

Groton Daily Independent

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Saturday, June 14

FLAG DAY

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

Groton Daily Independent
PO Box 34, Groton SD 57445
Paul's Cell/Text: 605-397-7460



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.

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1440

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

Iran-Israel Conflict Rises

Iran fired more than 100 drones and ballistic missiles in a counterattack against Israel yesterday, prompting air raid sirens and emergency measures in Jerusalem and nearby areas. The retaliation came after Israel deployed over 200 aircraft and dropped over 330 munitions on roughly 100 military and nuclear sites in Iran, killing at least three top military officers. The attack appeared to be the biggest faced by Iran since its war with Iraq in the 1980s.

Israel says its operation aims to halt Iran's progress toward developing nuclear weapons. Iran has enriched its uranium stockpile to nearly 60% purity, short of the 90% purity needed for weapons but well above the 3.67% used for civilian purposes like power, medicine, or research. President Donald Trump, whose administration has been holding talks with Iranian officials, has urged Iran to sign a deal to curb its nuclear program. Meanwhile, the US military reportedly helped Israel intercept Iran's airstrikes.

In related news, major airlines canceled or rerouted thousands of flights to avoid the region, and oil prices rose over 7% due to concerns about supply disruptions. Iran is among the world's top 10 oil producers.

Black box recovered from site of fatal Air India plane crash.

Indian officials hope the device, which records flight data, will help determine why the London-bound Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner crashed into a residential area less than a minute after takeoff Thursday afternoon local time. Of the 242 souls on board, only one—a 40-year-old British man in seat 11A—survived. The number of ground casualties is at least eight as of this writing, as officials use DNA from family members to identify victims.

Protesters expected to take to the streets across the US today.

Millions of people in an estimated 2,000 US cities are expected to participate in "No Kings" protests today in response to the Trump administration's policies. Cities include Atlanta, Chicago, Houston, New York, Phoenix, and Philadelphia. No protests are planned for Washington, DC, as of this writing, where a military parade will be held to commemorate the US Army's 250th anniversary.

US House passes bill to claw back \$9.4B in previously approved funding.

The House of Representatives narrowly passed the bill to rescind \$9.4B in funding that Congress had already approved. The package revokes \$8.3B in foreign aid and \$1.1B allocated to the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, which supports NPR and PBS. All but four Republicans voted in favor, with Democrats opposing. The bill now heads to the Senate, where only a simple majority is required to send it to President Donald Trump's desk for signing.

World's largest meatpacker debuts on the New York Stock Exchange.

Brazilian meat giant JBS began trading on the NYSE Friday, with shares opening at \$13.65, valuing the company at roughly \$30B. The market cap surpasses rival Tyson Foods, which is valued at close to \$20B. The move is part of JBS' plan to access broader investment and comes after its parent company's corruption and bribery scandals. Last year, JBS made roughly \$77B in revenue and \$2B in net income.

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Oilers and Panthers face off in Game 5 of Stanley Cup Final tonight.

The Edmonton Oilers host the Florida Panthers tonight (8 pm ET, TNT) after a comeback Thursday that tied the Stanley Cup Final series 2-2. Trailing by three goals after the first period, the scoreless Oilers rallied to win in overtime. Edmonton is the first Stanley Cup finalist in over 100 years to win after such a deficit, keeping it in the hunt to become the first Canadian team since 1993 to win the Cup. Both teams, which played in last year's final, need two more wins to secure the 2025 title.

NASA researchers find link between Earth's magnetic field and oxygen levels.

For the past 540 million years, the strength of the geomagnetic field has risen in tandem with the percentage of oxygen in the atmosphere. The newly discovered correlation may offer insights into the conditions necessary for life on other planets. However, it remains unclear which influences the other, or if both are governed by an outside factor, such as tectonic rearrangements caused by supercontinents like Pangaea. NASA researchers are exploring this question next.

Humankind(ness)

Today, we're sharing a story from reader Carol F. in Essex, Montana.

"I had an extremely difficult delivery and was in the hospital over a week. My husband was in the Air Force and was being sent from Texas to Washington State for training. We were driving a pickup and pulling a car."

"We stopped at a small diner to eat. The baby would sleep when the car was moving and scream when it stopped. I was trying to eat my meal and juggle the screaming baby. I myself was still sick and very weak. The waitress came over and asked if she could hold the baby while I ate. She walked the floor with him the entire time. What a blessing to me."

Pantry May Report

In May, The Pantry - Groton, SD had a total of 51 visits from individuals and families. During these visits, essential food and household items were distributed, weighing a combined total of 1,776 pounds. This reflects the continued demand for support in the Groton SD Community and highlights The Pantry's ongoing commitment to helping those facing food insecurity. We are deeply grateful to the community for their continued generosity and support, which makes this vital work possible.

Ace of Hearts

The third week of the Ace of Hearts was held Thursday with ticket sales at \$745. The name of Ron Worlie was drawn. He picked card number 40 with was the nine of hearts. He won the consolation prize of \$75. The jackpot was \$2,789.

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Big Third Inning Leads Parkston Past Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion

By GameChanger Media

Parkston defeated Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion 15-0 on Friday at Parkston thanks in part to 11 runs in the third inning.

Parkston jumped out to the lead in the bottom of the first inning after Jaxx Kurtenbach singled, scoring one run, Johnny Weber drew a walk, scoring one run, and Javin Kniffen singled, scoring two runs.

Parkston scored 11 runs on eight hits in the bottom of the third inning. Gage Jodozi doubled, scoring one run, Kniffen singled, scoring one run, Quayden Culbert singled, scoring one run, Ryder Schelle induced Burke Nuebel to hit into a fielder's choice, but one run scored, Mason Jervik doubled, scoring two runs, Kurtenbach singled, scoring one run, Weber drew a walk, scoring one run, Jodozi doubled, scoring two runs, and Isaac Soulek lined out, scoring one run.

Grady Bowar earned the win for Parkston. The starting pitcher gave up one hit and zero runs over four innings, striking out two and walking none. T.C Schuster stepped on the hill first for Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion. The pitcher allowed two hits and four runs over one-third of an inning, striking out one and walking two.

Lincoln Krause went 1-for-2 at the plate to lead Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion in hits.

Parkston piled up 12 hits in the game. Number seven hitter, Kniffen, showed the depth of Parkston's lineup, by leading them with three hits in three at bats. Kurtenbach and Reco Muilenburg each collected multiple hits for Parkston. Weber paced Parkston with three walks. Overall, the team had patience at the plate, tallying eight walks for the game. Jervik and Muilenburg each stole multiple bases for Parkston. Parkston stole eight bases in the game.

Next up for Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion is a game at Platte on Saturday.

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Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion 0 - 15 Parkston

📍 Away 📅 Friday June 13, 2025

	1	2	3	4	R	H	E
GRTN	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
PRKS	4	0	11	X	15	12	1

BATTING

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

TB: L Krause, **LOB:** 2

PITCHING

Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion	IP	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
T Schust... #3	0.1	2	4	2	1	0
K Oswald #12	1.2	4	5	4	1	0
R Schelle #8	0.1	5	6	5	2	0
L Krause #2	0.2	1	0	0	0	0
Totals	3.0	12	15	8	2	0

P-S: L Krause 7-5, R Schelle 23-10, T Schuster 15-6, K Oswald 57-26, **WP:** T Schuster, **BF:** L Krause 3, R Schelle 8, T Schuster 5, K Oswald 14

Parkston	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
M Jervik #0 (2B)	2	2	1	2	1	0
G Bowar #33 (P)	2	1	0	0	1	2
J Kurten... #11 (CF)	3	2	2	2	0	0
R Muile... #44 (3B)	2	3	2	0	1	0
J Weber #30 (C)	0	3	0	1	3	0
G Jodozi #27 (1B)	3	1	2	3	0	0
J Kniffen #15 (LF)	3	1	3	3	0	0
I Soulek #40	2	1	1	0	1	0
Q Culbert #19 (RF)	3	0	1	1	0	0
B Nuebel #18 (SS)	1	1	0	1	1	0
Totals	21	15	12	13	8	2

2B: G Jodozi 2, M Jervik, **TB:** R Muilenburg 2, G Jodozi 4, J Kurtenbach 2, I Soulek, Q Culbert, M Jervik 2, J Kniffen 3, **SB:** J Weber, R Muilenburg 3, J Kurtenbach, M Jervik 2, B Nuebel, **LOB:** 5

Parkston	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
G Bowar #33	4.0	1	0	0	0	2	0
Totals	4.0	1	0	0	0	2	0

W: G Bowar, **P-S:** G Bowar 43-32, **BF:** G Bowar 14

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Taylor Diegel Leads Groton Legion Post 39 Past Milbank

By GameChanger Media

Taylor Diegel collected three hits in four at bats, as Groton Legion Post 39 defeated Milbank 9-3 on Friday at Groton. Diegel singled in the first inning, singled in the second inning, and singled in the third inning.

Groton Legion Post 39 got on the board in the bottom of the first inning after Milbank committed an error, and Carter Simon hit a sacrifice fly, each scoring one run.

Groton Legion Post 39 added to their early lead in the bottom of the second inning when Brevin Fliehs doubled, scoring one run, Simon singled, scoring two runs, and Karsten Fliehs singled, scoring one run.

Groton Legion Post 39 added to their early lead in the bottom of the third inning after Korbin Kucker hit a sacrifice fly, and Milbank committed an error, each scoring one run.

Gavin Englund led things off on the hill for Groton Legion Post 39. The starting pitcher gave up four hits and three runs (two earned) over six and one-third innings, striking out nine and walking four. Joe Schulte stepped on the bump first for Milbank. The pitcher surrendered six hits and six runs (four earned) over two innings, striking out four and walking four. Simon appeared in relief for Groton Legion Post 39.

Groton Legion Post 39 tallied nine hits in the game. Simon provided pop in the middle of the lineup, and led Groton Legion Post 39 with three runs batted in. The cleanup hitter went 1-for-2 on the day. Groton Legion Post 39 had a strong eye at the plate, collecting seven walks for the game. Fliehs and Jarrett Erdmann led the team with two bases on balls each.

Aiden Kelly provided pop in the middle of the lineup, and led Milbank with two runs batted in. The shortstop went 1-for-3 on the day. Mack Koplin, Schulte, Kelly, and Nollen Scheely each collected one hit for Milbank.

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Big First Inning Leads Milbank Past Groton Legion Post 39

By GameChanger Media

Milbank defeated Groton Legion Post 39 11-5 on Friday at Groton thanks in part to six runs in the first inning.

Milbank got on the board in the top of the first inning after Aiden Kelly drew a walk, scoring one run, Reese Rabe drew a walk, scoring one run, a wild pitch scored one run, Jeter Scoular singled, scoring one run, and Josh Pederson singled, scoring two runs.

Milbank added to their early lead in the top of the second inning after Mack Koplin doubled to right field, and Nollen Scheely singled to right field, each scoring one run.

Scoular earned the win for Milbank. The hurler surrendered two hits and three runs (zero earned) over three innings, striking out four and walking four. Carter Simon took the loss for Groton Legion Post 39. The starting pitcher went one inning, allowing six runs (two earned) on three hits, striking out none and walking three.

Kellen Antonsen led Groton Legion Post 39 with three runs batted in from the number nine spot in the lineup. The right-handed hitter went 1-for-2 on the day. Nick Morris, Gavin Englund, Simon, and Antonsen each collected one hit for Groton Legion Post 39.

Milbank accumulated nine hits in the game. Pederson, Koplin, and Kelly each collected two hits for Milbank. Rabe and Kelly were a one-two punch in the lineup, as each drove in two runs for Milbank. Milbank had patience at the plate, tallying nine walks for the game. Koplin and Kelly led the team with two bases on balls each.

Groton Legion Post 39 welcome Redfield on Sunday for their next game.

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Groton Jr. Teeners Beat Clark Area

By GameChanger Media

Groton Jr. Teeners were victorious against Clark Area 5-2 on Friday.

Groton Jr. Teeners got on the board in the first inning after Lincoln Shilhanek singled, scoring two runs.

A single by Trayce Schelle extended the Groton Jr. Teeners lead to 3-0 in the top of the second inning.

Jordan Schwan earned the win for Groton Jr. Teeners. The hurler allowed one hit and two runs over five innings, striking out eight and walking two. Jaden LaPlante took the loss for Clark Area. The righty went four innings, surrendering three runs (two earned) on four hits, striking out seven and walking five.

Kolton Antonsen and Schelle each collected two hits for Groton Jr. Teeners. Antonsen, Schelle, and Shilhanek each drove in one run for Groton Jr. Teeners. Asher Zimmerman and Wesley Borg each stole multiple bases for Groton Jr. Teeners. Groton Jr. Teeners stole six bases in the game.

Miles Olson led Clark Area with one run batted in. Kooper Wookey led Clark Area with one hit in two at bats. LaPlante stole two bases.

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Groton Jr. Teeners Loses Despite Out Hitting Clark Area

By GameChanger Media

Even though Groton Jr. Teeners collected five hits to Clark Area's three, they still fell 8-3 on Friday. Asher Zimmerman, Jordan Schwan, Sam Crank, Trayce Schelle, and Lincoln Shilhanek each collected one hit for Groton Jr. Teeners.

Clark Area got on the board in the bottom of the first inning after Grant Nelson drew a walk, scoring one run, Jaden LaPlante grounded out, scoring two runs, a wild pitch scored two runs, Miles Olson drew a walk, scoring one run, and Benny Pommer grounded out, scoring one run.

Nelson earned the win for Clark Area. The pitcher gave up five hits and three runs (zero earned) over five innings, striking out six and walking one. Wesley Borg pitched three innings in relief for Groton Jr. Teeners. The righty allowed two hits and zero runs while, striking out four and walking one. Kyson Kucker took the loss for Groton Jr. Teeners. The right-handed pitcher went one inning, allowing eight runs (zero earned) on one hit, striking out one and walking three.

Groton Jr. Teeners turned one double play in the game.

LaPlante led the team with one run batted in. Isaac Johnson led Clark Area with two hits in three at bats. Olson stole three bases.

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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>

Radiation exposure fund in U.S. Senate mega-bill includes benefits for South Dakotans

BY: ASHLEY MURRAY - JUNE 13, 2025 5:56 PM

WASHINGTON — U.S. Sen. Josh Hawley of Missouri praised the addition of radiation exposure compensation funds in the Senate version of the costly “one big beautiful” budget reconciliation bill that extends and expands tax cuts and reduces funding from social safety net programs.

Hawley, a Republican, said Friday the proposed revival and expansion of the fund for Americans in Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Kentucky, Missouri, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Wyoming and the Navajo Nation marks a “tremendous day for the people of Missouri and for nuclear radiation survivors across the country.”

“This is a chance, finally, to make it right,” Hawley said on a call with reporters.

“All of this is caused by the federal government’s negligence in its testing program and its disposal program, where repeatedly the government, over the years, exposed citizens unwillingly and unwittingly to nuclear radiation,” Hawley said.

Lawmakers on the Republican-led Senate Committee on the Judiciary included the bipartisan legislation in the panel’s text for the massive budget reconciliation bill, which the panel released Thursday. Hawley is a member of the committee.

The complex budget process combines legislation from 10 Senate committees and only requires a simple majority to get through the chamber.

If approved by the Senate, lawmakers in both chambers would then need to reconcile their separate versions. The House version does not include a reauthorization of the radiation exposure fund.

Radiation exposure fund

The Radiation Exposure Compensation Fund, often called RECA, was established in 1990 and pays one-time sums to those who developed certain diseases after working on U.S. nuclear tests and to those who lived in counties downwind from test explosion sites in Arizona, Nevada and Utah.

Uranium industry workers who were employed in 11 states who subsequently developed qualifying diseases also qualify.

The U.S. conducted more than 1,000 atomic weapons tests from 1945 to 1992 — the first at the Trinity Test site near Alamogordo, New Mexico, where the U.S. tested the atomic bomb during the Manhattan Project prior to dropping the weapons on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan, at the end of World War II.

The Department of Justice administered the fund before it ended in June 2024, and by June 2022 had approved \$2.3 billion in benefits.

The Senate overwhelmingly passed the bipartisan bill in March 2024 but it died in the House.

If the lawmakers approve the legislation as part of the budget reconciliation package, the fund would reach areas including in Alaska, Kentucky, Missouri and Tennessee, where communities were impacted by radioactive waste dumping, uranium processing and other activities surrounding the testing.

The bill would also expand downwind areas to include Colorado, Idaho, Montana and New Mexico and increase the one-time compensation sums to victims or surviving family members up to \$100,000.

Dawn Chapman, a Missouri advocate for radioactive waste cleanup and co-founder of Just Moms STL, told reporters on the Friday morning call that generations in the St. Louis area have suffered “extreme amounts of devastation in the form of illnesses.”

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"If you take a hard look at our bipartisan RECA family as we call ourselves, you'll see that we are made up of so many different backgrounds, so many different communities, so many different faiths," she said.

"And we understand politically right now that there's a lot going on with this big package. We're just hopeful that this is the one thing in this bill that everybody will agree is a great thing, and not touch and leave it in there and let us have our justice and peace."

Negotiations ongoing

Republicans have wrangled with limiting the price tag of the mega-bill as they aim to carry out President Donald Trump's campaign promises of extending and expanding tax cuts, which cost roughly \$3.9 trillion according to the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget.

To offset the massive costs, the House-passed version cuts social safety net programs and clean energy incentives.

By changing eligibility requirements and what Medicaid can cover, the House bill would reduce federal spending on health provisions, including the government health insurance program for low-income individuals, by roughly \$902 billion, according to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office.

It would also tighten eligibility and shift to states costs of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program or SNAP, resulting in a \$285.7 billion reduction in federal spending, according to CBO.

The bill would also eliminate \$249 billion in clean energy investment and production tax credits over the next decade.

With Senate negotiations in full swing, CBO released an analysis last week revealing the overall bill would add \$2.4 trillion to the national deficit over 10 years.

A separate CBO analysis also found the House version would tilt in the favor of higher earners and overall decrease resources for low-income Americans.

Hawley, who vows he won't support cuts to Medicaid in the Senate version, said Friday he'll continue that stance, even with the added price tag of the RECA fund.

"Not cutting Medicaid benefits is hugely, hugely important for me, (and) making sure rural hospitals don't close. Half of the hospitals in Missouri are rural. I don't want to see any of those closed, so I am in hourly contact with leadership in negotiations on this," he said.

Hawley is also pushing to significantly increase the child tax credit to \$5,000, up from the temporary \$2,500 in the House version. He did not comment directly on the call when a reporter asked whether the increased child tax credit remained a priority for him in the mega-bill.

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

'No Kings' protests planned in multiple South Dakota cities

BY: SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT STAFF - JUNE 13, 2025 12:54 PM

Nationwide protests against the Trump administration are planned this Saturday, including in South Dakota cities.

"No Kings" is the theme of the protests, which will coincide with President Donald Trump's 79th birthday, Flag Day and the U.S. Army's 250th anniversary military parade in Washington, D.C. The D.C. events will cost an estimated \$25 million to \$45 million, according to Army spokesperson Heather Hagan, though the price tag for the parade alone was not specified.

Protest organizers are calling attention to what they describe as the Trump administration's authoritarian overreach.

"They've defied our courts, deported Americans, disappeared people off the streets, attacked our civil rights, and slashed our services," the No Kings website reads. "The corruption has gone too far. No thrones. No crowns. No kings."

The No Kings website lists the following protests planned in South Dakota:

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Spearfish: 11 a.m. Mountain time at North Main Street and West Jackson Street.

Rapid City (hosted by Indivisible Rapid City): noon Mountain at 300 Sixth Street.

Rapid City (hosted by 50501 South Dakota): 1:30 p.m. Mountain at 1510 W. Omaha St.

Pierre: 12:30 p.m. Central at 500 E. Capitol Ave.

Watertown: 11 a.m. Central at 211 E. Kemp Ave.

Brookings: 1 p.m. at Sixth Street and 17th Avenue.

Sioux Falls: 11 a.m. Central at 300 N. Minnesota Ave.

Yankton: 10:30 a.m. Central at 2000 Douglas Ave.

Chamberlain: 10 a.m. Central at 100 King Street and Main Street.

"No Kings" is part of the 50501 Movement, founded to protest the Trump administration. Partners include the American Civil Liberties Union, 350 Action, Climate Defenders, Greenpeace, Human Rights Campaign, Vote Save America and many other advocacy groups.

Litigation results in payments for southeast SD landowners along rail-to-trail route

BY: JOSHUA HAIAR - JUNE 13, 2025 9:35 AM

Seven landowners in Bon Homme and Charles Mix counties will receive a total of nearly \$128,000 from the federal government after the U.S. Court of Federal Claims found their land was taken without compensation to make way for a proposed hiking and biking trail.

The ruling stems from a claim for compensation filed under the Fifth Amendment's Takings Clause, which requires just compensation when private property is taken for public use, a process known as eminent domain. Attorneys from the St. Louis firm Lewis Rice represented the landowners.

"If the government takes 10 feet or 10 acres, you should be rightly compensated," said attorney Meghan Largent.

At issue is a 24-mile stretch of former railroad corridor between Tyndall and Ravinia in southeast South Dakota. On Aug. 18, 2023, the federal Surface Transportation Board issued a notice allowing the removal of the tracks and conversion of the corridor into a public trail. The stretch is part of a larger proposed rail-to-trail project, converting a 75-mile portion of the old Napa-to-Platte rail line to a trail from Tabor to Platte.

A spokesperson with the transportation board declined to comment.

Some sections of the rail-to-trail land are owned by the state. However, Largent said some sections within the 24-mile stretch are under easements, which are agreements allowing the crossing of someone else's land. She successfully argued that the purpose of the easement can't be changed without just compensation to the landowners.

She said the \$128,000 will be paid out of a federal judgment fund, and efforts to create the trail will continue regardless of the lawsuits.

Robert Foley is with Friends of the Tabor to Platte Rail to Trail.

"No, it doesn't really doesn't impact the project," he said.

Foley said the project is moving forward. He said the group is raising its final \$5,000 of funding for a \$250,000 feasibility study. He said the study should be completed by late fall.

Largent said her analysis shows another 120 landowners along the corridor qualify for compensation. They have until Aug. 18, 2029, to file a claim. The firm is already pursuing two more cases.

Joshua Haiar is a reporter based in Sioux Falls. Born and raised in Mitchell, he joined the Navy as a public affairs specialist after high school and then earned a degree from the University of South Dakota. Prior to joining South Dakota Searchlight, Joshua worked for five years as a multimedia specialist and journalist with South Dakota Public Broadcasting.

Trump's proof of citizenship elections order blocked for now in federal court

BY: ARIANA FIGUEROA - JUNE 13, 2025 1:01 PM

WASHINGTON — A Massachusetts federal judge on Friday blocked President Donald Trump's executive order requiring states to mandate voters in federal elections provide documents proving their citizenship, ruling the measure would cause a significant burden to states and potentially harm voters.

U.S. District Judge Denise J. Casper issued a preliminary injunction stopping the order from going into effect while the case is pending.

"There is no dispute (nor could there be) that U.S. citizenship is required to vote in federal elections and the federal voter registration forms require attestation of citizenship," Casper wrote in her order.

"The issue here is whether the President can require documentary proof of citizenship where the authority for election requirements is in the hands of Congress, its statutes ... do not require it, and the statutorily created (Election Assistance Commission) is required to go through a notice and comment period and consult with the States before implementing any changes to the federal forms for voter registration," Casper, who was appointed by former President Barack Obama, continued.

Democratic attorneys general in 19 states brought the suit in U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts after the president signed the order in March.

The order directed the federal Election Assistance Commission, which distributes grants to states, within 30 days to start requiring people registering to vote to provide proof of citizenship, such as a passport or state-issued identification that indicates citizenship.

Harm to voters

In her decision to grant the preliminary injunction, Casper said the states had shown that without a pause on the executive order, "citizens will be disenfranchised."

"The States have also credibly attested that the challenged requirements could create chaos and confusion that could result in voters losing trust in the election process," she said.

The executive order posed risks of irreparable harm to states "for at least three reasons," Casper wrote.

She noted the cost and resources to implement the executive order, the federal funding states are at risk of losing if they do not comply with the order and discouraging voter participation.

Chilling voter participation is "the antithesis of Congress's purpose in enacting the (The Uniform Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act) and the (National Voter Registration Act)," she wrote.

The order also would prohibit the counting of absentee or mail-in ballots that are received after Election Day. States set their own rules for ballot counting and many allow those that arrive after Election Day but postmarked before.

The states that brought the challenge to the executive order are: Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont and Wisconsin.

Crackdown on immigrants

The executive order that Trump signed in March was a culmination of his rhetoric on the campaign trail about people without U.S. citizenship voting in federal elections and his vow to crackdown on immigration and carry out mass deportations.

Republicans have sought to use the rare examples of people without citizenship voting in federal elections, and local governments that allow immigrants to vote in local elections, to tighten restrictions on voter registration.

U.S. House Republicans in April passed a bill to codify the executive order.

The Heritage Foundation, a conservative think tank, conducted an analysis of election conduct from 2003 to 2023 and found 29 instances of noncitizens voting, just more than one per year.

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

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Trump keeps control of California National Guard in LA for now after appeals court order

BY: JACOB FISCHLER - JUNE 13, 2025 9:20 AM

A federal appeals court late Thursday quickly froze a lower court's order that President Donald Trump return command of 4,000 California National Guard troops to Gov. Gavin Newsom and set a schedule to more fully hear the closely watched case in the coming days.

A three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit issued a one-page order pausing implementation of U.S. District Judge Charles Breyer's order issued just hours earlier that called for Trump to relinquish control of the National Guard by noon Friday.

The panel asked the state to file a written brief by 9 a.m. Pacific time Sunday and scheduled oral arguments for Tuesday.

The short 9th Circuit order did not explain the panel's rationale for granting an administrative stay of Breyer's order.

The Trump administration appealed and asked for the stay shortly after Breyer issued his ruling Thursday evening. Breyer said the mobilization was illegal and there were limits to Trump's statutory authority.

Breyer's order was "an extraordinary intrusion on the President's constitutional authority as Commander in Chief to call forth the National Guard as necessary to protect federal officials, as well as his statutory authority ... to mobilize state National Guards into federal service to quell riotous mobs committing crimes against federal personnel and property and to protect federal officials' ability to enforce federal law," the administration said. "The order also puts federal officers in harms' way every minute that it is in place."

The state opposed the request for a stay, saying Breyer's "extensive reasoning" had shown the state would be irreparably harmed without court intervention.

Trump called up the state National Guard on Sunday in response to protests in Los Angeles over U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement raids. Newsom opposed the deployment, saying it would only make the situation more volatile.

It was the first time in 60 years that a president called up a state's National Guard over the objection of the governor.

California sued the administration to block the federalization, arguing that the president unlawfully took control of the state National Guard.

Breyer took the state's side in his Thursday evening order, saying Trump violated the 10th Amendment to the Constitution that protects states' rights.

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.



The Funeral of Trea Schuring
10 a.m., Saturday, June 14, 2025
at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
Catholic Church

on
GDILIVE

PAETZNICK-GARNESS
FUNERAL CHAPEL

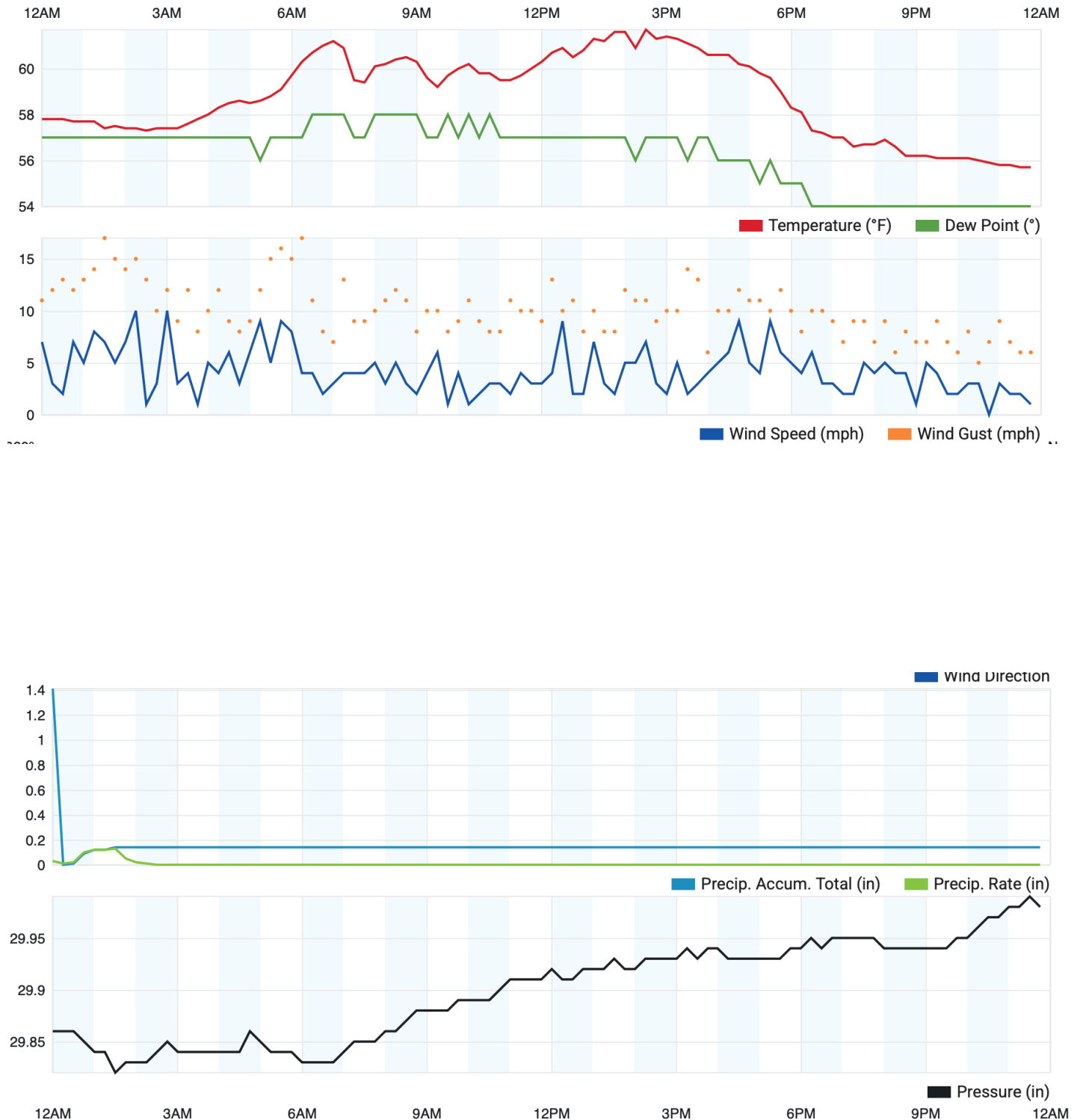
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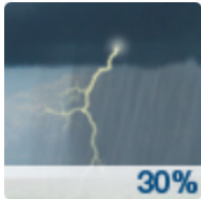
Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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Today



High: 71 °F

Chance
T-storms

Tonight



Low: 58 °F

Chance
T-storms

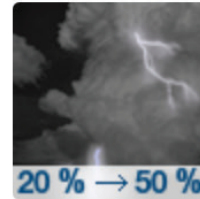
Sunday



High: 80 °F

Mostly Cloudy
then Slight
Chance
T-storms

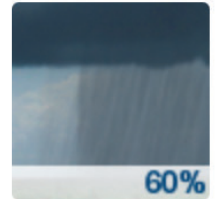
Sunday Night



Low: 62 °F

Slight Chance
T-storms then
Chance
T-storms

Monday



High: 83 °F

Showers
Likely

THREAT ASSESSMENT

HIGHEST LOCAL RISK

2

WHAT THIS MEANS:
Isolated to scattered
severe storms *possible*

TIMING

This evening into
Sunday morning

PRIMARY THREATS



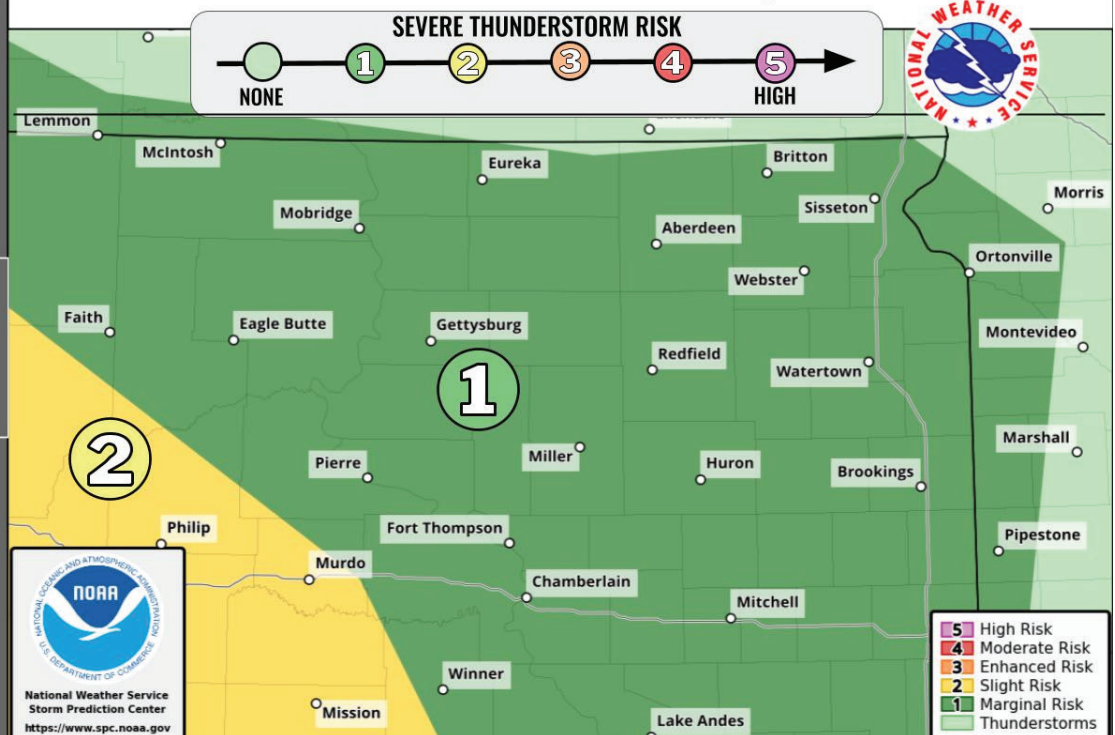
LARGE HAIL



DAMAGING WIND

Get your up to date
forecast at
weather.gov/abr

SEVERE STORMS Possible This Evening into Sunday AM



Showers and thunderstorms are forecast for Saturday, forming over western South Dakota in the afternoon and pushing eastward across the state Saturday evening through early Sunday morning. There is slight risk (level 2 out of 5) for severe storms over portions of south central SD. Main threat includes hail (1"+ in diameter) and wind gusts (60+ mph). For the rest of the forecast area, a marginal risk (level 1 out of 5) as isolated severe storms are possible with hail (up to 1" in diameter) and wind gust of 60 mph.

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THREAT ASSESSMENT

HIGHEST LOCAL RISK

2

WHAT THIS MEANS:
Isolated to scattered
severe storms *possible*

TIMING

Sunday afternoon
into the evening

PRIMARY THREATS



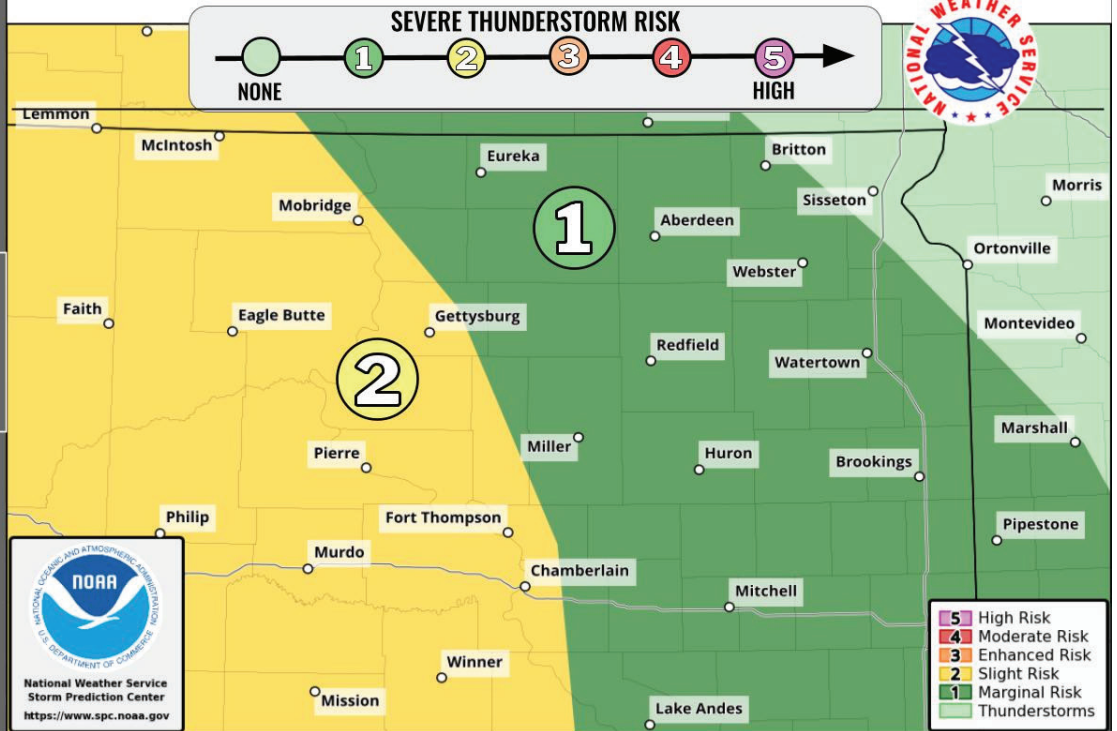
LARGE HAIL



DAMAGING WIND

Get your up to date
forecast at
weather.gov/abr

SEVERE STORMS Possible Sunday Afternoon & Evening



Isolated to scattered severe storms expected mainly over central SD in the slight risk area (level 2 out of 5). Along a line from McIntosh to Mitchell and eastward, isolated severe storms are possible with a marginal risk (level 1 out of 5). This will be for Sunday into Sunday evening. Main threat includes large hail (1" in diameter or larger) and 60mph+ wind gusts in the slight risk area.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 62 °F at 1:46 PM

Low Temp: 56 °F at 11:15 PM

Wind: 17 mph at 1:18 AM

Precip: : 0.00

Day length: 15 hours, 42 minutes

Today's Info

Record High: 99 in 1933

Record Low: 34 in 1969

Average High: 80

Average Low: 55

Average Precip in June.: 1.65

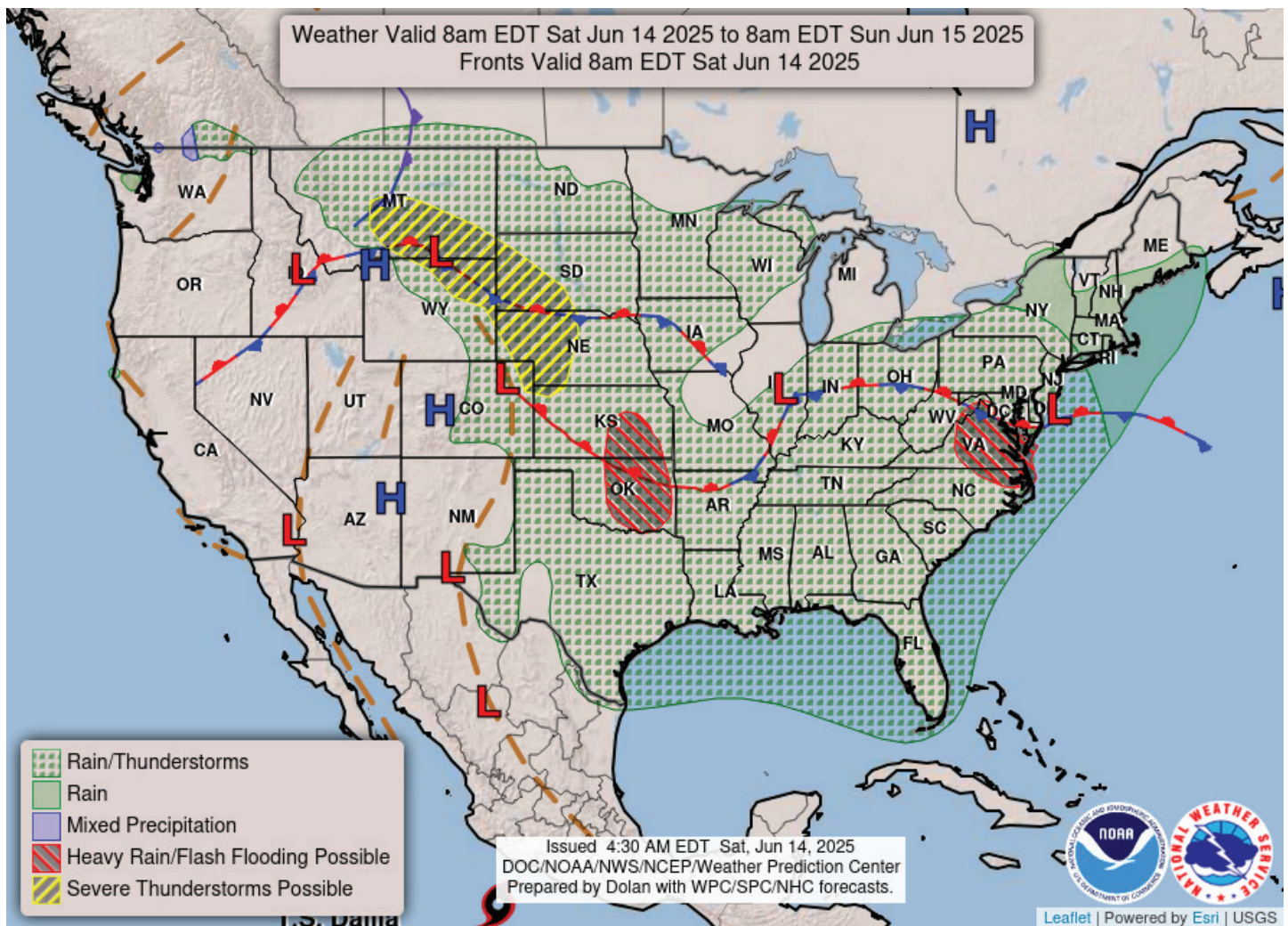
Precip to date in June: 1.98

Average Precip to date: 8.90

Precip Year to Date: 8.03

Sunset Tonight: 9:24:11 pm

Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:41:25 am



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Today in Weather History

June 14th, 1970: An estimated F3 tornado moved northeast from just southeast of Mound City. The tornado blew away barns and sheds on three farms.

June 14th, 1985: A thunderstorm produced golf ball-sized hail in the Castlewood area, causing considerable damage to grain, corn, soybeans, and gardens. In some areas just south of Castlewood, hail piled six inches deep. Leaves were stripped from several trees. Wind gusts of up to 60 mph accompanied the hail.

Another thunderstorm produced high winds and damaging hail in Grant and Roberts Counties. Crops incurred considerable damage north of Milbank along both sides of Highway 15. Golf ball-sized hail damaged crops 17 miles northeast of Sisseton into Browns Valley, to Mud Lake.

June 14th, 2009: Severe thunderstorms impacted parts of central and north-central South Dakota. Hail up to the size of golf balls, flash flooding, and tornadoes occurred with these storms. Heavy rain caused flash flooding on the Moreau River, and the bridge on Route 14 was overtopped. The bridge had to be closed west of Green Grass. A basement was also flooded three miles east of Green Grass, along with several roads in the area in Dewey Country. A tornado touched down west of Hayes in Stanley County and traveled almost a mile before lifting. No damage occurred. A second tornado touched down east of Hayes, and no damage occurred.

1903 - The Heppner Disaster occurred in Oregon. A cloudburst in the hills sent a flood down Willow Creek, and a twenty foot wall of water swept away a third of the town in minutes, killing 236 residents and causing 100 million dollars damage. (David Ludlum)

1961 - The temperature in Downtown San Francisco, CA, soared to 106 degrees to establish an all-time record for that location. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Thirty-two cities in the central U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date. The high of 97 degrees at Flint, MI, tied their record for June, and the high of 101 at Milwaukee WI marked their first 100 degree reading in 32 years. Thunderstorms brought much needed rains to South Texas, drenching McAllen with 3.2 inches in one hour. A thunderstorm soaked the town of Uncertain with 2.3 inches of rain in one hour. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Thirty cities in the eastern U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Thunderstorms developing ahead of a cold front produced severe weather from the Central Gulf States to the Middle Atlantic Coast Region during the day and into the night. There were 62 reports of large hail and damaging winds. Thunderstorm winds caused 28 million dollars damage in Montgomery County MD. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

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Recently, I received two fall catalogs from sporting goods companies. Both featured items that anyone who loves the outdoors would be pleased to own. Both had a focus on hiking and the wilderness. The clothes were so attractive that they appeared glamorous enough to wear to a wedding reception.

But the shoes were in a class by themselves.

They all had a rugged appearance with built-in safety features:

- Steel shanks for stability
- Soles with rock-biting “teeth” for non-skid traction
- Comfortable inserts to prevent fatigue
- Strong laces that would last for years

Every picture that featured the shoes “in action” had a person walking up a steep incline with rocks, shrubs, and stones that made the journey difficult.

Some of the models had a stick in their hand for balance or to protect them from snakes or other animals. All appeared ready for “anything” — with canteens of water and first aid kits.

Whatever came their way would be subdued!

They were prepared to conquer anything at any time.

They were ready for their journey into and through the wilderness.

But no matter how wisely they prepared for their journey through the wilderness, it did not prepare them for the journey through life.

The journey through life is not about shoes or clothing:

It is about walking in God’s righteousness.

The only “safe-passage” is with Christ.

“The righteousness of the blameless makes their path straight, but the wicked are brought down by their deeds.”

God will grant us a “safe passage” through life —

But we must follow His path if we want it.

Prayer: Lord, may we stay close to You as we journey through life, knowing that we will be safe and secure if we follow Your paths. Give us courage to do so.

In Jesus’ Name, Amen.

Today’s Scripture: “The righteousness of the blameless makes their path straight, but the wicked are brought down by their deeds.” Proverbs 11:5

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: 06.13.25

8 10 22 40 47 1

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$280,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

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: 14 Hrs 8 Mins 53 Secs

PREVIOUS RESULTS

LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS: 06.13.25

4 12 18 22 29 15

TOP PRIZE:

\$7,000/week

NEXT DRAW: 14 Hrs 23 Mins 53 Secs

PREVIOUS RESULTS

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS: 06.11.25

4 21 22 23 27

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$26,000

NEXT DRAW: 14 Hrs 23 Mins 53 Secs

PREVIOUS RESULTS

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS: 06.11.25

4 29 37 48 56 6

TOP PRIZE:

\$10,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 14 Hrs 52 Mins 53 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: 14 Hrs 52 Mins 54 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

News from the **AP** Associated Press

As Trump goes to G7 summit, other world leaders aim to show they're not intimidated

By JOSH BOAK Associated Press
WASHINGTON (AP) —

President Donald Trump has long bet that he can scare allies into submission — a gamble that is increasingly being tested ahead of the Group of Seven summit beginning Monday in Canada.

He's threatened stiff tariffs in the belief that other nations would crumple. He's mused about taking over Canada and Greenland. He's suggested he will not honor NATO's obligations to defend partners under attack. And he's used Oval Office meetings to try to intimidate the leaders of Ukraine and South Africa.

But many world leaders see fewer reasons to be cowed by Trump, even as they recognize the risks if he followed through on his threats. They believe he will ultimately back down — since many of his plans could inflict harm on the U.S. — or that he can simply be charmed and flattered into cooperating.

"Many leaders still seem intimidated by Trump, but increasingly they are catching on to his pattern of bullying," said Jeremy Shapiro, research director at the European Council on Foreign Relations. "In places as diverse as Canada, Iran, China and the EU, we are seeing increasing signs that leaders now recognize that Trump is afraid of anything resembling a fair fight. And so they are increasingly willing to stand up to him."

In the 22 instances in which Trump has publicly threatened military action since his first term, the U.S. only used force twice, according to a May analysis by Shapiro.

World leaders feel comfortable standing up to Trump

Ahead of the G7 summit, there are already signs of subtle pushback against Trump from fellow leaders in the group. French President Emmanuel Macron planned to visit Greenland over the weekend in a show of European solidarity. Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney has said the U.S. is no longer the "predominant" force in the world after Trump's tariffs created fissures in a decades-long partnership between the U.S. and its northern neighbor.

"We stood shoulder to shoulder with the Americans throughout the Cold War and in the decades that followed, as the United States played a predominant role on the world stage," Carney said this past week in French. "Today, that predominance is a thing of the past."

The new prime minister added that with the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, the U.S. became the global hegemon, a position of authority undermined by Trump's transactional nature that puts little emphasis on defending democratic values or the rule of law.

"Now the United States is beginning to monetize its hegemony: charging for access to its markets and reducing its relative contributions to our collective security," Carney said.

Israel's attack on Iran has added a new wrinkle to the global picture as the summit leaders gather to tackle some of the world's thorniest problems

A senior Canadian official said it was decided early on that the G7 won't be issuing a joint communiqué as it has at past summits — an indication of how hard it can be to get Trump on the same page with other world leaders. The White House said individual leader statements will be issued on the issues being discussed.

Speaking last month at a conference in Singapore, Macron called France a "friend and an ally of the United States" but pushed back against Trump's desire to dominate what other countries do. Macron said efforts to force other nations to choose between the U.S. and China would lead to the breakdown of the global order put in place after World War II.

"We want to cooperate, but we do not want to be instructed on a daily basis what is allowed, what is not allowed, and how our life will change because of the decision of a single person," Macron said.

Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba pushed back against Trump's agenda of levying higher tariffs on

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imported goods, arguing it would hurt economic growth. The Japanese leader specifically called Trump ahead of the summit to confirm their plans to talk on the sidelines, which is a greater focus for Japan than the summit itself.

"I called him as I also wanted to congratulate his birthday, though one day earlier," Ishiba said.

Trump cares about being tough, but G7 is a chance to reset relations

Sen. Jeanne Shaheen, D-N.H., the ranking member of the Foreign Relations Committee, said the summit was an opportunity for Trump to "mend" relationships with other countries so China would be unable to exploit differences among the G7.

She said other foreign leaders are "not intimidated" by Trump's actions, which could be driving them away from tighter commitments with the U.S.

"The conversations that I've had with those leaders suggest that they think that the partnership with the United States has been really important, but they also understand that there are other opportunities," Shaheen said.

The White House did not respond to emailed questions for this story.

Many leaders feel more confident that they can sidestep Trump's threats

Having originally made his reputation in real estate and hospitality, Trump has taken kindly to certain foreign visitors, such as U.K. Prime Minister Keir Starmer, German Chancellor Friedrich Merz and Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni.

Starmer has sought to keep Trump in line with Europe in supporting Ukraine and NATO instead of brokering any truces that would favor Russia. He has echoed the president's language about NATO members spending more on defense. But in his Oval Office visit, Starmer also pleased Trump by delivering an invite for a state visit from King Charles III.

The German government said it, too, wanted to send a public signal of unity, saying that while Trump's recent meeting with Merz at the White House went harmoniously, the next test is how the relationship plays out in a team setting.

There will also be other world leaders outside of the G7 nations attending the summit in mountainous Kananaskis, including Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, whom Trump dressed down in the Oval Office.

Italy's Meloni has positioned herself as a "bridge" between the Trump administration and the rest of Europe. But Italy's strong support of Ukraine and Trump's threatened tariffs on European goods have put Meloni, the only European leader to attend Trump's inauguration, in a difficult position.

Mark Sobel, U.S. chair of the Official Monetary and Financial Institutions Forum, an independent think tank, said Trump's "trade policies, backing for right wing European movements, seeming preference for dealing with authoritarians and many of his other actions are alienating our G7 allies," even if the U.S. president is correct that Europe needs to do more on defense.

But even as other G7 leaders defuse any public disputes with Trump, the U.S. president's vision for the world remains largely incompatible with they want.

"In short, behind the curtains, and notwithstanding whatever theater, the Kananaskis summit will highlight a more fragmented G7 and an adrift global economy," Sobel said.

Trump administration gives personal data of immigrant Medicaid enrollees to deportation officials

By KIMBERLY KINDY and AMANDA SEITZ Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's administration this week provided deportation officials with personal data -- including the immigration status -- on millions of Medicaid enrollees, a move that could make it easier to locate people as part of his sweeping immigration crackdown.

An internal memo and emails obtained by The Associated Press show that Medicaid officials unsuccessfully sought to block the data transfer, citing legal and ethical concerns.

Nevertheless, two top advisers to Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. ordered the dataset handed

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over to the Department of Homeland Security, the emails show. Officials at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services were given just 54 minutes on Tuesday to comply with the directive.

The dataset includes the information of people living in California, Illinois, Washington state and Washington, D.C., all of which allow non-U. S. citizens to enroll in Medicaid programs that pay for their expenses using only state taxpayer dollars. CMS transferred the information just as the Trump administration was ramping up its enforcement efforts in Southern California.

Besides helping authorities locate migrants, experts said, the government could also use the information to scuttle the hopes of migrants seeking green cards, permanent residency or citizenship if they had ever obtained Medicaid benefits funded by the federal government.

California Gov. Gavin Newsom's office said in a statement that it was concerned about how deportation officials might utilize the data, especially as federal authorities conduct immigration raids with the assistance of National Guard troops and Marines in Los Angeles.

"We deeply value the privacy of all Californians," the statement said. "This potential data transfer brought to our attention by the AP is extremely concerning, and if true, potentially unlawful, particularly given numerous headlines highlighting potential improper federal use of personal information and federal actions to target the personal information of Americans."

Some California lawmakers on Friday also expressed alarm. U.S. Rep. Laura Friedman, a Democrat, wrote on X that "we should never use a person's need to go to the doctor against them. This will only lead to more chaos and pain in our communities."

U.S. Health and Human Services spokesperson Andrew Nixon said the data sharing was legal. He declined to answer questions about why the data was shared with DHS and how it would be used.

"With respect to the recent data sharing between CMS and DHS, HHS acted entirely within its legal authority — and in full compliance with all applicable laws — to ensure that Medicaid benefits are reserved for individuals who are lawfully entitled to receive them," Nixon said.

An official with DHS, Assistant Secretary Tricia McLaughlin, said in a statement that Trump "promised to protect Medicaid for eligible beneficiaries. To keep that promise after Joe Biden flooded our country with tens of millions of illegal aliens CMS and DHS are exploring an initiative to ensure that illegal aliens are not receiving Medicaid benefits that are meant for law-abiding Americans."

The initiative appears to be part of a broader effort by the Trump administration to provide DHS with more data on migrants. In May, for example, a federal judge refused to block the Internal Revenue Service from sharing immigrants' tax data with Immigration and Customs Enforcement to help agents locate and detain people living without legal status in the U.S.

A targeted review of millions of immigrant Medicaid enrollees

CMS announced late last month that it was reviewing some state's Medicaid enrollees to ensure federal funds have not been used to pay for coverage for people with "unsatisfactory immigration status." In a letter sent to state Medicaid officials, CMS said that the effort was part of Trump's Feb. 19 executive order titled "Ending Taxpayer Subsidization of Open Borders."

As part of the review, California, Washington and Illinois shared details about non-U. S. citizens who have enrolled in their state's Medicaid program, according to a June 6 memo signed by Medicaid Deputy Director Sara Vitolo that was obtained by the AP. The memo was written by several CMS officials under Vitolo's supervision, according to sources familiar with the process.

The data includes addresses, names, social security numbers and claims data for enrollees in those states, according to the memo and two people familiar with what the states sent to CMS and what was shared with DHS. Both individuals spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to share details about the data exchange.

CMS officials attempted to fight the data sharing request from Homeland Security, saying that to do so would violate federal laws, including the Social Security Act and the Privacy Act of 1974, according to Vitolo's memo.

"Multiple federal statutory and regulatory authorities do not permit CMS to share this information with

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entities outside of CMS," Vitolo wrote, further explaining that the sharing of such personal data is only allowed for directly administering the Medicaid program.

Sharing information about Medicaid applicants or enrollees with DHS officials would violate a "long-standing policy," wrote Vitolo, a career employee, to Trump appointee Kim Brandt, deputy administrator and chief operating officer of CMS.

Vitolo and Brandt could not be reached for comment.

The legal arguments outlined in the memo were not persuasive to Trump appointees at HHS, which oversees the Medicaid agency.

Four days after the memo was sent, on June 10, HHS officials directed the transfer of "the data to DHS by 5:30 ET today," according to email exchanges obtained by AP.

Former government officials said the move was unusual because CMS, which has access to personal health data for nearly half the country, does not typically share such sensitive information with other departments.

"DHS has no role in anything related to Medicaid," said Jeffrey Grant, a former career employee at CMS.

Beyond her legal arguments, Vitolo said sharing the information with DHS could have a chilling effect on states, perhaps prompting them to withhold information. States, she added needed to guard against the "legal risk" they were taking by giving federal officials data that could be shared with deportation officials.

A 'concerning' development

All states must legally provide emergency Medicaid services to non-U. S. citizens, including to those who are lawfully present but have not yet met a five-year wait to apply for Medicaid.

Seven states, along with the District, allow immigrants who are not living legally in the country to enroll — with full benefits — in their state's Medicaid program. The states launched these programs during the Biden administration and said they would not bill the federal government to cover those immigrants' health care costs.

The Trump administration has raised doubts about that pledge.

Nixon, the HHS spokesperson, said that the state's Medicaid programs for immigrants "opened the floodgates for illegal immigrants to exploit Medicaid — and forced hardworking Americans to foot the bill."

All of the states — California, New York, Washington, Oregon, Illinois, Minnesota and Colorado — have Democratic governors. Due to his state's budget woes, Newsom announced earlier this year he would freeze enrollment into the program; Illinois will also shut down its program for roughly 30,000 non-U. S. citizens in July.

The remaining states — New York, Oregon, Minnesota and Colorado — have not yet submitted the identifiable data to CMS as part of the review, according to a public health official who has reviewed CMS' requests to the states.

Illinois health officials also said they were "deeply concerned" by the AP's findings that revealed their state's Medicaid customer information was shared with federal agencies outside of CMS, given that their "understanding (is) that the data is protected under the federal Privacy Act of 1974 and other federal regulations — which protects the rights of Americans' sensitive health and personal data."

In a statement issued after publication of AP's story, California's Newsom said the decision to share the data "will jeopardize the safety, health, and security of those who will undoubtedly be targeted by this abuse."

State health officials from the District and Washington did not respond to requests for comment.

Cities brace for large crowds at anti-Trump 'No Kings' demonstrations across the US

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Cities large and small were preparing for major demonstrations Saturday across the U.S. against President Donald Trump, as officials urge calm, National Guard troops mobilize and Trump attends a military parade in Washington to mark the Army's 250th anniversary.

A flagship "No Kings" march and rally are planned in Philadelphia, but no events are scheduled to take place in Washington, D.C., where the military parade will take place on Trump's birthday.

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The demonstrations come on the heels of protests flaring up around the country over federal immigration enforcement raids that began last week and Trump ordering National Guard troops and Marines to Los Angeles where protesters blocked a freeway and set cars on fire.

Police responded with tear gas, rubber bullets and flash-bang grenades while officials enforced curfews in Los Angeles and Democratic governors called Trump's Guard deployment "an alarming abuse of power" that "shows the Trump administration does not trust local law enforcement."

Governors and city officials vowed to protect the right to protest and to show no tolerance for violence. Republican governors in Virginia, Texas, Nebraska and Missouri are mobilizing National Guard troops to help law enforcement manage demonstrations.

There will be "zero tolerance" for violence, destruction or disrupting traffic, and "if you violate the law, you're going to be arrested," Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin told reporters Friday.

In Missouri, Gov. Mike Kehoe issued a similar message, vowing to take a proactive approach and not to "wait for chaos to ensue."

Nebraska's governor on Friday also signed an emergency proclamation for activating his state's National Guard, a step his office called "a precautionary measure in reaction to recent instances of civil unrest across the country."

Organizers say that one march will go to the gates of Trump's Mar-a-Lago resort in Florida, where Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis warned demonstrators that the "line is very clear" and not to cross it.

Governors also urged calm.

On social media, Washington state Gov. Bob Ferguson, a Democrat, called for peaceful protests over the weekend, to ensure Trump doesn't send military to the state.

"Donald Trump wants to be able to say that we cannot handle our own public safety in Washington state," Ferguson said.

In a statement Friday, Arizona Gov. Katie Hobbs, a Democrat, urged "protestors to remain peaceful and calm as they exercise their First Amendment right to make their voices heard."

Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro, a Democrat, said his administration and state police are working with police in Philadelphia ahead of what organizers estimate could be a crowd approaching 100,000 people.

Philadelphia's top prosecutor, District Attorney Larry Krasner, warned that anyone coming to Philadelphia to break the law or immigration agents exceeding their authority will face arrest. He invoked civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. as a guide for demonstrators.

"If you are doing what Martin Luther King would have done, you're going to be fine," Krasner told a news conference.

Some law enforcement agencies announced they were ramping up efforts for the weekend. In California, state troopers will be on "tactical alert," which means all days off are canceled for all officers.

Why is it called 'No Kings'?

The "No Kings" theme was orchestrated by the 50501 Movement, to support 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. Protesters have called for Trump to be "dethroned" as they compare his actions to that of a king and not a democratically elected president.

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 a military parade, which is estimated to cost \$25 million to \$45 million that the Army expects to attract as many as 200,000 people.

The event will feature hundreds of military vehicles and aircraft and thousands of soldiers. It also happens to be Trump's 79th birthday and Flag Day.

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"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."

What is planned at the 'No Kings' protests?

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.

Demonstrations are expected to include speeches and marches, organizers said in a call Wednesday. The group 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 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.

David Beckham, Gary Oldman, Elaine Paige and others honored by King Charles III

By PAN PYLAS Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Arise Sir David, Sir Gary and Sir Roger. And Dame Elaine, Dame Pat and Dame Penny. Former England soccer captain David Beckham, Oscar-winning actor Gary Oldman and The Who's frontman Roger Daltrey were knighted in King Charles III's birthday honors list released late Friday.

Elaine Paige, the renowned musicals singer, Booker Prize-winning novelist Pat Barker and former Conservative government minister Penny Mordaunt were given damehoods, the female equivalent of a knighthood.

The honors, which aim to reward individuals for their contributions to British life, are awarded twice a year to celebrities and public figures as well as ordinary people: Once at New Year's, and then in June to mark the king's birthday.

The winners are chosen by civil servants' committees based on nominations from the government and the public. The awards are usually given out by the king or a senior royal acting in his place at Buckingham Palace.

The Sirs

Beckham, 50, was widely expected to be knighted following speculation last week that appeared to be based on a conversation he had with the monarch at the Chelsea Flower Show last month.

As well as representing England 115 times, including 59 times as captain, Beckham played for some of Europe's most venerable clubs, most notably Manchester United and Real Madrid.

He has been knighted for his services to sport and to charity, having partnered with UNICEF, the U.N.'s children's fund, for two decades and campaigned with a charity working to eradicate malaria. Beckham also played a pivotal role in London being awarded the 2012 Summer Olympic Games.

"Growing up in east London with parents and grandparents who were so patriotic and proud to be British, I never could have imagined I would receive such a truly humbling honor," he said.

Oldman, 67, was recognized for his services to drama both on screen and on stage. He won an Oscar for his portrayal of Winston Churchill in the 2017 film "Darkest Hour," and recently dazzled audiences in the Apple TV spy thriller series "Slow Horses."

Daltrey, who co-founded The Who in 1964, has been recognized for services to charity as well as music, having been a patron of "Teenage Cancer Trust" since 2000.

The 81-year-old, who led the charity's concert series at Royal Albert Hall for more than two decades, said he was humbled by the award.

"It's a dream come true for me, but it's especially a dream because the charity means so much," he said.

The Dames

Paige, 77, was honoured for her services to charity as well as music. She has held senior roles at a charity supporting young people with acquired brain injury and another one that supports disabled tennis players.

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"I've got all these different emotions coming at me all at once," she said. "I'm proud and I feel grateful and I'm thrilled and surprised, and so it's been quite a lot to take in."

Barker, 82, known for "The Regeneration Trilogy," said she thought the letter announcing her damehood was from "really angry" tax authorities.

"Nobody else does that kind of quality of paper," she said. "I still sort of had to read the first paragraph several times before it sank in."

A year on from losing her seat at the general election when her Conservative Party lost office, Mordaunt said it was "lovely to be appreciated in this way."

Mordaunt, 52, saw her profile boosted during the king's coronation ceremony in 2023. The former lawmaker made a memorable appearance bearing the "sword of state," the first time the duty had been carried out by a woman.

The 'Companion'

Antony Gormley, the sculptor who was knighted in 2014, was made a "Companion of Honour" for his services to art. The award is one of the most prestigious that the monarch can bestow to citizens in Britain and across the Commonwealth, as there are only 65 companions at any one time.

Introduced in 1917 by King George V, the award recognizes people who have made "a major contribution to the arts, science, medicine, or government lasting over a long period of time." Current members include British environmentalist David Attenborough, Canadian author Margaret Atwood and one of Britain's greatest-ever athletes Sebastian Coe.

Hundreds more are awarded

The honors don't just reward people in the public eye. More than 1,200 people received honours in the latest list. Women made up 48% of those honored, with 11% of recipients from ethnic minority backgrounds.

The oldest recipient was 106-year-old World War II veteran William Irwin, who was awarded a British Empire Medal, for his services to the community.

The youngest was 11-year-old disability campaigner Carmela Chillery-Watson, who was made a "Member of the Most Excellent Order British Empire," or MBE. Chillery-Watson, who has LMNA congenital muscular dystrophy, has become the youngest ever recipient of the award for helping raise hundreds of thousands of pounds for Muscular Dystrophy UK.

In what is thought to be a first, three members of the same family were named in the same list. Jenna Speirs, her mother Caroline and father Duncan were each awarded a British Empire Medal for founding a children's cancer charity called Calum's Cabin after Jenna's twin brother died of an inoperable brain tumour aged 12.

Campaigners who have fought to tackle the rise of knife crime were also recognized. Pooja Kanda, whose 16-year-old son was murdered with a ninja sword near his home, was awarded the Order of the British Empire, or OBE. Alison Madgin, the mother of 18-year-old Samantha Madgin, who was knifed to death, was made an MBE alongside her daughter Carly Barrett.

Israeli strikes on Iran's nuclear program are sweeping but can they decimate it?

By EMMA BURROWS and STEPHANIE LIECHTENSTEIN Associated Press

Israel's sweeping attack across Iran struck at the heart of Tehran's nuclear program, delivering a blow to the country's ability to enrich uranium and potentially setting its nuclear ambitions back by months or years.

As well as killing key military figures and nuclear scientists, the Israeli strikes destroyed part of a plant that was enriching uranium to levels far beyond the requirements for nuclear-fueled power stations. The attacks also destroyed backup power for the underground section of the plant, potentially damaging more sensitive equipment.

Iran's nuclear program has progressed rapidly since 2018, when the U.S. withdrew from a deal to limit Tehran's capacity to enrich uranium, which is necessary to build a nuclear weapon. Iran maintains that its program is peaceful, but the head of the International Atomic Energy Agency has repeatedly warned that

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the country has enough enriched uranium to make several nuclear bombs if it chose to do so.

Nuclear regulators said the assault was unlikely to lead to increased levels of radiation, even at the site where part of the fuel-enrichment plant was destroyed.

Here's a closer look at the attack and its likely effects on Iran's nuclear efforts.

What impact will the attacks have on Iran's nuclear program?

There is "no question" Israel's attacks did substantial damage, said Fabian Hinz, an expert on Iran's nuclear program at the International Institute of Strategic Studies in London.

David Albright, a nuclear weapons expert, speculated that the initial wave of attacks could set back any Iranian attempt to develop a nuclear weapon by about a year.

A key question, Hinz said, is whether Israel also targeted suppliers of specialist components such as centrifuges and subcontractors.

Israel's strategy appears to be to "destroy the brains" behind the program and "as much equipment as possible," said Albright, who agreed that Israel has potentially done a "tremendous amount of damage" to the program.

Israel is widely believed to be behind a series of attacks in recent years that targeted Iranian nuclear scientists and sabotaged nuclear facilities.

What damage was done to Iran's nuclear facilities?

Hinz suggested a key Israeli goal was to undermine Iran's ability to make centrifuges, which are critical for enriching uranium. Uranium enrichment is a key component of building a nuclear weapon, but Iran would still need to develop a detonator. Delivering it using a missile would require solving further technical challenges.

Iran has two uranium-enrichment sites, and the country said Wednesday that it has built and will activate a third enrichment facility.

Early Friday, Israel struck Iran's main and oldest facility in Natanz, 220 kilometers (135 miles) southeast of Tehran, which was protected by anti-aircraft batteries, fencing and Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard.

The IAEA's chief, Rafael Grossi, told an emergency meeting of the U.N. Security Council on Friday that the above-ground part of the plant where uranium was enriched up to 60% was destroyed, along with electrical infrastructure, including a substation, the main electric power supply building, the emergency power supply and backup generators.

Grossi said there were no changes to radiation levels following the attack or any indication of damage to the underground section of the plant. That part of the facility is buried to protect it from airstrikes and contains the bulk of Natanz's enrichment facilities, with 10,000 centrifuges that enrich uranium up to 5%, Albright said. However, Grossi said, the loss of power may have damaged centrifuges.

There is a good chance the strikes still caused "massive damage," Hinz said because many of the centrifuges were probably operating at the time of the strike.

Centrifuges, Albright said, "don't like vibration," and the shock waves or loss of power could break delicate parts when they are rotating at high speed.

What about the Fordo nuclear site?

Most of Iran's centrifuges are in Natanz, the experts said, because a lot of them are required to enrich uranium to 5% — which is the maximum level normally used for nuclear-fueled power stations.

But, buried under a huge mountain at Fordo, around 100 kilometers (60 miles) southwest of Tehran, is another nuclear facility where Iran is also enriching uranium to 60%, which is only a short step away from weapons-grade levels of 90%. According to the IAEA, Tehran has the largest number of its most powerful centrifuges at Fordo.

An Iranian news outlet close to the government reported Friday that two explosions were heard near the Fordo site. But, while Israel could potentially hit the entrance to Fordo and temporarily block access, it is not believed to have the type of earth-penetrating bombs required to blow up the mountain and crack open the nuclear facility inside, Hinz said.

That capacity lies with the U.S., which has developed a massive bomb that can be dropped only from large aircraft that Israel does not have in service, he said.

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The potential for more strikes loomed large. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said the attacks will continue "for as many days as it takes to remove this threat."

Hinz said the attacks showed Israeli intelligence had "absolutely exceptional" knowledge of Iran's nuclear program and the ability to strike at key targets "with precision." That could mean Israel could sabotage the plant, rather than trying to blast the mountain open. Albright suggested Israel could try to cut off electricity to Fordo, which could lead to centrifuges breaking.

Is there risk from radiation?

Although Grossi said part of the enrichment facility at Natanz was destroyed, he noted that radiation levels had not spiked.

Even if radiation did leak, experts said, the amount would be unlikely to pose a risk to people in the region or even those near the facilities that got hit.

"Very little uranium will be released in these kind of attacks," Albright said.

Uranium itself is not especially toxic, he said, and is common in parts of the environment. A person standing near an enrichment facility with a leak would probably be exposed to no more radiation than someone who took several transatlantic flights, which receive slightly higher radiation because radiation doses are larger at high altitudes, he said.

In order to become sick, someone would have to ingest large quantities of uranium, Albright said, pointing out that the element can be found naturally in seawater and the earth's crust.

Rather than radiation, the greater risk might be from fluorine, which is used to enrich uranium and could have been deadly to those nearby if released during an attack.

Fluorine is mixed with the uranium during enrichment to turn it into a gas called uranium hexafluoride. It is extremely volatile, will quickly corrode and can burn the skin. It is especially deadly if inhaled.

Trump says Iran has 'second chance' to come to nuclear deal as Israel and Iran exchange blows

By AAMER MADHANI Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump on Friday urged Iran to quickly reach an agreement on curbing its nuclear program as Israel vowed to continue its bombardment of the country.

Trump framed the volatile moment in the Middle East as a possible "second chance" for Iran's leadership to avoid further destruction "before there is nothing left and save what was once known as the Iranian Empire."

The Republican president pressed on Iran as he met his national security team in the Situation Room to discuss the tricky path forward following Israel's devastating strikes, which Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu pledged to keep up for "as many days as it takes" to decapitate Iran's nuclear program.

The White House said it had no involvement in the strikes, but Trump highlighted that Israel used its deep arsenal of weaponry provided by the U.S. to target Iran's main enrichment facility in Natanz and the country's ballistic missile program, as well as top nuclear scientists and officials.

Trump said on his Truth Social platform that he had warned Iran's leaders that "it would be much worse than anything they know, anticipated, or were told, that the United States makes the best and most lethal military equipment anywhere in the World, BY FAR, and that Israel has a lot of it, with much more to come - And they know how to use it."

Just hours before Israel launched its strikes on Iran early Friday, Trump was still holding onto tattered threads of hope that the long-simmering dispute could be resolved without military action. Now, he'll be tested anew on his ability to make good on a campaign promise to disentangle the U.S. from foreign conflicts.

In the aftermath of the Israeli strikes, the U.S. is shifting its military resources, including ships, in the Middle East as it looks to guard against possible retaliatory attacks by Tehran, according to two U.S. officials who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive matters.

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The Navy has directed the destroyer USS Thomas Hudner to begin sailing toward the Eastern Mediterranean and has directed a second destroyer to begin moving forward, so it can be available if requested by the White House.

As Israel stepped up planning for strikes in recent weeks, Iran had signaled the United States would be held responsible in the event of an Israeli attack. The warning was issued by Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi even as he engaged in talks with Trump special envoy Steve Witkoff over Tehran's rapidly advancing nuclear program.

Friday's strikes came as Trump planned to dispatch Witkoff to Oman on Sunday for the next round of talks with the Iranian foreign minister.

Witkoff still plans to go to Oman this weekend for talks on Tehran's nuclear program, but it's unclear if the Iranians will participate, according to U.S. officials who spoke on the condition of anonymity to describe private diplomatic discussions.

The president made a series of phone calls Friday to U.S. television news anchors to renew his calls on Iran to curb its nuclear program.

CNN's Dana Bash said Trump told her the Iranians "should now come to the table" and get a deal done. And Trump told NBC News that Iranian officials are "calling me to speak" but didn't provide further detail.

Trump also spoke Friday with British Prime Minister Keir Starmer and French President Emmanuel Macron about the evolving situation, as well as Netanyahu.

Meanwhile, oil prices leapt and stocks fell on worries that the escalating violence could impact the flow of crude around the world, along with the global economy.

Sen. Tim Kaine, D-Va., offered rare words of Democratic praise for the Trump administration after the attack "for prioritizing diplomacy" and "refraining from participating" in the military strikes. But he also expressed deep concern about what the Israeli strikes could mean for U.S. personnel in the region.

Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro, who's on Democrats' shortlist for top 2028 White House contenders, said if Israel can set back Iran's nuclear program with the strikes "it's probably a good day for the world."

"But make no mistake: We do not want an all-out war in the Middle East," Shapiro said. "That's not only bad for the Middle East, it's destabilizing for the globe, and it's something that I hope will not occur."

Israel launched blistering attacks on the heart of Iran's nuclear and military structure Friday, deploying warplanes and drones previously smuggled into the country to assault key facilities and kill top generals and scientists — a barrage it said was necessary before its adversary got any closer to building an atomic weapon.

Iran retaliated by unleashing scores of ballistic missiles on Israel, where explosions flared in the skies over Jerusalem and Tel Aviv and shook the buildings below. The U.S. military assisted Israel intercept the missiles fired by Iran in the retaliatory attack.

Trump, in the hours before the Israeli attack on Iran, still appeared hopeful in public comments that there would be more time for diplomacy.

But it was clear to the administration that Israel was edging toward taking military action against Iran. The State Department and U.S. military on Wednesday directed a voluntary evacuation of nonessential personnel and their loved ones from some U.S. diplomatic outposts in the Middle East.

Before Israel launched the strikes, some of Trump's strongest supporters were raising concerns about what another expansive conflict in the Mideast could mean for the Republican president, who ran on a promise to quickly end the brutal wars in Gaza and Ukraine.

Trump has struggled to find an endgame to either of those conflicts and to make good on two of his biggest foreign policy campaign promises.

And after criticizing President Joe Biden during last year's campaign for preventing Israel from carrying out strikes on Iranian nuclear sites, Trump found himself making the case to the Israelis to give diplomacy a chance.

The push by the Trump administration to persuade Tehran to give up its nuclear program came after the U.S. and other world powers in 2015 reached a long-term, comprehensive nuclear agreement that limited Tehran's enrichment of uranium in exchange for the lifting of economic sanctions.

But Trump unilaterally withdrew the U.S. from the Obama administration-brokered agreement in 2018, calling it the "worst deal ever."

The way forward is even more clouded now.

"No issue currently divides the right as much as foreign policy," Charlie Kirk, the founder of Turning Point USA and an ally of the Trump White House, posted on X on Thursday. "I'm very concerned based on (everything) I've seen in the grassroots the last few months that this will cause a massive schism in MAGA and potentially disrupt our momentum and our insanely successful Presidency."

Key moments from the fifth week of Sean 'Diddy' Combs' sex trafficking trial

By MICHAEL R. SISAK and LARRY NEUMEISTER Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The fifth week of Sean "Diddy" Combs' sex trafficking trial featured four days of testimony from a former Combs' girlfriend who testified under the pseudonym Jane and a surprise appearance at the courthouse on the fifth day by Ye, the rapper formerly known as Kanye West.

Ye said he came to show his support for his good friend but couldn't get into the courtroom and watched for a few minutes on an overflow courtroom monitor.

Combs, the founder of Bad Boy Records, has pleaded not guilty in the trial, which resumes Monday.

Here are key moments from the past week:

Jane says she still loves Combs

Jane testified for six days about her over three-year relationship with Combs, saying her plans to meet him at a New York hotel last September were interrupted by his arrest.

Her testimony consumed four of the week's five trial days as she told about her conflicted feelings toward Combs.

She told a prosecutor: "I just pray for his continued healing, and I pray for peace for him." And when a defense lawyer asked if she still loved him, she responded: "I do."

When she completed her testimony and with the jury still in the room, she went to the prosecutor and gave her a warm embrace before proceeding to the defense attorney and hugging her too.

She said she resents she felt forced to have sex with strangers in multiday sex marathons as the man she longed most to cuddle with filmed and fed her drugs to give her energy to satisfy his sexual fantasies.

Her testimony echoed what the jury heard in the trial's first week when Casandra "Cassie" Ventura testified for four days that she engaged in hundreds of multiday "freak-offs" while they dated from 2007 to 2018, having sex with male sex workers in front of Combs, who masturbated, filmed the encounters, and verbalized what he wanted to see sexually.

Another famous rapper wanted multiple partners in his love life, Jane says

Jane said she and Combs split up from Halloween 2023 until February 2024. During the break, she said, she flew on another famous rapper's private jet to Las Vegas, joining the celebrity to celebrate his romantic partner's birthday for a night that included dinner, a stripper's club visit and a hotel room party.

In the hotel room, Jane testified, the rapper who was close friends with Combs made a pass at her amid flirtatious banter, saying he had always wanted to have sex with her. She said she danced in the hotel room, where a male sex worker was having sex with a woman, and at some point Jane flashed her breasts.

Jane agreed with a lawyer's assessment that the famous rapper was "an individual at the top of the music industry as well ... an icon in the music industry."

Jane also revealed that the unidentified famous rapper and his partner were looking for someone they could add to their sexual experiences who was "in the lifestyle."

"I believe they were asking me because maybe they just picked up the energy from me or I just maybe assumed that maybe they had already got an inclination that me and Sean had been doing kind of similar things," she said, noting that she referred a male sex worker she knew.

Rapper Ye, once known as Kanye West, surprises a courthouse

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A day after Jane finished testifying, Ye, formerly known as Kanye West, made a surprise appearance at the courthouse and quickly learned what a tough ticket it is to get into the courtroom where his good friend Combs is on trial.

Ye, wearing all white, was ushered by courthouse security to an overflow courtroom to watch the trial on a video monitor along with others who were unable to get into the courtroom. He lasted only a few minutes there before he made his courthouse exit, saying nothing during his trip except that he was there to support Combs.

Testimony reveals Combs has a favorite TV show and is a bit of a crime buff

It turns out that Combs, the subject of several true-crime TV documentaries, is a bit of a true-crime fan himself.

Jane revealed this week that his favorite show is "Dateline," the magazine-style NBC stalwart that is heavy on murders and mysteries.

She told jurors that, in their alone time together, she and Combs would watch "Dateline" for hours "till we fell asleep."

Other activities when it was just the two of them included hugging, cuddling and bathing Combs, and giving him foot rubs, Jane testified.

Jane planned to meet Combs at the New York hotel where he was arrested

Jane testified that she last saw Combs in August, when they were in their "same routine having sex and everything" when Combs suggested that she invite over the very first male sex worker she had sex with in front of Combs.

She said that afterward, she and Combs continued texting each other and were planning to meet in New York at a hotel in September.

"Did you end up going to New York to see him?" she was asked. "No," she answered.

"Why not?" she was asked before she responded: "Because he got arrested."

To protect Jane's identity, a judge leans on secrecy over public access

The courtroom rules surrounding Jane's testimony were the strictest yet in a bid to protect her identity from becoming common knowledge.

But the rules imposed by the judge became too much for defense attorney Marc Agnifilo, who protested that Jane was blocked from telling more about the hotel party in January 2024 with the famous, though unidentified, rapper.

Agnifilo said the defense had consented to the "pseudonymity" of Jane.

"What we didn't consent to, and we don't, most respectfully, is that these events which play important parts in the background of some of the most critical events in the trial, should be in any way not fully public," he said.

He said names should have been released.

"Part of the reason that trials are fully public is so if other people realize they know something about an event that's discussed in a public courtroom, they could come forward and they could share whatever their recollection is about it," he said.

Defense lawyers say prosecutors are targeting Black jurors

The fate of one anonymous juror was in limbo after the judge said Friday he will reconsider his decision to oust the juror even though he suspects he might have an "agenda."

Judge Arun Subramanian said he had decided that conflicting answers from the juror about where he primarily lived — in New Jersey or New York — raised questions about his credibility and whether he was answering questions in a bid to stay on the jury. If the juror does primarily live with a girlfriend in New Jersey, he would be outside the court district and disqualified.

Prosecutors said the juror's dismissal is required because of his conflicting answers. Defense lawyers argued that prosecutors were only trying to disqualify a Black juror and that his dismissal could spoil an otherwise diverse panel of jurors.

The judge bristled at the suggestion that race was a factor, saying there was no support for claims that prosecutors did not use race-neutral arguments to exclude jurors during jury selection and now.

The Army is set to celebrate 250 years with a parade that coincides with Trump's birthday

By LOLITA C. BALDOR Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The massive military parade that President Donald Trump has long wanted is set to step off from the Lincoln Memorial on Saturday evening, with tanks, bands and thousands of troops.

And the biggest question marks are whether it will be overshadowed or delayed by either the weather in Washington or planned protests elsewhere around the country.

Falling on Trump's 79th birthday, the parade was added just a few weeks ago to the Army's long-planned 250th anniversary celebration. It has triggered criticism for its price tag of up to \$45 million and the possibility that the lumbering tanks could tear up city streets. The Army has taken a variety of steps to protect the streets, including laying metal plates down along the route.

The daylong display of America's Army comes as Trump has shown his willingness to use his fighting forces in ways other U.S. presidents have typically avoided, inviting an array of lawsuits and accusations that he is politicizing the military.

He has deployed the California National Guard and U.S. Marines to provide security during Los Angeles protests tied to immigration raids. It marks the first time in 60 years that a president activated the National Guard on federal orders inside a state without a governor's permission, and California Gov. Gavin Newsom has filed a lawsuit to stop the deployments.

Earlier in the week, Trump raised eyebrows during a speech at Fort Bragg when members of the 82nd Airborne Division were directed to stand behind Trump and they booed and cheered during his incendiary remarks, including condemnation of his predecessor, Joe Biden. There also was a pop-up "Make America Great Again" merchandise stand nearby selling souvenirs to troops in uniform.

The Defense Department has a doctrine that prohibits troops from participating in political activity while in uniform. Members of Congress and military leaders have expressed concerns about the political displays during the speech at Fort Bragg.

Trump so far has shrugged off concerns about the parade cost, the rainy forecast and the potential for protests.

"What a day it will be!!!" Trump wrote on his social media site, adding later that he hoped the weather would cooperate but that if it doesn't, "that brings you good luck. That's OK too. Doesn't matter. Doesn't affect the tanks at all. Doesn't affect the soldiers. They're used to it. They're tough. Smart."

As for the protests, he warned that "they will be met with very big force."

The "No Kings" rallies planned in hundreds of cities nationwide are meant to counter what organizers say are Trump's plans to feed his ego on his 79th birthday and Flag Day. No protests are scheduled to take place in Washington, D.C., however, and officials have said they so far have no indication of any security threat.

About 6 in 10 Americans say 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 a poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

The parade will wind down Constitution Avenue, which is already lined with security fencing and barriers. Army helicopters and aircraft will fly above, and the march will be capped off by a parachute jump, a concert featuring "God Bless the U.S.A." singer Lee Greenwood and fireworks.

With rain expected, there is a chance the parade could be interrupted by thunderstorms.

White House spokesperson Anna Kelly has said the march will go on rain or shine. But it could be delayed if there is lightning, with authorities quick to empty the expansive National Mall if it happens during major events.

The parade fulfills Trump's expressed desire for a big parade that he tried to get done in his first presidential term after seeing one in France on Bastille Day in 2017. Trump said that after watching the two-hour procession along the famed Champs-Élysées, he wanted an even grander one on Pennsylvania Avenue.

The Army expects as many as 200,000 people could attend the festival and parade. The festival will begin around 9:30 a.m. EDT and feature fitness competitions, demonstrations, equipment displays, music

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and a cake-cutting ceremony.

The parade is set to begin at 6:30 p.m. EDT, but parts of it — including the horse-drawn caissons and other units — start at the Pentagon, head over a bridge and meet up with some of the heavier tanks and equipment. Officials did not want the more-than-60-ton M1A1 Abrams tanks and Stryker vehicles crossing the bridge.

Timed down to the minute, the march will be divided into sections by history — with equipment and troops in full dress from each period.

It will include a total of 6,169 soldiers and 128 Army tanks, armored personnel carriers and artillery, while 62 aircraft fly overhead.

At the end of the parade, Trump will swear in 250 new or reenlisting troops, and the Army's Golden Knights parachute team will jump onto the Mall. That will be followed by the concert and fireworks.

Israel strikes Iran's nuclear sites and kills top generals. Iran retaliates with missile barrages

By JON GAMBRELL, MELANIE LIDMAN and JULIA FRANKEL Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Israel launched blistering attacks on the heart of Iran's nuclear and military structure Friday, deploying warplanes and drones previously smuggled into the country to assault key facilities and kill top generals and scientists

Israel asserted the barrage was necessary before its adversary got any closer to building an atomic weapon, although experts and the U.S. government have assessed that Iran was actively working on such a weapon before the strikes.

Iran retaliated by firing waves of ballistic missiles at Israel, where explosions flared in the skies over Jerusalem and Tel Aviv and shook the buildings below. The Israeli military urged civilians, already rattled by the earlier wave of missiles, to head to shelter, as missiles damaged homes and killed two people.

Iranian missiles strike Israel

Iran launched waves of missiles at Israel late Friday and early Saturday.

A hospital in Tel Aviv treated seven people wounded in the second Iranian barrage; all but one of them had light injuries. Israel's Fire and Rescue Services said they were injured when a projectile hit a building in the city.

Hours later, an Iranian missile struck near homes in the central Israeli city of Rishon Lezion, killing two people and injuring 19, according to Israel's paramedic service Magen David Adom. Israel's Fire and Rescue service said four homes were severely damaged.

Meanwhile, the sound of explosions and Iranian air defense systems firing at targets echoed across central Tehran shortly after midnight on Saturday, and an Associated Press reporter could hear air raid sirens near their home.

Iran's semiofficial Tasnim news agency is reporting a fire at Tehran's Mehrabad International Airport, with a video posted on X of a column of smoke and orange flames rising from what the outlet said was the airport.

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said in a recorded message Friday: "We will not allow them to escape safely from this great crime they committed." Iran's U.N. ambassador said 78 people were killed and more than 320 wounded in Israeli attacks.

Israel's paramedic services said 34 people were wounded in the barrage on the Tel Aviv area, including a woman who was critically injured after being trapped under rubble. In Ramat Gan, east of Tel Aviv, an Associated Press journalist saw burned out cars and at least three damaged houses, including one where the front was nearly entirely torn away.

U.S. ground-based air defense systems in the region were helping to shoot down Iranian missiles, said a U.S. official who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the measures.

Israel's ongoing airstrikes and intelligence operation and Iran's retaliation raised concerns about all-out

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war between the countries and propelled the region, already on edge, into even greater upheaval.

Israel had long threatened such a strike, and successive American administrations sought to prevent it, fearing it would ignite a wider conflict across the Middle East and possibly be ineffective at destroying Iran's dispersed and hardened nuclear program.

But a confluence of developments triggered by Hamas' Oct. 7, 2023, attack — plus the reelection of U.S. President Donald Trump — created the conditions that allowed Israel to finally follow through on its threats. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the U.S. was informed in advance of the attack.

On Thursday, Iran had been censured by the U.N.'s atomic watchdog for not complying with obligations meant to prevent it from developing a nuclear weapon.

Countries in region condemn Israel's attack

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

The U.N. Security Council held an emergency meeting Friday afternoon at Iran's request. In a letter to the council, Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi called the killing of its officials and scientists "state terrorism" and affirmed his country's right to self-defense.

Israel's military said about 200 aircraft were involved in the initial attack on about 100 targets. Its Mossad spy agency positioned explosive drones and precision weapons inside Iran ahead of time, and used them to target Iranian air defenses and missile launchers near Tehran, according to two security officials who spoke on condition of anonymity.

It was not possible to independently confirm the officials' claims.

Among the key sites Israel attacked was Iran's main nuclear enrichment facility in Natanz, where black smoke could be seen rising into the air. It also appeared to strike a second, smaller nuclear enrichment facility in Fordo, about 100 kilometers (60 miles) southeast of Tehran, according to an Iranian news outlet close to the government that reported hearing explosions nearby.

Israel said it struck a nuclear research facility in Isfahan, too, and said it destroyed dozens of radar installations and surface-to-air missile launchers in western Iran. Iran confirmed the strike at Isfahan.

Israel military spokesman Brig. Gen. Effie Defrin said the Natanz facility was "significantly damaged" and that the operation was "still in the beginning."

Above-ground section of Natanz facility destroyed

U.N. nuclear chief Rafael Grossi told the Security Council that the above-ground section of the Natanz facility was destroyed. He said all the electrical infrastructure and emergency power generators were destroyed, as well as a section of the facility where uranium was enriched up to 60%.

The main centrifuge facility underground did not appear to have been hit, but the loss of power could have damaged the infrastructure there, he said.

The first wave of strikes had given Israel "significant freedom of movement" in Iran's skies, clearing the way for further attacks, according to an Israeli military official who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss details of the attack with the media.

The official said Israel is prepared for an operation that could last up to two weeks, but that there was no firm timeline.

Among those killed were three of Iran's top military leaders: one who oversaw the entire armed forces, Gen. Mohammad Bagheri; one who led the paramilitary Revolutionary Guard, Gen. Hossein Salami; and the head of the Guard's ballistic missile program, Gen. Amir Ali Hajizadeh.

Iran confirmed all three deaths, significant blows its governing theocracy that will complicate efforts to retaliate. Khamenei said other top military officials and scientists were also killed.

Netanyahu said the attack had been months in the making. In a video statement sent to journalists Friday, he said he ordered plans for the attack last November, soon after the killing of Hassan Nasrallah, the leader of Hezbollah in Lebanon, one of Iran's strongest proxies. Netanyahu said the attack was planned for April but was postponed.

In its first response Friday, Iran fired more than 100 drones at Israel. Israel said the drones were being intercepted outside its airspace, and it was not immediately clear whether any got through.

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Israel's military said it called up reservists and began stationing troops throughout the country as it braced for further retaliation from Iran or Iranian proxy groups.

Trump urged Iran on Friday to reach a deal with the U.S. on its nuclear program, warning on his Truth Social platform that Israel's attacks "will only get worse."

"Iran must make a deal, before there is nothing left, and save what was once known as the Iranian Empire," he wrote.

On Wednesday, the U.S. pulled some American diplomats from Iraq's capital and offered voluntary evacuations for the families of U.S. troops in the wider Middle East. On Friday, the U.S. began shifting military resources in the region, including ships, as Israel prepared for more retaliation, two U.S. officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Officials in Washington had cautioned Israel against an attack earlier in the week, so as not to disrupt U.S. negotiations with Iran over its nuclear enrichment program. They stressed Friday that the U.S. had not been involved in the attack, and warned against any retaliation targeting U.S. interests or personnel.

Israel calls attacks preemptive strikes on Iran's nuclear program

Israeli leaders cast the 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.

"This is a clear and present danger to Israel's very survival," Netanyahu claimed as he vowed to pursue the attack for as long as necessary to "remove this threat."

Israel is widely believed to be the only nuclear-armed state in the Middle East but has never acknowledged having such weapons.

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.

Iran says Israel targeted residential areas

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. But if Iranian reprisals cause heavy Israeli casualties or major disruptions to daily life, public opinion could shift quickly.

The Iran-backed Lebanese militant group Hezbollah issued a statement that offered condolences and condemned the attack, but did not threaten to join Iran in its retaliation. Hezbollah's latest war with Israel — which killed much of the group's senior leadership — ended with a U.S.-brokered ceasefire in November.

Khamenei, the Iranian supreme leader, said in a statement that 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."

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."

Marines take over some security in LA while cities across US prep for 'No Kings' rallies

By AMY TAXIN, LOLITA C. BALDOR and JAKE OFFENHARTZ Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — After a week of protests over federal immigration raids, about 200 Marines moved into Los Angeles on Friday to guard a federal building in the city while communities across the country prepped for what's anticipated to be a nationwide wave of large-scale demonstrations against President Donald Trump's policies this weekend.

The Marine troops wearing combat gear and carrying rifles took over some posts from National Guard members who were deployed to the city after the protests erupted last week. Those protests sparked dozens more over several days around the country, with some leading to clashes with police and hundreds

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of arrests.

On Friday, Marines started to replace Guard members protecting the federal building west of downtown, so the Guard soldiers can be assigned to protect law enforcement officers on raids, the commander in charge of 4,700 troops deployed to the LA protests said.

The Marines moved into Los Angeles before Saturday's planned "No Kings" demonstrations nationally against Trump's policies, which will also happen the same day as a military parade in Washington, D.C.

The Marines' arrival also came a day after the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals temporarily blocked a federal judge's order that had directed Trump to return control of Guard troops to California. The judge had ruled the Guard deployment was illegal, violated the Tenth Amendment, which defines the power between state and federal governments, and exceeded Trump's statutory authority. The judge did not rule on the presence of the Marines.

Military mission

Some 2,000 National Guard troops were deployed to Los Angeles this week. Hundreds have provided protection to immigration agents making arrests. Another 2,000 Guard members were notified of deployment earlier this week.

Maj. Gen. Scott Sherman, the commander of Task Force 51 who is overseeing the 4,700 combined troops, said none of the military troops will be detaining anyone, though the Marines temporarily detained a man Friday afternoon who had walked onto the property and did not immediately hear their commands to stop. He was later released without charges.

Roughly 500 National Guard members have been used to provide security on immigration raids after undergoing expanded instruction, legal training and rehearsals with the agents doing the enforcement before they go on those missions.

When asked about working together with the Marines, Los Angeles police Chief Jim McDonnell said he "wouldn't call it coordination" but said he and the county sheriff were on a call with military senior leadership Thursday to open lines of communication in case situations arise where collaboration is needed.

Under federal law, active-duty forces are prohibited by law from conducting law enforcement.

By mid-afternoon Friday, more than a dozen Marines were stationed outside the 17-story Wilshire Federal Building. They mostly appeared to be checking tickets from members of the public who were there to renew their passports.

The federal building is the same place Democratic U.S. Sen. Alex Padilla on Thursday was forcefully removed from Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem's news conference and handcuffed by officers as he tried to speak up about the immigration raids.

There were no protesters around the building. Occasionally, a passing driver shouted from their window, registering a mix of anger and support for the military presence.

California vs. Trump

California Gov. Gavin Newsom has called the troop deployment a "serious breach of state sovereignty" and a power grab by Trump, and he has gone to court to stop it. The president has cited a legal provision that allows him to mobilize federal service members when there is "a rebellion or danger of a rebellion against the authority of the Government of the United States."

A federal judge said in a ruling late Thursday that what is happening in Los Angeles does not meet the definition of a rebellion and issued an order to return control of the Guard to California before the appeals court stopped it from going into effect Friday. In a post on his Truth Social platform, Trump thanked the appeals court Friday morning.

"If I didn't send the Military into Los Angeles, that city would be burning to the ground right now," he said.

The court will hold a hearing on the matter Tuesday.

The Trump administration has characterized the city as a "war zone," which local authorities dispute. Recent protesters have drawn a few hundred attendees who marched through downtown chanting, dancing and poking fun at the Trump administration's characterization of the city.

There have been about 500 arrests since Saturday, mostly for failing to leave the area at the request of

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law enforcement, according to the police. 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.

An 8 p.m. curfew has been in place in a 1-square-mile (2.5-square-kilometer) section of downtown. The city of Los Angeles encompasses roughly 500 square miles (1,295 square kilometers). Protests have ended after a few hours with arrests this week largely for failure to disperse. Mayor Karen Bass said Friday there was no termination date for the curfew yet.

The occasional motorist, cyclist and pedestrian passed in front of the federal building and the troops guarding it as the curfew took effect Friday. Residents living in the curfew zone and traveling to and from work there are exempt from the rule.

'No Kings'

The "No Kings" demonstrations are planned in nearly 2,000 locations around the country, according to the movement's website.

A flagship march and rally is planned for Philadelphia, but no protests are scheduled to take place in Washington, D.C., where the military parade will be held. Participants are expected to seek to de-escalate any potential confrontation, organizers say.

States face questions on deploying troops

Republican Texas Gov. Greg Abbott 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 in a statement called Trump's deployments "an alarming abuse of power."

Military parade

The military parade in Washington will also feature concerts, fireworks, NFL players, fitness competitions and displays all over the National Mall for daylong festivities. The celebration Saturday also happens to be Trump's birthday.

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.

Saturday is also Flag Day, which celebrates the adoption of the U.S. flag in 1777.

California Democratic state Sen. Lola Smallwood-Cuevas turned an American flag on her desk upside-down in protest of the federal immigration crackdown in Los Angeles during a Friday legislative session honoring the holiday.

"What is happening in this country, what is happening in my city makes me feel distressed as an American," said Smallwood-Cuevas, who represents downtown Los Angeles.

Kilmar Abrego Garcia pleads not guilty to human smuggling charges in Tennessee federal court

By TRAVIS LOLLER, JONATHAN MATTISE and BEN FINLEY Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Kilmar Abrego Garcia, whose mistaken deportation has become a flashpoint in President Donald Trump's immigration crackdown, pleaded not guilty Friday to human smuggling charges in a federal court in Tennessee.

The hearing was the first chance the Maryland construction worker has had in a U.S. courtroom to answer the Trump administration's allegations since he was mistakenly deported in March to a notorious prison in El Salvador.

Abrego Garcia's attorneys have characterized the smuggling case as a desperate attempt to justify the mistaken deportation. The investigation was launched weeks after the U.S. government deported Abrego Garcia and following a Supreme Court order and mounting pressure to return him.

Abrego Garcia's lawyers told a judge Friday that some government witnesses cooperated to get favors regarding their immigration status or criminal charges they were facing. A federal agent acknowledged during his testimony that one witness was living in the U.S. illegally with a criminal record and is now get-

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ting preferred status.

"He sounds like the exact type of person this government should be trying to deport," Federal Public Defender Dumaka Shabazz said. "They're going to give all these other people deals to stay in the country just to get this one other person."

Most of Friday's hearing focused on whether Abrego Garcia should be released as he awaits trial. U.S. Magistrate Judge Barbara Holmes said she will write her decision "sooner rather than later."

The smuggling charges stem from a 2022 traffic stop for speeding in Tennessee during which Abrego Garcia was driving a vehicle with nine passengers. While officers suspected possible smuggling, Abrego Garcia was allowed to go on his way with only a warning.

Body camera footage shows a calm exchange between officers and Abrego Garcia. The officers then discussed among themselves their suspicions of smuggling before letting him go. One of the officers says, "He's hauling these people for money." Another says Abrego Garcia had \$1,400 in an envelope.

The federal indictment accuses Abrego Garcia of smuggling throughout the U.S. hundreds of people living in the country illegally, including children and members of the violent MS-13 gang.

In briefings before Friday's hearing, U.S. attorneys described Abrego Garcia as a danger to the community and a flight risk. They also accused him of trafficking drugs and firearms and of abusing the women he transported, among other claims, although he is not charged with such crimes.

Rob McGuire, Acting U.S. Attorney for the Middle District of Tennessee, told the judge Friday that "migrant transportation is inherently dangerous."

The prosecutor also presented two orders of protection that Abrego Garcia's wife sought in 2020 and 2021 against him for domestic violence. Jennifer Vasquez Sura said this spring that the couple had worked things out "privately as a family, including by going to counseling."

Abrego Garcia's attorneys rejected the prosecution's assertions that he was a danger, while arguing the charges aren't serious enough for detention.

"If Mr. Abrego Garcia is so dangerous, this violent MS-13 guy, why did they wait almost three years to indict him on this?" Shabazz asked the judge. "Why wait until literally after the Supreme Court told them they denied him due process and they had to bring him back before they investigate him?"

Special agent testifies

Friday's proceeding included testimony from a Department of Homeland Security agent who quoted three unnamed witnesses who spoke to a grand jury about Abrego Garcia's alleged actions.

Special agent Peter Joseph said that the witnesses saw Abrego Garcia trafficking people, guns or drugs and that Abrego Garcia earned upwards of \$100,000 a year. One man said Abrego Garcia was sexually inappropriate towards underage girls, Joseph testified, while a woman said Abrego Garcia had solicited nude photos of her when she was 15 and she believed he was in the MS-13 gang.

During cross-examination, Abrego Garcia's attorneys raised questions about possible conflicts of interest. One man had been convicted of a felony and was previously deported. He also was serving a 30-month sentence when investigators contacted him, Joseph acknowledged. That witness is now living in a halfway house and on his way to getting work authorization.

The second man is a very close relative of the first witness and "said he would help in return for his release from jail," said Richard Tennent, an assistant federal public defender. A third witness had previously been compensated for her work with law enforcement.

Tennent said one of the witnesses told investigators that Abrego Garcia would drive roundtrip between Maryland and Houston — nearly 24 hours each way — two or three times per week. The witness said Abrego Garcia usually had two of his children and his wife with him.

Tennent pointed out that Abrego Garcia has three children, two of whom are autistic.

'Kilmar wants you to have faith'

Abrego Garcia is a citizen of El Salvador who had been living in the United States for more than a decade before he was deported. The expulsion violated a 2019 U.S. immigration judge's order that shielded him from deportation to his native country because he likely faced gang persecution there.

Before Friday's hearing began in Nashville, Abrego Garcia's wife told a crowd outside a church that

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Thursday marked three months since the Trump administration “abducted and disappeared my husband and separated him from our family.”

Her voice choked with emotion, Vasquez Sura said she saw her husband for the first time Thursday. She said, “Kilmar wants you to have faith.”

The decision to charge Abrego Garcia criminally prompted the resignation of Ben Schrader, who was chief of the criminal division at the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Middle District of Tennessee. He declined to comment when reached by The Associated Press last week. However, a person familiar with the matter who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss a personnel matter confirmed the connection.

US helps Israel shoot down barrage of Iranian missiles

By TARA COPP and LOLITA C. BALDOR Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — American air defense systems and a Navy destroyer helped Israel shoot down incoming ballistic missiles Friday that Tehran launched in response to Israeli strikes on Iran’s nuclear facilities and top military leaders, U.S. officials said.

The U.S. has both ground-based Patriot missile defense systems and Terminal High Altitude Air Defense systems in the Middle East capable of intercepting ballistic missiles, which Iran fired in multiple barrages in retaliation for Israel’s initial attack.

A Navy destroyer in the eastern Mediterranean Sea also shot down Iranian missiles heading toward Israel, one official said.

The United States also is shifting military resources, including ships, in the Middle East in response to the strikes.

The Navy directed the destroyer USS Thomas Hudner, which is capable of defending against ballistic missiles, to begin sailing from the western Mediterranean Sea toward the eastern Mediterranean and has directed a second destroyer to begin moving forward so it can be available if requested by the White House, U.S. officials said.

American fighter jets also are patrolling the sky in the Middle East to protect personnel and installations, and air bases in the region are taking additional security precautions, the officials said.

The officials spoke on the condition of anonymity to provide details not yet made public or to discuss ongoing operations.

President Donald Trump met with his National Security Council principals Friday to discuss options.

The forces in the region have been taking precautionary measures for days, including having military dependents voluntarily depart regional bases, in anticipation of the strikes and to protect personnel in case of a large-scale response from Tehran.

Typically around 30,000 troops are based in the Middle East, and about 40,000 troops are in the region now, according to a U.S. official. That number surged as high as 43,000 last October amid the ongoing tensions between Israel and Iran as well as continuous attacks on commercial and military ships in the Red Sea by the Iranian-backed Houthis in Yemen.

The Navy has additional assets that it could surge to the Middle East if needed, particularly its aircraft carriers and the warships that sail with them. The USS Carl Vinson is in the Arabian Sea — the only aircraft carrier in the region.

The carrier USS Nimitz is in the Indo-Pacific and could be directed toward the Middle East if needed, and the USS George Washington just left its port in Japan and could also be directed to the region if so ordered, one of the officials said.

Then-President Joe Biden initially surged ships to protect Israel, a close U.S. ally, following the Oct. 7, 2023, attacks by Hamas that launched the war in Gaza. It was seen as a deterrent against Hezbollah and Iran at the time.

On Oct. 1, 2024, U.S. Navy destroyers fired about a dozen interceptors in defense of Israel as the country came under attack by more than 200 missiles fired by Iran.

Jury begins deliberating whether Karen Read is guilty of murder in Boston police boyfriend's death

By MICHAEL CASEY and PATRICK WHITTLE Associated Press

DEDHAM, Mass. (AP) — Jurors in the murder trial of Karen Read began deliberations without a verdict Friday after weeks of testimony in a highly divisive case in which the prosecution's theory of jaded love turned deadly was countered by a defense claim that a cast of tight-knit Boston-area law enforcement killed a fellow police officer.

Read, 45, is accused of fatally striking her boyfriend, Boston police officer John O'Keefe, 46, with her SUV and leaving him to die in the snow outside a house party where other local police and a federal agent were closing out a night of drinking in 2022. She's charged with second-degree murder, manslaughter and leaving the scene. If convicted on the most serious charge, she faces life in prison.

Jurors went home for the weekend and will resume on Monday.

Read's defense said O'Keefe was beaten, bitten by a dog, then left outside a home in the Boston suburb of Canton in a conspiracy orchestrated by the police that included planting evidence.

The first Read trial ended July 1 in a mistrial due to a hung jury.

Prosecution has focused on the scene of death

The state's case was led by special prosecutor Hank Brennan, who called fewer witnesses than prosecutor Adam Lally, who ran the first trial against Read.

Describing O'Keefe as a "good man" who "helped people," Brennan on Friday said O'Keefe needed help that night and the only person who could lend a hand — call 911 or knock on a door — was Read. Instead, she drove away in her SUV.

"She was drunk. She hit him and she left him to die," he said, repeating the phrase twice.

Brennan again referenced Read's statement about the possibility that she backed into O'Keefe, which the defense has pointed out came not from police reports but from a voluntary interview she did for a documentary series. In the television interview, Read said, "I didn't think I hit him," but acknowledged she could have "clipped him."

He bolstered that with the testimony from first responders, several of whom heard Read say, "I hit him," multiple times.

"She is now coming to terms with the moment. Her fear is realized," he told jurors when she uttered those words. "She is facing the reality of what she had done. Her emotions are overwhelming."

Brennan then played a video clip in which Read questioned whether she said, "I hit him," so many times at the scene, words that he said validate what the first responders heard.

In the first trial, the state called Michael Proctor, a Massachusetts state trooper who was the lead investigator in the case. Proctor was later fired after a disciplinary board found he sent sexist and crude text messages about Read to his friends, family and co-workers. Prosecutors never called Proctor, but he was referenced repeatedly by attorneys during the trial.

"I'm not saying you shouldn't be disgusted by the text messages. You should. They are not defensible," Brennan said. "I don't stand here and defend impropriety. I don't. But that doesn't change the physical evidence, the scientific evidence and the data."

The evidence and data Brennan repeatedly referenced included a broken cocktail glass that O'Keefe was holding after he got out of the SUV and pieces of Read's broke rear taillight from the scene.

Brennan also said the data on Read's Lexus SUV proved she reversed the vehicle and accelerated after dropping O'Keefe at the party. She was drunk, he said, and the pair had argued on the way to the party which had added fuel to an already "toxic" and "crumbling" relationship.

Defense raises a mountain of doubt

Defense attorney Alan Jackson began his closing argument by repeating three times: "There was no collision."

"There is no evidence that John was hit by a car. None. This case should be over right now, done, because there was no collision," he said.

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Jackson told the jury that Read is an innocent woman victimized by a police cover-up in which law enforcement officers led by ringleader Proctor sought to protect their own and obscure the real killer. He said pieces of taillight were planted. And he zeroed in on federal agent Brian Higgins, who exchanged flirtatious text messages with Read, leading the defense to question if that led to a fatal confrontation. Higgins was present at the party.

"What happened inside that house, that basement or that garage? What evidence was there for investigators to look into? What did they ignore?" Jackson asked, noting the "obvious dog bites" on O'Keefe's arm and the head injury from his falling backward onto a hard surface.

Jackson also dismissed the witnesses who heard Read claim she "hit" O'Keefe at the scene. "It wasn't a confession. It was confusion," said Jackson, noting that it was normal to ask those kinds of questions when someone is experiencing grief or in shock.

Jackson also argued the state had failed to show how Read could have hit O'Keefe with her SUV — insisting they admitted not knowing how Read hit him and showing a crash simulation of a dummy being hit but admitting they weren't sure where O'Keefe was standing. The defense also argued Read's taillight was damaged when she backed out of O'Keefe house and hit his car, not when she hit him.

"The truth is Karen Read is not guilty not because of technicalities but because the facts, the law, the science, the physics, the data they all say so. They demand it," Jackson said. "The Commonwealth doesn't have a theory about how John was hit by the car. They haven't even shown you that it's possible he was hit by a car."

At the end of court Friday, a supporter handed Jackson a bouquet of pink flowers for Read, and he gave it to her when they got in a car. As she left, Read told reporters, "We've done everything we can."

Air India black box recovered after crash that killed 241 onboard and several others on the ground

By SHONAL GANGULY, RAJESH ROY and AIJAZ HUSSAIN Associated Press

AHMEDABAD, India (AP) — The flight data recorder from the crashed Air India flight was recovered Friday in what likely will lead to clues about the cause of the accident that killed 241 people on the plane and a number of others on the ground.

The London-bound Boeing 787 struck a medical college hostel when the plane came down shortly after takeoff on Thursday in a residential area of the northwestern city of Ahmedabad.

The plane's digital flight data recorder, or black box, was recovered from a rooftop near the crash site and India's Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau said that it had begun its work with "full force." The black box recovery marks an important step forward in the investigation, Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu said in a social media post.

The device will reveal information about the engine and control settings, in addition to what the voice recorder will show about the cockpit conversations, Paul Fromme, a mechanical engineer with the U.K.-based Institution of Mechanical Engineers said in a statement.

"This should show quickly if there was a loss of engine power or lift after takeoff and allow a preliminary determination of the likely cause for the crash," said Fromme, who heads the professional association's Aerospace Division.

Separately, the country's civil aviation regulator ordered Air India to conduct additional inspections of its Boeing 787-8 and 787-9 Dreamliners equipped with General Electric's GEnx engines. That includes checks of the fuel parameters, cabin air compressor, engine control system, hydraulic system and takeoff parameters, the order said.

Investigators on Friday continued searching the site of one of India's worst aviation disasters and Prime Minister Narendra Modi met with the lone surviving passenger a day after the crash.

Aviation safety consultant Jeff Guzzetti, a former crash investigator for both the U.S. National Transportation Safety Board and Federal Aviation Administration, said investigators should be able to answer some important questions about what caused the crash as soon as next week as long as the flight data

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recorder is in good shape.

Investigators likely are looking at whether wing flaps were set correctly, whether the engine lost power, whether alarms were going off inside the cockpit and whether the plane's crew correctly inputted information about the hot temperature outside and the weight of the fuel and passengers, Guzzetti said.

Mistakes in the data could result in the wing flaps being set incorrectly, he said.

"I'm not saying that this accident's going to be solved immediately, but I think some basic factual questions will be able to be answered in quick order," Guzzetti said.

At least five people were killed on the ground and about 50 injured, but many more victims were expected to be found in the search of the crash site. DNA testing was being conducted to identify bodies that were mostly charred beyond recognition.

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, 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 that he still can't believe he's alive. He said the aircraft seemed to become stuck immediately after takeoff. He said the lights then 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 includes U.S. experts

U.S. participants in the investigation will include people from the NTSB, FAA, Boeing and General Electric.

Professor Graham Braithwaite, director of Aerospace and Aviation at Cranfield University, said that the primary goal of the investigation would be "to find opportunities to prevent future accidents."

"The multinational, multidisciplinary team will work together and can also involve specialists from the manufacturer or operator," he said, "but under very strict controls to ensure the independence of the investigation."

At the Civil Hospital in Ahmedabad, grieving families gathered outside on Friday.

Two doctors at the hospital said that 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 hospitalized, and at least four of them were in critical condition.

Modi held a meeting with senior officials Friday and met with 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 that Tata held stakes in.

Witness 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.

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Solanki said that 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.

Thailand flight delayed by threat

Separately, a bomb threat message was found Friday on Air India flight AI 379, which was bound for New Delhi from Phuket International Airport in southern Thailand. The message was found in a lavatory shortly after the plane took off, officials said.

The plane requested an emergency landing at Phuket and all 156 passengers were evacuated before authorities began an inspection of the plane, the airport said. Thai authorities said that the plane, passengers and luggage were thoroughly inspected and nothing suspicious was found.

The airport and airline said that the pilot wished to resume the flight and the plane took off again in the afternoon without one passenger who didn't want to continue.

Oil prices leap 7% and US stocks slump more than 1% on worries about the crude market

By STAN CHOE, DAVID McHUGH and JIANG JUNZHE Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Oil prices leaped, and stocks slumped Friday on worries that escalating violence following Israel's attack on Iranian nuclear and military targets could damage the flow of crude around the world, along with the global economy.

The S&P 500 sank 1.1% and wiped out what had been a modest gain for the week. The Dow Jones Industrial Average dropped 769 points, or 1.8%, and the Nasdaq composite lost 1.3%.

The strongest action was in the oil market, where the price of a barrel of benchmark U.S. crude jumped 7.3% to \$72.98. Brent crude, the international standard, rose 7% to \$74.23 for a barrel.

Iran is one of the world's major producers of oil, though sanctions by Western countries have limited its sales. If a wider war erupts, it could slow the flow of Iran's oil to its customers and keep the price of crude and gasoline higher for everyone worldwide.

Beyond the oil coming from Iran, analysts also pointed to the potential for disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz, a relatively narrow waterway off Iran's coast. Much of the world's oil that's been pulled from the ground moves through it on ships.

Past attacks involving Iran and Israel have seen prices for oil spike initially, only to fall later "once it became clear that the situation was not escalating and there was no impact on oil supply," according to Richard Joswick, head of near-term oil at S&P Global Commodity Insights.

That has Wall Street waiting to see what will come next. U.S. stock prices dropped to their lowest points for the day after Iran launched ballistic missiles toward Israel.

For now, the price of oil has jumped, but it's still lower than it was earlier this year. "This is an economic shock that nobody really needs, but it is one that seems more like a shock to sentiment than to the fundamentals of the economy," said Brian Jacobsen, chief economist at Annex Wealth Management.

That in turn sent U.S. stocks to a loss that was notable in size but outside their top 15 for the year so far. Companies that use a lot of fuel as part of their business and need their customers feeling confident enough to travel fell to some of the sharpest losses. Cruise operator Carnival dropped 4.9%. United Airlines sank 4.4%, and Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings fell 5%.

They helped overshadow gains for U.S. oil producers and other companies that could benefit from increased fighting between Israel and Iran.

Exxon Mobil rose 2.2%, and ConocoPhillips gained 2.4% because the leaping price of crude portends bigger profits for them.

Contractors that make weapons and defense equipment also rallied. Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman and RTX all rose more than 3%.

The price of gold climbed as investors searched for safer places to park their cash. An ounce of gold

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added 1.4%.

Often, prices for Treasury bonds will likewise rise when investors are feeling nervous. That's because U.S. government bonds have historically been seen as some of the safest options around. But Treasury prices fell Friday, which in turn pushed up their yields, in part because of worries that a spike in oil prices could drive inflation higher.

Inflation has remained relatively tame recently, and it's near the Federal Reserve's target of 2%, but worries are high that it could be set to accelerate because of President Donald Trump's tariffs.

That sent the yield on the 10-year Treasury up to 4.41% from 4.36% late Thursday. Higher yields can tug down on prices for stocks and other investments, while making it more expensive for U.S. companies and households to borrow money.

A better-than-expected report Friday on sentiment among U.S. consumers also helped drive yields higher. The preliminary report from the University of Michigan said sentiment improved for the first time in six months after Trump put many of his tariffs on pause, while U.S. consumers' expectations for coming inflation eased.

On Wall Street, Adobe fell 5.3% even though the company behind Photoshop reported a stronger profit for the latest quarter than Wall Street expected. Analysts called it a solid performance but said investors may have been looking for some bigger revenue forecasts for the upcoming year.

All told, the S&P 500 fell 68.29 points to 5,976.97. The Dow Jones Industrial Average dropped 769.83 to 42,197.79, and the Nasdaq composite sank 255.66 to 19,406.83.

In stock markets abroad, indexes slumped across Europe and Asia. France's CAC 40 lost 1%, and Germany's DAX dropped 1.1% for two of the larger losses.

Rapper Ye, formerly known as Kanye West, shows up for Sean 'Diddy' Combs' trial but can't get in

By MICHAEL R. SISAK and LARRY NEUMEISTER Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Ye, the rapper formerly known as Kanye West, briefly showed up to the New York sex trafficking trial of Sean "Diddy" Combs on Friday to support the hip-hop mogul, a longtime friend. But he wasn't allowed into the courtroom and left after briefly watching the trial on a video monitor in another room.

Ye, dressed in white, arrived at Manhattan federal court before noon while the trial was on a break and spent about 40 minutes in the building.

After emerging from an airport-style security screening, Ye was asked if he was at the courthouse to support Combs.

"Yes," he responded with a nod. He then hustled to an elevator and did not respond when asked if he might testify on Combs' behalf when the defense begins its presentation as early as next week.

Courthouse security did not take him to the 26th floor where the trial occurs in one of the building's largest courtrooms. Admittance there is strictly controlled, with seats reserved for Combs' family and legal team, the media and spectators who wait in line for hours to get a coveted seat.

The rapper was taken instead to a courtroom three floors below the trial floor. There, he briefly observed testimony on a large closed-circuit monitor in an overflow room that was one floor below the usual overflow room, which was packed with media representatives and courthouse employees who heard erroneously that he might be there.

As word of his actual location spread and spectators trickled into the room where Ye sat in the front row with Combs' son, Christian, a bodyguard and another Combs' supporter on a side of the room that was otherwise kept vacant by a court officer, Ye looked around the room before abruptly getting up and leaving, along with the others with him.

Ye didn't answer further questions as he left the courthouse, walking past reporters and TV cameras and ducking into a waiting black Mercedes sedan.

In the courtroom where the trial occurred, Combs, 55, seemed elated and aware his friend had visited

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as family members including his mother watched the proceedings. He has pleaded not guilty to sex trafficking and racketeering conspiracy charges alleging that he used his fame, fortune and violence to commit crimes over a 20-year period.

Ye's appearance at the courthouse came a day after a woman identified in court only by the pseudonym "Jane" finished six days of testimony.

She testified that during a relationship with Combs that stretched from 2021 until his arrest last September at a Manhattan hotel, she felt coerced into frequent dayslong sexual marathons with male sex workers while Combs watched and sometimes filmed the drug-fueled encounters.

Defense attorneys have argued that Combs committed no crimes and that federal prosecutors were trying to police consensual sex that occurred between adults.

On Thursday, Jane testified that during a three-month break in her relationship with Combs, she flew to Las Vegas in January 2023 with a famous rapper who was close friends with Combs.

Prior to Jane's testimony on the subject, lawyers and the judge conducted a lengthy hearing out of public view to discuss what could be divulged about the January trip.

Jane was asked if the rapper she accompanied along with the rapper's girlfriend was "an individual at the top of the music industry as well ... an icon in the music industry."

"Yes," Jane replied.

Once in Las Vegas, Jane testified, she went with a group including the rapper to dinner, a strip club and a hotel room party, where a sex worker had sex with a woman while a half-dozen others watched.

She said there was dancing and the rapper said, "hey beautiful," and told her, in crude language, that he had always wanted to have sex with her. Jane said she didn't recall exactly when, but she flashed her breasts while dancing.

Also Friday, the judge said he was leaning toward removing a juror and replacing him with an alternate after prosecutors found inconsistencies in his answers about where he lives.

During jury selection, the juror said he lived in the Bronx. But, prosecutors said, he told a court employee that he recently moved to New Jersey.

Under questioning by Judge Arun Subramanian, the juror acknowledged moving, but said he retains a New York driver's license and stays there during the week. Only New York residents can serve as Manhattan federal court jurors.

Combs' lawyers called it a "thinly veiled effort to dismiss a Black juror" and suggested Subramanian was "conflating inconsistencies with lying."

The judge noted that even if the juror is ousted, the jury would be diverse.

South Africa's president visits flood sites with death toll at 78 and expected to climb

By GERALD IMRAY Associated Press

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (AP) — South Africa's leader visited the region where devastating floods have left at least 78 people dead in the country's southeast as searches continued Friday for a fourth day and authorities said they expected the death toll to rise.

President Cyril Ramaphosa traveled to the town of Mthatha in Eastern Cape province, where the floods hit hardest when they began early Tuesday.

Ramaphosa attended a briefing by officials from the National Disaster Management Center and also visited a bridge where a school bus was washed away by flooding. Six students, the bus driver and another adult onboard were confirmed dead, while four other schoolchildren were among the missing.

Ramaphosa's visit came amid questions over authorities' response to the disaster, which was caused by an extreme weather front that brought heavy rain, strong winds and snow to parts of the province. Forecasters warned about the bad weather last week.

The head of the provincial government said that the rescue effort was "paralyzed" in the first few hours of the floods, because of a lack of resources like specialized search and rescue teams, divers and K-9 dog

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units in one of the country's poorest regions.

Eastern Cape Premier Oscar Mabuyane said that the province of 7.2 million people has just one official rescue helicopter, which had to be brought from another city more than 500 kilometers (310 miles) away.

Ramaphosa defended the response and said that while the government was deeply distressed at the deaths, "it could have been much worse."

The floods in the predawn hours caught many unaware, with victims washed away, along with parts of their houses and other debris, or trapped inside as water engulfed their homes.

The rain has stopped and floodwaters are subsiding.

Authorities say they expect more bodies to be recovered as rescue teams search the floodwaters and what is left of damaged houses and other structures to look for those still missing. Many children are among the dead.

"I need psychological help because I saw people dying in front of me. They were being dragged by the water along with the corrugated iron," said Zinathi Vuso, a resident of Mthatha.

"Others tried to hold or climb onto something, but it would break and they ended up dead," Vuso said. "That is why you are seeing people still getting recovered and others are yet to be found."

Bodies were found by search teams up to 2 kilometers (more than a mile) away from where the victims were believed to have been during the flooding.

Authorities were appealing for residents to report missing people so rescuers could get a better idea of how many people they were still looking for, Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs Minister Velenkosini Hlabisa, who led a national government team deployed to the province earlier in the week, said on national broadcaster SABC late Thursday.

"We are in a crisis. A real disaster," Hlabisa said. "The more water subsides, the more people will be found."

Some South African coastal areas are vulnerable to extreme weather blowing in from the Indian Ocean and Southern Ocean. More than 400 people died in flooding in and around the east coast city of Durban in 2022.

Many victims of this week's floods in the Eastern Cape were living on flood plains near rivers. Poor areas with informal housing were the worst affected, government officials said.

Today in History: June 14, German troops occupy Paris

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Saturday, June 14, the 165th day of 2025. There are 200 days left in the year. This is Flag Day.

Today in history:

On June 14, 1940, German troops entered Paris during World War II; the same day, the Nazis transported their first prisoners to the Auschwitz concentration camp in German-occupied Poland.

Also on this date:

In 1775, the Continental Army, forerunner of the United States Army, was created by the Second Continental Congress.

In 1777, the Second Continental Congress approved the design of the first "stars and stripes" American flag.

In 1846, a group of U.S. settlers in Sonoma proclaimed the breakaway state of the California Republic, declaring independence from Mexico.

In 1919, British aviators John Alcock and Arthur Whitten Brown embarked on the first non-stop flight across the Atlantic Ocean.

In 1943, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *West Virginia State Board of Education v. Barnette*, ruled 6-3 that public school students could not be forced to salute the flag of the United States or recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

In 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed a bill adding the phrase "under God" to the Pledge of Allegiance.

In 1972, the Environmental Protection Agency ordered a ban on domestic use of the pesticide DDT, to

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take effect at year's end.

In 1982, Argentine forces surrendered to British troops on the disputed Falkland Islands.

In 1993, President Bill Clinton announced his nomination of Judge Ruth Bader Ginsburg to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court.

In 2005, Michelle Wie, 15, became the first female player to qualify for an adult male U.S. Golf Association championship, tying for first place in a 36-hole U.S. Amateur Public Links sectional qualifying tournament.

In 2017, fire ripped through the 24-story Grenfell Tower residential building in West London, killing 72 people.

In 2018, a Justice Department watchdog report on the FBI's handling of the Hillary Clinton email probe criticized the FBI and its former director, James Comey, but did not find evidence that political bias tainted the investigation.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Marla Gibbs is 94. U.S. President Donald Trump is 79. Olympic speed skating gold medalist Eric Heiden is 67. Jazz musician Marcus Miller is 66. Singer Boy George is 64. Tennis Hall of Famer Steffi Graf is 56. Classical pianist Lang Lang is 43. Actor J.R. Martinez is 42. Actor Lucy Hale is 36. Actor Daryl Sabara is 33. Rapper Gunna is 32.