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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.

Saturday, June 14

FLAG DAY

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

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1440

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

Austrian School Shooting

At least 10 people were killed and 12 wounded after a former student opened fire at a high school in Graz, Austria, around 10 am local time Tuesday. The mass shooting in Austria's second-largest city is the deadliest attack in the country's postwar history and among Europe's most fatal shootings in four decades.

The suspect, a 21-year-old man, also died by suicide in a school bathroom. Authorities recovered his legally owned long gun and handgun at the scene and believe he acted alone, though his motive is unclear as of this writing. The gunman's and victims' identities have not been disclosed as preliminary investigations continue. Austrian Chancellor Christian Stocker declared a three-day national mourning period.

Austria has one of the highest civilian gun ownership rates in Europe, with about 30 firearms per 100 people. Larger countries like France and Germany each have around 20 firearms per 100 civilians. Still, mass shootings are relatively rare in the central European nation. Yesterday's attack marks Austria's third mass shooting since 2000.

Axo-Lotta Limbs

Scientists have uncovered new clues about how some animals regrow lost limbs, marking a major step forward for regenerative medicine. The study focused on axolotls—endangered Mexican salamanders known for their ability to regenerate body parts. The creatures can fully regrow a limb in as few as eight weeks, replacing skin, bone, cartilage, muscle, and stem cells.

Researchers genetically engineered axolotls to glow in the dark to track the molecular and genetic signals active during regeneration. They found that a key to the process is retinoic acid, a form of vitamin A that acts like a GPS telling cells where to go and what to rebuild. Manipulating retinoic acid levels disrupted proper limb formation—too much or too little led to malformed limbs with misplaced segments. An enzyme called CYP26b1 was found to regulate the acid, making sure cells get just the right amount to rebuild limbs properly.

The findings may eventually help scientists research ways to trigger similar regenerative responses in humans.

Hegseth on the Hill

Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth said yesterday that 4,000 National Guard troops will remain in Los Angeles for at least 60 days, a deployment he says will cost the US military at least \$134M. The comments came in testimony before the House Appropriations Defense Subcommittee as it analyzed the proposed defense budget for fiscal year 2026.

The FY 2026 defense bill allocates \$831.5B to the Pentagon, matching FY 2025's levels; an additional \$150B over four years is expected to come through congressional reconciliation plans, lifting spending to nearly \$1T. Following Hegseth's testimony, the Republican-led subcommittee advanced the budget proposal, sending it to the broader appropriations committee for review. A full House vote is expected as soon as this month.

Hegseth was also asked about diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives, Ukraine's recent drone attack, and foreign aid programs. His comments came as protests over immigration raids continued yesterday in at least a dozen cities, including New York City and Chicago. Meanwhile, Los Angeles enacted a partial curfew for its downtown.

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Sports, Entertainment, & Culture

Netflix to invest \$1B over the next four years in original content from Spain; Netflix announced a similar move for Mexico in February

HBO Max to launch next month in 12 new countries

Screen Actors Guild set to end nearly yearlong strike with video game companies as two sides reach tentative agreement over use of AI replicas

Two members of BTS complete military service, with remaining members set to finish mandatory enlistment in June, reuniting the K-pop supergroup for first time in three years

Rapper Macklemore's home robbed while his three children were inside with a nanny

Science & Technology

Meta to form "superintelligence" team focused on building the world's most advanced AI platform; term refers to artificial general intelligence that surpasses human ability

... and Meta names Scale AI CEO to lead team

IBM announces plans to build a fault-tolerant, large-scale quantum computer by 2029; located in New York, system would have 20,000 times the computing power of existing quantum technologies

Scientists map neurons in the brain affected by alcohol consumption, identify brain circuit involved in binge drinking; may lead to new therapies to treat alcohol abuse

Business & Markets

US stock markets close higher (S&P 500 +0.6%, Dow +0.3%, Nasdaq +0.6%) as traders continue to eye US-China talks

World Bank downgrades 2025 global growth forecast to 2.3%, down from 2.8% in 2024; downgrades US growth forecast to 1.4%, also down from 2.8% in 2024

Federal appeals court allows President Donald Trump's reciprocal tariffs on imports to remain in effect while it reviews a lower court ruling that blocked the tariffs on grounds that Trump overstepped his authority

Google offers buyouts to US-based employees across the company, including within unit housing Google's search, ads, and commerce divisions

Paramount to lay off 3.5% of US workforce; comes as Paramount awaits FCC approval for Skydance Media's acquisition of the company

Politics & World Affairs

Secretary of State Marco Rubio reportedly orders end to US Agency for International Development's international workforce by Sept. 30; State Department to adopt responsibility for all foreign assistance programs

US Rep. LaMonica McIver (D, NJ-10) indicted on federal charges over clash with law enforcement at immigration center in New Jersey

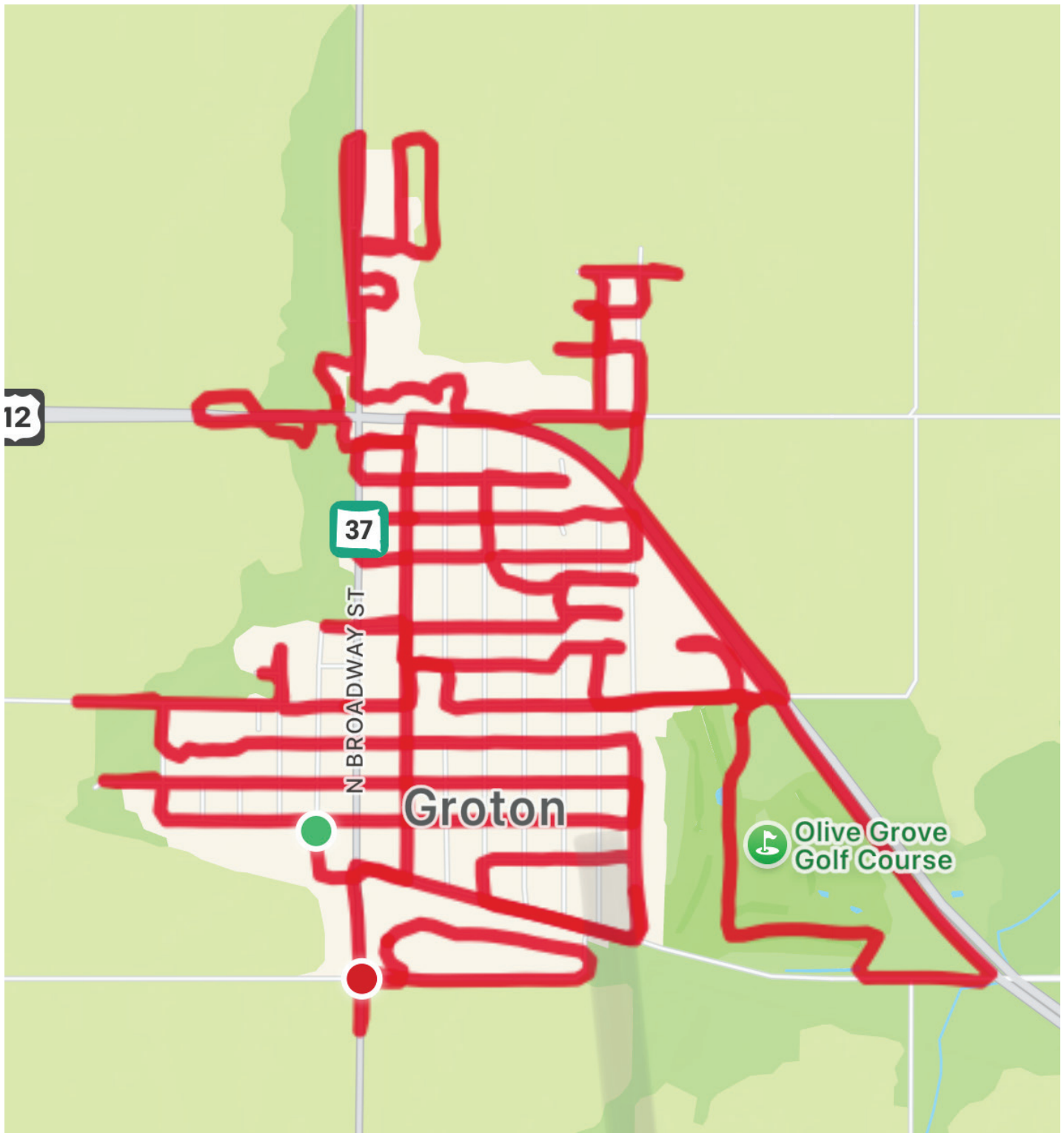
Russia launches over 300 drones and missiles at Ukraine, killing at least eight people per Ukrainian authorities

European Union imposes new sanctions on Russia after ceasefire talks collapse

Former Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro takes the stand before country's Supreme Court over alleged plot to overturn 2022 election results to stay in power; Bolsonaro denies all allegations against him and his aides

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Adult mosquito control was conducted Tuesday night in Groton. 6.2 gallons of perm-x-UL was used. The wind was NE at 5-10 mph and the air temperature was 75-80 degrees.

The Life of Trea Schuring



Theresa Josephine "Trea" Schuring was born to Al and Marion Lynch at their home in Lily, South Dakota on March 2, 1929. She was the seventh of ten children. Her mother would call her "Treasie," but her youngest brother called her "Trea," the name she would be known by for the rest of her life. At the age of five, Trea was diagnosed with rheumatic fever and was in the Peabody Hospital in Webster, South Dakota for the next year. The time in the hospital did not slow her progress in school, however, as she would go on to skip a grade and graduate from high school at the age of 16.

After high school, she moved to Minneapolis, Minnesota, where two older sisters were living, and went to work as a secretary for the Montgomery Wards Company. She met her beloved husband, Bob, while roller skating with friends in Webster. They married on June 20, 1949, in Lily, and she moved to the farm south of Andover where Bob grew up. There they raised eight children and lived until 1992 when they moved to a new home in Andover.

Trea worked for Northwestern Bell Telephone Company in Webster as a telephone operator before marrying Bob and continued working the 11 p.m. –

7 a.m. shift at the Telephone Office until child number 5 arrived in 1957. She was the chief record keeper and bookkeeper for the family farm until 2021. These recordkeeping skills were also utilized by the Groton Ladies Bowling League when she served as its secretary for many years. In addition to being a partner to Bob in their farm operation, and caring for her family, Trea was a founding leader of the Jills and Jeans 4-H Club in Andover and continued in that role for more than 20 years. Once her four sons began playing baseball and basketball, she enjoyed keeping records for each of their many games through the years. From the time they married until they were in their late 80s, Bob and Trea attended their children's and grandchildren's sporting events and activities. They never missed a State B (later A) Boys Basketball tournament with friends and family from 1969 to 2012. Their knowledge of teams, records, and player abilities through the years amazed us all.

Trea was a wonderful seamstress, sewing many matching dresses for her daughters each Christmas and Easter while they were young. She and Bob loved to play cards and taught all of their children and grandchildren how to play whist. Hours would be spent each Christmas with tables of cards being played by all ages. Trea also golfed, bowled, and played bridge for many years in Bristol, Groton, and Webster. She was a member of All Saints Catholic Church and Altar Society in Andover until its closure, then St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church in Groton.

Mourning her passing are her sons Randy (Brenda), Scott (Lois), and Brian (Andrea); daughters Lana (Royce) Huber, Deb Lesnar, Sandy (Larry) Jebens, Joy (Tom) Poloncic, and daughter-in-law Sara (Barry) Schuring along with her grandchildren Laura and Justin Huber, Travis (Joleen) Schuring, Sommer Vander-Water, Tyler Schuring, Victor (Megan) Schuring, Racine (Anthony) Guarini, Alexa, Emma, and Madison Schuring, Casey (Kelsey) Lesnar, Lindsey (Tracy) Lambert, Mike (Amber) Lesnar, Nick (Codi) Lesnar, Brady (Michelle) Lesnar, Jacqueline Nemmers (Mitch), Jacob Schuring, Abbie (Joshua) Cribbs, Joseph (Debra) Schuring, Thomas Schuring, Trevor (Apyrl) Jebens, Trent (Natalia) Jebens, Trey (Briana) Jebens, Matt (Morgan) Poloncic, Theresa (Joshua) Herrera, Cory (Ashlee) Schuring, Kayla (Kyle) Grimslid, Morgan (Matt) McCranie, Alexa (T.J.) Sperry, Sean Schuring, and Drake (Megan) and Dylan (Hannah) Halbkat; her 60 great-grandchildren; one brother, Jerome Lynch; and numerous Lynch and Schuring family nieces and nephews.

Trea was preceded in death by her husband of 70 years, Bob, son Barry, great-granddaughter Helen, parents, and eight of her siblings. Visitation will be at Paetznick-Garness Funeral Home in Groton, South Dakota from 5 – 7:00 p.m. on Friday, June 13, 2025, followed by wake services at 7:00 p.m. Mass of the Christian Burial will be celebrated on Saturday, June 14, 2025 at 10:00 A.M. at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church with burial at All Saints Catholic Cemetery in Andover. Memorials and cards on Trea's behalf may be sent to 106 S. 2nd Street, Andover, South Dakota 57422. Paetznick-Garness Funeral Home, Groton, South Dakota, is in charge of arrangements.

Emerald Ash Borer Confirmed in Milbank

PIERRE S.D. – The South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources (DANR) has confirmed Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) in Milbank, South Dakota.

DANR has expanded the existing State Plant Pest Quarantine to include Grant County. The updated quarantine area includes all of Brookings, Minnehaha, Lincoln, Turner, Union and now Grant County. The pest has also been identified in 13 communities including Baltic, Brookings, Brandon, Canton, Crooks, Dakota Dunes, Hartford, Humboldt, Lennox, Sioux Falls, Tea, Worthing and now Milbank.

The quarantine is designed to slow the spread of Emerald Ash Borer.

The quarantine, which is in place year-round, prohibits the movement of firewood and ash materials out of the quarantined counties. Movement of firewood from any hardwood species, whether intended for commercial or private use, is also restricted. If an ash tree is infested before it is cut, the wood may still contain EAB larvae. An individual split piece of ash firewood can have five or more adults emerge yet this summer. The Department has also established an external embargo on untreated firewood entering South Dakota from all states east of the eastern border of South Dakota and all counties where EAB is known to exist in other states.

"We all need to work together to slow the spread of EAB," said DANR Secretary Hunter Roberts. "With the summer camping season here, firewood is the most common way EAB is moved from one location to another. Please follow the quarantine and embargo restrictions and buy it where you burn it!"

Treatments made early in the season can kill the young larvae before they are able to injure the tree. Property owners within a 15-mile radius of Milbank wanting to save their ash trees should contact a commercial applicator as soon as possible.

EAB is a boring beetle that feeds on all species of North American ash. It was first detected in the United States in 2002, and in South Dakota in 2018.

For more information about EAB or to report a suspected sighting please visit <https://emeraldashborersouthdakota.sd.gov/>.

Groton Transit Fundraiser



When: Thursday, June 19, 2025

Time: 5:00 pm-7:00 pm

Where: Groton Community Center

*** Groton Transit Fundraiser will be held at the Groton Community Center-
109 N 3rd Street- One block East of Groton Transit***

Let us do the Cooking for you!! Burgers, Brats, Beans, Watermelon, Chips,
and the Famous Mini Donuts!!

Food*Fun*Door Prizes

FREE WILL DONATION

Please join us & Help support Groton Transit!

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Carter Simon Shows Power In Groton Legion Post 39 Loss To Volga

By GameChanger Media

Carter Simon hit two home runs and drove in two, but Groton Legion Post 39 lost to Volga 15-8 on Sunday at Volga SD. Simon homered in the second and fifth innings.

Groton Legion Post 39 collected 11 hits and Volga had 13 in the high-scoring affair.

Volga opened the scoring in the bottom of the first thanks to two singles. Volga first got on the board when Isaac Skovlund singled, scoring one run.

Groton Legion Post 39 scored one run in the top of the second on a solo home run to center field by Simon.

Volga extended their early lead with two runs in the bottom of the third thanks to RBI errors by Skovlund and Levi Loban.

Volga scored five runs on four hits in the bottom of the fourth inning. Braden Danzeisen doubled, scoring two runs, Skovlund singled, scoring one run, Broden Teske was struck by a pitch, driving in a run, and a wild pitch scored one run.

Groton Legion Post 39 scored one run in the top of the fifth on a solo home run to left field by Simon.

Volga scored six runs on two hits in the bottom of the sixth inning. Tate Steffenson laid down a sacrifice bunt, scoring one run, Kam Hauck was struck by a pitch, driving in a run, Danzeisen drew a walk, scoring one run, Skovlund singled, scoring one run, and Bret Milton grounded out, scoring one run.

Andrew Gunderson earned the win for Volga. The left-handed pitcher allowed eight hits and four runs over five innings, striking out three and walking two. Brevin Fliehs took the loss for Groton Legion Post 39. The pitcher went three and one-third innings, allowing nine runs (six earned) on 10 hits, striking out two and walking three.

Groton Legion Post 39 collected 11 hits in the game. Lincoln Krause led Groton Legion Post 39 with three runs batted in from the number seven spot in the lineup. The right fielder went 2-for-4 on the day. Krause, Teylor Diegel, Korbin Kucker, and Simon each collected two hits for Groton Legion Post 39. Kucker paced Groton Legion Post 39 with two walks. Overall, the team had patience at the plate, amassing eight walks for the game.

Volga accumulated 13 hits in the game. Skovlund drove the middle of the lineup, leading Volga with four runs batted in. The cleanup hitter went 3-for-4 on the day. Hauck, Danzeisen, and Milton each collected multiple hits for Volga. Hauck stole three bases. Volga ran wild on the base paths, amassing four stolen bases for the game. Volga turned one double play in the game.

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SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

Low-carbon jet fuel executive says company could 'copy and paste' SD plan to ND site

Gevo president adds 'we don't care' if carbon is sequestered or used for oil recovery

BY: JEFF BEACH - JUNE 10, 2025 6:03 PM

WEST FARGO, N.D. — The demand for jet fuel is going up. The demand for gasoline is going down. That's the simple explanation from Chris Ryan, the president and chief operating officer of Gevo, on why the company plans to add a sustainable aviation fuel plant to the corn-based ethanol plant it purchased at Richardton in southwest North Dakota.

Ryan said the low-carbon jet fuel won't come cheap — throwing out a ballpark figure of \$500 million for a potential project still years down the road.

Ryan spoke Tuesday in Fargo at the Midwest Agriculture Summit hosted by The Chamber of Fargo, Moorhead and West Fargo.

Colorado-based Gevo bought the Red Trail Energy ethanol plant at Richardton last year.

The Red Trail plant was the first ethanol producer in the country to implement carbon sequestration — capturing carbon dioxide from the plant's corn fermentation tanks and pumping it into permanent underground storage.

The CO2 sequestration is key in lowering the carbon intensity score of the plant and for sustainable jet fuel production. Low-carbon fuels can fetch a higher price than traditional liquid fuels.

"We could make gasoline, but it's a diminishing market," Ryan said. "So jet fuel is a kind of sexy thing to talk about these days."

In an interview with the North Dakota Monitor, Ryan said there is plenty of room to add a jet fuel plant at the 500-acre Richardton site. He said the plant would add about 50 jobs, about the same number that the ethanol plant employs.

Expanding the ethanol plant also is a possibility, Ryan said.

The company also is considering adding wind turbines at Richardton to provide power and lower the carbon score even further, he said. Even though renewable energy tax credits are a possible target for budget cuts under President Donald Trump, he said wind energy at the site still makes good economic sense.

South Dakota plans discussed

Gevo also has plans for a sustainable aviation fuel plant at Lake Preston in southeast South Dakota.

The future of that plant depends in large part on the five-state Summit Carbon Solutions pipeline project that would take carbon emissions from ethanol plants to western North Dakota for underground storage.

Ryan said when the South Dakota project was conceived, it did not include carbon capture. But as construction costs soared with the COVID-19 pandemic, he said it became necessary to sign on to the Summit pipeline project. He said the federal tax credits for carbon sequestration would help offset the higher building costs.

The project has stalled as Summit has run into permitting rejections and a new state law banning the use of eminent domain by carbon pipeline projects.

"We really need the pipeline," Ryan said.

He added that Gevo bought more land than it needed for the project. That is allowing for other projects at the site, benefiting Gevo and the Lake Preston area, he said.

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The Summit delays spurred the purchase of Red Trail, which had the advantage of sitting almost on top of an area suitable for underground carbon storage.

"We had to take our destiny into our own hands," Ryan said, and not be dependent on the Summit pipeline. He said Gevo can "copy and paste" the engineering work done for the South Dakota site to the Rich-ardton site.

Potential use of carbon for oil recovery acknowledged

While the carbon dioxide from the Richardton plant is being pumped underground, Ryan said Gevo recognizes that it has a potential for use in North Dakota's oilfields, making oil wells more productive through what is called enhanced oil recovery.

North Dakota leaders have been trumpeting the economic benefits of enhanced oil recovery.

Ryan said if the oil industry is willing to pay for carbon dioxide to use in enhanced oil recovery, Gevo would sell the CO2 rather than pump it underground.

"We don't care where the revenue comes from, right? Today, we sequester it for a tax credit, and we can sell carbon credits," Ryan said. "Or you can sell it to somebody for enhanced oil recovery."

He said he sees it as another advantage of doing business in North Dakota.

"People in North Dakota get that, they understand the value of that," Ryan said.

North Dakota Monitor Deputy Editor Jeff Beach is based in the Fargo area. His interests include agriculture, renewable energy and rural issues.

Bill backed by SD congressman to regulate digital assets makes it out of U.S. House committee

BY: SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT STAFF - JUNE 10, 2025 4:36 PM

A bipartisan bill cosponsored by U.S. Rep. Dusty Johnson, R-South Dakota, to establish clearer regulations for digital assets passed out of a House committee Monday.

The legislation, known as the Digital Asset Market Clarity Act, aims to create a framework for the regulation of digital assets, such as cryptocurrencies, and the firms that deal in them.

The bill was introduced to address what Johnson calls uncertainty in the oversight of blockchain-based technologies. A blockchain is a distributed digital ledger of cryptocurrency transactions that is maintained across a worldwide network.

"Over the next few years, blockchain technology will transform most every industry," Johnson said in a news release. "Unfortunately, regulatory uncertainty has pushed innovation and investment overseas. Our bill creates clear rules of the road, ensuring America will power the future of blockchain and digital assets."

The bill lays out new disclosure, registration and operational requirements for companies dealing in digital assets. It also seeks to delineate regulatory responsibilities among agencies, providing a clearer legal environment for innovation and enforcement.

The legislation now moves to the full House for consideration.

The bill is sponsored by Rep. French Hill, R-Arkansas. Johnson is one of eight original co-sponsors, including three Democrats.

Inmate training program shelved while prison construction talks continue

Classes were meant to occupy space of shuttered metal fabrication business; other programs still active

BY: JOHN HULT - JUNE 10, 2025 10:01 AM

The South Dakota Department of Corrections will not offer a promised diesel mechanic training program in a space once occupied by a privately run metal shop that paid inmates market wages.

Last August, the DOC and Southeast Technical College got approval from the state Board of Technical Education to expand the college's diesel program into the maximum security Jameson Annex in Sioux Falls.

Training inmates to fix diesel engines would "create opportunities within our community to meet the workforce needs of trades careers," according to the school and the department's application to the board.

The application anticipated an August 2025 opening.

Corrections spokesman Michael Winder told South Dakota Searchlight last week, however, that the school was unable to secure funding to purchase the equipment needed to operate the program inside the Sioux Falls prison.

Jennifer Lambley of Southeast Tech said ongoing debate about the potential construction of a new prison was partially to blame for the decision to freeze talks on the diesel program. The school had been in discussions with the nonprofit Vera Institute of Justice on potential funding.

"We believe it's important to pause and more deeply consider how this initiative fits into South Dakota's broader plans for addressing long-term prison infrastructure and programming needs," Lambley said.

Winder and Lambley both said that the school and DOC still aim to expand programming for inmates eventually.

"We remain fully committed to providing high-quality, workforce-relevant education to individuals in custody," Lambley said.

Job training factors into prison construction talks

The diesel engine program was set to fill the now-empty space occupied for more than 20 years by Metal Craft Industries, a company that says it was pushed out of the prison system by administrators. Corrections Secretary Kellie Wasko said the company left voluntarily to avoid adhering to newer, stricter security protocols.

The owner of another private business that had employed female inmates in Pierre, Badlands Quilting, also accused the state of pushing it out the door last year.

The shuttered metal shop's status came up briefly during a meeting of the Project Prison Reset group last week in Pierre. Consultants with the firm Arrington Watkins said the shop was empty when they toured the Jameson Annex of the South Dakota State Penitentiary in Sioux Falls a few months ago.

The work group is focused on building options that might relieve inmate overcrowding, but its members have also focused on repeat offense rates, reentry programming, job training and post-incarceration placement.

Many task force members and members of the public who've appeared at the meetings have argued that the state needs to do more to improve the chances for inmates who return to their communities after serving a sentence if it ever hopes to address long-term growth in prison populations.

Last week, the group voted to cap spending on a new prison at \$600 million. That's less than the consultants suggested would be necessary to build one big enough to meet current needs and address future growth projections.

Sen. Jamie Smith, D-Sioux Falls, lamented that the cap could hamstring efforts to design a facility capable of training current inmates to become rehabilitated, contributing members of their communities.

Smith didn't mention Metal Craft Industries last week, but the controversy surrounding its departure sparked a host of questions from lawmakers last year on the role of work programs within the DOC.

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Inmates at Mike Durfee State Prison work for the Governors Home program, which builds houses, duplexes and day cares for people under certain incomes and communities that meet certain guidelines.

The state also operates a handful of shops under the banner of Pheasantland Industries, including an upholstery shop that outfits prison cells and a sign shop that prints license plates and road signs.

Metal Craft and Badlands Quilting paid inmates market wages. Some inmates paid off their restitution and child support with their Metal Craft paychecks, and employees of both private businesses paid room and board to the state. Most prison jobs, by contrast, pay about 50 cents an hour.

Some empty classrooms, but partnerships remain

During previous Project Prison Reset meetings, inmates and their family members said extended lockdowns across the system have served as an impediment to job training programs, kept shops from running full-time and otherwise hindered inmates' opportunities to better themselves.

"There's classrooms in here that sit empty half the time," inmate Samuel Lint told the group through a cell phone in early April.

Programs that train inmates outside prison walls have had success, though.

Twelve minimum custody inmates graduated with welding certificates from Southeast Tech last fall, adding to the 57 who'd completed the training since 2022. The welding certificate program is funded with help from the state Department of Labor.

Past cohorts have had an average graduation rate of more than 80% and a similar job placement rate, an announcement on the fall graduation said. The money from the Labor Department covered the cost of books and equipment for inmate students.

Dawn Dovre, spokesperson for the department, told South Dakota Searchlight in an email that part of the funding is from the U.S. Department of Labor.

"As always, if there are changes to these programs or budgets nationally, adjustments to service delivery will be made," Dovre said.

The Department of Corrections also offers Career and Technical Education courses in precision machining for male offenders at Mike Durfee State Prison in Springfield through Lake Area Technical College.

That program didn't field a cohort in the spring, according to Tiffany Sanderson, Lake Area's president, but not for a lack of funding.

The former instructor left last fall, and Sanderson said it's been hard to fill that position.

Offenders at the Rapid City Minimum Center can enroll in a plumbing course at Western Dakota Technical College. That school's spokesperson told South Dakota Searchlight that five inmates graduated from the course this spring.

John is the senior reporter for South Dakota Searchlight. He has more than 15 years experience covering criminal justice, the environment and public affairs in South Dakota, including more than a decade at the Sioux Falls Argus Leader.

States' moves to curb cellphone use in schools highlighted in U.S. House hearing

BY: SHAUNEEN MIRANDA - JUNE 10, 2025 5:11 PM

WASHINGTON — Concerns over the use of cellphones in classrooms took center stage Tuesday at a hearing in a U.S. House education panel, as an increasing number of states push to ban or restrict the use of cellphones and other electronic devices during instruction time.

Though lawmakers from both parties acknowledged the harms that excessive cellphone use can create for students, whether affecting their well-being, interpersonal skills or attention in class, Democrats also criticized the Trump administration's cancellation earlier this year of roughly \$1 billion in school mental health grants amid broader efforts to dismantle the U.S. Education Department.

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The drive at the state level to curb cellphone use in the classroom has been bipartisan.

In 2025 so far, the governors of states such as Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Iowa, North Dakota, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Utah and West Virginia have already signed laws that put bans in place.

"Screens are now pervasive, mostly in the form of students' cellphones, drawing attention away from interactive discussion and instruction," said Rep. Kevin Kiley, chair of the U.S. House Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary and Secondary Education, during the panel's hearing. The subcommittee is part of the Education and Workforce Committee.

"Too often, students spend most of their days with their heads down, thumbs scrolling and only a fraction interacting with increasingly discouraged teachers," the California Republican said.

New Utah law

One witness, Rich Nye, senior adviser for education policy to Utah Gov. Spencer Cox, touted the bill Cox signed earlier this year, which "prohibits a student from using a cellphone, smart watch, or emerging technology during classroom hours."

The statewide ban, which allows for certain exemptions, is set to take effect July 1.

Prior to the bill becoming law, Cox had sent letters to district and charter school leaders, school principals, school community council members and the State Board of Education in 2024 urging educators to remove cellphones during class time, noting that "cellphone-free learning environments will help our teachers teach and our students learn."

Utah GOP Rep. Burgess Owens applauded his state's efforts.

"Technology can often be a force multiplier in the workforce, however, we need to better understand the implications when we expose our children to digital devices, and what the long-term effects might be," he said.

Dems blast massive cuts to mental health grants

Meanwhile, Democrats took aim at the administration's decision this year to stop funding approximately \$1 billion in grants for student mental health services through the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act in 2022.

Rep. Suzanne Bonamici, ranking member of the subcommittee, said "these programs ended without notice to states and without recourse to help students who depend on them."

"The grants provided funding for mental health professionals, for support services, for suicide prevention resources, for schools in districts that desperately need them," the Oregon Democrat said.

Cheryl Holcomb-McCoy, president and CEO of the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education, emphasized to lawmakers the need to restore the grants.

Holcomb-McCoy said the termination of the grants "has left districts and teachers and principals and superintendents without the critical support they need for students in crisis, particularly those affected by excessive screen time."

"I also note that many of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle and officials in the administration often say that the federal government should not be making decisions for local schools," Bonamici said. "As with curriculum decisions, technology policies should be managed by state and local officials."

Pennsylvania Democratic Rep. Summer Lee said the cancellation of the grants makes her wonder how "Republicans are going to ask us to have a genuine conversation about harmful effects of screen time in schools when they're enabling the administration to dismantle the Department of Education and any support structures that we have for schools, program by program, nickel and dime."

Trump and his administration have sought to dramatically reshape the federal role in education, including an executive order calling on Education Secretary Linda McMahon to facilitate the closure of her own department, the gutting of more than 1,300 employees at the agency, threats to revoke funds for schools that use diversity, equity and inclusion practices and a crackdown on "woke" higher education.

But federal judges have temporarily blocked many of these efforts.

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

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Pentagon sets price tag for 60-day Los Angeles troop deployment at \$134 million

BY: JACOB FISCHLER - JUNE 10, 2025 4:59 PM

The Trump administration's deployment of National Guard troops and U.S. Marines to protests over immigration raids in Los Angeles will cost the federal government about \$134 million, a Pentagon budget official said Tuesday, as the response to the protests further divided officials in California and Washington, D.C.

The situation in the country's second-largest city captured the attention of lawmakers in the nation's capital, even as the Republican-led Congress charted a path forward for the Trump-backed tax and spending cut bill.

Democrats in Congress on Tuesday warned the administration's actions bordered on authoritarianism, while President Donald Trump said his intervention saved the city from destruction.

"If we didn't send in the National Guard quickly, right now, Los Angeles would be burning to the ground," Trump said in the Oval Office Tuesday.

California Gov. Gavin Newsom, meanwhile, sought a restraining order blocking the 4,000 National Guard troops and 700 U.S. Marines deployed to Los Angeles from assisting with domestic law enforcement. Trump ordered the troops to the city over Newsom's and Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass' objections.

Budget question

Democrats on Capitol Hill criticized the administration over several aspects of the deployment, saying Trump was instigating violence, overstepping his authority and wasting taxpayer money.

At a previously scheduled Appropriations Defense Subcommittee hearing, Democratic Reps. Betty McCollum of Minnesota and Pete Aguillar of California asked Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth the financial cost of placing 4,000 National Guard troops and 700 Marines in Los Angeles.

Hegseth, who is originally from Minnesota, declined to answer McCollum's question directly, instead invoking the riots in Minneapolis following the murder of George Floyd by a Minneapolis police officer in 2020 and saying Trump sought to avoid similar chaos in Los Angeles.

"President Trump recognizes a situation like that, improperly handled by a governor, like it was by Gov. (Tim) Walz, if it gets out of control, it's a bad situation for the citizens of any location," he said.

When Aguillar asked a similar question about cost, Hegseth deferred to acting Pentagon comptroller Bryn MacDonnell, who estimated the current cost at \$134 million, mainly for housing, travel and food. That money came out of existing operations and maintenance accounts, she said.

Hegseth told the panel the deployment was authorized for 60 days.

Just 2 miles away at the White House, though, Trump implied the decision could be more open-ended, saying during the Oval Office event that troops would stay in Los Angeles "until there's no danger."

"When there's no danger, they'll leave," he said.

Restraining order

California's federal lawsuit challenging the deployment, which state leaders filed Monday, includes a request for the court to issue a restraining order by 1 p.m. Pacific time Tuesday. U.S. District Judge Charles R. Breyer did not issue such an order by that deadline.

The administration intended to use the military personnel "to accompany federal immigration enforcement officers on raids throughout Los Angeles," the request for a restraining order said.

"These unlawful deployments have already proven to be a deeply inflammatory and unnecessary provocation, anathema to our laws limiting the use (of) federal forces for law enforcement, rather than a means of restoring calm," the state said.

"Federal antagonization, through the presence of soldiers in the streets, has already caused real and irreparable damage to the City of Los Angeles, the people who live there, and the State of California. They must be stopped, immediately."

Democrats in California's congressional delegation and members of the congressional caucuses for Black,

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Hispanic and Asian and Pacific Islander Democrats also blasted the administration's role in inflaming the standoff between protesters and Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents who'd conducted recent raids on workplaces in the area.

"President Trump's unlawful decision to deploy the National Guard onto the streets of Los Angeles is a reckless and inflammatory escalation, one designed not to restore calm, but to provoke chaos," Congressional Black Caucus Chair Yvette D. Clarke said at a press conference.

"Let's be clear about how this began: with peaceful protests sparked by the unlawful and inhumane targeting, detention and deportation of our immigrant neighbors."

Clarke, a New York Democrat, said in response to a reporter's question that she believed the sending in of troops constituted an impeachable act by Trump.

"I definitely believe it is, but we'll cross that bridge when we get to it," she said.

'Met with force'

Other Democrats on Capitol Hill have said Monday and Tuesday that Trump engineered the conflict to distract from unpopular provisions of Republicans' "big, beautiful bill" and other issues.

"Donald Trump, cornered by his own failures – from pushing a heartless bill that would rip health care away from 16 million Americans, to raising costs from his reckless tariffs, to waging war with Elon Musk – Trump is desperately seeking a distraction," Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer said on the floor Tuesday.

"His order to deploy the National Guard and Marines – our own troops – on Americans is not just outrageous and provocative, it's a dangerous authoritarian overreach that threatens the very fabric of our democracy."

Rep. Jimmy Gomez led a press conference of California's U.S. House Democrats Tuesday where he warned that the militarization in Los Angeles could happen elsewhere.

"If it can happen in Los Angeles, it can happen in any state in the union," he said.

Later, at the Oval Office, Trump said protesters at his military parade on Saturday would be "met with very strong force."

'Tarred and feathered'

U.S. House Speaker Mike Johnson told reporters Trump acted responsibly to protect Southern Californians and blamed Newsom for "failed leadership" that he said led to the clash this weekend.

Asked if, as Trump and White House border czar Tom Homan have suggested, Newsom should be arrested for interfering with immigration enforcement, Johnson initially demurred before suggesting an 18th-century punishment.

"I'm not going to give you legal analysis on whether Gavin Newsom should be arrested," the Louisiana Republican said.

"But he ought to be tarred and feathered... He's standing in the way of the administration and the carrying out of federal law. Right? He is applauding the bad guys and standing in the way of the good guys. He is trying to — he's a participant, an accomplice — in our federal law enforcement agents being not just disrespected but assaulted."

Johnson said House Republicans were fully behind Trump's actions and deflected a question about if there was a point at which he would oppose the administration's efforts.

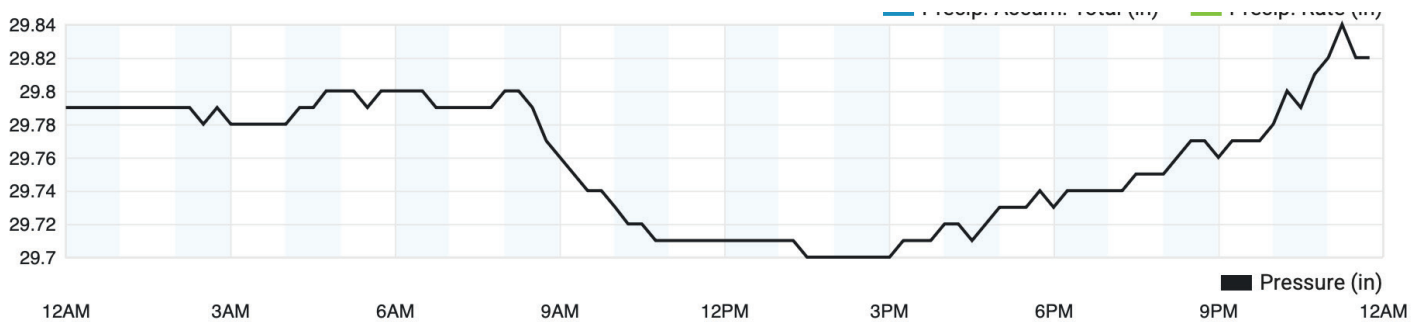
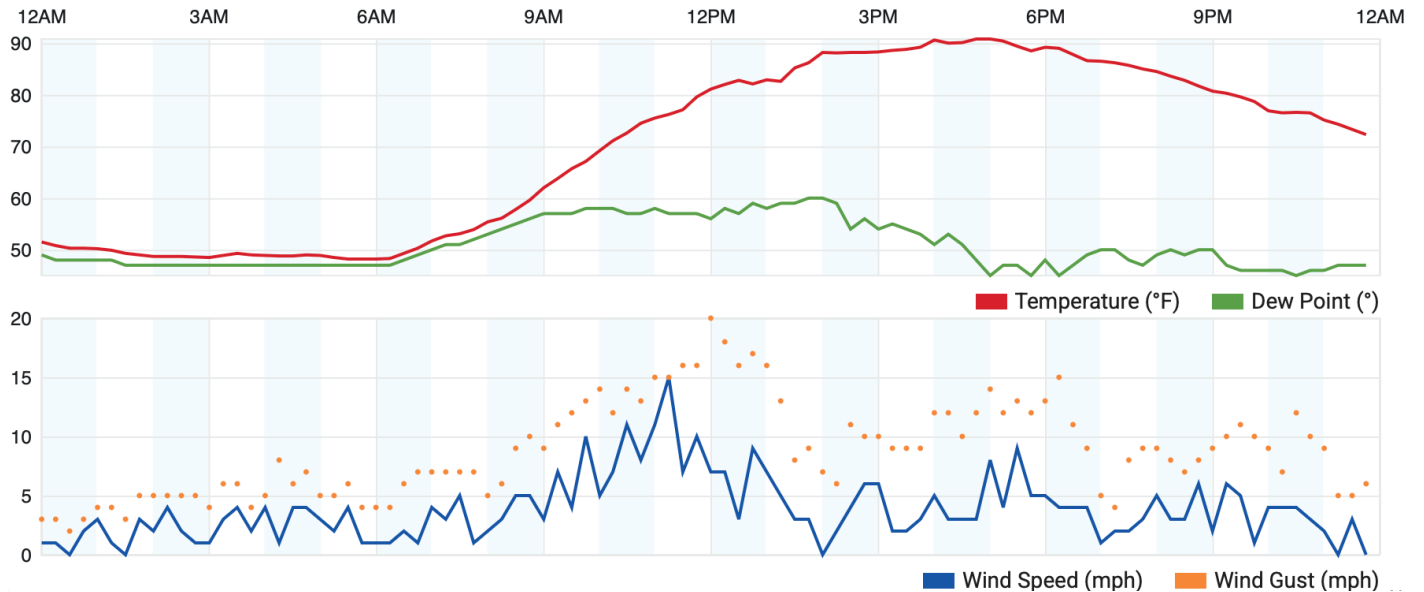
"He is fully within his authority right now to do what he is doing," Johnson said. "We have to maintain order."

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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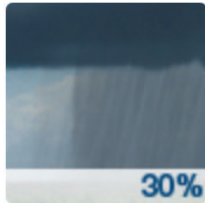
Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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Wednesday



High: 77 °F

Chance
Showers

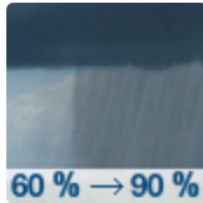
**Wednesday
Night**



Low: 53 °F

Partly Cloudy

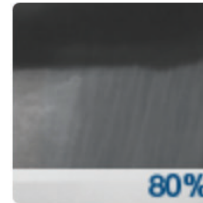
Thursday



High: 67 °F

Showers
Likely then
Showers

**Thursday
Night**



Low: 52 °F

Showers

Friday



High: 67 °F

Mostly Cloudy



Thunderstorm Chances Next Few Days

June 11, 2025

3:49 AM

Severe Weather Risk Thursday (1 out of 5) = Isolated/Marginal Risk for Severe Weather

Today

- Weak showers and storms will cross the area today.

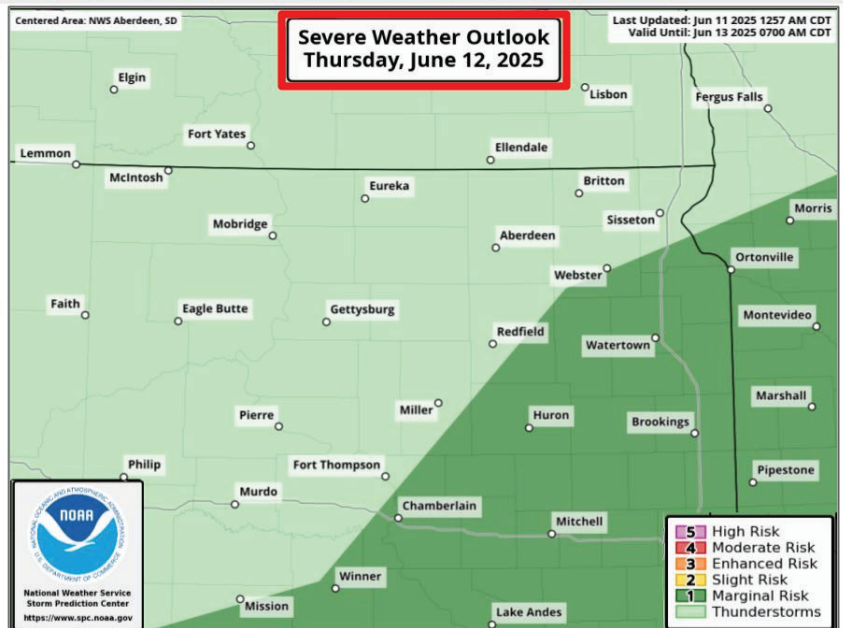
Storms East-River Tonight-Thursday Morning

- Additional weak storms tonight into Thursday morning, mainly south of Highway 212.

Next System Thursday through Friday Morning

- Showers/weak storms coming in early morning hours from the west
- East-river showers/weak storms continue into the day Thursday
- Afternoon storm intensification:

Isolated/Marginal Severe Storm Risk



**National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD**

Several weak systems will cross the region, providing multiple opportunities for moisture, but overall, with a low risk of severe weather. The best chances for both moisture and isolated severe weather occur on Thursday afternoon and continue into the overnight hours.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 91 °F at 4:02 PM

Low Temp: 48 °F at 5:33 AM

Wind: 20 mph at 11:53 AM

Precip: : 0.01

Day length: 15 hours, 40 minutes

Today's Info

Record High: 104 in 1893

Record Low: 31 in 1938

Average High: 79

Average Low: 54

Average Precip in June.: 1.27

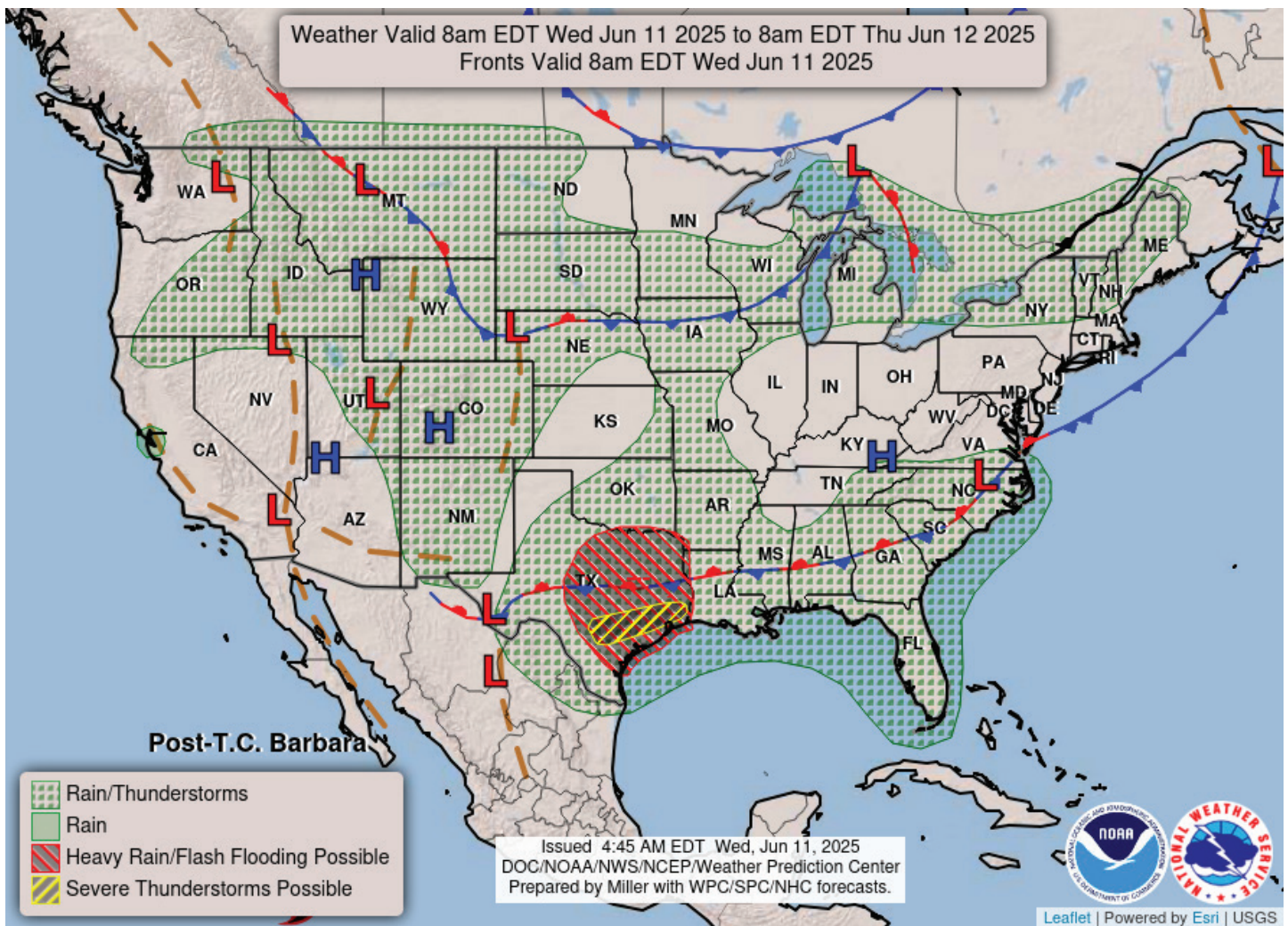
Precip to date in June: 0.45

Average Precip to date: 8.52

Precip Year to Date: 6.50

Sunset Tonight: 9:22:40 pm

Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:41:33 am



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Today in Weather History

June 11th, 1982: Golf ball-sized hail fell in Hayti, in Hamlin County, creating three-foot hail drifts.

June 11th, 1990: Golf ball-sized hail cut a swath 1.5 miles wide and 50 miles in length from the Missouri River east of the Hyde County line. Thunderstorm winds destroyed a granary roof and downed numerous trees. Damage from large hail was considerable to crops, and entire fields were wiped out. The County Agent placed crop damage estimates at 1.8 million dollars in Sully County. Hail also produced window damage to cars and homes.

June 11th, 2008: A strong inflow of moist and unstable air into and over a warm surface front resulted in training thunderstorms and very heavy rain across parts of northeast South Dakota. Rainfall of 2 to 6 inches occurred across much of the area, resulting in widespread flash flooding. The flooding damaged many roads, bridges, and cropland. In Milbank, many basements were flooded and received sewer backup.

June 11th, 2010: Thunderstorms produced damaging winds over a large part of southeast South Dakota, beginning just before midnight on June 10th and continuing well into the predawn hours of June 11th. The storms also produced heavy rain, which caused flash flooding at several locations. Heavy rainfall of at least 3 inches caused Enemy Creek to overflow and flood nearby roads. The expense also caused flooding of roads and basements in Mitchell. A motorcycle business was flooded, damaging merchandise, although little damage to the motorcycles was reported. Thunderstorm winds caused widespread damage in the Sioux Falls area. Wood and siding were blown off a new house, and a nearby fence was blown over. The winds caused tree damage, including 2 to 3-foot diameter trees blown down. Debris from the tree damage blocked several roads. Garages were blown off three homes next to each other, and other nearby homes suffered significant damage in an area on West Eli Court that was subjected to the strongest winds, estimated at 100 mph. Windows were blown out in several homes, and a large camper was overturned in the same area. A wind gust of 74 mph was measured elsewhere in the city. The winds blew down power lines in parts of the city. Heavy rain caused flash flooding of several streets in southern Sioux Falls, with water up to two feet deep. Basement flooding was also reported.

1842 - A late season snowstorm struck New England. Snow fell during the morning and early afternoon, accumulating to a depth of ten to twelve inches at Irasburg VT. Berlin NH was blanketed with eleven inches of snow during the day. Snow whitened the higher peaks of the Appalachians as far south as Maryland. (David Ludlum)

1877 - The temperature at Los Angeles, CA, reached 112 degrees during a heatwave. It would have been the all-time record for Los Angeles but official records did not begin until twenty days later. (The Weather Channel)

1972 - Heavy showers brought 1.64 inches of rain to Phoenix AZ, a record for the month of June. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - South Texas endured another day of torrential rains. Up to twelve inches of rain drenched Harris County, and nearly ten inches soaked Luce Bayou, mainly during the afternoon hours. Thunderstorm rains left seven feet of water over Highway 189 in northern Val Verde County. Flooding caused nine million dollars damage in Real County. A thunderstorm at Perryton, TX, produced golf ball size hail and 70 mph winds, and spawned a tornado which struck a mobile killing one person and injuring the other four occupants. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Thirty cities in the central and eastern U.S. reported record low temperatures for the date, including El Dorado, AR, with a reading of 48 degrees. Canaan Valley WV and Thomas WV dipped to 30 degrees. Flagstaff AZ was the cold spot in the nation with a low of 30 degrees. Coolidge, just 180 miles away, was the hot spot in the nation with an afternoon high of 105 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather in the south central and southeastern U.S. during the day and night. Thunderstorms spawned eleven tornadoes, including one which tore the roof off a restaurant at Bee Branch, AR, injuring six persons. The tornado tossed one car into the restaurant, and another car over it. Temperatures soared into the 90s across much of Florida. Lakeland reported a record high of 99 degrees for the second day in a row. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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The word “pride” seems to be closely connected to those who are arrogant or who have an unreasonably elevated opinion or value of themselves. It presents a picture, in our minds, of one who looks down on others with an attitude of superiority or condescension.

Often, we look at those whom we consider “full of pride” as also being “full of themselves and their abilities.” They cannot see God as the giver of every gift they have.

In Hebrew, “pride” comes from a word meaning “to boil” — and when water boils, it must be channeled or there will be an explosion.

A person of “humility” is one who is seen as being submissive to authority, compliant and willing to listen, observe, and learn. A humble person does not attempt to keep others from being recognized or rewarded for what they have accomplished. Their modesty gives God credit for what He has done through them.

And, they also understand that all things come from God and, in all reality, belong to Him.

Is it any wonder, then, that Solomon says, “When pride comes, then comes disgrace; but with humility comes wisdom.”

If we see ourselves as being above and beyond others, as possessing more ability and knowledge than others, more of anything and everything that others have, we find no room for growth and our need for wisdom — especially God’s wisdom. We “have it all together.”

No wonder the proud end up in disgrace — they cannot see who or what they are.

But the humble? They are open, honest, able, and willing to recognize their need for God’s guidance and His wisdom. They desire to know Him and be like His Son!

Prayer: Help us, Father, to realize our limitations, temptations, and failures, and to depend on You to meet our needs for wisdom and guidance.

In Jesus’ Name, Amen.

Today’s Scripture: “When pride comes, then comes disgrace; but with humility comes wisdom.” Proverbs 11:2

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: 06.10.25

10 11 14 38 45 24

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$264,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 2 Days 17 Hrs 4 Mins 52 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: 16 Hrs 19 Mins 53 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS: 06.10.25

10 26 30 41 44 17

TOP PRIZE:

\$7,000/week

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 34 Mins 53 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS: 06.07.25

14 15 17 24 29

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$24,000

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 34 Mins 52 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS: 06.09.25

1 7 24 50 59 11

TOP PRIZE:

\$10,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 17 Hrs 3 Mins 52 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: 17 Hrs 3 Mins 53 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

Trump says he loves farmers. He's dismantling the agency helping their communities survive. - Investigate Midwest

Sky Chadde, Investigate Midwest, Investigate Midwest undefined
Champaign, IL (Investigate Midwest)

Membership gives you sneaks peeks into major investigations and behind-the-scenes insights -- plus, you help sustain investigative journalism.

In 2016, Tillman County, a politically deep red area in southwest Oklahoma with a population of less than 7,000 and dropping, lost its hospital. Emergency services calls skyrocketed, and health outcomes deteriorated.

Trey Caldwell, the area's Republican state representative, said his office found at least three people died after long ambulance rides. "They would have survived," he said, "if they could have gotten immediate emergency care right then and there."

But hope for the community dotted with dairy farms arrived in 2023, when construction started on a new hospital. Breaking ground required state and federal law changes, funding from former President Joe Biden's administration and, perhaps most importantly, seed money from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development agency.

"The last thing you want to do is saddle that hospital with a lot of debt," Caldwell said. "That USDA funding mechanism was massive. It really helped move the needle."

But former agency officials worry fewer projects like the hospital could be built in rural America as the Trump administration and Elon Musk's DOGE have targeted Rural Development for large staffing cuts. With fewer employees in rural communities assisting local leaders with their funding needs, there is concern Trump's chainsawing of the federal workforce could leave rural America without a robust safety net.

"We invest in so many businesses in rural America, and when you have fewer businesses, you have fewer jobs and fewer economic opportunities," said Basil Gooden, who led Rural Development during Biden's last year in office. "It's not going to happen overnight. It's going to take a little while before people realize things have really broken."

In a statement, the USDA said Biden officials left the USDA "in complete disarray, including hiring thousands of employees with no sustainable way to pay them. ... Fortunately, President Trump is taking strong action to support farmers."

Rural Development is how the federal government ensures rural areas aren't left behind as those residents move to cities for higher living standards. It funds broadband infrastructure and helps lifelong renters buy homes in population-losing communities.

Former agency officials said keeping rural areas attractive is essential to national security. Consumers have grown accustomed to the convenience of fully stocked grocery store shelves and freezers, and the country's fuel supply increasingly uses ethanol grown in Midwestern corn fields. To keep the supply chain running, some people have to live in areas often bereft of modern-day necessities, such as hospitals or high-speed internet.

Investing in rural communities is critical to ensure a long-term agricultural workforce, especially as the average age of U.S. farmers increases rapidly. That means the people growing America's food and fuel need access to quality grocery stores, childcare and health care.

"Farming ranks among the most hazardous occupations, making access to emergency medical services and hospitals a critical infrastructure need," said Bette Brand, who led the agency during Trump's first term. "Ensuring that rural families can live and work safely is fundamental to maintaining a stable food supply and sustaining agricultural productivity."

The number of projects Rural Development has funded each year has trended downward for years, but it began to nosedive in 2021, agency data shows. Biden officials pointed to the loss of about 2,000 agency

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employees, out of a total of about 6,000, during the first Trump administration.

"Our investments have gone down because we just don't have the staffing that we used to have," Gooden said. "We don't have the people on the ground. That's very detrimental."

Gooden hired about 800 more staffers during his tenure, he said, but they were probationary employees, the classification the administration has targeted for dismissal. More than 500 of the employees were let go in the administration's mass terminations at the USDA in February.

To date, more than 1,500 Rural Development staffers have left, the USDA said -- likely leaving the agency with fewer staffers than at the end of the first Trump administration. That's roughly 10% of the 15,000 total USDA employees who have left the department.

Brand said the agency made meaningful gains in efficiency in Donald Trump's first term. Continuing to improve efficiency, DOGE's stated goal, is important, she said, but the recent job cuts risk destabilizing rural communities, which have largely supported Trump's candidacies.

"There's a persistent undercurrent of stress among federal employees that's slowing the pace of loans and program implementation," she said. "That doesn't mean change isn't needed, but the way it's executed matters."

Brand added reforms must produce lasting results to justify the disruption.

"If you're going to put the agency -- and the communities it serves -- through this kind of turbulence, the outcomes better be meaningful and durable," she said. "Otherwise, the cost to individuals and local economies may never be recouped."

In an early March speech, Brooke Rollins, Trump's agriculture secretary, announced she would release a plan to restore rural prosperity in the "coming weeks." No plan has been released yet, but she said it would improve the agency's efficiency.

On Trump's 100th day, Rollins released her own list of accomplishments, which included taking "leadership to make rural America prosper again." It linked to her previous statement about her unreleased plan. In a statement to Investigate Midwest, the USDA said "more information ... will be released soon."

Rollins also said the USDA would "invite the private sector" to participate in the endeavor, and she specifically mentioned satellite internet. Musk owns Starlink, which provides satellite internet. The White House has said Musk has pledged to avoid potential conflicts of interest, according to NBC News.

Across the country, only 55% of farms have broadband access, and Starlink has been pushed as an alternative in rural areas because it relies on satellites instead of traditional cable infrastructure. But the federal official who led the government's broadband program pilloried Starlink in a resignation letter in March, according to Politico.

"Stranding all or part of rural America with worse internet so that we can make the world's richest man even richer is yet another in a long line of betrayals by Washington," the official, Evan Feinman, wrote.

Asked if the USDA saw a conflict of interest in Rollins pushing satellite internet, the department did not answer directly. It said its programs are "technology neutral" and it will allow communities to decide what technology "is best for their project."

In her March speech, Rollins added her plan will "restore more power to ... local leaders who know (their) communities better than anyone in Washington."

It's unclear how Rollins' plan differs from Rural Development's existing role. The agency was designed to spur private investment in underserved areas, with the USDA acting as a lender of last resort that cannot compete with banks. Former officials said local communities largely drive what projects are funded.

The federal employees working in state Rural Development offices are also members of the communities in which they operate.

For instance, in South Dakota, local developers have received grants to update rural water systems. "It's South Dakotans doing the work, and it's South Dakotans who care about making sure that they've got clean water for their community," said Nikki Gronli, a Biden political appointee who led the agency's state office.

"We are a place that is often forgotten," she added. "I think the best people to do the work here are South Dakotans because they care. It's personal for them. I don't see some large developer coming from Chicago or L.A. that's going to want to invest in South Dakota with our small population."

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Out of 39 people in the South Dakota office, nine were fired in February and a few others have accepted retirement offers, Gronli said. In a matter of months, the office has been reduced to 26 staffers.

Recently, Rollins said federal workers who assist farmers with direct loans would not be terminated, according to the North Dakota Monitor. Employees with the Farm Service Agency, a separate USDA division from Rural Development, or those on the "frontline or with the farmers" would be spared, she said.

When asked if Rural Development was included in the definition of "front line," given its importance to farmers' lives, the USDA pointed to an April 22 declaration in which Rollins exempted "national security and public safety" positions from the hiring freeze.

"As the memo states, "Food Security is National Security," and Secretary Rollins will not compromise this critical work," the USDA said in a statement.

The memo lists dozens of positions that are exempted, including firefighters and food inspectors. None are related to Rural Development.

Trump has often declared his love for farmers and rural communities, but, like now, his first administration targeted Rural Development for job cuts.

Months into the first Trump administration, then-Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue proposed restructuring the USDA, including abolishing the undersecretary for Rural Development position.

In the USDA hierarchy, an undersecretary is just below the department's top leader. Several undersecretary positions exist, and they can be seen as commitments to important aspects of the USDA's mission. Undersecretaries oversee farm production, food safety and natural resources, for example.

Perdue established an undersecretary of international trade, a priority of the first Trump administration. At the time, advocates worried the move signaled less investment in rural America.

The administration's hiring freeze, implemented in January 2017, also affected Rural Development, and the agency reduced headcount by consolidating administrative duties, such as human resources.

Leadership at the agency turned over a few times before Brand was tapped to head it in early 2020, right before the COVID-19 pandemic started. "That leadership transition made it difficult for us to stay on target on some of these bigger priorities," she said.

In her new role, Brand fielded complaints from state offices. "You would hear it quite often from states that said, "Well, I need more people. I need more help,"" she said. "But the real question was whether the issue was staffing levels or whether better technology and systems could help existing staff be more effective."

She said modernizing operations was key to meeting demands. In her opinion, if IT systems were stronger, field staff could spend more time in the field.

When the pandemic forced the department to work remotely, Brand, who worked for decades in the farm credit industry, worried about customer service, but, she said, "our customers didn't notice a difference."

Although Trump and Musk have alleged that many federal employees are lazy, Brand had the opposite experience during Trump's first term. During the pandemic, one employee in a rural area did not have high-speed internet at his house. However, he could connect to broadband at the end of his long driveway. He built a shack there so he could work remotely, Brand said.

When Biden officials took over the agency, they heard a similar complaint as Brand: "One of the things I heard right away from one of our veteran employees was we need more people," said Gronli, South Dakota's former state director.

As the pandemic still raged, Robert Lyons, a political appointee in Washington, joined the USDA's office in late 2021. Following the previous administration's reduction in staff, "there were less people doing more work," he said. "Everyone was rolling up their sleeves and doing what felt like two to three jobs."

Many employees did not document their overtime, Lyons said. "We had to tell them, "Hey, we need Congress to understand that when they allocate funding, this is the amount of work that's actually going into processing these grants and meeting with the community,"" he said.

Fewer staffers, especially at the state level, could translate into frustrating experiences on the ground.

Bert Cunningham, the city manager of Bowie, a town of about 6,000 in north Texas, said he recently

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applied for a grant to extend a waterline. He had little personal interaction with agency employees, which delayed the process as he tried to navigate the agency's website. "It's all email with Rural Development," he said.

The attractive part is that the USDA offers better terms than banks or other lenders, Cunningham said. It could forgive up to 40% of a loan, he said.

Eventually, Cunningham found an engineering firm that frequently works with the USDA. He said that approach has been more successful.

In the last year of Biden's presidency, the agency pushed to hire more workers in state offices. Many of them were younger workers who, the thought was, would become the next generation of Rural Development leaders as USDA's older workers naturally retired.

After Trump was elected, members of his transition team asked Rural Development leaders questions focused on its workforce: How many worked remotely? Where were they located? In the opinion of Gooden, Biden's last head of Rural Development, the questions were not focused on the agency's mission.

"That was surprising to me," he said. "Whenever I go into an organization, I want to know what keeps folks up at night."

Soon after inauguration day, Trump officials illegally placed a freeze on funding that Congress, the branch of government that controls America's purse strings, had appropriated. The flow of Rural Development funding stopped.

As payments to farms stopped, state offices had little information to share. In response to the rejection of a reimbursement payment for a Maryland farm in early February, a Rural Development staffer said, "We will need to wait and see if the hold will be lifted, for now we cannot process the reimbursement," according to records submitted in a lawsuit against Trump's funding freeze.

On April 15, a judge ruled the USDA's freeze was illegal and ordered funding to resume. At a May 7 Congressional hearing, Rep. Rosa DeLauro, a Connecticut Democrat, said funding for several programs, including for broadband, were still frozen. Rollins did not dispute it.

She said the USDA was complying with court orders and funding for many programs would be made available by the end of May.

Oklahoma has long struggled with health care access. By 2020, Oklahoma had the second-highest uninsured rate in the country, according to Oklahoma Watch, and Tillman County had one of the highest uninsured rates in the state. About 18% of its several thousand residents had no insurance.

The first step, then, in bringing a new hospital to the area was Oklahoma's expansion of Medicaid access. In June 2020, voters approved a ballot initiative that increased how much a family could make and still be eligible for the program. Since 2021, an additional 330,000 people have received benefits, according to the state.

Expanding Medicaid was a "godsend" for rural hospitals, said Rich Rasmussen, the Oklahoma Hospital Association's president. It opened up a new revenue stream, as the state now reimburses hospitals for care at a level closer to private insurance. "Medicaid has the ability to close the gap for these rural hospitals," he said.

But another obstacle presented itself at the federal level, said Caldwell, the Oklahoma state representative. Because facilities in rural areas primarily serve small populations with many low-income and senior patients, they often require federal grants to remain operable. To qualify for the funding, the facilities must be designated as "critical access hospitals." They need to provide 24/7 emergency care. They also need to be at least 35 miles from another critical access hospital.

The hospital's location was too close -- by several hundred feet, Caldwell said.

"We started looking at all the loopholes about the road requirements," he said. "We started putting together a plan."

He lobbied James Lankford, Oklahoma's Republican U.S. Senator, who began pushing for a rule change, Caldwell said. Chuck Schumer, the current Senate minority leader for the Democrats, also advocated for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to loosen its rules, as rural New York hospitals had faced

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similar problems, according to his office.

In 2022, CMS clarified the distance requirement for critical access hospitals. Originally, hospitals needed to be at least 35 miles apart via a "primary road." The definition was narrowed down to be more specific, which allowed the future hospital in Tillman County to be eligible for federal funding.

At the same time, revenue streams to build the hospital were secured.

Caldwell and a few other state representatives shepherded legislation that increased funding for rural hospitals. Money from the American Rescue Plan Act, a Biden economic stimulus to address the COVID-19 pandemic, was also tapped.

U.S. Rep. Tom Cole, a Republican that represents Tillman County and chairs the powerful appropriations committee, wrangled \$6 million for the \$15 million project from Rural Development. The agency's state lead, Ken Corn, a Biden appointee and a former state senator, was also a "huge help," Caldwell said. Corn declined to comment.

Cole said the state Rural Development office was instrumental in jumpstarting the hospital.

"I'm hardly an advocate for the Biden administration," he said, "but the local people that we had working in the ag department were critical to this. Oklahoma is not an area that Joe Biden was going to do particularly well in, and yet the USDA stepped up."

Oklahoma has voted for Trump by a two-to-one margin three times. His support in Tillman County has been even greater.

Caldwell said it's his understanding the hospital's construction has not been affected by the Trump administration's funding freeze. Comanche County Memorial Hospital, which will run the new Tillman County facility, said the project "remains fully supported."

But another Trump initiative could affect the hospital's long-term viability.

Trump has advocated for slicing Medicaid funding to pay for tax cuts for the wealthy. On Monday, House Speaker Mike Johnson released the GOP's tax plan, which includes Medicaid cuts. The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office estimated 8.6 million people would lose health care under the proposal, according to the Associated Press.

If Medicaid is slashed, that would erase a significant income source for all hospitals, impact their financial sustainability and scuttle any new projects under development, Rasmussen said. Not only would health care access suffer, but local communities would lose many jobs, further hurting their economies.

"These small hospitals would not be able to survive without that program," he said.

Asked about cutting Medicaid, Caldwell, who chairs the state's appropriations committee, said it was a significant concern because the state would face a budget shortfall.

Medicaid access is "in our state constitution," he said. "If the feds pull back, we will be legally obligated to make it whole. We'll have to find cuts in other spots of the budget."

Speaking before the GOP's budget was released Monday, Cole said reining in government spending was necessary to deal with the government's budget deficit. The potential effect on the Tillman County hospital "depends on how the cuts are done," he said.

"Everybody worries about" cuts to Medicaid, Cole said, "but this gets down to focusing on things that are essential, and I'm comfortable that that's what we'll do."

Comanche, the hospital, said Medicaid cuts would have a "minimal" effect. "A significant portion of Tillman County's population is eligible for Medicare, which is reimbursed under a different structure," a spokeswoman said. "As a result, the hospital's financial outlook remains stable."

While Congress debates Medicaid cuts -- and the potential fate of the Tillman County hospital -- Caldwell takes pride in the work he and others did to revive a hospital. He drove by it recently, and the construction "warmed my heart," he said.

"It's going to save people's lives," he said. "There are going to be people over the next 50 years who get to spend extra time with their loved ones because that hospital is there."

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Austria falls silent for a minute as questions remain about the motive for a deadly school shooting

By PHILIPP JENNE Associated Press

GRAZ, Austria (AP) — Austria fell silent for a minute on Wednesday in memory of the 10 people killed in a school shooting in Graz, which ended with the gunman taking his own life. The man's motive remained unclear.

Austria has declared three days of national mourning following what appears to be the deadliest attack in its post-World War II history. At 10 a.m. on Wednesday, marking the moment a day earlier when police were alerted to shots at the BORG Dreierschützengasse high school, the country stopped for a minute of silence.

Hundreds of people lined the central square in Graz, Austria's second-biggest city. Some laid more candles and flowers in front of the city hall, adding to a growing memorial to the victims. The first candles were laid on Tuesday evening as a crowd gathered on the square, some people hugging each other as they tried to come to terms with the tragedy. Hundreds of people joined Austrian officials at a service Tuesday evening in the Graz cathedral.

Among those on the square Wednesday was Chiara Komlenic, a 28-year-old art history student who finished her exams at the school there.

"I always felt very protected there. The teachers were also very supportive," she said. "I made lifelong friendships there. It just hurts to see that young girls and boys will never come back, that they experienced the worst day of their lives where I had the best time of my life. I still know a few teachers, it just hurts a lot."

In the capital, Vienna, the local transport authority had trams, subway trains and buses stop for a minute.

Police said they found a farewell letter and a non-functional pipe bomb when they searched the home of the assailant.

The 21-year-old Austrian man lived near Graz and was a former student at the school who hadn't completed his studies. Police have said that he used two weapons, a shotgun and a handgun, which he appeared to have owned legally.

Police didn't elaborate on investigators' findings in a brief post on social network X. But a senior official who acknowledged that the letter had been found on Tuesday night said it hadn't allowed them to draw conclusions.

"A farewell letter in analog and digital form was found," Franz Ruf, the public security director at Austria's Interior Ministry, told ORF public television. "He says goodbye to his parents. But no motive can be inferred from the farewell letter, and that is a matter for further investigations."

Asked whether the assailant had attacked victims randomly or targeted them specifically, Ruf said that is also under investigation and he didn't want to speculate.

He said that wounded people were found on various levels of the school and, in one case, in front of the building.

By Wednesday morning, the authority that runs hospitals in Graz said that all patients were in stable condition. Nine were still in intensive care units, with one needing a further operation on a facial wound and a second on a knee injury, while another two had been moved to regular wards.

"Graz is the second-largest city in Austria, but we still say that Graz is a village," said Fabian Enzi, a university student among those on the main square of the city of about 300,000 people Wednesday.

"Every time you are out you meet people you know. There is a high chance that with such an attack you know people which are affected," the 22-year-old said. "There are a lot of desperate faces."

Elon Musk backs off from feud with Trump, saying he regrets social media posts that 'went too far'

By The Associated Press undefined

Elon Musk stepped back from his explosive feud with U.S. President Donald Trump, writing on X that he regrets some of his posts about his onetime ally and that they went "too far."

Early Wednesday morning, he posted "I regret some of my posts about President @realDonaldTrump last week. They went too far."

Musk's break with a president whom he spent hundreds of millions of dollars to elect appeared to put an end to his influence in the White House and prompted concerns about effects on his companies. As a major government contractor, Musk's businesses could be particularly vulnerable to retribution, and Trump has already threatened to cut Musk's contracts.

Musk earlier deleted a post in which he claimed without evidence that the government was concealing information about the president's association with infamous pedophile Jeffrey Epstein. Meanwhile, other posts that irritated Trump, including ones in which Musk called the spending bill an "abomination" and claimed credit for Trump's election victory, remained live.

On Sunday, Trump told NBC's Kristen Welker that he has no desire to repair their relationship and warned that Musk could face "serious consequences" if he tries to help Democrats in upcoming elections.

Fans greet K-pop stars Jimin and Jung Kook of BTS discharged from military service

By JUWON PARK and MARIA SHERMAN Associated Press

YEONCHEON, South Korea (AP) — Hundreds of fans gathered in the early morning hours to catch a glimpse of K-pop superstars Jimin and Jung Kook, the latest and final members of BTS to be discharged from South Korea's mandatory military service.

The pair wore their military uniforms Wednesday, saluted and addressed fans who had assembled to see the pair after their discharge.

Jung Kook thanked the journalists and fans who traveled to see him and Jimin after their discharge and acknowledged how different it was to be back in the spotlight. "Actually, it's been so long since I've been in front of cameras, and I didn't even put on makeup, so I'm a bit embarrassed," he said. "I don't know what to say."

The pair enlisted in December 2023, one day after RM and V did the same. The latter were discharged on Tuesday.

Supporters traveled from around the world to the public sports ground where the meet-and-greet took place. It was moved from the military base's gate for safety reasons. Color-wrapped buses bearing BTS members' faces lined the streets while red and yellow balloons floated above and a decorated food truck provided free coffee and water, adding to the festive atmosphere.

Many supporters wore masks, conscious of potential backlash after the band's label discouraged attendance citing safety concerns. Despite the challenges, fans like Anaesi from Portugal said the 20-hour journey to Yeoncheon, a town near the tense border with North Korea, was worth it.

"Portugal is a small country, but inside of Portugal, BTS is a king," she said. Anaesi, who discovered BTS on YouTube, said the group "saved" her from depression. "So for me BTS is my angel," she said. She displayed a colorful upper arm tattoo featuring a golden shield emblazoned with "ARMY" and an eagle above it, complemented by Korean text listing BTS members' names and those of her friends.

V thanked fans Tuesday for their patience in waiting for him and RM's return and teased the band's reunion. "If you can just wait a little bit longer, we will return with a really amazing performance."

The seven singers of the popular K-pop band plan to reunite as a group sometime in 2025 after they finish their service.

Six of the group's seven members served in the army, while Suga is fulfilling his duty as a social service

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agent, an alternative form of military service. He will be discharged later this month.

Jin, the oldest BTS member, was discharged in June 2024. J-Hope was discharged in October.

In South Korea, all able-bodied men aged 18 to 28 are required by law to perform 18-21 months of military service under a conscription system meant to deter aggression from rival North Korea.

The law gives special exemptions to athletes, classical and traditional musicians, and ballet and other dancers if they have obtained top prizes in certain competitions and are assessed to have enhanced national prestige. K-pop stars and other entertainers aren't subject to such privileges.

However, in 2020, BTS postponed their service until age 30 after South Korea's National Assembly revised its Military Service Act, allowing K-pop stars to delay their enlistment until age 30.

There was heated public debate in 2022 over whether to offer special exemptions of mandatory military service for BTS members, until the group's management agency announced in October 2022 that all seven members would fulfill their duties.

LA police swiftly enforce downtown curfew as protests against Trump's immigration crackdown continue

By JAKE OFFENHARTZ, JAIMIE DING, LOLITA C. BALDOR and TARA COPP Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Los Angeles police swiftly enforced a downtown curfew Tuesday night, making arrests moments after it took effect, while deploying officers on horseback and using crowd control projectiles to break up a group of hundreds demonstrating against President Donald Trump's immigration crackdown.

Members of the National Guard stood watch behind plastic shields, but did not appear to participate in the arrests.

Hours later, many of the protesters had dispersed, although sporadic confrontations continued that were much smaller than in previous nights. Officials said the curfew was necessary to stop vandalism and theft by agitators looking to cause trouble.

Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom earlier accused Trump of drawing a "military dragnet" across the nation's second-largest city with his escalating use of the National Guard. He also deployed Marines, though none were seen on the streets Tuesday.

Newsom asked a court to put an emergency stop to the military helping federal immigration agents, with some guardsmen now standing in protection around agents as they carried out arrests. He said it would only heighten tensions and promote civil unrest. The judge set a hearing for Thursday, giving the administration several days to continue those activities.

The change moves troops closer to engaging in law enforcement actions like deportations as Trump has promised as part of his administration's immigration crackdown. The Guard has the authority to temporarily detain people who attack officers but any arrests ultimately would be made by law enforcement.

Trump has activated more than 4,000 National Guard members and 700 Marines over the objections of city and state leaders. They were originally deployed to protect federal buildings.

Demonstrations have spread to other cities nationwide, including Dallas and Austin, Texas, Chicago and New York, where a thousand people rallied and multiple arrests were made.

In Texas, where police in Austin used chemical irritants to disperse several hundred demonstrators Monday, Republican Gov. Greg Abbott's office said Texas National Guard troops were "on standby" in areas where demonstrations are planned, Abbott spokesperson Andrew Mahaleris said Tuesday evening.

Guard members were deployed to San Antonio, according to assistant police chief Jesse Salame. He said he did not know how many were sent or details on the deployment.

LA mayor puts curfew in place

Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass declared a local emergency on the fifth day of protests and said the curfew will run from 8 p.m. Tuesday until 6 a.m. Wednesday. She said it was expected to last for several days.

"We reached a tipping point" after 23 businesses were looted, Bass said during a news conference Tuesday.

The curfew covers a 1 square mile (2.5 square kilometers) section of downtown that includes the area

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where protests have occurred since Friday. The city of Los Angeles encompasses roughly 500 square miles (1,295 square kilometers).

The curfew doesn't apply to residents who live in the designated area, people who are homeless, credentialed media or public safety and emergency officials, according to Los Angeles Police Chief Jim McDonnell. McDonnell said "unlawful and dangerous behavior" had been escalating since Saturday.

"The curfew is a necessary measure to protect lives and safeguard property following several consecutive days of growing unrest throughout the city," McDonnell said.

Trump says he's open to using Insurrection Act

Trump left open the possibility of invoking the Insurrection Act, which authorizes the president to deploy military forces inside the U.S. to suppress rebellion or domestic violence or to enforce the law in certain situations. It's one of the most extreme emergency powers available to a U.S. president.

"If there's an insurrection, I would certainly invoke it. We'll see," he said from the Oval Office.

Later the president called protesters "animals" and "a foreign enemy" in a speech at Fort Bragg ostensibly to recognize the 250th anniversary of the U.S. Army.

Trump has described Los Angeles in dire terms that Bass and Newsom say are nowhere close to the truth.

In a public address Tuesday evening, Newsom called Trump's actions the start of an "assault" on democracy.

"California may be first, but it clearly will not end here. Other states are next," he said.

Newsom warned people against inciting violence, but urged them to stand up to the president's actions.

"What Donald Trump wants most is your fealty, your silence. To be complicit in this moment," he said.

"Do not give it to him."

The protests began Friday after federal immigration raids arrested dozens of workers in Los Angeles. Protesters blocked a major freeway and set cars on fire over the weekend, and police responded with tear gas, rubber bullets and flash-bang grenades.

The demonstrations have been mostly concentrated downtown in the city of 4 million. Thousands of people have peacefully rallied outside City Hall and hundreds more protested outside a federal complex that includes a detention center where some immigrants are being held following workplace raids.

Despite the protests, immigration enforcement activity has continued throughout the county, with city leaders and community groups reporting ICE present at libraries, car washes and Home Depots. School graduations in Los Angeles have increased security over fears of ICE action and some have offered parents the option to watch on Zoom.

McDonnell said that police had made 197 arrests on Tuesday, including 67 who were taken into custody for unlawfully occupying part of the 101 freeway.

Several businesses were broken into Monday, though authorities didn't say if the looting was tied to the protests.

The vast majority of arrests have been for failing to disperse, while a few others were for assault with a deadly weapon, looting, vandalism and attempted murder for tossing a Molotov cocktail. Seven police officers were reportedly injured, and at least two were taken to a hospital and released.

Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth suggested Tuesday that the use of troops inside the U.S. will continue to expand.

The Pentagon said deploying the National Guard and Marines costs \$134 million.

Protests over immigration raids pop up across the US with more planned

By JIM VERTUNO Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Protests that sprang up in Los Angeles over immigration enforcement raids and prompted President Donald Trump to mobilize National Guard troops and Marines have begun to spread across the country, with more planned into the weekend.

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From Seattle and Austin to Chicago and Washington, D.C., marchers have chanted slogans, carried signs against the Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency and snarled traffic through downtown avenues and outside federal offices. While many have been peaceful, some have resulted in clashes with law enforcement as officers made arrests and used chemical irritants to disperse crowds.

Activists are planning more and even larger demonstrations in the coming days, with "No Kings" events across the country on Saturday to coincide with Trump's planned military parade through Washington.

The Trump administration said it would continue its program of raids and deportations despite the protests. "ICE will continue to enforce the law," Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem posted Tuesday on social media.

A look at some protests across the country:

Philadelphia

About 150 protesters gathered outside the Federal Detention Center in Philadelphia on Tuesday afternoon and marched to ICE headquarters for speeches and then back to the detention center, according to Philadelphia police.

A group then walked through what police called major roads using bicycles to obstruct officers, prompting police to issue several orders for people to disperse. Police said demonstrators ignored the orders and things escalated when officers started arresting people.

Fifteen people were arrested, one on allegations of aggravated assault on police, and the rest for disorderly conduct, police said. Several officers used force during the arrests and their conduct will be reviewed, police said. Police didn't say specifically what kind of force was used. Two officers had minor injuries and were treated at a hospital. Two females who were arrested reported minor injuries and were receiving medical attention, police said.

About 20 people remained peacefully gathered outside the detention center as of Tuesday night, police said.

San Francisco

About 200 protesters gathered outside the San Francisco Immigration Court on Tuesday after activists said several arrests were made there.

That gathering came after protests on Sunday and Monday swelled to several thousand demonstrators and saw more than 150 arrests with outbreaks of violence that included vandalized buildings, and damaged cars, police vehicles and buses. Police said two officers suffered non-life threatening injuries.

Most of the arrests were Sunday night.

"Individuals are always free to exercise their First Amendment rights in San Francisco, but violence, especially against SFPD officers, will never be tolerated," San Francisco police posted on social media.

Police described Monday's march as "overwhelmingly peaceful," but said "two small groups broke off and committed vandalism and other criminal acts." Several people were detained or arrested, police said.

Seattle

About 50 people gathered outside the immigration court in downtown Seattle on Tuesday, chanting with drums and holding up signs that said, "Free Them All; Abolish ICE" and "No to Deportations." Protesters began putting scooters in front of building entryways before police arrived.

Mathieu Chabaud, with Students for a Democratic Society at the University of Washington, said they were there in solidarity with the Los Angeles protesters, "and to show that we're opposed to ICE in our community."

Legal advocates who normally attend the immigration court hearings as observers and to provide support to immigrants were not allowed inside the building. Security guards also turned away the media. The hearings are normally open to the public.

New York City

A mass of people rallied in lower Manhattan on Tuesday evening to protest deportations and federal immigration policy.

Demonstrators gathered outside two federal buildings that house immigration courts and began marching amid a heavy police presence.

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Some protesters held signs reading "ICE out of New York" and others chanted, "Why are you in riot gear? I don't see no riot here."

New York City police said multiple people were taken into custody. There were no immediate charges.

Chicago

In Chicago, a small crowd gathered Tuesday outside immigration court in downtown and called for an end to Trump administration immigration sweeps and military presence in California.

"With the militarization of Los Angeles it's time to get out and let Trump know this is unacceptable," said retiree Gary Snyderman. "All of this is so unconstitutional."

The group then marched through downtown streets drumming and chanting, "No more deportations! and "Trump must go now." A woman at one point drove a car quickly through the street filled with protesters, causing them to dart out of her way. It was not immediately known whether anyone had been injured.

The demonstration had grown to at least a thousand protesters by late Tuesday, remaining relatively peaceful with limited engagement between the group and police officers.

Denver

A group of protesters gathered in front of the Colorado state capitol in Denver on Tuesday, creating a sea of cardboard signs, one exhorting: "Show your faces. ICE cowards."

The group, inspired by the Los Angeles protests over the past several days, split in half, marching down two different thoroughfares and crowding out traffic.

A large police presence wasn't seen initially, but a few officers began blocking a street behind the the marchers.

Santa Ana

In Santa Ana near Los Angeles, armored vehicles blocked the road Tuesday morning leading into the Civic Center, where federal immigration officers and numerous city and county agencies have their offices.

Workers swept up plastic bottles and broken glass from Monday's protests. Tiny shards of red, black and purple glass littered the pavement. Nearby buildings and the sidewalk were tagged with profane graffiti slogans against ICE and had Trump's name crossed out. A worker rolled paint over graffiti on a wall to block it out.

National Guard officers wearing fatigues and carrying rifles prevented people from entering the area unless they worked there.

While a small group kept up their demonstration Tuesday, several counter-protesters showed up. One man wore a red T-shirt and Make America Great Again cap as he exchanged words with the crowd opposing the raids.

San Antonio

San Antonio Police Chief William McManus confirmed that Texas Gov. Greg Abbot sent members of the state's National Guard to the city in advance of protests expected this week, Assistant Chief Jesse Salame told The Associated Press on Tuesday.

"We don't have any additional details about their deployment," Salame said.

Soldiers were "on standby in areas where mass demonstrations are planned in case they are needed," Abbott spokesperson Andrew Mahaleris said Tuesday evening.

Austin

Four Austin police officers were injured and authorities used chemical irritants to disperse a crowd of several hundred demonstrators Monday night that moved between the state Capitol and a federal building that houses an ICE office. State officials had closed the Capitol to the public an hour early in anticipation of the protest.

Austin police used pepper spray balls and state police used tear gas when demonstrators began trying to deface the federal building with spray paint. The demonstrators then started throwing rocks, bottles and other objects at a police barricade, Austin Police Chief Lisa Davis said. Three officers were injured by "very large" rocks and another was injured while making an arrest, she said.

Austin police arrested eight people, and state police arrested five more. Davis said her department is

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prepared for Saturday's planned protest downtown.

"We support peaceful protest," Davis said. "When that protest turns violent, when it turns to throwing rocks and bottles ... that will not be tolerated. Arrests will be made."

Dallas

A protest that drew hundreds to a rally on a city bridge lasted for several hours Monday night before Dallas police declared it an "unlawful assembly" and warned people to leave or face possible arrest.

Dallas police initially posted on social media that officers would not interfere with a "lawful and peaceful assembly of individuals or groups expressing their First Amendment rights." But officers later moved in and media reported seeing some in the crowd throw objects as officers used pepper spray and smoke to clear the area. At least one person was arrested.

"Peaceful protesting is legal," Texas Gov. Greg Abbott, a Republican, posted on X. "But once you cross the line, you will be arrested."

Boston

Hundreds of people gathered in Boston's City Hall Plaza on Monday to protest the detainment of union leader David Huerta Friday during immigration raids in Los Angeles.

Protesters held signs reading "Massachusetts stands with our neighbors in Los Angeles" and "Protect our immigrant neighbors," and shouted, "Come for one, come for all" and "Free David, free them all."

Huerta, president of Service Employees International Union California, was released from federal custody later Monday on \$50,000 bond.

"An immigrant doesn't stand between an American worker and a good job, a billionaire does," said Chrissy Lynch, President of the Massachusetts AFL-CIO.

Washington, D.C.

Several unions gathered Monday in Washington to protest the raids and rally for Huerta's release, and marched past the Department of Justice building.

Among the demonstrators was U.S. Rep. Pramila Jayapal, a Democrat from Washington state.

"Enough of these mass ICE raids that are sweeping up innocent people," Jayapal said. "As we see people exercising the constitutional rights to peacefully use their voices to speak out against this injustice, they are being met with tear gas and rubber bullets."

Los Angeles leaders impose curfew as protests against Trump's immigration crackdown continue

By JAKE OFFENHARTZ, JAIMIE DING, LOLITA C. BALDOR and TARA COPP Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Los Angeles leaders imposed a downtown curfew Tuesday on the fifth day of protests against President Donald Trump's immigration crackdown as his use of the National Guard escalated and the governor accused him of drawing a "military dragnet" across the nation's second-largest city.

Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom asked a court to put an emergency stop to the military helping federal immigration agents, with some guardsmen now standing in protection around agents as they carried out arrests. He said it would only heighten tensions and promote civil unrest. The judge chose not to rule immediately, giving the administration several days to continue those activities before a hearing Thursday.

The change moves troops closer to engaging in law enforcement actions like deportations as Trump has promised as part of his administration's immigration crackdown. The Guard has the authority to temporarily detain people who attack officers but any arrests ultimately would be made by law enforcement.

Trump has activated more than 4,000 National Guard members and 700 Marines over the objections of city and state leaders, though the Marines have not yet been spotted in Los Angeles and Guard troops have had limited engagement with protesters. They were originally deployed to protect federal buildings.

As the curfew went into effect, a police helicopter flew over downtown federal buildings that have been the center of protests and ordered people to leave the area. Riot police on horses and foot surrounded a group of a few hundred that had gathered in the area, shouting: "Move!" Most of the protesters scattered, with some regrouping and refusing orders to disperse.

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Officials said the curfew was necessary to stop vandalism and theft by agitators looking to cause trouble. Demonstrations have spread to other cities nationwide, including Dallas and Austin, Texas, Chicago and New York, where a thousand people rallied and multiple arrests were made.

In Texas, where police in Austin used chemical irritants to disperse several hundred demonstrators Monday, Republican Gov. Greg Abbott's office said Texas National Guard troops were "on standby" in areas where demonstrations are planned, Abbott spokesperson Andrew Mahaleris said Tuesday evening.

Guard members were deployed to San Antonio, according to assistant police chief Jesse Salame. He said he did not know how many were sent or details on the deployment.

LA mayor puts curfew in place

Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass declared a local emergency and said the curfew will run from 8 p.m. Tuesday until 6 a.m. Wednesday.

"We reached a tipping point" after 23 businesses were looted, Bass said during a news conference.

The curfew covers a 1 square mile (2.5 square kilometer) section of downtown that includes the area where protests have occurred since Friday. The city of Los Angeles encompasses roughly 500 square miles (nearly 2,300 square kilometers).

The curfew doesn't apply to residents who live in the designated area, people who are homeless, credentialed media or public safety and emergency officials, according to Los Angeles Police Chief Jim McDonnell.

McDonnell said "unlawful and dangerous behavior" had been escalating since Saturday.

"The curfew is a necessary measure to protect lives and safeguard property following several consecutive days of growing unrest throughout the city," McDonnell said.

Trump says he's open to using Insurrection Act

Trump left open the possibility of invoking the Insurrection Act, which authorizes the president to deploy military forces inside the U.S. to suppress rebellion or domestic violence or to enforce the law in certain situations. It's one of the most extreme emergency powers available to a U.S. president.

"If there's an insurrection, I would certainly invoke it. We'll see," he said from the Oval Office.

Later the president called protesters "animals" and "a foreign enemy" in a speech at Fort Bragg ostensibly to recognize the 250th anniversary of the U.S. Army.

Trump has described Los Angeles in dire terms that Bass and Newsom say are nowhere close to the truth.

In a public address Tuesday evening, Newsom called Trump's actions the start of an "assault" on democracy.

"California may be first, but it clearly will not end here. Other states are next," he said.

Newsom warned people against inciting violence, but urged them to stand up to the president's actions.

"What Donald Trump wants most is your fealty, your silence. To be complicit in this moment," he said.

"Do not give it to him."

The protests began Friday after federal immigration raids arrested dozens of workers in Los Angeles. Protesters blocked a major freeway and set cars on fire over the weekend, and police responded with tear gas, rubber bullets and flash-bang grenades.

The demonstrations have been mostly concentrated downtown in the city of 4 million. Thousands of people have peacefully rallied outside City Hall and hundreds more protested outside a federal complex that includes a detention center where some immigrants are being held following workplace raids.

Despite the protests, immigration enforcement activity has continued throughout the county, with city leaders and community groups reporting ICE present at libraries, car washes and Home Depots. School graduations in Los Angeles have increased security over fears of ICE action and some have offered parents the option to watch on Zoom.

McDonnell said that police had made 197 arrests on Tuesday, including 67 who were taken into custody for unlawfully occupying part of the 101 freeway.

Several businesses were broken into Monday, though authorities didn't say if the looting was tied to the protests.

The vast majority of arrests have been for failing to disperse, while a few others were for assault with

a deadly weapon, looting, vandalism and attempted murder for tossing a Molotov cocktail. Seven police officers were reportedly injured, and at least two were taken to a hospital and released.

Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth suggested Tuesday that the use of troops inside the U.S. will continue to expand.

The Pentagon said deploying the National Guard and Marines costs \$134 million.

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, a day after the Gaza-bound ship she was on was seized by the Israeli military.

Speaking upon arrival in Paris en route to her home country of Sweden, Thunberg called for the release of the other activists who were detained aboard the *Madleen*. She described a “quite chaotic and uncertain” situation during the detention.

The conditions they faced “are absolutely nothing compared to what people are going through in Palestine and especially Gaza right now,” she said. The trip was meant to protest Israeli restrictions on aid to Gaza’s population of over 2 million people after 20 months of war, according to the Freedom Flotilla Coalition, the group behind the journey.

“We were well aware of the risks of this mission,” Thunberg said. “The aim was to get to Gaza and to be able to distribute the aid.” She said the activists would continue trying to get aid to Gaza.

On Monday, U.S. President Donald Trump called Thunberg “a young angry person” and recommended she take anger management classes.

“I think the world need a lot more young angry women,” Thunberg said Tuesday in response.

Thunberg said it appeared she was headed back to Sweden, hadn’t had access to a phone in a few days and wanted a shower. The activists were held separately and some had trouble accessing lawyers, she added.

Asked why she agreed to deportation, she said, “Why would I want to stay in an Israeli prison more than necessary?”

Thunberg called on supporters to ask their governments “to demand not only humanitarian aid being let into Gaza but most importantly an end to the occupation and an end to the systemic oppression and violence that Palestinians are facing on an everyday basis.”

She said recognizing Palestine is “the very, very, very minimum” that governments can do to help.

Other activists face deportation

Thunberg was one of 12 passengers on the *Madleen*. Israeli naval forces seized the boat without incident early Monday about 200 kilometers (125 miles) off Gaza.

The Freedom Flotilla Coalition, along with rights groups, said Israel’s actions in international waters were a violation of international law. Israel rejects that charge, saying such ships intend to breach what it argues is a lawful naval blockade of Gaza.

Israel viewed the ship as a publicity stunt, calling it the “selfie yacht” with a “meager” amount of aid that amounted to less than a truckload.

The Freedom Flotilla Coalition said three activists, including Thunberg, had been deported along with a journalist. It said it had encouraged some to do it so they could speak freely about their experiences.

“Their detention is unlawful, politically motivated and a direct violation of international law,” the coalition said in a statement. Eight other passengers refused deportation and are being detained at Givon prison in Ramle. On Tuesday, Israeli authorities heard their cases at a detention tribunal.

“We argued today, and that also was emphasized by all the activists, that their goal is to enter humanitarian aid to Gaza, to end the famine and to end a genocide in Gaza,” said Lubna Tuma, a lawyer with legal rights group Adalah, who is representing the activists. “Any violation or any prohibition to entering

the humanitarian aid to Gaza is deepening the complicity of Israel in the famine in Gaza.”

Legal representatives for the group said that because Israeli seized their vessel in international waters and forcibly transported them to Israeli territory, Israel had no authority to detain or deport them.

‘Pirate attack’

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. The others have a hearing with the judge 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 among the passengers. 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 one of the detained French activists signed an expulsion order and would leave Tuesday. The other five refused. He said all the activists received consular visits.

Sergio Toribio, a Spanish activist, slammed Israel’s actions after he arrived in Barcelona.

“It is unforgivable, it is a violation of our rights. It is a pirate attack in international waters,” he told reporters.

Blockade of Gaza

Palestinians in Gaza are now almost completely dependent on international aid.

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 asserts that Hamas siphons off the aid to bolster its rule.

Hamas-led militants killed around 1,200 people, mostly civilians, in the Oct. 7, 2023, attack that ignited the war and took 251 hostages, most 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 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.

Russia launches another large-scale drone and missile attack on Ukraine, killing 3 and wounding 13

By VASILISA STEPANENKO and SAMYA KULLAB Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Russia attacked two Ukrainian cities with waves of drones and missiles early Tuesday, killing three people and wounding at least 13 in what President Volodymyr Zelenskyy called “one of the biggest” strikes on Ukraine’s capital in the 3-year-old war.

The attack struck Kyiv and the southern port city of Odesa. In an online statement, Zelenskyy said Moscow’s forces fired 315 drones, most of them Shaheds, and seven missiles 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.

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

Another person was killed in Kyiv’s Obolonskyi district, regional head Tymur Tkachenko wrote on Telegram.

“Russian strikes are once again hitting not military targets but the lives of ordinary people. This once again shows the true nature of what we are dealing with,” he said.

Explosions and the buzzing of drones were heard around the city for hours.

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Attacks continue despite talks but POWs swapped

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

Russia has been launching a record number of drones and missiles in recent days, despite both sides trading memoranda at direct peace talks in Istanbul on June 2 that set out conditions for a potential ceasefire. However, the inclusion of clauses that both sides see as nonstarters make any quick deal unlikely, and a ceasefire, long sought by Kyiv, remains elusive.

The only tangible outcome of the talks has been the exchange of prisoners of war, with a swap that began Monday for soldiers aged between 18 and 25.

A second group was exchanged Tuesday, focusing on seriously wounded and sick Ukrainian service members, Zelenskyy said on Telegram. "Exchanges must continue. We are doing everything to find and return everyone who is in captivity," he said.

Among them were soldiers captured over three years ago in the battle for Mariupol, the Coordination Headquarters for the Treatment of Prisoners of War said on Telegram. All of those freed had severe injuries and illnesses, including amputated limbs and vision problems, it said.

Russia's Defense Ministry said it also received a second group of exchanged soldiers in the deal.

Amina Ivanchenko was reunited Monday with her husband, a POW for 18 months, in the initial release. She said was grateful to Ukrainian officials for supporting her.

"My struggle was much easier thanks to them. Our country will definitely return everyone. Glory to Ukraine! Thank you!"

Anastasia Nahorna waited in the Chernyiv region to see if her husband, who has been missing for eight months, was among those being released in the latest swap.

"This pain is more unbearable every day," she said. "I really want to hear some news, because since the moment of his disappearance, unfortunately, there has been no information. Is he alive? or maybe in captivity? Has someone seen him?" she asked.

Anna Rodionova, the wife of another Ukrainian POW, also was waiting.

"I just want him to come back soon and for this to all be over," she said. "We are tired of waiting, we come every exchange and he is not there."

A similar exchange was announced for the bodies of fallen soldiers held by both sides, although no schedule has been released. Asked to comment on the exchange of dead, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said it was unclear when it could take place and how many bodies Ukraine would hand over. He again accused Kyiv of dragging its feet on the exchange.

"There is one unarguable fact, we have had trucks with bodies standing ready for it on the border for several days," he told reporters.

Kyiv residents seek shelter

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

Viktoriia Melnyk, 30, vented her anger at the Russians after her building in the Obolonskyi district was struck by a drone.

"I want them to leave our territory, to leave us alone, to leave our families alone," she said. "Small children are dying. This is not normal. It's not normal that (the world) is turning away. This is not normal for the 21st century."

Mariia Pachapynska, the 26-year-old manager at a T-shirt company in the same district, decried that her workplace was struck.

"There were no military facilities here," she said, noting that "everything and half of me, half of my soul, burned down."

Seven out of 10 districts were damaged in the attack, said Maryna Kotsupii of the State Emergency Service of Ukraine, adding that 16-story and 25-story residential buildings were hit.

Residents took shelter and slept in metro stations during the long attack, including Nina Nosivets, 32, and her 8-month-old son, Levko.

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"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, 37, said she was scared by the explosions and ran to the metro at 2 a.m., carrying a rug. Fires broke out in at least four Kyiv districts after debris from downed drones fell onto residential buildings and warehouses, according to the Kyiv City Military Administration.

"I was lying in bed, as always hoping that these Shaheds would fly past me, and I heard that Shahed (that hit the house)," said Vasyl Pesenko, 25, standing in his damaged kitchen. "I thought that it would fly away, but it flew closer and closer and everything blew away."

The 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 Russian Defense Ministry insisted its attack targeted arms plants in Kyiv, as well as military headquarters, troop locations, air bases and arms depots. "The goals of the strikes have been achieved, all the designated targets have been hit," it said in a statement.

Death toll rises from recent attacks

The death toll rose Tuesday from previous Russian strikes. In Kharkiv, rescuers found a body in the rubble of a building that was hit Saturday, Mayor Ihor Terekhov wrote on Telegram. The discovery brought the number of dead there to five, with five others potentially under the debris, Terekhov said.

In the northern city of Sumy, a 17-year-old boy died of his injuries Tuesday after a June 3 attack, acting Mayor Artem Kobzar wrote on Telegram, bringing the number killed to six.

The Russian Defense Ministry reported downing 102 Ukrainian drones over Russian regions and Crimea, the Black Sea peninsula Moscow illegally annexed from Kyiv in 2014.

The drones were downed both over regions on the border and deeper inside Russia, including central Moscow and Leningrad regions, according to the Defense Ministry. Flights were temporarily restricted at multiple Russian airports, including all four in Moscow and the Pulkovo airport in St. Petersburg, the country's second-largest city.

Trump says he will 'liberate' Los Angeles in speech to mark the 250th anniversary of the Army

By CHRIS MEGERIAN and MICHELLE L. PRICE Associated Press

FORT BRAGG, N.C. (AP) — President Donald Trump called protesters in Los Angeles "animals" and "a foreign enemy" in a speech at Fort Bragg on Tuesday as he defended deploying the military on demonstrators opposed to his immigration enforcement raids and as he vowed to "liberate" the West Coast city.

Trump, in his most aggressive language yet regarding the protests, used a speech ostensibly supposed to be used to recognize the 250th anniversary of the U.S. Army to denounce the protesters while repeating his false statements about the 2020 election being rigged and attacking the previous commander in chief, former President Joe Biden.

The Republican president, who sees the military as a critical tool for domestic goals, has used the recent protests in Los Angeles as an opportunity to deploy the National Guard and U.S. Marines over the objections of California's Democratic governor. Protesters blocked a major freeway and set cars on fire over the weekend in Los Angeles, but the demonstrations in the city of 4 million people have largely been centered in several blocks of downtown.

"We will not allow an American city to be invaded and conquered by a foreign enemy. That's what they are," Trump said Tuesday.

Trump's heated rhetoric came as he has left open the possibility of invoking the Insurrection Act, one of the most extreme emergency powers available to the president. It authorizes him to deploy military forces inside the U.S. to suppress rebellion or domestic violence or to enforce the law in certain situations.

Trump received plenty of cheers from the crowd, which laughed at the president's jokes and delighted in his dancing to his campaign anthem of "YMCA." However, some members of the audience were uneasy

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with certain aspects of his remarks.

Robin Boothe, who voted for Trump and works on the base as an audiology assistant, said the speech was "classic Trump." However, she also found it to be too partisan, especially his comments on Los Angeles.

"I thought that was better left for a news conference than what we were celebrating today," the 50-year-old said.

The president called Los Angeles "a trash heap" with "entire neighborhoods under control" of criminals and said the federal government would "use every asset at our disposal to quell the violence and restore law and order."

"We will liberate Los Angeles and make it free, clean and safe again," Trump said.

Trump authorized the deployment of 4,000 National Guard soldiers to the city against the wishes of California Gov. Gavin Newsom. About 700 Marines were deployed to the Los Angeles area but had not yet been sent to respond to the protests.

Newsom asked a federal court Tuesday to block Trump from using the military in his city. California leaders accused Trump of fanning protesters' anger and stoking the unrest.

In an address Tuesday evening, Newsom warned: "California may be first, but it clearly will not end here. Other states are next. Democracy is next. Democracy is under assault before our eyes."

Trump also announced his administration was restoring the names of seven military bases that were given the monikers of Confederate leaders until being changed by the Biden administration. Fort Pickett, Fort Robert E. Lee and Fort A.P. Hill in Virginia, Fort Hood in Texas, Fort Gordon in Georgia, Fort Rucker in Alabama and Fort Polk in Louisiana will have their names changed back, Trump said.

Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth has already brought back the names of Fort Bragg and Fort Benning in Georgia.

"Can you believe they changed that name in the last administration for a little bit?" Trump said. "We'll forget all about that."

As they did when they changed back Fort Bragg and Fort Benning, Defense officials announced Tuesday that they had identified service members with the same last names in order to make the change and not have the bases officially carry Confederate-related names.

Before he spoke, Trump watched the U.S. Army demonstrate a missile strike, a helicopter assault and a building raid, a preview of the kind of show of American military might he's expected to display in the nation's capital for a massive military parade this weekend.

Trump has promoted the Army's anniversary as a reason to hold the parade on Saturday, which is also his 79th birthday. Tanks and other vehicles will roll down city streets in a reminder of how the Republican president is reshaping the armed forces after returning to the White House this year.

"I think it's going to be great," Trump told reporters at the White House earlier Tuesday. "We're going to celebrate our country for a change."

As a backdrop to the parade, "No Kings Day" protests are planned across the country on Saturday to push back against what critics see as the administration's draconian policies. Trump said earlier Tuesday that there would be more immigration raids and that any additional protests would be met with even greater force, including those who show up at the parade.

If they do, Trump said, "they will be met with very big force."

"I haven't even heard about a protest but you know, this is people that hate our country. But they will be met with very heavy force."

Newsom weighed in Tuesday on the parade, accusing Trump of forcing the military "to put on a vulgar display to celebrate his birthday, just as other failed dictators have done in the past."

Fort Bragg, which was briefly Fort Liberty and is near Fayetteville, North Carolina, serves as headquarters for the U.S. Army Special Operations Command. Highly trained units like the Green Berets and the 82nd Airborne are based there.

The atmosphere resembled a state fair with military flair. Inflatable slides and attractions for children were set up in a field, with artillery, trucks and helicopters parked on another section of the lawn. Right outside the security checkpoint — but still on the base — two stands were selling Trump political hats,

T-shirts and other paraphernalia.

Hegseth and Army Secretary Dan Driscoll were also at Tuesday's event, along with service members, veterans and their families.

Driscoll, who spoke to the crowd before Trump arrived, called the president "the greatest recruiter in our Army's history."

Hegseth told the crowd that the U.S. is "restoring the warrior ethos" to its armed forces.

"We're not a college or a university. We're not interested in your woke garbage and political correctness," Hegseth said, drawing cheers.

Southern Baptist delegates at national meeting overwhelmingly call for banning same-sex marriage

By PETER SMITH Associated Press

DALLAS (AP) — Southern Baptist delegates at their national meeting overwhelmingly endorsed a ban on same-sex marriage — including a call for a reversal of the U.S. Supreme Court's 10-year-old precedent legalizing it nationwide.

They also called for legislators to curtail sports betting and to support policies that promote childbearing.

The votes Tuesday came at the gathering of more than 10,000 church representatives at the annual meeting of the nation's largest Protestant denomination.

The wide-ranging resolution doesn't use the word "ban," but it left no room for legal same-sex marriage in calling for the "overturning of laws and court rulings, including Obergefell v. Hodges, that defy God's design for marriage and family." Further, the resolution affirmatively calls "for laws that affirm marriage between one man and one women."

A reversal of the Supreme Court's 2015 Obergefell decision wouldn't in and of itself amount to a nationwide ban. At the time of that ruling, 36 states had already legalized same-sex marriage, and support remains strong in many areas.

However, if the convention got its wish, not only would Obergefell be overturned, but so would every law and court ruling that affirmed same-sex marriage.

There was no debate on the marriage resolution. That in itself is not surprising in the solidly conservative denomination, which has long defined marriage as between one man and one woman. However, it marks an especially assertive step in its call for the reversal of a decade-old Supreme Court ruling, as well as any other legal pillars to same-sex marriage in law and court precedent.

Gender identity, fertility and other issues

The marriage issue was incorporated into a much larger resolution on marriage and family — one that calls for civil law to be based on what the convention says is the divinely created order as stated in the Bible.

The resolution says legislators have a duty to "pass laws that reflect the truth of creation and natural law — about marriage, sex, human life, and family" and to oppose laws contradicting "what God has made plain through nature and Scripture."

The same resolution calls for recognizing "the biological reality of male and female" and opposes "any law or policy that compels people to speak falsehoods about sex and gender."

It urges Christians to "embrace marriage and childbearing" and to see children "as blessings rather than burdens."

But it also frames that issue as one of public policy. It calls for "for renewed moral clarity in public discourse regarding the crisis of declining fertility and for policies that support the bearing and raising of children within intact, married families."

It laments that modern culture is "pursuing willful childlessness which contributes to a declining fertility rate," echoing a growing subject of discourse on the religious and political right.

The pornography resolution, which had no debate, calls such material destructive, addictive and exploitive and says governments have the power to ban it.

The sports betting resolution draws on Southern Baptists' historic opposition to gambling. It called sports

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betting "harmful and predatory." One pastor urged an amendment to distinguish between low-stakes, recreational gambling and predatory, addictive gambling activities. But his proposed amendment failed.

Andrew Walker, chair of the Committee on Resolutions, said at a news conference that the marriage resolution shows that Southern Baptists aren't going along with the widespread social acceptance of same-sex marriage.

But Walker, a professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky, acknowledged that a realistic rollback strategy would require incremental steps, such as seeking to overturn Obergefell.

"I'm clear-eyed about the difficulties and the headwinds in this resolution," he said.

Whistleblower's death casts pall on Dallas meeting

The two-day annual meeting began Tuesday morning with praise sessions and optimistic reports about growing numbers of baptisms. But casting a pall over the gathering is the recent death of one of the most high-profile whistleblowers in the Southern Baptists' scandal of sexual abuse.

Jennifer Lyell, a onetime denominational publishing executive who went public in 2019 with allegations that she had been sexually abused by a seminary professor while a student, died Saturday at 47. She "suffered catastrophic strokes," a friend and fellow advocate, Rachael Denhollander, posted Sunday on X.

Friends reported that the backlash Lyell received after going public with her report took a devastating toll on her.

Several abuse survivors and advocates for reform, who previously had a prominent presence in recent SBC meetings, are skipping this year's gathering, citing lack of progress by the convention.

Two people sought to fill that void, standing vigil outside of the meeting at the Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center Dallas as attendees walked by. The pair held up signs with photos of Lyell and of Gareld Duane Rollins, who died earlier this spring and who was among those who accused longtime SBC power broker Paul Pressler of sexual abuse.

"It's not a healthy thing for them (survivors) to be here," said Johnna Harris, host of a podcast on abuse in evangelical ministries. "I felt like it was important for someone to show up. I want people to know there are people who care."

Past attempts at reforms in the SBC

The SBC Executive Committee, in a 2022 apology, acknowledged "its failure to adequately listen, protect, and care for Jennifer Lyell when she came forward to share her story." It also acknowledged the denomination's official news agency had not accurately reported the situation as "sexual abuse by a trusted minister in a position of power at a Southern Baptist seminary."

SBC officials issued statements this week lamenting Lyell's death, but her fellow advocates have denounced what they say is a failure to implement reforms.

The SBC's 2022 meeting voted overwhelmingly to create a way to track pastors and other church workers credibly accused of sex abuse. That came shortly after the release of a blockbuster report by an outside consultant, which said Southern Baptist leaders mishandled abuse cases and stonewalled victims for years.

But the denomination's Executive Committee president, Jeff Iorg, said earlier this year that creating a database is not a focus and that the committee instead plans to refer churches to existing databases of sex offenders and focus on education about abuse prevention. The committee administers the denomination's day-to-day business.

Advocates for reform don't see those approaches as adequate.

It is the latest instance of "officials trailing out hollow words, impotent task forces and phony dog-and-pony shows of reform," abuse survivor and longtime advocate Christa Brown wrote on Baptist News Global, which is not SBC-affiliated.

In a related action, the Executive Committee will also be seeking \$3 million in convention funding for ongoing legal expenses related to abuse cases.

What else is on the agenda?

As of late Tuesday afternoon, attendance was at 10,541 church representatives (known as messengers). That is less than a quarter of the total that thronged the SBC's annual meeting 40 years ago this month

in a Dallas showdown that marked the height of battles over control of the convention, ultimately won by the more conservative-fundamentalist side led by Pressler and his allies.

Messengers will also debate whether to institute a constitutional ban on churches with women pastors and to abolish its public-policy arm, the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission — which is staunchly conservative, but according to critics, not enough so.

Brent Leatherwood, president of the ERLC, said Tuesday he would address the “turbulence” during his scheduled remarks Wednesday but was confident in the messengers’ support.

Arizona governor vetoes bill banning teaching antisemitism, calls it an attack on educators

PHOENIX (AP) — Arizona Gov. Katie Hobbs has vetoed a proposal that would have banned teaching antisemitism at the state’s public K-12 schools, universities and colleges and exposed educators who violate the new rules to discipline and lawsuits.

The proposal would have prohibited teachers and administrators from teaching or promoting antisemitism or antisemitic actions that create a hostile environment, calling for the genocide of any group or requiring students to advocate for an antisemitic point of view. It also would have barred public schools from using public money to support the teaching of antisemitism.

Educators would have personally been responsible for covering the costs of damages in lawsuits for violating the rules.

Hobbs, a Democrat, said Tuesday that the bill was not about antisemitism but rather about attacking teachers.

“It puts an unacceptable level of personal liability in place for our public school, community college, and university educators and staff, opening them up to threats of personally costly lawsuits,” she said in a statement. “Additionally, it sets a dangerous precedent that unfairly targets public school teachers while shielding private school staff.”

Hobbs described antisemitism as a very troubling issue in the U.S., but said students and parents can go through the state’s Board of Education to report antisemitism.

The measure cleared the Legislature last week on a 33-20 vote by the House, including a few Democrats who crossed party lines to support it. It’s one of a few proposals to combat antisemitism across the country.

Democrats tried but failed to remove the lawsuit provision and swap out references to antisemitism within the bill with “unlawful discrimination” to reflect other discrimination.

The bill’s chief sponsor, Republican Rep. Michael Way, of Queen Creek, called the veto “disgraceful,” saying on the social media platform X that the legislation was meant to keep “egregious and blatant antisemitic content” out of the classroom.

“To suggest that it threatened the speech of most Arizona teachers is disingenuous at best,” he added.

Opponents said the bill aimed to silence people who want to speak out on the oppression of Palestinians and opened up educators to personal legal liability in lawsuits students could file.

Students over the age of 18 and the parents of younger pupils would have been able to file lawsuits over violations that create a hostile education environment, leaving teachers responsible for paying any damages that may be awarded, denying them immunity and prohibiting the state from paying any judgments arising from any such lawsuits.

Last week, Lori Shepherd, executive director of Tucson Jewish Museum & Holocaust Center, wrote in a letter to Hobbs that if the bill were approved it would threaten teachers’ ability to provide students with a full account of the holocaust.

Under the bill, “those discussions could be deemed ‘antisemitic’ depending on how a single phrase is interpreted, regardless of intent or context,” she said.

The bill would have created a process for punishing those who break the rules. At K-12 schools, a first-offense violation would lead to a reprimand, a second offense to a suspension of a teacher or principal’s certificate and a third offense to a revocation of the certificate.

At colleges and universities, violators would have faced a reprimand on first offense, a suspension without pay for a second offense and termination for a third offense. The proposal also would have required colleges and universities to consider violations by employees to be a negative factor when making employment or tenure decisions.

Under the proposal, universities and colleges couldn't recognize any student organization that invites a guest speaker who incites antisemitism, encourages its members to engage in antisemitism or calls for the genocide of any group.

Elsewhere in the U.S., a Louisiana lawmaker is pushing a resolution that asks universities to adopt policies to combat antisemitism on campuses and collect data on antisemitism-related reports and complaints. And a Michigan lawmaker has proposed putting a definition of antisemitism into the state's civil rights law.

36 Palestinians killed trying to obtain desperately needed aid in Gaza, officials say

By WAFAA SHURAF and SAMY MAGDY Associated Press

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip (AP) — Palestinians desperately trying to access aid in Gaza came under fire again Tuesday, killing 36 people and wounding 207, the Palestinian Health Ministry said.

Experts and humanitarian aid workers say Israel's blockade and 20-month military campaign have pushed Gaza to the brink of famine.

At least 163 people have been killed and 1,495 wounded in a number of shootings near aid sites run by the Israeli and U.S.-backed Gaza Humanitarian Foundation, which are in military zones that are off-limits to independent media. The Israeli military has acknowledged firing warning shots on previous occasions at people who it says approached its forces in a suspicious manner.

The foundation says there has been no violence in or around the distribution points themselves. But it has warned people to stay on designated access routes and it paused delivery last week while it held talks with the military on improving safety.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Tuesday there is "meaningful progress" on a possible ceasefire deal that would also return some of the 55 hostages still being held in Gaza, but said it was "too early to hope." Foreign Minister Gideon Saar also mentioned Tuesday that there was progress in ceasefire negotiations.

Netanyahu was meeting with the Israeli negotiating team and the defense minister Tuesday evening to discuss next steps.

'People are killed just trying to get food'

In southern Gaza, at least eight people were killed while trying to obtain aid around Rafah, according to Nasser Hospital.

In northern Gaza, two men and a child were killed and at least 130 were wounded on Tuesday, according to Nader Garghoun, a spokesperson for the al-Awda Hospital, which received the casualties. He said most were being treated for gunshot wounds.

Witnesses told The Associated Press that Israeli forces opened fire at around 2 a.m., several hundred meters (yards) from the aid site in central Gaza. Crowds of Palestinians seeking desperately needed food often head to the sites hours before dawn, hoping to beat the crowds.

The Israeli military said it fired warning shots at people it referred to as suspects. It said they had advanced toward its troops hundreds of meters (yards) from the aid site prior to its opening hours.

Mohammed Abu Hussein, a resident of the nearby built-up Bureij refugee camp, said Israeli drones and tanks opened fire, and that he saw five people wounded by gunshots.

Abed Haniyah, another witness, said Israeli forces opened fire "indiscriminately" as thousands of people were attempting to reach the food site.

"What happens every day is humiliation," he said. "Every day, people are killed just trying to get food for their children."

Additionally, three Palestinian medics were killed in an Israeli strike Tuesday in Gaza City, according to

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the health ministry.

The medics from the health ministry's emergency service were responding to an Israeli attack on a house in Jaffa street in Gaza City when a second strike hit the building, the ministry said. The Israeli military did not comment on the strike, but said over the past day the air force has hit dozens of targets belonging to Hamas' military infrastructure, including rocket launchers.

The U.N. has rejected the new aid system

Israel and the United States say they set up the new food distribution system to prevent Hamas from stealing humanitarian aid and using it to finance militant activities.

The United Nations, which runs a long-standing system capable of delivering aid to all parts of Gaza, says there is no evidence of any systematic diversion.

U.N. agencies and major aid groups have refused to cooperate with the new system, saying it violates humanitarian principles by allowing Israel to decide who receives aid and by forcing Palestinians to relocate to just three currently operational sites.

The other two distribution sites are in the now mostly uninhabited southern city of Rafah, which Israel has transformed into a military zone. Israeli forces maintain an outer perimeter around all three hubs, and Palestinians must pass close to them to reach the distribution points.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has spoken of creating a "sterile zone" in Rafah free of Hamas and of moving the territory's entire population there. He has also said Israel will facilitate what he refers to as the voluntary emigration of much of Gaza's 2 million Palestinians to other countries — plans rejected by much of the international community, including the Palestinians, who view it as forcible expulsion.

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

Israel's military campaign has killed nearly 55,000 Palestinians, according to Gaza's Health Ministry. It says women and children make up most of the dead, but doesn't distinguish between civilians and combatants. Israel says it has killed more than 20,000 militants, without providing evidence.

The war has destroyed vast areas of Gaza and displaced around 90% of its population, often multiple times.

Associated Press seeks full appeals court hearing on access to Trump administration events

By DAVID BAUDER AP Media Writer

The Associated Press on Tuesday asked for a hearing before the full U.S. Court of Appeals in Washington, seeking to overturn a three-judge panel's ruling that allowed the Trump administration to continue blocking the AP's access to some presidential events — a four-month case that has raised questions about what level of journalistic access to the presidency the First Amendment permits.

Three judges of that court on Friday, in a 2-1 decision, said it was OK for President Donald Trump to continue keeping AP journalists out of the Oval Office or other small events in retaliation for the news outlet's decision not to follow his lead in changing the Gulf of Mexico's name.

He had sought a pause of a lower court's ruling in the AP's favor in April that the administration was improperly punishing the news organization for the content of its speech.

"The decision of the appellate panel to pause the district court's order allows the White House to discriminate and retaliate over words it does not like, a violation of the First Amendment," AP spokesperson Patrick Maks said. "We are seeking a rehearing of this decision by the full appellate court because an essential American principle is at stake."

A hearing before the full court would change the landscape — and possibly the outcome as well. The two judges who ruled in Trump's favor on Friday had been appointed to the bench by him. The full court consists of nine members appointed by Democratic presidents, and six by Republicans.

The news outlet's access to events in the Oval Office and Air Force One was cut back starting in Feb-

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ruary after the AP said it would continue referring to the Gulf of Mexico in its copy, while noting Trump's wishes that it instead be renamed the Gulf of America.

For decades, a reporter and a photographer for the AP — a 179-year-old wire service whose material is sent to thousands of news outlets across the world and carried on its own website, reaching billions of people — had been part of a small-group "pool" that covers a president in places where space is limited. Now, an AP photographer routinely gets access to these events, while text reporters rarely do.

The Latest: Trump pledges to 'liberate' LA as he visits troops at Fort Bragg

By The Associated Press undefined

President Donald Trump called Los Angeles a "trash heap" and promised to "liberate" it from criminals in a speech to troops at Fort Bragg to mark the 250th anniversary of the U.S. Army. Trump's visit Tuesday came after he deployed U.S. Marines in response to immigration protests in Los Angeles. Trump claimed that the city would burn to the ground if he had acted. But only a very small section of the city has been subject to violence.

With Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth and other officials by his side at Fort Bragg, Trump watched as troops crawled through the marsh, showed off military hardware and parachuted from planes.

Earlier Tuesday, Hegseth's acting comptroller, Bryn Woollacott MacDonnell, said it will cost \$134 million to send the National Guard and Marines to Los Angeles. She said the amount will come from operations and maintenance accounts.

Here's the latest:

National Guard troops are now protecting ICE agents as they make arrests in LA

National Guard troops began protecting U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents as the agents made arrests in Los Angeles on Tuesday.

It's an expansion of the Guard troops' duties that been limited to protecting federal property.

McIver's lawyer says they will challenge the allegations 'head-on'

McIver had been charged with assault in a complaint by Habba last month stemming from the May 9 visit to Newark's Delaney Hall — a 1,000-bed, privately owned facility that Immigration and Customs Enforcement uses as a detention center.

McIver defended her presence at the facility as part of her authorized role as a member of Congress.

Her lawyer, former U.S. Attorney for New Jersey Paul Fishman, says they will challenge the allegations "head-on" in court.

U.S. Rep. McIver indicted on federal charges from skirmish at New Jersey immigration center

The charges allege McIver "forcibly impeded" immigration officers during a skirmish outside a New Jersey detention center. McIver has disputed the allegations as baseless.

The skirmish happened last month as Newark's mayor, Ras Baraka, was arrested after trying to join McIver and two fellow Democratic representatives who said they went to conduct congressional oversight at Delaney Hall, where other people were protesting outside.

Police bodycam video shows McIver's elbows pushing into an officer, but it isn't clear from the video whether that contact was intentional, incidental or a result of jostling in the chaotic scene.

Acting U.S. Attorney for New Jersey Alina Habba announced the grand jury indictment in a post on X.

Trump says troops will stay in LA until there's peace

The president told reporters that all he wants to see in Los Angeles is peace and that the troops will stay until he sees it.

"If there's peace, we get out. If there's even a chance of no peace, we stay there," Trump said.

Trump dismisses idea that deploying military in L.A. could inflame situation

The president told reporters when he arrived at Joint Base Andrews after returning from North Carolina that he didn't think anything would go wrong by deploying troops and said, "It can only go right by hav-

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ing the military.”

“By having the military, it de-escalates,” Trump said.

Trump administration OKs limits on food stamp soda drink purchases in some states

Agriculture secretary Brooke Rollins has approved the restrictions for those making the purchases in Arkansas, Utah and Idaho through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, commonly called SNAP.

The waivers, put forth by governors from the states, will ban people from buying sugary drinks and sodas with taxpayer-funded SNAP dollars.

Rollins and health secretary Kennedy hosted a Washington event to sign the waivers. They’ve traveled throughout the country to urge governors to submit waivers to the federal government that would limit how SNAP money is used to buy unhealthy foods.

The nearly \$113 billion program serves about 42 million Americans who have low incomes.

Kennedy promises no ‘anti-vaxxers’ on new CDC vaccine panel

A day after he fired the entire 17-member committee responsible for recommending vaccines for the American public, Kennedy says he plans to install a new board in just two weeks.

Kennedy told reporters that he would bring in “highly credentialed scientists” to sit on the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, a scientific panel that advises the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on how to use vaccines.

“We’re going to bring great people onto the (advisory) panel -- not anti-vaxxers,” said Kennedy, one of the world’s most prominent vaccine critics.

Leading public health and doctors’ groups have panned Kennedy’s firings of panel members on Monday.

Trump wraps up address to troops by harkening back to assassination attempt

As he ended his more than 50-minute speech, the president reminded the troops of his defiant words after he was nearly assassinated at a campaign rally in Pennsylvania last year:

“Fight, fight, fight!”

“You will do something that has become quite a public and famous little phrase also,” Trump said.

“But you’re a hell of a lot braver than me. You will fight, fight, fight and you will win, win, win.”

Correspondent Terry Moran is out at ABC News over Stephen Miller post

The move comes two days after ABC suspended Moran for a social media post that called the Trump administration’s deputy chief of staff a “world class hater.”

The network said Tuesday that it was at the end of its contract with Moran “and based on his recent post — which was a clear violation of ABC News policies — we have made the decision not to renew.”

The administration quickly condemned Moran for his late-night X post criticizing Miller, which was swiftly deleted.

Rubio condemns allies’ sanctions against right-wing Israeli officials

The secretary of state is blasting the move by five U.S. allies to impose sanctions on right-wing members of Israel’s cabinet for inciting violence against Palestinians in the West Bank amid the Israel’s war against Hamas.

In a statement, Rubio says the sanctions against Itamar Ben-Gvir and Bezalel Smotrich “do not advance U.S.-led efforts to achieve a ceasefire, bring all hostages home, and end the war” in Gaza.

Ben-Gvir and Smotrich were hit Tuesday with sanctions that include asset freezes and travel bans by Britain, Canada, Norway, New Zealand and Australia.

“We remind our partners not to forget who the real enemy is. The United States urges the reversal of the sanctions and stands shoulder-to-shoulder with Israel,” Rubio said.

Trump calls LA a ‘trash heap’ as he promises to ‘liberate’ it from criminals

“We will liberate Los Angeles and make it free, clean, and safe again,” the president says in his speech.

Trump said that Los Angeles would burn to the ground if he had not sent in military forces.

Only a very small section of the city has been subject to violence that prompted Trump’s decision to send military forces. His vision of Los Angeles is at odds with an affluent city where an average home

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costs nearly \$1 million, according to Zillow.

Trump kicks off speech by celebrating reversal of base name change

The administration's February order restored the name of the storied special operations forces base in North Carolina back to Fort Bragg.

It was part of an effort to turn back a Biden administration move in 2023 to remove base names that honored Confederate leaders. The North Carolina base was renamed Fort Liberty.

"It's a beautiful sight to be with you in a place called Fort Bragg," Trump said. "Can you believe they changed that name in the last administration for a little bit? We'll forget all about that."

The base was originally named after Gen. Braxton Bragg, a Confederate general from Warrenton, North Carolina, who was known for owning slaves. The new Fort Bragg honors Army Pfc. Roland L. Bragg, a World War II paratrooper and Silver Star recipient from Maine.

Hegseth tells troops that Trump has their back

The defense secretary warmed up the crowd ahead of Trump's remarks to troops at Ft. Bragg by assuring soldiers that the president is focused on them and their mission.

"We're restoring the warrior ethos," Hegseth said. "We're getting back to basics."

He added, "We're not a college or university. We're not interested in your woke garbage or political correctness."

Trump gets close look of US troops in action

With Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth and other officials by his side, Trump watched as troops crawled through the marsh, while helicopters and drones buzzed above.

The president looked on as nearly 600 paratroopers from the 82nd Airborne Division soldiers parachuted from C-17 and C-130 planes. There was also a demonstration where the president could hear the loud boom of howitzers and other long-range artillery from a safe distance.

The demonstration ended with two F-15 jets soaring over the military installation.

Lutnick says trade talks with China are going 'really, really well'

U.S. Secretary of Commerce Howard Lutnick said trade talks with China were going "really, really well" when he emerged from the talks in London to briefly speak with the press waiting outside Lancaster House on Tuesday evening.

"We're very much, you know, spending time, effort and energy," Lutnick said, according to a video clip posted by the Chinese state broadcaster CGTN. "Everybody's got their head down working closely through it."

Lutnick said the two sides worked on "all sorts of trade issues" and that he hoped the talks could end this evening.

Chinese and American officials are meeting in London to work through trade disagreements. It's the second day for the trade talks.

Army tested DC metal street plating the old fashioned way – by running a tank over it 50 times

Soldiers at Fort Cavazos in Texas had a fun pre-parade assignment: Test if the metal plating planned to protect Washington D.C.'s streets is strong enough for an Abrams.

The plating will be installed at key points along the parade route to try and prevent the capital's often pothole riddled streets from further damage.

So soldiers at the Texas Army base took an M1 Abrams tank and ran it over that metal plating again and again — importantly through 50 tank turns, which is the movement the Army thinks could cause D.C.'s streets the most damage — to test if it would hold up under the 60-ton tank.

"Then they picked up the plate — and the road underneath was pristine," spokesman Steve Warren told The Associated Press.

The tanks will roll down Constitution Avenue and past the White House on Saturday to mark the Army's 250th birthday.

Rubio orders USAID firings to move ahead, in wake of court stay

Secretary of State Marco Rubio ordered U.S. embassies around the world Tuesday to move ahead on a State directive to fire all remaining U.S. Agency for International Development staffers by Sept. 30.

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The State Department will take over all foreign assistance programs from USAID by Monday, Rubio said in a cable sent to embassies and viewed by The Associated Press.

Rubio's directive comes after a federal court stay in a broad case by a federal employees union challenging Trump administration mass reductions-in-force in multiple agencies, including the State Department. The plaintiffs say the State Department is violating that stay, though the government denies that.

Trump gets to see precision-guided rocket system, troops in action

The president started off his visit to Ft. Bragg with a demonstration of military hardware, including the High Mobility Artillery Rocket System, and troops demonstrating a helicopter assault and building raid.

HIMARS, a precision-guided rocket launcher system, are among the most pivotal weapon system the U.S. has provided Ukraine since Russia launched its brutal invasion in February 2022.

Trump arrives at Ft. Bragg to celebrate U.S. Army's 250th anniversary

President Trump has arrived at the massive military installation in North Carolina to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the U.S. Army to a warmed-up crowd and festive atmosphere.

Artillery, trucks and helicopters are parked on the lawn, along with inflatable slides and attractions for children. Near a security checkpoint — but still on the base — vendors set up two stands selling Trump campaign paraphernalia like hats and shirts.

Pro wrestlers, including the WWE's Cody Rhodes, worked the crowd before Trump's arrival.

"WWE will always, always support our troops" Rhodes said

Secretary of Army Dan Driscoll praised Trump as "the greatest recruiter in our army's history."

There is a "resurgence of pride" in America. "It's real. I can feel it," Driscoll said.

California Democrats warn that Trump's unchecked reach could extend beyond LA

"We are here not just as Californians but as Americans who are concerned with the direction of our country," said Rep. Jimmy Gomez, who represents the Los Angeles area.

The Democrats warned during a press conference at the U.S. Capitol that Trump's decision to send the National Guard and Marines to Los Angeles is inciting chaos, potentially setting the stage for his wider actions.

"We are at a dangerous inflection point in our country," Gomez said. "In a democracy, civil disobedience isn't met with military force. But that's exactly what Trump is doing."

He said, "If it can happen in Los Angeles, it can happen in any state in the union.

"Rep. Nanette Barragan, whose district includes the city of Paramount, said, "Listen to the words of this administration: They're using words like insurrection. They're using words like invasion."

Barragan warned: "I believe this is their way to lay down the groundwork to try to have martial law and invoke the insurrection act. "That's a concern," she said, explaining such an order could encompass the entire country. "That is dangerous. It's wrong."

Mexican President says Secretary of Homeland Security Kristi Noem's claims of inciting violence are 'absolutely false'

Secretary of Homeland Security Kristi Noem on Tuesday accused Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum of inciting violence in Los Angeles protests, despite the Mexican leader repeatedly calling on protesters to act peacefully.

"Claudia Sheinbaum came out and encouraged more protests in LA and I condemn her for that. She should not be encouraging violent protests that are going on," Noem said during an appearance in the Oval Office on Tuesday.

The accusation invoked a strong response from Sheinbaum, who called the claims "absolutely false," in a post on the social media platform X. Sheinbaum posted a video from her morning press briefing in which she called for peaceful protests, referring to Noem's comments as a "misunderstanding."

"We do not agree with violent actions as a form of protest, the burning of patrol cars seems more an act of provocation than resistance, it should be clear, we condemn violence, wherever it comes from, we call on the Mexican community to act peacefully and not fall into provocations," she said in the press briefing.

In her response to Noem, Sheinbaum added that she will "continue to defend honest, hard working

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Mexicans who support the United States economy," and called for "dialogue and respect."

Vance met with Johnson at Capitol to discuss 'Big Beautiful Bill'

Vice President JD Vance met at the Capitol on Tuesday with Wisconsin Sen. Ron Johnson, according to a person familiar with the meeting who was not authorized to speak publicly.

Johnson is a Republican who has been very critical of Trump's bill to cut taxes and spending, arguing the legislation does not do enough to cut government spending.

Vance and Johnson discussed the bill and the White House is optimistic that there's a path to getting Johnson to support the bill, according to the person, but it was not clear what that path would look like.

Prank show host says Craigslist ad was not intended to make light of LA protests

The host of an online prank show tells The Associated Press that a Craigslist ad seeking "the toughest badasses in the city" was an unrelated joke and was not intended to make light of demonstrations in Los Angeles.

Viral social media posts falsely claimed the ad was proof the Los Angeles demonstrations are made up of paid protesters.

The ad, which is no longer live, was bait for a prank show called "Goofcon1" and had nothing to do with the protests in Los Angeles. It was posted on Craigslist on Thursday, the day before the protests began.

In a livestreamed episode, the show's hosts on Friday called and spoke with people who responded to the ad. Joey LaFleur, one of Goofcon1's hosts, confirmed with The Associated Press that he put up the Craigslist ad for the show.

"I literally had no idea it was ever going to be connected to the riots," LaFleur told AP, referencing the ad. "It was a really weird coincidence. I'm not trying to troll a serious situation."

California Republican congressman denounces 'violence and vandalism' while expressing concern about ICE raids

Rep. David Valadao, a moderate Republican who represents much of the state's San Joaquin Valley, expressed concern over the scenes in Los Angeles and urged for peaceful protest.

He added that he had expressed concerns to the Trump administration over how it is conducting ICE raids in the Golden State.

"I support the First Amendment right to peacefully protest, but the violence and vandalism happening in Los Angeles is unacceptable and I stand with our law enforcement officers working to protect people and regain control over the situation," Valadao wrote on social media.

"I remain concerned about ongoing ICE operations throughout CA and will continue my conversations with the administration — urging them to prioritize the removal of known criminals over the hardworking people who have lived peacefully in the Valley for years."

Gabbard says AI sped up release of JFK files

Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard says artificial intelligence accelerated the release of thousands of pages of previously classified documents relating to the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy and Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

Experts had predicted the process could take many months or even years, but AI was able to quickly scan for any material that should remain classified, Gabbard told the audience at the Amazon Web Services summit Tuesday.

"We have been able to do that through the use of AI tools far more quickly than what was done previously — which was to have humans go through and look at every single one of these pages," Gabbard said.

Trump said troops will stay in LA 'until there's no danger'

Trump said he isn't worried about things getting out of hand with the military on the ground in Los Angeles. Asked if he was concerned, Trump said, "No, it's OK."

How long will National Guard troops will stay in Los Angeles?

"Until there's no danger," Trump said. "When there's no danger, they'll leave."

Trump suggests he's open to invoking Insurrection Act to quell protest in LA

The president during his Oval Office engagement with reporters left open the possibility of invoking one of the most extreme emergency powers available to a U.S. president.

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"If there's an insurrection, I would certainly invoke it. We'll see," Trump said. "But I can tell you last night was terrible, and the night before that was terrible."

The Insurrection Act authorizes the president to deploy military forces inside the United States to suppress rebellion or domestic violence or to enforce the law in certain situations.

It is often referred to as the "Insurrection Act of 1807," but the law is actually an amalgamation of different statutes enacted by Congress between 1792 and 1871.

Trump says governors, not federal government, should handle disaster management

The president told reporters in the Oval Office that he wants the country to "wean off" of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Trump has been critical of FEMA over the last year and has spread misinformation about it, especially regarding its assistance in North Carolina in the wake of Hurricane Helene.

Trump said disaster management is meant to be handled by governors.

"We're moving it back to the states so the governors can handle it," he said. "That's why they're governors. Now, if they can't handle it, they shouldn't be governor."

Trump last month pushed out the acting head of FEMA after the administrator testified before Congress that he disagreed with dismantling the agency.

Trump calls press to Oval Office as administration officials talk about fighting wildfires and hurricanes

The event wasn't on Trump's public schedule, but the Agriculture and Homeland Security secretaries talked about fighting wildfires and hurricanes.

Trump is sitting at his desk while the officials talk.

The president has cut firefighting crews and also wants to eliminate FEMA, the Federal Emergency Management Administration and give states more responsibility for responding to hurricanes.

Arkansas Gov. Sarah Huckabee Sanders says she wouldn't allow what's happening in LA in her state

Sanders, who was press secretary in Trump's first term, is meeting with administration officials at the White House.

She backs Trump sending the National Guard into Los Angeles without approval from California's governor and was asked if she'd be OK with a similar move in her state.

"If we needed help, I would be making the phone call myself to the president and asking for his assistance. But in Arkansas, we would never allow to take place what they're letting to go on in California. But if we needed help, the president would be one of the first people I would call because he is somebody I know who cares deeply about making sure the American people are safe and secure first and foremost."

Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard says intelligence agencies must work faster

And she says she's working to speed up the delivery of the intelligence information to address a key complaint from policymakers.

Speaking at the Amazon Web Services summit in Washington, Gabbard said the pace of intelligence work frustrated her as a member of Congress and continues to be a challenge to lawmakers.

"They still express a lot of the same frustrations that I felt — that much of what we were briefed on was already reported in a newspaper ... and that even if it was quality reporting it was coming too late," Gabbard said.

Artificial intelligence and computing could help speed up the work, Gabbard said, to ensure lawmakers have the information they need.

Los Angeles deployment to cost at least \$134 million and last 60 days, Pentagon says

"We stated very publicly that it's 60 days because we want to ensure that those rioters, looters and thugs on the other side assaulting our police officers know that we're not going anywhere," Hegseth told members of the House appropriations defense subcommittee.

The current cost estimate for the deployment is \$134 million, which is largely just the cost of travel, housing and food," said Bryn Woollacott MacDonnell, special assistant to the secretary of defense who's currently performing the duties of the Pentagon's top financial officer.

Hegseth: Funding for Ukraine military aid will be reduced in upcoming defense budget

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That could mean Kyiv will receive fewer critical air defense systems in the future that have been key to countering a continuous onslaught of Russian missiles.

"It is a reduction in this budget," Hegseth told lawmakers. "This administration takes a very different view of that conflict. We believe that a negotiated peaceful settlement is in the best interest of both parties and our nation's interests, especially with all the competing interests around the globe."

The U.S. to date has provided Ukraine more than \$66 billion in aid since Russia invaded in February 2022.

House Speaker Mike Johnson defended Trump's handling of protests in Los Angeles

And he echoed the president's attacks on Democratic California Gov. Gavin Newsom.

"That's not my lane," Johnson said in response to a question about whether Newsom should face legal consequences such as arrest.

Johnson, speaking at a news conference at the RNC on Tuesday, continued that Newsom should be "tarred and feathered"— eliciting chuckles from members of House Republican leadership at the news conference — for "standing in the way of the administration and the carrying out of federal law."

Thune says 'federal response' necessary to protests in Los Angeles

Senate Majority Leader John Thune, a South Dakota Republican, said Tuesday there were "clear failures on the part of state and local officials" in response to protests over immigration raids in Los Angeles and a "federal response" was necessary.

President Trump has sent thousands of National Guard troops and 700 active duty Marines to quell the protests despite the objections of Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom and local leaders.

"I don't know exactly the authorities that they are using," Thune said, referring to the Marine deployment. "But obviously, there was a security situation out there that needed to be addressed. And I think ultimately the president's objective is to keep people safe."

Hegseth suggests National Guard use for homeland defense will expand under Trump

"I think we're entering another phase, especially under President Trump with his focus on the homeland, where the National Guard and reserves become a critical component of how we secure that homeland," Hegseth told lawmakers.

Hegseth earlier refused to answer a lawmaker's questions on how much a deployment of active duty U.S. Marines to Los Angeles will cost.

Greta Thunberg isn't fazed by Donald Trump

After the activist joined a flotilla seeking to break Israel's blockade of Gaza and bring humanitarian aid to Palestinians, the U.S. president described Thunberg as a "young, angry person." He said she should go to "anger management class."

Thunberg was detained then deported by Israel on Tuesday and sent to Paris.

Asked upon arrival about Trump's comments, she replied in a matter-of-fact tone: "I think the world needs a lot more young angry women to be honest. Especially with everything going on right now."

Head of Marine Corps says battalion deployed to LA is there, ready to respond but hasn't engaged

Gen. Eric Smith testified at a budget hearing before senators that those Marines are trained for crowd control and they would have shields and batons as their equipment. He said they have no arrest authority and are only there to protect federal property and federal personnel.

When asked by Sen. Richard Blumenthal, a Connecticut Democrat, about the danger Marines would use lethal force that could result in injuries and deaths, Smith said he had faith in them.

"I am not concerned. I have great faith in my Marines and their junior leaders and their more senior leaders to execute the lawful tasks that they are given."

Ukraine's surprise drone attack on Russia has the US rethinking its own defenses, Hegseth says

The attack in early June that destroyed a large number of Russian bomber aircraft caught the U.S. off guard and represented significant advances in drone warfare, Hegseth told lawmakers Tuesday.

The attack has the Pentagon rethinking drone defenses "so we are not vulnerable to a threat and an attack like that," Hegseth told the House appropriations subcommittee on defense.

Hegseth said the Pentagon "is learning everyday from Ukraine," and focused on how to better defend its own military airfields.

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Hegseth refuses to provide lawmakers details on costs of sending Marines to Los Angeles

In a back and forth with the defense appropriations subcommittee's top Democrat, Hegseth refused to answer basic questions on the cost of deploying Marines to Los Angeles, instead falling back on political talking points.

In a series of questions on the news that Marines would be sent to Los Angeles, House Appropriations defense subcommittee ranking member Rep. Betty McCollum told Hegseth "this is a deeply unfair position to put our Marines in," she said. "There's no need for the Marines to be deployed."

McCollum asked what the cost of the deployment would be. Hegseth deflected on the costs, attacked the decisions of the previous Biden administration instead and talked about illegal immigration.

"Could the Secretary please address the budget" McCollum asked him.

Hegseth again refused to acknowledge McCollum's question and attacked the politics of the past administration again. McCollum took back her time and Hegseth was instructed by the committee chairman to provide the costs in writing instead.

California Democrats accuses Trump of inciting unrest

Democratic members of California's congressional delegation are accusing the president of creating a "manufactured crisis" in Los Angeles with his orders to send in thousands of National Guard troops and hundreds of Marines.

"It's a deliberate attempt by Trump to incite unrest, test the limits of executive power and distract from the lawlessness of his administration," said Rep. Jimmy Gomez, who organized a news conference at the U.S. Capitol on Tuesday morning.

Rep. Jimmy Panetta said Trump's decision to send in the military was designed to "give him the image and give him the fight and give him the pictures that he wants."

Rep. Nancy Pelosi contrasted Trump's actions now with his handling of the Jan. 6 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol when law enforcement officers were being beaten.

"We begged the president of the United States to send in the National Guard. He would not do it," Pelosi said.

Hegseth skirts acknowledging key controversies in opening remarks

Based on his opening remarks in his first appearance before lawmakers since taking office, there's been nothing but smooth sailing in the defense chief's office.

Hegseth completed his opening statement with no mention of his controversial use of Signal, of the lack of defense budget details to guide Congress, or his controversial firings of his own staff or military leaders.

Hegseth also made no mention of a decision to deploy Marines into Los Angeles to respond to immigration raid protests. Instead, he clung closely to the talking points he's used since taking office, such as emphasizing that "DEI is dead," and that he's focused on a return to "lethality."

Pentagon mired in 'controversy and chaos,' lawmaker says in Hegseth hearing

Trump's defense chief faced a litany of questions on what some lawmakers called "rash" or "reckless" decisions or actions dating back to his first day in office, as Tuesday's hearing before the House Appropriations defense subcommittee began.

In opening statements, lawmakers asked about Hegseth's decisions to fire top military leaders, his use of Signal and other controversies, including his firing of several staff members in his inner circle.

"The Department of Defense is mired in controversy and chaos," said Rep. Rosa DeLauro, the ranking member of the full committee.

Citing trade wars, the World Bank sharply downgrades forecast for global economic growth

President Trump's trade wars are expected to slash economic growth this year in the United States and around the world, the World Bank forecast Tuesday.

Citing "a substantial rise in trade barriers" but without mentioning Trump by name, the 189-country lender predicted that the U.S. economy — the world's largest — would grow half as fast (1.4%) this year as it did in 2024 (2.8%). That marked a downgrade from the 2.3% U.S. growth it had forecast back for 2025 back in January.

The bank also lopped 0.4 percentage points off its forecast for global growth this year. It now expects

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the world economy to expand just 2.3% in 2025, down from 2.8% in 2024.

Trump links protests in Los Angeles to home rebuilding after wildfires

Trump said his decision to "SEND IN THE TROOPS" to Los Angeles spared the city from burning to the ground like thousands of homes after wildfires this year.

He wrote on his social media site that people want to rebuild, and that the federal permitting process is "virtually complete on these houses."

Trump claimed "the easy and simple City and State Permits are disastrously bungled up and WAY BEHIND SCHEDULE!" and blamed California Gov. Gavin Newsom and Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass.

"People want to rebuild their houses. Call your incompetent Governor and Mayor, the Federal permitting is DONE!!!" he wrote.

Trump's Tuesday schedule, according to the White House

12:25 p.m. — Trump will travel to Fort Bragg, North Carolina

2:40 p.m. — Once he arrives, Trump will observe a military demonstration

4 p.m. — Trump will deliver remarks to service members, veterans and their families

6 p.m. — Trump will travel back to the White House

Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth to face Congress for first time since Signal leaks

He's 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're unhappy that Hegseth hasn't provided details on the administration's first proposed defense budget, which 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 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.

RFK Jr. ousts entire CDC vaccine advisory committee

Kennedy on Monday removed every member of a scientific committee that advises the CDC 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.

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

Trump made no secret of his willingness to take 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.

By overriding California's Gov. Gavin 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, he's moving swiftly 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. For now, Trump is betting that they will.

Trump heads to Fort Bragg while facing criticism for deploying military at Los Angeles protests. Trump plans to speak at Fort Bragg on Tuesday to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the U.S. Army as he deploys the military in an attempt to quiet immigration protests in Los Angeles. Fort Bragg, located near Fayetteville, North Carolina, serves as headquarters for U.S. Army Special Operations Command. Highly trained units like the Green Berets and the Rangers are based there. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth and Army Secretary Dan Driscoll will also be at Tuesday's event, along with service members, veterans and their families. Trump has promoted the Army's anniversary as a reason to hold a military parade in Washington, D.C., on Saturday, which is also his 79th birthday. Trump, who sees the military as a critical tool for domestic goals, has used the recent protests in Los Angeles as an opportunity to deploy the National Guard and U.S. Marines to quell disturbances that began as protests over immigration raids.

US Rep. LaMonica McIver indicted on federal charges from skirmish at New Jersey immigration center

By MIKE CATALINI Associated Press

TRENTON, N.J. (AP) — U.S. Rep. LaMonica McIver was indicted Tuesday on federal charges alleging she assaulted and interfered with immigration officers outside a New Jersey detention center while Newark's mayor was being arrested after he tried to join a congressional oversight visit at the facility.

Acting U.S. Attorney for New Jersey Alina Habba announced the grand jury indictment in a post on X. "While people are free to express their views for or against particular policies, they must not do so in a manner that endangers law enforcement and the communities those officers serve," Habba said.

In a statement, McIver said the charges amounted to the Trump administration trying to scare her. "The facts of this case will prove I was simply doing my job and will expose these proceedings for what they are: a brazen attempt at political intimidation," she said.

McIver, a Democrat, was charged in a complaint by Habba last month with two assault charges stemming from the May 9 visit to Newark's Delaney Hall — a 1,000-bed, privately owned facility that Immigration and Customs Enforcement uses as a detention center.

The indictment includes three counts of assaulting, resisting, impeding and interfering with federal officials. Habba said two of the counts carry a maximum sentence of up to eight years in prison. A third has a maximum sentence of one year.

McIver's lawyer, former U.S. Attorney for New Jersey Paul Fishman, said in a statement that they would challenge the allegations "head-on" in court.

"The legal process will expose this prosecution for what it truly is -- political retaliation against a dedicated public servant who refuses to shy away from her oversight responsibilities," Fishman said.

The indictment is the latest development in a legal-political drama that has seen President Donald Trump's administration take Democratic officials from New Jersey's largest city to court, tapping into the president's immigration crackdown and Democrats' efforts to respond. The prosecution of McIver is a rare federal criminal case against a sitting member of Congress for allegations other than fraud or corruption.

At the same visit that resulted in McIver's charges, Newark Mayor Ras Baraka was arrested on a trespassing charge, which was later dropped. Baraka is suing Habba over what he said was a malicious prosecution.

A nearly two-minute clip released by the Homeland Security Department shows McIver on the facility side of a chain-link fence just before the arrest of the mayor on the street side of the fence, where other people had been protesting. She and uniformed officials go through the gate, and she joins others shout-

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ing that they should circle the mayor. The video shows McIver in a tightly packed group of people and officers. At one point, her left elbow and then her right elbow push into an officer wearing a dark face covering and an olive green uniform emblazoned with the word "Police" on it.

It isn't clear from police bodycam video whether that contact was intentional, incidental or a result of jostling in the chaotic scene.

The complaint says she "slammed" her forearm into an agent then tried to restrain the agent by grabbing him.

The indictment says she placed her arms around the mayor to block his arrest and repeats the charges that she slammed her forearm into an agent and grabbed the agent.

New Jersey Reps. Bonnie Watson Coleman and Rob Menendez had joined McIver at the detention center that day. They and other Democrats have criticized the arrest and disputed the charges as well.

By law, members of Congress are authorized to go into federal immigration facilities as part of their oversight powers, even without notice. Congress passed a 2019 appropriations bill that spelled out the authority.

McIver, 38, first came to Congress in September in a special election after the death of Rep. Donald Payne Jr. left a vacancy in the 10th District.

She was then elected to a full term in November. A Newark native, she served as the president of the Newark City Council from 2022 to 2024 and worked in the city's public schools before that.

The Latest: Newsom asks court to block Trump's use of military in LA immigration raids

By The Associated Press undefined

California Governor Gavin Newsom has filed an emergency motion in federal court to block National Guard members and Marines from assisting with immigration raids in Los Angeles. "Trump is turning the U.S. military against American citizens," Newsom wrote on X.

President Donald Trump originally deployed the Guard to protect federal buildings and personnel. The governor's request says the Guard will start supporting immigration activities.

Here's the latest:

ICE posts a photo on X of Guards standing by during arrests

Photos posted Tuesday on X by ICE appear to show National Guard troops standing by while officials detain two men. Hegseth reposted the photos with the text: "This We'll Defend."

Troops are "providing perimeter and personnel protection" for ICE facilities and officers in the field, as well as helping with transportation as needed, agency spokesperson Yasmeen Pitts O'Keefe said in a statement. They can temporarily detain people, but cannot arrest them.

This comes after California officials were informed that the Pentagon planned to direct the Guard to start providing support for immigration operations, including holding secure perimeters for ICE operations, when they were initially deployed to protect federal property.

Arrests made in downtown Los Angeles on 5th day of protests

For the fifth day, demonstrators gathered in Los Angeles to protest ICE raids. A few dozen protesters gathered peacefully downtown in front of the federal detention center Tuesday, which was quickly declared an unlawful assembly. Police issued a dispersal order and corralled a small group of protesters, telling members of the media to stay out to avoid getting hurt.

Officers began making arrests Tuesday afternoon.

Court sets hearing on California's request to block troops from raids

A federal judge will hold a hearing Thursday on Newsom's request to block the Trump administration from using the National Guard and Marines to assist with immigration raids in Los Angeles.

Newsom filed the emergency request Tuesday seeking to immediately block the administration from sending troops to help support immigration raids. The governor argued it would only escalate tensions and promote civil unrest.

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Administration lawyers say Newsom is seeking an unprecedented and dangerous court order that would interfere with the federal government's ability to carry out operations.

Trump calls LA a 'trash heap' as he promises to 'liberate' it from criminals

Trump speaking at Fort Bragg called Los Angeles a "trash heap" after protests over his removal of immigrants.

Trump has ordered troops into America's second largest city, saying that "entire neighborhoods" are under the control of criminals. His vision of Los Angeles was at odds with an affluent city where an average home costs nearly \$1 million, according to Zillow.

"We will liberate Los Angeles and make it free, clean, and safe again," Trump said.

Federal immigration raid at Omaha meat production plant sparks protests

Immigration authorities raided at least one Omaha meat production plant Tuesday morning.

Omaha police and the Douglas County sheriff said immigration officials had warned them about their plans, and their departments helped block off traffic around the neighborhood where many food production plants are located while U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers worked.

Meatpacking plants rely heavily on immigrant workers who are willing to do the physically demanding work. The industry has not yet been the focus of Trump's immigration enforcement efforts, but the administration has been intensifying its efforts in recent weeks.

In Omaha, a small group of people came out to protest the raids, and some of them even jumped on the front bumper of a vehicle to try to stop officers in one location while others threw rocks at officials' vehicles as a white bus carrying workers pulled away from a plant.

Glenn Valley Foods officials didn't immediately respond to an inquiry from The Associated Press.

California governor asks court to block Trump administration from using troops in immigration raids

Gov. Newsom filed an emergency request in federal court Tuesday to block the Trump administration from using the National Guard and Marines to assist with immigration raids in Los Angeles.

Newsom's move comes after Trump ordered the deployment of roughly 4,000 National Guard members and 700 Marines to Los Angeles following four days of protests driven by anger over the president's stepped-up enforcement of immigration laws.

The governor's request said it was in response to a change in orders for the Guard.

The filing included a declaration from Paul Eck, deputy general counsel in the California Military Department. Eck said the department has been informed that the Pentagon plans to direct the California National Guard to start providing support for immigration operations. That support would include holding secure perimeters around areas where raids are taking place and securing streets for immigration agents.

The Guard members were originally deployed to protect federal buildings.

It was not clear if the change in mission had begun.

Newsom's office did not immediately say how the state was notified about the change.

Los Angeles police say they made over 100 arrests Monday evening and two officers were injured

96 of the arrests were for failing to disperse in the downtown Los Angeles area, where earlier in the day, hundreds had hoisted signs protesting the arrest of a labor leader during a demonstration, the Los Angeles Police Department said in a statement.

One person was arrested for assault with a deadly weapon and another for vandalism. Two police officers were injured, taken to a hospital and released.

The police department said their officers used "numerous" less-lethal rounds, and that the crowd had thinned out by the early hours of Tuesday morning.

Mayor Karen Bass calls on Trump to stop ICE raids

The Los Angeles mayor said her administration has heard the ICE raids could continue for the next 30 days, if not longer.

"It's a sense of intimidation and fear that is just so unnecessary and so corrosive to our city," Bass said at a Tuesday news conference. The mayor said she would place a call to President Trump asking him to stop the raids.

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Bass scoffed at Trump's claim on Saturday that the National Guard helped protect the city, especially because they didn't even arrive until Sunday. She said Guard troops are "stationary," protecting the LA federal building.

"They are not out doing crowd control or anything like that. So I don't know how he could say that the National Guard is who saved the day. Who saved the day was our local law enforcement agencies," Bass said.

School graduations in Los Angeles have added security over fears of ICE actions

The ceremonies, which number over 100 between Monday and Tuesday alone, included a beefed up presence of school police "to intervene and interfere with any federal agency who may want to take action during these joyous times," said Alberto M. Carvalho, the superintendent of Los Angeles' school district, at a press conference this week.

Carvalho asked parents to update their emergency contact information in case something goes awry and is offering them an option to view the graduations over Zoom. "Our schools are places of education and inspiration, not fear and intimidation," said Carvalho.

Officers who were injured in Austin, Texas, have all been treated and released

Austin Police Chief Lisa Davis said four officers who were injured during Monday night's protests have been treated and released from a hospital by Tuesday.

Three officers were hurt by what she described as "very large" rocks that were thrown at police. The fourth officer injured a shoulder while making an arrest.

Davis said Austin police deployed pepper spray balls and that state police used tear gas to disperse the crowd once it started to turn violent. Davis said her department is prepared for protests that are planned for downtown Austin this upcoming weekend.

"We support peaceful protest," Davis said. "When that protests turn violent, when it turns to throwing rocks and bottles That will not be tolerated. Arrests will be made."

California Republican Congressman denounces 'violence and vandalism' while expressing concern about ICE raids

Rep. David Valadao, a moderate Republican who represents much of the state's San Joaquin Valley, urged for peaceful protest and said he was also concerned over how the Trump administration is conducting ICE raids in the Golden state.

"I support the First Amendment right to peacefully protest, but the violence and vandalism happening in Los Angeles is unacceptable and I stand with our law enforcement officers working to protect people and regain control over the situation," Valadao wrote on social media.

"I remain concerned about ongoing ICE operations throughout CA and will continue my conversations with the administration—urging them to prioritize the removal of known criminals over the hardworking people who have lived peacefully in the Valley for years," he added.

Craigslist ad not proof of paid protesters in Los Angeles

Viral social media posts are claiming that a Craigslist ad seeking "the toughest badasses in the city" is proof that the Los Angeles demonstrations are made up of paid protestors.

But this is false.

The ad, which is no longer live, was bait for a prank show called "Goofcon1" and had nothing to do with the protests in Los Angeles. It was posted on Craigslist on Thursday, the day before the protests began.

In a livestreamed episode, the show's hosts on Friday called and spoke with people who responded to the ad. Joey LaFleur, one of Goofcon1's hosts, confirmed with The Associated Press that he put up the Craigslist ad for the show.

"I literally had no idea it was ever going to be connected to the riots. It was a really weird coincidence," he said, referencing the ad. "I'm not trying to troll a serious situation."

Trump suggests he's open to invoking Insurrection Act to quell protest in LA

The president during his Oval Office engagement with reporters left open the possibility of invoking one the most extreme emergency powers available to a U.S. president.

"If there's an insurrection, I would certainly invoke it. We'll see," Trump said. "But I can tell you last night

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was terrible , and the night before that was terrible.”

The Insurrection Act authorizes the president to deploy military forces inside the United States to suppress rebellion or domestic violence or to enforce the law in certain situations.

It is often referred to as the “Insurrection Act of 1807,” but the law is actually an amalgamation of different statutes enacted by Congress between 1792 and 1871.

Peaceful protests outside Seattle’s immigration court

About 50 people gathered outside the immigration court in downtown Seattle on Tuesday, chanting with drums and holding up signs that said “Free Them All Abolish ICE” and “No to Deportations.”

Legal advocates who normally attend the immigration court hearings as observers and to provide support to immigrants were not allowed inside the building. Security guards also turned away the media.

The hearings are normally open to the public. Organizers said they were there solidarity with protesters in Los Angeles.

The protest was peaceful and there were no law-enforcement officers in the area in the morning.

Protests over federal immigration raids have sprung up in cities across the US

Although most have been peaceful with marchers chanting and carrying signs, some have resulted in dozens of arrests.

The demonstrations have ranged from gatherings outside of federal office buildings or state capitol buildings, and marches through the downtown of several major cities. A series of so-called “No Kings” rallies were planned Saturday to coincide with President Trump’s scheduled military parade in Washington, DC.

Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem posted on social media on Tuesday that the agency would continue its program of raids and deportations despite the protests.

“ICE will continue to enforce the law,” Noem posted on X.

Armored vehicles block roads in Santa Ana

In Santa Ana, California, armored vehicles blocked the road Tuesday morning leading into the Civic Center, where federal immigration officers and numerous city and county agencies have their offices.

Workers swept up plastic bottles and broken glass. Tiny shards of red, black and purple glass littered the pavement.

Nearby buildings and the sidewalk were tagged with graffiti containing obscenities and Trump’s name crossed out. A worker rolled paint over graffiti on a wall to block it out. National Guard officers wearing fatigues and carrying rifles prevented people from entering the area unless they worked there.

Few signs of tumult in downtown Los Angeles

A handful of National Guard members are stationed in front of the Metropolitan Detention Center, long guns and wood sticks slung over their shoulders. Occasionally, a passing driver will honk at or heckle them, drawing no response.

News crews are stationed on the opposite side of the street, awaiting the possible arrival of the U.S. Marines. Otherwise, there are few signs of the tumult that has gripped the city in recent nights, aside from the graffiti scrawled across several buildings – “Abolish ICE,” “Amerikkka,” and obscene slogans directed at Trump and federal law enforcement.

At the Walt Disney Concert Hall, workers were busy washing away the graffiti on Tuesday morning.

Los Angeles deployment to cost at least \$134 million and last 60 days, Pentagon says

The deployment of National Guard troops and Marines to Los Angeles will cost at least \$134 million and last at least the next 60 days, Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth and a senior defense official told lawmakers Tuesday.

“We stated very publicly that it’s 60 days because we want to ensure that those rioters, looters and thugs on the other side assaulting our police officers know that we’re not going anywhere,” Hegseth told members of the House appropriations defense subcommittee.

After persistent questioning from members of Congress, Hegseth turned to his acting comptroller, Bryn Woollacott MacDonnell, who provided the total and said this “is largely just the cost of travel, housing and food.”

She said the money will come from operations and maintenance accounts.

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Speaker Johnson defends Trump on LA protests

House Speaker Mike Johnson defended Donald Trump's handling of protests in Los Angeles and echoed the president's attacks on Newsom.

"That's not my lane," Johnson said in response to a question about whether Newsom should face legal consequences such as arrest.

Johnson, speaking at a news conference at the RNC on Tuesday, continued that Newsom should be "tarred and feathered"-- eliciting chuckles from members of House Republican leadership at the press conference -- for "standing in the way of the administration and the carrying out of federal law."

Head of Marine Corps says battalion is in LA, ready to respond but has not engaged

The commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. Eric Smith, said the battalion deployed to Los Angeles is already there and ready to follow the orders from the U.S. Northern Command, but clarified they have not yet been called to respond.

Smith testified at a budget hearing before senators that those Marines are trained for crowd control, and they would have shields and batons as their equipment. He said they have no arrest authority, and are only there to protect federal property and federal personnel.

When asked by U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal, a Connecticut Democrat, about the danger that Marines would use lethal force that could result in injuries and deaths, Smith said he had faith in them.

"I am not concerned. I have great faith in my Marines and their junior leaders and their more senior leaders to execute the lawful tasks that they are given."

Texas authorities appeared to use chemical irritants to disperse a crowd in Austin

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott posted on social media that "more than a dozen protesters" were arrested by city and state police in Austin.

"Peaceful protesting is legal," Abbott, a Republican, posted on X. "But once you cross the line, you will be arrested."

Hundreds of protestors organized by the Austin chapter of the Party for Socialism and Liberation gathered near the Capitol on Monday, and moved toward the federal building that houses an Immigration and Customs Enforcement office. State officials had closed the Capitol to the public an hour earlier than usual head of the demonstration.

In Dallas, hundreds of demonstrators gathered for a rally on a city bridge for several hours before police later determined the rally to be "unlawful." Dallas police said one person was arrested and charges were pending.

Florida Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis rails against California officials' handling of protests

DeSantis has often clashed with Newsom, who like DeSantis is a term-limited governor with national ambitions.

"You don't have the right to just simply opt out of federal immigration law. And I think what's happened in California is they're a sanctuary state. They've taken the position really uninterrupted for many, many years that they can just ignore the law, they don't have to cooperate. Well now you have the law being applied," DeSantis said at a Florida Cabinet meeting on Tuesday.

DeSantis said law enforcement officers in Florida are ready to crack down if demonstrations there boil over into riots.

"The minute you cross into attacking law enforcement, any type of rioting, any type of vandalism, looting, just be prepared to have the law come down on you," DeSantis added. "And we will make an example of you, you can guarantee it."

California Democrats accuse Trump of inciting unrest

Democratic members of California's congressional delegation are accusing Trump of creating a "manufactured crisis" in Los Angeles with his orders to send in thousands of National Guard troops and hundreds of Marines.

"It's a deliberate attempt by Trump to incite unrest, test the limits of executive power and distract from the lawlessness of his administration," said Rep. Jimmy Gomez, who organized a press conference at the U.S. Capitol on Tuesday morning.

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Rep. Jimmy Panetta said that Trump's decision to send in the military was designed to "give him the image and give him the fight and give him the pictures that he wants."

Panetta said the delegation would stand with peaceful protesters, but those who are not peaceful are going to pay the consequences.

Rep. Nancy Pelosi contrasted Trump's actions now with his handling of the Jan. 6th insurrection at the U.S. Capitol when law enforcement officers were being beaten.

"We begged the president of the United States to send in the National Guard. He would not do it," Pelosi said.

Trump links protests in Los Angeles to home rebuilding after wildfires

Trump said his decision to "SEND IN THE TROOPS" to Los Angeles spared the city from burning to the ground like thousands of homes after wildfires this year.

He wrote on his social media site that people want to rebuild, and that the federal permitting process is "virtually complete on these houses."

Trump claimed that "the easy and simple City and State Permits are disastrously bungled up and WAY BEHIND SCHEDULE!" and blamed Newsom and Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass.

"People want to rebuild their houses. Call your incompetent Governor and Mayor, the Federal permitting is DONE!!!" he wrote.

Pentagon draws up rules on possible use of force by Marines

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.

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. 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.

Los Angeles' image is scuffed since ICE raids and protests, with World Cup and Olympics on horizon

This isn't the image Los Angeles wanted projected around the globe.

Clouds of tear gas wafting over a throng of protesters on a blocked freeway. Federal immigration agents in tactical garb raiding businesses in search of immigrants without legal status. A messy war of words between Trump and Newsom. Photos captured several Waymo robotaxis set on fire and graffiti scrawled on a federal detention center building, while videos recorded the sounds of rubber bullets and flash-bang grenades hitting crowds.

In a city still reeling from January's deadly wildfires — and with the World Cup soccer championships and the 2028 Olympics on the horizon — Bass has been urging residents to come together to revitalize LA's image by sprucing up streets, planting trees and painting murals so LA shows its best face to nations near and far.

"It's about pride," she's said. "This is the city of dreams."

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 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

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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, while most in the immense city of some 4 million people went about their normal business on peaceful streets.

Trump sends Marines and more National Guard members to Los Angeles

Another 2,000 National Guard troops along with 700 Marines are headed to Los Angeles on orders from Trump, escalating a military presence local officials and 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.

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 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.

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

Correspondent Terry Moran out at ABC News, two days after suspension over Stephen Miller post

By DAVID BAUDER AP Media Writer

Correspondent Terry Moran is out at ABC News, two days after the organization suspended its correspondent for a social media post that called Trump administration deputy chief of staff Stephen Miller a "world class hater."

The network said Tuesday that it was at the end of its contract with Moran "and based on his recent post — which was a clear violation of ABC News policies — we have made the decision not to renew."

The Trump administration, including Vice President JD Vance, quickly condemned Moran for his late-night X post criticizing Miller, which was swiftly deleted.

Moran had interviewed President Donald Trump only a few weeks ago. He said in his X post that the president was also a hater, but that his hatred was in service of his own glorification.

But for Miller, Moran said, "his hatreds are his spiritual nourishment. He eats his hate."

Moran, 65, had worked at ABC News since 1997. He was a longtime co-anchor of "Nightline," and covered the Supreme Court and national politics. During an interview with Trump that was broadcast in prime-time a month ago, the president said "you're not being very nice" in the midst of a contentious exchange about deportations.

In a particularly bad case of timing for him, Moran's contract with ABC had been due to expire on Friday, according to people with knowledge of the situation who were not authorized to speak publicly about personnel issues.

His post, a breach of traditional journalism ethics on expressing personal opinions on reporting subjects, came at what was already a sensitive time for ABC News. The network agreed to pay \$15 million toward Trump's presidential library in December, in order to settle a defamation lawsuit over George Stephanopoulos' inaccurate assertion that Trump had been found civilly liable for raping writer E. Jean Carroll.

Trump aide Steven Cheung responded to Moran's exit on Tuesday with a profane comment on X, saying those who talk down the president and his staff "get hit."

Sean 'Diddy' Combs' ex says she joined 'cuckold' sex marathons to feel loved by him

By MICHAEL R. SISAK and LARRY NEUMEISTER Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Under cross-examination, Sean "Diddy" Combs' ex-girlfriend testified Tuesday she took part in sex acts with male sex workers at the music mogul's request because it made her feel loved by him, but now regrets what she came to recognize as the "cuckold" lifestyle.

The woman testified at Combs' sex-trafficking trial under the pseudonym "Jane" to protect her identity. A day earlier, she revealed their three-year relationship lasted until the Bad Boy Records founder was arrested in September at New York hotel, where she'd been planning to meet him.

Combs, 55, has pleaded not guilty to sex trafficking and racketeering conspiracy charges that carry a potential penalty of 15 years to life in prison. He has been jailed without bail.

Prosecutors allege Combs used violence, threats and a network of employees and associates to control and abuse women for two decades. His lawyers have told the jury in federal court in Manhattan that although there was domestic violence in his relationships, everything he did sexually was consensual.

Earlier in the trial, R&B signer Casandra "Cassie" Ventura testified over four days that Combs physically abused her and that she participated in hundreds of "freak-off" sexual performances during a nearly 11-year relationship that ended in 2018.

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

Attorney Teny Geragos, representing Combs, cross-examined Jane on Tuesday by leading her into discussing the drug-fueled sexual marathons choreographed by Combs — which Jane said sometimes happened weekly — by reminding her that she mentioned regrets in earlier testimony.

"I resent him for leading me into the lifestyle he led me to," Jane said. "I resented the way he went about introducing me to this lifestyle."

She said she agreed to these "hotel nights" while "under a lot of emotional pressure" — and already hooked on love and a desire to stay in a relationship with Combs.

Jane testified that she partook in the encounters, sometimes grudgingly, because they pleased Combs and she enjoyed spending time alone with him afterward.

Jane testified she began therapy about three months ago. She previously met with lawyers on Combs' defense team but cut off those meetings in April, days before the trial began.

She said she struggles to understand why she kept participating in "hotel nights" even though she only wanted to have sex with Combs, however the reasons are "becoming more and more clear" as she proceeds with therapy.

Jane initially felt it was "something very special" to have these secret sexual experiences with Combs. She said she didn't want to judge him and "really wanted to just go along with these things because if I can be my partner's escapes than I would be."

Jane said she researched sexual variations in 2022 and came across the words "cuck" and "cuckold," which seemed to fit the lifestyle she found herself in because she said a man known as a "cuck" derives pleasure seeing "his woman receive pleasure" from another man.

"He likes to use the words 'voyeurism' and 'escapism,'" Jane said. She added: "I would use the word cuck for him more so."

Geragos reminded Jane that she had testified last week that she loves Combs currently.

"I do," she responded.

Geragos had Jane read aloud some of the many sexually explicit messages in which she expressed the types of activities she wanted to engage in during "hotel nights" with Combs and male sex workers as she tried to portray Jane as a willing and eager participant in frequent sex events.

In earlier testimony, Jane provided recent examples of Combs acting violently toward a woman while seeking to fulfill his sexual desires. Cassie sued Combs in November 2023 alleging sexual abuse. The lawsuit was settled within hours for \$20 million, but it touched off the criminal investigation into Combs.

Silicon Valley city makes homeless people eligible for arrest if they refuse 3 offers of shelter

By JANIE HAR Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Homeless people who reject three offers of shelter will be eligible for arrest on trespassing after the San Jose City Council voted Tuesday for a policy change they hope will encourage unhoused people to trade in their tents on sidewalks for beds indoors.

The vote was 9-2 in favor of adding a “responsibility to shelter” provision to the city’s encampment code of conduct, which also includes expectations that homeless people will not pitch tents near schools and playgrounds or block public rights of way.

The proposal by San Jose Mayor Matt Mahon is eye-opening because it comes from a liberal city headed by a Democrat in the left-leaning San Francisco Bay Area. It is among the stricter anti-encampment deterrents proposed by elected officials since the Supreme Court in 2023 made it easier to ban homeless people from camping on public property.

It is also another sign of just how frustrated people have become with squalid tents lining sidewalks and riverbanks, and erratic behavior of those using drugs or in psychiatric distress in a state with an estimated 187,000 people in need of housing. California has roughly a quarter of all homeless people in the country.

Mahan says most people do accept offers of shelter. But he wants to make clear to the small percentage of people who refuse, that as the city builds more shelter and interim housing, they have a responsibility to move indoors.

“I think we need a cultural change, a culture of accountability for everyone involved,” said Mahan in an interview before the vote. “I don’t want to use the criminal justice system to make vulnerable people’s lives harder. I want to use it as a last resort.”

California Gov. Gavin Newsom, a Democrat and former mayor of San Francisco, has repeatedly urged cities to ban encampments. Arrests for illegal lodging have soared in San Francisco, and its current mayor, Daniel Lurie, has reiterated that it is not appropriate for people to live outdoors.

Advocates for homeless people say cracking down on encampments is traumatizing and even counter-productive. Forcing a person to clear out sets them back in their search for stability as they could lose important documents needed to apply for work and housing, they said.

“Pushing people with mental health needs or drug addiction into incarceration — without any crime committed — is both inhumane and ineffective,” said Otto Lee, president of the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors, in a written statement emailed Monday to The Associated Press.

Lee and other county leaders are opposed to the mayor’s proposal. They say they need more housing, beds and services, and not punishment.

Pamela Campos, one of the City Council members who voted against the proposal, said she supports the idea of enhanced outreach but not the onus placed on homeless people.

“We are placing a huge amount of burden on an individual and framing it as a choice when the real culprit is a system that pushes people experiencing poverty into homelessness,” she said at the meeting.

The “responsibility to shelter” proposal does not mandate an arrest after three rejected offers.

Mahan said in consultation with the city attorney’s office and police that it made more sense to give front-line outreach workers and police officers discretion to decide when to escalate or prioritize a situation. The city will set up a new six-officer quality of life unit within the police department.

“We don’t want to overly tie their hands and tell them this is the only way to do it,” the mayor said.

People who repeatedly violate the city’s encampment code of conduct could be sent to a recovery center for detox or petitioned for court-mandated treatment for psychiatric or substance use disorder care, Mahan said.

San Jose has nearly 1,400 shelter spots and hopes to add another 800 by the end of the year. Officials are aware they do not have enough beds, and Mahan said that people will not be punished if beds are unavailable or the only options are unsuitable.

City Council member David Cohen voted in favor, but he hopes residents who have packed City Hall

meetings clamoring for relief won't think this will serve as a panacea for the city's ongoing struggles with homeless encampments.

"I'm hoping we'll see some incremental improvement, but the reality is that the work we're doing will take years," he said. "People need to be prepared for the fact that it will take years, and that we don't send a signal that we've just done something magical."

Ahead of UN climate talks, Brazil fast-tracks oil and highway projects that threaten the Amazon

By FABIANO MAISONNAVE Associated Press

MANAUS, Brazil (AP) — Months before hosting the U.N.'s first climate talks held in the Amazon, Brazil is fast-tracking a series of controversial decisions that undercut President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva's lofty environmental rhetoric and show widening divisions within his cabinet.

The country's federal environmental agency approved plans for offshore drilling near the mouth of the Amazon and rock blasting along another river in the rainforest, while Congress is moving to make it harder to recognize Indigenous land and easier to build infrastructure in the rainforest.

These efforts would be controversial in normal times. But on the eve of the COP30 climate summit, environmental advocates say they're undermining Lula's claims to be an environmental defender whose administration has made headway in slowing deforestation in the Amazon.

"What will Brazil show up with at COP30 in November?" asked Cleberson Zavaski, president of the National Association of Environmental Public Servants. "Will it be, once again, a list of commitments that contradict what the country itself is putting on the table today — such as expanding the highway network and oil exploitation?"

Lula pushed controversial drilling project

Protecting the environment was a central part of Lula's presidential campaign in 2022, when he ran against President Jair Bolsonaro, who presided over increasing deforestation and illegal activities in the Amazon, such as gold mining and land-grabbing.

But when Brazil's environmental protection agency rejected the bid of Petrobras, the country's state-run oil company, to conduct exploratory drilling in an about 160 kilometers (99 miles) off Brazil's Amazonian coast, Lula supported the company's appeal and in February criticized the agency for taking too long, saying it "seems like it's working against the government."

On May 19, the Brazilian Institute of the Environment and Renewable Natural Resources or IBAMA, approved an emergency plan to allow the drilling.

A week later, IBAMA approved a rock-blasting operation along 40 km (25 miles) of the Tocantins River to enable year-round navigation, despite criticism from local grassroots organizations. The river, which cuts through the Amazon rainforest, is set to become a critical waterway to ship soybeans, mainly to China.

The Federal Prosecutor's Office said the authorization was illegal because it failed to address issues highlighted during the environmental study, and filed a lawsuit seeking to have it overturned.

Since taking office in 2023, Lula has argued that Brazil can both further its development while protecting the environment.

"France, the U.K., Norway and the U.S. also produce oil. And Brazil has the cleanest energy mix in the world: 90% of our electricity comes from renewables," Lula said in an interview to French newspaper Le Monde published last week.

Brazil gets most of its own electricity from hydropower and other green energies, while its oil exports, a major source of income for the country, are on the rise.

Emails to the president's chief of staff seeking comment were not answered.

Congress weakens environmental protections

On May 21, the Senate approved sweeping legislation that weakens federal agencies' environmental licensing powers. Among other measures, the bill streamlines review for projects deemed priorities by the federal government, reducing the approval process from three bureaucratic steps to one and imposing a

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one-year deadline for review.

It also eliminates reviews for upgrades to existing highways, which could clear the way for to pave the whole of BR-319, a highway that runs about 900 kilometers (560 miles) through the western part of the Amazon. Environmentalists argue that the paving will lead to mass clearing of a pristine area of rainforest.

The bill is opposed by Lula's Workers' Party, but it's expected to pass the lower chamber of Congress.

Lula could veto all or parts of the bill, but according to press reports he is expected to support of the bulk of the changes with only minor adjustments. Lula has said he has no position on the environmental bill.

Meanwhile, Congress has also approved rules that make it harder demarcate Indigenous lands and is moving forward with legislation to weaken licensing rules that, among other impacts. The bill is opposed by Lula's Workers' Party, but according to several press reports Lula will support of the bulk of the changes and will only negotiate minor adjustments.

"It's the perfect combo to wipe out environmental protections and Indigenous land demarcations in the country, accelerate the tipping point of the world's largest tropical forest and set off a carbon bomb against the global climate," Climate Observatory, a network of 133 environmental, civil society and academic groups, said in a statement.

Former U.S. Interior Bruce Babbitt, who sits on the board of the nonprofit Amazon Conservation, said in a statement that the bill "will lead to massive destruction of the Amazon rainforest. It should be opposed by all Brazilians and friends of Brazil in the international community."

Divisions over the bill appear to sideline Environment Minister

The licensing bill has also deepened internal divisions within Brazil's government.

Environment Minister Marina Silva said the law will end one of Brazil's crucial mechanisms of environmental protection, but she appears increasingly sidelined in the administration.

Local media have reported that Lula's Chief of Staff Rui Costa promised the bill's sponsor that Lula would not oppose changes to licensing rules, and Minister of Transportation Renan Filho said in a social media post that the bill is "excellent" news that will get the highway project moving.

At a press conference last week, Lula praised Silva, calling her "loyal" and adding that it's normal to have friction between the environmental and other ministries of government.

But many see echoes of Lula's previous administration, during which Silva resigned from the same post after being marginalized by the rising influence of agribusiness.

João Paulo Capobianco, executive secretary of the environment ministry, reiterated her criticism of the bill in a speech last week, calling it a "real risk of setback." He added that Silva is working with Lula's cabinet toward "a point of convergence between those who seek efficiency — and deserve a response — and the need to preserve the system without dismantling environmental licensing."

Live updates: Israeli ministers sanctioned by UK and other countries over West Bank incitement

By The Associated Press undefined

International pressure has increased again on Israel. Britain, Australia, Canada, New Zealand and Norway say they have imposed sanctions on two far-right Israeli government ministers for allegedly "inciting extremist violence" against Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

Itamar Ben-Gvir and Bezalel Smotrich face asset freezes and travel bans. They are champions of expanding Israeli settlements in the West Bank. Settler violence there has spiked since the start of the war in Gaza, where the ministers have been the most vocal in support of hardline policies.

Meanwhile, Israel's navy attacked docks in Yemen's rebel-held port city of Hodeida, likely damaging facilities that are key to aid shipments to the hungry, war-racked nation. This was the first seaborne Israeli assault against the Iranian-backed Houthis, who have launched missiles and drones targeting Israel during its war on Hamas in Gaza.

Inside Gaza, Palestinian health officials and witnesses said Israeli forces fired toward crowds making their way to a food distribution point run by an Israeli and U.S.-supported group, killing three people and

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wounding scores.

And Israel deported activists including Greta Thunberg, the Foreign Ministry said, a day after the military seized their Gaza-bound ship protesting Israel's restrictions on aid to the territory.

Here's the latest:

A missile is fired from Yemen at Jerusalem

On Tuesday night, Israel's military said "a missile launched from Yemen was most likely intercepted" as explosions could be heard in Jerusalem, likely from interceptor fire.

Yemen's Houthi rebels did not immediately claim the attack, although their supporters highlighted the episode.

The latest missile fire from Yemen came just hours after Israel attacked a Houthi-controlled port city, with Israeli Defense Minister Israel Katz saying: "We warned the Houthi terror organization that if they continue to fire at Israel they will face a powerful response and enter a naval and air blockade."

UN tells of another tough day delivering aid in Gaza

The U.N. once again cited Israeli opposition to humanitarian movements in the Gaza Strip, violent looting and dangerous routes.

"Yesterday, some supplies, mainly flour, were collected from the Kareem Shalom crossing and the aid was bound for Gaza City but was taken directly from the trucks by hungry and desperate people, who have now endured months of deprivation," Farhan Haq, the deputy spokesperson for the U.N., said at a briefing Tuesday.

"As we have mentioned, separately, there have also been some incidents of violent looting and attacks on truck drivers, which are completely unacceptable," Haq said.

Haq said Israeli authorities on Monday denied 11 out of 18 attempt by the U.N. to coordinate humanitarian movements within the strip "to provide whatever limited services are available to the population." Those operations included efforts to deliver water, retrieve fuel, carry out a rescue mission in the southern city of Khan Younis and repairing roads for future movements.

US sanctions a Palestinian NGO and other charities, accusing them of ties to militant groups

The U.S. Treasury Department on Tuesday imposed sanctions on a major Palestinian legal group for prisoners and detainees, called Addameer, saying it "has long supported and is affiliated" with the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

Addameer is a well-known legal group that provides free legal services to Palestinian political prisoners and detainees in Israeli custody and monitors the conditions of their confinement. The PFLP is a secular, left-wing movement with a political party and an armed wing has carried out deadly attacks against Israelis.

Addameer did not immediately have a comment on the sanctions.

The U.S. government also sanctioned a handful of other charitable entities across the Middle East, Africa and Europe, accusing them of supporting Hamas' military wing under the pretense of humanitarian aid in Gaza.

UK and others sanction Israeli ministers for 'inciting violence against Palestinians'

Britain, Australia, Canada, New Zealand and Norway have imposed sanctions on two far-right Israeli government ministers for allegedly "inciting extremist violence" against Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

Itamar Ben-Gvir and Bezalel Smotrich face asset freezes and travel bans from the five countries. They are champions of expanding Israeli settlements in the West Bank.

The five countries' foreign ministers said Tuesday that Ben-Gvir and Smotrich "have incited extremist violence and serious abuses of Palestinian human rights."

Thunberg speaks after Israel deports her

Activist Greta Thunberg has arrived in France after being deported from Israel. She says the conditions she and other activists faced as they tried to sail to Gaza "are absolutely nothing compared to what people are going through in Palestine and especially Gaza right now."

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Israel seized their boat on Monday. Thunberg says they were well aware of the risks. "The aim was to get to Gaza and to be able to distribute the aid," she said in Paris.

She said the activists would continue trying to get aid to Gaza, where experts have warned of famine under Israeli restrictions on supplies into the territory of over 2 million people.

Israel says the U.K. is sanctioning 2 Cabinet ministers

Israel says it has been informed that the United Kingdom will sanction two of its Cabinet ministers. Foreign Minister Gideon Saar did not provide their names in public remarks.

It appears the sanctions will target Itamar Ben-Gvir and Bezalel Smotrich, two far-right champions of Israeli settlements in Palestinian areas. Ben-Gvir and Smotrich both acknowledged the sanctions on social media, and Smotrich confirmed he was a target.

Israeli police arrest 13-year-old, accuse him of carrying out tasks for Iran

Israeli police arrested a 13-year-old, accusing him of taking money to carry out tasks for Iran.

A statement from the police and the domestic security agency Shin Bet Tuesday said the teen had been contacted on the messaging app Telegram by "Iranian elements," without elaborating.

Police say the teen, a resident of Tel Aviv, was asked to take pictures of Israel's missile defense system Iron Dome, a task he did not carry out. They also accuse him of spraying graffiti at the behest of his Telegram contact.

The teen was released on house arrest after being questioned, police said.

Over recent months, Israel has arrested several people in connection with what it says are attempts by Iran and others to pay Israelis to spy on facilities and officials.

Gaza aid ship's organizers call activist detentions arbitrary

The group behind the Gaza-bound ship that Israel seized says that four of its passengers, including Greta Thunberg, have been deported.

The remaining eight are being detained while waiting to appear before a judge. They are expected to be deported within days.

The Freedom Flotilla Coalition called on the Israeli authorities to release the passengers without deportation. It said their legal team will argue that the ship's interception was unlawful and the detentions arbitrary. Lawyers will also demand that they be allowed to complete their mission to Gaza, the group said in a statement.

Remains of Thai hostage who was held in Gaza to be flown to Thailand

The Foreign Ministry of Thailand says that the remains of a Thai laborer who was taken hostage by Hamas will be sent back to Thailand on Tuesday.

Nattapong Pinta came to Israel to work in agriculture. Israel's government said he was seized during Hamas' Oct. 7, 2023, attack from a kibbutz in southern Israel and killed early in the war.

Israel said Saturday it had retrieved his remains in an operation in southern Gaza.

Spanish activist slams Gaza-bound boat's interception after being deported by Israel

Sergio Toribio, a Spanish activist who was on the Gaza-bound ship seized by Israel, arrived in Barcelona Tuesday after being deported.

Speaking to reporters upon his arrival, he slammed Israel's interception of the boat.

"It is unforgivable, it is a violation of our rights. It is a pirate attack in international waters," he said.

He continued: "We weren't doing anything wrong, we were just carrying provisions as a symbolic gesture."

Spanish media described Toribio as a 49-year-old ship mechanic.

Israeli military says it intercepted a projectile fired from Gaza Strip

The Israeli military says it intercepted a projectile fired from the northern Gaza Strip that set off air raid sirens in nearby Israeli communities.

There were no reports of casualties or damage.

Rocket fire from Gaza has grown rare as Israel's 20-month military campaign has depleted the military capabilities of Hamas, which fired thousands of rockets during the Oct. 7, 2023, attack that ignited the war.

Palestinians say Israeli forces fired toward crowd near Gaza aid site, killing 3

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Palestinian health officials and witnesses say Israeli forces fired toward crowds making their way to a food distribution point in the Gaza Strip early Tuesday, killing three people.

The Israeli military did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The Awda Hospital in central Gaza, which received the casualties, said two men and a child were killed and at least 130 were wounded. The Associated Press spoke to two witnesses who said Israeli forces fired toward the crowds at around 2 a.m. hundreds of meters (yards) from the aid site.

Experts and humanitarian aid workers say Israel's blockade and military campaign have pushed Gaza to the brink of famine.

Around 130 people have been killed in a number of shootings near aid sites run by a new Israeli and U.S.-backed organization. The Israeli military has acknowledged firing warning shots on previous occasions at people who it says approached its forces in a suspicious manner.

The Gaza Humanitarian Foundation, which runs the sites, says there has been no violence in or around the distribution points themselves. But it has warned people to stay on designated access routes and paused delivery last week while it held talks with the military on improving safety.

French foreign minister says 1 detained French activist signed expulsion order and will leave Israel

French Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot said Tuesday that one of the detained French activists who was on a Gaza-bound ship intercepted by Israel signed an expulsion order and will leave Israel on Tuesday for France.

The other five refused and will await court decisions in the coming days. In a separate post on X, Barrot said the five will face a "forced expulsion."

All six received consular visits overnight around 3 a.m., he said, as did the other activists aboard the ship.

The French detainees were transferred overnight to a detention center in the Israeli city of Ramle, he said, and may receive another consular visit there.

Israel deports Greta Thunberg after seizing the ship she was on

Activist Greta Thunberg is being deported from Israel, Israel's Foreign Ministry said Tuesday, after the Gaza-bound ship she was on was seized by the Israeli military.

In a post on X, the Foreign Ministry shared a photo of Thunberg on a plane, saying that she was headed for France.

Thunberg was one of 12 passengers on board the Madleen, a boat carrying aid destined for people in war-torn Gaza.

The activists said they were protesting the ongoing war and the humanitarian crisis in Gaza. Israel says such ships violate its naval blockade of Gaza.

Hegseth faces sharp questions from Congress on deploying troops to LA and Pentagon spending

By LOLITA C. BALDOR and TARA COPP Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth was met with sharp questions and criticism Tuesday by lawmakers who demanded details on his move to deploy troops to Los Angeles, and they expressed bipartisan frustration that Congress has not yet gotten a full defense budget from the Trump administration.

"Your tenure as secretary has been marked by endless chaos," Rep. Rosa DeLauro, D-Conn., told Hegseth. Others, including Republican leaders, warned that massive spending projects such as President Donald Trump's desire for a \$175 billion Golden Dome missile defense system will get broad congressional scrutiny.

The troop deployment triggered several fiery exchanges that at times devolved into shouting matches as House committee members and Hegseth yelled over one another.

After persistent questioning about the cost of sending National Guard members and Marines to Los Angeles in response to protests over immigration raids, Hegseth turned to his acting comptroller, Bryn Woollacott MacDonnell, who said it would cost \$134 million. Hegseth defended Trump's decision to send

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the troops, saying they are needed to protect federal agents as they do their jobs.

And he suggested that the use of troops inside the United States will continue to expand.

"I think we're entering another phase, especially under President Trump with his focus on the homeland, where the National Guard and Reserves become a critical component of how we secure that homeland," he said.

The hearing before the House Appropriations defense subcommittee was the first time lawmakers have been able to challenge Trump's defense chief since he was confirmed. It is the first of three congressional hearings he will face this week.

Lawmakers take aim at Pentagon's planned spending

Lawmakers complained widely that Congress hasn't yet gotten details of the administration's first proposed defense budget, which Trump has said would total \$1 trillion, a significant increase over the current spending level of more than \$800 billion. And they said they are unhappy with the administration's efforts to go around Congress to push through changes.

Spending issues that have raised questions in recent weeks include plans to spend hundreds of millions of dollars on security upgrades to turn a Qatari jet 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 coincides with Trump's birthday Saturday.

Rep. Betty McCollum, D-Minn., quizzed Hegseth on the deployment of about 700 Marines to assist more than 4,100 National Guard troops in protecting federal buildings and personnel in LA.

She got into a testy back-and-forth with him over the costs of the operation. He evaded the questions but later turned to MacDonnell, who provided the estimate and said it covers the costs of travel, housing and food.

Hegseth said the 60-day deployment of troops is needed "because we want to ensure that those rioters, looters and thugs on the other side assaulting our police officers know that we're not going anywhere."

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, but Trump has left open the possibility.

"If there's an insurrection, I would certainly invoke it. We'll see," Trump told reporters in the Oval Office on Tuesday.

Asked how he would determine whether the unrest amounted to an insurrection, Trump offered little clarity. "I mean, I could tell you there were certain areas of that, of Los Angeles last night, that you could have called it an insurrection."

The commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. Eric Smith, told lawmakers at a separate budget hearing Tuesday that the Marines in Los Angeles have not yet been called on to respond. When asked by Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., about the danger Marines would use lethal force that could result in injuries and deaths, Smith said he is not concerned. "I have great faith in my Marines and their junior leaders and their more senior leaders to execute the lawful tasks that they are given."

Pentagon learns from Ukraine but will cut funding

Committee members pressed Hegseth on Ukraine's surprise drone attack in early June that destroyed a large number of Russian bomber aircraft. And they questioned the administration's future funding for Kyiv.

Hegseth said the strikes caught the U.S. off guard and represented significant advances in drone warfare. The attack has the Pentagon rethinking drone defenses "so we are not vulnerable to a threat and an attack like that," he said, adding that the department is learning from Ukraine and is focused on how to better defend its own military airfields.

He acknowledged, however, that funding for Ukraine military assistance, which has been robust for the past two years, will be reduced in the upcoming defense budget. That cut means that Kyiv will receive fewer of the weapons systems that have been key to countering Russia's onslaught.

"This administration takes a very different view of that conflict," he said. "We believe that a negotiated peaceful settlement is in the best interest of both parties and our nation's interests."

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The U.S. to date has provided Ukraine more than \$66 billion since Russia invaded in February 2022.

What Hegseth has focused on so far

The panel zeroed in on funding issues, with only a few mentions of the other entanglements of Hegseth's early months. They touched only briefly on his moves to fire military leaders and purge diversity programs. And there was no discussion of his use of the Signal messaging app to discuss operational details of strikes in Yemen.

Hegseth has spent vast amounts of time 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.

He was on the international stage about a week ago, addressing a 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 support for Ukraine.

DC prepares for Trump's military parade with 18 miles of fencing and 175 magnetometers

BY ASHRAF KHALIL Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — As the nation's capital cleans up from the culmination of World Pride this past weekend, focus now shifts to a very different massive event — Saturday's military parade to honor the 250th birthday of the Army and the 79th birthday of President Donald Trump.

"We're preparing for an enormous turnout," said Matt McCool of the Secret Service's Washington Field office, who said more than 18 miles of "anti-scale fencing" would be erected and "multiple drones" would be in the air. The entire District of Columbia is normally a no-fly zone for drones.

Army officials have estimated around 200,000 attendees for the evening military parade, and McCool said he was prepared for "hundreds of thousands" of people.

"We have a ton of magnetometers," he said. "If a million people show up, then we're going to have some lines."

A total of 175 magnetometers would be used at security checkpoints controlling access to the daytime birthday festival and the nighttime parade. Metropolitan Police Department chief Pamela Smith predicted "major impacts to traffic" and advised attendees to arrive early and consider forgoing cars for the Metro.

"This is a significant event with a large footprint," she said. "We're relying on the public to be an extra set of ears and eyes for us."

The military parade has been designated a National Special Security Event — similar to a presidential inauguration or state funeral. That status is reserved for events that draw large crowds and potential mass protests. It calls for an enhanced degree of high-level coordination among D.C. officials, the FBI, Capitol Police and Washington's National Guard contingent — with the Secret Service taking the lead.

The Army birthday celebration had already been planned for months. But earlier this spring, Trump announced his intention to transform the event — which coincides with his 79th birthday — into a massive military parade complete with 60-ton M1 Abrams battle tanks and Paladin self-propelled howitzers rolling through the city streets.

Multiple counter-protests of varying sizes are planned for Saturday, with the largest being a mass march to the White House. Officials say they are also on alert for signs that the immigration-related clashes between law enforcement and protesters currently roiling Los Angeles would spread.

"We're paying attention, obviously, to what is happening there. We'll be ready," McCool said. "We have a robust plan for civil disobedience."

Agent Phillip Bates of the FBI's Washington Field office, which is tasked with counterterrorism and crisis management, said there were "no credible threats" to the event at the moment.

Lindsey Appiah, the deputy mayor for public safety, told The Associated Press last week that the city had longstanding plans for the Army birthday celebration. But those plans "got a lot bigger on short notice"

when Trump got involved.

Still, Appiah said the city has grown “very flexible, very nimble” at rolling with these sort of changes.

Apple underwhelms at WWDC with incremental AI changes, new software name and ‘liquid glass’ design

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, was 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,” 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 crowd as the 90-minute showcase wrapped up.

“Liquid Glass” applies a translucent design aesthetic to the the entire company’s lineup of platforms. It’s primary attribute adds transparency to menus and toolbars, allowing icons and open panes to refract and reflect whatever’s behind it. On larger platforms, it also allows for more resizing options for app displays. Icons also recieve a more curved look than before.

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 refine-

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ment 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.

Judge dismisses Justin Baldoni’s \$400M lawsuit against ‘It Ends With Us’ costar Blake Lively

By MICHAEL HILL Associated Press

A judge on Monday dismissed the lawsuit that actor and director Justin Baldoni filed against his “It Ends With Us” costar Blake Lively after she sued him last year for sexual harassment and retaliation.

U.S. District Court Judge Lewis Liman’s decision is the latest development in the bitter legal battle surrounding the dark romantic film.

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Baldoni and production company Wayfarer Studios countersued in January for \$400 million, accusing Lively and her husband, "Deadpool" actor Ryan Reynolds, of defamation and extortion.

The New York judge ruled that Baldoni can't sue Lively for defamation over claims she made in her legal claim, because allegations made in a lawsuit are exempt from libel claims. Liman also ruled that Baldoni's claims that Lively stole creative control of the film didn't count as extortion under California law.

The judge, however, said Baldoni could revise the lawsuit if he wanted to pursue different claims related to whether Lively breached or interfered with a contract. His legal team indicated it planned to do so.

"Ms. Lively and her team's predictable declaration of victory is false," one of Baldoni's lawyers, Bryan Freedman, said in a statement. He said that Lively's claims that she was sexually harassed on the film set, and then subjected to a secret smear campaign intended to taint her reputation, were "no truer today than they were yesterday."

"It Ends With Us," an adaptation of Colleen Hoover's bestselling 2016 novel that begins as a romance but takes a dark turn into domestic violence, was released in August, exceeding box office expectations with a \$50 million debut. But the movie's release was shrouded by speculation over discord between Lively and Baldoni.

The judge also dismissed Baldoni's defamation lawsuit against The New York Times, which had reported on Lively's sexual harassment allegations.

"Today's opinion is a total victory and a complete vindication for Blake Lively, along with those that Justin Baldoni and the Wayfarer Parties dragged into their retaliatory lawsuit, including Ryan Reynolds, (publicist) Leslie Sloane and The New York Times," Lively's attorneys, Esra Hudson and Mike Gottlieb, said in a prepared statement.

The lawyers said they "look forward to the next round" of seeking attorneys' fees, treble damages and punitive damages.

A spokesperson for The New York Times said they were "grateful to the court for seeing the lawsuit for what it was: a meritless attempt to stifle honest reporting."

"Our journalists went out and covered carefully and fairly a story of public importance, and the court recognized that the law is designed to protect just that sort of journalism," Charlie Stadlander said in an emailed statement.

Lively appeared in the 2005 film "The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants" and the TV series "Gossip Girl" from 2007 to 2012 before starring in films including "The Town" and "The Shallows."

Baldoni starred in the TV comedy "Jane the Virgin," directed the 2019 film "Five Feet Apart" and wrote "Man Enough," a book challenging traditional notions of masculinity.

Top RFK Jr. aide attacks US health system while running company that promotes wellness alternatives

By MATTHEW PERRONE AP Health Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Calley Means has built a following within the "Make America Healthy Again" movement by railing against the failings of the U.S. health system, often pinning the blame on one issue: corruption.

Means, a top aide to Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr., was hired as a White House adviser in March. He has used that perch to attack the nation's leading physician groups, federal agencies and government scientists, claiming they only protect their own interests in the nation's \$4.9 trillion-a-year industry.

In recent interviews, speeches and podcasts he has called the American Medical Association "a pharma lobbying group," labeled the Food and Drug Administration "a sock puppet of industry," and said federal health scientists have "overseen a record of utter failure."

Means, however, has his own financial stake in the sprawling health system. He's the co-founder of an online platform, Truemed, that offers dietary supplements, herbal remedies and other wellness products. Some of the vendors featured on Truemed's website are supporters of Kennedy's MAHA movement, which downplays the benefits of prescription drugs, vaccines and other rigorously tested medical products.

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Kennedy has pledged to run the Department of Health and Human Services with “radical transparency,” but Means has never had to publicly disclose his own financial details or where exactly they intersect with the policies he’s advancing.

“It reeks of hypocrisy,” said Dr. Reshma Ramachandran, a health researcher at Yale University. “In effect, he is representing another industry that is touting nonregulated products and using his platform within the government to financially benefit himself.”

In a written statement, Means said his government work has not dealt with matters affecting Truemed and has focused on issues like reforming nutrition programs and pressuring companies to phase out food dyes.

“Pursuing these large-scale MAHA goals to make America healthy has been the sole focus in my government work,” Means said.

Truemed helps users take tax-free money out of their health savings accounts, or HSAs, to spend on things that wouldn’t normally qualify as medical expenses, such as exercise equipment, meal delivery services and homeopathic remedies — mixtures of plants and minerals based on a centuries-old theory of medicine that’s not supported by modern science.

The business model caught the attention of the IRS last year, which issued an alert: “Beware of companies misrepresenting nutrition, wellness and general health expenses as medical care.”

Truemed co-founder and CEO, Justin Mares, said in a statement the company is “in full alignment” with IRS guidelines.

“Truemed enables patients to work with providers to use medical funds for root cause interventions like exercise and vitamin D to reverse disease under current law,” Mares said.

The full extent of Means’ potential conflicts — including his personal investments— are unclear because of his status as a special government employee.

Unlike presidential appointees and other senior officials, special government employees are temporary staffers who do not have to leave companies or sell investments that could be impacted by their work. Also, their financial disclosure forms are shielded from public release.

“It’s a big problem,” says Richard Painter, a former White House ethics lawyer under George W. Bush now at the University of Minnesota. Painter and other experts have raised alarms over a whirlwind of Trump administration actions to dismantle the government’s public integrity guardrails.

Still, part-time government employees are subject to the same law that bars all federal staffers from working on issues that could directly benefit their finances. When such cases arise, they must recuse themselves or risk criminal penalties.

Means regularly opines on matters before HHS, including rethinking the use of drugs for depression, weight loss, diabetes and other conditions. Recently he’s been promoting a new government report that calls for scaling back prescription medications in favor of exercise, dietary changes and other alternatives.

“If we rely less on our medical system, less on drugs, it necessitates the spiritual, cultural conversation about what we’re doing to our children’s bodies,” Means said in a recent podcast appearance.

Experts note that government ethics rules are intended to both prevent financial conflict violations, but also the appearance of such conflicts that might undermine public trust in government.

“If I were running the ethics office over at HHS, I sure as heck wouldn’t want anybody going around giving interviews and speeches about government matters that could have an effect on their own financial interests,” Painter said.

A rising star in the MAHA movement

Means’ rapid rise reflects the seeming contradictions within the MAHA movement itself, which urges followers to distrust both big corporations and the government agencies which regulate them.

Means rails against big pharma and food conglomerates, two industries that he says he spent years working for as a consultant in Washington.

Means has no medical training. A graduate of Harvard Business School, he previously ran a bridal gown startup with his wife. On Wednesday, he’s scheduled to be the keynote speaker at FDA’s annual science forum, according to a copy of the program shared with The Associated Press.

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He traces his passion for health care reform to the death of his mother from pancreatic cancer in 2021. Shortly thereafter, Means and his sister, Dr. Casey Means, took psychedelics together and had “a mind-blowing, life-changing experience,” which led them to co-author a wellness book, launch separate health startups and begin appearing on podcasts.

Casey Means was recently nominated to be surgeon general and has faced scrutiny over her qualifications, including an unfinished medical residency.

Asked about her nomination, President Donald Trump said: “Bobby thought she was fantastic,” adding that he did not know her.

Meanwhile, her brother has stepped up his rhetoric for the MAHA agenda, recently declaring that Kennedy has “a spiritual mandate to reform our broken system.”

While promoting the administration’s accomplishments, Means does not shy away from plugging his own brand or those of his business partners.

When asked to offer health advice to listeners of a sports podcast, Outkick The Show, in April, Means said: “Read our book, ‘Good Energy.’”

He also recommended blood tests sold by Function Health, which provides subscription-based testing for \$500 annually. The company was cofounded by Dr. Mark Hyman, a friend of Kennedy and an investor in Truemed, which also offers Hyman’s supplements through its platform. Casey Means is also an investor in Hyman’s company.

“If you’re sick, most likely you have some kind of nutrient deficiency, some kind of biomarker that you can actually then target with your diet and your supplements,” Calley Means said.

Like dietary supplements, the marketing claims on laboratory tests sold by Hyman are not approved by the FDA. The agency has warned for years about the accuracy of such tests and tried to start regulating them under President Joe Biden.

Experts say MAHA entrepreneurs like Hyman are following a playbook common to the wellness industry: Identify a health concern, market a test to diagnose it and then sell supplements or other remedies to treat it.

“It ends up favoring these products and services that rest on flimsy grounds, at the expense of products that have actually survived a rigorous FDA approval process,” said Dr. Peter Lurie, a former FDA official who is now president of the Center for Science in the Public Interest.

Many of the items sold via Truemed, including sweat tents, cold plunge tanks and light therapy lamps, wouldn’t typically qualify as medical expenses under rules for HSAs, tax-free accounts created by Congress to manage medical costs.

The IRS generally states that HSA purchases must help diagnose, cure, treat, mitigate or prevent disease.

Truemed allows users to request a “letter of medical necessity” from a doctor, stating that the product in question could have medical value for them. Like other telehealth services, there’s usually no real-time communication with the patient. The physician reviews a “simple survey solution,” filled out by the Truemed user, according to the company’s website.

Industry representatives say customers should be careful.

“You need to be prepared to defend your spending habits under audit,” said Kevin McKechnie, head of the American Bankers Association’s HSA council. “Companies are popping up suggesting they can help you manage that process and maybe they can — so the debate continues.”

Americans have an estimated \$147 billion in HSA accounts, a potential windfall for companies like Truemed that collects fees for transactions made using their platforms.

Means sees an even bigger opportunity — routing federal funds out of government programs and into more HSAs.

“The point of our company is to steer medical dollars into flexible spending,” Means told fitness celebrity Jillian Michaels, on her podcast last year. “I want to get that \$4.5 trillion of Medicare, Medicaid, everything into a flexible account.”

Who benefits most from HSAs?

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Means' pitch for expanding HSAs echoes two decades of Republican talking points on the accounts, which were created in 2003 to encourage Americans in high-deductible plans to be judicious with their health dollars.

But HSAs have not brought down spending, economists say. They are disproportionately used by the wealthiest Americans, who have more income to fund them and a bigger incentive to lower their tax rate.

Americans who earn more than \$1 million annually are the group most likely to make regular HSA contributions, according to an analysis by the nonprofit Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. More than half Americans with HSAs have balances less than \$500.

Trump's "One Big Beautiful Bill" would further expand HSA purchases, making gym memberships and other fitness expenses eligible for tax-free spending. That provision alone is expected to cost the government \$10 billion in revenue.

"These are really just tax breaks in the guise of health policy that overwhelmingly benefit people with high incomes," said Gideon Lukens, a former White House budget official during the Obama and Trump administrations, now with the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities.

Expanding HSA eligibility was listed as a goal for a coalition of MAHA entrepreneurs and Truemed partners, founded by Means, which lobbied Congress last year, according to the group's website.

Means said in a statement that the group focused only on broad topics like "health care incentives and patient choice — but did not lobby for specific bills."

In total, the HSA expansions in Trump's bill are projected to cost the federal government \$180 billion over the next 10 years. As HSAs expand to include more disparate products and services, Lukens says the U.S. government will have fewer dollars to expand medical coverage through programs like Medicaid.

"We have a limited amount of federal resources and the question is whether we want to spend that on health and wellness products that may or may not be helpful for wealthy people," Lukens said.

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 throughout the sprawling city, including in the fashion district of Los Angeles and at a Home Depot. The

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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.

Today in History: June 11, University of Alabama desegregated

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Wednesday, June 11, the 162nd day of 2025. There are 203 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On June 11, 1963, the University of Alabama was desegregated as Vivian Malone and James Hood became the first two Black students allowed to enroll in classes; Alabama segregationist and Gov. George Wallace initially blocked the doorway to the auditorium where course registration was taking place, delivering a speech before deferring to National Guard orders to move.

Also on this date:

In 1509, England’s King Henry VIII married his first wife, Catherine of Aragon.

In 1776, the Second Continental Congress appointed the Committee of Five (composed of John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, Robert Livingston and Roger Sherman) to draft a declaration of independence from Great Britain, to be completed in the subsequent 17 days.

1955, in motor racing’s worst disaster, more than 80 people were killed during the 24 Hours of Le Mans in France when two cars collided and crashed into spectators.

In 1962, Frank Morris, Clarence Anglin and John Anglin, prisoners at Alcatraz Federal Penitentiary in San Francisco Bay, staged an escape, leaving the island on a makeshift raft. They were never found or heard from again.

In 1963, Vietnamese Buddhist monk Thích Quảng Đức lit himself on fire on a Saigon street as a protest against the Vietnamese government’s persecution of Buddhists.

In 1987, Margaret Thatcher became the first British prime minister in over 160 years to win a third consecutive term of office as her Conservative Party held onto a reduced majority in Parliament.

In 2001, Timothy McVeigh, 33, was executed by lethal injection at the federal prison in Terre Haute, Indiana, for the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing that killed 168 people.

In 2009, with swine flu reported in more than 70 nations, the World Health Organization declared the

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first global flu pandemic in 41 years.

Today's Birthdays: Drummer Bernard Purdie is 86. International Motorsports Hall of Famer Jackie Stewart is 86. Actor Roscoe Orman is 81. Actor Adrienne Barbeau is 80. Rock musician Frank Beard (ZZ Top) is 76. Singer Graham Russell (Air Supply) is 75. Football Hall of Famer Joe Montana is 69. Actor Hugh Laurie is 66. TV personality and current Medicare Administrator Mehmet Oz is 65. Actor Peter Dinklage is 56. Actor Joshua Jackson is 47. U.S. Olympic and WNBA basketball star Diana Taurasi is 43. Actor Shia LaBeouf is 39. Basketball Hall of Famer Maya Moore is 36.