophy after surviving a life-threatening health scare in recent years.

The Oscar and Grammy winner reflected on watching the in memoriam tribute from his seat.

"When I saw the memoriam, I was like, 'Man, that could've been me,'" said Foxx, who was hospitalized in 2023 after suffering a stroke. In an interview with The Associated Press, he recalled the severity of the moment: "The thing was almost a wrap. Every prayer counted."

Foxx was presented the award by music legend Stevie Wonder, adding even more weight to the emotional moment. As he stood on stage, his voice cracked with gratitude.

"I don't know why I went through what I went through. But I know my second chance — I won't turn it down," Foxx said, as his two daughters and sister wiped away tears from the audience. "I have so much love to give. Just give me one more crack at this. Whatever reason you put this on me, I promise I'll do right. ... You can't go through something like that and not testify."

Carey said this was her first time collecting a trophy at the BET Awards. The singer said she became emotional after Busta Rhymes introduced her.

"It took me a while, but I finally realized that life is far too short to live for anyone else's approval, which is something I always did," said Carey, a five-time Grammy winner. "I decided to own who I am."

Dr. Dre presented the award to Snoop, who walked onstage with his wife Shante Taylor. In his speech, he paid homage to Carey, Franklin and Foxx before thanking the many others who helped him throughout his life.

"Hip-hop gave me a voice. It gave me a purpose," he said. "It gave me a way out and a way into homes, hearts, cultures and countries I'd never thought I would even touch. Being an icon isn't about fame. It's about legacy. It's about what you build, what you leave behind and who you lift up along the way."

Franklin expressed gratitude for the honor, admitting he's far from the perfect Christian, husband, father or artist. He joked, "I can't even sing."

"Which makes this award so amazing, because what I do really don't make sense," he said. "If you're listening to this, that's when you know it's God."

The show's host pokes fun at honorees

Hart kicked off the awards with a flurry of jokes, poking fun at everything from celebrity names to slippery afterparties.

"There won't be any afterparties tonight. Things could get slippery," he quipped, referencing baby oil that's been frequently mentioned in the criminal case against Diddy.

Hart set the tone for a night full of humor and on a night honoring the awards show's 25th anniversary.

The comedian also joked about the pronunciation of GloRilla and Snoop's real names, drawing laughs from the crowd before turning sincere.

Hart paid tribute to Foxx and teased gospel star Franklin.

"When you get your award tonight, don't come up here front twerking," Hart said, as the crowd erupted in laughter.

The jab was a nod to Franklin's viral moment when he playfully twerked on gospel legend Jacky Clark Chisholm during a live performance.

"Don't come up here poppin'," Hart added, as cameras caught Franklin bowing his head and chuckling. "Don't try to blame it on the Lord. The Lord didn't ask for that. Put it away, Kirk."

Who won album of the year?

Kendrick Lamar took home the award for his critically acclaimed project "GNX."

Lamar made waves with his Grammy triumph, winning song and record of the year for "Not Like Us." He followed up with a groundbreaking halftime show, becoming the first solo hip-hop performer to headline the coveted slot. The rap megastar is currently on the Grand National Tour with SZA.

Who were the show's performers?

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Lil Wayne, GloRilla, Amerie, Jim Jones and Teyana Taylor were some of the performers who hit the stage. Other performers included Babyface, Ludacris, Tank, Jennifer Hudson, Teddy Riley, T-Pain, Doug E. Fresh, Craig Robinson, Playboi Carti and singer Leon Thomas.

Were there any tributes?

The BET Awards offered tributes to former popular hosts and performances, including the network's once-flagship program "106 & Park."

The weekday show launched in 2000 and lasted for more than a decade. It thrived with a video countdown, interviews and performances.

The show reunited past hosts A.J. Calloway, Free, Julissa Bermudez, Keshia Chanté, Rocsi Diaz and Terrence J. The tribute will feature performers such as Bow Wow, Amerie, B2K, Jim Jones, Mya, T.I. and Mr. 106 & Park.

Apple unveils software redesign while reeling from AI missteps, tech upheaval and Trump's trade war

By MICHAEL LIEDTKE AP Technology Writer

CUPERTINO, Calif. (AP) — After stumbling out of the starting gate in Big Tech's pivotal race to capitalize on artificial intelligence, Apple tried to regain its footing Monday during an annual developers conference that focused mostly on incremental advances and cosmetic changes in its technology.

The presummer rite, which attracted thousands of developers from nearly 60 countries to Apple's Silicon Valley headquarters, subdued compared with the feverish anticipation that surrounded the event in the last two years.

Apple highlighted plans for more AI tools designed to simplify people's lives and make its products even more intuitive. It also provided an early glimpse at the biggest redesign of its iPhone software in a decade. In doing so, Apple executives refrained from issuing bold promises of breakthroughs that punctuated recent conferences, prompting CFRA analyst Angelo Zino to deride the event as a "dud" in a research note.

More AI, but what about Siri?

In 2023, Apple unveiled a mixed-reality headset that has been little more than a niche product, and last year WWDC trumpeted its first major foray into the AI craze with an array of new features highlighted by the promise of a smarter and more versatile version of its virtual assistant, Siri — a goal that has yet to be realized.

"This work needed more time to reach our high-quality bar," Craig Federighi, Apple's top software executive, said Monday at the outset of the conference. The company didn't provide a precise timetable for when Siri's AI upgrade will be finished but indicated it won't happen until next year at the earliest.

"The silence surrounding Siri was deafening," said Forrester Research analyst Dipanjan Chatterjee said. "No amount of text corrections or cute emojis can fill the yawning void of an intuitive, interactive AI experience that we know Siri will be capable of when ready. We just don't know when that will happen. The end of the Siri runway is coming up fast, and Apple needs to lift off."

Is Apple, with its 'liquid glass,' still a trendsetter?

The showcase unfolded amid nagging questions about whether Apple has lost some of the mystique and innovative drive that has made it a tech trendsetter during its nearly 50-year history.

Instead of making a big splash as it did with the Vision Pro headset and its AI suite, Apple took a mostly low-key approach that emphasized its effort to spruce up the look of its software with a new design called "Liquid Glass" while also unveiling a new hub for its video games and new features like a "Workout Buddy" to help manage physical fitness.

Apple executives promised to make its software more compatible with the increasingly sophisticated computer chips that have been powering its products while also making it easier to toggle between the iPhone, iPad, and Mac.

"Our product experience has become even more seamless and enjoyable," Apple CEO Tim Cook told the

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crowd as the 90-minute showcase wrapped up.

IDC analyst Francisco Jeronimo said Apple seemed to be largely using Monday's conference to demonstrate the company still has a blueprint for success in AI, even if it's going to take longer to realize the vision that was presented a year ago.

"This year's event was not about disruptive innovation, but rather careful calibration, platform refinement and developer enablement — positioning itself for future moves rather than unveiling game-changing technologies," Jeronimo said.

Apple's next operating system will be iOS 26

Besides redesigning its software, Apple will switch to a method that automakers have used to telegraph their latest car models by linking them to the year after they first arrive at dealerships. That means the next version of the iPhone operating system due out this autumn will be known as iOS 26 instead of iOS 19 — as it would be under the previous naming approach that has been used since the device's 2007 debut.

The iOS 26 upgrade is expected to be released in September around the same time Apple traditionally rolls out the next iPhone models.

Playing catchup in AI

Apple opened the proceedings with a short video clip featuring Federighi speeding around a track in a Formula 1 race car. Although it was meant to promote the June 27 release of the Apple film, "F1" starring Brad Pitt, the segment could also be viewed as an unintentional analogy to the company's attempt to catch up to the rest of the pack in AI technology.

While some of the new AI tricks compatible with the latest iPhones began rolling out late last year as part of free software updates, the delays in a souped-up Siri became so glaring that the chastened company stopped promoting it in its marketing campaigns earlier this year.

While Apple has been struggling to make AI that meets its standards, the gap separating it from other tech powerhouses is widening. Google keeps packing more AI into its Pixel smartphone lineup while introducing more of the technology into its search engine to dramatically change the way it works. Samsung, Apple's biggest smartphone rival, is also leaning heavily into AI. Meanwhile, ChatGPT recently struck a deal that will bring former Apple design guru Jony Ive into the fold to work on a new device expected to compete against the iPhone.

Regulatory and trade challenges

Besides grappling with innovation challenges, Apple also faces regulatory threats that could siphon away billions of dollars in revenue that help finance its research and development. A federal judge is currently weighing whether proposed countermeasures to Google's illegal monopoly in search should include a ban on long-running deals worth \$20 billion annually to Apple while another federal judge recently banned the company from collecting commissions on in-app transactions processed outside its once-exclusive payment system.

On top of all that, Apple has been caught in the crosshairs of President Donald Trump's trade war with China, a key manufacturing hub for the Cupertino, California, company. Cook successfully persuaded Trump to exempt the iPhone from tariffs during the president's first administration, but he has had less success during Trump's second term, which seems more determined to prod Apple to make its products in the U.S.

The multidimensional gauntlet facing Apple is spooking investors, causing the company's stock price to plunge by 20% so far this year — a decline that has erased about \$750 billion in shareholder wealth. After beginning the year as the most valuable company in the world, Apple now ranks third behind longtime rival Microsoft, another AI leader, and AI chipmaker Nvidia.

Apple's shares closed down by more than 1% on Monday — an early indication the company's latest announcements didn't inspire investors.

Trump authorizes additional 2,000 National Guard members to Los Angeles, US officials say

By LOLITA C. BALDOR, TARA COPP, JASON DEAREN and TIM SULLIVAN Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Another 2,000 National Guard troops along with 700 Marines are headed to Los Angeles on orders Monday from President Donald Trump, escalating a military presence local officials and Gov. Gavin Newsom don't want and the police chief says creates logistical challenges for safely handling protests.

An initial 2,000 Guard troops ordered by Trump started arriving Sunday, which saw the most violence during three days of protests driven by anger over Trump's stepped-up enforcement of immigration laws that critics say are breaking apart migrant families.

Monday's demonstrations were far less raucous, with thousands peacefully attending a rally at City Hall and hundreds protesting outside a federal complex that includes a detention center where some immigrants are being held following workplace raids across the city.

Trump has described Los Angeles in dire terms that Mayor Karen Bass and Newsom say are nowhere close to the truth. They say he is putting public safety at risk by adding military personnel even though police say they don't need the help.

Los Angeles Police Chief Jim McDonnell said in a statement he was confident in the police department's ability to handle large-scale demonstrations and that the Marines' arrival without coordinating with the police department presented a "significant logistical and operational challenge" for them.

Newsom called the deployments reckless and "disrespectful to our troops" in a post on the social platform X.

"This isn't about public safety," Newsom said. "It's about stroking a dangerous President's ego."

The protests began Friday in downtown Los Angeles after federal immigration authorities arrested more than 40 people across the city. The smell of smoke hung in the air downtown Monday, one day after crowds blocked a major freeway and set self-driving cars on fire as police responded with tear gas, rubber bullets and flash-bang grenades.

Additional protests against immigration raids continued into the evening on Monday in several other cities including San Francisco and Santa Ana in California and Dallas and Austin in Texas.

California pushes back against presence of federal troops

California Attorney General Rob Bonta filed a lawsuit over the use of National Guard troops following the first deployment, telling reporters in his announcement Monday that Trump had "trampled" the state's sovereignty.

"We don't take lightly to the president abusing his authority and unlawfully mobilizing California National Guard troops," Bonta said. He sought a court order declaring Trump's use of the Guard unlawful and asking for a restraining order to halt the deployment.

Trump said Monday that the city would have been "completely obliterated" if he had not deployed the Guard.

U.S. officials said the Marine troops were deployed to protect federal property and personnel, including federal immigration agents. Trump's Monday order put more National Guard members on active duty, but one U.S. official warned that the order was just signed and it could take a day or two to get troops moving. The official spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss troop movements.

Despite their presence, there has been limited engagement so far between the Guard and protesters while local law enforcement implements crowd control.

Bass criticized the deployment of National Guard troops and Marines as a "deliberate attempt" by the Trump administration to "create disorder and chaos in our city."

She made a plea to the federal government: "Stop the raids."

Early protests remained peaceful

On Monday, thousands flooded the streets around City Hall for a union rally ahead of a hearing for arrested labor leader David Huerta, who was freed a few hours later on a \$50,000 bond. Huerta's arrest

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on Friday while protesting immigration raids has become a rallying cry for people angry over the administration's crackdown. He is the president of the Service Employees International Union California, which represents thousands of the state's janitors, security officers and other workers.

Early protests had a calm and even joyful atmosphere at times, with people dancing to live music and buoyed by Huerta's release.

Protesters linked hands in front of a line of police officers outside the downtown federal detention center where Huerta was being held. Religious leaders joined the protesters, working with organizers at times to de-escalate moments of tension.

There was a heavy law enforcement presence in the few square blocks including the federal detention facility, while most in the immense city of some 4 million people went about their normal business on peaceful streets.

Chanting against a line of National Guard troops with Homeland Security officers behind them surrounding the federal buildings ramped up in the afternoon as people yelled, "Free them all!" and "National Guard go away."

As the crowd thinned, police began pushing protesters away from the area, firing crowd-control munitions as people chanted, "Peaceful protest." Officers became more aggressive in their tactics in the evening, occasionally surging forward to arrest protesters that got too close. At least a dozen people remaining in the busy Little Tokyo neighborhood were surrounded by police and detained.

Other protests took shape Monday across LA County. Outside a Los Angeles clothing warehouse, relatives of detained workers demanded at a news conference in the morning that their loved ones be released.

The family of Jacob Vasquez, 35, who was detained Friday at the warehouse, where he worked, said they had yet to receive any information about him.

"Jacob is a family man and the sole breadwinner of his household," Vasquez's brother, Gabriel, told the crowd. He asked that his last name not be used, fearing being targeted by authorities.

Several dozen people were arrested in protests throughout the weekend. Authorities say one was detained Sunday for throwing a Molotov cocktail at police and another for ramming a motorcycle into a line of officers.

Guard deployment is a nearly unprecedented escalation

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.

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.

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."

Hegseth faces Congress for first time since Signal leaks and Marine deployment to Los Angeles

By LOLITA C. BALDOR and TARA COPP Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth is expected to field sharp questions from members of Congress about his tumultuous start as Pentagon chief, including his sharing of sensitive military details over a Signal chat, in three separate Capitol Hill hearings beginning Tuesday.

Lawmakers also have made it clear they are unhappy that Hegseth has not provided details on the administration's first proposed defense budget, which President Donald Trump has said would total \$1 trillion, a significant increase over the current spending level of more than \$800 billion.

It will be lawmakers' first chance to ask Hegseth about a myriad of other controversial spending by the Pentagon, including plans to spend hundreds of millions of dollars on security upgrades to turn a Qatari jet

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into Air Force One and to pour as much as \$45 million into a parade recently added to the Army's 250th birthday bash, which happens to coincide with Trump's birthday on Saturday.

Lawmakers may quiz Hegseth on the latest searing images coming out of the immigration raid protests in Los Angeles. Hegseth has deployed about 700 active-duty Marines to assist more than 4,100 National Guard troops in protecting federal buildings and personnel. But there are questions about what the troops will have to do and how much it will all cost.

Under the Posse Comitatus Act, troops are prohibited from policing U.S. citizens on American soil. Invoking the Insurrection Act, which allows troops to do that, is incredibly rare, and it's not clear if Trump plans to do it.

The commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. Eric Smith, will be on Capitol Hill testifying at a separate budget hearing at the same time as Hegseth and is likely to face similar questions.

What Hegseth has focused on so far

Hegseth has spent vast amounts of time during his first five months in office promoting the social changes he's making at the Pentagon. He's been far less visible in the administration's more critical international security crises and negotiations involving Russia, Ukraine, Israel, Gaza and Iran.

Most recently, Hegseth directed the renaming of a Navy ship that had honored Harvey Milk, a slain gay rights activist who served as a sailor during the Korean War. His spokesman, Sean Parnell, said the renaming was needed to ensure "the names attached to all DOD installations and assets are reflective of the commander-in-chief's priorities, our nation's history, and the warrior ethos."

Hegseth has posted numerous videos of his morning workouts with troops or of himself signing directives to purge diversity and equity programs and online content from the military. He has boasted of removing transgender service members from the force and firing so-called woke generals, many of whom were women.

He was on the international stage about a week ago, addressing an annual national security conference in Asia about threats from China. But a trip to NATO headquarters last week was quick and quiet, and he deliberately skipped a gathering of about 50 allies and partners where they discussed ongoing support for Ukraine.

His use of the Signal messaging app

Hegseth's hearing Tuesday before the House Appropriations Defense Subcommittee will be his first public appearance on Capitol Hill since he squeaked through his Senate confirmation with a tie-breaking vote. It was the closest vote of any Cabinet member.

While he has talked a lot about making the military more lethal, it was his use of the unclassified, unsecured Signal messaging app that quickly caught public attention.

Set up by then-national security adviser Mike Waltz, a group chat included Hegseth and other senior administration leaders and was used to share information about upcoming military strikes in Yemen.

The chat became a public embarrassment because the editor-in-chief of The Atlantic, Jeffrey Goldberg, was inadvertently added to it. Waltz took responsibility for the gaffe, but Hegseth was roundly criticized for sharing details about the military strikes in this chat and in another one that included his wife and brother.

Multiple investigations are looking into his use of Signal. The Defense Department's acting inspector general has been looking into the initial chat at the request of the Republican and Democratic leaders of the Senate Armed Services Committee. The Pentagon's watchdog also is reviewing whether any of Hegseth's aides were asked to delete any Signal messages.

Controversial Pentagon spending

While any number of those issues could come up at the House Armed Services Committee hearing Thursday, money issues are more likely to be the focus of the hearings Tuesday in the House and Wednesday before the Senate Appropriations Defense Subcommittee.

Already defense leaders have been grilled in other hearings on the plans to retrofit the Qatari jet and the costs of the military parade. Trump has long wanted a parade, and Army leaders defended it as a good way to attract new recruits.

Other questions may involve the costs of expanding the use of military forces to secure the southern border, the plans for the Golden Dome missile defense program, and how the department intends to fund modernization programs for drones and other critical weapons systems.

Sean 'Diddy' Combs' ex says he was violent and forced a sex encounter after public apology in 2024

By MICHAEL R. SISAK and LARRY NEUMEISTER Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Sean "Diddy" Combs forced his ex-girlfriend to have a "freak-off"-style sexual encounter with a male sex worker last year after chasing her around her California home, putting her in a chokehold, punching her in the face and kicking down doors, the woman testified Monday.

Testifying for a third day under the pseudonym "Jane," the woman said Combs erupted after she accused him of cheating on her. After beating her, Jane said, Combs invited a sex worker over, gave her an ecstasy pill and told her: "You're not going to ruin my night like this."

Jane, whose injuries included a black eye and welts on her forehead, said she'd planned June 18, 2024, as a romantic night with Combs, but now remembers it as a very terrible day."

It's also one of the more recent examples of Combs acting violently toward a woman while seeking to fulfill his sexual desires — happening amid the federal investigation that led to his arrest last September.

Combs has pleaded not guilty to sex trafficking and racketeering charges that could put him in prison for life.

As Jane left the witness stand Monday, she told jurors: "I just pray for his continued healing." The couple broke up after Combs' arrest, but she said he still pays her rent.

Just a few weeks after Jane alleges Combs beat her, he publicly stated that he was "committed to being a better man every day" after video leaked of him attacking his former longtime girlfriend Cassie, the R&B singer whose real name is Casandra Ventura, at a Los Angeles hotel in 2016.

The Associated Press doesn't name alleged victims of sexual abuse without their consent unless they have shared their identities publicly, as Cassie has.

Jane's testimony is expected to fill the bulk of the trial's fifth week, as prosecutors move closer to the end of their presentation before the defense gets its turn.

Jane, who faces questioning Tuesday from Combs' lawyers, said the rapper and entrepreneur followed her to a bathroom and kicked the door "literally off the hinges" after she shoved his head into a counter-top, hurled glasses and candles at him and screamed, "I hate you."

After moving to a locked closet, Jane said she tried to run away, but Combs kicked her in the thigh and knocked her to the ground. He then lifted her up by the neck and put her in a chokehold, she said, telling jurors: "I couldn't breathe."

Jane said she then ran about six blocks and hid behind a wall for what she estimated was about two hours. When she figured things had calmed down, she said, she walked back to the home — but Combs was still around, walking toward her in the street.

Jane said she retreated to a guest bedroom and then ran into the backyard, curling into a ball on the ground as she implored Combs to leave. He refused, she said, and "started punching my head, he started kicking me." Eventually, she said, "he grabs me by my arm or my hair and starts dragging me back to the house."

Combs then followed her to the shower, she said, and smacked her in the face so hard she lost her balance and fell to the floor. Jane said she was exhausted, but Combs insisted on inviting over a male sex worker and told her to put some makeup on and adjust her hair to hide her injuries.

"I don't want to, I don't want to," Jane recalled saying, to which she said Combs forcefully replied: "then is this coercion?"

Also Monday, Jane said she told Combs that she cried for three days and felt nauseated after reading Cassie's November 2023 lawsuit against him, which described the effects of hundreds of drug-fueled "freak-off" sex marathons with Combs and male sex workers.

Jane, who referred to similar encounters with Combs as “debauchery” and “hotel nights,” said she felt like she was “reading my own sexual trauma” as she read the lawsuit, which Combs settled within a day for \$20 million. She said it followed her experience with the Bad Boy Records founder “word for word, exactly my experience.”

Cassie dated Combs for more than a decade and testified that she engaged in weekly “freak-offs,” many lasting several for days. She said Combs often watched or filmed the sessions.

Jane read aloud for the jury hundreds of text messages, including some in which she complained that Combs seemed to be forcing her into sex marathons by threatening to take away her home.

She pleaded with him to recognize the damage the encounters were doing, writing: “I am not an animal.”

Gaza-bound aid boat with Greta Thunberg on board arrives in Israel after its seizure

By YESICA FISCH and TIA GOLDENBERG Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — A Gaza-bound aid boat carrying Greta Thunberg and other activists arrived at an Israeli port Monday after Israeli forces stopped and detained them — enforcing a longstanding blockade of the Palestinian territory that has been tightened during the Israel-Hamas war.

The boat, accompanied by Israel’s navy, arrived in Ashdod in the evening, according to Israel’s Foreign Ministry. It published a photo on social media of Thunberg after disembarking.

The 12 activists were undergoing medical checks to ensure they are in good health, the ministry said. They were expected to be held at a detention facility in Ramle before being deported, according to Adalah, a legal rights group representing them.

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

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

“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 about 200 kilometers (120 miles) from Gaza, and Adalah asserted that Israel had “no legal authority” to take it over.

Israel’s Foreign Ministry portrayed the voyage as a public relations stunt, saying on social media that “the ‘selfie yacht’ of the ‘celebrities’ is safely making its way to the shores of Israel.”

It 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 life vests.

Israel says boat was carrying minimal aid

Israeli officials said the flotilla carried what amounted to less than a truckload of aid.

“This wasn’t humanitarian aid. It’s Instagram activism,” Israeli government spokesperson David Mencer said. “Meanwhile, Israel has delivered over 1,200 truckloads in the last two weeks. So who’s really feeding Gaza and who’s really feeding their own ego? Greta was not bringing aid, she was bringing herself.”

After its 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. About 600 trucks of aid entered daily during the ceasefire that Israel ended in March.

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

Rights group questions Israel’s seizure

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The Madleen set sail from Sicily a week ago. Along the way, it stopped on Thursday to rescue four migrants who had jumped overboard to avoid being detained by Libya's 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 prerecorded message released after the ship was halted.

Adalah, the rights group, said in a statement that "the arrest of the unarmed activists, who operated in a civilian manner to provide humanitarian aid, amounts to a serious breach of international law."

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

She was among six French citizens on board. French President Emmanuel Macron called for consular protection and the repatriation of the French citizens.

"Most of all, France calls for a ceasefire as quickly as possible and the lifting of the humanitarian blockade. This is a scandal, unacceptable, that is playing out in Gaza. What's been happening since early March is a disgrace, a disgrace," Macron said

Next week, Macron co-hosts a conference at the U.N. on a two-state solution and recently said France should move toward recognizing a Palestinian state.

Swedish Foreign Minister Maria Malmer Stenergard said the crew and passengers were aware of the risks, Swedish news agency TT reported. Stenergard said the ministry's assessment is that no one was in danger and there was no need for consular support.

Trump says activist Greta Thunberg should take anger management classes

Asked about Thunberg at the White House, President Donald Trump said, "I think she has to go to anger management class. That's my primary recommendation for her."

Trump described the climate activist as a "young, angry person," but added, "I don't know if it's real anger."

An 18-year blockade on Gaza

Israel and Egypt have imposed varying degrees of a 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 off Gaza 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 have been released in ceasefire agreements or other deals. Hamas still holds 55 hostages, more than half 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 that women and children make up most of the dead.

The war has destroyed vast areas of Gaza and displaced around 90% of the population, leaving people 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. Israel has vowed to continue the war until all the captives are returned and Hamas is defeated, or disarmed and exiled.

Ukraine says Russia launched the biggest overnight drone bombardment of the war

By ILLIA NOVIKOV and HANNA ARHIROVA Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Russia launched almost 500 drones at Ukraine in the biggest overnight drone bombardment of the three-year war, the Ukrainian air force said Monday, as the Kremlin presses its summer offensive amid direct peace talks that have yet to deliver progress on stopping the fighting.

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Despite the difficulties in reaching a ceasefire, Russia and Ukraine swapped another batch of prisoners of war Monday.

In addition to the 479 drones, 20 missiles of various types were fired at different parts of Ukraine from Sunday to Monday, according to the air force, which said the barrage targeted mainly central and western areas.

Ukraine's air force said its air defenses intercepted and destroyed 277 drones and 19 missiles, claiming only 10 drones or missiles hit their targets. Officials said one person was injured. It was not possible to independently verify the claims.

A recent escalation in aerial attacks has coincided with a renewed Russian battlefield push along eastern and northeastern parts of the roughly 1,000-kilometer (620-mile) front line.

Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said late Sunday that in some of those areas, "the situation is very difficult." He provided no details.

Ukraine is short-handed on the front line against its bigger enemy and needs more military support from its Western partners, especially air defenses. But uncertainty about the U.S. policy on the war has fueled doubts about how much help Kyiv can count on.

Ukraine has produced some stunning counter-punches, however. Its June 1 drone attack on distant Russian air bases was unprecedented in its scope and sophistication.

Russia intensifies its attacks

The Ukrainian General Staff said special operations forces struck two Russian fighter jets stationed at the Savasleyka airfield in Russia's Nizhny Novgorod region located about 650 kilometers (about 400 miles) northeast of the Ukrainian border. The statement did not say how the planes were hit and there was no immediate comment on the claim from Russian authorities. Some Russian war bloggers said there was no damage to the warplanes.

Russian officials have said the recent intensified assaults are part of a series of retaliatory strikes for Ukraine's drone attack on air bases that were hosting nuclear-capable strategic bombers. A strike on a Ukrainian air base in Dubno, in the western Rivne region, was one such response, the Russian Defense Ministry said Monday.

Two recent rounds of direct peace talks between Russian and Ukrainian delegations in Istanbul have yielded no significant breakthroughs beyond pledges to swap prisoners as well as thousands of their dead and seriously wounded troops. Russian President Vladimir Putin has indicated he will keep fighting until his conditions are met.

Russia and Ukraine exchange more POWs

The exchange of hundreds of soldiers and civilians has been a small sign of cooperation in otherwise failed efforts to agree on a ceasefire.

More prisoners were swapped Monday in a staggered process taking place over the coming days, Zelenskyy and the Russian Defense Ministry said, although neither side said how many. Those who were swapped included wounded soldiers, as well as those under 25, Zelenskyy said. "The process is quite complicated, there are many sensitive details, negotiations continue virtually every day," he added.

In the Chernihiv region of northern Ukraine, dozens of anxious relatives gathered outside a hospital and formed a human corridor to see whether their loved ones were among those freed.

Many held up photos of sons, husbands and brothers in hopes that someone might recognize them and offer any news. One by one, the returning soldiers passed silently through the corridor, their expressions a mixture of joy and exhaustion.

Many in the crowd hadn't received official word on their loved ones for months, and some of them for years.

Tetiana Lytvyn, 38, of Chernihiv, was among those waiting. She wasn't looking for one person, but two — her father and a cousin, both of whom went missing last year.

"The war might end," she added, "but for those of us with family still missing — the war will never be over until they come home."

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Lytvyn's cousin, 21-year-old Mykola Dmytruk, disappeared while his wife was pregnant. "He has a daughter now," she said. "She's 5 months old."

The Ukrainian POWs were in poor health, said Petro Yatsenko, spokesperson for Ukraine's official body overseeing prisoners. They lacked food during their imprisonment and had no access to medical care, he said.

More than 200 Ukrainian POWs have died in prison since Russia's full-scale invasion of its neighbor, an Associated Press report published last month found.

Russia and Ukraine have disagreed over the transfer of the bodies of soldiers killed in action. The Russian Defense Ministry alleged Ukraine failed to pick up the bodies of its fallen soldiers that Russia made available for collection over the weekend.

But Zelenskyy claimed that Moscow hadn't sent to Kyiv the names of more than 1,000 Ukrainians whose bodies are in Russian-controlled territories as had been agreed. He accused Russian authorities of playing "dirty" games.

Even so, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said the swap is expected to go ahead, although he said there were no specific arrangements so far for the transfer.

Ukraine's intelligence chief, Kyrylo Budanov, said the exchange of bodies will begin this week.

Long-range drone attacks continue

Russia has repeatedly targeted civilian areas of Ukraine with Shahed drones during the war, as happened on Sunday night. The attacks have killed more than 12,000 Ukrainian civilians, according to the United Nations. Russia says it only attacks military targets.

Ukraine has developed long-range drones that continue to strike deep inside Russia.

Russia's Defense Ministry said it shot down 49 Ukrainian drones overnight over seven Russian regions.

Two drones hit a plant specializing in electronic warfare equipment in the Chuvashia region, located more than 600 kilometers (370 miles) east of Moscow, local officials reported.

President Donald Trump pushes ahead with his maximalist immigration campaign in face of LA protests

By SEUNG MIN KIM Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Donald Trump made no secret of his willingness to exert a maximalist approach to enforcing immigration laws and keeping order as he campaigned to return to the White House. The fulfillment of that pledge is now on full display in Los Angeles.

The president has put hundreds of National Guard troops on the streets to quell protests over his administration's immigration raids, a deployment that state and city officials say has only inflamed tensions. Trump called up the California National Guard over the objections of Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom — the first time in 60 years a president has done so — and is deploying active-duty troops to support the guard.

By overriding Newsom, Trump is already going beyond what he did to respond to Black Lives Matter protests in 2020, when he warned he could send troops to contain demonstrations that turned violent if governors in the states did not act to do so themselves. Trump said in September of that year that he "can't call in the National Guard unless we're requested by a governor" and that "we have to go by the laws."

But now, the past and current president is moving swiftly, with little internal restraint to test the bounds of his executive authority in order to deliver on his promise of mass deportations. What remains to be seen is whether Americans will stand by him once it's operationalized nationwide, as Trump looks to secure billions from Congress to dramatically expand the country's detention and deportation operations.

For now, Trump is betting that they will.

"If we didn't do the job, that place would be burning down," Trump told reporters Monday, speaking about California. "I feel we had no choice. ... I don't want to see what happened so many times in this country."

'A crisis of Trump's own making'

The protests began to unfold Friday as federal authorities arrested immigrants in several locations

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throughout the sprawling city, including in the fashion district of Los Angeles and at a Home Depot. The anger over the administration's actions quickly spread, with protests in Chicago and Boston as demonstrations in the southern California city also continued Monday.

But Trump and other administration officials remained unbowed, capitalizing on the images of burning cars, graffiti and Mexican flags — which, while not dominant, started to become the defining images of the unrest — to bolster their law-and-order cause.

Leaders in the country's most populous state were similarly defiant.

California officials sued the Trump administration Monday, with the state's attorney general, Rob Bonta, arguing that the deployment of troops "trampled" on the state's sovereignty and pushing for a restraining order. The initial deployment of 300 National Guard troops was expected to quickly expand to the full 4,000 that has been authorized by Trump.

The state's senior Democratic senator, Alex Padilla, said in an interview that "this is absolutely a crisis of Trump's own making."

"There are a lot of people who are passionate about speaking up for fundamental rights and respecting due process, but the deployment of National Guard only serves to escalate tensions and the situation," Padilla told The Associated Press. "It's exactly what Donald Trump wanted to do."

Padilla slammed the deployment as "counterproductive" and said the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department was not advised ahead of the federalization of the National Guard. His office has also pushed the Pentagon for a justification on the deployment, and "as far as we're told, the Department of Defense isn't sure what the mission is here," Padilla added.

Candidate Trump previewed immigration strategy during campaign

Much of this was predictable.

During his 2024 presidential campaign, Trump pledged to conduct the largest domestic deportation operation in American history to expel millions of immigrants in the country without legal status. He often praised President Dwight D. Eisenhower's military-style immigration raids, and the candidate and his advisers suggested they would have broad power to deploy troops domestically to enact Trump's far-reaching immigration and public safety goals.

Trump's speedy deployment in California of troops against those whom the president has alluded to as "insurrectionists" on social media is a sharp contrast to his decision to issue no order or formal request for National Guard troops during the insurrection at the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, despite his repeated and false assertions that he had made such an offer.

Trump is now surrounded by officials who have no interest in constraining his power. In 2020, Trump's then-Pentagon chief publicly rebuked Trump's threat to send in troops using the Insurrection Act, an 1807 law that empowers the president to use the military within the U.S. and against American citizens.

Current Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth signaled support on his personal X account for deploying troops to California, writing, "The National Guard, and Marines if need be, stand with ICE," referring to the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency.

The Defense Department said Monday it is deploying about 700 active-duty Marines to Los Angeles to support National Guard troops already on the ground to respond to the protests.

White House responds to an 'incompetent' governor

Protesters over the weekend blocked off a major freeway and burned self-driving cars as police responded with tear gas, rubber bullets and flash-bang grenades in clashes that encompassed several downtown blocks in Los Angeles and led to several dozen arrests. Much of the city saw no violence.

But the protests prompted Trump to issue the directive Saturday mobilizing the California National Guard over Newsom's objections. The president and his top immigration aides accused the governor of mismanaging the protests, with border czar Tom Homan asserting in a Fox News interview Monday that Newsom stoked anti-ICE sentiments and waited two days to declare unlawful assembly in the city.

Trump told Newsom in a phone call Friday evening to get the situation in Los Angeles under control, a White House official said. It was only when the administration felt Newsom was not restoring order in the city — and after Trump watched the situation escalate for 24 hours and White House officials saw imag-

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ery of federal law enforcement officers with lacerations and other injuries — that the president moved to deploy the Guard, according to the official, who was granted anonymity to discuss private deliberations.

“He’s an incompetent governor,” Trump said Monday. “Look at the job he’s doing in California. He’s destroying one of our great states.”

Local law enforcement officials said Los Angeles police responded as quickly as they could once the protests erupted, and Newsom repeatedly asserted that state and city authorities had the situation under control.

“Los Angeles is no stranger to demonstrations and protests and rallies and marches,” Padilla said. “Local law enforcement knows how to handle this and has a rapport with the community and community leaders to be able to allow for that.”

The aggressive moves prompted blowback from some of Trump’s erstwhile allies. Ileana Garcia, a Florida state senator who in 2016 founded the group Latinas for Trump and was hired to direct Latino outreach, called the recent escalation “unacceptable and inhumane.”

“I understand the importance of deporting criminal aliens, but what we are witnessing are arbitrary measures to hunt down people who are complying with their immigration hearings — in many cases, with credible fear of persecution claims — all driven by a Miller-like desire to satisfy a self-fabricated deportation goal,” said Garcia, referring to Stephen Miller, a White House deputy chief of staff and key architect of Trump’s immigration crackdown.

The tactics could be just a preview to what more could come from the Trump administration and the Republican-controlled Congress. GOP lawmakers are working to pass a massive tax-and-border package that includes billions to hire thousands of new officers for Border Patrol and for ICE. The goal, under the Trump-backed plan, is to remove 1 million immigrants without status annually and house 100,000 people in immigration detention centers.

Pentagon draws up rules on possible use of force by Marines deployed to LA protests

By TARA COPP and LOLITA C. BALDOR Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Pentagon was scrambling Monday to establish rules to guide U.S. Marines who could be faced with the rare and difficult prospect of using force against citizens on American soil, now that the Trump administration is deploying active duty troops to the immigration raid protests in Los Angeles.

U.S. Northern Command said it is sending 700 Marines into the Los Angeles area to protect federal property and personnel, including federal immigration agents. The 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines are coming from Twentynine Palms, California, and will augment about 4,100 National Guard members already in LA or authorized to be deployed there to respond to the protests.

The forces have been trained in deescalation, crowd control and standing rules for the use of force, Northern Command said.

But the use of the active duty forces still raises difficult questions.

The Marines are highly trained in combat and crisis response, with time in conflict zones like Syria and Afghanistan. But that is starkly different from the role they will face now: They could potentially be hit by protesters carrying gas canisters and have to quickly decide how to respond or face decisions about protecting an immigration enforcement agent from crowds.

According to a U.S. official, troops will be armed with their normal service weapons but will not be carrying tear gas. They also will have protective equipment such as helmets, shields and gas masks.

When troops are overseas, how they can respond to threats is outlined by the rules of engagement. At home, they are guided by standing rules for the use of force, which have to be set and agreed to by Northern Command, and then each Marine should receive a card explaining what they can and cannot do, another U.S. official said.

For example, warning shots would be prohibited, according to use-of-force draft documents viewed

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by The Associated Press. Marines are directed to deescalate a situation whenever possible but also are authorized to act in self-defense, the documents say.

The AP reviewed documents and interviewed nine U.S. officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss details not yet public, about the guidance being determined for the Marines.

The Pentagon also is working on a memo with clarifying language for the Marines that will lay out the steps they can take to protect federal personnel and property. Those guidelines also will include specifics on the possibility that they could temporarily detain civilians if troops are under assault or to prevent harm, the first U.S. official said.

Those measures could involve detaining civilians until they can be turned over to law enforcement.

Having the Marines deploy to protect federal buildings allows them to be used without invoking the Insurrection Act, one U.S. official said.

The Insurrection Act allows the president to direct federal troops to conduct law enforcement functions in national emergencies. But the use of that act is extremely rare. Officials said that has not yet been done in this case and that it's not clear it will be done.

President 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.

If their role expands if the violence escalates, it is not clear under what legal authority they would be able to engage, said Elizabeth Goitein, a senior director of the Liberty and National Security Program at the Brennan Center for Justice at NYU Law.

"If in fact those Marines are laying hands on civilians, doing searches, then you have pretty powerful legal concerns," Goitein said. "No statutory authority Trump has invoked so far permits this."

Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth tweeted late Saturday that he was considering deploying the Marines to respond to the unrest after getting advice earlier in the day from Gen. Dan Caine, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, according to one of the U.S. officials.

Still, the tweet, which was posted to Hegseth's personal X account and not to his official government account, caught many inside the Pentagon by surprise. As late as Monday, the military's highest offices were still considering the potential ramifications.

But the Marine Corps were asking broader questions, too: Do they send more senior, experienced personnel so as not to put newer, less experienced troops at risk of potentially making a judgment call on whether to use force against a civilian?

What's lawful under a domestic deployment — where troops may end up in a policing role — is governed by the Fourth Amendment in the U.S. Constitution, which forbids seizure of persons, including temporarily restraining them, unless it could be considered reasonable under the circumstances.

Troops under federal authorities are in general prohibited from conducting law enforcement on U.S. soil under the Posse Comitatus Act.

RFK Jr. ousts entire CDC vaccine advisory committee

By LAURA UNGAR and AMANDA SEITZ Associated Press

Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. on Monday removed every member of a scientific committee that advises the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on how to use vaccines and pledged to replace them with his own picks.

Major physicians and public health groups criticized the move to oust all 17 members of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices.

Kennedy, who was one of the nation's leading anti-vaccine activists before becoming the nation's top health official, has not said who he would appoint to the panel, but said it would convene in just two weeks in Atlanta.

Although it's typically not viewed as a partisan board, the entire current roster of committee members were Biden appointees.

"Without removing the current members, the current Trump administration would not have been able

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to appoint a majority of new members until 2028," Kennedy wrote in a Wall Street Journal opinion piece. "A clean sweep is needed to re-establish public confidence in vaccine science."

When reached by phone, the panel's now-former chair — Dr. Helen Keipp Talbot of Vanderbilt University — declined to comment. But another panel member, Noel Brewer at the University of North Carolina, said he and other committee members received an email late Monday afternoon that said their services on the committee had been terminated but gave no reason.

"I'd assumed I'd continue serving on the committee for my full term," said Brewer, who joined the panel last summer.

Brewer is a behavioral scientist whose research examines why people get vaccinated and ways to improve vaccination coverage. Whether people get vaccinated is largely influenced by what their doctors recommend, and doctors have been following ACIP guidance.

"Up until today, ACIP recommendations were the gold standard for what insurers should pay for, what providers should recommend, and what the public should look to," he said.

But Kennedy already took the unusual step of changing COVID-19 recommendations without first consulting the committee — a move criticized by doctors' groups and public health advocates.

"It's unclear what the future holds," Brewer said. "Certainly provider organizations have already started to turn away from ACIP."

Kennedy said the committee members had too many conflicts of interest. Currently, committee members are required to declare any potential such conflicts, as well as business interests, that arise during their tenure. They also must disclose any possible conflicts at the start of each public meeting.

But Dr. Tom Frieden, president and CEO of Resolve to Save Lives and former director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said Kennedy's actions were based on false conflict-of-interest claims and set "a dangerous and unprecedented action that makes our families less safe" by potentially reducing vaccine access for millions of people.

"Make no mistake: Politicizing the ACIP as Secretary Kennedy is doing will undermine public trust under the guise of improving it," he said in a statement. "We'll look back at this as a grave mistake that sacrificed decades of scientific rigor, undermined public trust, and opened the door for fringe theories rather than facts."

Dr. Georges Benjamin, executive director of the American Public Health Association, called Kennedy's mass ouster "a coup."

"It's not how democracies work. It's not good for the health of the nation," Benjamin told The Associated Press.

Benjamin said the move raises real concerns about whether future committee members will be viewed as impartial. He added that Kennedy is going against what he told lawmakers and the public, and the public health association plans to watch Kennedy "like a hawk."

"He is breaking a promise," Benjamin said. "He said he wasn't going to do this."

Dr. Bruce A. Scott, president of the American Medical Association, called the committee a trusted source of science- and data-driven advice and said Kennedy's move, coupled with declining vaccination rates across the country, will help drive an increase in vaccine-preventable diseases.

"Today's action to remove the 17 sitting members of ACIP undermines that trust and upends a transparent process that has saved countless lives," Scott said in a statement.

Republican Sen. Bill Cassidy of Louisiana, a doctor who had expressed reservations about Kennedy's nomination but voted to install him as the nation's health secretary nonetheless, said he had spoken with Kennedy moments after the announcement.

"Of course, now the fear is that the ACIP will be filled up with people who know nothing about vaccines except suspicion," Cassidy said in a social media post. "I've just spoken with Secretary Kennedy, and I'll continue to talk with him to ensure this is not the case."

The committee had been in a state of flux since Kennedy took over. Its first meeting this year had been delayed when the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services abruptly postponed its February meeting.

During Kennedy's confirmation, Cassidy had expressed concerns about preserving the committee, say-

ing he had sought assurances that Kennedy would keep the panel's current vaccine recommendations. The webpage that featured the committee's members was deleted Monday evening, shortly after Kennedy's announcement.

Some visitors report extra scrutiny at US airports as Trump's new travel ban begins

By GISELA SALOMON Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — President Donald Trump's new ban on travel to the U.S. by citizens from a dozen countries took effect Monday with relative calm, as some travelers with valid visas reported extra scrutiny at American airports before being allowed entry.

The ban targeting mainly African and Middle Eastern countries kicked in amid rising tension over the president's escalating campaign of immigration enforcement. But it arrived with no immediate signs of the chaos that unfolded at airports across the U.S. during Trump's first travel ban in 2017.

Vincenta Aguilar said she was anxious Monday as she and her husband, both Guatemalan citizens, were subjected to three different interviews by U.S. officials after arriving at Miami International Airport and showing tourist visas the couple received last week.

"They asked us where we work, how many children we have, if we have had any problems with the law, how we are going to afford the cost of this travel, how many days we will stay here," said Aguilar, who along with her husband was visiting their son for the first time since he left Guatemala 22 years ago.

She said they were released about an hour after their flight landed, greeting their waiting family members in Florida with tears of relief. Guatemala is not among the countries included in the new ban or flagged for extra travel restrictions.

Trump's new ban shouldn't revoke previously issued visas

The new proclamation that 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.

Narayana Lamy, a Haitian citizen who works for his home country's government, said he was told to wait after showing his passport and tourist visa Monday at the Miami airport while a U.S. official confirmed by phone that he was allowed into the country to visit family members.

Luis Hernandez, a Cuban citizen and green card holder who has lived in the U.S. for three years, said he had no problems returning Monday to Miami after a weekend visiting family in Cuba.

"They did not ask me anything," Hernandez said. "I only showed my residency card."

Ban appears to avoid chaos that followed Trump's first-term attempt

During Trump's first term, a hastily written executive order ordering the denial of entry to citizens of mainly Muslim countries created chaos at numerous airports and other ports of entry, prompting successful legal challenges and major revisions to the policy.

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.

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, which isn't on Trump's restricted list.

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Critics say travel ban sows division

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.

Haiti's transitional presidential council said in a statement that the ban "is likely to indiscriminately affect all Haitians" and that it hopes to persuade the U.S. to drop Haiti from the list of banned countries.

In Venezuela, some visa holders changed U.S. travel plans last week to get ahead of Trump's restrictions. For those without visas, the new restrictions may not matter much. Since Venezuela and the U.S. severed diplomatic relations in 2019, Venezuelans have had to travel to neighboring South American countries to obtain U.S. visas.

José Luis Vegas, a tech worker in the Venezuelan capital of Caracas, said his uncle gave up on renewing an expired U.S. visa because it was already difficult before the restrictions.

"Paying for hotels and tickets was very expensive, and appointments took up to a year," Vegas said.

Sly Stone, leader of funk revolutionaries Sly and the Family Stone, dies at 82

By HILLEL ITALIE AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Sly Stone, the revolutionary musician and dynamic showman whose Sly and the Family Stone transformed popular music in the 1960s and '70s and beyond with such hits as "Everyday People," "Stand!" and "Family Affair," died Monday at age 82.

Stone, born Sylvester Stewart, had been in poor health in recent years. His publicist Carleen Donovan said Stone died in Los Angeles surrounded by family after contending with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and other ailments.

Founded in 1966-67, Sly and the Family Stone was the first major group to include Black and white men and women, and well embodied a time when anything seemed possible — riots and assassinations, communes and love-ins. The singers screeched, chanted, crooned and hollered. The music was a blowout of frantic horns, rapid-fire guitar and locomotive rhythms, a melting pot of jazz, psychedelic rock, doo-wop, soul and the early grooves of funk.

Sly's time on top was brief, roughly from 1968-1971, but profound. No band better captured the gravity-defying euphoria of the Woodstock era or more bravely addressed the crash which followed. From early songs as rousing as their titles — "I Want To Take You Higher," "Stand!" — to the sober aftermath of "Family Affair" and "Runnin' Away," Sly and the Family Stone spoke for a generation whether or not it liked what they had to say.

Stone's group began as a Bay Area sextet featuring Sly on keyboards, Larry Graham on bass; Sly's brother, Freddie, on guitar; sister Rose on vocals; Cynthia Robinson and Jerry Martini horns and Greg Errico on drums. They debuted with the album "A Whole New Thing" and earned the title with their breakthrough single, "Dance to the Music." It hit the top 10 in April 1968, the week the Rev. Martin Luther King was murdered, and helped launch an era when the polish of Motown and the understatement of Stax suddenly seemed of another time.

Led by Sly Stone, with his leather jumpsuits and goggle shades, mile-wide grin and mile-high Afro, the band dazzled in 1969 at the Woodstock festival and set a new pace on the radio. "Everyday People," "I Wanna Take You Higher" and other songs were anthems of community, non-conformity and a brash and hopeful spirit, built around such catchphrases as "different strokes for different folks." The group released five top 10 singles, three of them hitting No. 1, and three million-selling albums: "Stand!", "There's a Riot Goin' On" and "Greatest Hits."

For a time, countless performers wanted to look and sound like Sly and the Family Stone. The Jackson Five's breakthrough hit, "I Want You Back," and the Temptations' "I Can't Get Next to You" were among

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the many songs from the late 1960s that mimicked Sly's vocal and instrumental arrangements. Miles Davis' landmark blend of jazz, rock and funk, "Bitches Brew," was inspired in part by Sly, while fellow jazz artist Herbie Hancock even named a song after him.

"He had a way of talking, moving from playful to earnest at will. He had a look, belts, and hats and jewelry," Questlove wrote in the foreword to Stone's memoir, "Thank You (Falettinme Be Mice Elf Agin)," named for one of his biggest hits and published through Questlove's imprint in 2023. "He was a special case, cooler than everything around him by a factor of infinity."

In 2025, Questlove released the documentary "Sly Lives! (aka The Burden of Black Genius)."

Sly's influence has endured for decades. The top funk artist of the 1970s, Parliament-Funkadelic creator George Clinton, was a Stone disciple. Prince, Rick James and the Black Eyed Peas were among the many performers from the 1980s and after shaped in part by Sly, and countless hip-hop artists have sampled his riffs, from the Beastie Boys to Dr. Dre and Snoop Dogg. A 2005 tribute record included Maroon 5, John Legend and the Roots.

"Sly did so many things so well that he turned my head all the way around," Clinton once wrote. "He could create polished R&B that sounded like it came from an act that had gigged at clubs for years, and then in the next breath he could be as psychedelic as the heaviest rock band."

A dream dies, a career burns away

By the early '70s, Stone himself was beginning a descent from which he never recovered, driven by the pressures of fame and the added burden of Black fame. His record company was anxious for more hits, while the Black Panthers were pressing him to drop the white members from his group. After moving from the Bay Area to Los Angeles in 1970, he became increasingly hooked on cocaine and erratic in his behavior. A promised album, "The Incredible and Unpredictable Sly and the Family Stone" ("The most optimistic of all," Rolling Stone reported) never appeared. He became notorious for being late to concerts or not showing up at all, often leaving "other band members waiting backstage for hours wondering whether he was going to show up or not," according to Stone biographer Joel Selvin.

Around the country, separatism and paranoia were setting in. As a turn of the calendar, and as a state of mind, the '60s were over. "The possibility of possibility was leaking out," Stone later explained in his memoir.

On "Thank You (Falettinme Be Mice Elf Agin)," Stone had warned: "Dying young is hard to take/selling out is harder." Late in 1971, he released "There's a Riot Going On," one of the grimmest, most uncompromising records ever to top the album charts. The sound was dense and murky (Sly was among the first musicians to use drum machines), the mood reflective ("Family Affair"), fearful ("Runnin' Away") and despairing: "Time, they say, is the answer — but I don't believe it," Sly sings on "Time." The fast, funky pace of the original "Thank You (Falettinme Be Mice Elf Agin)" was slowed, stretched and retitled "Thank You For Talkin' to Me, Africa."

The running time of the title track was 0:00.

"It is Muzak with its finger on the trigger," critic Greil Marcus called the album.

"Riot" highlighted an extraordinary run of blunt, hard-hitting records by Black artists, from the Stevie Wonder single "Superstition" to Marvin Gaye's "What's Going On" album, to which "Riot" was an unofficial response. But Stone seemed to back away from the nightmare he had related. He was reluctant to perform material from "Riot" in concert and softened the mood on the acclaimed 1973 album "Fresh," which did feature a cover of "Que Sera Sera," the wistful Doris Day song reworked into a rueful testament to fate's upper hand.

By the end of the decade, Sly and the Family Stone had broken up and Sly was releasing solo records with such unmet promises as "Heard You Missed Me, Well I'm Back" and "Back On the Right Track." Most of the news he made over the following decades was of drug busts, financial troubles and mishaps on stage. Sly and the Family Stone was inducted into the Rock & Roll of Fame in 1993 and honored in 2006 at the Grammy Awards, but Sly released just one album after the early '80s, "I'm Back! Family & Friends," much of it updated recordings of his old hits.

He would allege he had hundreds of unreleased songs and did collaborate on occasion with Clinton, who

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would recall how Stone “could just be sitting there doing nothing and then open his eyes and shock you with a lyric so brilliant that it was obvious no one had ever thought of it before.”

Sly Stone had three children, including a daughter with Cynthia Robinson, and was married once — briefly and very publicly. In 1974, he and actor Kathy Silva wed on stage at Madison Square Garden, an event that inspired an 11,000-word story in *The New Yorker*. Sly and Silva soon divorced.

A born musician, a born uniter

He was born Sylvester Stewart in Denton, Texas, and raised in Vallejo, California, the second of five children in a close, religious family. Sylvester became “Sly” by accident, when a teacher mistakenly spelled his name “Slyvester.”

He loved performing so much that his mother alleged he would cry if the congregation in church didn’t respond when he sang before it. He was so gifted and ambitious that by age 4 he had sung on stage at a Sam Cooke show and by age 11 had mastered several instruments and recorded a gospel song with his siblings. He was so committed to the races working together that in his teens and early 20s he was playing in local bands that included Black and white members and was becoming known around the Bay Area as a deejay equally willing to play the Beatles and rhythm and blues acts.

Through his radio connections, he produced some of the top San Francisco bands, including the Great Society, Grace Slick’s group before she joined the Jefferson Airplane. Along with an early mentor and champion, San Francisco deejay Tom “Big Daddy” Donahue, he worked on rhythm and blues hits (Bobby Freeman’s “C’m on and Swim”) and the Beau Brummels’ Beatle-esque “Laugh, Laugh.” Meanwhile, he was putting together his own group, recruiting family members and local musicians and settling on the name Sly and the Family Stone.

“A Whole New Thing” came out in 1967, soon followed by the single “Dance to the Music,” in which each member was granted a moment of introduction as the song rightly proclaimed a “brand new beat.” In December 1968, the group appeared on “The Ed Sullivan Show” and performed a medley that included “Dance to the Music” and “Everyday People.” Before the set began, Sly turned to the audience and recited a brief passage from his song “Are You Ready”:

“Don’t hate the Black,
don’t hate the white,
if you get bitten,
just hate the bite.”

Foreperson’s complaints signal a divided jury at Harvey Weinstein’s retrial

By MICHAEL R. SISAK and JENNIFER PELTZ Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The jury foreperson in Harvey Weinstein’s sex crimes retrial complained Monday that some jurors were prodding others to change their minds, talking about the former studio boss’ past and going beyond the charges as they deliberate.

“I feel like they are attacking, talking together, fight together. I don’t like it,” the foreperson said, according to a transcript of his closed-door conversation with Judge Curtis Farber and the prosecution and defense teams.

The foreperson said he believed the jury was tasked only with considering “what happened at the time, in the moment” of the crimes alleged by the prosecution, but others “are pushing people, talking about his past.”

“I feel it is not fair taking the decision about the past,” the foreperson said. He added that others pushed people “to change their minds,” when he thought they instead should seek to answer one another’s questions and “let that person make a decision.”

He didn’t specify what parts of Weinstein’s past came up. An Oscar-winning movie producer, Weinstein was one of Hollywood’s most powerful figures until a series of sexual misconduct allegations against him became public in 2017, fueling the #MeToo movement and eventually leading to criminal charges.

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After hearing from the juror, defense lawyer Arthur Aidala implored Farber to declare a mistrial, calling it a "tainted," "rogue" and "runaway" jury.

"People are considering things that were not brought into this trial as evidence," Aidala argued in court without jurors in earshot. "It's not fair. They are talking about the past. It's not about the past."

Prosecutor Matthew Colangelo argued that the juror's concerns didn't warrant a mistrial, noting that some aspects of Weinstein's past were allowed into evidence. His accusers were allowed to say they had other unwanted sexual encounters with Weinstein besides those underlying the charges, and they were permitted to mention seeing the groundswell of allegations against Weinstein in the news media in 2017.

Farber denied the mistrial request but reminded jurors to weigh only evidence presented during the trial. At the jury's request, he also went over the definition of reasonable doubt and rules about conducting deliberations — requests that suggested they remained far apart on a verdict.

Weinstein, 73, has pleaded not guilty to two counts of committing a criminal sex act and one count of rape. The jury of seven women and five men began deliberating on Thursday.

Weinstein was originally convicted in New York in 2020 of rape and sexual assault charges involving two women. The verdict was considered a landmark in the #MeToo movement.

But the conviction was subsequently overturned, leading to his retrial — with an additional accuser added last year — before a new jury and a different judge. Meanwhile, Weinstein is appealing a 2022 rape conviction in Los Angeles.

Just after the New York jurors returned to court Monday, the foreperson sent a note saying he wanted to speak to the judge "about a situation that isn't very good."

Farber decided to hear the foreperson's concerns in his robing room, outside the view of reporters, the public and Weinstein, who waived his right to sit in on the discussion. The judge later said he held the conversation in private "solely for purposes of enabling that juror to speak freely." A transcript of the conversation was available later.

Yet before the judge and lawyers even had resolved how to address the foreperson's complaint, another juror asked to speak to the court. When brought into court, she volunteered that things were "going well," and "We're making headway."

She said the "tone is very different" than on Friday, when still another juror asked to be excused because he felt other jurors were treating one member of the panel in an "unfair and unjust" way. The judge told that juror to keep deliberating and denied a defense request for a mistrial over the issue.

After the third juror relayed her impressions Monday, deliberations continued. Jurors asked at one point to re-hear a psychologist's testimony about why sexual assault victims may continue to have relationships with their attackers.

They left for the day with a note saying they were "making good progress" and wanted to start off Tuesday by getting copies of emails and other evidence pertaining to one of the three accusers in the case. And, they said, they'd like some coffee.

Alas, Farber soon told them, the state court system doesn't provide deliberating jurors with any food or beverage except their daily lunch.

"So I'll leave it to the jury to decide how to proceed on that front," he said.

Israel seized a Gaza-bound boat with Greta Thunberg on board. Can it do that?

By TIA GOLDENBERG Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israeli naval forces, far from the country's shores, intercepted and seized a Gaza-bound ship carrying international activists, including Greta Thunberg, in an early morning raid Monday. The operation sparked accusations that Israel's actions, apparently in the high seas, were a breach of international law.

The activists say their journey was meant to protest Israel's ongoing war in Gaza and the humanitarian crisis there. The ship was carrying aid destined for people in Gaza, including baby formula and food. The

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activists, including Thunberg, were detained and were headed to Israel for likely deportation.

It's not the first time Israel has halted ships carrying aid bound for the Palestinian territory. A raid in 2010 descended into violence between activists and Israeli commandos, leaving eight Turks and one Turkish-American killed. Most of the other operations against Gaza-bound boats have ended uneventfully, with ships diverted and activists detained.

Israel says the latest ship planned to violate its blockade on Gaza and says it acted in accordance with international law.

Can Israel storm a ship in the high seas? Here is a look at the legal debate.

Intercepted far off the coast of Gaza

The Freedom Flotilla Coalition, which organized the latest ship, says the *Madleen* was intercepted in international waters some 200 kilometers (124 miles) off the coast of Gaza, a claim that could not be independently verified. Israeli authorities have not disclosed the location where the ship was halted.

Robbie Sabel, an international law expert and former legal adviser to the Israeli Foreign Ministry, said the U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea stipulates that a state only has jurisdiction up to 12 nautical miles (19 kilometers) from its shores.

In general, states don't have the right to seize ships in international waters, but there are exceptions, including during armed conflict, Sabel added.

He said that even before the latest war, Israel was in an armed conflict with Hamas, allowing it to intercept ships it suspected were violating its longstanding blockade of Gaza, which Egypt also enforced. Rights groups have long criticized the blockade as unlawful collective punishment against Palestinians.

Sabel cited a U.N. report on the 2010 raid that ended in activist fatalities, which stated that "attempts to breach a lawfully imposed naval blockade place the vessel and those on board at risk." The debate over the legality of Israel's blockade remains unresolved among legal experts.

The U.N. report urged states to be cautious in the use of force against civilian vessels and called on humanitarian missions to deliver aid through regular channels. It said a country maintaining a naval blockade "must abide by their obligations with respect to the provision of humanitarian assistance."

A debate over Israel's right to act

Yuval Shany, an expert on international law at Hebrew University in Jerusalem, said that so long as Israel's blockade of Gaza is "militarily justified" — meant to keep out weapons — and the ship intended to break it, Israel can intercept the vessel after prior warning.

Whether the blockade is militarily justified is also up for debate.

Suhad Bishara, head of the legal department at Adalah, a legal rights group in Israel representing the activists, said Israel was not justified in acting against a ship in international waters that posed no military threat.

"In principle, Israel cannot extend an arm into international waters and carry out whatever action against a ship there," she said.

Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesperson Oren Marmorstein said that "everything that was done was done in accordance with international law," referring to the ship takeover.

Gaza and Israel's obligations under international law

Rights groups say the legal questions are complicated by Gaza's unique status.

The United Nations and much of the international community view Gaza as Israeli-occupied territory, along with east Jerusalem and the West Bank, all of which Israel captured in the 1967 Mideast war. The Palestinians want the three territories to form their future state.

Israel argues that it withdrew from Gaza in 2005, when it pulled out its soldiers and settlers, even though it maintained control over Gaza's coastline, airspace and most of its land border. Hamas, which does not accept Israel's existence, seized power in Gaza two years later.

Amnesty International says Israel has an obligation as the occupying power to make sure that Palestinians in Gaza have enough access to humanitarian supplies, something Amnesty says Israel was preventing by not allowing the *Madleen* through.

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Amnesty and other groups see the seizure of the Madleen as part of a campaign by Israel throughout the war to limit or entirely deny aid into Gaza.

Israel says it has allowed enough aid to enter Gaza to sustain the population and accuses Hamas of siphoning it off, while U.N. agencies and aid groups deny there has been any systematic diversion.

Israel's aid policy during the war has driven the territory toward famine, experts say, and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is accused by the International Criminal Court of using starvation as a method of warfare by restricting humanitarian aid into Gaza, charges he has rejected.

"By forcibly intercepting and blocking the Madleen, which was carrying humanitarian aid and a crew of solidarity activists, Israel has once again flouted its legal obligations towards civilians in the occupied Gaza Strip," Amnesty International's secretary general, Agnès Callamard, said in a statement.

The group called for the immediate and unconditional release of the activists, who it said were on a humanitarian mission.

NIH scientists publish declaration criticizing Trump's deep cuts in public health research

By CALVIN WOODWARD and NATHAN ELLGREN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — In his confirmation hearings to lead the National Institutes of Health, Jay Bhattacharya pledged his openness to views that might conflict with his own. "Dissent," he said, "is the very essence of science."

That commitment is being put to the test.

On Monday, scores of scientists at the agency sent their Trump-appointed leader a letter titled the Bethesda Declaration, challenging "policies that undermine the NIH mission, waste public resources, and harm the health of Americans and people across the globe."

It says: "We dissent."

In a capital where insiders often insist on anonymity to say such things publicly, 92 NIH researchers, program directors, branch chiefs and scientific review officers put their signatures on the letter — and their careers on the line. An additional 250 of their colleagues across the agency endorsed the declaration without using their names.

The letter, addressed to Bhattacharya, also was sent to Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. and members of Congress who oversee the NIH. White House spokesman Kush Desai defended the administration's approach to federal research and said President Donald Trump is focused on restoring a "Gold Standard" of science, not "ideological activism."

The letter came out a day before Bhattacharya is to testify to a Senate committee about Trump's proposed budget, opening him to questions about the broadside from declaration signers, and it stirred Democrats on a House panel to ask the Republican chair for hearings on the matter.

Confronting a 'culture of fear'

The signers went public in the face of a "culture of fear and suppression" they say Trump's administration has spread through the federal civil service. "We are compelled to speak up when our leadership prioritizes political momentum over human safety and faithful stewardship of public resources," the declaration says.

Bhattacharya responded to the declaration by saying it "has some fundamental misconceptions about the policy directions the NIH has taken in recent months," such as suggestions that NIH has ended international collaboration.

"Nevertheless, respectful dissent in science is productive," he said in a statement. "We all want the NIH to succeed."

Named for the agency's headquarters location in Maryland, the Bethesda Declaration details upheaval in the world's premier public health research institution over the course of mere months.

It addresses the termination of 2,100 research grants valued at more than \$12 billion and some of the human costs that have resulted, such as cutting off medication regimens to participants in clinical trials or leaving them with unmonitored device implants.

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In one case, an NIH-supported study of multi-drug-resistant tuberculosis in Haiti had to be stopped, ceasing antibiotic treatment mid-course for patients.

In a number of cases, trials that were mostly completed were rendered useless without the money to finish and analyze the work, the letter says. "Ending a \$5 million research study when it is 80% complete does not save \$1 million," it says, "it wastes \$4 million."

The mask comes off

Jenna Norton, who oversees health disparity research at the agency's National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, recently appeared at a forum by Sen. Angela Alsobrooks, D-Md., to talk about what's happening at the NIH.

At the event, she masked to conceal her identity. Now the mask is off. She was a lead organizer of the declaration.

"I want people to know how bad things are at NIH," Norton told The Associated Press.

The signers said they modeled their indictment after Bhattacharya's Great Barrington Declaration in 2020, when he was a professor at Stanford University Medical School.

His declaration drew together likeminded infectious disease epidemiologists and public health scientists who dissented from what they saw as excessive COVID-19 lockdown policies and felt ostracized by the larger public health community that pushed those policies, including the NIH.

"He is proud of his statement, and we are proud of ours," said Sarah Kobrin, a branch chief at the NIH's National Cancer Institute who signed the Bethesda Declaration.

Cancer research is sidelined

As chief of the Health Systems and Interventions Research Branch, Kobrin provides scientific oversight of researchers across the country who've been funded by the cancer institute or want to be. Cuts in personnel and money have shifted her work from improving cancer care research to what she sees as minimizing its destruction. "So much of it is gone — my work," she said.

The 21-year NIH veteran said she signed because she didn't want to be "a collaborator" in the political manipulation of biomedical science.

Ian Morgan, a postdoctoral fellow with the National Institute of General Medical Sciences, also signed the declaration. "We have a saying in basic science," he said. "You go and become a physician if you want to treat thousands of patients. You go and become a researcher if you want to save billions of patients."

"We are doing the research that is going to go and create the cures of the future," he added. But that won't happen, he said, if Trump's Republican administration prevails with its searing grant cuts.

The NIH employees interviewed by the AP emphasized they were speaking for themselves and not for their institutes nor the NIH.

Dissenters range across the breadth of NIH

Employees from all 27 NIH institutes and centers gave their support to the declaration. Most who signed are intimately involved with evaluating and overseeing extramural research grants.

The letter asserts "NIH trials are being halted without regard to participant safety" and the agency is shirking commitments to trial participants who "braved personal risk to give the incredible gift of biological samples, understanding that their generosity would fuel scientific discovery and improve health."

The Trump administration has gone at public health research on several fronts, both directly, as part of its broad effort to root out diversity, equity and inclusion values throughout the bureaucracy, and as part of its drive to starve some universities of federal money.

At the White House, Desai said Americans "have lost confidence in our increasingly politicized healthcare and research apparatus that has been obsessed with DEI and COVID, which the majority of Americans moved on from years ago."

A blunt ax swings

This has forced "indiscriminate grant terminations, payment freezes for ongoing research, and blanket holds on awards regardless of the quality, progress, or impact of the science," the declaration says.

Some NIH employees have previously come forward in televised protests to air grievances, and many walked out of Bhattacharya's town hall with staff. The declaration is the first cohesive effort to register

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agency-wide dismay with the NIH's direction.

The dissenters remind Bhattacharya in their letter of his oft-stated ethic that academic freedom must be a lynchpin in science.

With that in place, he said in a statement in April, "NIH scientists can be certain they are afforded the ability to engage in open, academic discourse as part of their official duties and in their personal capacities without risk of official interference, professional disadvantage or workplace retaliation."

Now it will be seen whether that's enough to protect those NIH employees challenging the Trump administration and him.

"There's a book I read to my kids, and it talks about how you can't be brave if you're not scared," said Norton, who has three young children. "I am so scared about doing this, but I am trying to be brave for my kids because it's only going to get harder to speak up.

"Maybe I'm putting my kids at risk by doing this," she added. "And I'm doing it anyway because I couldn't live with myself otherwise."

The UN Ocean Conference tries to turn promises into protection

By ANNIKA HAMMERSCHLAG Associated Press

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

"The fight for the ocean is at the heart of the yearslong battles we've been waging — for biodiversity, for climate, for our environment and for our health," said French President Emmanuel Macron, delivering the keynote address.

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.

Ratification of the High Seas Treaty tops the agenda. 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 come into force once 60 countries ratify it. As of Monday, at least 49 countries had. Advocates hope the conference 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 at 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 conference attendees are expected, including heads of state, scientists and industry leaders. The United States has confirmed it isn't sending a formal delegation, just observers.

From protections on paper to something real

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

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environmental groups say only 3% of French waters are fully protected from harmful activities like bottom trawling and industrial fishing.

In 2024, 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 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

Other marine protected areas show what real protection can achieve. Off southern France, Port-Cros National Park is one of the oldest marine reserves in the Mediterranean. 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 the conference 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 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.

Nintendo's Switch 2 soups up the graphics, but does it deliver the games?

By LOU KESTEN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — I'm cruising around Bowser's Castle with my old pal Toad. It's not exactly relaxing, what with all the lava pits and banana peels and turtle shells littering the road. Add 23 other characters — is that a cow driving? — who are trying to get to the finish line first, and it's chaos.

The hectic, high-speed insanity of any race in the new Mario Kart World would have caused the eight-year-old Switch console to wheeze a bit. And that's why we've got the Switch 2 (\$449.99), the souped-up sequel to Nintendo's popular home-and-portable hybrid.

It looks prettier, too. The 7.9-inch portable display (up from 6.2 inches) boosts the resolution to 1020p (from 720p), and while the LCD screen isn't quite as sharp as an OLED screen might have been, it's much cleaner than the original recipe Switch. It looks even better when connected to an HDTV since it now supports 4K and HDR.

Nintendo has always stood apart from the technological arms race that fans of Sony's PlayStation and Microsoft's Xbox obsess over, insisting that first-rate games don't necessarily depend on high-powered computer chips. But you could feel the strain in 2023's *The Legend of Zelda: Tears of the Kingdom*, with its at-times blurry graphics and sluggish framerate. The Switch 2, with a faster framerate of 120 fps, corrects much of the fuzziness.

That's not to say it comes close to matching the high-definition performance of the PlayStation 5 or the Xbox X/S. If you're expecting the jaw-dropping graphics of, say, Ubisoft's *Assassin's Creed Shadows* ... well, no.

There is good news for those of us who have gotten weary of the old Switch's dinky 32 gigabytes of internal storage. The Switch 2 multiplies that by eight, for 256 GB. Of course, flashier games take up more space, so if you want more room you'll have to invest in a microSD Express card — which is a bit pricier than the standard memory card used in most portable devices.

Magnets, how do they work?

The Switch 2's Joy-Con controllers have undergone some tinkering. As before, you can attach them to the sides of the screen if you're playing on the go. If you're at home, you can attach them to a doohickey that feels more like a traditional joystick. Either way, they're now more firmly connected with magnets, which provide a satisfying snap.

Both the left and right Joy-Cons now include an optical mouse, which you can use by placing the controller on its edge and rolling it around on a table. (Nintendo says you can also use it on your pants, but I prefer using a clipboard on my lap.) It remains to be seen how many Switch 2 games will call for a mouse, but 2K's port of *Sid Meier's Civilization VII* seems like a good candidate.

What about the social options?

And then there's a new button labeled "C" on the right-hand Joy-Con. That calls up GameChat, which lets you start up a conversation with other players — provided you've all taken the time to register yourselves as friends. (Eventually, you'll also need to subscribe to the Nintendo Switch Online service, but that requirement doesn't kick in until March 31, 2026.) The microphone is built into the Switch 2, though if you want to upgrade to video chat, you'll need to buy a separate Nintendo camera.

Finally, there's GameShare, which lets you play selected titles with other Switch users even if they don't own the software.

Nintendo has been emphasizing the new social features in its marketing, though it feels like it's catching up to the competition. The kids I know who play *Fortnite* or *Minecraft* on competing consoles seem to have figured out long ago how to chat with their pals. Welcome to the 2010s?

Who's got game?

As with any console launch, the driving question is: Does it have the games?

There are just a couple of Switch 2 exclusives out now: *Mario Kart World* and *Nintendo Switch 2 Welcome Tour*, a \$10 demo package that really should have been free. There are some new-to-Nintendo ports of

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excellent titles like Split Fiction and Cyberpunk 2077. You can get upgrades of classics like the last two Legend of Zelda adventures. And the Switch 2 is fully backward-compatible, so you can play everything that came out for the Switch as well as a substantial library of older titles.

There's no other machine that will let you play future installments of beloved franchises like Zelda, Super Mario Bros., Super Smash Bros. and Animal Crossing. None of those have been announced yet, but some marquee names — Donkey Kong and Kirby — will star in Switch 2 exclusives later this year.

There's plenty of competition out there, though, and not just in the TV-connected console market Switch shares with the PlayStation and the Xbox. Nintendo no longer has the portable market to itself, thanks to Valve's SteamDeck. Some models of that device cost less than the Switch 2, and it already has a huge library of PC games. Meanwhile, Microsoft announced over the weekend that it's teaming up with Asus on the ROG Xbox Ally, a handheld that will be out before Christmas.

Honestly, we'll probably have a better idea of the Switch's quality a few years down the line, after developers get a handle on what the new hardware can do. If you're dying to get back behind the wheel with Mario, Luigi and Princess Peach right now, though, you know what you need to do.

Warner Bros. Discovery to split into two companies, dividing cable and streaming services

By MICHELLE CHAPMAN AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Warner Bros. Discovery will calve off cable operations from its streaming service, creating two independent companies as the number of people "cutting the cord" brings with it a sustained upheaval in the entertainment industry.

HBO, and HBO Max, as well as Warner Bros. Television, Warner Bros. Motion Picture Group, DC Studios, will become part of the streaming and studios company, Warner Bros. said Monday.

The cable company will include CNN, TNT Sports in the U.S., and Discovery, top free-to-air channels across Europe, and digital products such as the Discovery+ streaming service and Bleacher Report.

Shares jumped 11% at the opening bell.

Warner Bros. Discovery CEO David Zaslav will become serve as CEO of the company that for right now is called Streaming & Studios. Gunnar Wiedenfels, chief financial officer of Warner Bros. Discovery, will be CEO of the cable-focused entity, for now known as Global Networks.

"By operating as two distinct and optimized companies in the future, we are empowering these iconic brands with the sharper focus and strategic flexibility they need to compete most effectively in today's evolving media landscape," Zaslav said in a statement.

Just days ago Warner Bros. Discovery shareholders in a vote that was symbolic as it's nonbinding, rejected the 2024 pay packages of some executives, including Zaslav, who will make more than \$51 million.

Warner Bros. Discovery said in December that it was implementing a restructuring plan in which Warner Bros. Discovery would become the parent company for two operating divisions, Global Linear Networks and Streaming & Studios. That was seen as a preview of the separation announced Monday.

Warner Bros. Discovery was created just three years ago when AT&T spun off WarnerMedia and it was merged with Discovery Communications in a \$43 billion deal.

The cable industry has been under assault for years from streaming services like Disney, Netflix, Amazon and Warner Bros. own HBO Max. The industry is also being pressured by internet plans offered by mobile phone companies. Comcast, which is of nearly equal size to Charter, spun off many of its cable television networks in November, seeing so many customers swap out their cable TV subscriptions for streaming platforms.

Last month Charter Communications offered to acquire Cox Communications, a \$34.5 billion merger that would combine two of the top three cable companies in the U.S.

So-called "cord cutting" has cost the industry millions of customers and left them searching for ways to successfully compete.

The Warner Bros. Discovery split is expected to be completed by the middle of next year. It still needs

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final approval from the Warner Bros. Discovery board.

At this museum, no one will shush you, and you can touch the objects

By JILL LAWLESS Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — A museum is like an iceberg. Most of it is out of sight.

Most big collections have only a fraction of their items on display, with the rest locked away in storage. But not at the new V&A East Storehouse, where London's Victoria and Albert Museum has opened up its storerooms for visitors to view — and in many cases touch — the items within.

The 16,000-square-meter (170,000-square-foot) building, bigger than 30 basketball courts, holds more than 250,000 objects, 350,000 books and 1,000 archives. Wandering its huge, three-story collections hall feels like a trip to IKEA, but with treasures at every turn.

The V&A is Britain's national museum of design, performance and applied arts, and the storehouse holds aisle after aisle of open shelves lined with everything from ancient Egyptian shoes to Roman pottery, ancient Indian sculptures, Japanese armor, Modernist furniture, a Piaggio scooter and a brightly painted garbage can from the Glastonbury Festival.

"It's 5,000 years of creativity," said Kate Parsons, the museum's director of collection care and access. It took more than a year, and 379 truckloads, to move the objects from the museum's former storage facility in west London to the new site.

Get up close to objects

In the museum's biggest innovation, anyone can book a one-on-one appointment with any object, from a Vivienne Westwood mohair sweater to a tiny Japanese netsuke figurine. Most of the items can even be handled, with exceptions for hazardous materials, such as Victorian wallpaper that contains arsenic.

The Order an Object service offers "a behind-the-scenes, very personal, close interaction" with the collection, Parsons said as she showed off one of the most requested items so far: a 1954 pink silk taffeta Balenciaga evening gown. Nearby in one of the study rooms were a Bob Mackie-designed military tunic worn by Elton John on his 1981 world tour and two silk kimonos laid out ready for a visit.

Parsons said there has been "a phenomenal response" from the public since the building opened at the end of May. Visitors have ranged from people seeking inspiration for their weddings to art students and "someone last week who was using equipment to measure the thread count of an 1850 dress." She says strangers who have come to view different objects often strike up conversations.

"It's just wonderful," Parsons said. "You never quite know. ... We have this entirely new concept and of course we hope and we believe and we do audience research and we think that people are going to come. But until they actually did, and came through the doors, we didn't know."

A new cultural district

The V&A's flagship museum in London's affluent South Kensington district, founded in the 1850s, is one of Britain's biggest tourist attractions. The Storehouse is across town in the Olympic Park, a post-industrial swath of east London that hosted the 2012 summer games.

As part of post-Olympic regeneration, the area is now home to a new cultural quarter that includes arts and fashion colleges, a dance theater and another V&A branch, due to open next year. The Storehouse has hired dozens of young people recruited from the surrounding area, which includes some of London's most deprived districts.

Designed by Diller, Scofidio and Renfro, the firm behind New York's High Line park, the building has space to show off objects too big to have been displayed very often before, including a 17th-century Mughal colonnade from India, a 1930s modernist office designed by Frank Lloyd Wright and a Pablo Picasso-designed stage curtain for a 1924 ballet, some 10 meters (more than 30 feet) high.

Also on a monumental scale are large chunks of vanished buildings, including a gilded 15th-century ceiling from the Torrijos Palace in Spain and a slab of the concrete façade of Robin Hood Gardens, a demolished London housing estate.

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Not a hushed temple of art, this is a working facility. Conversation is encouraged and forklifts beep in the background. Workers are finishing the David Bowie Center, a home for the late London-born musician's archive of costumes, musical instruments, letters, lyrics and photos that is due to open at the Storehouse in September.

Museums seek transparency

One aim of the Storehouse is to expose the museum's inner workings, through displays delving into all aspects of the conservators' job – from the eternal battle against insects to the numbering system for museum contents — and a viewing gallery to watch staff at work.

The increased openness comes as museums in the U.K. are under increasing scrutiny over the origins of their collections. They face pressure to return objects acquired in sometimes contested circumstances during the days of the British Empire

Senior curator Georgia Haseldine said the V&A is adopting a policy of transparency, "so that we can talk very openly about where things have come from, how they ended up in the V&A's collection, and also make sure that researchers, as well as local people and people visiting from all around the world, have free and equitable access to these objects.

"On average, museums have one to five percent of their collections on show," she said. "What we're doing here is saying, 'No, this whole collection belongs to all of us. This is a national collection and you should have access to it.' That is our fundamental principle."

Today in History: June 10

Opportunity rover sends last message from Mars

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Tuesday, June 10, the 161st day of 2025. There are 204 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On June 10, 2018, the rover Opportunity sent its last message from the surface of Mars. Originally expected to serve a three-month mission, Opportunity functioned for over 14 years, traveling over 28 miles (45 kilometers) across Mars and unveiling critical discoveries about the planet's geology.

Also on this date:

In 1692, the first execution resulting from the Salem witch trials in Massachusetts took place as Bridget Bishop was hanged.

In 1854, the U.S. Naval Academy held its first graduation ceremony.

In 1940, Italian dictator Benito Mussolini declared war on France and Great Britain, formally entering Italy into World War II.

In 1963, President John F. Kennedy signed into law the Equal Pay Act of 1963, aimed at eliminating wage disparities based on gender.

In 1967, six days of war in the Mideast involving Israel, Syria, Egypt, Jordan and Iraq ended as Israel and Syria accepted a United Nations-mediated ceasefire.

In 1977, James Earl Ray, the convicted assassin of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr., escaped from Brushy Mountain State Penitentiary in Tennessee with six others. He was recaptured three days later.

In 1978, racehorse Affirmed, ridden by Steve Cauthen, won the 110th Belmont Stakes to claim the 11th Triple Crown. Alydar, ridden by Jorge Velasquez, finished a close second in each of the Triple Crown races.

In 1991, 11-year-old Jaycee Dugard of Meyers, California, was abducted by Phillip and Nancy Garrido; Dugard was held by the couple for 18 years before she was found by authorities.

In 2009, James von Brunn, an 88-year-old white supremacist, opened fire in the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., killing security guard Stephen T. Johns. (Von Brunn died at a North Carolina hospital in January 2010 while awaiting trial.)

In 2020, protesters pulled down a century-old statue of Confederate President Jefferson Davis in Richmond, Virginia, the former capital of the Confederacy.

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Today's Birthdays: Political commentator Jeff Greenfield is 82. Actor Frankie Faison is 76. Football Hall of Famer Dan Fouts is 74. Former Sen. John Edwards, D-N.C., is 72. Actor Gina Gershon is 63. Actor-model Elizabeth Hurley is 60. Comedian Bill Burr is 57. Alphabet CEO Sundar Pichai is 53. R&B singer Faith Evans is 52. Actor Hugh Dancy is 50. Country musician Lee Brice is 46. Actor Leelee Sobieski is 42. Olympic figure skating gold medalist Tara Lipinski is 43. Model Kate Upton is 33. Former first daughter Sasha Obama is 24.