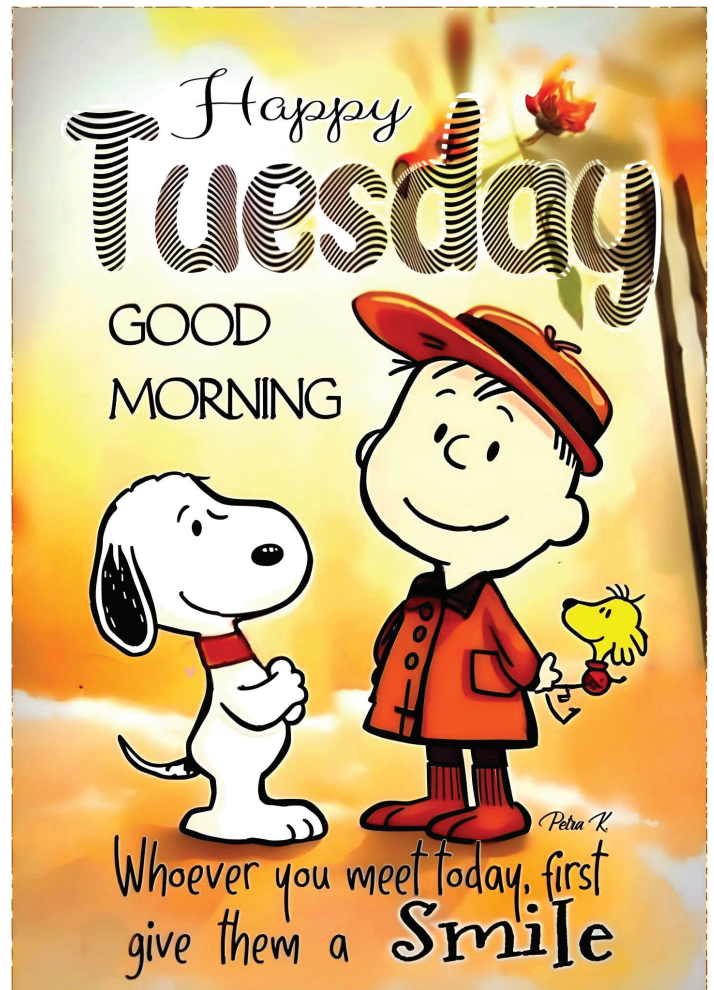


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Tuesday, June 17

Senior Menu: Swiss steak, mashed potatoes, Monterey blend, pineapple, whole wheat bread.

City Council meeting, 7 p.m.

Amateurs at Northville, 6:30 p.m.

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

U12W&R at Britton, 5:30 p.m. (DH)

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

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

Softball: U14 vs. Redfield/Warner at Redfield, 4 p.m.

St. John's Lutheran: Quilting, 9 a.m.

United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.

Wednesday, June 18

Senior Menu: Breaded fish, pea and cheese salad, fruit cocktail, brownie, whole wheat bread.

Legion vs. Spearfish at Clark, 5:30 p.m.

U12 R&B vs. Aberdeen at North Complex, 5:30 p.m. (DH)

U10 B&W at Milbank, 5:30 p.m. (DH)

Softball: U8B at Warner, 5:30 p.m.; U8G vs. Ipswich at Redfield, 5:30 p.m.; U10B at Warner, 5:30 p.m.; U10G vs. Ipswich at Redfield, 5:30 p.m.; U12 at Warner, 6:30 p.m.

Groton C&MA: Kid's Club, Youth Group, Adult Bible Study, 7 p.m.

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

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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.

Missile Strikes Escalate

Israel struck the headquarters of Iranian state television in northern Tehran yesterday, setting fire to the facility during a live broadcast hours after issuing evacuation warnings to residents in the capital. Israel said the building was being used to hide military infrastructure; the claim has not been verified independently.

Earlier in the day, Israel said it had also attacked the headquarters of Iran's Quds Force—an elite branch of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps. The strikes came on the fourth day of missile exchanges between Israel and Iran. Since Israel began its military operation Thursday, at least 224 people have been killed and over 1,400 wounded in Iran, and at least 24 people have been killed and around 600 wounded in Israel as of this writing.

Separately, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said he wouldn't rule outtargeting Iranian Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei, while the US State Department raised its travel advisory for Israel to its highest level of "do not travel."

Purdue Pharma Settlement

All 50 states and US territories agreed to a \$7.4B settlement with Purdue Pharma and its owners yesterday over the company's role in the opioid crisis. If approved, the payout will resolve thousands of outstanding lawsuits but still allow future litigation. It is the largest settlement of its kind surrounding the decadeslong epidemic.

Purdue released OxyContin, a powerful prescription painkiller, in the 1990s. The drug has since been blamed for fueling the opioid epidemic, resulting in over 645,000 US deaths since 1999. Purdue filed for bankruptcy in 2019 to settle lawsuits accusing it of downplaying the drug's addictive nature.

Last year, the Supreme Court overturned a \$6B settlement on the grounds that bankruptcy courts cannot prevent future lawsuits. By removing that stipulation, the new deal clears the way for Purdue to complete bankruptcy proceedings. The money will be used to fund state-run addiction treatment and prevention programs.

Louvre Staff Strike

Thousands of confused visitors waited outside the Louvre in Paris yesterday after a staff strike abruptly shut down the world's most-visited museum. The employees' protest against overwhelming crowds, understaffing, and deteriorating infrastructure follows mounting frustrations over mass tourism across Europe.

The Louvre walkout comes roughly six months after French President Emmanuel Macron announced a decadelong renovation plan, estimated to cost \$730M to \$830M. In January, a leaked memo from the museum's president warned water leaks, temperature fluctuations, and overcrowding threatened both the artwork and visitor experience. Employees have long expressed concerns about foot traffic, staging a similar walkout in 2019 when the museum saw up to 45,000 visitors daily. Daily visitorship was capped at 30,000 in 2022, but the Louvre still hosted 8.7 million people last year—more than double its designed capacity. Museum operations are expected to resume tomorrow.

The oldest areas of the Louvre date to the Middle Ages, with the last major renovation in 1989.

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Editor's note: In yesterday's digest, we wrote border encounters are down 175% from April 2024, from over 179,737 to 12,035. We meant to write border encounters are down 93%. Thanks to readers for flagging the error!

Sports, Entertainment, & Culture

Florida Panthers will look to win their second straight Stanley Cup tonight (8 pm ET, TNT) in Game 6 with a 3-2 lead in the best-of-seven final series against the Edmonton Oilers.

"Grey's Anatomy" star Eric Dane reveals ALS diagnosis has left him experiencing paralysis in his right arm.

Arthur Folasca Ah Loo, fashion designer and "Project Runway" contestant, identified as protester who was shot and killed during "No Kings" protest in Salt Lake City.

Supreme Court dismisses lawsuit that alleged Ed Sheeran's hit "Thinking Out Loud" infringed on the copyright of Marvin Gaye's "Let's Get It On".

Science & Technology

Astronomers discover roughly three-quarters of the universe's unaccounted-for ordinary matter—which makes up 5% of the universe's matter and energy—is in thin gases located between galaxies.

Federal judge rules Trump administration's cuts to diversity-related grants at the National Institutes of Health were illegal; awards amount to around \$1B in funding, decision likely to be appealed.

Researchers develop technique to target specific cells affected by ALS, a key step in delivering effective treatments; neurodegenerative disease affects around 30,000 people in the US, has no current cure.

Business & Markets

US stock markets close higher (S&P 500 +1.0%, Dow +0.8%, Nasdaq +1.5%) on hopes Israel-Iran conflict remains contained.

The US and the UK say they have reached a trade deal, expected to cut tariffs on goods from both countries; details have not been made public.

Crypto billionaire Justin Sun to take Tron Group public through a reverse merger with Nasdaq-listed toy manufacturer SRM Entertainment; SRM will rebrand as Tron Inc.

WhatsApp to introduce ads to some parts of its messaging app as well as a subscription model for the first time.

Trump Organization to launch \$47.45-per-month mobile phone plan and \$499 smartphone in September.

Politics & World Affairs

President Donald Trump calls on the G7 to readmit Russia, suggesting its 2014 ouster paved the way for the current conflict in Ukraine; also calls on the group to consider adding China.

Suspected gunman in attack on Minnesota lawmakers faces state, federal charges, including second-degree murder and attempted murder; authorities say he traveled to two other lawmakers' homes during the spree, but they were not home.

Federal judge extends restraining order on Trump administration's effort to block Harvard University from enrolling foreign students; hearing scheduled for June 23.

Groton Transit Fundraiser



When: Thursday, June 19, 2025

Time: 5:00 pm-7:00 pm

Where: Groton Community Center

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

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

Food*Fun*Door Prizes

FREE WILL DONATION

Please join us & Help support Groton Transit!

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Groton City Council Meeting Agenda

June 17, 2025 – 7:00pm

City Hall – 120 North Main Street

(IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO CALL IN TO THIS MEETING, PLEASE MAKE PRIOR ARRANGEMENTS TO DO SO BY
CALLING CITY HALL 605-397-8422)

1. Approval of Agenda
2. Public Comments - pursuant to SDCL 1-25-1
(Public Comments will offer the opportunity for anyone not listed on the agenda to speak to the council. Speaking time will be limited to 3 minutes. No action will be taken on questions or items not on the agenda.)
3. Airport Discussion – Darrell Hillestad
4. Authorization to Bid Baseball Concessions Building Project
5. Discussion Regarding Service Road by Ken's
6. Authorization to Bid Electric Metering System
7. Approval of Resolution No. 20251 – Approval of Certain Sewer Facilities Improvements and Revenue Bond Funding
8. Approval of Resolution No. 20252 – Establishment of Project Surcharge
9. Soccer Gates
10. May Finance Report
11. Investment of Funds in Dacotah Bank Checking Account
12. Geographic Information Systems (GIS)
13. Authorization to Place Potential Bid on Property at 602 E Railroad Avenue
14. Minutes
15. Bills
16. City Offices Closed on June 19th, 2025, for Juneteenth
17. Executive session personnel & legal 1-25-2 (1) & (3)
18. Hire Summer Employee(s)
19. Adjournment

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BROWN COUNTY COMMISSION AGENDA

GENERAL MEETING

TUESDAY, JUNE 17, 2025, 8:45 A.M.

COMMISSIONER'S CHAMBERS

COURTHOUSE ANNEX - 25 MARKET STREET, ABERDEEN SD

1. Call To Order - Pledge of Allegiance
2. Approval of the Agenda
3. Opportunity for Public Comment
 - ❖ *Public comment will be limited to 10 minutes or at Boards Discretion. Presentations will be limited to 3 minutes.*
4. Kelly Weaver, Grow SD
 - a. 2026 Budget Request and Update on Program/Services
5. Tim Hanigan, Aberdeen Development Corporation CEO
 - a. 2026 Budget Request
6. Marla Kiesz, Area IV Senior Nutrition Executive Director
 - a. 2026 Budget Request and Update on Program/Services
7. Rachel Kippley, Fair/Fairgrounds/Parks Manager
 - a. Conference Call with Fran Romeo Agency & Neste Live regarding BCF Contracts
 - b. Approve Tent Rental Contract/Authorize Chairman to sign
 - c. 2025 Brown County Fair Promo List
8. Kasie Ingraham, Department of Legislative Audits
 - a. Audit Entrance Conference
9. First Reading of following Ordinances:
 - a. Ord. #299 – Jeff Brockel/Jacob Palmer – Rezone
 - b. Ord. #300 – Darian & Kimberly Browning – Rezone
 - c. Ord. #301 – Edward Price for Braun Family – Rezone
 - d. Ord. #302 – Amendment to Title 4 – Wind Energy System
 - e. Ord. #303 – Amendment to Title 4 – Data Centers
10. Approve Fireworks Permit/Authorize Chairman to sign for Motor Sports, LLC dba: Brown County Speedway to be held on July 4, 2025
11. Consent Calendar
 - a. Approval of General Meeting Minutes for June 10, 2025
 - b. Claims/Payroll
 - c. HR Report
 - d. Claim Assignments
 - e. Lottery Permit
 - f. Travel Requests
 - g. Approve & Authorize Advertising for RFP of Padded Cell
 - h. Lease Agreement
 - i. Set Hearing Date & Authorize Adverting for Temporary Alcohol Permit for Boys & Girls Club
12. Other Business
13. Executive Session (if requested per SDCL 1-25-2)
14. Adjourn

You can join the Brown County Commission Meeting via **your computer, tablet, or smartphone** at <https://meet.goto.com/BrCoCommission>

You can also dial in using your phone. United States: [+1 \(872\) 240-3311](tel:+18722403311) - Access Code: 601-168-909 #

Get the app now and be ready when your first meeting starts: <https://meet.goto.com/install>

Official Recordings of Commission Meetings along with the Minutes can be found at <https://www.brown.sd.us/node/454>

AGENDA

BROWN COUNTY PLANNING/ZONING COMMISSION REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETINGS

TUESDAY, June 17, 2025 – 7:00 PM
BROWN COUNTY COURTHOUSE ANNEX in the BASEMENT
(STAIRWAY AND ELEVATOR ACCESS TO BASEMENT)

- I. **Call to Order:** for Brown County Planning/Zoning Commission
- II. **Roll Call:** Stan Beckler - Chairman, David North - Vice Chair, Patrick Keatts, Dale Kurth, James Meyers, Carrie Weisenburger, County Commissioner Mike Gage and Alternate Paul Johnson.
- III. **Appointment SDCL 11-2-2,** The County Planning Commission is appointed and approved by the Board of Brown County Commissioners. The County Planning Commission is known as the County Planning/Zoning Commission. The County Zoning Commission also serves as the County Zoning Board of Adjustment.
- IV. **Contracts with municipalities SDCL 11-2-7.** Contracts to provide planning and zoning services to municipalities--Municipal powers exercised by County Board. The governing body of any municipality may contract with the Board for Planning and Zoning services to be provided by the county, and the contract may provide that the municipality shall pay such fees as are agreed for the services performed. Under the provisions of the contract the municipal governing body may authorize the County Planning and Zoning Commission, on behalf of the municipality, to exercise any of the powers otherwise granted to municipal planning and zoning commissions under chapters [11-4](#) and [11-6](#).
Source: SL 1967, ch 20, § 9; SL 1975, ch 113, § 2; SL 1992, ch 60, § 2; SL 1998, ch 76, § 2
 1. Columbia: May 5, 1981, by Resolution.
 2. Verdon Village: April 17, 1981, by Resolution.
 3. Town of Claremont: April 6, 1981, by Resolution.
 4. Town of Stratford: April 6, 1981, by Resolution.
- V. **Opportunity for Public Comment if any.**
- VI. **Approval of June 17, 2025, Agenda:** Motion: 1st _____ 2nd _____
- VII. **Approval of May 20, 2025, Minutes:** Motion: 1st _____ 2nd _____

ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

- VIII. **Old Business:**
 1. **Sign-up sheet:** On the table by the door entrance, there is a Sign-up Sheet. Please legibly sign in and mark YES or NO if you want to speak to the Board on any Agenda Item.
 2. **Permits:** Anyone that has submitted a Variance Petition (VP) or a Conditional Use Petition (CUP) to the Zoning Board of Adjustment (BOA) is still required to get their required PERMITS from the

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Zoning Office before starting their project if their Petition gets approved. Penalties may be assessed per Ordinance when starting projects without proper permits in place.

3. **Preliminary & Final Plat** for conveyance purposes on a property described as “Pigors Third Addition” in the SE1/4 of Section 27-T122N-R60W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (14053 410th Avenue; East Hanson Twp.).

IX. **New Business:** *Brown County Planning/Zoning Commission as Zoning Board of Adjustment (BOA).*

1. **Conditional Use Petition** in a proposed Highway Commercial District (HC) described as the 500’ west of the east 700’ of the north 658’ in the NW1/4 of Section 11-T123N-R64W, except highway R.O.W. and except H-1 of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (1421 24th Avenue NW; Aberdeen Twp.).
2. **Variance to Setbacks** in a proposed Mini-Agriculture District (M-AG) described as Lot 2B, “Lockheed Replat of Lot 2 of 2nd Subdivision of O’Dea’s Outlot 1” in the SW1/4 of Section 34-T122N-R64W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (38534 142nd Street, Warner Twp.).
3. **Conditional Use Petition** in a Commercial District (C) described as Lot 4, “Todd Rosebrock First Addition” in the NW1/4 of Section 9-T123N-R63W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (4365 Paper Lane, Aberdeen Twp.).
4. **Conditional Use Petition** in a Heavy Industrial District (H-I) described as Lot 1 “TAC First Addition” in the NW1/4 of the NW1/4 of Section 9-T123N-R63W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (1820 Brown County 19, Aberdeen Twp.).
5. **Conditional Use Petition** in an Agriculture Preservation District (AG-P) described as the SW1/4 of Section 3-T123N-R63W, except land platted, in the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (39150 107th Street, Richland Twp.).
6. **Variance to Approach Separation** in a Heavy Industrial District (H-I) described as Young’s Lot 1, “Hub City Livestock Second Addition” in the E1/2 of Section 26-T123N-R64W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (2410 S 5th Street, Aberdeen Twp.).

X. **Other Business:**

Completed as Zoning Board of Adjustment (BOA) & going to Planning Commission

AGENDA

BROWN COUNTY PLANNING/ZONING COMMISSION REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETINGS

TUESDAY, JUNE 17, 2025 – 7:00 PM

BROWN COUNTY COURTHOUSE ANNEX in the BASEMENT
(STAIRWAY AND ELEVATOR ACCESS TO BASEMENT)

PLANNING COMMISSION

- I. **Old Business: Discussion on Amendments to Brown County Ordinance Title 4 for Chapters 4.22 through Chapter 4.29 on Administrative Rules and Enforcement are still postponed until further notice, by Ross Aldentaler, Deputy States Attorney. We are not continuing to put this on the Agenda or Minutes until something is presented to the Planning/Zoning Commission for proposed changes.**
- II. **New Business: Brown County Planning/Zoning Commission as Planning Commission.**
 10. **Rezone Petition** for properties described as the 500' west of the east 700' of the north 658' in the NW1/4 of Section 11-T123N-R64W, except highway R.O.W. and except H-1; Lot C, Block 12, "Wyllie Park Estates 5th Addition" in the N1/2 of Section 11-T123N-R64W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (1421 24th Avenue NW & 1920 N Hwy 281 ; Aberdeen Twp.) to be rezoned from Residential District (R-1) to Highway Commercial District (HC).
 11. **Rezone Petition** for properties described as proposed Lots 1 & 2, "Weismantel Farm First Addition" in the E1/2 of the NE1/4 of Section 33-T126N-R62W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (11747 397th Avenue; Shelby Twp.) to be rezoned from Agriculture Preservation District (AG-P) to Mini-Agriculture District (M-AG).
 12. **Rezone Petition** for a property described as proposed Lot 1, "Maier's First Addition" in the SW1/4 of Section 17-T126N-R63W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (11450 389th Avenue; Brainard Twp.) to be rezoned from Agriculture Preservation District (AG-P) to Mini-Agriculture District (M-AG).
 13. **Rezone Petition** for properties described as Lots 2A & 2B, "Lockheed Replat of Lot 2 of 2nd Subdivision of O'Dea's Outlot 1" in the SW1/4 of Section 34-T122N-R64W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (38518 & 38534 142nd Street; Warner Twp.).
 15. **Preliminary & Final Plat** for conveyance purposes on a property described as "Weismantel Farm First Addition" in the E1/2 of the NE1/4 of Section 33-T126N-R62W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (11747 397th Avenue; Shelby Twp.).
 16. **Preliminary & Final Plat** for conveyance purposes on a property described as "Mina Lake Northeast Addition" in the S1/2 of Section 7-T123N-R65W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (37360 132nd Street; Mercier Twp.).

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17. **Preliminary & Final Plat** for conveyance purposes on a property described as "Maier's First Addition" in the SW1/4 of Section 17-T126N-R63W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (11450 389th Avenue; Brainard Twp.).
18. **Preliminary & Final Plat** for conveyance purposes on a property described as "TC Wright Addition" in the NW1/4 of Section 20-T123N-R62W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (39505 133rd Street; Bath Twp.).
19. **Preliminary & Final Plat** for financial purposes on a property described as "CWE Addition" in the N1/2 of Section 29-T123N-R60W of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota (134th Street & 407th Avenue; Groton Twp.).

III. Other Business:

1. Executive Session if requested.

IV. Motion to Adjourn: 1st _____ 2nd _____

Groton Locke Electric To Play Northville Merchants

Groton Locke Electric will play Northville Merchants on Tuesday at Northville, 6:30 p.m.

Last Time Out:

Groton Locke Electric lost to Northville Merchants 9-2 at Groton. Greg Heyne collected three hits to lead Northville Merchants past Hitmen Amateurs 20-5.

Player Highlight:

Adam Suther has put together one quality at bat this season.

About Groton Locke Electric:

Groton Locke Electric has a 0-1 record this season. Bradin Althoff's 2.000 OPS leads Groton Locke Electric. The first baseman has a 0.667 OBP and a 1.333 slugging percentage this season. Bj Richter leads Groton Locke Electric with three and one-third innings pitched. The right-handed pitcher has a 0.00 ERA this season. Ryan Groebelinghoff leads Groton Locke Electric with five total fielding chances this season. Groebelinghoff's primary position is right field.

About Northville Merchants:

Northville Merchants has three wins against one loss this season. Niko Pezonella's 1.800 OPS leads Northville Merchants. The shortstop has a 0.800 OBP and a 1.000 slugging percentage this season. Ashton Remily leads Northville Merchants with 11 and two-thirds innings pitched. The starting pitcher has a 4.80 ERA this season. Kyle Stahl leads Northville Merchants with 24 total fielding chances this season. Stahl's primary position is catcher.

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Banners installed along US12

The new Groton Chamber banners were installed along US 12 on Friday. Paul Kosel from the Groton City Electric Dept. is pictured below installing the hardware on the light pole.

(Courtesy photos)



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USD Dean's List

Full-time, undergraduate students are named to the Dean's List if they received a 3.5 GPA for courses they took in the spring 2025 semester, and they had no incomplete or failing grades.

University of South Dakota 2025 Spring Dean's List

Duerre, Max Henry SD (Bristol)

Peckham, Madison Jayden SD (Bristol)

Gustafson, Megan Kathryn SD (Claremont)

Kurtz, Camryn Renee Ione SD (Groton)

Lewandowski, Jacob Kenneth SD (Groton)

Peterson, Shaylee Kristine SD (Groton)

ADA keeps the arts diverse, equal and inclusive

By Jim Speirs, Executive Director, Arts South Dakota

In 1990, the nation's lawmakers recognized that differently-abled members of our population had not previously been guaranteed equal access and that physical barriers were preventing Americans from participating in aspects of daily life—including arts experiences. Those leaders passed into law the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), one of our nation's most significant civil rights statutes, to protect people with disabilities from discrimination. For the more than 70 million Americans living with a disability, the ADA preserves as law the idea that we all deserve opportunity, inclusion, respect and dignity.

ADA is a major step toward physical and programmatic accessibility for differently abled people in our country. Even though 25% of all Americans live with some form of disability, somehow that community is represented in just 3% of film, television and media. While we're making our auditoriums accessible to everyone, are we making our planning committees, governing boards and program-building groups open to input from people of all abilities in our communities?

Not only do we need to include people of all abilities, but also welcome everyone. Open doors provide learning and growing for all people, and sharing arts experiences—as well as planning and creating those arts experiences—builds community in exciting new ways.

Most importantly, our approach to inclusion and accessibility must be intentional. That means factoring all-ability programming and participation into our organizational planning from the beginning—and making sure that there is a place in the budget for the unexpected extras that true accessibility requires. Listening to everyone, including the 176,000 South Dakotans who live with some form of disability, should be part of our missions as arts providers and arts advocates.

The arts lift us, transform us, save us—and the best way to celebrate the 35th anniversary of the ADA is to ensure that the power of the arts is available to people of all abilities across South Dakota.



Please visit www.ArtsSouthDakota.org to learn more about access to the arts for all South Dakotans.

The Life of Linda Fischer

Linda Lee Ott Fischer, 81, of Harrison, passed away Monday, June 2, 2025, at The Springs of Mt. Vista in Harrison.

She was born October 27, 1943, in Aberdeen, South Dakota, to Clifford George and Mary Louise Samuel Ott. Linda was raised on the family farm between Verdon and Randolph, South Dakota, and was baptized and confirmed at West Hanson Lutheran Church near Stratford. She proudly carried her rural upbringing throughout her life and often shared fond memories of driving grain trucks and working in the fields.

Linda attended grade school in Verdon and graduated from Conde Public School in 1961. She earned her bachelor's degree from Northern State University in 1965 and later earned her master's degree from the University of Arkansas. She began her professional career teaching business classes at Watertown Vocational/Technical College in South Dakota. After marrying Gerald Eugene "Gerry" Fischer in 1967, the couple moved south, teaching in Iowa and later working in Kansas City before settling in Harrison. In Harrison, Linda continued her teaching career by instructing business classes at the Vo-Tech, which later became North Arkansas College. She also worked at Duncan Parking Meter Company until her retirement.

Linda loved spending time with her children and grandchildren. Though she made her home in Arkansas, her heart remained tied to South Dakota, and she rarely missed a family get-together. She was also a devoted member of her church, First Lutheran Church, until she was no longer physically able to attend. She was preceded in death by her parents; her brother, Loel Ott; a grandson, Joey Franklin McCutcheon; and the father of her children, Gerald Eugene Fischer.

She is survived by her children, Chloette McCutcheon and husband, Joey, of Mt. Judea, Gerald Eugene "Gef" Fischer and wife, Jennifer, of Ralph, and Loel Fischer of Sedalia, Missouri; 12 grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; her brother, Lari Ott and wife, Linda, of Pierre, South Dakota; her sister, Cheryl Hilgemann and husband, Jeff, of Park Rapids, Minnesota; and a host of nieces, nephews, and cousins.

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, June 21, 2025, at First Lutheran Church of Harrison, with the Pastor Bob Herring officiating. The family will have a graveside committal service in August at Groton Union Cemetery. Arrangements are under the direction of Holt Memorial Chapel.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, 225 North Michigan Avenue, Floor 17, Chicago, Illinois 60601, or to a charity of your choice.

The online obituary and guestbook are available at www.HoltChapel.com.



South Dakota Reports Significant Decline in Syphilis Cases: Targeted Outreach and Testing Drive Progress

PIERRE, SD – The South Dakota Department of Health (DOH) reports encouraging progress in the fight against syphilis, with provisional data showing a 55.2% decline in early syphilis cases compared to the 5-year median. Overall, syphilis cases across all stages are down 41.5% from the same time last year.

“This is a powerful reflection of the dedication from our field teams, healthcare partners, and community organizations working together along with our targeted education and outreach strategies,” said Secretary of Health Melissa Magstadt. “While we celebrate this milestone, we remain focused on reaching communities still at higher risk.”

Although overall rates have declined, significant disparities persist. Native American communities continue to face disproportionately high infection rates. To address this, the DOH has expanded on-site testing and treatment services through collaborations with tribal nations, tribal health leaders, healthcare providers, and local organizations. Additionally, individuals with a history of substance use and a history of incarceration also experience notable health disparities. In response, DOH has partnered with the state’s correctional facilities to improve access to sexually transmitted infection care for these underserved populations.

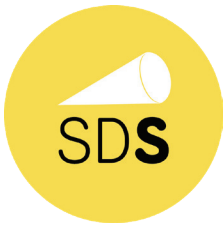
Complementing field efforts, the Department launched a targeted communications campaign designed to reach high-risk populations and reduce stigma around testing. Messaging emphasized that syphilis is 100% curable and testing is free, fast, and confidential. This outreach was delivered across various platforms, including Facebook, Snapchat, and Tinder, with creative content focused on silent symptoms, risk awareness, prenatal dangers, and how to get help.

Beyond impressions and clicks, the campaign played a critical role in raising awareness and prompting behavior change, especially among younger adults and people with limited healthcare access.

“We want people to know: prevention and treatment are available, and early action matters,” said Magstadt. “By meeting people where they are, the communications strategy worked in tandem with clinical outreach from our healthcare systems, driving people to seek care and get tested, showcasing the success behind this incredible decline in syphilis cases in South Dakota.”

To learn more or find testing, visit the DOH website.

At the heart of the Department of Health’s mission is a simple goal: to protect and improve the health of all South Dakotans. The department is entrusted with the vital task of promoting wellness, preventing disease, and ensuring access to quality healthcare for all South Dakotans.



SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

'Expensive and complicated':

Most rural hospitals no longer deliver babies

More than 100 hospitals across 26 states have closed their labor and delivery units since 2020

BY: ANNA CLAIRE VOLLERS, STATELINE - JUNE 16, 2025 9:38 AM

Nine months after Monroe County Hospital in rural South Alabama closed its labor and delivery department in October 2023, Grove Hill Memorial Hospital in neighboring Clarke County also stopped delivering babies.

Both hospitals are located in an agricultural swath of the state that's home to most of its poorest counties. Many residents of the region don't even have a nearby emergency department.

Stacey Gilchrist is a nurse and administrator who's spent her 40-year career in Thomasville, a small town about 20 minutes north of Grove Hill. Thomasville's hospital shut down entirely last September over financial difficulties. Thomasville Regional hadn't had a labor and delivery unit for years, but women in labor still showed up at its ER when they knew they wouldn't make it to the nearest delivering hospital.

"We had several close calls where people could not make it even to Grove Hill when they were delivering there," Gilchrist told Stateline shortly after the Thomasville hospital closed. She recalled how Thomasville nurses worked to save the lives of a mother and baby who'd delivered early in their ER, as staff waited for neonatal specialists to arrive by ambulance from a distant delivering hospital.

"It would give you chills to see what all they had to do. They had to get inventive," she said, but the mother and baby survived.

Now many families must drive more than an hour to reach the nearest birthing hospital.

Nationwide, most rural hospitals no longer offer obstetric services. Since the end of 2020, more than 100 rural hospitals have stopped delivering babies, according to a new report from the Center for Healthcare Quality & Payment Reform, a national policy center focused on solving health care issues through overhauling insurance payments. Fewer than 1,000 rural hospitals nationwide still have labor and delivery services.

Across the nation, two rural labor and delivery departments shut their doors every month on average, said Harold Miller, the center's president and CEO.



A mother prepares her infant son for bed. Since 2020, 36 states have lost at least one rural labor and delivery department. In rural counties, the loss of hospital-based obstetric care is associated with increases in births in hospital emergency rooms, less prenatal care and higher rates of babies being born too early. (Photo by John Moore/Getty Images)

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"It's the perfect storm," Miller told Stateline. "The number of births are going down, everything is more expensive in rural areas, health insurance plans don't cover the cost of births, and hospitals don't have the resources to offset those losses because they're losing money on other services, too."

Staffing shortages, low Medicaid reimbursement payments and declining birth rates have contributed to the closures. Some states have responded by changing how Medicaid funds are spent, by allowing the opening of freestanding birth centers, or by encouraging urban-based obstetricians to open satellite clinics in rural areas.

Yet the losses continue. Thirty-six states have lost at least one rural labor and delivery unit since the end of 2020, according to the report. Sixteen have lost three or more. Indiana has lost 12, accounting for a third of its rural hospital labor and delivery units.

In rural counties the loss of hospital-based obstetric care is associated with increases in births in hospital emergency rooms, studies have found. The share of women without adequate prenatal care also increases in rural counties that lose hospital obstetric services.

And researchers have seen an increase in preterm births — when a baby is born three or more weeks early — following rural labor and delivery closures. Babies born too early have higher rates of death and disability.

Births are expensive

The decline in hospital-based maternity care has been decades in the making.

Traditionally, hospitals lose money on obstetrics. It costs more to maintain a labor and delivery department than a hospital gets paid by insurance to deliver a baby. This is especially true for rural hospitals, which see fewer births and therefore less revenue than urban areas.

"It is expensive and complicated for any hospital to have labor and delivery because it's a 24/7 service," said Miller.

A labor and delivery unit must always have certain staff available or on call, including a physician who can perform cesarean sections, nurses with obstetric training, and an anesthesiologist for C-sections and labor pain management.

"There's a minimum fixed cost you incur [as a hospital] to have all of that, regardless of how many births there are," Miller said.

In most cases, insurers don't pay hospitals to maintain that standby capacity; they're paid per birth. Hospitals cover their losses on obstetrics with revenue they get from more lucrative services.

For a larger urban hospital with thousands of births a year, the fixed costs might be manageable. For smaller rural hospitals, they're much harder to justify. Some have had to jettison their obstetric services just to keep the doors open.

"You can't subsidize a losing service when you don't have profit coming in from other services," Miller said.

And staffing is a persistent problem.

Harrison County Hospital in Corydon, Indiana, a small town on the border with Kentucky, ended its obstetric services in March after hospital leaders said they were unable to recruit an obstetric provider. It was the only delivering hospital in the county, averaging about 400 births a year.

And most providers don't want to remain on call 24/7, a particular problem in rural regions that might have just one or two physicians trained in obstetrics. In many rural areas, family physicians with obstetrical training fill the role of both obstetricians and general practitioners.

Ripple effects

Even before Harrison County Hospital suspended its obstetrical services, some patients were already driving more than 30 minutes for care, the Indiana Capital Chronicle reported. The closure means the drive could be 50 minutes to reach a hospital with a labor and delivery department, or to see providers for prenatal visits.

Longer drive times can be risky, resulting in more scheduled inductions and C-sections because families

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are scared to risk going into labor naturally and then facing a harrowing hourlong drive to the hospital. Having fewer labor and delivery units could further burden ambulance services already stretched thin in rural areas.

And hospitals often serve as a hub for other maternity-related services that help keep mothers and babies healthy.

"Other things we've seen in rural counties that have hospital-based OB care is that you're more likely to have other supportive things, like maternal mental health support, postpartum groups, lactation support, access to doula care and midwifery services," said Katy Kozhimannil, a professor at the University of Minnesota School of Public Health, whose research focuses in part on maternal health policy with a focus on rural communities.

State action

Medicaid, the state-federal public insurance for people with low incomes, pays for nearly half of all births in rural areas nationwide. And women who live in rural communities and small towns are more likely to be covered by Medicaid than women in metro areas.

Experts say one way to save rural labor and delivery in many places would be to bump up Medicaid payments.

As congressional Republicans debate President Donald Trump's tax and spending plan, they're considering which portions of Medicaid to slash to help pay for the bill's tax cuts. Maternity services aren't on the chopping block.

But if Congress reduces federal funding for some portions of Medicaid, states — and hospitals — will have to figure out how to offset that loss. The ripple effects could translate into less money for rural hospitals overall, meaning some may no longer be able to afford labor and delivery services.

"Cuts to Medicaid are going to be felt disproportionately in rural areas where Medicaid makes up a higher proportion of labor and delivery and for services in general," Kozhimannil said. "It is a hugely important payer at rural hospitals, and for birth in particular."

And though private insurers often pay more than Medicaid for birth services, Miller believes states shouldn't let companies off the hook.

"The data shows that in many cases, commercial insurance plans operating in a state are not paying adequately for labor and delivery," Miller said. "Hospitals will tell you it's not just Medicaid; it's also commercial insurance."

He'd like to see state insurance regulators pressure private insurance to pay more. More than 40% of births in rural communities are covered by private insurance.

Yet there's no one magic bullet that will fix every rural hospital's bottom line, Miller said: "For every hospital I've talked to, it's been a different set of circumstances."

Anna Claire Vollers covers health care for Stateline. She is based in Huntsville, Alabama.

U.S. Senate GOP wants to hike debt limit by \$5 trillion in mega-bill

BY: JENNIFER SHUTT - JUNE 16, 2025 5:30 PM

WASHINGTON — U.S. Senate Republicans unveiled Monday that they plan to raise the country's debt limit by \$5 trillion in the "big, beautiful bill," a full \$1 trillion more than House GOP lawmakers proposed in their version.

The provision is tucked into the Senate Finance Committee's 549-page section of the package, which also includes tax law changes and how Republicans in the upper chamber plan to rework Medicaid.

The bill is one of 10 the Senate will bundle together in the days ahead before bringing the full package to the floor for debate and amendment votes.

Senate Majority Leader John Thune, R-S.D., hopes to approve the legislation before the Fourth of July break, but because the chamber is changing the House bill in numerous ways, it will have to go back

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across the Capitol.

Given the extremely narrow majorities in each chamber, GOP leaders cannot lose more than a handful of their own members and still have the measure make it to President Donald Trump for his signature.

Earlier debt limit suspension expired Jan. 1

The debt limit change released Monday could frustrate some far-right members of the party, who believe it sends the wrong message about how the mega-bill will affect the country's fiscal future.

Congress must raise the debt limit by a dollar amount or suspend it through a future date before the Treasury Department runs out of accounting maneuvers known as extraordinary measures.

The previous debt limit suspension, which was agreed to by both Democrats and Republicans, expired on Jan. 1, leaving the Treasury Department to move money around to keep paying all of the country's bills in full and on time.

Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent wrote to congressional leaders in May, urging them to address the debt limit before leaving on their customary August recess.

The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office estimates that lawmakers have until sometime between mid-August and the end of September to address the debt limit before default would hit.

Traditionally, the White House and congressional leaders from both political parties negotiate a debt limit deal. But GOP leaders are hoping to raise the debt limit in their mega-bill since that avoids having to make any concessions to Democrats in order to avoid a default on the debt.

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



U.S. Senate Majority Leader John Thune, R-S.D., right, and Speaker of the House Mike Johnson, R-La., hold a press conference on the Republican budget bill at the U.S. Capitol on April 10, 2025 in Washington, D.C. (Photo

by Kayla Bartkowski/Getty Images)

Members of Congress on edge after assassination of Minnesota state legislator

BY: JENNIFER SHUTT - JUNE 16, 2025 5:16 PM

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Senate will gather behind closed doors Tuesday to hear from federal law enforcement officials about protection for lawmakers and the safety of their families, just days after a gunman said to be posing as a police officer targeted state lawmakers in Minnesota.

The briefing from U.S. Capitol Police and the Senate Sergeant at Arms follows years of increased funding for both entities as threats and attempted assassinations against members of Congress have become part of the job.

Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer, of New York, said Monday on the floor that the suspected shooter had a list of more than 70 public officials he wanted to target, including several members of the Senate.

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"My highest priority right now is working with the Senate leadership on both sides, the Senate Sergeant at Arms and Capitol Police, to ensure everyone's safety," Schumer said. "This weekend I asked Capitol Police and the Sergeant at Arms to increase security for members, including Sen. (Alex) Padilla and the Minnesota senators."

California Sen. Padilla moved to the forefront of the public debate about immigration and deportations last week when he was forcibly removed from a press conference after trying to ask Department of Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem a question while she was still speaking.

Schumer said the briefing would be an opportunity for USCP and the SAA to "convey what they're doing for members to keep them safe."

He urged senators to "come together" to oppose political violence in all forms, before criticizing Utah Republican Sen. Mike Lee for social media posts. Lee made two posts that drew condemnation.

"I was deeply disappointed and sickened to see a member of this chamber use the tragedy in Minnesota to take cheap political shots at the other side on social media and risk escalating a perilous moment," Schumer said. "What the senior senator from Utah posted after the shooting was reckless and beneath the dignity of his office."

"For a senator to fan the flames of division with falsities while the killer was still on the loose is deeply irresponsible. He should take down his post immediately and apologize to the families of the victims."

On another social media account, Lee wrote, "These hateful attacks have no place in Utah, Minnesota, or anywhere in America."



U.S. Capitol Police officers stand guard outside of the U.S. Capitol on June 16, 2025 in Washington, D.C.

(Photo by Anna Moneymaker/Getty Images)

Suspect faces state and federal charges

Minnesota Democratic Sen. Amy Klobuchar said Sunday during an interview on NBC's "Meet the Press" that the attack on the two state lawmakers and their spouses was clearly motivated by politics.

Klobuchar said she has received additional security and that she was concerned about the possibility of more attacks against lawmakers.

"I have had threats before, as several of our colleagues have had," Klobuchar said. "And I think one of the things is, we don't talk about this stuff much because you don't want to see copycats that copy exactly what they've done."

The suspected gunman, who was arrested Sunday following a manhunt, has been charged by both state and federal prosecutors with murdering state Rep. Melissa Hortman and her husband, and attempting to kill state Sen. John Hoffman and his wife.

The suspect went to the homes of at least two other state lawmakers and had a list of Democratic lawmakers' home addresses as well as abortion providers, according to police.

Lawmakers disclose they were on list of targets

The U.S. House won't receive a security briefing this week since its members are out of session on a district work period, typically a time when lawmakers are back in their communities for town halls and other public events, though the shooting has led some members to change their schedules.

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Michigan Democratic Rep. Hillary Scholten announced Monday she would postpone her town hall in Muskegon, writing in a statement she didn't want to "divert additional law enforcement resources away from protecting the broader public at this time."

"Nothing matters more to me than the safety and well-being of the people I serve," Scholten wrote. "After being made aware that my name was on a list connected to the recent tragic shooting in Minnesota, my office has made the difficult decision to postpone our planned town hall in Muskegon."

Scholten added she hoped to "reschedule this event as soon as possible."

Ohio Democratic Rep. Greg Landsman released a statement on Monday, announcing that USCP bolstered his security after his name was found among the suspected Minnesota shooter's possessions.

"On Sunday morning, Capitol Police contacted my office to inform me that the FBI had found my name among the evidence collected during the search for a suspect in Minnesota — who is accused of murdering and seriously injuring lawmakers," Landsman wrote. "Since the suspect was still at large at that time, we worked very closely with the Cincinnati Police Department to arrange for increased security for my family and me."

Texas Democratic Rep. Veronica Escobar wrote in a statement posted to social media that she was among the people the suspected Minnesota shooter had on his list.

"This was only a day after protestors were shot in Utah, an extremist drove a car into protests in Virginia, credible threats were made against state lawmakers in Austin and a man pointed a gun at protestors here in El Paso," Escobar wrote.

House Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries and New York Democratic Rep. Joseph D. Morelle, ranking member on the Committee on House Administration, wrote to Speaker Mike Johnson, R-La., on Monday, urging him to take action to ensure members' safety.

"While we differ in many areas related to policy and our vision for America's future, Member safety must be an area of common ground. Representatives from both sides of the aisle have endured assassination attempts that changed their lives and careers forever," the two wrote. "Too many other patriotic public servants have left Congress because they no longer felt safe carrying out their duty as elected officials. We must act to protect each other and preserve this great American institution."

Threats on the rise over the years

Members of Congress and their families are no strangers to threats, which have steadily risen for years, attacks and shootings.

Former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's husband was attacked in their family home in San Francisco in October 2022 by a man wielding a hammer, who was searching for Pelosi, a California Democrat.

House Majority Leader Steve Scalise, R-La, was shot and severely wounded in 2017 when a gunman opened fire at GOP lawmakers practicing for the annual Congressional Baseball Game. Several others were injured during the shooting.

Arizona Democratic Rep. Gabby Giffords survived being shot in the head during a constituent meeting in a grocery store parking lot in 2011 when a gunman opened fire, killing six people and injuring a dozen others.

Even President Donald Trump, who has extensive Secret Service protection, was shot in the ear last July while campaigning in Pennsylvania. The gunman in that incident killed local fireman Corey Comperatore and injured two others.

The union representing U.S. Capitol Police warned more than a year ago that the federal law enforcement agency was struggling to keep up amid an increasingly hostile political environment and staffing shortages.

"We've never seen a threat environment like this," union Chairman Gus Papathanasiou wrote in a statement. "Given the profound divisions in this country and this year's elections, people ask me if I'm concerned and I tell them I am worried — very worried."

Former USCP Chief Thomas Manger, who retired earlier this year, told lawmakers well before the union's public statement that he was concerned by how few threats against members of Congress were actually prosecuted successfully.

Few threats led to prosecution

Klobuchar, who was chair of the Senate Rules and Administration Committee at the time of the hearing, said USCP referred 458 threat cases for prosecution during 2021, with 40 of those leading to a court case. That was out of 9,625 total threats.

Just 22 of the 7,501 threats lobbed at members during 2022 led to prosecution, a USCP spokesperson confirmed to States Newsroom at the time.

Threats against lawmakers have continued to increase ever since.

USCP investigated 8,008 "concerning statements and direct threats against the Members of Congress, including their families and staff" in 2023 and 9,474 in 2024, according to data from USCP.

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

Data center official says other states offer better incentives than South Dakota

State Senate rejected sales-tax refund bill during legislative session

BY: JOSHUA HAIAR - JUNE 16, 2025 6:14 PM

SIOUX FALLS — A member of the artificial intelligence data center industry said Monday that South Dakota's lack of incentives makes the state less competitive for development.

Data centers house powerful computer systems designed to store, process and analyze massive volumes of data.

Nick Phillips is the executive vice president of external affairs for Applied Digital, which is headquartered in Texas. He spoke at a Rotary Club of Downtown Sioux Falls panel on AI infrastructure. The company is proposing a multi-billion-dollar data center in Deuel County in the north-eastern part of the state, and has already built one in North Dakota.

Phillips said North Dakota provides sales tax exemptions.

"In North Dakota, they exempt the computer equipment, cooling equipment, batteries, things like that," he said.

Phillips said the lack of similar incentives in South Dakota means building a data center here can cost up to \$400 million more than building the same facility in North Dakota. He said North Dakota is one of 36 states that offers tax breaks on data center equipment.

Phillips' concerns echoed the debate during last winter's South Dakota legislative session over a failed bill that would have provided sales tax refunds on data center equipment.



Sioux Falls Rotarian Kersten Johnson, left, moderates a panel discussion including Applied Digital's Nick Phillips on June 16, 2025, at the South Dakota Military Heritage Alliance in Sioux Falls. (Joshua Haiar/South Dakota Searchlight)

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"These projects are going to other states right now," said the bill's sponsor, then-Sen. David Wheeler, R-Huron, who has since resigned to become a judge.

The bill, which failed 17-18 in the state Senate, would have provided sales tax refunds for data centers. The refunds would have applied to items such as computer hardware, servers, routers, cooling and power systems, backup generators, battery systems and more.

During debate in the Senate, supporters of the bill described it as a way to provide "regulatory certainty" that developers need for large-scale projects.

Sen. Taffy Howard, R-Rapid City, voted against the bill and noted that South Dakota already offers a sales tax refund program administered through the Governor's Office of Economic Development. The program requires developers to apply for a rebate. Wheeler said at the time that a guaranteed refund in law would provide more certainty than a program with an application process.

Other opponents, including Sen. Mykala Voita, R-Bonesteel, raised concerns about tax fairness, energy consumption and the cost to the state.

"We're always so focused on giving breaks to big companies that can afford it that we forget the people that pay the big lump sum of our state budget," she said. "So, consider that, please."

Phillips said South Dakota has other attributes that make it appealing — including a cold climate that cuts down the cost of cooling a room full of hot servers, and abundant wind energy, which is considered one of the most cost-effective renewable energy sources, to help keep operating costs down.

He also highlighted the potential economic impact. Phillips said the North Dakota data center will pay \$2.1 million annually in property taxes.

"In Ellendale, North Dakota, in about a year or so, we will be about five times larger than the next largest property tax payer in the county," he said.

Applied Digital's proposed data center near Toronto in Deuel County would use about 150 megawatts to start and could eventually use about 400 megawatts. Another company is proposing a 50-megawatt data center in McPherson County, near Leola. Phillips said it takes about 20 megawatts to run a city like Madison.

Nationally, the massive power usage of data centers has caused concerns about demands on the electrical grid and about the impacts to climate change from the use of fossil fuels to produce the electricity.

While data centers' contribution to climate change did not come up during the panel, Phillips told South Dakota Searchlight "somebody is going to create services like this."

"And it can be done in places where there are environmental controls, such as here," he said. "Or it can be done in places that maybe don't care so much, like China or other countries without controls in place."

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.

COMMENTARY

Other states' experiences with private equity are a warning for South Dakota health care

by Tom Dean

The relatively recent movement of private equity firms into both ownership and management of health care organizations has prompted increasing attention and, in many cases, concern from health care professionals.

For-profit health care has been around for decades. However, activity has accelerated in recent years. From 2010 to 2020, the number of private equity acquisitions in health care tripled.

What is the attraction for health care providers to partner with or sell to private equity firms? Health care has become progressively more complex clinically and especially administratively. Increasing admin-

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istrative demands have been particularly burdensome for providers, especially physicians. Compounding this problem is the fact that as clinical care has become more complex, so has the demand for new and updated facilities and technology.

Enter private equity. These firms have brought access to capital to support new technology and upgraded facilities. They also have offered management experience and expertise, which providers may well have lacked.

What have we learned? Suffice it to say many problems have evolved. The central issue is the fact that there is a basic conflict in goals and orientation between private equity firms and health care providers. For private equity firms the single focus is profit. For health care providers the goal is ensuring that their patients have access to care and receive quality care when they need it. Sometimes such care is profitable and sometimes it is not.

The most common approach organizations use when trying to increase profits is to reduce operating costs. In health care, the biggest single cost is almost always the cost of personnel. That is where private equity firms typically have focused their efforts. The problem of course is that the quality care delivered, be it acute care in a hospital or long-term care in a nursing home, is heavily dependent on the easy and prompt access to well-trained staff.

Experience has shown that private equity takeover often results in a decrease in staffing levels and a trend toward deployment of staff with lower levels of training. Declines in staffing levels have been associated with increases in medical care errors, increases in post-operative complications, lower levels of patient satisfaction, etc.

Such developments clearly impact the practice satisfaction of physicians. Their ability to provide the level of care desired has been impaired with the net effect that physician turnover in such facilities has increased.

Another approach frequently utilized by private equity managers, especially with regard to hospital care, is to alter the mix of services offered by the facility. Some services such as invasive cardiac procedures are routinely profitable while other services such as obstetrics frequently are not. If profit is the dominant motive, the hospital may well shift the mix of services offered in ways that are not consistent with the needs of the community.

What about private equity in South Dakota? At this point, it has not played a large role in our state. The national experience, however, provides a warning. As health care facilities are faced with financial stress, communities and boards of directors need to proceed cautiously if they are approached by private equity firms.

What to do? Clearly access to capital and management expertise are important issues. There is nothing illegal about the strategies that private equity firms have pursued. It would be possible to prohibit for-profit organizations from owning or operating health care facilities. However, as financial pressures have increased, traditional not-for-profit organizations have followed many of the same strategies as their for-profit competitors.

A more basic and far more complex challenge is embedded in the open market structure on which U.S. health care financing is based. In such a structure, some degree of profit is essential if an organization is to survive. Around the world numerous advanced countries, many with lower costs and better health outcomes than the U.S., have rejected open market structures for health care even if they do have competitive markets for consumer goods, etc.

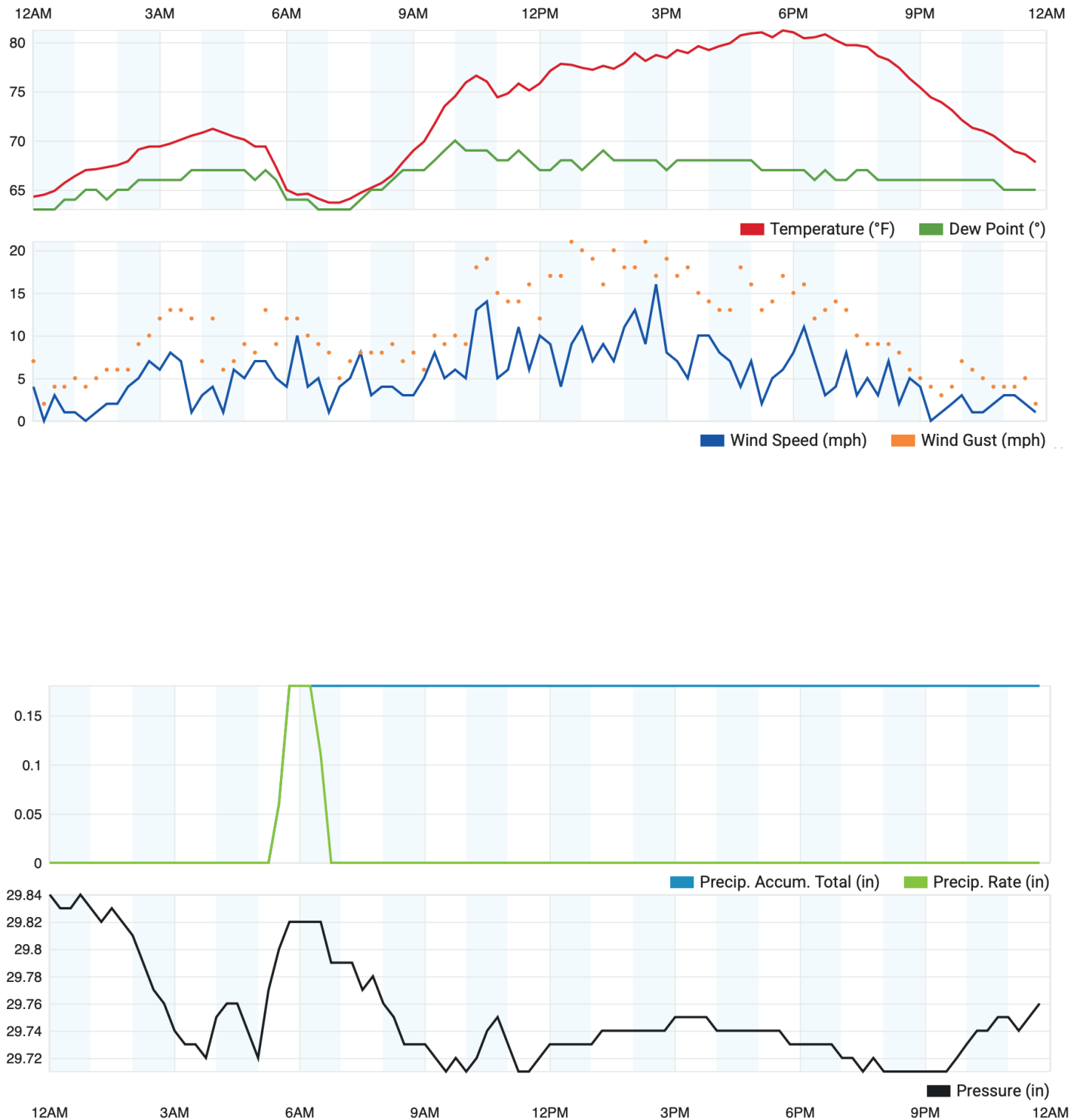
We face serious and intimidating challenges in financing the cost of health care services. There is no quick fix, but I believe it is time we looked seriously at the basic underlying structure and asked, "is there a better way?"

Tom Dean is a retired family physician who grew up on a farm west of Wessington Springs. He graduated from Wessington Springs High School, Carleton College in Minnesota and medical school in Rochester, New York. He completed a family medicine residency at the University of Washington in Seattle. He returned to Wessington Springs to practice in 1978 along with his wife, Kathy, a certified nurse midwife. He retired after 43 years of practice and still lives in Wessington Springs.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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Today



High: 78 °F

Patchy Fog
then Partly
Sunny

Tonight



Low: 55 °F

Mostly Cloudy

Wednesday



High: 81 °F

Gradual
Clearing

Wednesday
Night



Low: 57 °F

Mostly Clear

Juneteenth



High: 85 °F

Sunny



Heat On the Way

High Temps Tuesday Jun 17 - Monday Jun 23

	Tue 6/17	Wed 6/18	Thu 6/19	Fri 6/20	Sat 6/21	Sun 6/22	Mon 6/23
Aberdeen	79	82	88	90	94	91	72
Mobridge	79	85	92	90	95	84	70
Pierre	80	84	95	96	99	88	72
Sisseton	79	82	87	88	92	93	73
Watertown	76	78	87	89	92	92	73

Max Temperature (°F)

Cold front moves through

Information:

The table displays the weather element values based on model predictions from the National Blend of Models.

Additional Details



Potential Impacts This Weekend:

- increased risk of heat related illnesses in as little as 30 minutes



Beat the Heat

- avoid prolonged outdoor exposure
- take frequent breaks
- stay hydrated
- do not leave children/pets in unattended cars!

Valid: Tue 07 pm CDT - Mon 07 pm CDT

Issued: Tue, Jun 17, 2025, 2 am CDT



Chances for thunderstorms continue through the end of the work week. Starting Friday temperatures will warm into the weekend with temperatures 10-20 degrees above average for this time of year. Monday is expected to be much cooler after a cold front moves across the area.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 81 °F at 5:49 PM

Low Temp: 64 °F at 6:58 AM

Wind: 21 mph at 12:38 PM

Precip: : 0.18

Day length: 15 hours, 43 minutes

Today's Info

Record High: 105 in 1933

Record Low: 40 in 1915

Average High: 81

Average Low: 56

Average Precip in June.: 2.03

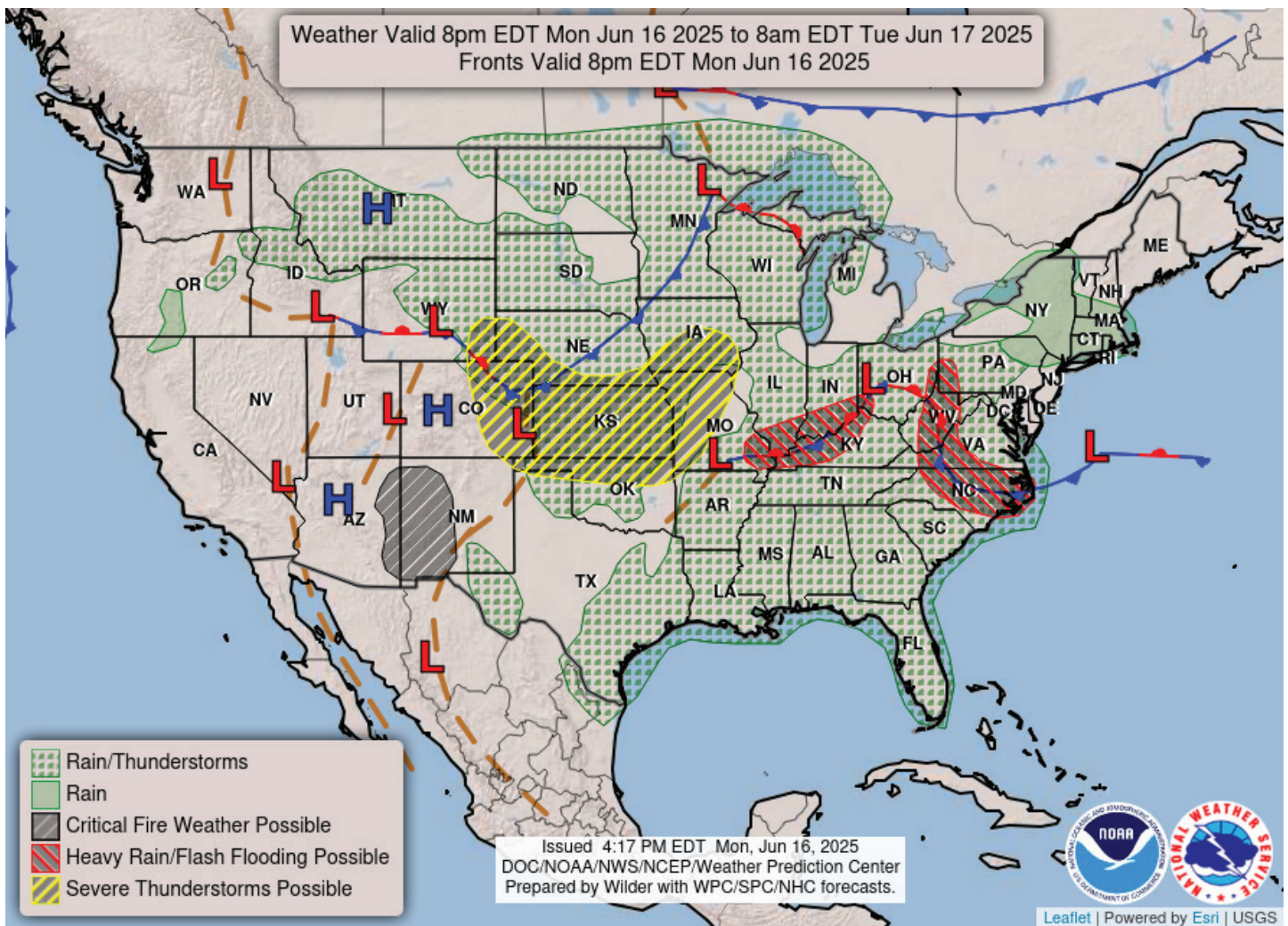
Precip to date in June: 2.16

Average Precip to date: 9.28

Precip Year to Date: 8.21

Sunset Tonight: 9:25:23 pm

Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:41:38 am



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Today in Weather History

June 17th, 1944: Six estimated F2 or stronger tornadoes trekked across Faulk, Codington, Brown, Day, Grant, and Roberts County in South Dakota and Big Stone in Minnesota. The first tornado touched down at approximately 3:30 pm CST in Faulk County. The estimated F2 tornado destroyed all buildings except the house on a farm 7 miles northeast of Faulkton. The next tornado occurred at 4:00 pm CST in Codington County. The tornado damaged barns and tossed cattle and a truck into Grass Lake near Wallace. At about the same time, a tornado moved northeast from just northeast of Warner and crossed the town of Bath in Brown County. The storm killed two people in the destruction of their home and injured another twelve.

Twenty homes in Bath were damaged. A brick school had its upper story torn off. Another tornado moved through Codington County at 4:45 pm CST, killing three and injuring twenty-five. This F4 strength tornado moved northeast from two miles northeast of Henry, passing over Long Lake and ending 2 miles northwest of Florence. The funnel was described as snake-like over Long Lake and massive as it swept through five farms southwest of Florence. The storm killed over 100 heads of cattle and damaged about a dozen homes. In Day County, an estimated F2 moved due north from 4 miles south of Webster, ending 2 miles northeast of Roslyn. This storm passed two miles east of Webster, where barns were destroyed and livestock was killed on a half-dozen farms. At 5:15 pm CST, a monster storm moved northeast from 5 miles south of Summit, passing 3 miles south of Wilmot and ending about 3 miles east of Beardsley, Minnesota. The massive tornado had an estimated width of 1500 yards and traveled 30 miles. Along the path, eight people were killed, and another forty-three were injured. Farm devastation southwest and south of Wilmot was as complete as possible, with some farms reportedly left without debris on the property. About 15 farms in South Dakota reported F3- F5 damage. From this day, the Red Cross counted 13 dead and 560 people injured across the state.

June 17th, 2010: This day will go down as the day with the most outstanding single-day tornado total in Minnesota history. The 3 EF4 tornadoes in Minnesota were the first tornadoes EF4 or stronger in this state since the Granite Falls tornado on July 25th, 2000. This outbreak produced the highest number of tornadoes rated EF4 or greater in one day in Minnesota since the Black Sunday tornado outbreak on April 30th, 1967. The four EF4 tornadoes across the Upper Midwest on June 17th, 2010 (3 in MN and 1 in ND) were the most outbreaks in the U.S. since the "Super Tuesday Outbreak" on February 5-6, 2008. The number of tornado fatalities (4) on this day was the highest in Minnesota since July 5th, 1978.

1859 - Hot Santa Ana winds in southern California roasted fruit on one side at Santa Barbara. (Sandra and TI Richard Sanders - 1987)

1882 - A tornado traveled more than 200 miles across the state of Iowa killing 130 persons. The tornado touched down about ninety miles west of Grinnell, and struck the town and college around sunset, killing sixty persons, and causing more than half a million dollars damage. Traveling at nearly 60 mph, the tornado hit Mount Pleasant about 11 PM causing another half a million dollars damage. (David Ludlum)

1965 - Holly, CO, was deluged with 11.08 inches of rain to establish a state 24 hour rainfall record. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather in the south central U.S. Thunderstorms in Kansas produced wind gusts to 76 mph at Lyons, and baseball size hail at Garden City. The Edwards Aquifer, which supplies water to San Antonio, TX, reached a record level of 699.2 feet following a record 18.43 inches of rain in thirty days. Torrential rains between the mid May and mid June sent 8.8 million acre feet of water down the rivers of southern Texas, the largest volume in 100 years of records. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Thunderstorms produced large hail and damaging winds in Georgia and the Carolinas. Thunderstorm winds gusted to 75 mph at Eden, NC. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Unseasonably cool air, responsible for 37 record lows in the central U.S. on the 15th and 16th, including a low of 33 degrees at Valentine NE on the 15th, overspread the eastern U.S. ending a three day siege of severe weather. (The National Weather Summary)

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Even before getting out of bed this morning, I had to make a decision: Would I hit the “snooze” button and rest a little longer or would I turn off the alarm and start my day?

It is not possible to go for any length of time without having to make a decision. And although all of us are making decisions most of the time, we rarely take time to think about our “decision making process.”

Every decision we make affects our lives one way or another.

Some decisions last a lifetime and can bring joy and satisfaction or sorrow and guilt. Some can be changed immediately if we see things going in the wrong direction.

Others engulf us and seem to squeeze the life out of us.

Often we want to blame others for our decisions, but ultimately, we are accountable for every one.

Solomon provided us with excellent decision making advice:

“For lack of guidance a nation falls; but victory is won through many advisors.” What applies to a nation also applies to an individual. Gathering information from a variety of reliable people will provide guidance, insight and direction and lead to the best decision.

In this verse, an “uncommon” word is used: guidance.

It refers to the “tackle” or the “ropes” that enable a ship to stay on course.

People are much like ships: where there is no guidance, even the shortest journey can be disastrous. Learning the “ropes” that come from God’s wisdom will lead us through the charted course that God has laid out for us before the foundation of the world.

No wonder He is called the Wonderful Counselor!

Prayer: Father, may we always seek Your guidance for each decision we make in life. May we always look to You.

In Jesus’ Name, Amen.

Today’s Scripture: “For lack of guidance a nation falls; but victory is won through many advisors.” Proverbs 11:14

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: 17 Hrs 23 Mins 50 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS: 06.16.25

4 19 35 43 51 1

All Star Bonus: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$2,200,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 16 Hrs 38 Mins 50 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS: 06.16.25

17 27 34 38 41 10

TOP PRIZE:

\$7,000/week

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 53 Mins 50 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS: 06.14.25

13 21 22 23 31

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$29,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 16 Hrs 53 Mins 50 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS: 06.16.25

32 42 52 55 56 18

TOP PRIZE:

\$10,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 17 Hrs 22 Mins 51 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS: 06.16.25

17 21 23 27 52 19

Power Play: 5x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$101,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 17 Hrs 22 Mins 51 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

Israel's strikes on Tehran broaden as Trump issues ominous warning

By JOSEPH KRAUSS, JON GAMBRELL and NATALIE MELZER Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Israel appeared to be expanding its air campaign on Tehran five days after its surprise attack on Iran's military and nuclear program, as U.S. President Donald Trump posted an ominous message warning residents of the city to evacuate.

"IRAN CAN NOT HAVE A NUCLEAR WEAPON," Trump wrote Monday night before returning to Washington early from a Group of Seven summit in Canada. "Everyone should immediately evacuate Tehran!" he added.

Trump later denied reports that he had rushed back to Washington to work on a ceasefire, saying his early departure "has nothing to do with a Cease Fire. Much bigger than that," without elaborating.

Earlier, the Israeli military had called for some 330,000 residents of a neighborhood in the city center to evacuate. Tehran is one of the largest cities in the Middle East, with around 10 million people, roughly equivalent to the entire population of Israel. People have been fleeing since the hostilities began.

Israel says its sweeping assault on Iran's top military leaders, nuclear scientists, uranium enrichment sites and ballistic missile program is necessary to prevent its longtime adversary from getting any closer to building an atomic weapon. The strikes have killed at least 224 people since Friday.

Iran has retaliated by launching more than 370 missiles and hundreds of drones at Israel. So far, 24 people have been killed in Israel and more than 500 wounded. The Israeli military said a new barrage of missiles was launched on Tuesday, and explosions could be heard in northern Israel.

Shops closed, lines for gas in Iran's capital

Downtown Tehran appeared to be starting to empty out early Tuesday, with many shops closed. The city's ancient Grand Bazaar was also closed, something that has only happened in the past during anti-government demonstrations or at the height of the coronavirus pandemic.

On the roads out of Tehran to the west, traffic stood bumper to bumper. Many appeared to be heading to the Caspian Sea area. Long lines also could be seen at gas stations in Tehran.

Authorities within Iran's government continued to insist everything was under control and did not offer any guidance for the public on what to do.

The Israeli military meanwhile claimed to have killed someone it described as Iran's top general in a strike on Tehran. Iran did not immediately comment on the reported killing of Gen. Ali Shadmani, who had just been named as the head of the Khatam al-Anbiya Central Headquarters, part of the paramilitary Revolutionary Guard.

Iran has named other generals to replace the top leaders of the Guard and the regular armed forces after they were killed in earlier strikes.

Trump leaves G7 early to focus on conflict

Before leaving the summit in Canada, Trump joined the other leaders in a joint statement saying Iran "can never have a nuclear weapon" and calling for a "de-escalation of hostilities in the Middle East, including a ceasefire in Gaza."

French President Emmanuel Macron told reporters that discussions were underway on a ceasefire between Israel and Iran, but Trump appeared to shoot that down in his overnight social media post.

Macron "mistakenly said that I left the G7 Summit, in Canada, to go back to D.C. to work on a 'cease fire' between Israel and Iran," Trump wrote. "Wrong! He has no idea why I am now on my way to Washington, but it certainly has nothing to do with a Cease Fire. Much bigger than that."

Meanwhile, U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth headed to the White House Situation Room to meet with the president and his national security team.

Hegseth didn't provide details on what prompted the meeting but said on Fox News late Monday that the movements were to "ensure that our people are safe."

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Israel says it has 'aerial superiority' over Tehran

Israeli military spokesperson Brig. Gen. Effie Defrin said Monday that his country's forces had "achieved full aerial superiority over Tehran's skies."

The military said it destroyed more than 120 surface-to-surface missile launchers in central Iran, a third of Iran's total, including multiple launchers just before they launched ballistic missiles towards Israel. It also destroyed two F-14 fighter planes that Iran used to target Israeli aircraft, the military said.

Israeli military officials also said fighter jets had struck 10 command centers in Tehran belonging to Iran's Quds Force, an elite arm of its paramilitary Revolutionary Guard that conducts military and intelligence operations outside Iran.

Israel's military issued an evacuation warning to a part of central Tehran that houses the country's state TV and police headquarters, as well as three large hospitals, including one owned by the Guard. It has issued similar evacuation warnings for parts of the Gaza Strip and Lebanon ahead of strikes.

Health authorities reported that 1,277 people were wounded in Iran.

Rights groups such as the Washington-based Iranian advocacy group Human Rights Activists have suggested that the Iranian government's death toll is a significant undercount. The group says it has documented more than 400 people killed, among them 197 civilians.

Israel says strikes have set back nuclear program

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the Israeli strikes have set Iran's nuclear program back a "very, very long time," and told reporters he is in daily touch with Trump.

Iran maintains that its nuclear program is peaceful, and the U.S. and others have assessed that Tehran has not had an organized effort to pursue a nuclear weapon since 2003. The head of the International Atomic Energy Agency has repeatedly warned that the country has enough enriched uranium to make several nuclear bombs should it choose to do so.

So far, Israel has targeted multiple Iranian nuclear program sites but has not been able to destroy Iran's Fordo uranium enrichment facility.

The site is buried deep underground — and to eliminate it, Israel may need the 30,000-pound (14,000-kilogram) GBU-57 Massive Ordnance Penetrator, a U.S. bunker-busting bomb that uses its weight and sheer kinetic force to reach deeply buried targets. Israel does not have the munition or the bomber needed to deliver it. The penetrator is currently delivered by the B-2 stealth bomber.

No sign of conflict letting up

Iran's foreign minister, Abbas Araghchi, appeared to make a veiled plea Monday for the U.S. to step in and negotiate an end to hostilities between Israel and Iran.

In a post on X, Araghchi wrote that if Trump is "genuine about diplomacy and interested in stopping this war, next steps are consequential."

"It takes one phone call from Washington to muzzle someone like Netanyahu," Iran's top diplomat wrote. "That may pave the way for a return to diplomacy."

The message to Washington was sent as the latest talks between the U.S. and Iran were canceled over the weekend after Israel's surprise bombardment.

On Sunday, Araghchi said that Iran will stop its strikes if Israel does the same.

Now we are six: G7 leaders try to salvage their summit after Trump's early exit

By ROB GILLIES and JILL LAWLESS Associated Press

KANANASKIS, Alberta (AP) — Six of the Group of Seven leaders are trying on the final day of their Tuesday to show the wealthy nations' club still has the clout to shape world events despite the early departure of President Donald Trump.

Prime Minister Mark Carney and his counterparts from the U.K., France, Germany, Italy and Japan will be joined by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and NATO chief Mark Rutte to discuss Russia's relentless war on its neighbor.

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World leaders had gathered in Canada with the specific goal of helping to defuse a series of pressure points, only to be disrupted by a showdown over Iran's nuclear program that could escalate in dangerous and uncontrollable ways. Israel launched an aerial bombardment campaign against Iran on Friday, and Iran has hit back with missiles and drones.

Trump left the summit in the Canadian Rocky Mountain resort of Kananaskis a day early late Monday, saying: "I have to be back, very important." It came as conflict between Israel and Iran intensifies and the U.S. leader declared that Tehran should be evacuated "immediately" — while also expressing optimism about a deal to stop the violence.

Before leaving, Trump joined the other leaders in issuing a statement saying Iran "can never have a nuclear weapon" and calling for a "de-escalation of hostilities in the Middle East, including a ceasefire in Gaza." Getting unanimity — even on a short and broadly worded statement — was a modest measure of success for the group.

At the summit, Trump warned that Tehran needs to curb its nuclear program before it's "too late." He said Iranian leaders would "like to talk" but they had already had 60 days to reach an agreement on their nuclear ambitions and failed to do so before the Israeli aerial assault began. "They have to make a deal," he said.

Asked what it would take for the U.S. to get involved in the conflict militarily, Trump said Monday morning, "I don't want to talk about that."

But by Monday afternoon, Trump warned ominously on social media, "Everyone should immediately evacuate Tehran!" Shortly after that, Trump decided to leave the summit and skip a series of Tuesday meetings that would address the war in Ukraine and trade issues.

The sudden departure only heightened the drama of a world that seems on verge of several firestorms. Trump already has imposed severe tariffs on multiple nations that risk a global economic slowdown. There has been little progress on settling the wars in Ukraine and Gaza.

Trump's stance on Ukraine puts him fundamentally at odds with the other G7 leaders, who back Ukraine and are clear that Russia is the aggressor in the war.

The U.S. president on Monday suggested there would have been no war if G7 members hadn't expelled Putin from the organization in 2014 for annexing Crimea.

Trump on Monday demurred when asked if he supported Russia, saying "I only care about saving lives."

With talks on ending the war at an impasse, Starmer said Britain and other G7 members were slapping new tariffs on Russia in a bid to get it to the ceasefire negotiating table. Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy is due to attend the summit Tuesday at Carney's invitation, along with other leaders including Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and NATO chief Mark Rutte.

Trump declined to join in the sanctions on Russia, saying he would wait until Europe did so first.

"When I sanction a country that costs the U.S. a lot of money, a tremendous amount of money," he said.

Trump had been scheduled before his departure to meet with Zelenskyy and with Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum.

On the Middle East, Merz told reporters that Germany was planning to draw up a final communique proposal on the Israel-Iran conflict that will stress that "Iran must under no circumstances be allowed to acquire nuclear weapons-capable material."

Trump also seemed to put a greater priority on addressing his grievances with other nations' trade policies than on collaboration with G7 allies. The U.S. president has imposed 50% tariffs on steel and aluminum as well as 25% tariffs on autos. Trump is also charging a 10% tax on imports from most countries, though he could raise rates on July 9, after the 90-day negotiating period set by him would expire.

He announced with Starmer that they had signed a trade framework Monday that was previously announced in May, with Trump saying that British trade was "very well protected" because "I like them, that's why. That's their ultimate protection."

Minnesota shooting suspect had dozens of potential targets, prosecutors say

By STEVE KARNOWSKI, ALANNA DURKIN RICHER and JOHN SEEWER Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — The man charged with killing one Minnesota lawmaker and wounding another in what prosecutors have described as a meticulously planned attack, had dozens of apparent targets, including officials in at least three other states.

Vance Boelter allegedly made it to the homes of two other legislators on the night of the attacks, but one was on vacation and the suspect left the other house after police arrived, acting U.S. Attorney Joseph Thompson said Monday.

All of the politicians named in his writing were Democrats, including more than 45 state and federal officials in Minnesota, Thompson said. Elected leaders in Michigan, Ohio and Wisconsin said they, too, were mentioned in his writings.

Investigators say Boelter appeared to spend months preparing for the shootings — the latest in a string of political attacks across the U.S.

In Minnesota, Boelter carried out surveillance missions, took notes on the homes and people he targeted, and disguised himself as a police officer just before the shootings, Thompson said.

"It is no exaggeration to say that his crimes are the stuff of nightmares," he said.

Boelter surrendered to police Sunday night after they found him in the woods near his home after a massive two-day search. He is accused of fatally shooting former Democratic House Speaker Melissa Hortman and her husband, Mark, in their home early Saturday in the northern Minneapolis suburbs.

Authorities say he also shot and wounded Sen. John Hoffman, a Democrat, and his wife, Yvette, who lived a few miles away.

Federal prosecutors charged Boelter, 57, with murder and stalking, which could result in a death sentence if convicted. He already faces state charges, including murder and attempted murder. At a federal court hearing Monday in St. Paul, Boelter said he could not afford an attorney. A federal public defender was appointed to represent him, and he was being held without bail pending a court appearance next week.

Manny Atwal, his lead attorney, declined to comment, saying the office just got the case.

Notebooks show careful planning

Boelter had many notebooks full of plans, Thompson said. Underscoring what law enforcement officials said was the premeditated nature of the attacks, one notebook contained a list of internet-based people search engines, according to court records.

But authorities have not found any writings that would "clearly identify what motivated him," Thompson said. He said it was also too soon to speculate on any sort of political ideology.

Democratic Rep. Esther Agbaje, whose district includes parts of Minneapolis, said she stayed with friends and family over the weekend after learning that her name appeared on the list of targets.

In texts, the suspect said he "went to war"

Authorities declined to reveal the names of the other two lawmakers whose homes were targeted but escaped harm. Democratic Sen. Ann Rest said she was told the suspect parked near her home early Saturday. She said in a statement that the "quick action" of law enforcement officers saved her life.

Boelter sent a text to a family group chat after the shootings that said: "Dad went to war last night ... I don't wanna say more because I don't wanna implicate anybody," according to an FBI affidavit.

His wife got another text that said: "Words are not gonna explain how sorry I am for this situation ... there's gonna be some people coming to the house armed and trigger-happy and I don't want you guys around," the affidavit said.

Police later found his wife in a car with her children. Officers found two handguns, about \$10,000 in cash and passports for the wife and her children, according to the affidavit.

Just hours after the shootings Saturday, Boelter bought an electric bike and a Buick sedan from someone he met at a bus stop in Minneapolis, the federal affidavit said. Police found the sedan abandoned on a highway Sunday morning.

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In the car, officers found a cowboy hat Boelter had been seen wearing in surveillance footage as well as a letter written to the FBI, authorities said. The letter said it was written by "Dr. Vance Luther Boulter" and he was "the shooter at large."

The car was found in rural Sibley County, where Boelter owned a home.

Coordinated attacks on legislators

The Hoffmans were attacked first at their home in Champlin. Their adult daughter called 911 to say a masked person had come to the door and shot her parents.

Boelter had shown up carrying a flashlight and a 9 mm handgun and wearing a black tactical vest and a "hyper-realistic" silicone mask, Thompson said.

He first knocked and shouted: "This is police." At one point, the Hoffmans realized he was wearing a mask and Boelter told them "this is a robbery." After Sen. Hoffman tried to push Boelter out the door, Boelter shot him repeatedly and then shot his wife, the prosecutor said.

A statement released Sunday by Yvette Hoffman said her husband underwent several surgeries after being hit by nine bullets.

After hearing about a lawmaker being shot, officers arrived just in time to see Boelter shoot Mark Hortman through the open door of the home, according to the complaint. They exchanged gunfire with Boelter, who fled into the home before escaping, the complaint said. Melissa Hortman was found dead inside, according to the document. Their dog also was shot and had to be euthanized.

Search for motive continues

Writings recovered from the fake police vehicle included the names of lawmakers and community leaders, along with abortion rights advocates and information about health care facilities, said two law enforcement officials who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss details of the ongoing investigation.

Friends and former colleagues interviewed by the AP describe Boelter as a devout Christian who attended an evangelical church and went to campaign rallies for President Donald Trump.

Boelter also is a former political appointee who served on the same state workforce development board as Hoffman, records show, though it was not clear if they knew each other.

Trump is departing the G7 early as conflict between Israel and Iran shows signs of intensifying

By JOSH BOAK, ROB GILLIES and JILL LAWLESS Associated Press

KANANASKIS, Alberta (AP) — President Donald Trump abruptly left the Group of Seven summit Monday, departing a day early as the conflict between Israel and Iran intensified and the U.S. leader declared that Tehran should be evacuated "immediately."

World leaders had gathered in Canada with the specific goal of helping to defuse a series of global pressure points, only to be disrupted by a showdown over Iran's nuclear program that could escalate in dangerous and uncontrollable ways. Israel launched an aerial bombardment campaign against Iran four days ago.

At the summit, Trump warned that Tehran needs to curb its nuclear program before it's "too late." He said Iranian leaders would "like to talk" but they had already had 60 days to reach an agreement on their nuclear ambitions and failed to do so before the Israeli aerial assault began. "They have to make a deal," he said.

Asked what it would take for the U.S. to get involved in the conflict militarily, Trump said Monday morning, "I don't want to talk about that."

So far, Israel has targeted multiple Iranian nuclear program sites but has not been able to destroy Iran's Fordo uranium enrichment facility.

The site is buried deep underground — and to eliminate it, Israel may need the 30,000-pound (14,000-kilogram) GBU-57 Massive Ordnance Penetrator, the U.S. bunker-busting bomb that uses its weight and sheer kinetic force to reach deeply buried targets. Israel does not have the munition or the bomber needed to

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deliver it. The penetrator is currently delivered by the B-2 stealth bomber.

By Monday afternoon, Trump warned ominously on social media, "Everyone should immediately evacuate Tehran!" Shortly after that, Trump decided to leave the summit and skip a series of Tuesday meetings that would address the ongoing war in Ukraine and global trade issues.

As Trump posed for a picture Monday evening with the other G7 leaders, he said simply, "I have to be back, very important."

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney, the host, said, "I am very grateful for the president's presence and I fully understand."

Crises abound

The sudden departure only heightened the drama of a world that seems on verge of several firestorms. Trump already has hit several dozen nations with severe tariffs that risk a global economic slowdown. There has been little progress on settling the wars in Ukraine and Gaza.

But in a deeper sense, Trump saw a better path in the United States taking solitary action, rather than in building a consensus with the other G7 nations of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United Kingdom.

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer, French President Emmanuel Macron, Italian Premier Giorgia Meloni and German Chancellor Friedrich Merz held an hourlong informal meeting soon after arriving at the summit late Sunday to discuss the widening conflict in the Mideast, Starmer's office said.

And Merz told reporters that Germany was planning to draw up a final communique proposal on the Israel-Iran conflict that will stress that "Iran must under no circumstances be allowed to acquire nuclear weapons-capable material."

The G7 leaders all signed a joint statement Monday night saying Iran "can never have a nuclear weapon" as they urged a "broader de-escalation of hostilities in the Middle East, including a ceasefire in Gaza."

Trump, for his part, said Iran "is not winning this war. And they should talk and they should talk immediately before it's too late."

But by early Monday evening, as he planned to depart Kananaskis and the Canadian Rocky Mountains, Trump seemed willing to push back against his own supporters who believe the U.S. should embrace a more isolationist approach to world affairs. It was a sign of the heightened military, political and economic stakes in a situation evolving faster than the summit could process.

"AMERICA FIRST means many GREAT things, including the fact that, IRAN CAN NOT HAVE A NUCLEAR WEAPON. MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN!!!" Trump posted on Truth Social, his social media platform.

It's unclear how much Trump values the perspective of other members of the G7, a group he immediately criticized while meeting with Carney. The U.S. president said it was a mistake to remove Russia from the summit's membership in 2014 and doing so had destabilized the world. He also suggested he was open to adding China to the G7.

High tension

As the news media was escorted from the summit's opening session, Carney could be heard as he turned to Trump and referenced how the U.S. leader's remarks about the Middle East, Russia and China had already drawn attention to the summit.

"Mr. President, I think you've answered a lot of questions already," Carney said.

The German, U.K., Japanese and Italian governments had each signaled a belief that a friendly relationship with Trump this year can help keep public drama at a minimum, after the U.S. president in 2018 opposed a joint communique when the G7 summit was last held in Canada.

Going into the summit, there was no plan for a joint statement this year.

The G7 originated as a 1973 finance ministers' meeting to address the oil crisis and evolved into a yearly summit meant to foster personal relationships among world leaders and address global problems. It briefly expanded to the G8 with Russia as a member, only for Russia to be expelled in 2014 after annexing Crimea and taking a foothold in Ukraine that preceded its aggressive 2022 invasion of that nation.

Beyond Carney and Starmer, Trump had bilateral meetings or pull-aside conversations with Merz, Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen.

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He talked with Macron about "tariffs, the situation in the Near and Middle East, and the situation in Ukraine," according to Macron spokesperson Jean-Noël Ladois.

On Tuesday, Trump had been scheduled before his departure to meet with Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. Zelenskyy said one of the topics for discussion would be a "defense package" that Ukraine is ready to purchase from the U.S. as part of the ongoing war with Russia, a package whose status might now be uncertain.

Tariff talk

The U.S. president has imposed 50% tariffs on steel and aluminum as well as 25% tariffs on autos. Trump is also charging a 10% tax on imports from most countries, though he could raise rates on July 9, after the 90-day negotiating period set by him would expire.

He announced with Starmer that they had signed a trade framework Monday that was previously announced in May. The trade framework included quotas to protect against some tariffs, but the 10% baseline would largely remain as the Trump administration is banking on tariff revenues to help cover the cost of its income tax cuts.

Canada and Mexico face separate tariffs of as much as 25% that Trump put into place under the auspices of stopping fentanyl smuggling, though some products are still protected under the 2020 U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement signed during Trump's first term.

Merz said of trade talks that "there will be no solution at this summit, but we could perhaps come closer to a solution in small steps."

Carney's office said after the Canadian premier met with Trump on trade that "the leaders agreed to pursue negotiations toward a deal within the coming 30 days."

Israel orders 300,000 people in Tehran to evacuate while Trump issues ominous warning

By AMI BENTOV and MELANIE LIDMAN Associated Press

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) — Israel warned hundreds of thousands of people to evacuate the middle of Iran's capital as Israel's air campaign on Tehran appeared to broaden on the fourth day of an intensifying conflict.

An Iranian television anchor fled her studio during a live broadcast as bombs fell on the headquarters of the country's state-run TV station.

U.S. President Donald Trump posted an ominous message on his social media site later Monday calling for the immediate evacuation of Tehran.

"IRAN CAN NOT HAVE A NUCLEAR WEAPON," Trump wrote, adding that "Everyone should immediately evacuate Tehran!"

White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt said on social media shortly after Trump's post that he was returning from the G7 summit in Canada a day early due to the intensifying conflict between.

Israel says strikes have set back nuclear program

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the Israeli strikes have set Iran's nuclear program back a "very, very long time," and told reporters he is in daily touch with Trump.

"The regime is very weak," he added.

Israel says its sweeping assault on Iran's top military leaders, uranium enrichment sites and nuclear scientists, is necessary to prevent its longtime adversary from getting any closer to building an atomic weapon. The strikes have killed at least 224 people since Friday.

Iran maintains that its nuclear program is peaceful, and the U.S. and others have assessed that Tehran has not had an organized effort to pursue a nuclear weapon since 2003. The head of the International Atomic Energy Agency has repeatedly warned that the country has enough enriched uranium to make several nuclear bombs should it choose to do so.

Iran has retaliated by launching more than 370 missiles and hundreds of drones at Israel. So far, 24 people have been killed in Israel and more than 500 injured.

The back-and-forth has raised concerns about all-out war between the countries and propelled the re-

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gion, already on edge, into even greater upheaval.

Israel's military issues evacuation warning affecting up to 330,000 people

Earlier Monday, Israel's military issued an evacuation warning to 330,000 people in a part of central Tehran that houses the country's state TV and police headquarters, as well as three large hospitals, including one owned by Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard. The city, one of the region's largest, is home to around 9.5 million people.

Israel's military has issued similar evacuation warnings for civilians in parts of Gaza and Lebanon ahead of strikes.

State-run television abruptly stopped a live broadcast after the station was hit, according to Iran's state-run news agency. While on the air, an Iranian state television reporter said the studio was filling with dust after "the sound of aggression against the homeland." Suddenly, an explosion occurred, cutting the screen behind her as she hurried off camera.

The broadcast quickly switched to prerecorded programs. The station later said its building was hit by four bombs.

An anchor said on air that a few colleagues had been hurt, but their families should not be worried. The network said its live programs were transferred to another studio.

Israel claims 'full aerial superiority' over Tehran

Israeli military spokesperson Brig. Gen. Effie Defrin said Monday that his country's forces had "achieved full aerial superiority over Tehran's skies."

The military said it destroyed more than 120 surface-to-surface missile launchers in central Iran, a third of Iran's total, as well as two F-14 planes that Iran used to target Israeli aircraft and multiple launchers just before they launched ballistic missiles towards Israel.

Israeli military officials also said fighter jets had struck 10 command centers in Tehran belonging to Iran's Quds Force, an elite arm of its Revolutionary Guard that conducts military and intelligence operations outside Iran.

The Israeli strikes "amount to a deep and comprehensive blow to the Iranian threat," Defrin said.

One missile fell near the American consulate in Tel Aviv, with its blast waves causing minor damage, U.S. Ambassador Mike Huckabee said on X. He added that no American personnel were injured.

Explosions rock Tel Aviv, Petah Tikva and Haifa oil refinery

Powerful explosions rocked Tel Aviv shortly before dawn Monday, sending plumes of black smoke into the sky over the coastal city.

Authorities in the central Israeli city of Petah Tikva said Iranian missiles hit a residential building there, charring concrete walls, shattering windows and ripping the walls off multiple apartments.

Iranian missiles also hit an oil refinery in the northern city of Haifa for the second night in a row. The early morning strike killed three workers, ignited a significant fire and damaged a building, Israel's fire and rescue services said. The workers were sheltering in the building's safe room when the impact caused a stairwell to collapse, trapping them inside.

Firefighters rushed to extinguish the fire and rescue them, but the three died before rescuers could reach them.

No sign of conflict letting up

Iran's foreign minister, Abbas Araghchi, appeared to make a veiled outreach Monday for the U.S. to step in and negotiate an end to hostilities between Israel and Iran.

In a post on X, Araghchi wrote that if Trump is "genuine about diplomacy and interested in stopping this war, next steps are consequential."

"It takes one phone call from Washington to muzzle someone like Netanyahu," Iran's top diplomat wrote. "That may pave the way for a return to diplomacy."

The message to Washington was sent as the latest talks between the U.S. and Iran were canceled over the weekend after Israel targeted key military and political officials in Tehran.

On Sunday, Araghchi said that Iran will stop its strikes if Israel does the same.

The conflict has also forced most countries in the Middle East to close their airspace. Dozens of airports

have stopped all flights or severely reduced operations, leaving tens of thousands of passengers stranded and others unable to flee the conflict or travel home.

Health authorities reported that 1,277 people were wounded in Iran. Iranians also reported fuel rationing.

Rights groups such as the Washington-based Iranian advocacy group Human Rights Activists have suggested that the Iranian government's death toll is a significant undercount. The group says it has documented more than 400 people killed, among them 197 civilians.

Ahead of Israel's initial attack, its Mossad spy agency positioned explosive drones and precision weapons inside Iran. Since then, Iran has reportedly detained several people and hanged one on suspicion of espionage.

Things to know about the retrial of Karen Read in the killing of her police officer boyfriend

By MICHAEL CASEY and PATRICK WHITTLE Associated Press

DEDHAM, Mass. (AP) — The jury is returning for more deliberations in the second murder trial of Karen Read, who is charged with killing her Boston police officer boyfriend.

Jurors began deliberations late last week, more than a month after the trial started. The second full day of deliberations is Tuesday.

Read, 45, is accused of striking John O'Keefe with her car outside a suburban Boston house party and leaving him to die in the snow in January 2022. She has been charged with second-degree murder, manslaughter and leaving the scene.

Read's lawyers say O'Keefe, 46, was beaten, bitten by a dog, then left outside a home in Canton in a conspiracy orchestrated by the police that included planting evidence against Read.

Read's second trial followed similar contours to the first, which ended in a mistrial last year.

Read has never been jailed for O'Keefe's killing. She did not testify at her first murder trial or this one.

Defense argues Read was framed

Defense attorney Alan Jackson began his closing argument Friday by repeating three times: "There was no collusion." He told the jury that Read is an innocent woman victimized by a police cover-up in which law enforcement officers sought to protect their own and obscure the real killer.

He repeatedly attacked the lead investigator in the case, former Massachusetts State Trooper Michael Proctor, who was fired after sharing offensive and sexist texts about Read with friends, family and co-workers. He said Proctor's "blatant bias" tainted every aspect of the corrupt and flawed investigation and noted how prosecutors refused to put him on the stand, as they did during the first trial.

Proctor, he said, ignored leads, planted evidence and failed to consider anyone other than Read as a potential suspect.

"Michael Proctor went far beyond just insulting Karen Read. He dehumanized this woman," he told jurors. "He betrayed her as a human being. He was fired for this blatant bias. If the Massachusetts State Police can't trust him, how can you trust him with this investigation, with your verdict and with Karen Read's life?"

Jackson was limited in this trial to arguing that someone other than Read killed O'Keefe. Rather than suggesting as many as three people could have killed O'Keefe as he did during the first trial, Jackson singled out Brian Higgins, a federal agent who worked in Canton and had exchanged flirtatious texts with Read. Jackson suggested Higgins was agitated at a bar after Read didn't respond to his text and had coaxed O'Keefe over to the Canton house party where he was beaten up.

"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.

Prosecutors argue Read chose to leave O'Keefe to die

Prosecutor Hank Brennan opened his closing argument Friday by saying Read callously decided to leave O'Keefe dying in the snow, fully aware that he was gravely injured. He argued that she made the "choice

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to let" O'Keefe die, going further than prosecutors in the first trial in spelling out a motive.

Brennan said Read's blood-alcohol level was two to three times the legal limit, after the couple downed multiple drinks at two Canton bars. The couple, whose "toxic" relationship was "crumbling," had an argument on the way to the house party that increased tensions and ultimately led to O'Keefe's death, the prosecutor said.

"She was drunk, she hit him, and she left him to die," Brennan said.

Pointing to data on Read's SUV, Brennan said it showed Read starting to drive off before reversing and accelerating. He admitted they can't say how Read hit O'Keefe, but that she left "tons" of pieces of her taillight behind in the front yard and that O'Keefe's DNA was found on the vehicle. Data from O'Keefe's phone, he said, showed O'Keefe barely moved after getting out of the SUV, challenging the idea that he made it into the house party.

He also pointed to Read's own words — shown in a video interview for a documentary — and testimony from the scene in which she told first responders that she "hit him." He said this evidence may not correspond to the idea that there was a vast conspiracy led by the "boogeyman" Proctor and "everyone setting up the girl," but he said these witnesses should be trusted.

As for Proctor, Brennan said the jury shouldn't be influenced by the fact he didn't testify. Brennan argued he wasn't needed and that there is no evidence that he did anything to corrupt the investigation.

"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."

What are the charges Read faces?

Read faces several charges, the most serious being second-degree murder. If she is convicted, she would face a maximum sentence of life in prison. She also faces manslaughter while operating a motor vehicle under the influence, which carries a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison.

She is also charged with involuntary manslaughter, which carries a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison; motor vehicle homicide, which carries a maximum sentence of 15 years in prison; as well as operating under the influence and leaving the scene of an accident resulting in death. They carry maximum sentences of 2 1/2 years and 15 years, respectively.

Airports close across the Mideast as the Israel-Iran conflict shutters the region's airspace

By KAREEM CHEHAYEB and QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — After Israeli strikes landed near the hotel where he was staying in the Iranian province of Qom, Aimal Hussein desperately wanted to return home. But the 55-year-old Afghan businessman couldn't find a way, with Iranian airspace completely shut down.

He fled to Tehran after the strike Sunday, but no taxi would take him to the border as the conflict between Iran and Israel intensified.

"Flights, markets, everything is closed, and I am living in the basement of a small hotel," Hussein told The Associated Press by cellphone on Monday. "I am trying to get to the border by taxi, but they are hard to find, and no one is taking us."

Israel launched a major attack Friday with strikes in the Iranian capital of Tehran and elsewhere, killing senior military officials, nuclear scientists, and destroying critical infrastructure. Among the targets was a nuclear enrichment facility about 18 miles from Qom. Iran has retaliated with hundreds of drones and missiles.

The dayslong attacks between the two bitter enemies have opened a new chapter in their turbulent recent history. Many in the region fear a wider conflict as they watch waves of attacks across their skies every night.

The conflict has forced most countries in the Middle East to close their airspace. Dozens of airports have stopped all flights or severely reduced operations, leaving tens of thousands of passengers stranded and

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others unable to flee the conflict or travel home.

Airport closures create 'massive' domino, tens of thousands stranded

"The domino effect here is massive," said retired pilot and aviation safety expert John Cox, who said the disruptions will have a huge price tag.

"You've got thousands of passengers suddenly that are not where they're supposed to be, crews that are not where they are supposed to be, airplanes that are not where they're supposed to be," he said.

Zvika Berg was on an El Al flight to Israel from New York when an unexpected message came from the pilot as they began their descent: "Sorry, we've been rerouted to Larnaca." The 50-year-old Berg saw other Israel-bound El Al flights from Berlin and elsewhere landing at the airport in Cyprus. Now he's waiting at a Larnaca hotel while speaking to his wife in Jerusalem. "I'm debating what to do," Berg said.

Israel has closed its main international Ben Gurion Airport "until further notice," leaving more than 50,000 Israeli travelers stranded abroad. The jets of the country's three airlines have been moved to Larnaca.

In Israel, Mahala Finkleman was stuck in a Tel Aviv hotel after her Air Canada flight was canceled, trying to reassure her worried family back home while she shelters in the hotel's underground bunker during waves of overnight Iranian attacks.

"We hear the booms. Sometimes there's shaking," she said. "The truth, I think it's even scarier ... to see from TV what happened above our heads while we were underneath in a bomb shelter."

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office warned Israelis not to flee the country through any of the three crossings with Jordan and Egypt that are open to the Israeli public. Despite having diplomatic ties with Israel, the statement said those countries are considered a "high risk of threat" to Israeli travelers.

Iran on Friday suspended flights to and from the country's main Khomeini International Airport on the outskirts of Tehran. Israel said Saturday that it bombed Mehrabad Airport in an early attack, a facility in Tehran for Iran's air force and domestic commercial flights.

Many students unable to leave Iran, Iraq and elsewhere

Arsalan Ahmed is one of thousands of Indian university students stuck in Iran, with no way out. The medical student and other students in Tehran are not leaving the hostels where they live, horrified by the attacks with no idea of when they'll find safety.

"It is very scary what we watch on television," Ahmed said. "But scarier are some of the deafening explosions." Universities have helped relocate many students to safer places in Iran, but the Indian government has not yet issued an evacuation plan for them.

Though airspace is still partially open in Lebanon and Jordan, the situation is chaotic at airports, with many passengers stranded locally and abroad with delayed and canceled flights even as the busy summer tourism season begins. Many airlines have reduced flights or stopped them altogether, and authorities have closed airports overnight when attacks are at their most intense. Syria, under new leadership, had just renovated its battered airports and begun restoring diplomatic ties when the conflict began.

Neighboring Iraq's airports have all closed due to its close proximity to Iran. Israel reportedly used Iraqi airspace, in part, to launch its strikes on Iran, while Iranian drones and missiles flying the other way have been downed over Iraq. Baghdad has reached a deal with Turkey that would allow Iraqis abroad to travel to Turkey — if they can afford it — and return home overland through their shared border.

Some Iraqis stranded in Iran opted to leave by land. College student Yahia al-Suraifi was studying in the northwestern Iranian city of Tabriz, where Israel bombed the airport and an oil refinery over the weekend.

Al-Suraifi and dozens of other Iraqi students pooled together their money to pay taxi drivers to drive 200 miles (320 kilometers) overnight to the border with northern Iraq with drones and airstrikes around them.

"It looked like fireworks in the night sky," al-Suraifi said. "I was very scared."

By the time they reached the northern Iraqi city of Irbil, it was another 440 miles (710 kilometers) to get to his hometown of Nasiriyah in southern Iraq.

Back in Tehran, Hussein said the conflict brought back bitter memories of 20 years of war back home in Afghanistan.

"This is the second time I have been trapped in such a difficult war and situation," he said, "once in Kabul and now in Iran."

Doctor who supplied ketamine to Matthew Perry and called him a 'moron' will plead guilty

By ANDREW DALTON AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A doctor charged with giving Matthew Perry ketamine in the month leading up to the "Friends" star's overdose death will plead guilty, according to an agreement filed in court Monday.

Dr. Salvador Plasencia agreed to plead guilty to four counts of distribution of ketamine, according to the signed document filed in federal court in Los Angeles. In exchange for his plea, prosecutors agreed to drop three additional counts of distribution of ketamine and two counts of falsifying records.

Federal prosecutors said in a statement that the plea carries a maximum sentence of 40 years in prison. They said Plasencia is expected to formally plead guilty in the coming weeks.

According to a co-defendant, Plasencia in a text message called the actor a "moron" who could be exploited for money. The physician had been one of the primary targets of the prosecution, along with a woman accused of being a ketamine dealer. Three other defendants, including another doctor, agreed to plead guilty last year in exchange for their cooperation.

Plasencia and the woman, Jasveen Sangha, had been scheduled to face trial in August. An email to his attorney seeking comment was not immediately answered.

Perry was found dead by his assistant on Oct. 28, 2023. The medical examiner ruled that ketamine, typically used as a surgical anesthetic, was the primary cause of death.

The actor had been using the drug through his regular doctor in a legal but off-label treatment for depression, which has become increasingly common. Perry, 54, began seeking more ketamine than his doctor would give him.

Plasencia admitted in his plea agreement that another patient connected him with Perry, and that starting about a month before Perry's death, he illegally supplied the actor with 20 vials of ketamine totaling 100 mg of the drug, along with ketamine lozenges and syringes.

He admitted to enlisting the other doctor, Mark Chavez, to supply the drug for him, according to the court filings.

"I wonder how much this moron will pay," Plasencia texted Chavez, according to Chavez's plea agreement. The two met up the same day in Costa Mesa, halfway between the Los Angeles area where Plasencia practiced and San Diego, where Chavez practiced, and exchanged several vials of ketamine, the filings said.

After selling the drugs to Perry for \$4,500, Plasencia allegedly asked Chavez if he could keep supplying them so they could become Perry's "go-to," prosecutors said.

Plasencia admitted to visiting Perry's house twice and injecting him with ketamine. He also left ketamine behind and showed Perry's personal assistant, Kenneth Iwamasa, how to inject it, according to Iwamasa's plea agreement. The doctor later met up with Iwamasa and gave him more ketamine for Perry, according to the document.

Perry was also getting ketamine from another source, Sangha, who prosecutors allege was a major dealer and supplied the dose that killed the actor.

Sangha has pleaded not guilty — making her the only one of the five people charged in Perry's death who has not entered a plea agreement. She remains jailed as she awaits trial. Plasencia was freed on bond after his initial court appearances.

Erik Fleming, a friend of Perry who said he acted as a middleman and drug messenger, has also pleaded guilty and has been cooperating with prosecutors.

None of the defendants has yet been sentenced. Plasencia's plea deal makes no specific sentencing guarantees.

Perry struggled with addiction for years, dating back to his time on "Friends," when he became one of the biggest stars of his generation as Chandler Bing. He starred alongside Jennifer Aniston, Courteney Cox, Lisa Kudrow, Matt LeBlanc and David Schwimmer for 10 seasons from 1994 to 2004 on NBC's megahit.

US and UK announce a trade deal, but steel imports are still being negotiated

By JILL LAWLESS and WILL WEISSERT Associated Press

KANANASKIS, Alberta (AP) — U.S. President Donald Trump and British Prime Minister Keir Starmer said Monday that they had signed a trade deal that will slash tariffs on U.K. auto and aerospace industry imports — but they are still discussing how to handle steel production.

The pair spoke to reporters at the Group of Seven summit in the Canadian Rockies, with Trump brandishing the pages of what he said was a long-awaited agreement. The rollout was anything but smooth, however, as Trump dropped the papers and at first said his administration had reached an agreement with the European Union when he meant the United Kingdom.

The president nonetheless insisted the pact is “a fair deal for both” and would “produce a lot of jobs, a lot of income.”

“We just signed it,” Trump said, “and it’s done.”

Starmer said it meant “a very good day for both our countries, a real sign of strength.”

Reaching an agreement is significant as Trump has threatened much of the world with steep import tariffs that have unsettled markets and raised the possibility of a global trade war.

He has since backed off on many of his proposed levies but also continued to suggest that administration officials were furiously negotiating new trade pacts with dozens of countries — even as few have actually materialized.

Trump said “the U.K. is very well protected,” from tariffs. “You know why? Because I like them.”

The signing of the deal at the G7 followed Trump and Starmer’s announcement in May that they’d reached a framework for a trade pact that would slash U.S. import taxes on British cars, steel and aluminum in return for greater access to the British market for U.S. products, including beef and ethanol.

But Monday’s agreement fully covers only British cars and aerospace materials, with more work to come on steel.

The British government said the new agreement removes U.S. tariffs on U.K. aerospace products, exempting Britain from a 10% levy the Trump White House has sought to impose on all other countries — a boost to British firms, including engine-maker Rolls-Royce.

It also sets the tax on British autos at 10% from the end of the month, down from the current 27.5%, up to a quota of 100,000 vehicles a year.

U.K. Business and Trade Secretary Jonathan Reynolds said the deal protects “jobs and livelihoods in some of our most vital sectors.” Mike Hawes, chief executive of Britain’s Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, said it was “great news for the U.K. automotive industry.”

But there was no final agreement to cut the tax on British steel to zero as originally foreseen — seen as vital to preserving the U.K.’s beleaguered steel industry. Britain’s steel output has fallen 80% since the late 1960s due to high costs and the rapid growth of cheaper Chinese production.

Monday’s agreement fleshes out the terms of the framework deal announced in May. That framework didn’t immediately take effect, leaving British businesses uncertain about whether the U.K. could be exposed to any surprise hikes from Trump.

British businesses, and the U.K. government, were then blindsided earlier this month when Trump doubled metals tariffs on countries around the world to 50%. He later clarified the level would remain at 25% for the U.K.

After the two leaders spoke, the White House released a statement seeking to clarify matters, saying that with respect to steel and aluminum, Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick will “determine a quota of products that can enter the United States without being subject” to previous tariffs imposed by the Trump administration.

The British government said Monday that the plan was still for “0% tariffs on core steel products as agreed.”

Trump’s executive order authorizing the deal contained several references to security of supply chains,

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reflecting the U.S. administration's concerns about China. It said the U.K. "committed to working to meet American requirements on the security of the supply chains of steel and aluminum products intended for export to the United States."

There also was no final deal on pharmaceuticals, where "work will continue," the U.K. said.

The deal signed Monday also confirms that American farmers can export 13,000 metric tons (29 million pounds) of beef to the U.K. each year, and vice versa — though a British ban on hormone-treated beef remains in place.

The Trump family's next venture, a mobile phone company

By BERNARD CONDON AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — If Trump watches or sneakers or bibles aren't your thing, the family business just added another product to show your support for the U.S. president: mobile phones.

The Trump company announced Monday a new business, Trump Mobile, that will offer cell service in a licensing deal and sell gold phones by the summer. It's the latest in a string of new ventures struck despite mounting ethical concerns that the U.S. president is profiting off his position and could distort public policy for personal gain.

Eric Trump, the president's son running The Trump Organization in his absence, suggested the pitch is patriotism, emphasizing that the phones will be built in the U.S. and the phone service will maintain a call center in the country as well.

The announcement follows several real estate deals for towers and resorts in the Middle East, including a golf development in Qatar announced in April. A \$1.5 billion partnership to build golf courses, hotels and real estate projects in Vietnam was approved last month, though the deal was in the works before Trump was elected.

Trump has already used the main regulatory agency that will oversee Trump Mobile in personal disputes.

The Federal Communications Commission has launched investigations of media outlets Trump dislikes and, in some cases, is personally suing. And the president himself last month criticized cell phone maker Apple, now a big business rival, because it planned to make most of its U.S. iPhones in India, threatening to slap a 25% tariff on the devices.

Eric Trump said that consumers deserve a phone that aligns with their values.

"Hard-working Americans deserve a wireless service that's affordable, reflects their values, and delivers reliable quality they can count on," he said in a statement.

The Trump phone deal comes as a mandatory financial disclosure report just filed with the government shows the president has moved fast in the last year to profit off his celebrity, taking in \$3 million in revenue from selling "Save America" coffee table books, \$2.8 million from Trump watches and \$2.5 million from Trump branded sneakers and fragrances.

The Trump Organization on Monday said the new, gold-colored phone available for \$499 in August, called the T1 Phone, won't be designed or made by Trump Mobile, but by another company.

The Trump Organization did not respond to repeated requests for more details on that and comment.

IDC analyst Francisco Jeronimo said the monthly fee of just under \$50 is pricey, the appeal beyond the most ardent MAGA loyalists doubtful and the business difficult given that cell phones break down.

"It's not like selling hats and t-shirts. I'm not sure they have that all sorted of," said Jeronimo, adding "I'm not sure they are bringing great value to the American people."

Donald Trump ventured into the telecommunication industry once before, giving speeches and promoting a multi-level marketing company called ACN that was eventually sued for fraud and misleading customers.

In the first term, Trump was blasted by conservative and liberal government ethics experts alike for opening his Washington hotel to lobbyists and diplomats and violating his company's pledge to avoid even the appearance of a conflict between his private profit and the public interest.

The company is feeling more emboldened now in the second term.

The mobile service is partnering with existing cellular carriers with access to a 5G network, raising ques-

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tions of how they will be treated by federal regulators now that they have partnered with his company. The Trump Organization said those companies are America's three biggest mobile network providers, an apparent reference to Verizon, AT&T and T-Mobile, the latter with a trademarked name that is very similar to Trump's T1 Mobile.

The name given to the monthly service offer, The 47 Plan, and the monthly \$47.45 monthly fee make reference to Trump's two terms, the 45th and the 47th. The service will include unlimited calls, texts and data and free roadside assistance and telehealth services.

A mock-up of the planned phone on the company's website shows Trump's slogan "Make America Great" on the front and an etched American flag on the back.

By sticking to licensing, the Trump family is limiting its risk. Still, the new service faces big challenges if it hopes to sell beyond the president's loyal MAGA fans.

The Trump company tried to tap into support among the middle class in the first term with two mid-priced hotel chains. Called American Idea and Scion, and unveiled like the phone service Monday under a giant U.S. flag in the Trump Tower atrium, they flopped.

Despite taking in millions of dollars each year in various licensing deals and a string of new ventures, the Trump brand has taken a series of hits to its brand over the years.

During his first term, the Trump name was stripped off residential buildings and hotels in Toronto, Panama and Manhattan.

The Trump International Hotel in Washington, since sold, lost money even though the family opened its doors to businesses and governments trying to shape U.S. policy.

The average condo in 11 Trump-branded residential towers around the country underperformed the broader market during and immediately after Trump's first term. More recently, the value of Trump condos in New York City fell in the past two years as similar properties rise in value, according to brokerage CityRealty.

The Trump Organization has had more success with some ventures launched in the first few months of his second term.

Trump Media & Technology Group, a Florida company that operates the Truth Social media platform, filed plans with security regulators Monday to launch an exchange-traded fund tied to the prices of two popular cryptocurrencies.

The ETF is part of the Trump family's rapidly growing crypto empire, which includes a new stablecoin and launching and promoting memecoins.

The president's most recent financial disclosure report reveals he made more than \$57 million last year from World Liberty Financial, a crypto company he and his sons helped launch in September.

Suspect in shooting of Minnesota state lawmakers targeted 2 others that night, prosecutors say

By STEVE KARNOWSKI, ALANNA DURKIN RICHER and JOHN SEEWER Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — The man charged with killing one Minnesota lawmaker and wounding another meticulously planned the shootings and intended to inflict more carnage against those on his hit list, driving to the homes of two other legislators on the night of the attacks, a federal prosecutor said Monday.

But one of those state lawmakers was on vacation and the suspect left the other house after police arrived early Saturday, acting U.S. Attorney Joseph Thompson said.

Investigators say Vance Boelter appeared to spend months preparing for the shootings — the latest in a string of political attacks across the U.S. His list of potential targets contained dozens of names, including officials in at least three other states.

In Minnesota, Boelter carried out surveillance missions, took notes on the homes and people he targeted, and disguised himself as a police officer just before the shootings, Thompson said.

"It is no exaggeration to say that his crimes are the stuff of nightmares," he said.

Boelter surrendered to police Sunday night after they found him in the woods near his home after a mas-

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sive two-day search. He is accused of fatally shooting former Democratic House Speaker Melissa Hortman and her husband, Mark, in their home early Saturday in the northern Minneapolis suburbs.

Authorities say he also shot and wounded Sen. John Hoffman, a Democrat, and his wife, Yvette, who lived a few miles away.

Federal prosecutors charged Boelter, 57, with murder and stalking, which could result in a death sentence if convicted. He already faces state charges, including murder and attempted murder. At a federal court hearing Monday in St. Paul, Boelter said he could not afford an attorney. A federal public defender was appointed to represent him, and he was being held without bail pending a court appearance next week.

Manny Atwal, his lead attorney, declined to comment, saying the office just got the case.

Notebooks show careful planning

Boelter had many notebooks full of plans, Thompson said. Underscoring what law enforcement officials said was the premeditated nature of the attacks, one notebook contained a list of internet-based people search engines, according to court records.

But authorities have not found any writings that would "clearly identify what motivated him," Thompson said. Though the targets were Democrats and elected officials, Thompson said it was too soon to speculate on any sort of political ideology.

All of the politicians named in his writing were Democrats, including more than 45 state and federal officials in Minnesota, Thompson said. Elected leaders in Michigan, Ohio and Wisconsin said they, too, were mentioned in his writings.

Democratic Rep. Esther Agbaje, whose district includes parts of Minneapolis, said she stayed with friends and family over the weekend after learning that her name appeared on the list of targets. She returned home only after learning the suspect had been caught.

"It was only today that you can sort of begin to exhale," she said.

In texts, the suspect said he 'went to war'

Authorities declined to reveal the names of the other two lawmakers whose homes were targeted but escaped harm. Democratic Sen. Ann Rest said she was told the suspect parked near her home early Saturday. She said in a statement that the "quick action" of law enforcement officers saved her life.

Boelter sent a text to a family group chat after the shootings that said : "Dad went to war last night ... I don't wanna say more because I don't wanna implicate anybody," according to an FBI affidavit.

His wife got another text that said: "Words are not gonna explain how sorry I am for this situation ... there's gonna be some people coming to the house armed and trigger-happy and I don't want you guys around," the affidavit said.

Police later found his wife in a car with her children. Officers found two handguns, about \$10,000 in cash and passports for the wife and her children, according to the affidavit.

Just hours after the shootings Saturday, Boelter bought an electronic bike and a Buick sedan from someone he met at a bus stop in Minneapolis, the federal affidavit said. Police found the sedan abandoned on a highway Sunday morning.

In the car, officers found a cowboy hat Boelter had been seen wearing in surveillance footage as well as a letter written to the FBI, authorities said. The letter said it was written by "Dr. Vance Luther Boulter" and he was "the shooter at large."

The car was found in rural Sibley County, where Boelter owned a home. A police officer later saw Boelter running into the woods. He was found within 20 minutes — about a mile (1.6 kilometers) from the home — and gave himself up, crawling out before he was handcuffed and taken into custody in a field, authorities said.

Coordinated attacks on legislators

Drew Evans, superintendent of the state Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, said the rampage likely would've continued had Brooklyn Park officers not checked on Hortman's home, causing Boelter to flee.

The Hoffmans were attacked first at their home in Champlin. Their adult daughter called 911 to say a masked person had come to the door and shot her parents.

Boelter had shown up carrying a flashlight and a 9 mm handgun and wearing a black tactical vest and

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a "hyper-realistic" silicone mask, Thompson said.

He first knocked and shouted: "This is police." At one point, the Hoffmans realized he was wearing a mask and Boelter told them "this is a robbery." After Sen. Hoffman tried to push Boelter out the door, Boelter shot him repeatedly and then shot his wife, the prosecutor said.

A statement released Sunday by Yvette Hoffman said her husband underwent several surgeries. "He took 9 bullet hits. I took 8 and we are both incredibly lucky to be alive," the statement said.

When police in nearby Brooklyn Park learned that a lawmaker had been shot, they sent patrol officers to check on the Hortmans' home.

Officers arrived just in time to see Boelter shoot Mark Hortman through the open door of the home and exchanged gunfire with Boelter, who fled into the home before escaping, the complaint said. Melissa Hortman was found dead inside, according to the document. Their dog also was shot and had to be euthanized.

Search for motive continues

Writings recovered from the fake police vehicle included the names of lawmakers and community leaders, along with abortion rights advocates and information about health care facilities, said two law enforcement officials who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss details of the ongoing investigation.

Friends and former colleagues interviewed by the AP describe Boelter as a devout Christian who attended an evangelical church and went to campaign rallies for President Donald Trump.

Boelter also is a former political appointee who served on the same state workforce development board as Hoffman, records show, though it was not clear if they knew each other.

Jurors see clips of 'freak-off' sex marathons central to Sean 'Diddy' Combs' sex trafficking charges

By MICHAEL R. SISAK and LARRY NEUMEISTER Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The jury at Sean "Diddy" Combs' sex trafficking trial got a glimpse Monday at some of the "freak-off" sex marathons at the heart of the case, with prosecutors showing excerpts of explicit videos that the hip-hop mogul recorded during the drug-fueled sessions.

Prosecutors played portions of three sex videos recovered from a Combs-linked account on a cellphone that his former longtime girlfriend Cassie provided to authorities, giving jurors a close-up view of the encounters they've heard about repeatedly since testimony began May 12.

One video was from Oct. 14, 2012, the same day prosecutors say Combs had a "freak-off" in New York City with Cassie and sex worker Sharay Hayes, known as "The Punisher."

Before playing the clip, prosecutors showed jurors an invoice for an Oct. 14, 2012, stay at the Trump International Hotel & Tower in Manhattan that was booked under Combs' alias, Frank Black. A note on the invoice said the guest requested to have the room at 3 a.m.

Prosecutors also showed jurors text messages in which Cassie, the R&B singer whose real name is Casandra Ventura, arranged the Oct. 14 meetup with Hayes. In one message, she wrote: "Can we actually do 3 a.m. at the Trump hotel, Columbus Circle?" Hayes replied: "Great. I'll text when I'm on my way," and told her his fee for the encounter was \$200 cash.

Jurors were also shown excerpts of videos taken on Oct. 20, 2012, and Dec. 4, 2014. Collectively, the clips shown to jurors were several minutes long and although at least one juror winced at a video, their reactions mostly were muted. Defense lawyers have said the videos prove Combs was engaging in consensual sex rather than crimes.

Because of their graphic nature, the excerpts were available for viewing only for jurors, the prosecution and defense teams and Combs, all of whom wore headphones to hear the audio portion. Reporters and members of the public were not allowed to see or hear the videos.

The videos were the most notable part of an otherwise dry day in court as prosecutors wind down their case with so-called summary witnesses — government agents who are reading aloud heaps of text messages, travel records and other document-based evidence.

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After six weeks of witnesses and evidence, prosecutors said they plan to rest on Wednesday. After that, Combs' lawyers said they'll start calling witnesses.

Earlier in the trial, a forensic video expert retained by the prosecution to enhance the videos identified them by date. During that testimony, a prosecutor described the videos as "sex videos."

Until Monday, jurors had only seen still images taken from the "freak-off" videos.

Combs, 55, has pleaded not guilty to sex trafficking and racketeering conspiracy charges after his September arrest at a New York hotel. He was denied bail multiple times and has remained incarcerated at a federal lockup in Brooklyn ever since.

Other text messages jurors heard Monday included Combs' ex-girlfriend, identified by the pseudonym "Jane," complaining to him about sex marathons and to his chief of staff, Kristina Khorram, about his threats to release explicit videos of her.

Jane laid into Combs after Cassie sued him in 2023 for alleged sexual and physical abuse. He promptly settled.

Jane, who dated Combs from 2021 until his arrest last year, told Combs she felt he exploited her with their "dark and humiliating lifestyle." A month later, Jane texted Khorram that Combs "just threatened me about my sex tapes" and said he'd send them to her child's father.

Jane told Khorram she needed her help because Combs was having one of his "evil-ass psychotic bipolar" episodes.

Before the jury entered the courtroom Monday, Judge Arun Subramanian dismissed a juror after concluding there were "clear inconsistencies" in his answers last week and during jury selection about whether he resided in New York or with a girlfriend in New Jersey.

"Taking these all together, the record raised serious concerns as to the juror's candor and whether he shaded answers to get on and stay on the jury," he said.

Subramanian had first announced late Friday that he was dismissing the juror, but he left open the possibility that he would question the juror a final time after defense lawyers protested, saying that dismissing the Black juror and replacing him with a white man might spoil an otherwise diverse jury.

The judge said he had decided not to question him further because it could lead to "another set of shifting answers. ... In other words, there's nothing that the juror can say at this point that would put the genie back in the bottle and restore his credibility."

Wall Street recovers from Friday's shock as US stocks rise and oil prices ease

By STAN CHOE AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Calm returned to Wall Street on Monday, and U.S. stocks rose, while oil prices gave back some of their initial spurts following Israel's attack on Iranian nuclear and military targets at the end of last week.

The S&P 500 climbed 0.9% to reclaim most of its drop from Friday. The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 317 points, or 0.8%, and the Nasdaq composite gained 1.5%. They joined a worldwide climb for stock prices, stretching from Asia to Europe.

Israel and Iran are continuing to attack each other, and a fear remains that a wider war could constrict the flow of Iran's oil to its customers. That in turn could raise gasoline prices worldwide and keep them high.

But past conflicts in the region have seen spikes for crude prices last only briefly. They've receded after the fighting showed that it would not disrupt the flow of oil, either Iran's or other countries' through the narrow Strait of Hormuz off Iran's coast.

Hopes that the fighting could remain similarly contained this time around helped send oil prices back toward \$71 per barrel on Monday.

Iran's foreign minister, Abbas Araghchi, appeared to make a veiled outreach for the U.S. to step in and negotiate an end to hostilities between Israel and Iran, saying in a post on X that a phone call from Washington to Israel's leader "may pave the way for a return to diplomacy."

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A barrel of benchmark U.S. oil fell 1.7% to \$71.77, while Brent crude, the international standard, dropped 1.3% to \$73.23 per barrel. They had both jumped roughly 7% on Friday after the initial attacks.

In another signal of calming fear in financial markets, the price of gold also gave back some of its knee-jerk climb from Friday, when investors were looking for someplace safe to park their cash. An ounce of gold fell 1% to \$3,417.30.

Wall Street has plenty of other concerns in addition to the fighting in Iran and Israel. Key among them are President Donald Trump's tariffs, which still threaten to slow the economy and raise inflation if the U.S. government doesn't win trade deals with other countries to reduce Trump's taxes on imports.

The United States is meeting with six of the world's largest economies in Canada for a Group of Seven meeting, with the specter of tariffs looming over the talks.

Later this week, the Federal Reserve is set to discuss whether to lower or raise interest rates, with the decision due on Wednesday. The nearly unanimous expectation among traders and economists is that the Fed will make no move.

The Federal Reserve has been hesitant to lower interest rates, and it's been on hold this year after cutting at the end of last year, because it's waiting to see how much Trump's tariffs will hurt the economy and raise inflation. Inflation has remained relatively tame recently, and it's near the Fed's target of 2%.

More important for financial markets on Wednesday will likely be the latest set of forecasts that Fed officials will publish for where they see the economy and interest rates heading in upcoming years. Economists at Bank of America say it could show a forecast for just one cut to interest rates this year, along with three more in 2026.

In the bond market, the yield on the 10-year Treasury rose to 4.45% from 4.41% late Friday

On Wall Street, Sage Therapeutics jumped 35.4% for one of the market's biggest gains after Supernus Pharmaceuticals said it would buy the biopharmaceutical company in a deal worth up to \$795 million, or \$12 per share, if certain conditions are met.

U.S. Steel rose 5.1% after Trump signed an executive order on Friday paving the way for an investment in the company by Japan's Nippon Steel. Trump would have unique influence over the operations of U.S. Steel under the terms of the deal.

They helped offset drops for defense contractors, which gave back some of their jumps from Friday. Lockheed Martin fell 4%, and Northrop Grumman sank 3.7%.

All told, the S&P 500 rose 56.14 points to 6,033.11. The Dow Jones Industrial Average added 317.30 to 42,515.09, and the Nasdaq composite gained 294.39 to 19,701.21.

In stock markets abroad, indexes rose across most of Europe and Asia.

Stocks climbed 0.7% in Hong Kong and 0.3% in Shanghai after data showed stronger Chinese consumer spending for May but slower growth in factory activity and investment.

South Korea's Kospi climbed 1.8%, and Japan's Nikkei 225 rallied 1.3% for two of the world's bigger gains.

A look at the first artificial solar eclipses created by two European satellites

By MARCIA DUNN AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — A pair of European satellites have created the first artificial solar eclipses by flying in precise and fancy formation, providing hours of on-demand totality for scientists.

The European Space Agency released the eclipse pictures at the Paris Air Show on Monday. Launched late last year, the orbiting duo have churned out simulated solar eclipses since March while zooming tens of thousands of miles (kilometers) above Earth.

Flying 492 feet (150 meters) apart, one satellite blocks the sun like the moon does during a natural total solar eclipse as the other aims its telescope at the corona, the sun's outer atmosphere that forms a crown or halo of light.

It's an intricate, prolonged dance requiring extreme precision by the cube-shaped spacecraft, less than 5 feet (1.5 meters) in size. Their flying accuracy needs to be within a mere millimeter, the thickness of a

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finger nail. This meticulous positioning is achieved autonomously through GPS navigation, star trackers, lasers and radio links.

Dubbed Proba-3, the \$210 million mission has generated 10 successful solar eclipses so far during the ongoing checkout phase. The longest eclipse lasted five hours, said the Royal Observatory of Belgium's Andrei Zhukov, the lead scientist for the orbiting corona-observing telescope. He and his team are aiming for a wondrous six hours of totality per eclipse once scientific observations begin in July.

Scientists already are thrilled by the preliminary results that show the corona without the need for any special image processing, said Zhukov.

"We almost couldn't believe our eyes," Zhukov said in an email. "This was the first try, and it worked. It was so incredible."

Zhukov anticipates an average of two solar eclipses per week being produced for a total of nearly 200 during the two-year mission, yielding more than 1,000 hours of totality. That will be a scientific bonanza since full solar eclipses produce just a few minutes of totality when the moon lines up perfectly between Earth and the sun — on average just once every 18 months.

The sun continues to mystify scientists, especially its corona, which is hotter than the solar surface. Coronal mass ejections result in billions of tons of plasma and magnetic fields being hurled out into space. Geomagnetic storms can result, disrupting power and communication while lighting up the night sky with auroras in unexpected locales.

While previous satellites have generated imitation solar eclipses — including the European Space Agency and NASA's Solar Orbiter and Soho observatory — the sun-blocking disk was always on the same spacecraft as the corona-observing telescope. What makes this mission unique, Zhukov said, is that the sun-shrouding disk and telescope are on two different satellites and therefore far apart.

The distance between these two satellites will give scientists a better look at the part of the corona closest to the limb of the sun.

"We are extremely satisfied by the quality of these images, and again this is really thanks to formation flying" with unprecedented accuracy, ESA's mission manager Damien Galano said from the Paris Air Show.

The world's most-visited museum shuts down with staff sounding the alarm on mass tourism

By THOMAS ADAMSON AP Culture Writer

PARIS (AP) — The Louvre, the world's most-visited museum and a global symbol of art, beauty and endurance, has withstood war, terror, and pandemic — but on Monday, it was brought to a halt by its own striking staff, who say the institution is crumbling under the weight of mass tourism.

It was an almost unthinkable sight: the home to works by Leonardo da Vinci and millennia of civilization's greatest treasures — paralyzed by the very people tasked with welcoming the world to its galleries.

Thousands of stranded and confused visitors, tickets in hand, were corralled into unmoving lines by I.M. Pei's glass pyramid.

"It's the Mona Lisa moan out here," said Kevin Ward, 62, from Milwaukee. "Thousands of people waiting, no communication, no explanation. I guess even she needs a day off."

The Louvre has become a symbol of tourism pushed to its limits. As hotspots from Venice to the Acropolis race to curb crowds, the world's most iconic museum, visited by millions, is hitting a breaking point of its own.

Just a day earlier, coordinated anti-tourism protests swept across southern Europe. Thousands rallied in Mallorca, Venice, Lisbon and beyond, denouncing an economic model they say displaces locals and erodes city life. In Barcelona, activists sprayed tourists with water pistols — a theatrical bid to "cool down" runaway tourism.

The Louvre's spontaneous strike erupted during a routine internal meeting, as gallery attendants, ticket agents and security personnel refused to take up their posts in protest over unmanageable crowds, chronic

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understaffing and what one union called “untenable” working conditions.

It’s rare for the Louvre to close its doors. It has happened during war, during the pandemic, and in a handful of strikes — including spontaneous walkouts over overcrowding in 2019 and safety fears in 2013. But seldom has it happened so suddenly, without warning, and in full view of the crowds.

What’s more, the disruption comes just months after President Emmanuel Macron unveiled a sweeping decade-long plan to rescue the Louvre from precisely the problems now boiling over — water leaks, dangerous temperature swings, outdated infrastructure, and foot traffic far beyond what the museum can handle.

But for workers on the ground, that promised future feels distant.

“We can’t wait six years for help,” said Sarah Sefian, a front-of-house gallery attendant and visitor services agent. “Our teams are under pressure now. It’s not just about the art — it’s about the people protecting it.”

The Mona Lisa’s daily mob

At the center of it all is the Mona Lisa — a 16th-century portrait that draws modern-day crowds more akin to a celebrity meet-and-greet than an art experience.

Roughly 20,000 people a day squeeze into the Salle des États, the museum’s largest room, just to snap a selfie with Leonardo da Vinci’s enigmatic woman behind protective glass. The scene is often noisy, jostling, and so dense that many barely glance at the masterpieces flanking her — works by Titian and Veronese that go largely ignored.

“You don’t see a painting,” said Ji-Hyun Park, 28, who flew from Seoul to Paris. “You see phones. You see elbows. You feel heat. And then, you’re pushed out.”

Macron’s renovation blueprint, dubbed the “Louvre New Renaissance,” promises a remedy. The Mona Lisa will finally get her own dedicated room, accessible through a timed-entry ticket. A new entrance near the Seine River is also planned by 2031 to relieve pressure from the overwhelmed pyramid hub.

“Conditions of display, explanation and presentation will be up to what the Mona Lisa deserves,” Macron said in January.

But Louvre workers call Macron hypocritical and say the 700 million to 800 million-euro (\$730 million to \$834 million) renovation plan masks a deeper crisis. While Macron is investing in new entrances and exhibition space, the Louvre’s annual operating subsidies from the French state have shrunk by more than 20% over the past decade — even as visitor numbers soared.

“We take it very badly that Monsieur Le President makes his speeches here in our museum,” Sefian said, “but when you scratch the surface, the financial investment of the state is getting worse with each passing year.”

While many striking staff plan to remain off duty all day, Sefian said some workers may return temporarily to open a limited “masterpiece route” for a couple of hours, allowing access to select highlights including the Mona Lisa and the Venus de Milo. The full museum might reopen as normal on Wednesday, and some tourists with time-sensitive tickets for Monday may be allowed to reuse them then. On Tuesday the Louvre is closed.

A museum in limbo

The Louvre welcomed 8.7 million visitors last year — more than double what its infrastructure was designed to accommodate. Even with a daily cap of 30,000, staff say the experience has become a daily test of endurance, with too few rest areas, limited bathrooms, and summer heat magnified by the pyramid’s greenhouse effect.

In a leaked memo, Louvre President Laurence des Cars warned that parts of the building are “no longer watertight,” that temperature fluctuations endanger priceless art, and that even basic visitor needs — food, restrooms, signage — fall far below international standards. She described the experience simply as “a physical ordeal.”

“What began as a scheduled monthly information session turned into a mass expression of exasperation,” Sefian said. Talks between workers and management began at 10:30 a.m. and continued into the afternoon.

The full renovation plan is expected to be financed through ticket revenue, private donations, state funds,

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and licensing fees from the Louvre's Abu Dhabi branch. Ticket prices for non-EU tourists are expected to rise later this year.

But workers say their needs are more urgent than any 10-year plan.

Unlike other major sites in Paris, such as Notre Dame cathedral or the Centre Pompidou museum, both of which are undergoing government-backed restorations, the Louvre remains stuck in limbo — neither fully funded nor fully functional.

President Macron, who delivered his 2017 election victory speech at the Louvre and showcased it during the 2024 Paris Olympics, has promised a safer, more modern museum by the end of the decade.

Until then, France's greatest cultural treasure — and the millions who flock to see it — remain caught between the cracks.

A guide to what the Juneteenth holiday is and how to celebrate it

By TERRY TANG Associated Press

It was 160 years ago that enslaved people in Galveston, Texas, learned they had been freed — after the Civil War's end and two years after President Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation.

The resulting Juneteenth holiday — its name combining "June" and "nineteenth" — has only grown in one-and-a-half centuries. In 2021, President Joe Biden designated it a federal holiday — expanding its recognition beyond Black America.

This year will be the first Juneteenth under President Donald Trump's second administration, which has banned diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives, or DEI, in the federal government. This has included removing Black American history content from federal websites. Trump officials have also discouraged some federal agencies from recognizing other racial heritage celebrations.

Still, many people anticipate getting Juneteenth off work. There are a plethora of street festivals, fairs, concerts and other events planned throughout the week leading into the holiday. But with the current political climate, some may wonder if their company will honor it.

"I don't think anyone should be intimidated or obligated into not celebrating the day," said Marc Morial, president and CEO of the National Urban League. "I've not heard of anyone being denied. I think it would be absolutely reprehensible."

People who never gave the occasion more than a passing thought may be asking themselves, is there a "right" way to celebrate Juneteenth?

For beginners and those brushing up on history, here are some answers:

Is Juneteenth more of a solemn day of remembrance or a party?

It depends on what you want. Juneteenth festivities are rooted in cookouts and picnics. Originally celebrated as Black Americans' true Independence Day, outdoor events allowed for large, raucous reunions among formerly enslaved family, many of whom had been separated. The gatherings were especially revolutionary because they were free of restrictive measures, known as "Black Codes," enforced in Confederate states. Codes controlled whether liberated slaves could vote, buy property, gather for worship and other aspects of daily life.

Last year, the White House kicked things off early with a concert on the South Lawn for Juneteenth and Black Music Month. The atmosphere was primarily festive with Vice President Kamala Harris, the first Black vice president, dancing on stage with gospel singer Kirk Franklin.

Plans for a Juneteenth event or proclamation this year have not been decided, according to the White House press office.

Others may choose to treat Juneteenth as a day of rest and remembrance. That can mean doing community service, attending an education panel or taking time off.

"The most important thing everyone should do is be able to quickly answer the question 'What is Juneteenth?'" Morial said.

What if you've never celebrated Juneteenth?

Dr. David Anderson, a Black pastor and CEO of Gracism Global, a consulting firm helping leaders navigate

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conversations bridging divides across race and culture, never did anything on Juneteenth in his youth. He didn't learn about it until his 30s.

"I think many folks haven't known about it — who are even my color as an African American male. Even if you heard about it and knew about it, you didn't celebrate it," Anderson said. "It was like just a part of history. It wasn't a celebration of history."

For many African Americans, the farther away from Texas that they grew up increased the likelihood they didn't have big Juneteenth celebrations regularly. In the South, the day can vary based on when word of Emancipation reached each state.

What kind of public Juneteenth events are taking place?

Search online and you will find gatherings nationwide varying in scope and tone. Some are more carnivalesque festivals with food trucks, arts and crafts and parades. Within those festivals, you'll likely find information on health care, finance and community resources. There also are concerts and fashion shows to highlight Black creativity. There will also be panels to educate about Juneteenth's history.

The National Park Service is again making entry into all sites free on the holiday, according to its website. Are there special Juneteenth decorations or foods?

The red, black and green African Liberation Flag, also known as the Pan-African flag, has historically been displayed at both Black History Month and Juneteenth celebrations. Red represents bloodshed and sacrifice of enslaved ancestors. Black symbolizes Black people. Green represents richness of the land in Africa.

More people, however, have leaned into the Juneteenth flag created in 1997 by activist Ben Haith, who founded the National Juneteenth Celebration Foundation. Like the American flag, it is red, white and blue to indicate those freed are also Americans. The five-point white star in the middle is a tribute to Juneteenth's birthplace of Texas. It is encircled by another white starry line that represents the spreading of freedom.

Aside from barbecue, the color red has been a through line for Juneteenth food for generations. Red symbolizes the bloodshed and sacrifice of enslaved ancestors. A Juneteenth menu might incorporate items like barbecued ribs or other red meat, watermelon and red velvet cake. Drinks like fruit punch and red Kool-Aid may make an appearance at the table.

In recent years, Juneteenth has become more commercialized with national chains selling Juneteenth party supplies, T-shirts and other merchandise. However, this year, Juneteenth items appear to be fewer or only online. Morial says he would be disappointed if companies decided selling Juneteenth items out in the open was too risky because of politics. At the same time, it might be a good opportunity for consumers.

"I would also encourage people to go online and look for an African American vendor," Morial said. "If you got to participate in that (commercialism), that's what I would do."

Does how you celebrate Juneteenth matter if you aren't Black?

Dr. Karida Brown, a sociology professor at Emory University whose research focuses on race, said there's no reason to feel awkward about wanting to recognize Juneteenth just because you have no personal ties or you're not Black. In fact, embrace it.

"I would reframe that and challenge my non-Black folks who want to lean into Juneteenth and celebrate," Brown said. "It absolutely is your history. It absolutely is a part of your experience. ... Isn't this all of our history? The good, the bad, the ugly, the story of emancipation and freedom for your Black brothers and sisters under the Constitution of the law."

What are other names used to refer to Juneteenth?

Over the decades, Juneteenth has also been called Freedom Day, Emancipation Day, Black Fourth of July and second Independence Day among others.

"Because 1776, Fourth of July, where we're celebrating freedom and liberty and all of that, that did not include my descendants," Brown said. "Black people in America were still enslaved. So that that holiday always comes with a bittersweet tinge to it."

Is there a proper Juneteenth greeting?

It's typical to wish people a "Happy Juneteenth" or "Happy Teenth," according to Alan Freeman, a comedian who has organized a June 19 comedy show at Club 68, which local media has described as the last Black bar and club on Galveston Island. The day after he will host a stand-up comedy and jazz show

at his Houston restaurant and lounge, the Frisky Whisky.

"You know how at Christmas people will say 'Merry Christmas' to each other and not even know each other?" Freeman said. "You can get a 'Merry Christmas' from everybody. This is the same way."

UN nuclear agency warns of possible contamination inside Iran's Natanz site after Israeli strikes

By STEPHANIE LIECHTENSTEIN Associated Press

VIENNA (AP) — The head of the U.N. nuclear watchdog agency said Monday that there is a possibility of both radiological and chemical contamination within Iran's main nuclear enrichment facility in Natanz following Israeli strikes, although radiation levels outside the complex are presently normal.

The radiation poses a significant danger if uranium is inhaled or ingested, International Atomic Energy Agency Director-General Rafael Mariano Grossi said.

The risk can be effectively managed with appropriate protective measures, such as using respiratory protection devices while inside the facilities, Grossi said.

"The level of radioactivity outside the Natanz site has remained unchanged and at normal levels, indicating no external radiological impact to the population or the environment from this event," he said.

Grossi was addressing an urgent session of the IAEA's board in Vienna that was convened at the request of Russia to discuss Israeli attacks against Iranian nuclear facilities. He said that there apparently was no additional damage at Natanz and the Isfahan nuclear research site since Saturday.

He said that the main concern inside the Natanz facility is the chemical toxicity of a gas called uranium hexafluoride, which is the result of fluorine mixed with the uranium during enrichment. It's extremely volatile, will quickly corrode, can burn the skin and is especially deadly if inhaled, experts say.

"Amid these challenging and complex circumstances, it is crucial that the IAEA receives timely and regular technical information about the facilities and their respective sites," Grossi said.

Without information, the U.N. agency "cannot accurately assess the radiological conditions and potential impacts on the population and the environment and cannot provide the necessary assistance."

Grossi said that U.N. inspectors would remain present in Iran and inspect the nuclear facilities "as soon as safety conditions allow."

He warned that "military escalation threatens lives, increases the chance of a radiological release with serious consequences for people and the environment and delays indispensable work towards a diplomatic solution for the long-term assurance that Iran does not acquire a nuclear weapon."

Venezuela delivered a joint statement at the special board meeting on behalf of a group of states, among them Iran and Russia, condemning Israel's attack on Iran's nuclear facilities, diplomats said on the condition of anonymity to discuss the closed-door meeting.

Satellite photos analyzed by The Associated Press show extensive damage at Iran's main nuclear enrichment facility in Natanz. The images captured Saturday by Planet Labs PBC show multiple buildings damaged or destroyed. The structures hit include buildings identified by experts as supplying power to the facility.

Grossi told the U.N. Security Council on Friday that the above-ground section of the Natanz facility was destroyed. The main centrifuge facility underground didn't appear to be hit, but the loss of power could have damaged infrastructure there, he said.

Israel also struck a nuclear research facility in Isfahan. The IAEA said that four critical buildings were damaged, including a uranium-conversion facility, but there was no sign of increased radiation at Natanz or Isfahan.

Grossi also told the IAEA board of governors on Monday that no damage has been seen at the site of the Fordo enrichment site, which is buried under a mountain and protected by anti-aircraft batteries. Fordo appears designed to withstand airstrikes.

Grossi also said that the Bushehr nuclear power plant, Iran's only commercial nuclear power plant, hasn't been targeted or affected by the recent attacks, and neither has the Tehran Research Reactor.

Any country on the 35-member board of the IAEA can call a meeting under its rules. Last week, the IAEA board found Iran to be in noncompliance with its nuclear obligations for the first time in 20 years.

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What to know about the conflict between Israel and Iran

By ELENA BECATOROS Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — Israel's blistering attack with warplanes and drones against Iran's nuclear and military structure has sparked an open conflict between the two long-time foes that threatens to spiral into a wider, more dangerous regional war.

Since Friday, Israeli strikes have killed more than 200 people in Iran, including top generals and scientists but also civilians. Iran has retaliated by launching hundreds of drones and missiles against Israel, some of which have penetrated Israel's vaunted aerial defense system, killing two dozen people so far.

The region is already on edge as Israel seeks to annihilate the Hamas militant group, an Iranian ally, in the Gaza Strip, where war still rages after Hamas' Oct. 7, 2023 attack on southern Israel.

Here's what to know about the now four-day-old conflict between Israel and Iran:

Israel strikes Iranian nuclear site, kills top generals

Israel has long identified Iran as its greatest enemy and set its sights on what it says are two main threats: Iran's nuclear program and its arsenal of long-range missiles capable of striking Israel.

On Friday, using warplanes and drones it said were previously smuggled into Iran, Israel targeted Iran's nuclear and military structure. The military said it attacked about 100 targets on the first night, including Iran's main nuclear enrichment facility in Natanz and a nuclear research facility in Isfahan, as well as radar installations and surface-to-air missile launchers in western Iran.

Israel said the attack was necessary to prevent Iran from building an atomic weapon. Iran has always insisted its nuclear program is peaceful, and U.S. intelligence agencies and the U.N. nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency, have repeatedly said Iran was not pursuing a nuclear weapon when Israel unleashed its airstrikes.

But the IAEA has questioned Iran's stockpile of enriched uranium and last week censured the country for failing to comply with inspectors.

In that first night of attacks, Iran's U.N. ambassador said 78 people were killed, including three top military leaders — Gen. Mohammad Bagheri, who oversaw the armed forces; Gen. Hossein Salami who led the paramilitary Revolutionary Guard; and Gen. Amir Ali Hajizadeh, who headed the Guard's ballistic missile program. Two top nuclear scientists were also killed.

On Sunday, Iran said Israel had killed the Revolutionary Guard's intelligence chief and pummeled population centers in intensive aerial attacks.

In an indication of how far Israel was seemingly prepared to go, a U.S. official told The Associated Press that President Donald Trump vetoed an Israeli plan to kill Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who has the final say on all major policies, serves as commander-in-chief of the armed forces and controls the powerful Revolutionary Guard.

Iran retaliates as Israel pursues attacks; death toll mounts

Iran retaliated by sending drones and firing missiles against Israel, sending people scrambling for air raid shelters as explosions rocked the skies above Tel Aviv and Jerusalem.

The Israeli military said almost two dozen Iranian missiles had slipped through its sophisticated multi-tiered aerial defense system and struck residential areas.

Israel has since expanded its aerial attacks beyond military installations, targeting oil refineries and government buildings in Iran.

On Sunday, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said Iran would stop its strikes if Israel did the same. But there has been little sign of de-escalation, with Israel claiming on Monday it had achieved full "air supremacy" over Tehran, Iran's capital, and Iran firing a new wave of missiles early Monday, killing five people in Israel.

By mid-day Monday, at least 224 people had been killed and more than 1,200 wounded in Iran, and 24 people had been killed and more than 500 wounded in Israel.

Iran's Revolutionary Guard vowed that further strikes would be "more forceful, severe, precise and destructive than previous ones."

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Iran's nuclear program

Iran said last Thursday that it had built and would activate a third nuclear enrichment facility. The announcement came less than two weeks after the IAEA censured Iran for failing to comply with nonproliferation obligations meant to prevent it from developing a nuclear weapon. It was the first such censure in two decades.

The Trump administration revived efforts to negotiate limits on Iran's uranium enrichment in exchange for the lifting of economic sanctions. But the indirect talks between American and Iranian diplomats have hit a stalemate.

The latest round of talks between the U.S. and Iran on the future of Tehran's nuclear program had been scheduled Sunday in Oman but were canceled after Israel's attack.

IAEA chief Rafael Grossi has told the U.N. Security Council that the above-ground section of the Natanz facility was destroyed. The main centrifuge facility underground did not appear to be hit, but the loss of power could have damaged infrastructure there, he said.

Israel also struck a nuclear research facility in Isfahan. The IAEA said four "critical buildings" were damaged, including an uranium-conversion facility. The agency said there was no sign of increased radiation at Natanz or Isfahan.

While Iran has said little about damage to the facilities, the Israeli military says it will take months, maybe longer, to repair them.

Israel's spy agency involvement

Israeli security officials said the country's spy agency, the Mossad, had smuggled weapons into Iran ahead of Friday's strikes that were used to target Iranian defenses from within.

Two security officials spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the highly secretive missions. It was not possible to independently confirm their claims.

They said a base for launching explosive drones was established inside Iran and that the drones were activated during Friday's attack to target missile launchers at a base near Tehran.

They said Israel had also smuggled precision weapons into central Iran and positioned them near surface-to-air missile systems. They said it also deployed strike systems on vehicles. Both were activated as the attacks began in order to target Iran's defenses, the officials said. There was no official comment.

Takeaways from AP's reporting on shuttered prisons, mass deportation push and no-bid contracts

By HEATHER HOLLINGSWORTH and JOHN HANNA Associated Press

LEAVENWORTH, Kan. (AP) — Private prison operators are marketing their shuttered lockups to federal immigration officials as President Donald Trump pushes for mass deportations, with some facilities nabbing lucrative no-bid contracts.

When Trump, a Republican, took office, politically connected private-prison giants CoreCivic Inc. and The Geo Group Inc. had around 20 idle facilities, partially the result of sentencing reforms that reduced prison populations.

But the push to reopen them has been met with resistance in unexpected places like Leavenworth, Kansas, a town whose name alone evokes a short hand for serving hard time. The Leavenworth facility was mothballed in late 2021 after then-President Joe Biden, a Democrat, called on the U.S. Department of Justice to curb the use of private prisons.

Here's a look at some of the takeaways from an Associated Press report about private prisons in the era of mass deportations.

Demand for bed spurs interest in private prisons

The Trump administration wants to increase its budgeted capacity of about 41,000 beds for detaining migrants to at least 100,000 beds and maybe — if private prison executives' predictions are accurate — more than 150,000.

That has a gallery of shuttered facilities — some with a history of issues — coming online near major

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immigrant population centers, from New York to Los Angeles, where Trump hopes to detain and deport millions of people.

With Congress weighing massive spending increases for deportations, the companies' stock and profit estimates have soared.

Deals inked as contract modifications or without bids

Just last week, Geo Group announced that ICE modified a contract for an existing detention center in southeastern Georgia so that the company could reopen an idle prison on adjacent land to hold 1,868 migrants.

"Never in our 42-year company history have we had so much activity and demand for our services as we are seeing right now," said CoreCivic CEO Damon Hininger during an earnings call last month with shareholders.

Leavenworth inspired the term 'the big house'

But skeptical city officials in Leavenworth, a town of around 37,000 residents on the northwest fringe of the Kansas City metropolitan area, argue that CoreCivic needs a special use permit to reopen its facility. CoreCivic disagrees, saying that it doesn't because it never abandoned the facility and that the permitting process would take too long. Leavenworth sued the company to force it to get one, and a state-court judge earlier this month issued an order requiring it.

The area's politics and roots as a prison town might have been expected to help CoreCivic. Trump carried its county by more than 20 percentage points in each of his three campaigns for president. And in years past, the federal penitentiary housed gangsters Al Capone and Machine Gun Kelly — in a building so storied that it inspired the term "the big house."

CoreCivic 'caused the city all kinds of heartburn,' attorney says

An attorney for the city, Joe Hatley, said the legal fight indicates how much ill will CoreCivic generated when it held criminal suspects there for trials in federal court for the U.S. Marshals Service.

"They just mismanaged it, and it caused the city all kinds of heartburn," Hatley said.

Vacancies among correctional officers were as high as 23%, according to a Department of Justice report in 2017.

"It was just mayhem," recalled William Rogers, who worked as a guard at the CoreCivic facility in Leavenworth from 2016 through 2020.

And the American Civil Liberties Union and federal public defenders detailed stabbings, suicides, a homicide and inmate rights violations in a 2021 letter to the White House. CoreCivic responded at the time that the claims were "false and defamatory."

Critics have included a federal judge

When Leavenworth sued CoreCivic, it opened its lawsuit with a quote from U.S. District Court Judge Julie Robinson — an appointee of President George W. Bush, a Republican — who said of the prison: "The only way I could describe it frankly, what's going on at CoreCivic right now is it's an absolute hell hole."

The city's lawsuit described detainees locked in showers as punishment. It said that sheets and towels from the facility clogged up the wastewater system and that CoreCivic impeded the city police force's ability to investigate sexual assaults and other violent crimes.

The facility had no inmates when CoreCivic gave reporters a tour earlier this year, and it looked scrubbed top to bottom and the smell of disinfectant hung in the air.

When asked about the allegations of past problems, Misty Mackey, a longtime CoreCivic employee who was tapped to serve as warden there, apologized for past employees' experiences and said the company officials "do our best to make sure that we learn from different situations."

From idle prisons to a 'gold rush'

ICE declared a national emergency on the U.S. border with Mexico as part of its justification for authorizing nine five-year contracts for a combined 10,312 beds without "Full and Open Competition."

Only three of the nine potential facilities were listed in ICE's document: Leavenworth, a 2,560-bed CoreCivic-owned facility in California City, California, and an 1,800-bed Geo-owned prison in Baldwin, Michigan.

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The agreement for the Leavenworth facility hasn't been released, nor have documents for the other two sites. CoreCivic and Geo Group officials said last month on earnings calls that ICE used what are known as letter contracts, meant to speed things up when time is critical.

CoreCivic officials said ICE's letter contracts provide initial funding to begin reopening facilities while the company negotiates a longer-term deal. The Leavenworth deal is worth \$4.2 million a month to the company, it disclosed in a court filing.

Financial analysts on company earnings calls have been delighted. When CoreCivic announced its letter contracts, Joe Gomes, of the financial services firm Noble Capital Markets, responded with, "Great news." "Are you hiding any more of them on us?" he asked.

ICE is using no-bid contracts, boosting big firms, to get more detention beds

By HEATHER HOLLINGSWORTH and JOHN HANNA Associated Press

LEAVENWORTH, Kan. (AP) — Leavenworth, Kansas, occupies a mythic space in American crime, its name alone evoking a short hand for serving hard time. The federal penitentiary housed gangsters Al Capone and Machine Gun Kelly — in a building so storied that it inspired the term "the big house."

Now Kansas' oldest city could soon be detaining far less famous people, migrants swept up in President Donald Trump's promise of mass deportations of those living in the U.S. illegally.

The federal government has signed a deal with the private prison firm CoreCivic Corp. to reopen a 1,033-bed prison in Leavenworth as part of a surge of contracts U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement has issued without seeking competitive bids.

ICE has cited a "compelling urgency" for thousands more detention beds, and its efforts have sent profit estimates soaring for politically connected private companies, including CoreCivic, based in the Nashville, Tennessee, area and another giant firm, The Geo Group Inc., headquartered in southern Florida.

That push faces resistance. Leavenworth filed a lawsuit against CoreCivic after it tried to reopen without city officials signing off on the deal, quoting a federal judge's past description of the now-shuttered prison as "a hell hole." The case in Leavenworth serves as another test of the limits of the Republican president's unusually aggressive tactics to force migrant removals.

To get more detention beds, the Trump administration has modified dozens of existing agreements with contractors and used no-bid contracts. One pays \$73 million to a company led by former federal immigration officials for "immigration enforcement support teams" to handle administrative tasks, such as helping coordinate removals, triaging complaints or telling ICE if someone is a risk to community safety.

Just last week, Geo Group announced that ICE modified a contract for an existing detention center in southeastern Georgia so that the company could reopen an idle prison on adjacent land to hold 1,868 migrants — and earn \$66 million in annual revenue.

"Never in our 42-year company history have we had so much activity and demand for our services as we are seeing right now," said CoreCivic CEO Damon Hininger during an earnings call last month with shareholders.

A tax-cutting and budget reconciliation measure approved last month by the House includes \$45 billion over four years for immigrant detention, a threefold spending increase. The Senate is now considering that legislation.

Declaring an emergency to expedite contracts

When Trump started his second term in January, CoreCivic and Geo had around 20 idle facilities, partly because of sentencing reforms that reduced prison populations. But the Trump administration wants to more than double the existing 41,000 beds for detaining migrants to at least 100,000 beds and — if private prison executives' predictions are accurate — possibly to more than 150,000.

ICE declared a national emergency on the U.S. border with Mexico as part of its justification for authorizing nine five-year contracts for a combined 10,312 beds without "Full and Open Competition."

Only three of the nine potential facilities were listed in ICE's document: Leavenworth, a 2,560-bed Core-

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Civic-owned facility in California City, California, and an 1,800-bed Geo-owned prison in Baldwin, Michigan.

The agreement for the Leavenworth facility hasn't been released, nor have documents for the other two sites. CoreCivic and Geo Group officials said last month on earnings calls that ICE used what are known as letter contracts, meant to speed things up when time is critical.

Charles Tiefer, a contract expert and professor emeritus of law at the University of Baltimore Law School, said letter contracts normally are reserved for minor matters, not the big changes he sees ICE making to previous agreements.

"I think that a letter contract is a pathetic way to make big important contracts," he said.

A Kansas prison town becomes a priority

CoreCivic's Leavenworth facility quickly became a priority for ICE and the company because of its central location. Leavenworth, with 37,000 residents, is only 10 miles (16 kilometers) to the west of the Kansas City International Airport. The facility would hold men and women and is within ICE's area of operations for Chicago, 420 miles (676 kilometers) to the northeast.

"That would mean that people targeted in the Chicago area and in Illinois would end up going to this facility down in Kansas," said Jesse Franzblau, a senior policy analyst for the National Immigrant Justice Center.

Prisons have long been an important part of Leavenworth's economy, employing hundreds of workers to guard prisoners held in two military facilities, the nation's first federal penitentiary, a Kansas correctional facility and a county jail within 6 miles (10 kilometers) of city hall.

Resistance from Trump country

The Leavenworth area's politics might have been expected to help CoreCivic. Trump carried its county by more than 20 percentage points in each of his three campaigns for president.

But skeptical city officials argue that CoreCivic needs a special use permit to reopen its facility. CoreCivic disagrees, saying that it doesn't because it never abandoned the facility and that the permitting process would take too long. Leavenworth sued the company to force it to get one, and a state-court judge issued an order requiring it earlier this month.

An attorney for the city, Joe Hatley, said the legal fight indicates how much ill will CoreCivic generated when it held criminal suspects there for trials in federal court for the U.S. Marshals Service.

In late 2021, CoreCivic stopped housing pretrial detainees in its Leavenworth facility after then-President Joe Biden, a Democrat, called on the U.S. Department of Justice to curb the use of private prisons. In the months before the closure, the American Civil Liberties Union and federal public defenders detailed stab-bings, suicides, a homicide and inmate rights violations in a letter to the White House. CoreCivic responded at the time that the claims were "false and defamatory."

Vacancies among correctional officers were as high as 23%, according to a Department of Justice report from 2017.

"It was just mayhem," recalled William Rogers, who worked as a guard at the CoreCivic facility in Leavenworth from 2016 through 2020. He said repeated assaults sent him to the emergency room three times, including once after a blow to the head that required 14 staples.

The critics have included a federal judge

When Leavenworth sued CoreCivic, it opened its lawsuit with a quote from U.S. District Court Judge Julie Robinson — an appointee of President George W. Bush, a Republican — who said of the prison: "The only way I could describe it frankly, what's going on at CoreCivic right now is it's an absolute hell hole."

The city's lawsuit described detainees locked in showers as punishment. It said that sheets and towels from the facility clogged up the wastewater system and that CoreCivic impeded the city police force's ability to investigate sexual assaults and other violent crimes.

The facility had no inmates when CoreCivic gave reporters a tour earlier this year, and it looked scrubbed top to bottom and the smell of disinfectant hung in the air. One unit for inmates had a painting on one wall featuring a covered wagon.

During the tour, when asked about the allegations of past problems, Misty Mackey, a longtime CoreCivic

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employee who was tapped to serve as warden there, apologized for past employees' experiences and said the company officials "do our best to make sure that we learn from different situations."

ICE moves quickly across the U.S.

Besides CoreCivic's Leavenworth prison, other once-shuttered facilities could come online near major immigrant population centers, from New York to Los Angeles, to help Trump fulfill his deportation plans.

ICE wants to reopen existing facilities because it's faster than building new ones, said Marcela Hernandez, the organizing director for the Detention Watch Network, which has organized nationwide protests against ICE detention.

Counties often lease out jail space for immigrant detention, but ICE said some jurisdictions have passed ordinances barring that.

ICE has used contract modifications to reopen shuttered lockups like the 1,000-bed Delaney Hall Facility in Newark, New Jersey, and a 2,500-bed facility in Dilley, Texas, offering no explanations why new, competitively bid contracts weren't sought.

The Newark facility, with its own history of problems, resumed intakes May 1, and disorder broke out at the facility Thursday night. Newark Mayor Ras Baraka, a Democrat who previously was arrested there and accused of trespassing, cited reports of a possible uprising, and the Department of Homeland Security confirmed four escapes.

The contract modification for Dilley, which was built to hold families and resumed operations in March, calls its units "neighborhoods" and gives them names like Brown Bear and Blue Butterfly.

The financial details for the Newark and Dilley contract modifications are blacked out in online copies, as they for more than 50 other agreements ICE has signed since Trump took office. ICE didn't respond to a request for comment.

From idle prisons to a 'gold rush'

Private prison executives are forecasting hundreds of millions of dollars in new ICE profits. Since Trump's reelection in November, CoreCivic's stock has risen in price by 56% and Geo's by 73%.

"It's the gold rush," Michael A. Hallett, a professor of criminal justice at the University of North Florida who studies private prisons. "All of a sudden, demand is spiraling. And when you're the only provider that can meet demand, you can pretty much set your terms."

Geo's former lobbyist Pam Bondi is now the U.S. attorney general. It anticipates that all of its idle prisons will be activated this year, its executive chairman, George Zoley, told shareholders.

CoreCivic, which along with Geo donated millions of dollars to largely GOP candidates at all levels of government and national political groups, is equally optimistic. It began daily talks with the Trump administration immediately after the election in November, said Hininger.

CoreCivic officials said ICE's letter contracts provide initial funding to begin reopening facilities while the company negotiates a longer-term deal. The Leavenworth deal is worth \$4.2 million a month to the company, it disclosed in a court filing.

Tiefer, who served on an independent commission established to study government contracting for the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, said ICE is "placing a very dicey long-term bet" because of its past problems and said ICE is giving CoreCivic "the keys to the treasury" without competition.

But financial analysts on company earnings calls have been delighted. When CoreCivic announced its letter contracts, Joe Gomes, of the financial services firm Noble Capital Markets, responded with, "Great news."

"Are you hiding any more of them on us?" he asked.

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Today in History: June 17

O.J. Simpson charged with murder following highway chase

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Tuesday, June 17, the 168th day of 2025. There are 197 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On June 17, 1994, after leading police on a slow-speed chase on Southern California freeways, O.J. Simpson was arrested and charged with murder in the deaths of his ex-wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and her friend, Ronald Goldman. (Simpson was acquitted of the murders in a criminal trial in 1995, but held liable in a civil trial in 1997.)

Also on this date:

In 1775, the Revolutionary War Battle of Bunker Hill resulted in a costly victory for the British, who suffered heavy losses.

In 1885, the Statue of Liberty, disassembled and packed into 214 separate crates, arrived in New York Harbor aboard the French frigate *Isère*.

In 1930, President Herbert Hoover signed the Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act, which boosted U.S. tariffs to historically high levels, prompting foreign retaliation.

In 1963, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Abington (Pa.) School District v. Schempp*, struck down, 8-1, rules requiring the recitation of the Lord's Prayer or reading of biblical verses in public schools.

In 1972, President Richard Nixon's eventual downfall began with the arrest of five burglars inside the Democratic headquarters in Washington, D.C.'s, Watergate complex.

In 2008, hundreds of same-sex couples got married across California on the first full day that same-sex marriage became legal by order of the state's highest court; an estimated 11,000 same-sex couples would be married under the California law in its first three months.

In 2015, nine Black worshippers were killed when a gunman opened fire during a Bible study gathering at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina. (Dylann Roof, a white supremacist, was captured the following day; he would be convicted on state and federal murder and hate crime charges and sentenced to death.)

In 2021, the Supreme Court, in a 7-2 ruling, left intact the entire Affordable Care Act, rejecting a major Republican-led effort to kill the national health care law known informally as "Obamacare."

In 2021, President Joe Biden signed the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act into law, creating the first new national holiday since the establishment of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Today's Birthdays: Filmmaker Ken Loach is 89. Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich is 82. Musician Barry Manilow is 82. Comedian Joe Piscopo is 74. Actor Jon Gries is 68. Filmmaker Bobby Farrelly is 67. Actor Thomas Haden Church is 65. Actor Greg Kinnear is 62. Olympic speed skating gold medalist Dan Jansen is 60. Fashion designer Tory Burch is 59. Actor Jason Patric is 59. Actor-comedian Will Forte is 55. Latin pop singer-songwriter Paulina Rubio is 54. Tennis Hall of Famer Leander Paes is 52. Tennis star Venus Williams is 45. Actor Jodie Whittaker is 43. Rapper Kendrick Lamar is 38. Actor KJ Apa is 28.