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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)



Sunday, June 15

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

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

Emmanuel Lutheran worship 9 a.m. Catholic: SEAS Confession, 7:45-8:15 a.m.; SEAS Mass, 8:30 a.m.; Turton Confession, 10:30-10:45 a.m.; Turton Mass, 11 a.m.

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

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

Legion hosts Redfield, 5:30 p.m.

Monday, June 16

Senior Menu: Hamburger cabbage roll hot dish, mixed vegetables, apricots, whole wheat bread.

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

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

U12 B&W at Sisseton, 5:30 p.m. (DH)

U10 W&R at Britton, 5:30 p.m. (DH)

U8 R&B at Britton, 5:30 p.m. (DH)

Softball: U8B hosts Claremont, 5:30 p.m.

T-Ball: G&B hosts Warner, Black at 6 p.m., Gold at 7 p.m.

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

Groton Daily Independent
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Newsweek

The
Bulletin

YOUR DAILY BRIEFING OF
EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW

WORLD IN BRIEF

- US 'committed' to Russian people: Secretary of State Marco Rubio has said that the U.S. "remains committed to supporting the Russian people" as they mark a national holiday.
- Air India plane to UK crashes: An Air India plane destined for the U.K. crashed at Ahmedabad airport in India with hundreds of passengers on board.
- US ally seeks China's help: South Korea's newly minted President Lee Jae-myung, during his first conversation with Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping Tuesday, asked for help reining in North Korea's Kim Jong Un regime.
- Green card change: The Trump administration announced Wednesday that it was making immediate changes to green card applications, stating a previous policy introduced just over a year ago could threaten public health.
- 'No Kings' protest: The "No Kings" protest against President Trump and his administration is set to be the largest nationwide mobilization since Trump took office, according to organizers.
- Global reach of China aid money: China has emerged as a leading source of finance for low- and middle-income countries, according to statistical records, issuing over \$1 trillion in loans, grants and other types of funding since 2000.

Americans Are Suffering From 'Time Poverty'

The rundown: With labor market uncertainty, jobs rewarding employees for "going the extra mile" and competing responsibilities inside and outside the workplace, a growing number of Americans are suffering from what experts refer to as "time poverty." Learn more about what it means.

Why it matters: The term has been increasingly adopted by psychologists to denote the chronic imbalance between the time a person needs and that which their work life allows them. A new survey by wellness firm Wondr Health revealed the extent of the issue, finding that the majority (62 percent) of U.S. workers do not take their allotted time off because of the internalized pressures of work and let about one-third of their annual vacation days go unspent.

TL/DR: "No one is harder on most of us than ourselves and it leads to time poverty, a condition where we simply do not have enough time for a meaningful work-life balance," said Dr. Tim Church, chief medical officer at Wondr Health.

What happens now? Experts pointed to the need for allotted "mental health days," as well as the willingness of businesses to invest in employee wellness programs and foster open communication with their workforces.

South Dakota State announces spring 2025 Dean's List

BROOKINGS, S.D. (06/12/2025)-- More than 3,800 students were recognized for their outstanding academic performance over the spring 2025 semester at South Dakota State University by being named to the dean's list.

To earn dean's list distinctions in SDSU's colleges, students must have completed a minimum of 12 credits and must have earned at least a 3.5 GPA on a 4.0 scale. Overall, 3,820 students from 37 states and 33 foreign nations are on the list. Congratulations to these distinguished scholars on earning this academic achievement.

Groton students on the Dean's List are Brooke Boddicker, Madeline Fliehs, Trey Gengerke, Trista Keith, Allyssa Locke, Hannah Monson, Sage Mortenson, KaSandra Pappas and Ashlyn Sperry.

Wilber Adds Seven with First Recruiting Class Leading into 2025-26

Aberdeen, S.D. – Northern State University head coach Matt Wilber announced the additions of seven student-athletes to the 2025-26 men's basketball roster today. Simon Akena (Stockholm, Sweden), Josh Book (Christchurch, New Zealand), Ben Bowen (Highlands Ranch, Colo.), Brendan Phillips (Aberdeen, S.D.), Nelson Reynolds (Peoria, Ill.), Ty Rogers (Aurora, Ill.), and Lane Tietz (Groton, S.D.) will join the Wolves in the fall for their first season under the direction of Wilber and staff.

"We are excited to add this group to the roster of players we are bringing back from last year," said Wilber. "Our process from day one was to recruit the entire roster from last year's group from the available pool of high school grads and transfers. I give a ton of credit to Coach Nelson and Coach Smith for the work they did in the recruiting process. We started with a specific plan for what we wanted the make-up of this recruiting class to look like in our first year and feel good with the early results. We inherited a high-quality level of character from the returners and are adding a number of great people with these additions. Every year is a new start regardless of staff and roster, and this group is excited to get to work and make their mark on the Wolves culture!!"

Simon Akena – Guard, 6-6, 215, Stockholm, Sweden / Tibble Gymnasium / Westminster

Simon Akena is a 6-foot-6, 215-pound guard out of Westminster University. He started 26 contests last season for the Griffins, averaging 29.8 minutes per game. Akena shot 47.0% from the floor, averaging 13.2 points and 3.6 rebounds per contest. Akena also played collegiately at McCook Community College and Utah Valley University. He was an All-Region selection at McCook. He is the son of George and Cecilia Akena.

Josh Book – Guard, 6-4, 190, Christchurch, New Zealand / Christs College / Missouri Western

Josh Book is a 6-foot-4, 190-pound guard out of Missouri Western State. He averaged 28.0 points, 10.0 rebounds, and 6.0 assists in his final season at Christs College in New Zealand. Book was named the Thompson Trophy Finals MVP and Christs College won the South Island Championship. In 2023-24, his first full season at MoWest, Book shot 51.3% from the floor and 83.3% from the foul line. He tallied 125 points, 45 rebounds, and 39 assists. He is the son of Lisa and Edward Book.

Ben Bowen – Guard, 6-5, 185, Highlands Ranch, Colo. / Mountain Vista HS / Denver

Ben Bowen is a 6-foot-5, 185-pound guard out of Mountain Vista High School and the University of Denver. As a prep, Bowen averaged 20.0 points, 6.0 rebounds, and 6.0 assists per game. He was named the Continental League Player of the Year and earned all-state first team recognition. Bowen opened his collegiate career at the University of Wyoming, redshirting during the 2021-22 season. He spent the next three seasons at UD, appearing in 72 games. Bowen shot 47.5% from the floor last season for the Pioneers, appearing in 27 total contests. He is the son of Ryan and Wendy Bowen.

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Brendan Phillips – Forward, 6-5, 190, Aberdeen, S.D. / Central HS

Brendan Phillips is a 6-foot-5, 190-pound forward out of Central High School. He was a 2-year starter and team captain for the Golden Eagles, averaging 16.6 points, 4.6 rebounds, and 1.5 assists as a senior. Phillips earned the team MVP award in 2024-25 and was honored on the academic all-state team. He is the son of Jennifer and Jake Phillips.

Nelson Reynolds – Guard, 6-2, 190, Peoria, Ill. / Peoria Notre Dame HS / Southeastern

Nelson Reynolds is a 6-foot-2, 190-pound guard out of Peoria Notre Dame High School and Southeastern University. As a prep, Reynolds averaged 15.0 points per game and was a member of the Illinois All-State third team. He averaged 11.1 points per game, shooting 47.3% from the floor last season for the Fire. In addition, Reynolds shot 45.9% from beyond the arc, ranking in the top-5 in SEU single season history. He is the son of Paige Reynolds.

Ty Rogers – Forward, 6-7, 225, Aurora, Ill. / West Aurora HS / UMary

Ty Rogers is a 6-foot-7, 225-pound forward out of West Aurora High School and the University of Mary. As a prep, Rogers was a 4-year starter and team captain for the Blackhawks. He averaged 15.0 points, 6.- rebounds, and 2.0 assists as a senior. Rogers was honored with all-conference, all-state third team, all-district, and all-county accolades. Rogers appeared in 80 games, including starting all 31 last season, in his three years with the Marauders. He averaged a season best 10.3 points and 3.9 rebounds per game last season, shooting 41.5% from the floor. He is the son of Marchel and Sarah Rogers.

Lane Tietz – Guard, 5-11, 180, Groton, S.D. / Groton HS / Dakota State

Lane Tietz is a 5-foot-11, 180-pound guard out of Groton High School and Dakota State. As a prep, Tietz was a 5-year starter and team captain for the Tigers. He scored 1,552 career points and dished out 324 career assists. Tietz was a 4-time NEC All-Conference selection, all-state honoree, and the 2024 Class A Spirit of the Su Award winner. He opened his collegiate career at Dakota State, playing one season for the Trojans. Tietz averaged 11.2 points, 3.6 assists, and 4.0 rebounds per game. He was named the North Star Freshman of the Year following the season. He is the son of Tom and Lindsey Tietz, and great-great nephew of legendary NSU coach and administrator Clark Swisher.

Rapid City's Population Tops 84,000 With Steady Growth Since 2020 **From Rapid City Post**

RAPID CITY, S.D. — Rapid City's population is now estimated at 84,930, a solid 3.05 percent increase from the previous year. City officials estimate Rapid City's population has increased by more than 10,000 people since 2020. Each year, the City's Long Range Planning Division prepares a population estimate for Rapid City, utilizing data including approved building permits, housing demolitions, the 2020 Census occupancy rate and the 2020 Census persons per household rate for Rapid City and Pennington County.

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!



SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

Legislative decision on prison construction will come later than planned

Corrections spokesman says fund's projected balance is \$538 million

BY: JOHN HULT - JUNE 12, 2025 6:29 PM

South Dakota lawmakers will not convene to make the call on a new prison site on July 22, according to Gov. Larry Rhoden's office.

Lt. Gov. Tony Venhuizen wrote a letter to Rhoden this week asking that the special session the governor had hoped to call on that date be pushed back. Lawmakers would be asked to back plans for a new prison at that session.

Venhuizen leads the Project Prison Reset group, called into being in February via a Rhoden executive order and charged with deciding if the state needs new prison facilities, how large and where those facilities should be.

Members voted during a Springfield meeting in late April to build a replacement for the South Dakota State Penitentiary, which is located in Sioux Falls.

Pierre played host to the group's most recent meeting last week, where the group narrowed down locations to Mitchell or Worthing and existing prison campuses in Springfield and Sioux Falls, and voted to cap the cost of such a prison at \$600 million. Elected officials in Mitchell including the mayor and sheriff have since come out against locating the prison near their community.

This week, Venhuizen wrote that the group had made "excellent progress," but that the two weeks between the next Project Prison Reset meeting and the intended special session aren't enough.

"Even if the task force is able to adopt a specific proposal on July 8, we do not feel that two weeks provides adequate time for a final proposal to be completed with adequate detail, and for state legislators to learn about that proposal prior to the special session," Venhuizen wrote.

Rhoden, through spokeswoman Josie Harms, said the governor will "accept the task force's request" and "consult with leadership on a rescheduled date."

"I'm eager to see what the task force can accomplish in their next meeting," Rhoden wrote.

The cost of the Rhoden administration's preferred solution to correctional overcrowding – a 1,500-bed, \$825 million facility south of Harrisburg in Lincoln County – was among the primary concerns for the lawmakers who rejected the idea in February.

A consultant hired on behalf of the task force to reevaluate the state's needs concluded that the state needs more beds than that, 1,700, immediately, to ease current crowding.

A 1,700-bed prison wouldn't solve the state's problems long-term, however, according to the consultants. By the mid-2030s, the state would need yet another 1,500-bed prison.



South Dakota Republican Gov. Larry Rhoden speaks during a press conference Feb. 6, 2025, at the Capitol in Pierre with Lt. Gov. Tony Venhuizen.

(Seth Tupper/South Dakota Searchlight)

The task force ultimately rejected those conclusions, betting that \$600 million would be enough to bulk up the system and replace the oldest parts of the Sioux Falls penitentiary complex.

Lawmakers had put back more than \$600 million for prison construction before the 2025 legislative session, and the fund had swelled larger than that with interest by winter.

Ongoing construction bills at the site of a new women's prison in Rapid City – an \$87 million project that earned legislative approval – have since come out of that fund, DOC spokesman Michael Winder told Searchlight on Thursday.

The state's also paid some of the bills associated with site prep at the now-rejected Lincoln County site out of that fund. Lawmakers had approved the spending of up to \$60 million in prison design and site prep for a men's prison in 2024, and the state spent or obligated \$52 million of that money for the Lincoln County plan before it came to a halt.

Subtracting the money spent since the last legislative session's end and adding the \$23 million earned in interest this year that will be deposited in August, Winder said, the fund's available balance will sit at approximately \$538 million by the end of summer.

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.

Johnson of SD votes yes as US House votes to yank billions for NPR, PBS and foreign aid

BY: JENNIFER SHUTT - JUNE 12, 2025 5:22 PM

WASHINGTON — The U.S. House narrowly passed legislation Thursday that would revoke \$9.4 billion in previously approved funding for public media, including National Public Radio and the Public Broadcasting Service, as well as foreign aid, though the bill's future in the Senate amid a strict timeline is uncertain.

The 214-212 mostly party-line vote marks just the third time in several decades the House has approved a bill to claw back funding that lawmakers formerly agreed to spend. President Donald Trump sent the rescissions request that led to the House bill to the Republican-controlled Congress earlier this month.

Republican Reps. Mark Amodei of Nevada, Brian Fitzpatrick of Pennsylvania, Nicole Malliotakis of New York and Mike Turner of Ohio voted against approving the bill along with all of the chamber's Democrats.

Nebraska Rep. Don Bacon and New York Rep. Nick LaLota, both Republicans, switched from opposing to supporting the bill after Speaker Mike Johnson spoke with them on the floor as the vote was held open.

House Majority Leader Steve Scalise, R-La., contended during floor debate that pulling back the funding is the right place to start, but said the GOP will seek to do much more in the months and years ahead.



U.S. House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries, D-N.Y., holds up an Elmo toy while the chamber debates a bill that would eliminate previously approved funding for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, which provides grants to public radio and television stations, including the Public Broadcasting Service, or PBS, which airs "Sesame Street." (Screen shot taken from House Clerk

website livestream.)

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Scalise said PBS and NPR should have to compete against other media organizations without grant funding from the federal government.

"There is still going to be a plethora of options for the American people," Scalise said. "But if they're paying their hard-earned dollars to go get content, why should your tax dollars only go to one thing that the other side wants to promote? Let everybody go compete on a fair basis."

Maine Democratic Rep. Chellie Pingree said every state in the country would feel the impact of eliminating funding for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

"I rise today in strong opposition to the reckless attack on public media contained within this rescissions bill and millions of Americans who rely on and treasure their local public television and radio stations," Pingree said.

Efforts to defund CPB, she said, were the result of Trump's "agenda against the free press and his authoritarian desire to control the media."

Public media would lose \$1.1 billion

The seven-page bill would rescind all funding that Congress approved for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting for fiscal years 2026 and 2027, a total of \$1.1 billion.

CPB, which provides grants to public radio and television stations throughout the country, is one of the few programs that receives an advanced appropriation. So the funding elimination envisioned in the House bill would take effect starting on Oct. 1.

The legislation revokes more than \$8 billion from several foreign aid programs run by the U.S. State Department or the U.S. Agency for International Development.

Florida Republican Rep. Mario Díaz-Balart, chairman of the State-Foreign Operations Appropriations subcommittee, said during an interview Wednesday there were extensive talks between GOP lawmakers and the Office of Management and Budget before the Trump administration officially submitted this rescissions request.

But Díaz-Balart cautioned there would need to be substantial pre-negotiations ahead of any future rescissions requests for programs within his annual funding bill.

"This rescission package — which I've had communication with OMB on — if this passes, we can move forward," he said. "Now, if you're talking about a potential for future additional rescissions, that could potentially create a problem and tie the president's hands when it comes to dealing with adversaries or helping allies."

Díaz-Balart said that OMB officials hoping to make any additional rescissions requests on foreign aid would need to engage in "a level of coordination that is so detailed, so intense to make sure that nothing comes forward that could potentially hurt the president's ability to really do the America First agenda internationally."

Florida Democratic Rep. Lois Frankel, ranking member on the State-Foreign Operations spending panel, said during floor debate Thursday the bill was an attack on American values and posed a threat to national security.

"It's not charity, it's strategy," Frankel said of foreign aid. "Don't take my word for it, military leaders from both parties have warned us for years — if we fail to lead with soft power, we'll end up paying in blood, bombs and more boots on the ground."

"Cutting foreign assistance will deepen desperation, fuel extremism, push fragile societies toward collapse and when that happens we all pay the price," she added. "Refugee crises surge, diseases spread, trade routes shut down, our troops and diplomats face greater danger and our homeland security is weakened."

First of many requests

The House vote took place just one week after the Trump administration sent lawmakers the rescissions request, the first of many proposals the White House budget office plans to submit.

The \$9.4 billion cancellation proposal represents a small fraction of the roughly \$6.8 trillion the federal

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government spends each year.

The recommendation said some of the foreign aid should be cancelled because it supported "programs that are antithetical to American interests and worsen the lives of women and children, like 'family planning' and 'reproductive health,' LGBTQI+ activities, and 'equity' programs."

The rescissions request allows the Office of Management and Budget to legally freeze funding on the programs listed for 45 days while lawmakers decide whether to approve the recommendation as is, amend it, or ignore it.

The House and Senate must agree to approve the same rescissions bill before mid-July for the changes to take effect. Failure to reach a bicameral agreement before then would require the Trump administration to spend the funding and block the president from requesting the same cancellation for the rest of his term.

Rescissions requests are rare since Congress typically negotiates spending levels on thousands of federal programs in the dozen annual spending bills that are then signed by the president.

The first Trump administration proposed rescissions in 2018, but the bill never made it through the Senate.

The last time Congress actually approved rescinding funding was in 1992 during the George H.W. Bush administration, according to a report from the nonpartisan Congressional Research Service.

More action in the Senate

The Senate will need to take up the bill before mid-July if it wants to approve any of the spending cuts, though several GOP senators told States Newsroom during brief interviews Wednesday ahead of the House vote they may amend the package, which would require it to go back to the House for final approval before the 45-day clock runs out.

Rescissions bills come with a vote-a-rama in the Senate, giving Republicans and Democrats the chance to call up as many amendments as they want for a floor vote. The GOP holds a 53-member majority, so four or more Republicans opposing any element of the bill would likely lead to its removal.

Senate Appropriations Chairwoman Susan Collins, R-Maine, said she will give the rescissions bill "careful consideration."

In a statement released earlier this month just after the White House sent the request to lawmakers, Collins wrote the committee would "carefully review the rescissions package and examine the potential consequences of these rescissions on global health, national security, emergency communications in rural communities, and public radio and television stations."

South Carolina Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham, chairman of the State-Foreign Operations Appropriations subcommittee, said he's mostly supportive of the rescissions request, though he didn't rule out offering an amendment to restore full funding for the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, often called PEPFAR.

"I think I'll be okay with most of it. I'm concerned about PEPFAR. I'll have to look at that," Graham said.

West Virginia Sen. Shelley Moore Capito, chairwoman of the spending panel that oversees the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, said she's planning to evaluate the bill once it arrives.

"We've got all these other things I'm thinking about. I haven't even focused on it," Capito said, referring to ongoing negotiations over the party's "big, beautiful bill."

Alaska Republican Sen. Lisa Murkowski, a senior member of the Appropriations Committee, said she's going to "try to" ensure the Corporation for Public Broadcasting keeps its funding.

"I'm a supporter of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. It's a lifeline for many of my small, rural communities," Murkowski said.

Kansas Republican Sen. Jerry Moran, a senior appropriator, said he's "trying to figure out a strategy of how to deal with" both the foreign aid and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting provisions once the bill comes over from the House.

"I'm looking at both of them to see what the right outcome should be."

'The risk of living in a news desert'

Both PBS and NPR released statements following the House vote, pledging to do their best to keep their funding intact.

Katherine Maher, NPR president and CEO, wrote in a statement the Corporation for Public Broadcasting is essential to the organization.

"Americans who rely on local, independent stations serving communities across America, especially in rural and underserved regions, will suffer the immediate consequences of this vote," Maher wrote. "If rescission passes and local stations go dark, millions of Americans will no longer have access to locally owned, independent, nonprofit media and will bear the risk of living in a news desert, missing their emergency alerts, and hearing silence where classical, jazz and local artists currently play."

Paula Kerger, president and CEO at PBS, wrote in a separate statement the "fight to protect public media does not end with this vote, and we will continue to make the case for our essential service in the days and weeks to come.

"If these cuts are finalized by the Senate, it will have a devastating impact on PBS and local member stations, particularly smaller and rural stations that rely on federal funding for a larger portion of their budgets. Without PBS and local member stations, Americans will lose unique local programming and emergency services in times of crisis."

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

Democratic U.S. Sen. Alex Padilla of California cuffed, shoved out of Noem press event

BY: ARIANA FIGUEROA - JUNE 12, 2025 3:54 PM

Federal law enforcement officials forcibly removed and handcuffed U.S. Sen. Alex Padilla at a Thursday press conference in Los Angeles by Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem amid multi-day protests against the Trump administration's immigration crackdown.

The scuffle between law enforcement, including an officer wearing a jacket with an FBI logo, and a United States senator represented a stark escalation of tensions after President Donald Trump ordered 4,000 National Guard troops and 700 Marines to LA. His action followed major protests sparked by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials ramping up immigration raids.

Before Padilla was physically removed, Noem said that the Trump administration would continue its immigration enforcement in LA.

"We are not going away," Noem, the former governor of South Dakota, said. "We are staying here to liberate the city from the socialists and the burdensome leadership that this governor and that this mayor have placed on this country and what they have tried to insert into the city."

Padilla, 52, a member of the Senate since 2021, when he was appointed to replace former Vice President Kamala Harris, and then elected in 2022, tried to ask Noem a question and was rushed by federal law enforcement.

"I'm Sen. Alex Padilla and I have questions for the secretary," he said as four federal law enforcement



Senator Alex Padilla, D-Calif., speaks at a Biden-Harris campaign and DNC press conference on July 18, 2024 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. (Photo by Jim Vondruska/Getty Images)

officers grabbed him and shoved him to the ground. "Hands off."

The DHS wrote on social media that U.S. Secret Service officers thought "he was an attacker and officers acted appropriately."

DHS said that after the press conference, Noem and Padilla had a 15-minute meeting. His office did not respond to States Newsroom's request for comment.

In a statement, Padilla's office said the California senator was in LA for congressional oversight into the federal government's operations in LA and across California.

"He was in the federal building to receive a briefing with General Guillot and was listening to Secretary Noem's press conference," his office said, referring to General Gregory M. Guillot, commander of United States Northern Command.

"He tried to ask the Secretary a question, and was forcibly removed by federal agents, forced to the ground and handcuffed. He is not currently detained, and we are working to get additional information."

The incident drew swift condemnation from the Congressional Hispanic Caucus and Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer of New York.

"Watching this video sickened my stomach, the manhandling of a United States Senator, Senator Padilla," Schumer wrote on social media. "We need immediate answers to what the hell went on."

On the Senate floor, Schumer said the video of Padilla "reeks of totalitarianism."

He called for a full investigation so that "this doesn't happen again."

Padilla gave remarks after the incident, with The Associated Press. He did not take questions.

"If this is how this administration responds to a senator with a question, if this is how the Department of Homeland Security responds to a senator with a question, you can only imagine what they're doing to farmworkers, to cooks, to day laborers out in the Los Angeles community," Padilla said.

Ariana covers the nation's capital for States Newsroom. Her areas of coverage include politics and policy, lobbying, elections and campaign finance.

Judge says Trump takeover of California National Guard 'illegal,' orders return to governor

BY: JACOB FISCHLER - JUNE 12, 2025 10:55 PM

A federal judge in California late Thursday ordered President Donald Trump to relinquish command of 4,000 National Guard troops the president called to help contain Los Angeles protests over immigration raids.

U.S. District Judge Charles Breyer said Trump's mobilization of the National Guard was illegal, and ordered the return of control to California Gov. Gavin Newsom, who had opposed the deployment. He said his order would go into effect noon Pacific time Friday, likely setting up an emergency appeal by the administration.

Trump's "actions were illegal—both exceeding the scope of his statutory authority and violating the Tenth Amendment to the United States Constitution," Breyer wrote.

He issued the 36-page order mere hours after an afternoon hearing at which he appeared skeptical that Trump's order was lawful.

Breyer at the hearing appeared not to accept



Union members and supporters rally in Grand Park calling for the release of union leader David Huerta, who was arrested during an immigration enforcement action on June 9, 2025 in Los Angeles, California. (Photo by Mario Tama/Getty Images)

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the Trump administration's argument that obtaining consent from Newsom, a Democrat, was not a prerequisite to federalize the California National Guard.

Newsom has been backed up by Democratic attorneys general across the nation in the closely watched case.

Breyer noted the law Trump cited when mobilizing the troops requires the order to go through a state's governor, but Trump's order bypassed Newsom and went directly to the adjutant general of the California National Guard.

"I'm trying to figure out how something is through somebody if, in fact, you didn't give it to him, you actually sent it to the adjutant general," Breyer said. "It would be the first time I've ever seen something going through somebody if it never went to them directly."

'A constitutional government and King George'

U.S. Justice Department attorney Brett Shumate, who argued for the administration, said Newsom's approval was not necessary for the commander-in-chief to call National Guard troops into service.

"There's no consultation requirement, pre-approval requirement," he said. "The governor is merely a conduit. He's not a roadblock. The president doesn't have to call up the governor, invite them to Camp David, 'Let's have a summit, negotiate for a week about what are the terms that we're going to call up the National Guard in your state, what are the terms of the deployment?'"

The president alone can determine whether the conditions allowing for the federalization of the National Guard are met, Shumate said.

But Breyer, who was appointed by Democratic President Bill Clinton, said the president faced more limits on his authority than Shumate had argued.

"That's the difference between a constitutional government and King George," Breyer said.

Nicholas Green, who argued on behalf of the state, called the federal government's argument "breath-taking in scope," in part because the troops appear to be assisting in domestic law enforcement.

"They are saying, Your Honor, that the president, by fiat, can federalize the National Guard and deploy it in the streets of a civilian city whenever he perceives that there is disobedience to an order," Green told Breyer. "That is an expansive, dangerous conception of federal executive power."

Breyer seemed less opposed to Trump's order to deploy 700 U.S. Marines to the area, noting those troops are not yet on the ground in Los Angeles and, as federal troops, were already under Trump's command without needing to satisfy any other criteria.

Breyer's order Thursday night did not direct any action regarding the Marines.

Pause requested

The judge, who is the brother of former U.S. Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer, said he would rule quickly, possibly late Thursday, on California's request for a restraining order to stop the deployment in Los Angeles.

Shuman requested that, if Breyer found in favor of the state, he should pause any restraining order while the federal government appeals.

Green said the state would "strongly oppose" such a pause because of the urgency of the situation in Los Angeles.

The city has seen days of protests starting on Friday over Immigration and Customs Enforcement raids on workplaces. Trump ordered the National Guard to the area on Sunday, saying it was necessary to restore order.

Newsom and Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass objected to the decision and have said it has caused more chaos and inflamed tensions.

Democrats' amicus brief

The hearing on California's request for an injunction came a day after 21 Democratic attorneys general and the Democratic governor of Kansas filed an amicus brief in the case backing up California.

Trump wresting control of a state National Guard sets a dangerous precedent that undermines National Guard missions, they said.

"National Guard troops fight fires, respond to hurricanes, protect their residents from flooding, and provide much-needed security," they wrote. "By undermining states' authority, unlawfully deploying the National Guard troops, and leaving the door wide open to deploy the Guards of every state, the President has made us all less safe. This Court should enjoin the federal government from continuing down this unlawful and perilous path."

In addition to Kansas Gov. Laura Kelley, the attorneys general of Washington, Delaware, Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Hawaii, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Vermont, Wisconsin and Rhode Island signed the brief.

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.

Concerns raised over unintentional coverage losses at final Medicaid work requirements hearing

BY: MAKENZIE HUBER - JUNE 12, 2025 4:33 PM

More than a dozen people raised concerns and questions about unintentionally separating patients from their health care and other aspects of South Dakota's proposed Medicaid expansion work requirements during the plan's final public hearing Thursday in Sioux Falls.

Dana Bacon, state government affairs director at The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, told the state Department of Social Services his organization has "pretty big concerns" due to the technical problems, costs and unintended loss of coverage that people encountered during attempted work requirements in other states.

"That's going to make individuals, families, systems and communities pay a price for the outcomes," Bacon said. "We have a good sense of where this waiver is going, but we still see these problems getting in the way of the stated goal of making sure people get the health care they need."

Other people questioned the need to implement work requirements and expressed concern about a potentially disproportionate impact on tribal members, as well as the potential barrier the plan could create to health care for sick, homeless and older people.

Medicaid is government-funded health insurance for people with low incomes. South Dakotans voted in 2022 to expand Medicaid to adults with incomes up to 138% of the poverty level, a decision that allowed the state to capitalize on a 90% federal funding match — funding that could be in jeopardy, pending the outcome of congressional action. Last year, voters passed another constitutional amendment to let the state seek approval from the federal government to impose work requirements on expansion enrollees.



The Sioux Falls One Stop houses offices for several state departments, including Health, Social Services and Revenue. It hosted a hearing for proposed Medicaid expansion work requirements on June 12, 2025. (Makenzie Huber/South Dakota Searchlight)

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The state began drafting its proposal immediately following the end of the state legislative session in March, before debates about potential federally imposed work requirements heated up at the congressional level. Those debates are ongoing.

The department only heard from one person at its first hearing in May. The state is also accepting written comments through Wednesday, which will be included in the state's application to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services later this summer.

South Dakota's plan would require adult Medicaid recipients to work, train, attend school or serve as a caretaker for a child or elderly or disabled person in their home unless they qualify for an exception. Compliance with the state-level work rules would be reviewed on an annual basis, at the time of Medicaid renewal, rather than at the time of application. The state would not require a set number of hours of work or education time.

South Dakota would allow exceptions for people who are:

Pregnant or up to 12 months postpartum.

Disabled, as determined by the Social Security Administration.

Diagnosed with cancer or another serious or terminal medical condition by a physician.

In an intensive behavioral health treatment program, hospitalized or living in a nursing home.

In an area with unemployment 20% or more above the national average and are exempt from Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program requirements for able-bodied adults without dependents.

As of last month, 30,542 South Dakotans were covered by the Medicaid expansion. The state estimates 80% of them already work or qualify for an exception. The proposed state-level work requirement would reduce enrollment by an estimated 5-10% in the first year. That would save the Medicaid program between \$48.9 million and \$71 million in the first year, the department says.

Department officials explained that expansion enrollees would be sent three notices before being removed from Medicaid rolls. People could reapply later if they don't meet work requirements at their renewal time.

Heather Petermann, Medicaid director at the department, said people who are seeking treatment for substance use disorder or other mental health disorders outside of intensive treatment programs could obtain an exemption if their physician or health care provider provided documentation that they can't work because of their condition.

Department Secretary Matt Althoff said the state's proposal is meant to be administratively simple and to encourage work among Medicaid recipients rather than track hours.

"We are helping them, we believe, not only by providing a safety net, but a lift up. Isn't it true that personal industry is the antidote to poverty?" Althoff said. "The more that we can do to discover fulfillment through serving others, the more that we can do to garner an income that we earn, the higher likelihood we will be able to escape the clutches of poverty."

Other suggestions made during public comment during the hearing included:

Adding volunteer or community service time as an exemption, to benefit older adults who can't find employment because of their age.

Exempting Indian Health Service beneficiaries, since they are eligible for Medicaid coverage at the federal level even if they do not meet other Medicaid requirements, such as income limits.

Allowing more flexibility to exempt caregivers of older adults who don't share the same residence.

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

Last certificates issued through State Library training institute victimized by budget cuts

BY: JOHN HULT - JUNE 12, 2025 5:00 AM

The students who earned their certificates of library management this month with the aid of the South Dakota State Library will be the last for now, due to budget cuts.

The Public Library Training Institute "has long served as a continuing education program for library practitioners, support staff, and trustees of South Dakota public libraries who do not hold formal library degrees," according to a Wednesday press release from the state Department of Education.

Fifteen students from 13 libraries, with jobs ranging from library director to front-line staff, attended the 2025 training.

The institute has helped librarians earn their certificates – typically pursued by those seeking a master's degree in library science – since 1985, initially with courses at what was then Northern State College in Aberdeen.

The State Library, in partnership with the Institute of Museum and Library Services in Washington, D.C., has offered financial support for the training.

Students attend in-person sessions for one week each June, supplemented by online coursework throughout the year. Librarians who complete the program are awarded a certificate of public library management and are recognized as certified library practitioners.

"This year, our students delved into crucial aspects of information literacy, library resources, and emerging technologies," State Librarian George Seamon said in the press release on this year's graduates. "They explored topics such as digital literacy, AI in libraries, makerspaces, SDSL-provided resources, educational programming through the SD Discovery Center, and research databases."

Due to cuts by the South Dakota Legislature, however, 2025 will be the final year for the institute "in its current form," Wednesday's press release said. Former Gov. Kristi Noem had proposed budget cuts large enough to threaten the State Library's access to federal funding. Lawmakers compromised on a budget figure large enough to allow the state to secure federal matching funds, but not large enough to maintain the full range of library services.

The State Library will still pay for statewide access to a host of curated databases, keep most of its staff, and carry books ordered via interlibrary loan from place to place. The library cut the equivalent of two and a half staff members, however.

The State Library "remains committed to supporting public library staff through continuing education," Wednesday's news release said, and "future training opportunities will evolve to meet changing needs and circumstances across the state."



(Getty Images)

Certificates awarded

The following people earned a Certificate of Public Library Management during this month's institute:

Tiana McKinney, Canton Public Library;
Holly Demery, Faulk County Library, Faulkton;
Crystal Gering Nelson, Freeman Public Library;
Joanne Urban, Grant County Library, Milbank;
Heather Lee and Mary Terrones, Hot Springs Public Library;
Danyelle Brotherton, Huron Public Library;

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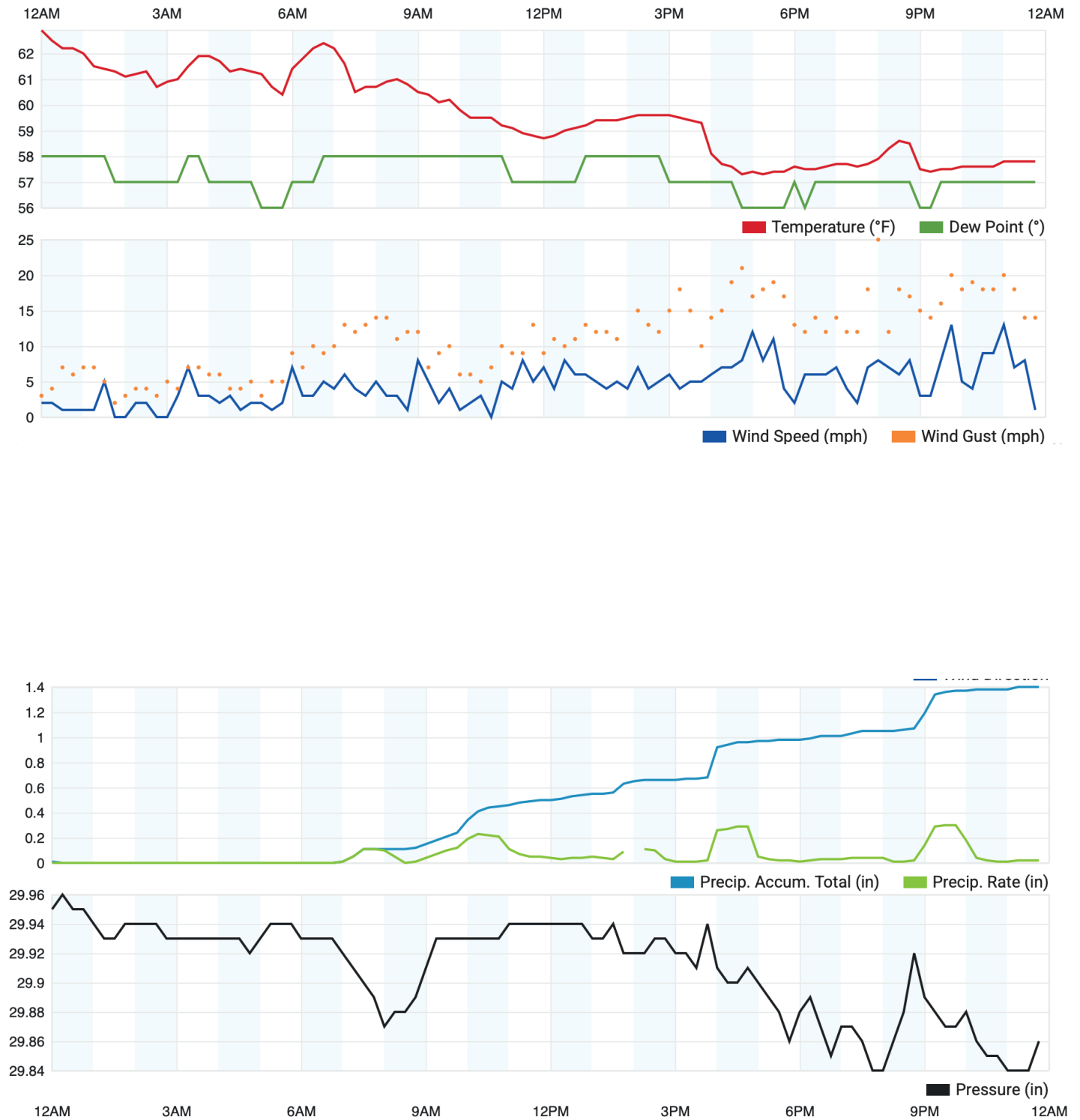
Cindy Percy, Marcus P. Beebe Memorial Library, Ipswich;
Arlene Hicks, Jackson County Library, Kadoka;
Megan Stietz, Piedmont Valley Library;
Tanya Bult and Billie Jo Hayes, Scotland Community Library;
Kelly Namminga, Evelyn Lang Public Library, Springfield;
Becky Nutley, Viborg Public Library; and
Sarah Overvaag, Watertown Regional Library.

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.

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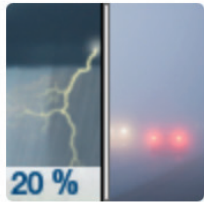
Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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Friday



High: 65 °F

Slight Chance
T-storms and
Patchy Fog
then Patchy
Fog

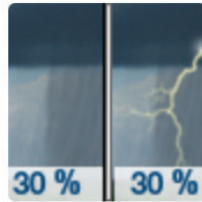
Friday Night



Low: 51 °F

Patchy Fog
then Slight
Chance
T-storms

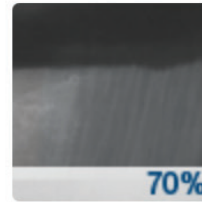
Saturday



High: 75 °F

Chance
Showers then
Chance
T-storms

Saturday Night



Low: 58 °F

Showers
Likely

Sunday



High: 82 °F

Slight Chance
T-storms



TODAY
FRI 06/13
HIGH 61 °F

[16% Precip. / 0.00 in](#)

Generally cloudy. High 61F. Winds NE at 10 to 20 mph.



TONIGHT
FRI 06/13
LOW 53 °F

[24% Precip. / 0.00 in](#)

Cloudy. Low 53F. Winds ENE at 10 to 15 mph.



TOMORROW
SAT 06/14
HIGH 71 | 59 °F

[39% Precip. / 0.09 in](#)

Rain showers early with some sunshine later in the day. High 71F. Winds ENE at 10 to 15 mph. Chance of rain 40%.

PRECIPITATION

16%

Slight rain chance in the next 6 hours.

POLLEN

Very High

Grass Pollen

AIR QUALITY

Moderate

Air Quality Index
61

UV INDEX ▲

Very High

Daytime UV
8

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Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 63 °F at 12:00 AM

Low Temp: 57 °F at 5:04 PM

Wind: 25 mph at 7:56 PM

Precip: : 1.52

Day length: 15 hours, 42 minutes

Today's Info

Record High: 102 in 1936

Record Low: 36 in 1942

Average High: 80

Average Low: 55

Average Precip in June.: 1.53

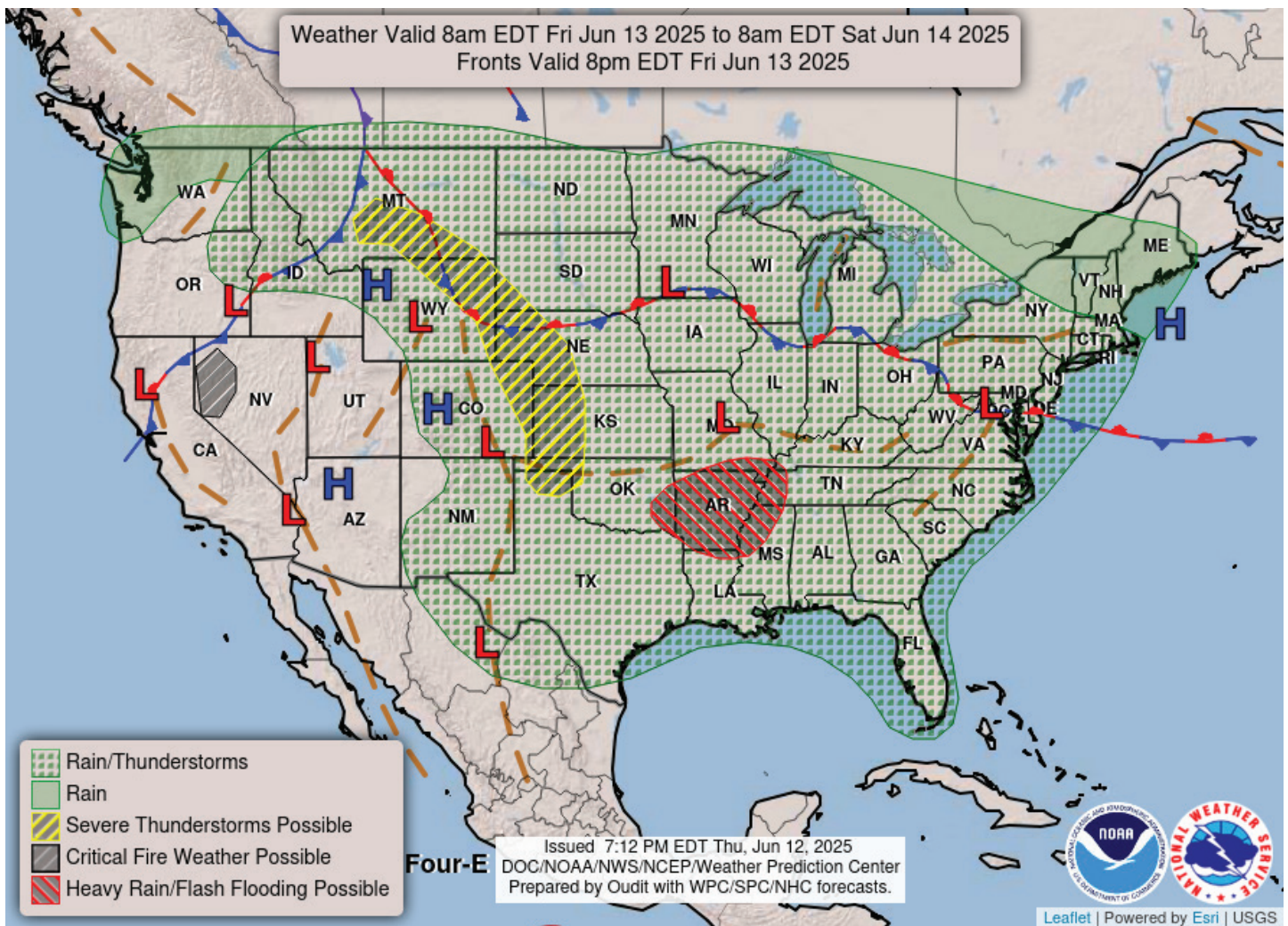
Precip to date in June: 1.98

Average Precip to date: 8.78

Precip Year to Date: 8.03

Sunset Tonight: 9:23:43 pm

Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:41:26 am



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Today in Weather History

June 13th, 1943: An estimated F2 tornado moved ENE, destroying a home on the southeastern edge of Highmore in Hyde County. A mother and her five children seeking shelter in the house were injured. Damage to barns and outbuildings occurred on a dozen farms. This tornado was estimated to be on the ground for about 8 miles and caused about \$10,000 in damage.

June 13th, 1991: A small F1 tornado remained on the ground for 4 miles as it moved westerly from 10 miles west of Roscoe to 6 miles west of Roscoe in Edmunds County. The tornado's path continued for another 5 miles but was not consistently on the ground. It dissipated one mile west of Roscoe. Although the tornado had a long path, its width was 10 yards. It traveled through open fields and caused little to no damage.

1889 - Forest fires in northern Wisconsin and northeast Minnesota were in the process of destroying millions of dollars of board feet of timber. (David Ludlum)

1907 - The temperature at Tamarack, CA, dipped to 2 degrees above zero, the lowest reading of record for June for the U.S. The high that day was 30 degrees. Tamarack received 42 inches of snow between the 10th and the 13th. On the 13th the snow depth was 130 inches. (The Weather Channel)

1984 - Severe thunderstorms struck Denver deluging the city with five inches of rain, and leaving up to six feet of water in some places. Softball size hail smashed windshields and ripped through metal cars. Snow plows had to be called out. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Fifteen cities in the north central U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date, including International Falls, MN, with a reading of 92 degrees. Mason City IA and Waterloo IA reported record highs of 100 degrees. Thunderstorms in the northeastern U.S. produced golf ball size hail around Hamilton Square NJ, along with high winds which tore the roof off a hospital causing a million dollars damage. Averill Park NY was deluged with 1.64 inches of rain in fifteen minutes. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Afternoon thunderstorms produced severe weather in the Southern and Central Plains Region. Forrest NM was deluged with 5.5 inches of rain in ninety minutes. Temperatures soared into the 90s across much of the eastern half of the nation, including New England. Northern Illinois reported a record twenty straight days of dry weather. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather from the Southern Plains Region to the Carolinas during the day and night, and continued to drench parts of Texas and Oklahoma with heavy rain. Oklahoma City reported 13.41 inches of rain for the first thirteen days of the month, and Fort Worth TX reported 29.56 inches for the year, a total more than 13 inches above normal. Severe drought continued to rage across South Texas. (The National Weather Summary)

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"I need to come to talk with you," he said nervously.

"I have everything anyone could ask for, but I'm miserable. I think you are the only hope I have. As soon as I get back from this trip I'm taking, I'll be in to see you."

"Well," I said, "I don't have any answers for your problems, but I believe strongly that God does. And, if you seek Him sincerely and honestly, He'll give you the right answer for any problem. We have His Word on that."

The trip is over. He returned safely and had a "good time," but has found no time to look for God's answers to his miserable condition.

Perhaps the trip was so enjoyable that it has relieved him, temporarily, of his distress. It may also have been a "gentle" forewarning from God — that when his misery returns, he will not escape His wrath the next time.

God does everything He can to bring people to a place while they still have time to make things "right" with Him.

Our God is not only gracious — He is patient and inviting.

But as Solomon wrote, "Wealth is worthless in the day of God's wrath."

When that "day of wrath" arrives, no amount of this world's wealth will make any difference.

To support this fact, David wrote a warning to the wealthy who have no time for God: "The foolish and the senseless also perish. People, despite their wealth, do not endure."

Righteousness and right living have their rewards:

A life with God's presence, power, and protection now, and a life with Him in eternity.

He promised us that He would deliver us from death and destruction, and grant us eternal life with Him in the future.

Trust Him today!

Prayer: Thank You, Father, for Your salvation, the assurance of Your presence and protection now, the gift of hope, and the promise of eternal life with You.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Today's Scripture: "Wealth is worthless in the day of wrath, but righteousness delivers from death." Proverbs 11:4

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: 17 Hrs 58 Mins 36 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS: 06.11.25

4 12 13 20 26 4

All Star Bonus: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$2,100,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 17 Hrs 13 Mins 36 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS: 06.12.25

2 4 6 37 40 5

TOP PRIZE:

\$7,000/week

NEXT DRAW: 17 Hrs 28 Mins 36 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS: 06.11.25

4 21 22 23 27

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$26,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 17 Hrs 28 Mins 36 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS: 06.11.25

4 29 37 48 56 6

TOP PRIZE:

\$10,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 17 Hrs 57 Mins 36 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS: 06.11.25

13 25 29 37 53 3

Power Play: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$80,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 17 Hrs 57 Mins 36 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
09/6-7/25 Fly in/Drive in at Groton Municipal Airport
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

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News from the **AP** Associated Press

What concealed carry on campus means for South Dakota schools

By EMILY DECOCK/South Dakota News Watch South Dakota News Watch

The boards that oversee South Dakota's 10 public colleges are drafting policies in accordance with a new state law that will allow students to carry concealed weapons on campus.

Starting July 1, the four-year and technical institutions will no longer be able to restrict the lawful concealed carry of firearms and weapons on campuses.

Senate Bill 100 (SB 100), which Gov. Larry Rhoden signed into law on March 31, makes South Dakota the 12th state to allow concealed carry on college campuses. It applies to students 18 and older and staff members who have an enhanced permit that requires the person to take a handgun safety course and abide by other requirements.

South Dakota is a constitutional carry state as of 2019, meaning anyone over 18 who can legally possess a firearm does not need a permit to lawfully conceal carry. Prior to SB 100's passage, individual schools set their own policy regarding concealed carry on campus. No regental or technical institution permitted weapons or firearms on campus.

"The safety and well-being of students, employees and guests will always be our top priority," Shuree Mortenson, director of communications for the Board of Regents, said in an email to News Watch. "We have been in communication with all our universities to navigate this change."

Campus-specific restrictions to comply with the new law are not yet in place, and a draft policy will be available at the Board of Regents meeting July 16-17.

Regental campuses are currently working on identifying spaces where guns will be restricted and developing the proper notifications, Mortenson said.

Those campuses are Black Hills State University in Spearfish, Dakota State University in Madison, Northern State University in Aberdeen, South Dakota School of Mines and Technology in Rapid City, South Dakota State University in Brookings and the University of South Dakota in Vermillion.

How technical colleges are responding to the law

The new law also applies to the states' four technical colleges: Lake Area Technical College in Watertown, Mitchell Technical College in Mitchell, Southeast Technical College in Sioux Falls and Western Dakota Technical College in Rapid City.

Prior to this bill, all four institutions banned firearms and weapons on campus.

The South Dakota Board of Technical Education, which oversees the four campuses, will implement a new system-wide policy to comply with the law. Executive Director Nick Wendell said the goal is to have a policy affirmed by July 1.

While the policy will be system-wide, Wendell said institutions will individually determine whether there are certain environments where they will provide secured storage.

Wendell doesn't envision dramatic changes to the campus environment with this bill.

"I think we have lots of folks in our communities and already on our campuses that maybe had an interest in concealed carrying," Wendell said. "This just ensures that everybody is aware of what the parameters are on concealed carry."

Bill does not apply to private institutions

SB 100 does not apply to private institutions. All private schools in South Dakota have policies against allowing concealed carry on campus, and none plan to change in response to the new law.

Firearms and weapons of any kind are not permitted at Augustana University, located in Sioux Falls. The school provides secure storage for hunting weapons in the department of campus safety.

At Dakota Wesleyan University in Mitchell, firearms and weapons are prohibited on campus. Students can have an unloaded hunting rifle or shotgun locked inside the trunk of their vehicle or in the school's locked gun safe. Ammunition cannot be stored with the firearm.

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Mount Marty University in Yankton also has a policy against firearms and weapons on campus. No weapons or firearms are allowed at the University of Sioux Falls. Students are encouraged to find safe storage off campus.

Student perspectives on the law

Blake Gibney, a recent South Dakota State University graduate, supports SB 100. Gibney served as a senator on SDSU's Students' Association. He voted no on a Students' Association resolution in February that opposed SB 100.

Gibney enjoys South Dakota's constitutional carry law. He currently owns a gun and conceal carries without an enhanced permit. If he wasn't moving out-of-state, he would have gotten his enhanced permit to carry on campus, he said.

Gibney thinks requiring an enhanced permit for on-campus carrying was important to include in the bill. "I do enjoy constitutional carry," Gibney said. "But the 18- to 21-year-old component of having that at a university, an educational-based institution, I think (the enhanced permit requirement was) appropriate."

Hannah Meland, who was a junior at the University of South Dakota last school year, told USD student newspaper The Volante that she opposes the law.

"Statistically, college is one of the hardest times on mental health and by allowing guns on campus, I feel we are allowing more opportunities for unsafe situations involving a firearm to occur," Meland said.

What the law allows

Under the new law, students and staff may only conceal carry with the required restricted enhanced permit or enhanced permit. Open carry is not authorized. When an individual is not concealed carrying a firearm or in possession of a self-defense item and remains on campus, the item must be stored in a locked case or safe.

Institutions may impose restrictions in specific high-risk areas, including:

1. Hazardous material areas, such as locations with large amounts of flammable liquids, toxic chemicals or gas cylinders.

2. Research and manufacturing rooms, where airborne particles must be controlled.

3. Secure areas, including facilities requiring federal security clearance.

4. Special events, if security measures like metal detectors and armed personnel are in place.

Expert concerned about increased suicides

College campuses have been relatively safe compared to other settings when it comes to gun violence, said Jaclyn Schildkraut, a national expert on school and mass shootings and executive director of the Regional Gun Violence Research Consortium.

"We know that they (colleges) are not immune to gun violence, whether that's random incidents of gun violence or a mass shooting or things of that nature," Schildkraut said. "Those things can happen anywhere. They happen in red states, blue states, they happen in big cities, they happen in rural areas, they happen all over the place. But by and large, our campuses are incredibly safe."

The big question then, according to Schildkraut, is, "What is the benefit of allowing people to carry on campus versus what are the potential risks?"

One risk is the potential loss of open expression of ideas, Schildkraut said. What happens to the academic environment when students are worried about who is carrying a gun, rather than what is being discussed in class?

Another risk with increased firearms, particularly in dorms, is suicide. The part of the brain that handles impulse control is not fully developed until age 25.

Individuals are at a much greater likelihood to be the victim of suicide than the victim of homicide, Schildkraut said.

"When you're feeling very suicidal, you're not thinking about, 'How do I take a pause and get through this?' It's, 'Oh my God, I need to deal with it right now,'" Schildkraut said.

Recap of legislative journey

SB 100 was introduced into the Senate State Affairs Committee on Jan 27. The bill's prime sponsor was

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Sen. Mykala Voita, a Republican from Bonesteel.

Proponents argued that no South Dakota law prohibits law-abiding residents from carrying onto a campus with a firearm because of constitutional carry. Voita said school policy is limiting students and staff from potentially defending themselves.

Sheila Gestring, president of the University of South Dakota, spoke in opposition to the bill on behalf of all six Board of Regents presidents. Gestring advocated for institutions to be able to place some restrictions on where concealed carry is allowed on campuses.

The bill passed through the committee to the Senate floor with a 7-2 vote.

On the Senate floor, Amendment 100E was adopted Feb. 12. The amendment provided institutions with some jurisdiction on where concealed carry can happen on campus. It also required firearms to be locked securely when not in use and made an enhanced permit necessary to carry on campus.

With the amendment, the bill passed 33-2 and moved onto the House State Affairs committee. Nathan Lukkes, executive director of the Board of Regents, spoke in opposition. Lukkes was appreciative that senators and the Board of Regents came to a compromise to adopt Amendment 100E.

However, Lukkes said the BOR had hoped to keep 18- to 20-year-olds from carrying on campus because "the potential consequences of an increased presence of firearms in the dorms" was a big safety concern for the regents.

Jenna Severyn, lobbyist for the South Dakota Police Chiefs' Association, also spoke in opposition to the bill as amended. Severyn said individuals should not be expected or relied on to step in for law enforcement in the chance of a serious event. Another concern was that local law enforcement and campus police will not know who is carrying and who is not, should an altercation break out.

SB 100 passed the committee with a vote of 10-3 and moved onto the House floor.

On the House floor, Republican Rep. Marty Overweg, a New Holland resident, spoke in favor of the bill. He said 18-20 year olds that can drive, vote and go to war should be able to carry a gun.

"I don't think taking a person's God-given right as an American citizen, because I'm worried some accident might happen ... that's not up to me," Overweg said. "That's not my job here as a legislator."

"Our rights were given to us by our forefathers," Overweg added. "Think back how many people in the history of the United States have died protecting every one of those rights. They didn't die so we could sit here as a legislature and take rights away from law abiding citizens ... The fact of the matter is, we're a concealed carry state."

The South Dakota House of Representatives passed SB 100 with a vote of 55-17 on March 6. Rep. Gov. Rhoden signed the measure on March 31 and will go into effect July 1.

The Latest: Israel attacks Iran

By The Associated Press undefined

Israel launched a wave of strikes across Iran on Friday that targeted its nuclear program and military sites, killing at least two top military officers and raising the prospect of an all-out war between the two bitter Middle East adversaries.

It appeared to be the most significant attack Iran has faced since its 1980s war with Iraq.

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said Friday Israel will face "severe punishment," as state-run IRNA news agency confirmed top military officials and scientists had been killed in the attack.

An Israeli military official said that the Israeli Air Force targeted Iranian nuclear and military sites, without identifying them. The official spoke to journalists on condition of anonymity to discuss the ongoing operation.

Air-raid sirens preventatively rang out in Israel.

The attack comes as tensions have reached new heights over Tehran's rapidly advancing nuclear program. The Board of Governors at the International Atomic Energy Agency for the first time in 20 years on Thursday censured Iran over it not working with its inspectors. Iran immediately announced it would establish a third enrichment site in the country and swap out some centrifuges for more advanced ones.

Israel for years has warned it will not allow Iran to build a nuclear weapon, something Tehran insists it

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doesn't want — though officials there have repeatedly warned it could.

Here's the latest:

Iraq calls on UN Security Council to 'deter this aggression'

The Iraqi government in a statement called Israel's attacks on neighboring Iran "a flagrant violation of the fundamental principles of international law and the Charter of the United Nations" and a "threat to international peace and security, especially as it occurred during the period of US-Iranian negotiations."

It called for the UN Security Council to convene immediately to take "decisive and concrete measures to deter this aggression, ensure its non-recurrence, and restore the prestige of the international legal system."

Baghdad, which has close ties with both the U.S. and Iran, has attempted to maintain a difficult balancing act between the two.

There was no immediate statement from Iraq's multiple powerful Iran-backed militias.

Iran says nuclear enrichment facility was damaged

Iran's Atomic Energy Organization said in a statement that parts of the Natanz nuclear enrichment facility were damaged during the Israeli strikes but that no nuclear radiation or chemical contamination has occurred.

NATO chief calls on US, other Israeli allies to press for de-escalation

NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte called on Israel's Western backers to press for an end to the strikes.

"This was a unilateral action by Israel. So I think it is crucial for many allies, including the United States, to work as we speak to de-escalate," Rutte told reporters in Stockholm after talks with Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson.

Asked whether a nuclear clash might be imminent in the region, Rutte said: "No, we are not close."

Kristersson echoed Rutte's call, noting "the risk for spreading problems around the world."

Israel's defense minister threatens further attacks against Iran

In a statement soon after Israel's military said it had completed the attack on Iran, Israeli Defense Minister Israel Katz said the military would "continue its activities to thwart the Iranian nuclear program and remove threats on the State of Israel."

"The precise hit on the heads of the commanders of the Revolutionary Guards, the Iranian army and the nuclear scientists, who were all involved in promoting the plan to destroy Israel, is a strong and clear message — those who work to destroy Israel will be eliminated."

Israeli military says widespread attack on Iranian air defenses complete

The Israeli military says it has completed a widespread attack on air defenses in western Iran.

It said Friday that it had destroyed dozens of radar installations and surface-to-air missile launchers.

German chancellor had call with Netanyahu Friday

German Chancellor Friedrich Merz called on both sides to "refrain from steps that could lead to a further escalation and destabilize the whole region."

Merz, who said Netanyahu informed him about the military operation in a phone call Friday morning, said in a statement that Germany is ready to use "all available diplomatic means" to exert influence on the parties to the conflict.

He said that "the aim must remain that Iran not develop any nuclear weapons."

The German leader emphasized Israel's "right to protect its existence and the security of its citizens."

He said that security authorities in Germany will increase protection for Jewish and Israeli facilities.

Pakistan PM calls attacks 'highly irresponsible'

Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif called Israel's attacks a "grave and highly irresponsible" act that risked further destabilizing an already volatile region.

He urged the international community to prevent any escalation that could imperil regional and global peace.

"I convey my deepest sympathies to the Iranian people on the loss of lives in this attack," Sharif said on X. Pakistan has no diplomatic relations with Israel.

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Malaysian leader says Israeli strikes aim to sabotage US-Iran talks

Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim condemned "in the strongest possible terms" the Israeli military strikes in Iran, saying it was clearly aimed at sabotaging ongoing talks between the U.S. and Iran.

Anwar said the attacks also came amid renewed scrutiny of Israel's conduct in Gaza and mounting political pressure on Benjamin Netanyahu.

"Malaysia calls on Israel's partners – especially those with influence and leverage – to apply maximum pressure to halt further aggression," Anwar said in a statement.

Hamas condemns Israel's strikes on Iran

The Palestinian group said Friday that the strikes "form a dangerous escalation" that could lead to a regional war.

Hamas added that the strikes reflect the Israeli government's intention to pull the region into an open war.

Jordanian state media says country intercepting missiles and drones

Jordanian state media said the country's Air Force is intercepting missiles and drones in its air space.

The state news agency quoted an unnamed senior military official as saying that the interceptions were carried out based on military assessments indicating that the missiles and drones were likely to fall within Jordanian territory, including populated areas, posing a potential threat to civilian safety.

The official added that the Jordan Armed Forces are operating "around the clock to defend the country's borders by land, sea, and air and will not allow any violation of Jordanian airspace under any circumstances."

Qatar says Israeli strikes violate international law

Qatar, which has served as a key mediator in the Israel-Hamas war, joined other Gulf Arab states in admonishing Friday's Israeli strikes on Iran.

Qatar's Ministry of Foreign Affairs described the attack as a "clear violation" of international law and called for restraint.

It added that Israel had violated Iran's sovereignty and security.

Iranian drones tracked crossing Iraq's airspace

Two Iraqi security officials who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the situation, said that more than 100 drones launched from Iran toward Israel were tracked crossing Iraqi airspace.

Residents of Iraq's Diyala province, which borders Iran, reported hearing the sound of aircraft and explosions from strikes inside Iranian territory early Friday.

Some later said they saw drones launched from Iran heading toward Israel.

Israel says it is intercepting Iranian drones

Israel's military says it has begun intercepting Iranian drones.

Earlier, the military said Iran had launched more than 100 drones at Israel in retaliation for strikes on Tehran and other cities.

An Israeli official said the interceptions are taking place outside of Israeli territory, but did not elaborate.

The official spoke on condition of anonymity pending a formal announcement.

IAEA says Isfahan nuclear site not impacted

The IAEA says Iran's nuclear site at Isfahan had not been impacted by the Israeli attacks.

The UN nuclear agency also said Iran's underground enrichment site at Fordo "has not been impacted."

Earlier, the agency had said Iran's Bushehr nuclear power plant, on the Persian Gulf coast, "has not been targeted."

UK's Starmer voices concern on strikes

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer said he was concerned about the strikes and was working with Mideast partners to de-escalate the situation.

"We urge all parties to step back and reduce tensions urgently. Escalation serves no one in the region," he said.

"Now is the time for restraint, calm and a return to diplomacy."

UAE calls for 'self-restraint and judgment'

The United Arab Emirates on Friday condemned "in the strongest terms" Israeli strikes on Iran, urging

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diplomacy.

The UAE is one of only a handful of Arab countries to recognize Israel, after it signed onto the Abraham Accords in 2020.

The ministry of foreign affairs for the federation of seven sheikhdoms "stressed the importance of exercising the utmost self-restraint and judgment" and urged against the conflict's expansion.

China urges its citizens in Iran and Israel to take precautions

The Chinese embassy in Israel warned its citizens on Friday to take safety measures, saying the Israeli strikes were "significantly escalating the tensions."

The Chinese embassy in Iran, meanwhile, also cautioned citizens and companies based there to stay alert.

It asked its citizens in Iran to avoid crowds and sensitive places.

"Citizens are advised to prepare for potential attacks involving missiles, rockets, drones, or other threats, and to take comprehensive safety measures," the Chinese embassy in Israel said.

Jordanian forces on alert

Jordan's army said Friday that its forces were on alert to confront any threat.

A military official said all units were at the highest levels of readiness and it was closely monitoring the developments.

Jordan's minister of state communications and government spokesperson, Dr. Mohammad al-Momani, said that the country will not allow its airspace to be violated and it will not be a "battleground for any conflict."

India urges Israel and Iran not to escalate tensions

Indian Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal on Friday urged both Israel and Iran "to avoid any escalatory steps," saying India has "close and friendly" relations with the two nations.

India, he added, urges "dialogue and diplomacy" and is "closely monitoring the evolving situation, including reports related to attacks on nuclear sites."

He said India "stands ready to extend all possible support."

US embassy in Bahrain warns personnel to 'exercise increased caution'

The U.S. embassy in Manama, Bahrain, advised its personnel on Friday to "exercise increased caution" and "limit non-essential travel around the country," after Israel's early morning strikes on Iran.

"We recommend American citizens in Bahrain to do the same, and stand by for further instructions as we assess the situation," the embassy added in a security alert.

Bahrain is home to the U.S. Navy's Fifth Fleet.

100 drones launched at Israel, military says

Brig. Gen. Effie Deffrin, the chief Israeli army spokesman: "In the last few hours, Iran has launched more than 100 drones toward Israel, and all the defense systems are acting to intercept the threats."

Turkish official condemns Israeli attack

A top Turkish official condemned Israel's strikes on Iran, describing them as "barbaric" and unjustifiable aggression.

Omer Celik, the spokesman for Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's governing party also maintained that the action was a diversion tactic, aimed at shifting attention away from international criticism of its actions in Gaza.

"There can be no legitimacy or justification for the Israeli attack. This is barbaric aggression," Celik said on a X post.

Celik went on to accuse Israel of "hostility" toward diplomatic efforts, noting that the attack took place amid ongoing negotiations between the United States and Iran.

Israel says some 200 fighter jets involved in strikes

Israeli military spokesman Brig. Gen. Effie Deffrin said that some 200 Israeli fighter jets participated in the operation, striking some 100 targets.

He said the attacks were continuing.

Jordan closes its airspace after Israeli strikes on Iran

Jordan has closed its airspace following Israel's strikes on Iran early Friday.

Iran, Israel and Iraq have also closed their airspace.

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Jordan's civil aviation authority says the airspace will be closed for all flights over the country.

Jordan News Agency said the temporary measure is out of concern for any dangers related to the escalation in the region.

100 drones launched at Israel, military says

Brig. Gen. Effie Deffrin, the chief Israeli army spokesman: "In the last few hours, Iran has launched more than 100 drones toward Israel, and all the defense systems are acting to intercept the threats."

Saudi Arabia condemns Israeli strikes on Iran

Saudi Arabia on Friday reprimanded Israel for its strikes on Iran, despite long-running tensions between the kingdom and the Islamic Republic.

"The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia expresses its strong condemnation and denunciation of the blatant Israeli aggressions against the brotherly Islamic Republic of Iran, which undermine its sovereignty and security and constitute a clear violation of international laws and norms," the country's foreign ministry said in a statement.

Iranian chief of staff killed in Israeli strike

An Israeli airstrike killed Gen. Mohammad Bagheri, the chief of staff of Iran's armed forces, Iranian state television reported Friday.

Bagheri is a former top commander within Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard.

The state TV report offered no further details.

Multiple military officials and scientists have been killed in the Israeli attack Friday on sites across Iran.

Iran's supreme leader threatens 'severe punishment'

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said Friday that Israel will face "severe punishment" over its attack on the country.

Khamenei issued a statement carried by the state-run IRNA news agency. It also confirmed that top military officials and scientists had been killed in the attack.

Israel "opened its wicked and blood-stained hand to commit a crime against our beloved country, revealing its malicious nature more than ever by striking residential centers," Khamenei said.

Strikes come days before Iran, US were to hold talks in Oman

Israel's strikes come days before a sixth round of talks were planned between Iran and the US over Tehran's rapidly advancing nuclear program this Sunday in Oman.

U.S. President Donald Trump's new administration has been seeking a deal that would halt Iran's nuclear program in exchange for sanctions relief.

It wasn't immediately clear how the strikes would affect plans for the talks.

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio said Israel acted unilaterally in striking Iran, but Friday morning, Iranian state television aired footage of people chanting "Death to Israel" and "Death to America."

Strikes pushed Israeli Air Force to its limits

The strike on Iran pushed the Israeli military to its limits, using its aging air-to-air refuelers to get its fighter jets close enough to attack.

It wasn't immediately clear if Israeli jets entered Iranian airspace or just fired so-called "standoff missiles" over another country. Israel has previously attacked Iran from over the border in Iraq.

People in Iraq heard fighter jets overhead at the time of the attack.

People in Iran's capital again hear explosions across the city

People in Iran's capital, Tehran, heard another round of explosions Friday morning after an initial Israeli attack.

It wasn't immediately clear if it was air defense systems going off or another attack.

Iranian state TV confirms head of paramilitary Revolutionary Guard killed

Iranian state television has confirmed the head of country's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard, Gen. Hossein Salami, was killed in an Israeli strike.

An anchor read a statement saying: "The news of assassination and martyrdom of Gen. Hossein Salami was confirmed."

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The anchor did not elaborate.

The Guard is a major power center within Iran's theocracy, with vast business interests and oversees the nation's ballistic missile arsenal.

Israel's UN ambassador urges world body to stand by Israel

Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations, Danny Danon, says Israel launched Operation "Rising Lion" against Iran's nuclear and missile infrastructure with the aim of eliminating an existential and immediate threat to the citizens of Israel and the entire world.

The Iranian regime is blatantly violating international agreements, advancing towards nuclear weapons, and operating a regional terror network, he said.

Speaking to the UN Secretary-General and members of the Security Council, Danon said: "This is a moment to make moral decisions. Stand by Israel - or you will be partners in a dangerous silence."

Benchmark Brent crude prices spike over 8%

Benchmark Brent crude oil prices have spiked by more than 8% over the Israel's strikes on Iran, which have targeted the country's nuclear program and raised the potential for an all-war war.

Iran will offer 'decisive' response to Israel's attack

Iran's state-run IRNA news agency is quoting an anonymous official saying Iran will offer a "decisive" response to Israel's attack.

The report did not elaborate. However, Iranian state television put a black band over the corner of its broadcast, suggesting the attack had been significant enough to spark public mourning.

Black smoke seen over Iran's main nuclear enrichment facility

Black smoke rose Friday over Iran's main nuclear enrichment facility at Natanz though it wasn't clear how bad the damage was.

Iranian state television briefly showed the live picture with a reporter.

Natanz is partially above ground, partially below ground, with multiple halls of centrifuges spinning uranium gas for its nuclear program.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had said Israel targeted the site in Friday's attack. Natanz previously has been targeted by the Stuxnet cyberattack and multiple sabotage campaigns likely carried out by Israel.

Netanyahu, other officials decided Monday operation would start today

An Israeli security official says that Netanyahu and other top officials decided on Monday that the operation would start today. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak on the record.

By Josef Federman

Australia and New Zealand condemn strikes

Australia and New Zealand's governments condemned the Israeli strikes on Friday.

Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong said she was "alarmed by the escalation" between Israel and Iran, which she said risked further destabilizing an already volatile region.

New Zealand's Prime Minister Christopher Luxon said the strikes were "a huge concern" for his government and "potentially catastrophic" for the Middle East. "The risk of miscalculation is high," he said.

The two countries were among five that enacted travel and financial sanctions on two far-right Israeli government ministers Wednesday, accusing them of "inciting extremist violence" against Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

Iranian state TV says head of Revolutionary Guard is feared dead

Iranian state television says the head of Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard, Gen. Hossein Salami, is feared dead after an Israeli attack.

It added that one other top Guard official, as well as two nuclear scientists, were also feared dead. The report offered few other details.

Iran's Revolutionary Guard, created after its 1979 Islamic Revolution, is one of the main power centers within the country's theocracy. It also controls Iran's arsenal of ballistic missiles, which it has used to attack Israel twice during the ongoing Israel-Hamas war in the Gaza Strip.

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Headquarters of Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard is ablaze

An Israeli attack on Iran has set the headquarters of Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard ablaze, state television reported Friday.

A reporter on air said he was unable to get closer due to the intensity of the fire in Iran's capital, Tehran.

Multiple sites in the capital had been hit in the attack, which Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said targeted both sites of and officials leading Iran's nuclear program and its ballistic missile arsenal.

Netanyahu says Israel struck nuclear and missile sites

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said that Israel targeted Iran's main enrichment facility in Natanz and the country's ballistic missile program, as well as top nuclear scientists and officials.

He said Iran was working on a new plan to destroy Israel after its old plan, its circle of proxies, failed. He called it an intolerable threat that must be stopped.

US Sen. Reed calls Israel's strike 'a reckless escalation'

U.S. Sen. Jack Reed, the top Democrat on the Senate Armed Services Committee, called the Israeli strike "a reckless escalation that risks igniting regional violence."

"These strikes threaten not only the lives of innocent civilians but the stability of the entire Middle East and the safety of American citizens and forces," he said. Reed added: "I urge both nations to show immediate restraint, and I call on President Trump and our international partners to press for diplomatic de-escalation before this crisis spirals further out of control."

Dozens of commercial flights over Iran as attack begins

Dozens of commercial airliners were in Iranian airspace as the strikes took place, according to flight tracking websites.

More than an hour after the Israeli attack, some were still making their way out of Iranian airspace, but some abruptly altered course to more quickly exit the area.

Many nations' jets already did not overfly Iran because of regional tensions.

Scope of attack remains unclear

The extent of Israel's strikes remained unclear early Friday.

Explosions could be heard across Tehran, Iran's capital city. There were some images circulating of damaged residential buildings.

Iranian state television also was being careful in how they described the assault, suggesting that some areas outside of Tehran that had also been hit.

Netanyahu says strikes respond to threat to Israel's survival

Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in an address on YouTube that the country launched "a targeted military operation roll back the Iranian threat to Israel's very survival."

He added that the attacks will continue "for as many days as it takes to remove this threat."

Israel closes its airspace

Israel closed its airspace in anticipation of Iranian retaliation.

Israel's Defense Minister Israel Katz warned that attacks were expected.

"In the wake of the state of Israel's preventive attack against Iran, missile and drone attacks against Israel and its civilian population are expected immediately," he said in a statement.

The statement added that Katz "signed a special order declaring an emergency situation in the home front."

"It is essential to listen to instructions from the home front command and authorities to stay in protected areas," it said

Rubio says Israel took 'unilateral action'

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio said Israel took "unilateral action against Iran" and that Israel advised the U.S. that it believed the strikes were necessary for its self-defense, while warning Iran not to target U.S. forces in retaliation.

In a statement, he said: "Tonight, Israel took unilateral action against Iran. We are not involved in strikes against Iran and our top priority is protecting American forces in the region. Israel advised us that they

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believe this action was necessary for its self-defense. President Trump and the Administration have taken all necessary steps to protect our forces and remain in close contact with our regional partners. Let me be clear: Iran should not target U.S. interests or personnel."

Israeli official says Air Force is targeting nuclear and military sites

An Israeli military official says that his country targeted Iranian nuclear and military sites, without identifying them.

The official spoke to journalists on condition of anonymity to discuss the ongoing operation.

The Israeli official said Iran poses three threats to state of Israel: First, he alleged that the Iranian government is advancing a "secret program" to develop nuclear weapons. The U.S. intelligence community assesses that Iran is not actively pursuing a nuclear weapon.

Second, the Israeli official said, Iran has thousands of ballistic missiles. Finally, he said Iran has been distributing weapons and arms to proxy groups across the region like Hezbollah and Hamas.

— Josef Federman

Trump on White House lawn as explosions begin

As the explosions in Tehran started, President Donald Trump was on the lawn of the White House mingling with members of Congress. It was unclear if he had been informed but the president continued shaking hands and posing for pictures for several minutes.

Earlier in the day, Trump said an Israeli attack over Iran's nuclear program was not imminent "but it looks like it's something that could very well happen."

The U.S. has been preparing for something to happen, pulling some diplomats from Iraq's capital and offering voluntary evacuations for the families of U.S. troops in the wider Middle East.

The White House did not have an immediate comment Thursday night.

Israel attacks Iran's nuclear and missile sites, prompting Iranian drone-strike retaliation

By JON GAMBRELL and JOSEF FEDERMAN Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Israel attacked Iran's capital early Friday in strikes that targeted the country's nuclear program and killed at least two top military officers, raising the potential for an all-out war between the two bitter Middle East adversaries. It appeared to be the most significant attack Iran has faced since its 1980s war with Iraq.

Simmering tensions over Iran's rapidly advancing nuclear program boiled over and Iran quickly retaliated, sending a swarm of drones at Israel as Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei warned of "severe punishment."

Countries in the region condemned Israel's attack, while leaders around the globe called for immediate deescalation from both sides.

The attack hit several sites, including Iran's main nuclear enrichment facility at Natanz, where black smoke could be seen rising into the air. Later in the morning, Israel said it had also destroyed dozens of radar installations and surface-to-air missile launchers in western Iran.

The leader of Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard, Gen. Hossein Salami, was confirmed dead, Iranian state television reported, a significant blow to Tehran's governing theocracy and an immediate escalation of its long-simmering conflict with Israel.

The chief of staff of Iranian armed forces, Gen. Mohammad Bagheri, was also confirmed dead by Iranian state television. Khamenei said other top military officials and scientists were also killed.

In response, Iran fired more than 100 drones at Israel, with both Iraq and Jordan confirming they had flown over their airspace. Israel said the drones were being intercepted outside its airspace, and it was not immediately clear whether any got through.

The Trump administration, which had cautioned Israel against an attack during continued negotiations over Iran's nuclear enrichment program, said it had not been involved and warned against any retaliation targeting U.S. interests or personnel.

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Still, it seemed likely the U.S. suspected an attack could be in the offing, with Washington on Wednesday pulling some American diplomats from Iraq's capital and offering voluntary evacuations for the families of U.S. troops in the wider Middle East.

Israel calls attacks preemptive strikes on Iran's nuclear program

Israeli leaders cast attack as necessary to head off an imminent threat that Iran would build nuclear bombs, though it remains unclear how close the country is to achieving that or whether Iran had actually been planning a strike. Iran maintains its nuclear program is for civilian purposes only.

"It could be a year. It could be within a few months," Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu claimed as he vowed to pursue the attack for as long as necessary to "remove this threat."

"This is a clear and present danger to Israel's very survival," he said.

Over the past year, Israel has been targeting Iran's air defenses, hitting a radar system for a Russian-made air defense battery in April 2024 and surface-to-air missile sites and missile manufacturing facilities in October.

Some 200 Israeli aircraft took part in the initial operation Friday, hitting about 100 targets, Israeli army chief spokesperson Brig. Gen. Effie Defrin said.

Nervous Israelis rushed to supermarkets in Tel Aviv, Jerusalem and elsewhere to buy bottled water and other supplies, and circulated messages on WhatsApp groups advising each other to prepare their shelters for potential long-term use.

Iran claims Israel targeted residential areas

Israel "opened its wicked and blood-stained hand to a crime in our beloved country, revealing its malicious nature more than ever by striking residential centers," Khamenei said in a statement.

For Netanyahu, the operation distracts attention from Israel's ongoing and increasingly devastating war in Gaza, which is now over 20 months old.

There is a broad consensus in the Israeli public that Iran is a major threat, and Israel's opposition leader, Yair Lapid, a staunch critic of Netanyahu, offered his "full support" for the mission against Iran. But if Iranian reprisals cause heavy Israeli casualties or major disruptions to daily life, public opinion could shift quickly.

Netanyahu expressed hope the attacks would trigger the downfall of Iran's theocracy, saying his message to the Iranian people was that the fight was not with them, but with the "brutal dictatorship that has oppressed you for 46 years."

"I believe that the day of your liberation is near," the Israeli leader said.

Multiple sites in the Iranian capital were hit in the attack, which Netanyahu said targeted both nuclear and military sites. Also targeted were officials leading Iran's nuclear program and its ballistic missile arsenal. The International Atomic Energy Agency confirmed that an Israeli strike hit Iran's uranium enrichment facility at Natanz and said it was closely monitoring radiation levels.

The strike on Iran pushed the Israeli military to its limits, requiring the use of aging air-to-air refuelers to get its fighter jets close enough to attack. It wasn't immediately clear if Israeli jets entered Iranian airspace or just fired so-called "standoff missiles" over another country. People in Iraq heard fighter jets overhead at the time of the attack. Israel previously attacked Iran from over the border in Iraq.

Tension had been growing for weeks ahead of attacks

The potential for an attack had been apparent for weeks as angst built over Iran's nuclear program.

President Donald Trump on Thursday said that he did not believe an attack was imminent but also acknowledged that it "could very well happen."

Once the attacks were underway, the U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem issued an alert telling American government workers and their families to shelter in place until further notice.

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio said Israel took "unilateral action against Iran" and that Israel advised the U.S. that it believed the strikes were necessary for its self-defense.

"We are not involved in strikes against Iran, and our top priority is protecting American forces in the region," Rubio said in a statement released by the White House.

Trump is scheduled to attend a meeting of his National Security Council on Friday in the White House

Situation Room, where he is expected to discuss the conflict with top advisers.

Israel has long been determined to prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons, a concern laid bare on Thursday when the Board of Governors at the International Atomic Energy Agency for the first time in 20 years censured Iran over its refusal to work with its inspectors. Iran immediately announced it would establish a third enrichment site and install more advanced centrifuges.

Even so, there are multiple assessments on how many nuclear weapons Iran could conceivably build, should it choose to do so. Iran would need months to assemble, test and field any weapon, which it so far has said it has no desire to do. U.S. intelligence agencies also assess Iran does not have a weapons program at this time.

In a sign of the far-reaching implications of the emerging conflict, Israel's main airport was closed and benchmark Brent crude spiked on news of the attack, rising nearly 8%.

Investigators search the Air India crash site for evidence and more victims

By SHONAL GANGULY, RAJESH ROY and AIJAZ HUSSAIN Associated Press

AHMEDABAD, India (AP) — Investigators searched the site of one of India's worst aviation disasters and Prime Minister Narendra Modi met with the lone surviving passenger Friday, a day after an Air India flight fell from the sky and killed 241 people on board and several people on the ground.

The London-bound Boeing 787 struck a medical college hostel when it fell in a residential area of the northwestern city of Ahmedabad minutes after takeoff Thursday.

DNA testing was being conducted to identify bodies that were mostly charred beyond recognition. More victims are expected to be found in the search at the crash site. There was no information on whether the black boxes — the flight data and cockpit voice recorders — had been recovered.

The plane hit a building hosting a medical college hostel and burst into flames, killing several students, in the city that is the capital of Gujarat, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's home state.

"We are all devastated by the air tragedy in Ahmedabad. The loss of so many lives in such a sudden and heartbreaking manner is beyond words," Modi said on social media after visiting the site. "We understand their pain and also know that the void left behind will be felt for years to come."

Modi meets lone survivor

The survivor was seen in television footage meeting Modi at the government hospital where he was being treated for burns and other injuries.

Viswashkumar Ramesh told India's national broadcaster he still can't believe he was alive. He said the aircraft seemed to become stuck immediately after takeoff. He said then the lights came on, and right after that it accelerated but seemed unable to gain height before it crashed.

He said the side of the plane where he was seated fell onto the ground floor of a building and there was space for him to escape after the door broke open. He unfastened his seat belt and forced himself out of the plane.

"When I opened my eyes, I realized I was alive," he said.

Investigation into the cause and identification of victims

India's Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau is investigating, and the U.S. participants in the probe are expected to include people from the National Transportation Safety Board, Federal Aviation Administration, Boeing and General Electric.

Medics are conducting DNA tests to identify those killed, the president of the Federation of All India Medical Association, Akshay Dongardiv, said. Meanwhile, grieving families gathered outside the Civil hospital in Ahmedabad on Friday.

Two doctors at the hospital said the bodies of four medical students killed on the ground after the plane crash were handed to their families. They said at least 30 other injured students were still admitted in the hospital and at least four of them were critical.

Modi held a meeting with senior officials Friday and met some of those injured on the ground during

the hospital visit.

Thursday's Air India crash involved a 12-year-old Boeing 787. Boeing planes have been plagued by safety issues on other types of aircraft.

According to experts, there are currently around 1,200 of the 787 Dreamliner aircraft worldwide and this was the first deadly crash in 16 years of operation.

Indian conglomerate Tata Sons took over Air India in 2022, returning the debt-saddled national carrier to private ownership after decades of government control. Since the takeover, Air India has ordered hundreds of new planes, redesigned its branding and livery and absorbed smaller airlines Tata held stakes in.

Eyewitness accounts describe damage

Residents living in the vicinity, who were among the first to rush to the crash site and help with rescue, described the scale of damage like they had never seen.

"In the beginning, I couldn't understand anything, it was only smoke everywhere. We could see some small parts (of the plane) burning," Indrajeet Singh Solanki said.

Solanki said he and many others helped the injured people and rushed them to hospitals. "We had only one aim: to save lives no matter what happens," he said.

The tragedy has left him shaken. "It will be hard to sleep for the next few days at least," Solanki said.

As legal fight over Guard deployment plays out, Noem vows to continue Trump's immigration crackdown

By KRYSTA FAURIA, OLGA R. RODRIGUEZ and JOHN SEEWER Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem pledged to carry on with the Trump administration's immigration crackdown despite waves of unrest across the U.S.

Hours after her comment Thursday, a judge directed the president to return control to California over National Guard troops he deployed after protests erupted over the immigration crackdown, but an appeals court quickly put the brakes on that and temporarily blocked the order that was to go into effect on Friday. The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals scheduled a hearing on the matter for Tuesday.

The federal judge's temporary restraining order said the Guard deployment was illegal and both violated the Tenth Amendment and exceeded President Donald Trump's statutory authority. The order applied only to the National Guard troops and not Marines who were also deployed to the LA protests. The judge said he would not rule on the Marines because they were not out on the streets yet.

Gov. Gavin Newsom who had asked the judge for an emergency stop to troops helping carry out immigration raids, had praised the order before it was blocked saying "today was really about a test of democracy, and today we passed the test" and had said he would be redeploying Guard soldiers to "what they were doing before Donald Trump commandeered them."

White House spokesperson Anna Kelly said the president acted within his powers and that the federal judge's order "puts our brave federal officials in danger. The district court has no authority to usurp the President's authority as Commander in Chief."

The developments unfolded as protests continued in cities nationwide and the country braced for major demonstrations against Trump over the weekend.

'This is only going to continue,' DHS chief says of raids

Noem said the immigration raids that fueled the protests would move forward and agents have thousands of targets.

"This is only going to continue until we have peace on the streets of Los Angeles," she said during a news conference that was interrupted by shouting from U.S. Sen. Alex Padilla, a California Democrat who was forcibly removed from the event.

Newsom has warned that the military intervention is part of a broader effort by Trump to overturn norms at the heart of the nation's democracy. He also said sending Guard troops on the raids has further inflamed tensions in LA.

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So far the protests have been centered mostly in downtown near City Hall and a federal detention center where some immigrants are being held. Much of the sprawling city has been spared from the protests.

On the third night of an 8 p.m. curfew, Los Angeles police arrested several demonstrators who refused orders to leave a street downtown. Earlier in the night, officers with the Department of Homeland Security deployed flash bangs to disperse a crowd that had gathered near the jail, sending protesters sprinting away.

Those incidents were outliers. As with the past two nights, the hours-long demonstrations remained peaceful and upbeat, drawing a few hundred attendees who marched through downtown chanting, dancing and poking fun at the Trump administration's characterization of the city as a "war zone."

Elsewhere, demonstrations have picked up across the U.S., emerging in more than a dozen major cities. Some have led to clashes with police and hundreds have been arrested.

Noem calls action in LA a blueprint

The immigration agents conducting the raids in LA are "putting together a model and a blueprint" for other communities, Noem said.

She pledged that federal authorities "are not going away" even though, she said, officers have been hit with rocks and bricks and assaulted. She said people with criminal records who are in the country illegally and violent protesters will "face consequences."

"Just because you think you're here as a citizen, or because you're a member of a certain group or you're not a citizen, it doesn't mean that you're going to be protected and not face consequences from the laws that this country stands for," she said.

Noem criticized the Padilla's interruption, calling it "inappropriate." A statement from her agency said the two met after the news conference for about 15 minutes, but it also chided him for "disrespectful political theater."

Padilla said later that he was demanding answers about the "increasingly extreme immigration enforcement actions" and only wanted to ask Noem a question. He said he was handcuffed but not arrested.

"If this is how this administration responds to a senator with a question, I can only imagine what they are doing to farmworkers, to cooks, to day laborers throughout the Los Angeles community," he said.

Military involvement escalates in LA

The administration has said it is willing to send troops to other cities to assist with immigration enforcement and controlling disturbances — in line with what Trump promised during last year's campaign.

Some 2,000 Guard soldiers were in the nation's second-largest city and were soon to be joined by 2,000 more, along with about 700 Marines, said Maj. Gen. Scott Sherman, who is in charge of the operation.

About 500 of the Guard troops deployed to the Los Angeles protests have been trained to accompany agents on immigration operations, Sherman said Wednesday. The Guard has the authority to temporarily detain people who attack officers, but any arrests must be made by law enforcement.

States face questions on deploying troops

With more demonstrations expected over the weekend, and the possibility that Trump could send troops to other states for immigration enforcement, governors are weighing what to do.

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott, a Republican, has put 5,000 National Guard members on standby in cities where demonstrations are planned. In other Republican-controlled states, governors have not said when or how they may deploy troops.

A group of Democratic governors earlier signed a statement this week calling Trump's deployments "an alarming abuse of power."

Hundreds arrested in LA protests

There have been about 470 arrests since Saturday, the vast majority of which were for failing to leave the area at the request of law enforcement, according to the police department.

There have been a handful of more serious charges, including for assault against officers and for possession of a Molotov cocktail and a gun. Nine officers have been hurt, mostly with minor injuries.

Homeland Security secretary pledges to carry on with Trump's immigration crackdown

By KRYSTA FAURIA, OLGA R. RODRIGUEZ and JOHN SEEWER Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem pledged Thursday to carry on with the Trump administration's immigration crackdown despite waves of unrest across the U.S.

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Appeals court temporarily blocks judge's ruling to return control of National Guard to California

By OLGA R. RODRIGUEZ Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals on Thursday temporarily blocked a federal judge's order that directed President Donald Trump to return control of National Guard troops to California after he deployed them there following protests in Los Angeles over immigration raids.

The court said it would hold a hearing on the matter on Tuesday. The ruling came only hours after a federal judge's order was to take effect at noon Friday.

Earlier Thursday, U.S. District Judge Charles Breyer ruled the Guard deployment was illegal and both violated the Tenth Amendment and exceeded Trump's statutory authority. The order applied only to the National Guard troops and not Marines who were also deployed to the LA protests. The judge said he would not rule on the Marines because they were not out on the streets yet.

California Gov. Gavin Newsom, who had asked the judge for an emergency stop to troops helping carry out immigration raids, had praised the earlier ruling.

"Today was really about a test of democracy, and today we passed the test," Newsom said in a news conference before the appeals court decision.

The White House had called Breyer's order "unprecedented" and said it "puts our brave federal officials in danger."

"The district court has no authority to usurp the President's authority as Commander in Chief," White

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House spokesperson Anna Kelly said in a statement. "The President exercised his lawful authority to mobilize the National Guard to protect federal buildings and personnel in Gavin Newsom's lawless Los Angeles. The Trump Administration will immediately appeal this abuse of power and looks forward to ultimate victory on the issue."

Marines in civil disturbance training at nearby base

About 700 Marines have been undergoing civil disturbance training at Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach in Orange County, California. Nicholas Green, an attorney for the state, told the court: "I have been told by the office of the governor that within the next 24 hours, 140 Marines will replace and relieve National Guard members in Los Angeles."

Typically the authority to call up the National Guard lies with governors, but there are limited circumstances under which the president can deploy those troops. Trump federalized members of the California National Guard under an authority known as Title 10.

Title 10 allows the president to call the National Guard into federal service under certain limited circumstances, such as when the country "is invaded," when "there is a rebellion or danger of a rebellion against the authority of the Government," or when the president is unable "to execute the laws of the United States."

Breyer said in his ruling that what is happening in Los Angeles does not meet the definition of a rebellion. "The protests in Los Angeles fall far short of 'rebellion,'" he wrote.

California sued the federal government

Newsom sued to block the Guard's deployment against his wishes. California later filed an emergency motion asking the judge to block the Guard from assisting with immigration raids.

The governor argued that the troops were originally deployed to protect federal buildings and wanted the court to block the troops from helping protect immigration agents during the raids, saying that involving the Guard would only escalate tensions and promote civil unrest.

Maj. Gen. Scott Sherman, commander of Task Force 51, which is overseeing the Guard troops and Marines sent to Los Angeles, said that as of Wednesday about 500 of the Guard troops had been trained to accompany agents on immigration operations. Photos of Guard soldiers providing security for the agents have already been circulated by immigration officials.

None of the Marines have been trained to go on immigration raids, and it is not yet clear if they eventually will, Sherman said.

Trump improperly called up the Guard, judge says

In his broad ruling, the judge determined Trump had not properly called the Guard up in the first place.

The lawsuit argued that Title 10 also requires that the president go through governors when issuing orders to the National Guard.

Brett Shumate, an attorney for the federal government, said Trump complied with the statute by informing the general in charge of the troops of his decision and would have the authority to call in the Guard even if he had not.

In a brief filed ahead of the Thursday hearing, the Justice Department said Trump's orders were not subject to judicial review.

"Courts did not interfere when President Eisenhower deployed the military to protect school desegregation. Courts did not interfere when President Nixon deployed the military to deliver the mail in the midst of a postal strike. And courts should not interfere here either," the department said.

"Our position is this is not subject to judicial review," Shumate told the judge.

Breyer, who at one point waved a copy of the Constitution, said he disagreed.

"We're talking about the president exercising his authority, and the president is of course limited in that authority. That's the difference between a constitutional government and King George," he said.

Protests intensified

The protests over immigration raids in Los Angeles intensified after Trump called up the Guard and have since spread to other cities, including Boston, Chicago and Seattle.

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

Owner of Dominican club whose roof collapsed and killed 236 is arrested along with his sister

By MARTÍN ADAMES ALCÁNTARA Associated Press

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic (AP) — The owner of an iconic nightclub in the Dominican Republic whose roof collapsed in April and killed 236 people was arrested Thursday along with his sister.

Antonio Espailat and Maribel Espailat have not been charged in the case, although authorities have 48 hours to present any charges before a judge.

"Both defendants displayed immense irresponsibility and negligence by failing to physically intervene to prevent the club's roof from collapsing, as it ultimately did, causing 236 deaths and more than 180 injuries," the Dominican Republic's Attorney General's Office said in a statement.

Prosecutors accused the Espailats of trying to intimidate or manipulate company employees, adding that they could serve as witnesses in the case. Antonio Espailat is considered a powerful businessman in the Dominican Republic; he owns upscale entertainment centers and dozens of local radio stations.

Miguel Valerio, the Espailats' attorney, told reporters that he expects to have access to the prosecutors' evidence in upcoming days.

"This is an involuntary homicide," he said. "Nobody wanted that to happen."

The Espailats were arrested after being interrogated for several hours.

Altanto TV, a local digital news channel, posted an interview with a man they identified as former Jet Set employee Gregory Adamés. The channel said he gave prosecutors videos and conversations with Antonio Espailat in which he warned that the April 7 party shouldn't be held because the roof could collapse.

Adamés said in a video posted on Instagram that he would hold the Espailat family responsible if he disappears or is shot or involved in an accident.

"If something happens to me, it's clear where it came from," he said. "My intention is not to hurt anyone, only that the truth be known."

A government-appointed committee that includes international experts is still investigating what caused the roof to collapse.

Crews worked for 53 hours nonstop after arriving on the scene in Santo Domingo shortly after midnight on April 8, rescuing 189 survivors.

The victims included beloved singer Rubby Pérez, who was performing when the roof caved in, and Nelsy Cruz, the governor of Montecristi province and sister of seven-time Major League Baseball All-Star Nelson Cruz.

Also killed was former MLB pitcher Octavio Dotel, who was pulled from the debris but died in hospital, and Dominican baseball player Tony Enrique Blanco Cabrera.

Other victims include a retired U.N. official, New York-based fashion designer Martín Polanco, an Army captain who left behind four young girls, and three employees at Grupo Popular, a financial services company, including the president of AFP Popular Bank and his wife.

The relatives of several survivors have filed lawsuits against Antonio Espailat.

The club, which had operated for nearly five decades, was known for its Monday night merengue parties that attracted international celebrities and high-profile Dominicans.

Meta invests \$14.3B in AI firm Scale and recruits its CEO for 'superintelligence' team

By MATT O'BRIEN AP Technology Writer

Meta is making a \$14.3 billion investment in artificial intelligence company Scale and recruiting its CEO Alexandr Wang to join a team developing "superintelligence" at the tech giant.

The deal announced Thursday reflects a push by Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg to revive AI efforts at the parent company of Facebook and Instagram as it faces tough competition from rivals such as Google and OpenAI.

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Meta announced what it called a “strategic partnership and investment” with Scale late Thursday. Scale said the \$14.3 billion investment puts its market value at over \$29 billion.

Scale said it will remain an independent company but the agreement will “substantially expand Scale and Meta’s commercial relationship.” Meta will hold a 49% stake in the startup.

Wang, though leaving for Meta with a small group of other Scale employees, will remain on Scale’s board of directors. Replacing him is a new interim Scale CEO Jason Droege, who was previously the company’s chief strategy officer and had past executive roles at Uber Eats and Axon.

Zuckerberg’s increasing focus on the abstract idea of “superintelligence” — which rival companies call artificial general intelligence, or AGI — is the latest pivot for a tech leader who in 2021 went all-in on the idea of the metaverse, changing the company’s name and investing billions into advancing virtual reality and related technology.

It won’t be the first time since ChatGPT’s 2022 debut sparked an AI arms race that a big tech company has gobbled up talent and products at innovative AI startups without formally acquiring them. Microsoft hired key staff from startup Inflection AI, including co-founder and CEO Mustafa Suleyman, who now runs Microsoft’s AI division.

Google pulled in the leaders of AI chatbot company Character.AI, while Amazon made a deal with San Francisco-based Adept that sent its CEO and key employees to the e-commerce giant. Amazon also got a license to Adept’s AI systems and datasets.

Wang was a 19-year-old student at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology when he and co-founder Lucy Guo started Scale in 2016.

They won influential backing that summer from the startup incubator Y Combinator, which was led at the time by Sam Altman, now the CEO of OpenAI. Wang dropped out of MIT, following a trajectory similar to that of Zuckerberg, who quit Harvard University to start Facebook more than a decade earlier.

Scale’s pitch was to supply the human labor needed to improve AI systems, hiring workers to draw boxes around a pedestrian or a dog in a street photo so that self-driving cars could better predict what’s in front of them. General Motors and Toyota have been among Scale’s customers.

What Scale offered to AI developers was a more tailored version of Amazon’s Mechanical Turk, which had long been a go-to service for matching freelance workers with temporary online jobs.

More recently, the growing commercialization of AI large language models — the technology behind OpenAI’s ChatGPT, Google’s Gemini and Meta’s Llama — brought a new market for Scale’s annotation teams. The company claims to service “every leading large language model,” including from Anthropic, OpenAI, Meta and Microsoft, by helping to fine tune their training data and test their performance. It’s not clear what the Meta deal will mean for Scale’s other customers.

Wang has also sought to build close relationships with the U.S. government, winning military contracts to supply AI tools to the Pentagon and attending President Donald Trump’s inauguration. The head of Trump’s science and technology office, Michael Kratsios, was an executive at Scale for the four years between Trump’s first and second terms. Meta has also begun providing AI services to the federal government.

Meta has taken a different approach to AI than many of its rivals, releasing its flagship Llama system for free as an open-source product that enables people to use and modify some of its key components. Meta says more than a billion people use its AI products each month, but it’s also widely seen as lagging behind competitors such as OpenAI and Google in encouraging consumer use of large language models, also known as LLMs.

It hasn’t yet released its purportedly most advanced model, Llama 4 Behemoth, despite previewing it in April as “one of the smartest LLMs in the world and our most powerful yet.”

Meta’s chief AI scientist Yann LeCun, who in 2019 was a winner of computer science’s top prize for his pioneering AI work, has expressed skepticism about the tech industry’s current focus on large language models.

“How do we build AI systems that understand the physical world, that have persistent memory, that can reason and can plan?” LeCun asked at a French tech conference last year.

These are all characteristics of intelligent behavior that large language models “basically cannot do, or

they can only do them in a very superficial, approximate way," LeCun said.

Instead, he emphasized Meta's interest in "tracing a path towards human-level AI systems, or perhaps even superhuman." When he returned to France's annual VivaTech conference again on Wednesday, LeCun dodged a question about the pending Scale deal but said his AI research team's plan has "always been to reach human intelligence and go beyond it."

"It's just that now we have a clearer vision for how to accomplish this," he said.

LeCun co-founded Meta's AI research division more than a decade ago with Rob Fergus, a fellow professor at New York University. Fergus later left for Google but returned to Meta last month after a 5-year absence to run the research lab, replacing longtime director Joelle Pineau.

Fergus wrote on LinkedIn last month that Meta's commitment to long-term AI research "remains unwavering" and described the work as "building human-level experiences that transform the way we interact with technology."

The lone passenger who survived the deadly Air India crash sparks interest in other sole survivors

By LISA BAUMANN Associated Press

The notion that only one person survived the Air India plane crash that killed 241 people on board Thursday is sparking interest on social media about how that could happen and if such a thing has happened before.

A medic has said Vishwashkumar Ramesh was thrown out of the plane and walked to a nearby ambulance for aid. Dr. Dhaval Gameti, who treated Ramesh, told The Associated Press that Ramesh was disoriented with multiple injuries all over his body, but that he seemed to be out of danger.

People on social media have been commenting about the idea of only one person surviving the crash, calling it unreal, remarkable, a work of divine intervention, and a miracle.

In recent decades, several other people have been the lone survivors of plane crashes.

Cecelia Crocker — known as Cecelia Cichan at the time of the 1987 crash — was aboard Northwest Airlines Flight 255 when it crashed in the Detroit suburb of Romulus, killing 154 people on board, including her parents and brother. Two people also died on the ground.

The Phoenix-bound plane was clearing the runway when it tilted and the left wing clipped a light pole before shearing the top off a rental car building. The McDonnell Douglas MD80 left a half-mile trail of bodies and wreckage along Middle Belt Road.

The National Transportation Safety Board concluded the plane's crew failed to set the wing flaps properly for takeoff. The agency also said a cockpit warning system did not alert the crew to the problem.

Cichan said in a 2013 documentary that she thought about the crash every day and that she had scars on her arms, legs and forehead. She had also gotten an airplane tattoo on her wrist.

"I got this tattoo as a reminder of where I've come from. I see it as — so many scars were put on my body against my will — and I decided to put this on my body for myself," she said in the film.

At least three other people have been "sole survivors" of plane crashes.

George Lamson Jr., then a 17-year-old from Plymouth, Minnesota, was on a Galaxy Airlines flight that crashed in Reno in 1985.

Lamson in a social media post Thursday said the news of a plane crash in India with only one survivor shook him.

"There are no right words for moments like this, but I wanted to acknowledge it," he said. "These events don't just make headlines. They leave a lasting echo in the lives of those who've lived through something similar."

Bahia Bakari, then 12, lived through a Yemenia Airways flight that crashed near the Comoro Islands in 2009.

Jim Polehinke was the co-pilot and sole survivor of a 2006 Comair flight that crashed in Lexington, Kentucky.

Trump administration pulls US out of agreement to help restore salmon in the Columbia River

By GENE JOHNSON Associated Press

SEATTLE (AP) — President Donald Trump on Thursday pulled the U.S. out of an agreement with Washington, Oregon and four American Indian tribes to work together to restore salmon populations and boost tribal clean energy development in the Pacific Northwest, deriding the plan as “radical environmentalism” that could have resulted in the breaching of four controversial dams on the Snake River.

The deal, known as the Resilient Columbia Basin Agreement, was reached in late 2023 and heralded by the Biden administration, tribes and conservationists as historic. It allowed for a pause in decades of litigation over the harm the federal government’s operation of dams in the Northwest has done to the fish.

Under it, the federal government said it planned to spend more than \$1 billion over a decade to help recover depleted salmon runs. The government also said that it would build enough new clean energy projects in the Pacific Northwest to replace the hydropower generated by the Lower Snake River dams — the Ice Harbor, Little Goose, Lower Monumental and Lower Granite — should Congress ever agree to remove them.

In a statement, the White House said former President Joe Biden’s decision to sign the agreement “placed concerns about climate change above the Nation’s interests in reliable energy sources.”

Conservations groups, Democratic members of Congress and the Northwest tribes criticized Trump’s action.

“Donald Trump doesn’t know the first thing about the Northwest and our way of life — so of course, he is abruptly and unilaterally upending a historic agreement that finally put us on a path to salmon recovery, while preserving stable dam operations for growers and producers, public utilities, river users, ports and others throughout the Northwest,” Democratic U.S. Sen. Patty Murray of Washington said in a written statement. “This decision is grievously wrong and couldn’t be more shortsighted.”

Basin was once world’s greatest salmon-producing river system

The Columbia River Basin, an area roughly the size of Texas, was once the world’s greatest salmon-producing river system, with at least 16 stocks of salmon and steelhead. Today, four are extinct and seven are listed under the Endangered Species Act. Another iconic but endangered Northwest species, a population of killer whales, also depend on the salmon.

The construction of the first dams on the main Columbia River, including the Grand Coulee and Bonneville dams in the 1930s, provided jobs during the Great Depression, as well as hydropower and navigation. The dams made the town of Lewiston, Idaho, the most inland seaport on the West Coast, and many farmers in the region rely on barges to ship their crops.

But the dams are also main culprit behind the salmon’s decline, and fisheries scientists have concluded that breaching the dams in eastern Washington on the Snake River, the largest tributary of the Columbia, would be the best hope for recovering them, providing the fish with access to hundreds of miles of pristine habitat and spawning grounds in Idaho.

The tribes, which reserved the right to fish in their usual and accustomed grounds when they ceded vast amounts of land in their 19th century treaties with the U.S., warned as far back as the late 1930s that the salmon runs could disappear, with the fish no longer able to access spawning grounds upstream.

“This agreement was designed to foster collaborative and informed resource management and energy development in the Pacific Northwest, including significant tribal energy initiatives,” Yakama Tribal Council Chairman Gerald Lewis said in a written statement. “The Administration’s decision to terminate these commitments echoes the federal government’s historic pattern of broken promises to tribes, and is contrary to President Trump’s stated commitment to domestic energy development.”

Republicans in region opposed agreement

Northwestern Republicans in Congress had largely opposed the agreement, warning that it would hurt the region’s economy, though in 2021 Republican Rep. Mike Simpson of Idaho proposed removing the earthen berms on either side of the four Lower Snake River dams to let the river flow freely, and to spend

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\$33 billion to replace the benefits of the dams.

"Today's action by President Trump reverses the efforts by the Biden administration and extreme environmental activists to remove the dams, which would have threatened the reliability of our power grid, raised energy prices, and decimated our ability to export grain to foreign markets," Rep. Dan Newhouse, a Republican from Washington, said in a news release.

Tribes, environmentalists vow to fight for salmon

The tribes and the environmental law firm Earthjustice, which represents conservation, clean energy and fishing groups in litigation against the federal government, said they would continue working to rebuild salmon stocks.

"Unfortunately, this short-sighted decision to renege on this important agreement is just the latest in a series of anti-government and anti-science actions coming from the Trump administration," Earthjustice Senior Attorney Amanda Goodin said. "This administration may be giving up on our salmon, but we will keep fighting to prevent extinction and realize win-win solutions for the region."

J.J. Spaun leads U.S. Open at Oakmont on a wild day of great shots and shockers

By DOUG FERGUSON AP Golf Writer

OAKMONT, Pa. (AP) — J.J. Spaun is still new enough to the U.S. Open, and a newcomer to the brute that is Oakmont, that he was prepared for anything Thursday. He wound up with a clean card and a one-shot lead on an opening day that delivered just about everything.

Scottie Scheffler had more bogeys in one round than he made had the entire tournament when he won the Memorial. He shot a 73, his highest start ever in a U.S. Open, four shots worse than when he made his Open debut at Oakmont as a 19-year-old at Texas.

Patrick Reed made the first albatross in 11 years at the U.S. Open when he holed out a 3-wood from 286 yards on the par-5 fourth. He finished with a triple bogey.

Bryson DeChambeau was 39 yards away from the hole at the par-5 12th and took four shots from the rough to get to the green.

Si Woo Kim shot a 68 and had no idea how.

"Honestly, I don't even know what I'm doing on the course," Kim said. "Kind of hitting good but feel like this course is too hard for me."

Through it all, Spaun played a steady hand in only his second U.S. Open. He played bogey-free and finished with 10 straight pars for a 4-under 66 on America's toughest course hosting the major known as the toughest test in golf.

He matched the low opening round in U.S. Opens at Oakmont — Andrew Landry also shot 66 the last time here in 2016 — and it was no mystery. Good putting never fails at any U.S. Open, and Spaun holed five par putts ranging from 7 feet to 16 feet to go along with four birdies.

"I didn't really feel like I'm going to show a bogey-free round 4 under. I didn't really know what to expect especially since I've never played here," said Spaun, playing in only his second U.S. Open. "But yeah, maybe sometimes not having expectations is the best thing, so I'll take it."

Oakmont lived up to its reputation with a scoring average of about 74.6 despite a course still relatively soft from rain and moderate wind that didn't stick around for long.

And oh, that rough.

Just ask Rory McIlroy, although he chose not to speak for the fifth straight competitive round at a major since his Masters victory. He had to hack out three times on the fourth hole to get it back to the fairway, and then he holed a 30-foot putt for a most unlikely bogey. He shot 74.

"Even for a guy like me, I can't get out of it some of the times, depending on the lie," DeChambeau said after a 73. "It was tough. It was a brutal test of golf."

The start of the round included Maxwell Moldovan holing out for eagle on the 484-yard opening hole. Toward the end, Tony Finau hit an approach just over the green, off a sprinkler head and into the grand-

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stand, his Titleist marked by green paint of the sprinkler. He saved par.

When the first round ended more than 13 hours after it started, only 10 players managed to break par. That's one fewer than the opening round in 2016.

Scheffler, the heavy favorite as the No. 1 player in the world who had won three of his last four tournaments by a combined 17 shots, made a 6-foot birdie putt on his second hole. Then he found the Church Pew bunkers on the third and fourth holes, made bogey on both and was never under the rest of the day.

"I made some silly mistakes out there, but at the same time, I made some key putts and some good momentum saves in my round," Scheffler said. "But overall just need to be a little sharper."

Spaun, who started his round by chipping in from ankle-deep rough just right of the 10th green, was walking down the 18th fairway when a spectator looked at the group's scoreboard and said, "J.J. Spaun. He's 4 under?"

The emphasis was on the number, not the name.

But some of the names were surprising, starting with Spaun. He lost in a playoff at The Players Championship to McIlroy that helped move him to No. 25 in the world, meaning he didn't have to go through U.S. Open qualifying for the first time.

Thriston Lawrence of South Africa, who contended at Royal Troon last summer, had six birdies in a round of 67.

And perhaps Brooks Koepka can count as a surprise because the five-time major champion has not contended in a major since winning the PGA Championship in 2023, and he missed the cut in the Masters and PGA Championship this year.

He looked like the Koepka of old, muscling way around Oakmont, limiting mistakes and closing with two birdies for a 68 that left him in a group with the South Korea duo of Si Woo Kim and Sungjae Im.

"It's nice to put a good round together. It's been a while," Koepka said. "It's been so far off ... but now it's starting to click. Unfortunately, we're about halfway through the season, so that's not ideal, but we're learning."

Another shot back at 69 was a group that included two-time major champion Jon Rahm, who went 11 holes before making a birdie, and followed that with an eagle.

"I played some incredible golf to shoot 1 under, which we don't usually say, right?" Rahm said.

The course allowed plenty of birdies, plenty of excitement, and doled out plenty of punishment.

McIlroy also was bogey-free, at least on his opening nine. Then he three-putted for bogey on No. 1 and wound up with a 41 on the front nine for a 74. Sam Burns was one shot out of the lead until playing the last four holes in 5 over for a 72 that felt a lot worse.

Spaun was not immune from this. He just made everything, particularly five par putts from 7 feet or longer.

"I think today was one of my best maybe putting days I've had maybe all year," Spaun said. "Converting those putts ... that's huge for momentum and keeping a round going, and that's kind of what happens here at U.S. Opens."

Spaun wouldn't know that from experience. This is only his second U.S. Open, and his ninth major since his first one in 2018. He didn't have to qualify, moving to No. 25 in the world on the strength of his playoff loss to McIlroy at The Players Championship.

"I haven't played in too many," Spaun said "I knew it was going to be tough. I did my best just to grind through it all."

It was every bit of a grind, from the rough and on the fast greens. Three more days.

Mike Love and John Stamos pay tribute to Beach Boys' Brian Wilson

By JOHN CARUCCI Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Mike Love is looking back fondly on Brian Wilson, his cousin and Beach Boys collaborator who died Wednesday at 82.

"It's a tough one," Love told The Associated Press Thursday. "Life ends for all of us, but he had a wonderful life in terms of how creative he was, and I had a great time cocreating with him, so we have a lot to be, you know, we have a lot of blessings."

Love is being inducted Thursday night into the Songwriters Hall of Fame, which welcomed Wilson in 2000. He will be introduced by actor and musician John Stamos, who has collaborated with the Beach Boys in recent years and is appearing at select dates on their tour, which resumes Friday in New York.

"I cut together a really beautiful video of Mike and Brian doing the song that Brian, Mike wrote called, 'Brian's Back.' And I'd like to show that with his permission at the front of the show," Stamos said. "I think it'll start off, but it's gonna be very difficult, I would think emotionally to get through it."

He added of his admiration for Wilson and the band: "Without the Beach Boys, life would be a mistake. And that's that."

"It's in the better late than never category, but I feel my cousin's presence tonight very strongly," Love told the AP of his inclusion in Songwriters Hall of Fame. "You know, we did it together, and so that part's inseparable, and we always had a great love for each other. So it's really nice to be honored, though, and recognized for my contribution to the Beach Boys music."

Love and Wilson wrote the Beach Boys' first hit, "Surfin'," in 1961. The pair feuded over songwriting credits for Love, who successfully sued, contending he was deprived songwriting credits on dozens of songs.

"This is a songwriter's songwriter," Stamos said of Love before the ceremony: "He painted this cinematic view of California that made the whole world wanna be us because of him. Optimism, positivity, good vibes."

Stamos added: "Brian was a genius, but Mike was a little bit underrated because of ... you know, Brian's big genius."

Love said he enjoys witnessing the joy the Beach Boys music brings to fans on tour. "It's wonderful because you see the audience response and people 60 years after we started are loving our music and that's really a wonderful thing. You see how much joy, not only in America but around the world, that our songs have created with people. So it's a fantastic thing," he said,

At least 5 dead and 2 missing in San Antonio after heavy rains flood parts of Texas

By LEKAN OYEKANMI and JAMIE STENGLE Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Heavy rains in San Antonio rapidly flooded roads, swept away submerged cars and sent some people scrambling up trees to escape fast-rising waters Thursday while firefighters made dozens of rescues across the nation's seventh-largest city. At least five people died and two were still missing, authorities said.

The deaths all occurred in the northeast part of the city, where authorities found over a dozen vehicles in the water. More than a dozen smashed and overturned vehicles littered a creek after being tossed and carried by floodwaters.

Some of the people rescued in that area said they were swept off an interstate access road by "sudden fast rising water," San Antonio Fire Department spokesperson Joe Arrington said in an email. He said floodwaters swept vehicles into a creek and carried them downstream.

Crews brought in search dogs Thursday afternoon to help find missing people, Arrington said.

By afternoon, crews could be seen pulling heavily damaged vehicles out of the creek.

Calls for water rescues began before sunrise, officials said. Two women and two men were found dead, according to police Chief William McManus, who did not have their ages.

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The fire department made 70 water rescues, officials said. Fire officials said that while most of the rescue calls consisted of crews helping drivers from vehicles that were stalled in high water, several "harrowing" calls involved their crews entering swift-moving water to rescue someone.

Fire officials said in a press release that the rescue effort in the area where the people were found dead was "extremely difficult." Officials said 10 people whose cars had been swept away in that area were rescued from trees and bushes about a mile from where they had entered the water.

The flooding occurred after a round of slow-moving showers and thunderstorms in the San Antonio area during the early morning hours Thursday, said Eric Platt, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service.

Over 7 inches (17 centimeters) of rain fell in parts of the San Antonio area, according to the weather service.

By midmorning, flooding was receding, though Platt noted that rain was still falling in some areas. He didn't expect additional rain to be as heavy as overnight but said anything that falls on saturated ground can lead to flooding.

Fiery Air India crash kills 241 people aboard, leaving 1 survivor, airline says

By AJIT SOLANKI and RAJESH ROY Associated Press

AHMEDABAD, India (AP) — An Air India plane bound for London crashed in a residential area of Ahmedabad shortly after takeoff Thursday, killing 241 people on board, the airline said. One passenger who was thrown from the plane survived.

At least five medical students in a college hostel were killed when the plane hit the building and burst into flames, according to a medical association officer.

"Most of the bodies have been charred beyond recognition," said Vidhi Chaudhary, a top state police officer in the city in northwestern India.

Indian Home Minister Amit Shah confirmed that he met the sole survivor at the hospital. A doctor said he had examined the survivor, whom he identified as Vishwashkumar Ramesh.

"He was disoriented with multiple injuries all over his body," Dr. Dhaval Gameti told The Associated Press. "But he seems to be out of danger."

Another medic said Ramesh told him that immediately after the plane took off, it began descending and suddenly split in two, throwing him out before a loud explosion.

Black smoke billowed from the site where the plane crashed near the airport in Ahmedabad, a city of more than 5 million and the capital of Gujarat, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's home state.

Firefighters doused the smoking wreckage of the plane, which would have been fully loaded with fuel shortly after takeoff, and adjacent multistory buildings with water. Charred bodies lay on the ground and parts of the fuselage were scattered around the site. Indian army teams were assisting civil authorities to clear debris and help treat the injured.

A video on social media showed the jet slowly descending as if it were landing. As soon as it disappeared from view behind rows of houses, a giant fireball filled the sky. The AP was able to verify the video by matching up the flight path of the plane from the runway with the crash site and the nearby residential area.

At the crash site, the tail cone of the aircraft with damaged stabilizer fins still attached was lodged near the top of one of the buildings.

Others may be buried in debris

In a social media post, Modi called the crash "heartbreaking beyond words" and said "my thoughts are with everyone affected."

Sambit Patra, a lawmaker from Modi's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party, said Gujarat's former chief minister, Vijay Rupani, was among the dead.

Divyansh Singh, vice president of the Federation of All India Medical Association, said at least five students from the medical college were killed on the ground and 50 others were injured. Singh said some of them were in critical condition and many people are "feared buried in the debris."

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Air India confirmed in a statement posted on X that 229 passengers and 12 crew members were killed in the crash. The only survivor was a British national of Indian origin. The flight bound for London Gatwick Airport had 169 Indians, 53 Britons, seven Portuguese and one Canadian passenger aboard.

"Our efforts now are focused entirely on the needs of all those affected, their families and loved ones," the airline said.

The first crash of a Boeing 787

This is the first crash of a Boeing 787 Dreamliner, according to the Aviation Safety Network database. Boeing said it was "working to gather more information."

India's aviation regulatory body said the aircraft gave a mayday call, signaling an emergency, but then did not respond to the calls made by the airport traffic control.

Aviation consultant John M. Cox, the CEO of Safety Operating Systems, told the AP from Los Angeles that while the first images of the crash were poor, it appeared the aircraft had its nose up and was not climbing, which is one of the things that investigators would look at.

"The 787 has very extensive flight data monitoring — the parameters on the flight data recorder are in the thousands — so once we get that recorder, they'll be able to know pretty quickly what happened," he said.

The wide-body, twin-engine aircraft was introduced in 2009, and more than 1,000 have been delivered to dozens of airlines, according to the flightradar24 website.

UK promises support

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer said his government was in constant contact with Indian authorities and encouraged loved ones of passengers on the Air India flight to contact the foreign office.

"Our hearts and our thoughts are absolutely with the friends and families of all those affected who are going to be absolutely devastated by this awful news," Starmer said.

British Cabinet minister Lucy Powell said the government will provide "all the support that it can" to those affected by the crash.

Britain has very close ties with India. There were nearly 1.9 million people in the country of Indian descent, according to the 2021 U.K. census.

Condolences also poured in from King Charles III, who said he and his wife, Queen Camilla, were "desperately shocked" by the crash.

"Our special prayers and deepest possible sympathy are with the families and friends of all those affected by this appallingly tragic incident across so many nations," he said in a statement.

Previous air disasters in India

The last major passenger plane crash in India was in 2020, when an Air India Express Boeing-737 skidded off a hilltop runway in southern India, killing 21 people.

The worst air disaster in India was on Nov. 12, 1996, when a Saudi Arabian Airlines flight collided midair with a Kazakhstan Airlines Flight near Charki Dadri in Haryana state, killing all 349 on board the two planes.

Boeing has been in recovery mode for more than six years after Lion Air Flight 610, a Boeing 737 Max 8, plunged into the Java Sea off the coast of Indonesia minutes after takeoff from Jakarta, killing all 189 people on board. Five months later, Ethiopian Airlines Flight 302, a Boeing 737 Max 8, crashed after takeoff from Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, killing 157 passengers and crew members.

Shares of Boeing Co. tumbled nearly 9% before trading opened in the U.S.

House approves Trump's request to cut funding for NPR, PBS and foreign aid

By KEVIN FREKING Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House narrowly voted Thursday to cut about \$9.4 billion in spending already approved by Congress as President Donald Trump's administration looks to follow through on work done by the Department of Government Efficiency when it was overseen by Elon Musk.

The package targets foreign aid programs and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, which provides

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money for National Public Radio and the Public Broadcasting Service as well as thousands of public radio and television stations around the country. The vote was 214-212.

Republicans are characterizing the spending as wasteful and unnecessary, but Democrats say the rescissions are hurting the United States' standing in the world and will lead to needless deaths.

"Cruelty is the point," Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries of New York said of the proposed spending cuts.

The Trump administration is employing a tool rarely used in recent years that allows the president to transmit a request to Congress to cancel previously appropriated funds. That triggers a 45-day clock in which the funds are frozen pending congressional action. If Congress fails to act within that period, then the spending stands.

"Under President Trump's leadership, your taxpayer dollars are no longer being wasted," House Speaker Mike Johnson said after the vote. "Instead, they are being directed toward priorities that truly benefit the American people."

The benefit for the administration of a formal rescissions request is that passage requires only a simple majority in the 100-member Senate instead of the 60 votes usually required to get spending bills through that chamber. So if they stay largely united, Republicans will be able to pass the measure without any Democratic votes.

Senate Majority Leader John Thune, R-S.D., said the Senate would likely not take the bill up until July and after it has dealt with Trump's big tax and immigration bill. He also said it's possible the Senate could tweak the bill.

The administration is likening the first rescissions package to a test case and says more could be on the way if Congress goes along.

Republicans, sensitive to concerns that Trump's sweeping tax and immigration bill would increase future federal deficits, are anxious to demonstrate spending discipline, though the cuts in the package amount to just a sliver of the spending approved by Congress each year. They are betting the cuts prove popular with constituents who align with Trump's "America first" ideology as well as those who view NPR and PBS as having a liberal bias.

Four Republicans voted against the measure — Reps. Mark Amodei of Nevada, Brian Fitzpatrick of Pennsylvania, Nicole Malliotakis of New York and Mike Turner of Ohio. No Democrats voted for the measure.

The bill looked like it was in danger of going down, but two lawmakers — Reps. Don Bacon of Nebraska and Nick LaLota of New York — changed their votes to yes, allowing it to advance to the Senate.

LaLota had an extensive conversation with Johnson on the House floor as Johnson could be seen trying to win him over. Afterward, LaLota called it "private discussions" to make sure "my constituents will get what they need."

Bacon said he was reassured by House Republican leadership that PBS would receive funding for next year. He said he was also told that funding for the U.S.-led global response to HIV, known as PEPFAR, will not be affected.

"Because of these reassurances, I voted yes on H.R. 4," Bacon said.

In all, the package contains 21 proposed rescissions. Approval would claw back about \$900 million from \$10 billion that Congress has approved for global health programs. That includes canceling \$500 million for activities related to infectious diseases and child and maternal health and another \$400 million to address the global HIV epidemic.

The Trump administration is also looking to cancel \$800 million, or a quarter of the amount Congress approved, for a program that provides emergency shelter, water and sanitation, and family reunification for those forced to flee their own country.

About 45% of the savings sought by the White House would come from two programs designed to boost the economies, democratic institutions and civil societies in developing countries.

Democratic leadership, in urging their caucus to vote no, said that package would eliminate access to clean water for more than 3.6 million people and lead to millions more not having access to a school.

"Those Democrats saying that these rescissions will harm people in other countries are missing the point,"

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said Rep. Lisa McClain, House Republican Conference chair. "It's about people in our country being put first."

The Republican president asked lawmakers to rescind nearly \$1.1 billion from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, which represents the full amount it's slated to receive during the next two budget years. About two-thirds of the money gets distributed to more than 1,500 locally owned public radio and television stations. Nearly half of those stations serve rural areas of the country.

"Cutting off federal funding to public media will not only damage local stations, it will be disruptive for millions of Americans who rely on it for news and information that helps them make decisions about their lives and participate in their communities," said Patricia Harrison, president and CEO of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

Several advocacy groups that serve the world's poorest people had urged lawmakers to vote no.

"We are already seeing women, children and families left without food, clean water and critical services after earlier aid cuts, and aid organizations can barely keep up with rising needs," said Abby Maxman, president and CEO of Oxfam America, a poverty-fighting organization.

Rep. Jim McGovern, D-Mass., said the foreign aid is a tool that prevents conflict and promotes stability, but the measure before the House takes that tool away.

"This bill is good for Russia and China and undertakers," said Rep. Steve Cohen, D-Tenn.

Republicans disparaged the foreign aid spending and sought to link it to programs they said DOGE had uncovered.

Rep. Chip Roy, R-Texas, said taxpayer dollars had gone to such things as targeting climate change, promoting pottery classes and strengthening diversity, equity and inclusion programs. Other Republicans cited similar examples they said DOGE had revealed.

"Yet, my friends on the other side of the aisle would like you to believe, seriously, that if you don't use your taxpayer dollars to fund this absurd list of projects and thousands of others I didn't even list, that somehow people will die and our global standing in the world will crumble," Roy said. "Well, let's just reject this now."

Democratic governors defend immigration policies before Republican-led House panel

By JOEY CAPPELLETTI and DAVID A. LIEB Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — As President Donald Trump spars with California's governor over immigration enforcement, Republicans in Congress called other Democratic governors to the Capitol on Thursday to question them over policies limiting cooperation with federal immigration authorities.

Members of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform sat in front of large, full-color posters showing men who they said were in the country without legal permission when they were arrested for crimes in Illinois, Minnesota and New York — home of the governors testifying before the committee.

Committee Chairman Rep. James Comer began the hearing by introducing the family of a young woman killed in a hit-and-run traffic crash in Illinois, suggesting its sanctuary policies had facilitated the illegal presence of the driver of the other vehicle.

"Sanctuary polices do not protect Americans, they protect criminal illegal aliens," Comer said.

Republican lawmakers clashed repeatedly with the Democratic governors, often recounting descriptions of violent crimes allegedly committed by immigrants in the U.S. illegally who were not previously detained by local police. The daylong hearing turned into a yelling match at multiple moments, with committee members talking over the top of each other and veering off topic in their questions.

At one point, Democratic Rep. Melanie Stansbury of New Mexico interjected to denounce the "theatrics."

"Welcome everyone to the Oversight reality TV show," Stansbury said. "I know Mr. Trump loves himself some good TV, and today is not disappointing."

There's no legal definition of a sanctuary jurisdiction, but the term generally refers to governments with policies limiting cooperation with federal immigration authorities. Courts previously have upheld the legality of such laws.

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But Trump's administration has sued Colorado, Illinois, New York and several cities — including Chicago and Rochester, New York — asserting their policies violate the U.S. Constitution or federal law.

Illinois, Minnesota and New York also were among 14 states and hundreds of cities and counties recently listed by the Department of Homeland Security as "sanctuary jurisdictions defying federal immigration law." The list later was removed from the department's website after criticism that it errantly included some local governments that support Trump's immigration policies.

As Trump steps up immigration enforcement, some Democratic-led states have intensified their resistance by strengthening state laws restricting cooperation with immigration agents. Following clashes between crowds of protesters and immigration agents in Los Angeles, Trump deployed the National Guard to protect federal buildings and agents, and California Gov. Gavin Newsom accused Trump of declaring "a war" on the underpinnings of American democracy.

"As we speak, an American city has been militarized over the objections of their governor," New York Gov. Kathy Hochul said. "At the outset, I just want to say that this is a flagrant abuse of power."

Some of the most fiery exchanges involved Hochul and Republicans from her home state. Republican Rep. Elise Stefanik, who has been named as a potential 2026 gubernatorial candidate in New York, described instances in which she said people were raped, molested and burned alive by immigrants who had entered or remained in the U.S. illegally.

"You are not advocating on behalf of these victims, you are shielding illegals," Stefanik said to Hochul while interrupting the governor's attempted responses.

Hochul said the crimes were "horrific" and "heartbreaking" and insisted "we cooperate with ICE; we cooperate with law enforcement" in criminal cases.

Republican Rep. Nick Langworthy of New York later implied that Hochul's policies were partly to blame for the death of University of Georgia student Laken Riley, who was killed last year by a Venezuelan man who had entered the U.S. illegally. According to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the man had been arrested by New York police in 2023 but was released before ICE could ask New York officials to hold him.

Pressed further by other Republican questioners, Hochul expressed sympathy for Riley's family but said "this has nothing to do with our civil enforcement of the laws."

Gubernatorial orders prohibit New York officials from inquiring about or disclosing a person's immigration status to federal authorities, unless required by law.

Hochul said law enforcement officers still can cooperate with federal immigration authorities when people are convicted of or under investigation for crimes. Since she took office in 2021, Hochul said the state has initiated the transfer of more than 1,300 incarcerated noncitizens to ICE at the completion of their state sentences.

"What we don't do is civil immigration enforcement — that's the federal government's job," Hochul said.

The House Oversight Committee has long been a partisan battleground, and in recent months it has turned its focus to immigration policy. Thursday's hearing follows a similar one in March in which the Republican-led committee questioned the Democratic mayors of Chicago, Boston, Denver and New York about sanctuary policies.

Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz, the first to testify, rejected the assertion that Minnesota is a sanctuary state. It has no statewide law protecting immigrants in the U.S. illegally from deportation, though Minneapolis and St. Paul both restrict the extent to which police and city employees can cooperate with immigration enforcement.

"Enforcing immigration law is not the role of local and state governments," said Walz, who sent out a political fundraising email touting his congressional testimony.

Some laws signed by Walz have secured benefits for people regardless of immigration status. But at least one of those is getting rolled back. The Minnesota Legislature, meeting in a special session, passed legislation Monday to repeal a 2023 law that allowed adults in the U.S. illegally to be covered under a state-run health care program for the working poor. Walz insisted on maintaining eligibility for children

who aren't in the country legally.

Heavily Democratic Chicago has been a sanctuary city for decades. In 2017, then-Illinois Gov. Bruce Rauner, a Republican, signed legislation creating statewide protections for immigrants. The Illinois Trust Act prohibits police from searching, arresting or detaining people solely because of their immigration status. But it allows local authorities to hold people for federal immigration authorities if there's a valid criminal warrant.

Gov. JB Pritzker, who succeeded Rauner in 2019, said violent criminals "have no place on our streets, and if they are undocumented, I want them out of Illinois and out of our country."

"Illinois follows the law. But let me be clear, we expect the federal government to follow the law too," added Pritzker, who has been among Trump's most outspoken opponents and is considered a potential 2028 presidential candidate. "We will not participate in abuses of power. We will not violate court orders."

Ex-congressman Billy Long confirmed as commissioner of the IRS, an agency he once sought to abolish

By FATIMA HUSSEIN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former U.S. Rep. Billy Long of Missouri was confirmed on Thursday to lead the Internal Revenue Service, giving the beleaguered agency he once sought to abolish a permanent commissioner after months of acting leaders and massive staffing cuts that have threatened to derail next year's tax filing season.

The Senate confirmed Long on a 53-44 vote despite Democrats' concerns about the Republican's past work for a firm that pitched a fraud-ridden coronavirus pandemic-era tax break and about campaign contributions he received after President Donald Trump nominated him to serve as IRS commissioner.

While in Congress, where he served from 2011 to 2023, Long sponsored legislation to get rid of the IRS, the agency he is now tasked with leading. A former auctioneer, Long has no background in tax administration.

Long will take over an IRS undergoing massive change, including layoffs and voluntary retirements of tens of thousands of workers and accusations that then-Trump adviser Elon Musk's Department of Government Efficiency mishandled sensitive taxpayer data. Unions and advocacy organizations have sued to block DOGE's access to the information.

The IRS was one of the highest-profile agencies still without a Senate-confirmed leader. Before Long's confirmation, the IRS shuffled through four acting leaders, including one who resigned over a deal between the IRS and the Department of Homeland Security to share immigrants' tax data with Immigration and Customs Enforcement and another whose appointment led to a fight between Musk and Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent.

After leaving Congress to mount an unsuccessful bid for the U.S. Senate, Long worked with a firm that distributed the pandemic-era employee retention tax credit. That tax credit program was eventually shut down after then-IRS Commissioner Daniel Werfel determined that it was fraudulent.

Democrats called for a criminal investigation into Long's connections to other alleged tax credit loopholes. The lawmakers allege that firms connected to Long duped investors into spending millions of dollars to purchase fake tax credits.

Long appeared before the Senate Finance Committee last month and denied any wrongdoing related to his involvement in the tax credit scheme.

Treasury's Deputy Secretary Michael Faulkender, who briefly served as IRS' acting commissioner, sent an email to IRS employees after Long's confirmation. He said Long's experience "will be critically important to the IRS at this time of transformation, as we build a modern IRS that will deliver on the Secretary's priorities of service, collections and privacy for generations to come," according to the internal email obtained by The Associated Press.

Ahead of the confirmation vote, Democratic Sen. Ron Wyden of Oregon, the ranking member of the Senate Finance Committee, sent a letter to White House chief of staff Susie Wiles blasting the requisite FBI background check conducted on Long as a political appointee as inadequate.

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"These issues were not adequately investigated," Wyden wrote. "In fact, the FBI's investigation, a process dictated by the White House, seemed designed to avoid substantively addressing any of these concerning public reports. It's almost as if the FBI is unable to read the newspaper."

Democratic lawmakers have also written to Long and his associated firms detailing concerns with what they call unusually timed contributions made to Long's defunct 2022 Senate campaign committee shortly after Trump nominated him.

The IRS faces an uncertain future under Long. Tax experts have voiced concerns that the 2026 filing season could be hampered by the departure of so many tax collection workers. In April, The Associated Press reported that the IRS planned to cut as many as 20,000 staffers — up to 25% of the workforce. An IRS representative on Thursday confirmed the IRS had shed about that many workers but said the cuts amounted to approximately the same number of IRS jobs added under the Biden administration.

The fate of the Direct File program, the free electronic tax return filing system developed during President Joe Biden's Democratic administration, is also unclear. Republican lawmakers and commercial tax preparation companies had complained it was a waste of taxpayer money because free filing programs already exist, although they are hard to use. Long said during his confirmation hearing that it would be one of the first programs that come up for discussion if he were confirmed.

Long is not the only Trump appointee to support dismantling an agency he was assigned to manage.

Linda McMahon, the current education secretary, has repeatedly said she is trying to put herself out of a job by closing the federal department and transferring its work to the states. Rick Perry, Trump's energy secretary during his first term, called for abolishing the Energy Department during his bid for the 2012 GOP presidential nomination.

The reverence for Old Glory that inspired Flag Day arose decades after Betsy Ross sewed her first

By JOHN HANNA Associated Press

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) — The woman often credited with sewing the first national U.S. flag — at the request of George Washington himself, her descendants claimed — might have been puzzled by Saturday's modern Flag Day.

In Betsy Ross' day, flags marked ships and told soldiers where they should move in the confusion of battlefield smoke and noise. The intense reverence many Americans feel for Old Glory arose from the Civil War, when the need to keep the banner aloft in battle led the Union army to treat the deadly job of flag bearer as a high honor — and men responded with fatal heroics.

The first, local Flag Day observances came after the Civil War and eventually a federal law designated June 14 as Flag Day in 1949, under World War I combat veteran Harry Truman. He declared in a proclamation the next year that the U.S. flag symbolizes freedom and "protection from tyranny."

Americans' attachment to their flag is imbued with feelings that in other nations might attach to a beloved monarch or an official national religion. The flag is a physical object "that people can relate to," said Charles Spain, director of the Flag Research Center in Houston.

"If you put a flag on a pole, the wind makes it move," Spain, a retired Texas Court of Appeals justice, added. "Therefore, the flag is alive."

What does Flag Day celebrate?

The holiday marks the date in 1777 that the Continental Congress approved the design of a national flag for what to Great Britain were rebellious American colonies.

It set the now-familiar 13 alternating horizontal stripes of red and white, one for each self-declared U.S. state, along with the blue upper quadrant with white stars. The Journals of Congress from 1777 says that the stars represented "a new constellation," but a 1818 law mandated one white star for each state.

National observances for Flag Day began well ahead of the law signed by Truman, with a proclamation issued by President Woodrow Wilson in 1916.

Wilson's action came several decades after communities began Flag Day celebrations. In 1891, Philadel-

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phia held its first — at one of Ross' former homes — and it evolved into an annual, weeklong Flag Fest. The small village of Waubeka, Wisconsin, north of Milwaukee, claims the first observance in 1885.

According to the National Flag Day Foundation headquartered there, a 19-year-old teacher in a one-room school, Bernard Cigrand, put a small flag on his desk and had students write essays about what the flag meant to them. He advocated a national holiday for decades as he worked as a dentist in the Chicago area.

When did the U.S. flag become sacred to many Americans?

Lisa Acker Moulder, director of the Betsy Ross House historical site in Philadelphia, said that for Ross, conferring with Washington would have been the key point of her account. The U.S. flag wasn't as venerated before the Civil War in 1861-65 as it is now.

Keeping flags aloft was crucial to maneuvering troops in Civil War battles, and that made flag bearers big targets for the enemy. They couldn't shoot back and had to stand tall, said Ted Kaye, secretary for the North American association for flag scholars, known as vexillologists.

Both sides' propaganda told soldiers that carrying a flag into battle was an honor reserved for the most morally fit — and that view took hold, Kaye said. One Michigan cavalry regiment's red flag declared, "Fear Not Death -- Fear Dishonor."

"This created this cult of honor around these battle flags, and around, by extension, the national flag," Kaye said.

Why was the Civil War so important?

Civil War soldiers showed extraordinary courage under fire to keep their colors aloft, and multiple flag bearers died in single battles, said Matt VanAcker, who directs a now decades-old project at the Michigan Capitol to conserve flags from the Civil War and later conflicts. Michigan has collected about 240 old battle flags and had a display in its Capitol rotunda for decades.

Replicas have replaced them so that the original banners — and pieces of banners — can be preserved as a physical link to the soldiers who fought under them.

"Many of the flags in our collection are covered with bullet holes," VanAcker said. "A lot of them have blood stains — the physical evidence of their use on the battlefield."

Robert F. Kennedy met with the CIA after a trip to the Soviet Union, newly declassified files show

By DAVID KLEPPER and JOHN HANNA Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The CIA released nearly 1,500 pages of previously classified documents relating to New York Sen. Robert F. Kennedy and his 1968 assassination on Thursday, detailing the spy agency's work to investigate his killing as well as previously unknown contacts between him and the agency.

Kennedy met with the CIA following a 1955 tour of the Soviet Union, relaying his observations to the spy agency as a voluntary informant, the documents show.

The newly available material comprises 54 documents, including memos about the agency's work to investigate whether RFK's killer had any foreign ties, as well as the response to his killing by foreign powers. The records also included documents about the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King Jr., as well as the attempted assassination of Alabama Gov. George Wallace in 1972.

One internal CIA memo detailed how the agency unsuccessfully sought to poison Cuban leader Fidel Castro in 1960 and 1961. It worked with a "high-ranking" Mafia figure in Las Vegas who "controlled all of the ice-making machines on the Strip."

Another internal CIA memo from December 1973 reported on a conference at Georgetown University for a group promoting assassination conspiracy theories. One speaker was "long-winded and technical."

"Beards and long hair prevailed," the memo said, a reminder of the clean-shaven, crew-cut norm for government employees at the time.

President Donald Trump had ordered the release of documents relating to the assassinations of RFK, President John F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King Jr. More than 10,000 pages of records pertaining to

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RFK's assassination were released in April. The records released Thursday also included documents about the JFK and King killings, some produced after RFK's death and dealing with conspiracy theories.

"Today's release delivers on President Trump's commitment to maximum transparency, enabling the CIA to shine light on information that serves the public interest," CIA Director John Ratcliffe said in a statement. "I am proud to share our work on this incredibly important topic with the American people."

Kennedy, a Democrat, was fatally shot on June 5, 1968, at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles moments after giving a speech celebrating his victory in California's presidential primary. His assassin, Sirhan Sirhan, was convicted of first-degree murder and is serving life in prison. One document released Thursday, a CIA memo to the White House the day after the assassination, showed that its first search of its records turned up no information about Sirhan.

Kennedy's contacts with the CIA following his visit to the Soviet Union reflected the tensions of the time, and the high value put on personal observations of Americans who traveled to Russia and other former Soviet regions. Prominent elected officials and business leaders visiting the USSR were often asked to share their observations following their return.

The documents show that RFK was a voluntary informant. In a statement Thursday, the CIA showed the meetings reflected RFK's "patriotic commitment" to serving his country.

Many of his observations reflected granular observations about daily life.

"On 29 Aug 55, while in Novosibirsk, USSR, a friend and I visited a State machine factory. The factory has 3,500 employees, of whom one third are women. The wage scale is between 840 and 2,500 rubles," Kennedy told the CIA interviewer, according to the documents. "The Director of the plant whose name I do not recall was frosty, although the engineer was friendly."

The CIA used artificial intelligence to scan its library for documents related to RFK's assassination that could be declassified. The search turned up many documents that had little to do with his killing, such as the records of RFK's meeting with the CIA.

Kennedy's son, U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr., said he was gratified to see the documents' release.

"Lifting the veil on the RFK papers is a necessary step toward restoring trust in American government," Kennedy said.

The documents released Thursday included a September 1975 memo from then-CIA Director William Colby to staff, discussing allegations of CIA involvement in JFK's assassination in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963, that "have crept up every so often." Colby asserted that JFK assassin Lee Harvey Oswald had no contact with the agency.

Colby said five pre-assassination CIA records did reference Oswald but "Oswald's name had no particular meaning before that fateful event." For an October 1975 interview with CBS White House correspondent Dan Rather, Colby had talking points that included denying CIA involvement in attempts to test whether New York City's subway system was vulnerable to "biological warfare agents."

Weinstein case judge declares mistrial on remaining rape charge as jury foreperson won't deliberate

By JENNIFER PELTZ and MICHAEL R. SISAK Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Harvey Weinstein's sex crimes retrial came to a disjointed end Thursday as the jury foreperson declined to deliberate and the judge declared a mistrial on a remaining rape charge, a day after a split verdict on other charges in the landmark #MeToo-era case.

The outcome positions the ex-studio boss for a third New York trial — prosecutors said they're ready to retry the rape count — even as he faces a new sentencing on his sexual assault conviction.

Weinstein, 73, denies all the charges. The Oscar-winning movie producer had a blank, drained expression as court officers escorted him out Thursday in his wheelchair.

His lawyer said he plans to appeal.

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"What happened in that jury room was absolutely improper," attorney Arthur Aidala said outside court. Weinstein is due back in court July 2 for discussion of retrial and sentencing dates. His first-degree criminal sex act conviction carries the potential for up to 25 years in prison, while the unresolved third-degree rape charge is punishable by up to four years — less than he already has served.

He's been behind bars since his initial conviction in 2020, and he later also was sentenced to prison in a separate California case, which he's appealing.

In Wednesday's partial verdict, Weinstein was convicted of one criminal sex act charge but acquitted of another. Both concerned accusations of forcing oral sex on women in 2006. Those verdicts still stand.

While the jury of seven women and five men was unanimous on those decisions, it got stuck on the rape charge involving another woman, Jessica Mann. The hairstylist and actor testified at length — as she did in 2020 — that Weinstein raped her amid a years-long consensual relationship.

"I will never give up on myself and making sure my voice — and the truth — is heard," Mann said in a statement Thursday, confirming she's ready to testify yet again.

Jury-room strains started leaking into public view Friday, when a juror asked to be excused because he felt another was being treated unfairly. Then Monday, the foreperson complained that other jurors were pushing people to change their minds and talking about information beyond the charges.

The man raised concerns again Wednesday, telling the judge he felt afraid in the jury room because another juror was yelling at him for sticking to his opinion and suggested the foreperson would "see me outside."

When Judge Curtis Farber asked the foreperson Thursday whether he was willing to return to deliberations, the man said no. And with that, Farber declared a mistrial on the rape count.

Two jurors disputed the foreperson's account as they left court. One, Chantan Holmes, said that no one mistreated the man and that she believed he was just tired of deliberating.

"We all felt bad. Because we really wanted to do this. We put our hearts and souls in here," she said.

Another jury member, who identified himself only by his juror number, said the deliberations were contentious, but respectful.

Weinstein's 2020 conviction seemed to cement the downfall of one of Hollywood's most powerful men in a pivotal moment for the # MeToo movement. The anti-sexual-misconduct campaign was fueled by allegations against him.

But that conviction was overturned last year, and the case was sent back for retrial in the same Manhattan courthouse.

Weinstein's accusers said he exploited his Tinseltown influence to dangle career help, get them alone and then trap and force them into sexual encounters.

"These hopeful young women were trying to follow their dreams in a world that he controlled," Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg, a Democrat, said at a news conference Thursday.

Weinstein's defense portrayed his accusers as Hollywood wannabes and hangers-on who willingly hooked up with him to court opportunity, then later said they were victimized to collect settlement funds and #MeToo approbation.

Miriam Haley, the producer and production assistant whom Weinstein was convicted — twice, now — of sexually assaulting, said outside court Wednesday that the new verdict "gives me hope."

Accuser Kaja Sokola also called it "a big win for everyone," even though Weinstein was acquitted of forcibly performing oral sex on her when she was a 19-year-old fashion model. Her allegation was added to the case after the retrial was ordered.

Holmes, the juror who spoke outside court, said the panel all felt Sokola "wasn't credible."

The Associated Press generally does not name people who say they have been sexually assaulted, unless they agree to be identified. Haley, Mann and Sokola did so.

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What to know about 'No Kings' protests against Trump's policies

By LISA BAUMANN Associated Press

Opponents of President Donald Trump's administration are set to rally in hundreds of cities on Saturday during the military parade in Washington to mark the Army's 250th anniversary, which coincides with Trump's birthday.

The "No Kings" protests are set to take place to counter what organizers say are Trump's plans to feed his ego on his 79th birthday and Flag Day. "No Kings" will follow several days of nationwide protests against federal immigration raids including in Los Angeles, where Trump's deployment of the National Guard further agitated his opponents.

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott is following the president's cue. Abbott said Thursday that he has ordered the deployment of more than 5,000 Texas National Guard troops, along with more than 2,000 state police, in response to the ongoing demonstrations and in preparation for the "No Kings" protests.

The Army birthday celebration had already been planned. But earlier this spring, Trump announced his intention to ratchet up the event to include 60-ton M1 Abrams battle tanks and Paladin self-propelled howitzers rolling through the city streets. He has long sought a similar display of patriotic force.

Why is it called 'No Kings'?

The "No Kings" theme was orchestrated by the 50501 Movement, a national movement made up of everyday Americans who stand for democracy and against what they call the authoritarian actions of the Trump administration. The name 50501 stands for 50 states, 50 protests, one movement.

Protests earlier this year have denounced Trump and billionaire adviser Elon Musk, the now former leader of Trump's Department of Government Efficiency, a government organization designed to slash federal spending. Protesters have called for Trump to be "dethroned" as they compare his actions to that of a king and not a democratically elected president.

"They've defied our courts, deported Americans, disappeared people off the streets, attacked our civil rights, and slashed our services," the group says on its website, referring to the Trump administration and its policies. "They've done this all while continuing to serve and enrich their billionaire allies."

Why are they protesting on Saturday?

The No Kings Day of Defiance has been organized to reject authoritarianism, billionaire-first politics and the militarization of the country's democracy, according to a statement by organizers.

Organizers intend for the protests to counter the Army's 250th anniversary celebration — which Trump has ratcheted up to include an expensive, lavish military parade. The event will feature hundreds of military vehicles and aircraft and thousands of soldiers. It also happens to be his 79th birthday and Flag Day.

"The flag doesn't belong to President Trump. It belongs to us," the "No Kings" website says. "On June 14th, we're showing up everywhere he isn't — to say no thrones, no crowns, no kings."

Where will the protests happen?

Protests in nearly 2,000 locations are scheduled around the country, from city blocks to small towns, from courthouse steps to community parks, organizers said.

No protests are scheduled to take place in Washington, D.C., however, where the military parade will be held. The group says it will "make action everywhere else the story of America that day."

"No Kings" plans instead to hold a flagship march and rally in Philadelphia to draw a clear contrast between its people-powered movement and what organizers described on their website as the "costly, wasteful, and un-American birthday parade" in Washington.

What is planned at the 'No Kings' protests?

People of all ages are expected to come together in the protest locations for speeches, marching, carrying signs and waving American flags, organizers said in a call Wednesday.

On the group's website, it says a core principle behind all "No Kings" events is a commitment to nonviolent action, and participants are expected to seek to de-escalate any potential confrontation.

No weapons of any kind should be taken to "No Kings" events, according to the website.

How many people are expected to participate?

The No Kings Day of Defiance is expected to be the largest single-day mobilization since Trump returned to office, organizers said. Organizers said they are preparing for millions of people to take to the streets across all 50 states and commonwealths.

Bruce Springsteen, Paul McCartney, Mike Love and Elton John react to the death of Brian Wilson

By The Associated Press undefined

Notable reaction to the death of the Beach Boys' Brian Wilson at age 82.

"I have no words to express the sadness I feel right now. My Father @brianwilsonlive was every fiber of my body. He will be remembered by millions and millions until the world ends. I am lucky to have been his daughter and had a soul connection with him that will live on always. I've never felt this kind of pain before, but I know he's resting up there in heaven ... or maybe playing the piano for Grandma Audree his Mom. I will post something else soon but this is all my hands will let me type. I love you Daddy....I miss so much you already." — Wilson's daughter, Carnie Wilson, on Instagram.

"Our journey together was filled with moments of brilliance, heartbreak, laughter, complexity and most of all, LOVE . Like all families, we had our ups and downs. But through it all, we never stopped loving each other, and I never stopped being in awe of what he could do when he sat at a piano or his spontaneity in the studio." — Mike Love, Beach Boy and Wilson cousin, on Instagram.

"Brian Wilson was the most musically inventive voice in all of pop, with an otherworldly ear for harmony. He was also the visionary leader of America's greatest band, The Beach Boys. If there'd been no Beach Boys, there would have been no "Racing In The Street." Listen to "Summer's Gone" from The Beach Boys' last album "That's Why God Made The Radio" and weep. Farewell, Maestro. Nothing but love and a lovely lasting debt from all of us over here on E Street." — Bruce Springsteen, across his social media.

"Brian had that mysterious sense of musical genius that made his songs so achingly special. The notes he heard in his head and passed to us were simple and brilliant at the same time. I loved him, and was privileged to be around his bright shining light for a little while. How we will continue without Brian Wilson, 'God Only Knows.' Thank you, Brian. - Paul." — Paul McCartney, on Instagram.

"Heard the sad news about Brian today and thought about all the years I've been listening to him and admiring his genius. Rest in peace dear Brian." — Bob Dylan, on X.

"Brian Wilson, my friend, my classmate, my football teammate, my Beach Boy bandmate and my brother in spirit, I will always feel blessed that you were in our lives for as long as you were. I think the most comforting thought right now is that you are reunited with Carl and Dennis, singing those beautiful harmonies again." — Beach Boys founding member Al Jardine, in a statement.

"Brian Wilson was always so kind to me from the day I met him. He sang 'Someone Saved My Life Tonight' at a tribute concert in 2003, and it was an extraordinary moment for me. I played on his solo records, he sang on my album, The Union, and even performed for my AIDS Foundation.

I grew to love him as a person, and for me, he was the biggest influence on my songwriting ever; he was a musical genius and revolutionary. He changed the goalposts when it came to writing songs and shaped music forever. A true giant." — Elton John, on Instagram.

"Brian Wilson was my friend and my brother in songwriting. We shared a similar sensibility, as evidenced by his 4 over 5 chord under 'Aaaah!' in 'Good Vibrations' and mine under 'I'm Into Something Good.' We

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once discussed who used it first, and in the end we decided it didn't matter. The world will miss Brian, but we are so lucky to have his music." — Carole King, on Facebook.

"Not only did his songs capture the spirit of youth, joy and longing in ways that still inspire millions of fans around the world, his innovative work in the studio transformed the way musicians record even to this day. Brian made an indelible mark, and our thoughts are with his family in this time of loss." — Sir Lucian Grainge, chairman and CEO of Universal Music Group, in a statement.

"I think 'God Only Knows' that song is like one of the best written songs ever and thank you, Brian, for that. May you rest in peace, we're going to miss you." — Metallica frontman James Hetfield, in an interview with The Associated Press.

"I know Orbison is the king of emo, but man if there was a human being who made art out of inexpressible sadness damn it was Brian Wilson." — Questlove, on Instagram.

"The maestro has passed — the man was an open heart with two legs — with an ear that heard the angels. Quite literally. Love and Mercy for you and yours tonight. RIP Brian." — John Cusack, who played Wilson in the 2014 biopic "Love & Mercy," on X.

"Rest in Peace!" — Rolling Stones guitarist Keith Richards, on Instagram.

"Oh no Brian Wilson and Sly Stone in one week - my world is in mourning. so sad." — Rolling Stones guitarist Ronnie Wood, on X.

"Anyone with a musical bone in their body must be grateful for Brian Wilson's genius magical touch !! And greatly saddened of this major worldly loss!! My thoughts go out to his family and friends." — Fleetwood Mac drummer Mick Fleetwood, on X.

"First Sly, now Brian ... this is really just ..." — Maggie Rogers wrote on her Instagram Story, adding a heartbreak emoji.

"God bless Brian, peace and love to all the family, peace and love Ringo and Barbara." — Ringo Starr, on X.

"Anyone who really knows me knows how heart broken I am about Brian Wilson passing. Not many people influenced me as much as he did. I feel very lucky that I was able to meet him and spend some time with him. He was always very kind and generous. He was our American Mozart. A one of a kind genius from another world." — Sean Ono Lennon, on X.

"SO very sad to hear that our dear friend, inspiration and mentor for decades has passed away. Rest In Peace BRIAN WILSON...with love, Dewey & Gerry" — Dewey Bunnell and Gerry Beckley, the only remaining founding members of the band America, on Instagram.

"His cherished music will live forever as he travels through the Universe and beyond. God bless you, sweet Brian. One of the biggest thrills of my life was singing "California Girls" with Brian." — Nancy Sinatra, on Instagram.

"To me, Brian Wilson was not merely about surf music, rather a true musical genius toiling away at melding POP into startling sophistication. He will be missed mightily. xx jc" — John Cale, Velvet Underground musician and producer, on X.

"Brian Wilson was a musical and spiritual giant. His melodies shaped generations, & his soul resonated

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in every note. I was fortunate to know him; we all were blessed by his genius. Rest peacefully, Brian." — Micky Dolenz of The Monkees, on X.

"We lost one of the greatest composers and messengers who took jazz harmony, put it to a Chuck Berry beat and made a new genre of music. Some of the best singles in the world. Dennis, Carl and Brian are all together now. Other worlds to sing in." — Randy Bachman, co-founder of Bachman-Turner Overdrive, on X.

"Sadly, Brian Wilson has passed away. Songwriter, visionary. Thank you for a lifetime of wonderful melodies that spanned decades. I'm going to spend the day listening to the Beach Boys and reminiscing." — Gene Simmons, Kiss co-founder, on X.

"Brian Wilson Has Died. "Genius" is a term used too often and too loosely. "Tortured Genius" even more so. Brian's astonishing output of musical brilliance will bring joy while it influences generations to come. Thank you Brian and Rest In Peace." — Paul Stanley, Kiss co-founder, on X.

"His falsetto voice
And iconic vocal blend were the sound of our generation
One of the Greatest Songwriters of our time
"God Only Knows" is a classic that has influenced us all! Surfing, cars and chicks!
Thanks for the music, Brian !" — David Paich, top session keyboardist and founding member of Toto, on Instagram.

"Words can't express what Brian Wilson meant to me as a songwriter. I was so fortunate to call him a friend. He was a genuine hero who taught me everything I know about music. Rest in peace, my friend." — Christopher Cross, on X.

At least 78 dead in South Africa floods as official says rescue attempts were 'paralyzed'

By GERALD IMRAY and MICHELLE GUMEDE Associated Press

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (AP) — The death toll in floods in one of South Africa's poorest provinces rose to at least 78 on Thursday as a top official said rescue attempts in the first hours after the disaster had been "paralyzed" by a lack of resources.

Rescue teams spent a third day working through debris and floodwater to find missing people and retrieve bodies after heavy rain caused a river to burst its banks in the predawn hours of Tuesday. The worst floods hit the town of Mthatha and surrounding areas, sweeping away victims along with parts of their houses and cars.

Oscar Mabuyane, the premier of Eastern Cape province, said the floods struck while many people were asleep. The water was 3-4 meters (10-13 feet) high in places when it flowed out of a river and into nearby communities, he added.

"It's a terrible situation," Mabuyane told state TV broadcaster SABC. "It happened at the wrong time." Mabuyane said local authorities struggled to launch an effective rescue effort as the disaster happened in what he described as a region lacking resources.

He said the largely rural Eastern Cape province in southeastern South Africa, which is home to around 7.2 million people, only has one rescue helicopter. It came to Mthatha from the city of Gqeberha, more than 500 kilometers (310 miles) away. A second helicopter was also brought in to help.

He also said the region does not have any specialist rescue divers or K-9 dog units, meaning they had to be called in from elsewhere to help with the search.

"When things like this happen, we are always found wanting," said Mabuyane. "We are paralyzed." People were stranded on rooftops and in trees

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Rescue teams brought bodies out of the water in blue body bags. Witnesses said many people had taken refuge on the tops of buildings or in trees and some were heard calling for help for hours.

The death toll had risen to 78 by Thursday evening, Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs Minister Velenkosini Hlabisa said on SABC.

He led a national government delegation to the province and earlier briefed reporters at one of the affected areas.

"This is a real disaster and a catastrophe when we have so many people dying," Hlabisa said. He added that part of the problem was that many people in the area were living on a flood plain close to the river.

Provincial government officials said they believed people were still missing but did not give an exact number and rescue efforts would continue on Friday.

The missing had included four high school students who were swept away when their bus was caught up in the floods on its way to school early Tuesday morning. Authorities did not immediately say if those four children were among the latest bodies retrieved.

Six students who were on the bus had already been confirmed dead, along with the driver and another adult. Three other students were rescued after clinging onto trees and calling out for help, according to the provincial government.

Authorities had issued weather warnings

The floods hit the province after an extreme cold front brought heavy rain, strong winds and snow to parts of eastern and southern South Africa. Forecasters had warned about the damaging weather last week.

Officials said at least 127 schools and 20 health facilities in the Eastern Cape were damaged, while around 1,000 people were in community shelters after their houses were submerged or washed away. Critical infrastructure including roads and bridges was also badly damaged, Mabuyane said.

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa said that he would travel to the Eastern Cape on Friday "to see exactly how our people are suffering there and see how we can console the families." Ramaphosa announced earlier in the week that he had activated the National Disaster Management Center to help local authorities in the Eastern Cape.

Some opposition political parties criticized the government, with the far-left Economic Freedom Fighters party saying the tragedy was a result of "government neglect" in parts of the Eastern Cape.

Hamas says it killed 12 Israeli-backed fighters. Israeli-supported group says they were aid workers

By SAMY MAGDY and KAREEM CHEHAYEB Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — A unit of Gaza's Hamas-run police force said it killed 12 members of an Israeli-backed Palestinian militia after detaining them early Thursday. An Israel-supported aid group, however, said the dead were its aid workers, eight of whom were killed when Hamas attacked their bus.

It was not immediately possible to verify the competing claims or confirm the identities of those killed. The militia, led by Yasser Abu Shabab, said its fighters had attacked Hamas and killed five militants but made no mention of its own casualties. It also accused Hamas of detaining and killing aid workers.

The deaths were the latest sign of turmoil surrounding the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation, a private contractor that Israel says will replace the U.N. in distributing food to Gaza's more than 2 million people. The past two weeks, dozens of Palestinians have been killed and hundreds wounded in near daily shootings as they try to reach GHF centers, with witnesses saying Israeli troops nearby have repeatedly opened fire.

On Wednesday, at least 13 people were killed and 170 wounded when Israeli forces fired toward a crowd of Palestinians near a GHF center in central Gaza, according to al-Awda Hospital, which received the casualties. The military said it fired warning shots overnight at a gathering that posed a threat, hundreds of meters (yards) from the aid site.

Internet and phone lines, meanwhile, were down across Gaza, according to telecom provider Paltel and the Palestinian telecoms authority. They said a key line was severed during an Israeli operation and that the military would not allow technicians into the area to repair it.

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The Israeli military said it was looking into the reports. The U.N. humanitarian office, known as OCHA, said emergency services were cut off because of the outage, and civilians cannot call ambulances. It said most U.N. agencies and aid groups could not reach their staff on the ground.

'They were aid workers'

Israel has barred international journalists from entering Gaza, making it difficult to confirm what happened in the killings early Wednesday near the southern city of Khan Younis.

GHF said Hamas attacked a bus carrying more than two dozen of its Palestinian aid workers, killing at least eight and wounding others. It said it feared some had been abducted.

"We condemn this heinous and deliberate attack in the strongest possible terms," it said. "These were aid workers. Humanitarians. Fathers, brothers, sons, and friends, who were risking their lives every day to help others."

The Israeli military circulated GHF's statement but declined to provide its own account of what happened.

Rev. Johnnie Moore, a Christian evangelical adviser to U.S. President Donald Trump who was recently appointed head of GHF, called the killings "absolute evil."

The U.N.'s OCHA said it could not confirm the circumstances of the killings but said "civilians must never be attacked, let alone those trying to access or provide food amid mass starvation."

GHF says its staff at the centers include unarmed Palestinian employees. Much of the staff are armed international contractors, mainly Americans, guarding the centers.

The Abu Shabab group fighters are deployed inside the Israeli military zones that surround the GHF centers, according to witnesses. Earlier this week, witnesses said Abu Shabab militiamen had opened fire on people en route to a GHF aid hub, killing and wounding many. GHF says it does not work with the Abu Shabab group. Last week, Israel acknowledged it is supporting armed groups of Palestinians opposed to Hamas.

Hamas says it killed traitors

Hamas has rejected the GHF system and threatened to kill any Palestinians who cooperate with the Israeli military.

The Sahm police unit, which Hamas says it established to combat looting, released video footage showing several dead men lying in the street, saying they were Abu Shabab fighters who had been detained and killed for collaborating with Israel.

It was not possible to verify the images or the claims around them.

Mohammed Abu Amin, a Khan Younis resident who was at the scene, said a crowd celebrated the killings, shouting "God is greatest" and condemning those killed as traitors.

Ghassan Duhine, who identifies himself as deputy commander of the Abu Shabab group and a major in the Palestinian Authority's security forces, issued a statement saying Abu Shabab fighters had clashed with Sahm and killed five. He denied that the bodies in Sahm's images were the group's fighters.

The Palestinian Authority, led by rivals of Hamas and based in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, has denied any connection to the Abu Shabab group. But many of the militiamen identify themselves as PA officers.

Aid initiative already marred by controversy

Aid workers say Gaza is at risk of famine because of Israel's renewed military campaign and its 2 1/2 month ban on imports of food, fuel, medicine to Gaza, which was slightly eased in mid-May.

OCHA warned that fuel "may very soon run out" at 67 of the 85 remaining partially functioning hospitals and health care centers in Gaza, meaning vital equipment would go dead.

Despite the easing of the blockade, Israel has still not allowed fuel to enter. OCHA said the military gave it permission to retrieve fuel stored in northern Gaza after weeks of denials, but the team sent Wednesday had to turn back because of Israeli shelling in the area.

The United Nations and major aid groups have rejected the GHF distribution system. They say it is unable to meet Gaza's needs and allows Israel to use food as a weapon to enact its military objectives, including plans to move Gaza's entire population to southern Gaza near the GHF hubs. Some fear this could be part of an Israeli plan to coerce Palestinians into leaving Gaza.

Israel and the United States say the new system is needed to prevent Hamas from siphoning off aid

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from the long-standing U.N.-run system. U.N. officials deny there has been any systematic diversion of aid by Hamas.

The Israeli military on Thursday released what it said were seized Hamas documents showing it takes aid. One document, apparently showing minutes from a meeting last year, included an item saying the Qassam Brigades, Hamas' armed wing, had previously taken 25% of the aid but had agreed to settle for 7%, with 4% going to the Hamas-run government and 4% to the political movement. It did not specify the source or quantity of the aid. Israel did not release the entire document.

The documents also detailed Hamas' efforts to keep traders from hoarding goods and charging inflated prices for them. One of them appeared to acknowledge that some such traders had links to Hamas.

The Associated Press could not confirm the documents' authenticity.

Israel's military campaign in Gaza has killed over 55,000 Palestinians, more than half of them women and children, according to the Gaza Health Ministry. It does not say how many of those killed were civilians or combatants.

The war began when Hamas-led militants attacked southern Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, killing some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and taking 251 hostage. They are still holding 53 captives, less than half of them believed to be alive, after most of the rest were released in ceasefire agreements or other deals.

Russia's military casualties top 1 million in 3-year-old war, Ukraine says

By ILLIA NOVIKOV Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — The number of Russian troops killed or wounded in Ukraine has topped 1 million, military officials in Kyiv said Thursday, describing the huge price that Moscow has paid for its 3-year-old invasion.

The claim by the General Staff of the Ukrainian armed forces, which came on a holiday celebrating Russia's sovereignty, is in line with Western intelligence estimates.

President Vladimir Putin marked Russia Day by hosting a Kremlin meeting with soldiers decorated for their service in Ukraine, but neither he nor any other officials commented on the Ukrainian claim.

The U.K. Defense Ministry also said in a statement posted Thursday on X that Russia has suffered over 1 million casualties, including roughly 250,000 killed since it launched the full-scale invasion on Feb. 24, 2022.

On June 3, the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington said Russia likely would hit the mark of 1 million casualties this summer in what it called "a stunning and grisly milestone."

Russia last reported its military casualties early in the war when it acknowledged that about 6,000 soldiers had been killed. Earlier this year, the General Staff of the Russian armed forces claimed that Ukrainian military losses had topped 1 million.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy last spoke of Ukrainian military losses in February, when he said in an interview that 45,100 troops had been killed and about 390,000 injured.

The mutual claims of the other side's losses couldn't be independently verified.

Russia launches more drone strikes

The casualty estimates came as Russian forces pummeled Ukraine with drones and other weapons, killing three people and injuring scores of others despite international pressure to accept a ceasefire.

According to the Ukrainian air force, Russia launched 63 drones and decoys at Ukraine overnight. It said that air defenses destroyed 28 drones while another 21 were jammed.

Ukrainian police said two people were killed and six were injured in the past 24 hours in the eastern Donetsk region, the focus of the Russian offensive. One person was killed and 14 others were also injured in the southern Kherson region, which is partly occupied by Russian forces, police said.

The authorities in Kharkiv, Ukraine's second-largest city, said 18 people, including four children, were injured by Russian drone attacks overnight.

Kharkiv Mayor Ihor Terekhov said Russian drones targeted residential districts, educational facilities, kindergartens and other civilian infrastructure.

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"Kharkiv is holding on. People are alive. And that is the most important thing," Terekhov said.

Russia has launched waves of drones and missiles in recent days, with a record bombardment of almost 500 drones on Monday and a wave of 315 drones and seven missiles overnight on Tuesday.

Ukraine responded to the Russian attacks with drone raids. Russia's Defense Ministry said that air defenses downed 52 Ukrainian drones early Thursday, including 41 over the Belgorod region that borders Ukraine. Regional Gov. Vyacheslav Gladkov said a 2-year-old boy was killed Thursday in a Ukrainian drone attack, which also injured his grandmother. He previously reported three other injuries.

Russia pushes its slow offensive in Ukraine's east

The recent escalation in aerial attacks has come alongside a renewed Russian battlefield push along eastern and northeastern parts of the more than 1,000-kilometer (over 600-mile) front line.

While Russian missile and drone barrage have struck regions all across Ukraine, regions along the front line have faced daily Russian attacks with short-range exploding drones and glide bombs.

On Thursday, the Russian Defense Ministry claimed its troops captured two more villages in the Donetsk region, Oleksiivka and Petrivske. The Ukrainian military had no immediate comment on the Russian claim.

The attacks have continued despite discussions of a potential ceasefire in the war. During their June 2 talks in Istanbul, Russian and Ukrainian negotiators traded memorandums containing sharply divergent conditions that both sides see as nonstarters, making a quick deal unlikely.

Russia and Ukraine exchange more POWs

The only tangible outcome of the talks was an agreement to exchange prisoners of war and the bodies of fallen soldiers.

Russia and Ukraine conducted another POW swap on Thursday that included severely wounded and gravely ill captives, although the sides did not report the numbers.

"Our people are coming home," Zelenskyy said in a statement on Telegram. "All of them require medical treatment, and they will receive the necessary help. This is already the second stage of returning those who are severely wounded and seriously ill."

According to Ukraine's Human Rights Ombudsman Dmytro Lubinets, some of the repatriated soldiers had been listed as missing in action. The oldest among them is 59, the youngest is 22, he said.

Oksana Nepotribna, mother of one of the released Ukrainian soldiers, said he was in captivity for a year. "We were really waiting for him, we thank everyone who freed him," she said.

NATO chief hails Trump's peace efforts

In Rome, NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte commended U.S. President Donald Trump for his "crucial" move to start direct peace talks.

At the same time, Rutte criticized Putin for appointing his aide Vladimir Medinsky as the top negotiator for the talks in Istanbul. Medinsky ascended through the Kremlin ranks after writing a series of books exposing purported Western plots against Russia and denigrating Ukraine.

"I think that the Russians sending this historian now twice to these talks in Istanbul, trying to start with the history of 1,000 years ago and then explaining more or less that Ukraine is at fault here, I think that's not helpful," Rutte said. "But at least step by step, we try to make progress."

Also on Thursday, German Defense Minister Boris Pistorius arrived in Kyiv on an unannounced visit, noting the stepped-up Russian attacks send a message from Moscow that it has "no interest in a peaceful solution at present," according to German news agency dpa.

Pistorius underscored Germany's intention to help Ukraine build its own long-range missile systems and help it finance purchases of homemade material. "The first systems should be available in the coming months," he said, adding that Germany will allocate about 9 billion euros (\$10.3 billion) for supporting Ukraine this year.

"We are deeply convinced that it is the job of the Europeans ... to keep supporting Ukraine, and we want to lead the way and demonstrate corresponding responsibility," he added.

Gov. Abbott deploys over 5,000 Texas National Guard troops ahead of planned 'No Kings' protests

By JIM VERTUNO Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Texas Gov. Greg Abbott said Thursday he has ordered the deployment of more than 5,000 Texas National Guard troops, along with more than 2,000 state police, to help local law enforcement manage protests against President Donald Trump and the ongoing federal immigration raids.

Abbott's announcement did not detail where the troops were sent, but some were seen at a protest Wednesday night in downtown San Antonio near the Alamo. That protest drew hundreds of demonstrators but did not erupt into violence.

More protests are planned on Saturday in San Antonio and across Texas in cities such as Houston, Austin and Dallas as part of the national "No Kings" movement.

Protests earlier this week in Austin and Dallas led to brief clashes with police who used chemical irritants to disperse the crowds. About a dozen were arrested.

"Peaceful protests are part of the fabric of our nation, but Texas will not tolerate the lawlessness we have seen in Los Angeles in response to President Donald Trump's enforcement of immigration law," Abbott said. "Anyone engaging in acts of violence or damaging property will be arrested and held accountable to the full extent of the law."

The Republican Texas governor's move stands in sharp contrast to California Gov. Gavin Newsom, a Democrat, who has publicly clashed with Trump over his decision to deploy National Guard and Marine personnel in Los Angeles.

Mayors in San Antonio and Austin have said they did not ask for Abbott to mobilize the National Guard to their cities.

Abbott, who has been governor since 2014, has been aggressive in deploying the Guard in the past, particularly for immigration enforcement on the border.

Since 2021, the Texas Guard has played a prominent role in Abbott's Operation Lone Star, and thousands of troops have been deployed to help clamp down on border crossings. An agreement with the Trump administration in February gave Texas National Guard soldiers the authority to arrest and detain people for entering the U.S. illegally from Mexico.

Texas also has established a permanent border base for Guard troops, an 80-acre (30-hectare) installation that will house up to 1,800 troops when completed.

Most US adults say Trump's military parade is not a good use of money, a new AP-NORC poll finds

By MEG KINNARD and LINLEY SANDERS Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — As Washington prepares for a military parade this weekend to honor the 250th anniversary of the U.S. Army, a new survey finds that U.S. adults are more likely to approve than disapprove of President Donald Trump's decision to hold the festivities, which officials have said will cost tens of millions of taxpayer dollars.

But about 6 in 10 Americans also say that Saturday's parade is "not a good use" of government money, including the vast majority of people, 78%, who neither approve nor disapprove of the parade overall, according to the poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

The survey found that about 4 in 10 U.S. adults "somewhat" or "strongly" approve of the parade, while about 3 in 10 "somewhat" or "strongly" disapprove. About 3 in 10 neither approve nor disapprove.

Carol Sue Quillen, 69, of Live Oak, Florida, said she sees the parade as a way to honor the country's service members, who she said include her late father — an Air Force test pilot killed on a helicopter training mission when she was a baby — and her son-in-law, who serves in the special forces.

"I don't necessarily think we appreciate our military as much as we should," said Quillen, a retiree who described herself as a Trump supporter — although she said the Republican president's personality "can

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be a bit overwhelming."

"All branches should be celebrated for what they do," Quillen said. "That just boosts morale."

Democrats and independents say parade is not good use of money

Featuring hundreds of military vehicles and aircraft and thousands of soldiers, the celebration on Saturday, which also happens to be Trump's birthday, has grown extensively in scope and size since Army planners started working on a festival two years ago to mark the military branch's anniversary. Besides a military parade — which Trump had unsuccessfully pushed for during his first term — there will also be concerts, fireworks, NFL players, fitness competitions and displays all over the National Mall for daylong festivities.

The Army expects as many as 200,000 people could attend and says putting on the celebration will cost an estimated \$25 million to \$45 million.

Most Republicans, around two-thirds, approve of the event, and a similar share sees it as a good use of money, but about one-third say it's not a good use of government funds.

Democrats overwhelmingly say the parade is not a good use of public money, as do independents. And while about half of Democrats disapprove of the parade, about half of independents neither approve nor disapprove, suggesting that they may have heard less about it or have less strong feelings about it generally.

Matt Wheeler, 40, called the display "extremely wasteful" and "a bit of a performance" that "just sends a bad message" in terms of the overt military display.

"The only other time I can think about this, it's been in old throwbacks to the USSR or things you see out of North Korea," said Wheeler, who works in nonprofit fundraising in Los Angeles and described himself as a lifelong Democrat. "It's a direction this administration is inclined to move in that isn't in line with what I thought our country really was."

Few think military spending is too low

Sam Walters, 45, who works in restaurants in Fort Worth, Texas, described himself as a former conservative who now has more libertarian leanings. Walters, who voted for Trump in last year's election, said he appreciated that Trump had "really kind of stuck to his guns" concerning many of the issues on which he campaigned, assessing his second term so far as "a pretty good job."

But when it comes to the military parade, Walters said he was concerned about why so much additional funding was needed for military-adjacent activities, given the country's overall defense spending price tag.

"When they're getting hundreds of billions a year for funding, more than for anything else, it seems kind of hard to justify them spending extra for that," Walters said, referencing the parade.

Americans are generally divided on whether the government is devoting too much money to the military. About 3 in 10 say the government is spending "too much" on the military, while a similar share says the government is spending "too little." About 4 in 10 say the government is spending "about the right amount." Those numbers are largely unchanged from an AP-NORC poll conducted in January.

Trump's approval is unchanged

About 4 in 10 Americans approve of the way Trump is handling his job as president, which is unchanged from an AP-NORC poll conducted last month. The poll was conducted June 5-9, meaning the field period began before protests started in Los Angeles over Trump's immigration crackdown and ended after the National Guard was deployed but before active-duty Marines arrived in the city. It did not include questions about the protests or military deployment.

Approval of his handling of immigration, at 46%, continues to be higher than approval of his handling of the economy or trade negotiations with other countries, which both landed at 38%.

Andrew Thomsen, 31, of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, said that he has voted for Trump in general elections and that he would "generally approve" of the direction in which the country is headed.

Thomsen, who works in education, said that, while he appreciates any intent of the parade and associated events "to celebrate those who have given of themselves to the service of our protection," he wasn't a fan of attempts to show off U.S. military might.

"If it is a march of rows and rows of members from our different branches while showboating our tanks, missile systems, and other equipment to show how strong we are, then I don't support that," he said.

Ping, ping ping. Here's what it's like to drive into a big hailstorm in the name of science

By SETH BORENSTEIN, BRITTANY PETERSON and CAROLYN KASTER Associated Press

INSIDE A TEXAS HAILSTORM (AP) — Wind roared against the SUV's windows as its tires slogged through water dumped onto the road by the downpour. A horizon-wide funnel cloud loomed out the window, several miles away. Then came the loud metallic pings on the roof. First one, then another. Then it was too fast to count and too loud to hear much of anything else.

Hailstones were pelting down, and the car was driving toward them.

"How big are they?" meteorology professor Kelly Lombardo asked from the passenger seat.

"Probably no more than a nickel or dime, but they're just flowing at 50 mph," said fellow researcher Matthew Kumjian as he steered through the flooded road.

Lombardo and Kumjian are part of a team of about 60 researchers chasing hail across the Great Plains to better forecast an underappreciated hazard that causes about \$10 billion a year in damage in the U.S. The researchers brought along three Associated Press journalists to observe the first-of-its kind project called ICECHIP, including trips into the heart of the storms in fortified vehicles like the one driven by Kumjian.

The payoff is data that could improve hail forecasts. Knowing what's going on inside a storm is crucial to knowing what's going to happen to people in its path, meteorologists said.

"We have a really tough time forecasting hail size," said Northern Illinois University meteorology professor Victor Gensini, one of the project leaders. "All scientific experiments start with data gathering, and without that data we don't know what we're missing. And so that's what this project is all about."

Inside a hail storm

On this afternoon, Lombardo and Kumjian, Penn State University professors who are married to each other, were negotiating rapid weather changes while collecting their data.

Minutes before the hail started, the couple were launching three-foot wide weather balloons designed to give scientists a glimpse of what's happening in the leading edge of the storm. A tornado in the distance was slowly getting closer.

Soon cell phones blared tornado alarms, and a nearby town's storm sirens roared to life. The couple jumped in the car and drove into a part of the storm where they could collect hail after it fell, the same stretch of flooded road where they encountered the 50 mph winds. A wind-meter protruding from the black SUV's front captured data that was displayed on Lombardo's laptop.

"This is up there in terms of severity of winds and intensity of precipitation," Kumjian told an AP reporter after finding a safe place to pull over.

Elsewhere in the storm, Joshua Soderholm of the Australian Bureau of Meteorology launched weather balloons carrying devices built to mimic golf ball-sized hail and outfitted with microphones and special sensors. One flew up 8.9 miles at 163 mph.

"It's free floating. It does whatever the storm wants it to do," Soderholm said. "This is the only way you could actually get a measurement of what a hail storm might be doing."

Researchers also deploy special funnels that capture pristine hail, crushers that measure how strong the ice balls are and other high-tech machinery, including radar and drones.

Keeping storm chasers safe

The teams also use a variety of gear and practices to stay coordinated and safe. At morning briefings, they review forecasts to plan the safest way to reach the storms producing the most hail. At their destination, teams set up at varying distances to the storms, with three fortified vehicles driving into the heart of the weather. Each vehicle has radar screens in the front seats showing brilliant reds, oranges and yellows of the storm they chase.

Gensini is in a command vehicle that tracks and deploys the teams based on weather in real time. At times he has to rein in some enthusiastic chasers. So Northern Illinois meteorology student Katie Wargowsky radios a team deep inside a storm to find safety. Twice.

The 21-year-old Wargowsky described how becoming a storm chaser began as an effort to overcome

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weather anxiety so intense she would dry heave while taking shelter in her family's basement. But confronting her fear helped her develop a deep curiosity that led her to chase tornadoes with her father.

"You get a rush of adrenaline," she said. "You really start to notice the little things around you, and your head just feels kind of light. Your natural survival instincts tell you, you need to take shelter, and you need hide from it. But you just know that it's about to be some good research, and you are changing the world one storm at a time."

The three fortified vehicles are equipped with special metal mesh to protect their windshields. But it's not foolproof. The SUV driven by the Penn State researchers lost its windshield in May to sideways-blowing hail that flew under the mesh just 15 minutes into their first storm chase.

Another one of the fortified vehicles, called the Husky Hail Hunter, was pelted by three-and-half-inch hail during a trip into a storm with an AP photographer aboard.

"We're getting some new dents," said Tony Illenden, the Northern Illinois student at the wheel. "This is insane."

When he stepped out to collect a hailstone — wearing a helmet to protect his head — one slammed into his right hand, causing it to swell in what Gensini called the first hail injury of the season. A few days later Illenden, said his hand felt fine.

Natural beauty and better roofing

For the storm chasers, the payoff isn't just the data. It's also the natural beauty. Illenden's team, for example, collected a three-inch (81 millimeter) hailstone that looked like a rose. That same night a double rainbow emerged.

After the storm passed, several vans descended on a Walmart parking lot to crush hailstones with special machines that measured how much force was needed to shatter them.

"In hailstones we have layers. So we start off with an embryo, and then you've got different growth layers," said Central Michigan University scientist John Allen.

Since May 18, while logging more than 5,700 miles, the team has collected, measured, crushed, weighed and sliced hailstones as big as 5.5 inches, about the size of a DVD.

The study funded in part by \$11 million from the National Science Foundation, which took eight years to plan, is already paying off even before researchers have had a chance to thoroughly review the data, scientists said. Gensini said one early data trend he's noticing is that "the largest hail that we found is not where we thought it would be in terms of the Doppler radar." And that's an issue because Doppler radar is the only tool forecasters have been using across the country to say where the big dangerous stones should be falling, he said.

Given the federal cuts to science, particularly related to the climate, Gensini said this is likely the first and last time a hail project like this can be done, at least for several years.

Scientists from the insurance industry, which is helping fund the study, are testing new types of roof shingles that so far seem to resist hail better, said Ian Giammanco, a meteorologist at the Insurance Institute For Business and Home Safety.

"One of our goals is to replicate all of this back at our lab so we can really understand how durable our roofing materials are to all the different flavors of hail," he said.

Supreme Court revives lawsuit from Atlanta family whose home was wrongly raided by the FBI

By LINDSAY WHITEHURST Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — An Atlanta family whose home was wrongly raided by the FBI will get a new day in court, the Supreme Court ruled unanimously on Thursday.

The decision revives a lawsuit filed after a predawn 2017 raid in which armed members of an FBI SWAT team smashed in a front door and set off a flashbang grenade, pointing guns at a couple and terrifying a 7-year-old boy before realizing they were in the wrong house.

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The FBI team quickly apologized and left for the right place, with the team leader later saying that his personal GPS device had led him to the wrong address. But Trina Martin and her then-boyfriend, Toi Cliatt, and her son were left with lasting trauma and a damaged home.

Martin and Cliatt filed a lawsuit against the federal government accusing the agents of assault and battery, false arrest and other violations. While the government is typically immune from lawsuits, they are allowed in some cases. Congress changed the law specifically to allow suits over wrong-house raids after a pair of them made headlines in the 1970s, their lawyers said.

But lower courts tossed out the case.

Public interest groups from across the political spectrum urged the justices to overturn the ruling from the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, saying it severely narrows the legal path for people to file law enforcement accountability cases against the federal government.

The high court ruled narrowly, reversing the appeals court on one of the issues in the case. The justices said it was wrong to toss out the case based on the Supremacy Clause, which says federal laws supersede state laws when the two conflict.

The federal law at the center of this case actually refers back to state law, Justice Neil Gorsuch wrote. While the government is typically immune from lawsuits, it allows those claims in some situations that would create liability under state law.

"Congress has entered the field and expressly bound the federal government to accept liability under state tort law on the same terms as a 'private individual,'" Gorsuch wrote.

That means there's no need to involve the Supremacy Clause, and the case should move forward, the justices said. The ruling sends the case back to the 11th Circuit, which will continue to weigh other questions raised by the case.

One of those questions is when the government can be held liable for mistakes made by law enforcement officers in the line of duty. In a concurrence joined by Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson, Justice Sonia Sotomayor suggested that raids on wrong houses likely aren't the kind of mistakes that are immune from liability.

Lawyers at the nonprofit Institute for Justice said they're looking forward to "continuing the fight."

In a brief telephone interview, Trina Martin said she was ecstatic.

"Between laughing and crying, I can't stop," she said. "If the Supreme Court can say they're wrong, it gives me all the hope in the world."

A grassland bird eavesdrops on prairie dog calls to keep itself safe from predators

By CHRISTINA LARSON AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Prairie dogs are the Paul Reveres of the Great Plains: They bark to alert neighbors to the presence of predators, with separate calls for dangers coming by land or by air.

"Prairie dogs are on the menu for just about every predator you can think of"— golden eagles, red-tailed hawks, foxes, badgers, even large snakes — said Andy Boyce, a research ecologist in Montana at the Smithsonian's National Zoo and Conservation Biology Institute.

Those predators will also snack on grassland nesting birds like the long-billed curlew.

To protect themselves, the curlews eavesdrop on the alarms coming from prairie dog colonies, according to research published Thursday in the journal *Animal Behavior*.

Previous research has shown birds frequently eavesdrop on other bird species to glean information about potential food sources or approaching danger, said Georgetown University ornithologist Emily Williams, who was not involved in the study. But, so far, scientists have documented only a few instances of birds eavesdropping on mammals.

"That doesn't necessarily mean it's rare in the wild," she said, "it just means we haven't studied it yet."

Prairie dogs live in large colonies with a series of burrows that may stretch for miles underground. When

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they hear one each other's barks, they either stand alert watching or dive into their burrows to avoid approaching talons and claws.

"Those little barks are very loud — they can carry quite a long way," said co-author Andrew Dreelin, who also works for the Smithsonian.

The long-billed curlew nests in short-grass prairie and incubates eggs on a ground nest. When one hears the prairie dog alarm, she responds by pressing her head, beak and belly close to the ground.

In this crouched position, the birds "rely on the incredible camouflage of their feathers to become essentially invisible on the Plains," Dreelin said.

To test just how alert the birds were to prairie dog chatter, researchers created a fake predator by strapping a taxidermied badger onto a small remote-controlled vehicle. They sent this badger rolling over the prairie of north-central Montana toward curlew nests — sometimes in silence and sometimes while playing recorded prairie dog barks.

When the barks were played, curlews ducked into the grass quickly, hiding when the badger was around 160 feet (49 meters) away. Without the barks, the remote-controlled badger got within about 52 feet (16 meters) of the nests before the curlews appeared to sense danger.

"You have a much higher chance of avoiding predation if you go into that cryptic posture sooner — and the birds do when they hear prairie dogs barking," said co-author Holly Jones, a conservation biologist at Northern Illinois University.

Prairie dogs are often thought of as "environmental engineers," she said, because they construct extensive burrows and nibble down prairie grass, keeping short-grass ecosystems intact.

"But now we are realizing they are also shaping the ecosystems by producing and spreading information," she said.

Netanyahu's government survives vote to dissolve Israel's parliament

By MELANIE LIDMAN Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government survived an attempt to dissolve Israel's parliament early Thursday morning, with most of his ultra-Orthodox coalition partners joining him in voting against a bill that would have forced them to register for military service while the country is at war.

The vote was the most serious challenge to Netanyahu's government since the Hamas-led attack on southern Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, which was the biggest security failure in Israel's history and triggered the ongoing war in Gaza. The bill's failure means that no other piece of legislation to dissolve parliament, called the Knesset, can be submitted for at least six months, shoring up Netanyahu's embattled coalition.

The ultra-Orthodox parties are furious that the government has failed to pass a law exempting their community from mandatory military service. The issue has long divided the Jewish Israeli public, especially during the 20-month war in the Gaza Strip.

Israel's opposition had hoped that the public anger over the exemptions would help topple the government. But just two of the 18 ultra-Orthodox members of the Knesset supported the bill.

Most ultra-Orthodox legislators agreed to vote against the bill after Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee Chairman Yuli Edelstein said that he and the ultra-Orthodox parties had reached an understanding on the basis of a new draft law, which they will continue discussing over the coming week.

Yitzhak Goldknopf, the head of the ultra-Orthodox United Torah Judaism party, resigned in protest as the Minister of Construction and Housing, but will remain a member of the Knesset. Ari Kalman, spokesperson for Goldknopf, said that the minister resigned because he was frustrated with Netanyahu's constant requests for more time to pass a draft exemption law.

"Whatever they haven't been able to do over the past year they won't do in a week," Kalman said.

Military service is mandatory for most Jews in Israel, but the politically powerful ultra-Orthodox, who make up roughly 13% of Israeli society, have traditionally received exemptions if they are studying full

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time in religious seminaries.

The ultra-Orthodox, also known as Haredim, or "God-fearing" in Hebrew, say that integrating into the army threatens their traditional way of life. Each year, roughly 13,000 ultra-Orthodox men reach the conscription age of 18, but less than 10% enlist, according to parliament's State Control Committee, which held a hearing examining the issue.

Israel is engaged in the longest active war in the country's history, which has stretched its military to the breaking point. The Haredim's widespread refusal to serve, and threats to topple the government during wartime, have enraged many Israelis, especially those who have served multiple rounds of reserve duty.

Standoff with troops in Los Angeles reignites old feud as Newsom resists Trump's immigration raids

By SEUNG MIN KIM, ADRIANA GOMEZ LICON and MICHAEL R. BLOOD Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — It was earlier this year that California Gov. Gavin Newsom was making nice with President Donald Trump as he sought help for his wildfire-battered state and moderating his approach ahead of a potential bid for the White House.

But now the gloves are off after Trump took the extraordinary step of federalizing the National Guard in Los Angeles over Newsom's objections and the governor responded by suing the administration, alleging abuse of power that marked an "unmistakable step toward authoritarianism."

The escalating clash pits the leader of the Republican Party against a Democrat with ambitions of leading his own party, with a striking backdrop of a domestic troop deployment meant to control a city in unrest and now to assist in arresting migrants — the centerpiece of the president's agenda.

Trump said Thursday that without the military, Los Angeles "would be a crime scene like we haven't seen in years."

Newsom had "totally lost control of the situation," Trump wrote on his social media platform, misspelling the governor's first name while using a derogatory nickname for him. "He should be saying THANK YOU for saving his ass, instead of trying to justify his mistakes and incompetence!!!"

For Trump, it's another chance to battle with Newsom, a frequent foil who leads a heavily Democratic state the president has long criticized. And for Newsom, the feud has handed him a national platform as a beleaguered Democratic Party seeks a leader able to resist Trump.

"He has shown he's not going to be intimidated, and we're all for that," Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., said of Newsom on Wednesday.

Conservative commentator Ben Shapiro, a former California resident, said Newsom's motivations for taking on Trump are clear.

"This is all about Gavin Newsom running for president in 2028, and what he is hoping is that becoming the face of a resistance to Trump is going to jog him to victory in Democratic primaries," he said in his podcast "The Ben Shapiro Show."

Trump wages a war against California

Trump has long been a foe of California, which overwhelmingly rejected him in all three of his presidential campaigns.

Over the years, Trump has threatened to intercede in the state's long-running homeless crisis, vowed to withhold federal wildfire aid as political leverage in a dispute over water rights, called on police to shoot people robbing stores and warned residents "your children are in danger" because of illegal immigration.

As a candidate in 2023, Trump said California was once a symbol of American prosperity but is "becoming a symbol of our nation's decline."

"The world is being dumped into California," Trump said at the time. "Prisoners. Terrorists. Mental patients."

Newsom would learn to balance the dueling imperatives of a governor who needs to work with the federal government with being one of the Democratic Party's most prominent figures.

As governor-elect, Newsom joined Trump in November 2018 as the then-president viewed wildfire dam-

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age in Paradise, California, and they pledged to put aside political differences to help the community recover. He was also overly complimentary of the Trump administration's assistance to California during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, praising Trump's "focus on treatments" for the virus and thanking him for sending masks and gloves to his state.

But Newsom was also a top surrogate for Democrats in the 2024 campaign and frequently warned of the consequences of Trump's return to the White House.

Trump and Newsom make nice over wildfire catastrophe

There was a handshake and a warm pat on the back.

Newsom was there on the tarmac in Los Angeles in January, welcoming Trump and first lady Melania Trump, who had traveled west to survey the damage from the deadly wildfires in Southern California.

Then they spoke to reporters together, pledging cooperation to rebuild the area and appreciating each other's presence.

"You were there for us during COVID. I don't forget that," Newsom said. "And I have all the expectations that we'll be able to work together to get this speedy recovery."

Trump added: "We will. We're going to get it done."

Newsom also traveled to Washington in February to press Trump and lawmakers for more federal wildfire relief. The governor called his meeting with Trump one that was marked with a "spirit of collaboration and cooperation."

The cordial attitude was part of Newsom's unmistakable appeal to the center, painting himself as a pragmatist to reach out to those who had fled from a party that had just lost all battleground states in the 2024 presidential election.

Newsom spoke to conservative allies of Trump on a new podcast the governor billed as a way for Democrats to learn from the political successes of Trump's "Make America Great Again" movement. He voiced opposition to transgender athletes participating in female sports while shifting focus away from efforts in Sacramento to "Trump-proof" California — which Newsom embarked on after Trump's victory in November — as the wildfires raged.

In an April interview with YouTube commentator Brian Tyler Cohen, Newsom acknowledged Trump's ability to appeal to the public.

"His success is his ability to win every damn news cycle and get us distracted and moving in 25 different directions," he said.

Newsom warns of democracy 'under assault' as Trump sends troops

The Democratic governor and Trump have been feuding publicly about the response to protests, with Newsom claiming Trump didn't warn him he'd deploy troops in a Friday phone call and Trump claiming the conversation was about that.

Newsom has taunted Trump administration officials with arresting him, and Trump first appeared receptive to the idea and then walked back earlier remarks.

After 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, he gave a public address accusing Trump of going beyond arresting criminals.

"California may be first, but it clearly will not end here," he warned. "Other states are next. Democracy is next. Democracy is under assault before our eyes."

The filing this week wasn't the first time this year that California had sued the Trump administration. In April, Newsom filed a lawsuit that challenged Trump's authority to impose sweeping tariffs that the governor asserted would inflate prices and inflict billions of dollars in damage to California.

And California — not just Newsom — continues to be a foil.

Just this month, the Trump administration signaled that it intends to cut off federal funding for a long-delayed California high-speed rail project plagued by multibillion-dollar cost overruns. He's threatened to pull federal funding in California if the state did not bar transgender students from participating in girls sports. The Justice Department warned districts they could face legal trouble if they don't bar trans ath-

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letes from competition.

And on Thursday, he's expected to sign a measure blocking California's vehicle emissions rules.

Today in History: June 12 **49 people killed in Pulse nightclub shooting**

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Thursday, June 12, the 163rd day of 2025. There are 202 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On June 12, 2016, a gunman opened fire at Pulse, a gay nightclub in Orlando, Florida, leaving 49 people dead and 53 wounded in what was then the deadliest mass shooting in U.S. history; the gunman, Omar Mateen, pledged allegiance to the Islamic State group during a three-hour standoff before being killed in a shootout with police.

Also on this date:

In 1939, the Baseball Hall of Fame was dedicated in Cooperstown, New York.

In 1942, Anne Frank, a German-born Jewish girl living in Amsterdam, received a diary for her 13th birthday, less than a month before she and her family went into hiding from the Nazis.

In 1963, civil rights leader Medgar Evers, 37, was shot and killed outside his home in Jackson, Mississippi. (In 1994, Byron De La Beckwith was convicted of murdering Evers and sentenced to life in prison, where he died in 2001.)

In 1964, eight South African anti-apartheid activists, including Nelson Mandela, were sentenced to life in prison for committing acts of sabotage against South Africa's apartheid government.

In 1967, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Loving v. Virginia*, unanimously struck down state laws prohibiting interracial marriages, ruling that such laws violated the Fourteenth Amendment.

In 1978, David Berkowitz was sentenced to 25 years to life in prison for each of the six "Son of Sam" killings committed in New York City over the previous two years.

In 1987, President Ronald Reagan, during a visit to the divided German city of Berlin, exhorted Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to "tear down this wall."

In 1991, Russians went to the polls for their first-ever presidential election, which resulted in victory for Boris Yeltsin.

In 1994, Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald Goldman were killed outside Simpson's Los Angeles home. (O.J. Simpson, Nicole Brown Simpson's ex-husband, was later acquitted of the killings in a criminal trial but was eventually held liable in a civil action.)

Today's Birthdays: Actor Sonia Manzano is 75. Actor-director Timothy Busfield is 68. Olympic track gold medalist Gwen Torrence is 60. Actor Rick Hoffman is 55. Actor-comedian Finesse Mitchell is 53. Actor Jason Mewes is 51. Blues musician Kenny Wayne Shepherd is 48. Actor Timothy Simons is 47. Singer-songwriter Robyn is 46. Model Adriana Lima is 44. Actor Dave Franco is 40. Country musician Chris Young is 40.