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Monday, June 30

Senior Menu: Breaded pork cutlet, mashed potatoes with gravy, capri blend, tropical fruit, whole wheat bread.

Legion vs. W.I.N. at Northville, 5:30 p.m.

Jr. Legion vs. W.I.N. at Northville, 7:30 p.m.

U8 R&B hosts Frankfort, 6 p.m.

Softball: U10G hosts Frankfort, 7 p.m. (DH); U8G at Webster, 6 p.m.; U8B at Webster, 6 p.m.

T-Ball: Black hosts Frankfort, 5 p.m.

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

Tuesday, July 1

Senior Menu: Ham rotini bake, mixed vegetables, fruit, whole wheat bread.

Jr. Teeners hosts Aberdeen 13/14, 5:30 p.m. (DH)

U12 R&B hosts Milbank, 5:30 p.m. (DH)

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

Softball: U14 at Redfield, 5 p.m. (DH)

United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.

Wage Memorial Library Meeting, 6 p.m.

City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.

Groton Daily Independent

PO Box 34, Groton SD 57445

Paul's Cell/Text: 605-397-7460



Wednesday, July 2

Senior Menu: Cheeseburger on bun, watermelon, tator taots, cucumber salad, 4th of July dessert.

Legion hosts Big Stone City, 4:30 p.m.

Jr. Legion hosts Big Stone City, 6:30 p.m.

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

T-Ball G&B Scrimmage in Groton, 6 p.m.

United Methodist: Community Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.

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

Emmanuel Lutheran: Sara Circle, 5 p.m.

Groton Chamber Meeting, Noon, City Hall

Thursday, July 3

Senior Menu: Teryaki chicken breast, wild reice, winter blend, pears, whole wheat bread.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Nigeria Circle, 2 p.m.

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1440

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

Megabill Advances in Senate

Senate Republicans voted 51-49 to open debate on President Donald Trump's tax and spending bill late Saturday night. Sen. Chuck Schumer (D-NY) called for the 940-page bill to be read aloud in its entirety—a process that took roughly 16 hours before debate could begin. A vote on the bill is expected as early as today following a vote-a-rama with potentially dozens of amendments up for consideration. Trump hopes to sign the bill by July 4.

Two Republicans—Sens. Rand Paul (KY) and Thom Tillis (NC)—defected in the procedural vote Saturday, Paul over concerns about the bill's impact on the country's debt limit and Tillis over changes to Medicaid placing more of the cost burden on states. Other changes to Medicaid include a new work requirement. Tillis announced yesterday after the procedural vote he will not seek reelection.

A nonpartisan analysis estimates the Senate bill will cut more than \$1T from federal spending on Medicaid over 10 years, with 11.8 million fewer Americans projected to have health insurance. Overall, the bill is estimated to add \$3.3T to the federal budget deficit over 10 years.

Robot Soccer Match

China hosted a world-first soccer match between teams of fully autonomous humanoid robots Saturday. The child-sized robots were powered by artificial intelligence and equipped with visual sensors.

The robots were supplied by Booster Robotics, a company founded in June 2023. The teams, composed of three players each, were distributed to four universities, each of which developed and installed its own algorithms for player formations and passing strategies, among other variables. Tsinghua University's THU Robotics ultimately won the championship title, defeating China Agricultural University's Mountain Sea team 5-3.

The match was a preview of Beijing's upcoming World Humanoid Robot Games in mid-August, featuring over 10 competitions, including gymnastics and track. China's robotics market is projected to reach \$108B by 2028. By 2050, it is expected to have 302.3 million humanoid robots in use, outpacing the US' projected 77.7 million.

World's First 'Climate Visas'

More than one-third of residents on the island nation of Tuvalu have applied for Australian "climate visas," according to reports Friday. The first-of-its-kind program has been framed as an effort to assist populations most at risk from rising sea levels.

The initial program is limited in scope, with only 280 spots awarded per year.

Consisting of nine small islands in the Polynesian South Pacific with around 10,000 people, no point on Tuvalu is higher than 16 feet above sea level. A recent NASA assessment found waters had risen half a foot over more than three decades, with most critical infrastructure projected to be below the average high tide by 2050.

Observers said Tuvalu—which makes almost 10% of government revenue from licensing its ".tv" internet domain—could significantly benefit from the visas, with workers in Australia sending money to remaining family members (known as remittances).

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Sports, Entertainment, & Culture

Dave Parker, baseball Hall of Famer, former NL MVP, and seven-time MLB All-Star, dies at age 74.

D. Wayne Lukas, horse trainer who won 15 Triple Crown races, dies at age 89.

Brad Pitt's "F1" pulls in \$55.6M in its opening weekend, the best-ever opening for an Apple-produced film.

Final installment of "Fast & Furious" franchise to feature the late Paul Walker's character, sets April 2027 release date.

LeBron James picks up \$52.6M player option to remain with Los Angeles Lakers next year; James will play an NBA record 23rd season.

Science & Technology

Tesla provides first demonstration of a fully self-driving car leaving the factory and driving to the new owner's home without human assistance; Tesla Model Y traveled 30 miles in Austin

Engineers develop smart pill that can monitor glucose, temperature, serotonin levels, and more after ingestion; approach may provide a cheap method for real-time monitoring of gut health.

Chemists discover new spontaneous reaction that produces urea, a highly reactive molecule, from carbon dioxide and ammonia; researchers theorize process may have been involved in the origin of life on Earth.

Firework science: Tomorrow's 1440 Science & Technology newsletter explores the history and chemistry powering the iconic holiday explosives. Sign up here to receive!

Business & Markets

US stock markets close higher Friday (S&P 500 +0.5%, Dow +1.0%, Nasdaq +0.5%), with S&P 500, Nasdaq closing at record highs.

US-Canada trade talks resume after Canada rescinds digital services tax the day before first payment was due; tax was set to impact high-earning tech companies including Alphabet, Meta, and Amazon.

President Donald Trump says a group of wealthy buyers is prepared to purchase TikTok's US operations from parent company ByteDance, will unveil buyers in two weeks.

Politics & World Affairs

Former President Joe Biden, former VP Kamala Harris attend funeral for Minnesota House Speaker Melissa Hortman, killed weeks ago.

Serbian police clash with protesters calling for early elections and end to 12-year rule of President Aleksandar Vucic.

Thailand protesters call for end of Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra's rule over border dispute with Cambodia.

Russia launches over 500 drones and missiles in largest aerial attack since start of its three-year war with Ukraine, downing F-16.

Name Released in Lawrence County Fatal Crash

What: Motorcycle fatal crash

Where: US Highway 385, mile marker 121, one mile south of Lead, SD

When: 4:30 p.m., Saturday, June 21, 2025

Driver 1: John Michael Walz, 42-year-old male from Lennox, SD, fatal injuries

Vehicle 1: 2003 Victory Vegas motorcycle

Helmet Used: No

Lawrence County, S.D.- A motorcyclist died Wednesday, June 25 from injuries sustained in a crash Saturday, June 21, one mile south of Lead, SD.

Preliminary crash information indicates John Michael Walz, the driver of a 2003 Victory Vegas motorcycle, was traveling north on US 385 near mile marker 121 and failed to negotiate a curve in the road. Walz became separated from the motorcycle and was life-flighted to a nearby hospital with life-threatening injuries. He died from his injuries on Wednesday.

The South Dakota Highway Patrol is investigating the crash. All information released so far is only preliminary.

The Highway Patrol is an agency of the South Dakota Department of Public Safety.

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Groton Legion Post 39 Hitters Gearing Up To Face W.I.N. Legion

It will be a clash of styles when Groton Legion Post 39 take on W.I.N. Legion on Monday at Northville, 5:30 p.m. Groton Legion Post 39 score 9.78 runs per game, while W.I.N. Legion allow just 3.75.

Last Time Out:

Alec Mikkelson collected three hits to lead W.I.N. Legion over 2025 Volga Jr Legion Post 114 10-2.

Player Highlight:

Braxton Imrie has played 60 innings at right field. Imrie has an on-base percentage of 0.548 this season thanks in part to a 0.345 average and 12 walks.

About Groton Legion Post 39:

Groton Legion Post 39 has played well lately, going 8-2 in their last 10 games. They have a 14-4 record overall. Brevin Fliehs's 1.194 OPS leads Groton Legion Post 39. The infielder has a 0.500 OBP and a 0.694 slugging percentage this season. Jarrett Erdmann leads Groton Legion Post 39 with 25 and two-thirds innings pitched. The lefty has a 3.82 ERA this season. Karsten Fliehs leads Groton Legion Post 39 with 121 total fielding chances this season. Fliehs's primary position is catcher.

About W.I.N. Legion:

W.I.N. Legion has a 2-2 record this season. Mac Heinz's 1.333 OPS leads W.I.N. Legion. The outfielder has a 0.667 OBP and a 0.667 slugging percentage this season. Brayden Kroll leads W.I.N. Legion with six innings pitched. The starting pitcher has a 0.00 ERA this season. Chays Mansfield leads W.I.N. Legion with 20 total fielding chances this season. Mansfield's primary position is catcher.

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As the 2025 NFL season draws closer, the Minnesota Vikings find themselves in a rare position: built to win now, yet still developing key young talent across the roster. With training camp on the horizon and a deep, competitive team in place, I'll be breaking down each position group over the next seven weeks to get a clearer picture of who's locked in, who's on the bubble, and who could surprise us this summer. We'll start at quarterback and work our way through the entire roster, ending with the secondary just before the first preseason game kicks off.

Wide Receivers

Justin Jefferson – Widely considered the best wide receiver in football, and on a pace to obliterate the record book, Jefferson is back for his sixth season in purple and gold. Despite missing nearly half of the games two seasons ago, Jefferson broke Torry Holt's record for most receiving yards in a player's first five seasons (he broke the record with seven games still to go). Jefferson also has the highest receiving yards per game average (96.5) in NFL history - higher than Jerry Rice and Randy Moss. He and J.J. McCarthy have spent a lot of time together this offseason, developing their connection, which should be just fine in 2025.

Jordan Addison – The Robin to Jefferson's Batman, Addison is entering his third year in the league. While he's had some off-field issues, he's shown he's a great receiver on it. Addison could be the number one option on a lot of teams around the league, and he gives the Vikings one of the best one-two punches in the NFL.

Jalen Nailor – Nicknamed Speedy, Jalen Nailor is entering his fourth season, which is the final year of his rookie contract. He put up the best numbers of his career last season (28 catches for 414 yards and 6 TDs), and he has reportedly bulked up this offseason. He's penciled in as the team's WR3, and I expect him to have a good season as he looks to cash in on his next contract.

Rondale Moore – One of the Vikings' free agent signings this offseason, Moore was brought in to compete for the WR3 spot and be the team's primary kick returner.

Tai Felton – A third-round pick by the Vikings this year, Felton will likely round out the Vikings' WR depth chart.

The rest of the field – The Vikings kept six WRs on their opening day roster in 2024, and with the five players listed above almost guaranteed a spot, that leaves the following eight players to battle it out for one final spot on the depth chart (plus the practice squad): Silas Bolden, Dontae Fleming, Lucky Jackson, Jashaun Jones, Tim Jones, Robert Lewis, Myles Price, and Thayer Thomas.

Tight Ends

T.J. Hockenson – A devastating knee injury at the end of the 2023 campaign forced Hockenson to miss the first half of the 2024 season. Fully healthy coming into this season, Hockenson will look to regain his spot as one of the best tight ends in the NFL.

Josh Oliver – Entering the final year of a three-year contract he signed with the Vikings in 2023, the team rewarded Oliver with a three-year extension this offseason. One of the best blocking TEs in the NFL, he's shown the ability to fill in as the TE1 when needed.

Gavin Bartholomew – The Vikings kept three tight ends on the opening day roster last season, and rookie Gavin Bartholomew has the inside track for the third spot since the team spent a draft pick on him.

The rest of the field – Competing with Bartholomew for that final spot on the active roster (or, more likely, a practice squad spot) are Bryson Nesbit, Giovanni Ricci, and Ben Yurosek.

"Know your Family Health History"

Foundational education as an RN with a BSN from South Dakota State University provided a broad understanding of how our bodies function. One of the lessons that was highlighted over the years was the need to pay attention to changes, e.g., my two sisters needed total knee replacement and so did I; my paternal grandfather had a massive stroke and died at the age of 61 years in 1948 from what? It was never diagnosed. My father thought that his dad, who was a farmer, was too stubborn to get regular check-ups from a physician and probably had heart problems in addition to his high blood pressure.



Roberta K. Olson, PhD, RN

When I was diagnosed with elevated blood pressure in 2015. My only symptom was ocular migraines; I started taking blood pressure medication. Both of my parents had low (normal) blood pressure and when I was pregnant with our two sons, my blood pressure was consistently in the low normal range. At first, I thought that perhaps the blood pressure machine was wrong but with further tests, I was diagnosed with hypertension.

My blood pressure stayed elevated even with the daily medications that I took to keep the hypertension in check. In June 2024 my pulse slowly dropped to 34 (normal is 70-80/minute). On Thursday my primary care physician ordered an echocardiogram for the following Monday because my pulse was 40 bpm in the office. On Sunday night at midnight, I was awake, got up and measured my pulse. It was 34 bpm. I debated whether to wait 10 hours for the scheduled echocardiogram or call 911. I called 911.

The ambulance came at 12:30 a.m. and I was taken for an assessment to the Brookings Emergency Department. Further assessment indicated that I was in a 3rd degree heart block and would need a pacemaker. A cardiac surgeon had accepted the request from the Brookings ED Physician. By 4:00 a.m. I arrived at the Avera Heart Hospital in Sioux Falls via ambulance. I was monitored the entire time by the EMT. Further assessment was done by the technicians and at 8:30 a.m. I was on the operating table with the cardiac surgeon ready to insert a pacemaker. I stayed one night in the hospital for observation and was discharged on Tuesday morning.

We are fortunate in South Dakota to have responsive EMTs, competent MDs at all times in the Emergency Department, and Cardiac Surgeons ready to assist as needed at the Avera Heart Hospital.

Following the "organ recital" discussion with my sisters, I learned that a third cousin who lived in Illinois and is four years younger than I am also had a pacemaker inserted a few years ago. Our grandfathers were brothers. Genetics in your family history is important to know and understand. Dwelling on every ache and pain is not necessary but know your body and changes in the usual patterns of wellness. Post pacemaker my blood pressure is consistently within the low normal range.

Roberta K. Olson, PhD, RN earned her MSN in Nursing of Children at Washington University, St. Louis, MO and her PhD in Higher Education at Saint Louis University. She served in four academic institutions prior to returning to her alma mater and serving the last 20 years of her career as the Dean of Nursing at South Dakota State University. Follow The Prairie Doc® at www.prairiedoc.org, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and Threads. Prairie Doc Programming includes On Call with the Prairie Doc®, a medical Q&A show (most Thursdays at 7pm on SDPB and streaming on the Prairie Doc Facebook page), 2 podcasts, and a Radio program (on SDPB), providing health information based on science, built on trust.

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Jeslyn Kosel captured this photo last night.

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Junior Legion Post 39 game with Clear Lake



Coach Aaron Severson confers with Lincoln Krause at 3rd base. (Photo by Bruce Babcock)



TC Schuster batting collecting three hits in the game. (Photo by Bruce Babcock)



Infielders end the inning L-R Kason Oswald, Lincoln Krause, TC Schuster, and Jordan Schwan. (Photo by Bruce Babcock)



Kason Oswald earned the win pitching all 5 innings for Saturday afternoons Junior Legion Post 39 game with Clear Lake. (Photo by Bruce Babcock)

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3rd baseman Isaiah Scepaniak and short stop TC Schuster stand ready in the infield while center fielder Lincoln Krause stands ready. (Photo by Bruce Babcock)



Alex Abeln catching at home plate. (Photo by Bruce Babcock)



Coach Aaron Severson gives feedback to the Groton Junior Legion ball players while Coach Kyle Gerlach looks on. (Photo by Bruce Babcock)



SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

'This is our home': Ukrainians settled in SD fear Trump-Noem policies will force them to leave

BY: MAKENZIE HUBER - JUNE 29, 2025 7:39 AM

WATERTOWN — It's a simple life that seemed impossible two years ago. Now it could be in jeopardy.

In the South Dakota home of displaced Ukrainians Ilona and Valerii Biliaze, sun shines through gauzy curtains as their 7-month-old baby naps below a window. Their 16-year-old son scrolls Instagram in his room after school, and their 12-year-old daughter lounges on her bed, sandwiched between school friends while gossiping.

Valerii is a self-employed contractor. Ilona stays home, watching their infant son when the kids are at school.

Two years ago, they were refugees in France struggling to find work and make a living. They fled their home of Mariupol — one of the first cities Russia attacked in Ukraine — five weeks after the war broke out.

When the invasion began in 2022, electricity and heat were cut off as shelling became a constant background noise. Their children slept in a closet, never allowed to leave or approach the windows. They found shelter in a relative's apartment after their own apartment building was razed by tank fire.

Valerii passed dead bodies — neighbors, friends, strangers — as he sought food and water for their family. He risked his life each time he stepped outside their door, while snipers aimed at him and others as they collected water near the seaside.

They escaped all that and found a new home in South Dakota. But by Aug. 17, the life they've built could be gone.

The Biliazes are among 117,000 Ukrainians who came to the United States through the Uniting for Ukraine (U4U) program after fleeing the Russian invasion.

The effort is known as a humanitarian parole program. It's carried out under the U.S. Homeland Security secretary's authority to allow noncitizens into the country with a sponsor on a temporary, case-by-case basis for urgent humanitarian reasons.

Lutheran Social Services of South Dakota — the state's designated refugee resettlement agency — has welcomed 484 Ukrainians to the state since the U4U program started in 2022. The nonprofit additionally



Ilona Biliaze plays with her 7-month-old son, Brian, in their Watertown home on May 12, 2025. (Makenzie Huber/South Dakota Searchlight)

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worked on parole cases involving 90 Haitians and 169 Cubans in federal fiscal year 2024. There may also be legally admitted Ukrainians, Cubans and Haitians in South Dakota who haven't opted to work with LSS.

The Trump administration and its Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem — the former governor of South Dakota — have terminated the humanitarian parole status of Cubans, Haitians, Nicaraguans and Venezuelans, among other sweeping changes to immigration policy and enforcement.

The administration has not terminated the status of U4U participants, but has paused new applications to the program, including extension requests. The Department of Homeland Security erroneously sent emails to U4U participants in April saying their protected status was revoked. Although the emails were sent in error, they stoked fears that an actual revocation could follow.

Congress has not offered a pathway to legal permanent residency for Ukrainian parolees. When the Biliazes hit their two-year anniversary of arriving in Watertown in August, their parole will expire. They were denied in April for asylum — another form of legal residency for people with a well-founded fear of persecution in their home country. Their options include returning to war-torn Ukraine, seeking refuge in a new country or waiting as they appeal their asylum case.

The Biliazes do not know where they will go. If they return to Ukraine, Valerii and their oldest son might have to fight in the war they worked so hard to escape. They already sought refuge in France, but were not able to secure work and were moved every three months within the country.

The couple have been taking English classes in the U.S., anticipating they would make Watertown their permanent home. Humanitarian parole, before this administration, could be extended for decades on a case-by-case basis. Humanitarian parole in the U.S. began in 1956.

The Biliazes' daughter is nearly fluent in English. Their youngest child is an American-born citizen.

"We don't have a plan," Ilona told South Dakota Searchlight through a translator. "We don't even want to think about starting over again."



Friends put makeup on Dominika Biliaze after school on May 12 in her bedroom in Watertown. (Makenzie Huber/South Dakota Searchlight)

Taxes, work and school: 'They're contributing'

Susan and Bruce Buhler sweep into the Biliaze house with full-bodied hugs. Susan lifts the baby from his mother's arms, doting on him and urging him to say "Babushka" or grandmother. She's been studying Russian to more easily communicate with the family.

The two retirees live a few blocks away, and they serve as the family's main sponsor. Their basement was the Biliazes' home for 10 months after they arrived in the United States.

"We had space," Bruce said. "They were people in need and we felt terrible about families being displaced."

Ilona filled out an application online for the U4U program while they were in France and posted a profile of their family, hoping to find a required American sponsor to help pay the family's way to the country, secure jobs and fill out paperwork. Bruce helped Valerii secure construction work within three days of

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living in Watertown. The couple also taught them how to drive in South Dakota.

Eight families from the Buhlers' church pooled funds to sponsor a family after Russia's attack on Ukraine. Bruce and Susan selected the family off a website "like a dating site," based on their family photo and a resume, Susan recalled.

The two families spent most summer nights visiting and playing games on the Buhlers' screened-in backyard deck. Once Ilona and Valerii found out they were expecting, they rented their own house.

Valerii and Ilona own two vehicles. They bought furniture for their new home. Valerii paid thousands in federal taxes this year. They named their son Brian — the most American name they could think of.

"An All-American name for an American boy," Valerii said in English, smiling proudly.

Bruce chafes when he thinks about the family being forced out of the country.

"It just doesn't make any sense," he said. "They're living their lives, paying taxes, contributing. They're here legally. Anyone I bring it up to would tell you it's crazy."

Bruce said there are about a dozen other Ukrainian families living in Watertown on humanitarian parole. More families followed in the months after the Biliazes arrived, moving to Watertown under other sponsor families.

Two of the families left the country before the end of their parole, hoping to find refuge in European countries.

"They're kicking people out who are good and hardworking," Bruce said. "We need as many people in the workforce as we can get."

Uncertainty creates anxiety within Ukrainian, Haitian communities

Ilona and Valerii applied for asylum in August last year, hoping it would offer a new avenue to citizenship or stall their impending deportation if the Ukrainian humanitarian parole program wasn't renewed. Fleeing a war does not necessarily justify asylum. The status is based on persecution of a person's race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or social group membership in their home country, according to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

The Biliazes received a rejection in April, and their attorney wrote a 19-page rebuttal. They are waiting for a determination on their appeal, but they don't have much hope.

Since they applied for asylum, though, they were approved for a new work permit authorizing Ilona and their daughter to potentially live and work in the United States through June 2030, as long as their asylum case remains pending. The family is waiting to hear if they've been approved work permits for Valerii and their oldest son.

Those permits could keep them in the country past August, if the case isn't decided before then. The average processing time for asylum is five years, said Lutheran Social Service State Refugee Coordinator Dana



The Biliaze family shares a meal on May 12, 2025. (Makenzie

Huber/South Dakota Searchlight)

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Boraas. The Trump administration hopes to speed the process up.

If the asylum office doesn't make a decision on the family's appeal before their August deportation date, or decides to reject it, it'll be forwarded to an immigration court. There, the Biliazes will be placed in deportation proceedings, where they'll have another chance to have asylum decided by a judge.

Bruce Blumer, founder of Haiti Alive, sponsors a Haitian family living in South Dakota. The family of four are in the country under humanitarian parole, Blumer said, but they have "gnawing anxiety" after their work permits were terminated. They have until August before they have to leave the country.

The Federal Aviation Administration has extended its ban on U.S. flights to Haiti's capital until Sept. 8, citing security risks from armed gangs.

"You're sending these people back into dangerous, difficult and probably life threatening situations," Blumer said.

Fortunately, Blumer said, Canada is accepting Haitians. The family he sponsors has been able to secure Canadian visas and plans to relocate there, he said, instead of returning to Haiti.

Ending the United States humanitarian parole programs is "nothing short of vindictive," Blumer added.

"The part that really disturbs me is that these people did exactly what this administration says they should do," Blumer said. "They went through immigration, they filed and came here legally to our country. They had an added step of having a sponsor to willingly contribute financially and vouch for these families."

The Buhlers have sought help from South Dakota's congressional delegates, but they have only received "generic responses" back. They don't know where else to turn.

The Biliazes hope something will change.

"We're still hoping we get to stay," Ilona said. "This is our home."

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



From left, Susan Buhler, Valerii Biliaze and Bruce Buhler pose for a photo outside of the Biliaze home in Watertown on May 12, 2025. (Makenzie Huber/South Dakota Searchlight)

A town saved a nonprofit office to help laid-off immigrant workers find jobs. Now it's all in peril.

BY: MAKENZIE HUBER - JUNE 29, 2025 7:39 AM

A South Dakota community rallied to keep a local nonprofit office serving immigrants and refugees in the area open earlier this year. But now those neighbors face uncertainty as federal policy changes force them out of the workforce and potentially out of the country. And the nonprofit is struggling with an uncertain future as federal funding and policy changes impair the organization.

Sioux Falls-based Lutheran Social Services of South Dakota announced it would close its Yankton office in March due to a loss of federal funding. More than \$50,000 fundraised by the Yankton community since then will help keep that LSS office open for at least another year.

President Donald Trump cut funding used to help new refugees adjust to life in the United States through organizations like LSS, which resettles refugees on behalf of the federal government.

The nonprofit eliminated 13 positions due to the loss and absorbed hundreds of thousands of dollars in expenses to provide resettlement services to those who arrived in America in the months before Trump assumed office, said CEO Rebecca Kiesow-Knudsen. The nonprofit also provides adoption, foster care, juvenile justice and behavioral health services to South Dakotans beyond its resettlement services.

She anticipates more funding cuts in the coming months. The changes are part of a "systematic dismantling of resettlement in the U.S.," Kiesow-Knudsen said.

"What we're feeling is we're not going to see any substantive refugee resettlement in South Dakota in the near future."



Lutheran Social Services State Refugee Coordinator Dana Boraas poses for a photo in June 2025 in the LSS Center for New Americans lobby. (Makenzie Huber/

South Dakota Searchlight)

Yankton population increases supported by immigration growth

Lutheran Social Services opened the Yankton office in 2022 to meet the needs of the area's growing immigrant population.

The number of people identifying as Hispanic or Latino doubled in Yankton County between 2010 and 2020. The county's overall population increased by about 872 people during the same period, according to Census data. Its Hispanic and Latino population alone increased by 620.

Driving much of that increase in Hispanic and Latino populations was a wave of Cuban immigrants moving to the area, Kiesow-Knudsen said. Many Cubans are living and working in the community legally through humanitarian parole, which is a temporary immigration status for individuals to live and work under a sponsor in the United States because they face a humanitarian crisis in their home country.

Lutheran Social Services worked with 143 Cuban humanitarian parole cases, or 169 people, in federal fiscal year 2024. There may be additional humanitarian parolees in South Dakota who haven't contacted LSS for help, according to the nonprofit.

The Yankton LSS office closure announcement coincided with the March closing of Cimpl's Meats, a major employer in Yankton, which laid off more than 250 employees in March, many of whom were Cuban humanitarian parolees.

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Cimpl's in Yankton announced they would close operations in March, laying off nearly 300 workers. (Courtesy of Dakota News Now)

Those immigrants relied on Lutheran Social Services to find reemployment, said Rita Nelson, who formerly worked on workforce development at Yankton Thrive and sits on the Connecting Cultures Yankton board, which is affiliated with the economic development organization. The Yankton LSS office offers legal services, community orientation, health care navigation and job-seeking services. The state Department of Labor and Regulation also hosted a job fair to help workers apply for employment.

Immigrants in Yankton provide a sense of vibrancy and economic stability needed in the commu-

nity, Nelson said. People moving in and starting families — whether foreign-born or not — work, live and spend money to support their families and area businesses.

"We all want individuals to be able to navigate the immigration process legally," Nelson said, "and they can't do that without a resource and someone who can help them."

That feeling motivated Nelson and others to start a fundraising effort in April to keep the local LSS office open. Muddy Mo's Coffee House owners posted about the fundraiser on social media and set a tip jar on the counter labeled "Help Your Neighbors." The shop is owned by Katie Hunhoff, owner of South Dakota Magazine and daughter of the magazine's founder and former state lawmaker Bernie Hunhoff.

The support reminded Bernie of times when farmers get sick or injured and neighbors rush to harvest the corn or bale the hay. It was an opportunity for people whose "hearts are with the Cimpl's workers" to help.

Clients who use the LSS office were notified when it intended to close. They were also notified when their neighbors stepped in to keep the office open "because the community cares about them," Hunhoff said.

"I think what happened in Yankton is powerful evidence this is where our community wants to go: We want to be good neighbors to everybody, and America is better as a welcoming place," Hunhoff said.

Uncertainty for immigrants remains after community saves LSS office

Weeks after the community raised thousands of dollars to help their neighbors find reemployment through LSS, many of those same workers have been laid off again.

This time it was because the Supreme Court at the end of May upheld the Trump administration's revocation of the Biden-era Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua and Venezuela parole program and elimination of the legal status of over 500,000 immigrants.

Cuban parolees are able to apply for U.S. citizenship through the Cuban Adjustment Act. While that pathway to citizenship is still open, said LSS State Refugee Coordinator Dana Boraas, the work permits of immigrants in the program were terminated. Several were laid off because "their work permits aren't valid in the system anymore even if they expire next year," she said.

The nonprofit is working with about 500 people affected by the terminated work permits statewide, to direct them toward legal services.

"A lot of people, unless they talk to an attorney, think they have no options to stay, they can't file, and they have to leave," Boraas said. "They get this scary notice saying, 'You have to go home.' We keep saying, 'Talk to an attorney, talk to an attorney.'"

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Yankton will be hurt if dozens of local immigrant families are forced out of the country, Hunhoff said.

"Of course, life will go on in Yankton and the other communities, but it's a loss — not just economically but more so in terms of decency and fairness — and it's contrary to everything we always believed about small town America," Hunhoff said. "Maybe we aren't the beacon of hope and morality we've always thought we were? That's being tested."



LSS faces more federal funding cuts

The Yankton commu-

nity's work to help its neighbors and the nonprofit is a "bright spot" for Lutheran Social Services, Kiesow-Knudsen said. But the organization's funding troubles persist.

The nonprofit incurred about a half-million dollars in costs after the changes to immigration policy at the federal level, Kiesow-Knudsen said. Much of it was reimbursed by the federal government, after U.S. Sen. Mike Rounds, R-S.D., argued that those funds were committed before Trump's immigration overhaul. About \$100,000 in expenses remain, Kiesow-Knudsen said.

The nonprofit continued to provide resettlement services for refugees who arrived in the United States within a few months of President Trump's inauguration.

"It didn't seem ethical to us to cut those people off," Kiesow-Knudsen said. "It's a story as old as our country. We welcome people."

The nonprofit will have to cover the costs with funds from its foundation if the remainder is not reimbursed by the end of June.

The nonprofit is also working to understand what its role will be in the new federal fiscal year. As of October, Lutheran Social Services will no longer receive federal support for refugee resettlement directly from the federal government, under Trump's new immigration policy.

South Dakota is one of 14 "replacement designee" states for refugee resettlement, meaning the funding goes directly to a nonprofit agency — such as LSS — rather than through the state. LSS has been the exclusive provider of refugee resettlement services in South Dakota for 25 years.

Gov. Larry Rhoden's administration will have to decide if South Dakota state government will take on its refugee program internally, like North Dakota or Minnesota; or contract the work out to another agency, in which case LSS could potentially be selected again; or decide not to accept any refugees. Wyoming is the only state that does not accept refugees.

LSS also lost a grant to help refugees find employment faster and a nearly \$300,000 Department of Homeland Security grant used to provide education and legal assistance for immigrants working to become citizens. The legal services formerly cost \$50 and classes were free. Now, legal services and classes cost

Muddy Mo's Coffee House put out a tip jar this spring to fundraise money to keep the Lutheran Social Services Yankton office open.

(Courtesy of Dakota News Now)

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\$800 for anyone seeking citizenship.

"That's our breakeven cost to be able to pay the staff," Boraas said.

The nonprofit is also facing additional cuts proposed in the "One Big Beautiful Bill," under consideration in the U.S. Senate, that would eliminate funding for adult education and to help refugees who are in the United States for less than five years.

"I feel comfortable that we can provide services through September 2026, and then we'll see based on what happens in Congress," Kiesow-Knudsen said.

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



Lutheran Social Services offices in downtown Sioux Falls. (Makenzie Huber/South Dakota Searchlight)

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EARTHTALK

Dear EarthTalk: What's the latest in tidal energy?
-- Mary W., New York, NY

Tidal energy—generated from the natural rise and fall of ocean tides—is one of the most predictable forms of renewable energy. Unlike wind or solar, which fluctuate based on weather, tides follow gravitational cycles that are easy to forecast. Despite this reliability and growing interest in clean energy, tidal power still accounts for only a small share of global electricity production.

There are three main ways to capture tidal energy: tidal barrages (low dams that trap water), tidal stream turbines (underwater turbines placed in fast-moving currents), and dynamic tidal power systems (which use coastal water pressure differences).

One of the most recent breakthroughs happened in early 2025, when Proteus Marine Renewables installed Japan's first commercial-scale tidal turbine off the coast of Goto City. The 1.1 megawatt (MW) device, anchored to the seabed, shows how far the technology has come. "This milestone demonstrates that tidal energy is ready for prime time in Asia and beyond," said Proteus CEO Andrew Clark.

Tidal energy offers several key advantages. It has high energy density, doesn't depend on weather or sunlight, and has less impact on land and views than wind or solar farms. As Inc. Magazine's Chris Stokel-Walker put it, "Tidal power is more reliable than solar. Why aren't we using it?"

The answer largely concerns cost and location. Tidal systems are expensive to build and maintain, especially when placed offshore. They also only work well in coastal areas with strong, steady tides — limiting where projects can go. Additionally, there are environmental concerns about how turbines might affect marine life and sediment flow. In the U.S., permitting and regulatory processes can be slow and confusing, making it difficult to get new projects started. Local opposition from fishing communities and unclear jurisdiction over coastal waters have also slowed progress in key regions like the Pacific Northwest and parts of New England.

Still, momentum is building. Scotland, France and Canada have invested in pilot projects, and the U.S. Department of Energy is researching opportunities along American coastlines. New modular turbine designs are helping lower costs and speed up installation, an important factor to the continued development of tidal energy. As Professor Brian Polagye says, "The fundamental question is one of economics"—tidal power is still expensive and often built on a case-by-case basis, so growth will depend on more standardized designs, better supply chains, and steady long-term investment.

If tidal energy is to grow, it will need more research, better policies and stronger public support. Advocates can push for clean energy plans that include marine renewables and support companies working to improve the technology. Tidal power won't replace solar and wind, but it could become an important part of a cleaner, more reliable energy mix if given the chance.

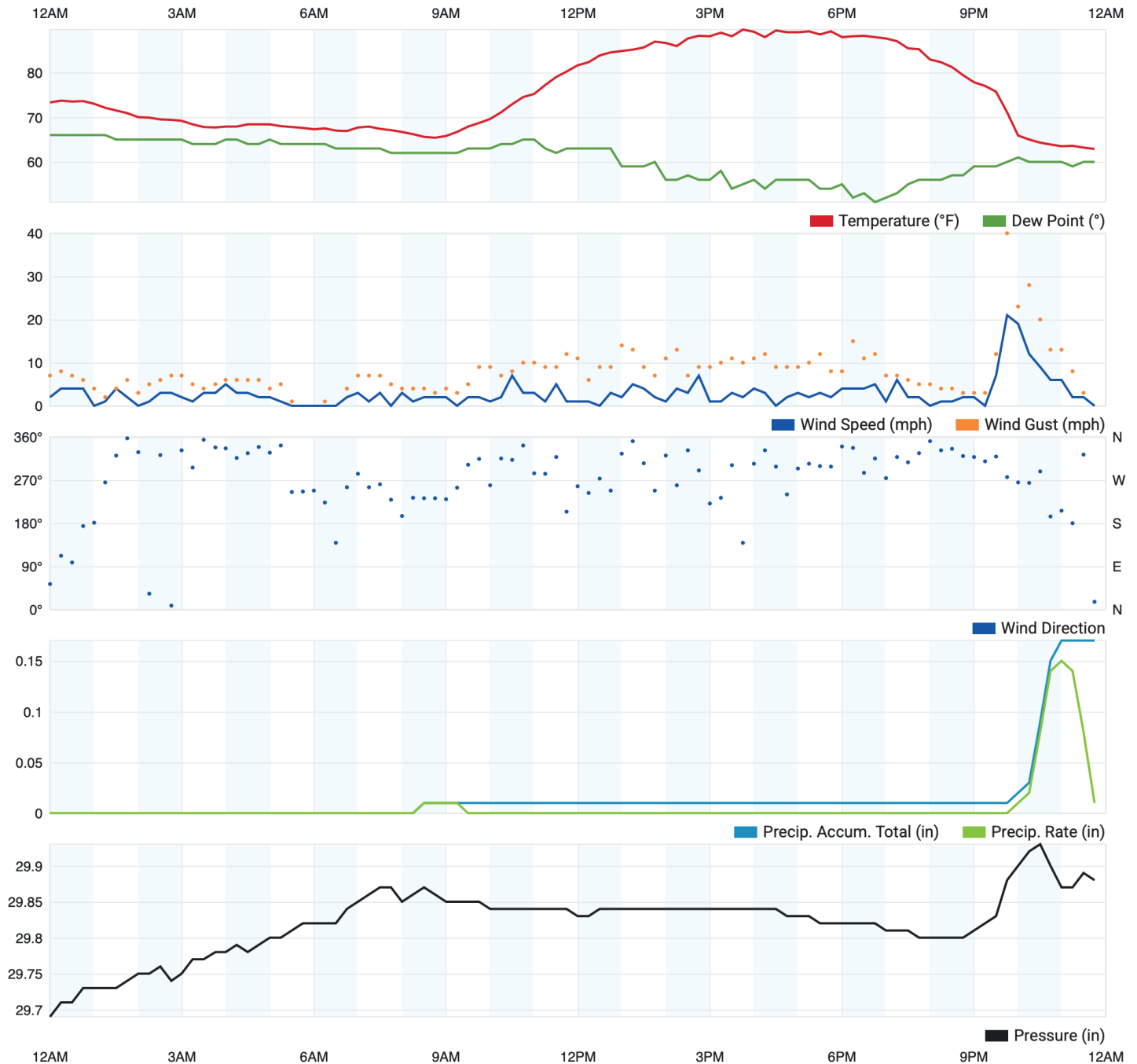


Despite its reliability and our growing interest in clean energy, tidal power still accounts for only a small share of global electricity. Credit: Tswgb, Public Domain.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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Today



High: 82 °F

Sunny then
Mostly Sunny
and Breezy

Tonight



Low: 55 °F

Mostly Clear

Tuesday



High: 89 °F

Sunny

Tuesday Night



Low: 61 °F

Mostly Clear
then Slight
Chance
T-storms

Wednesday



High: 89 °F

Mostly Sunny



Through Thursday

June 30, 2025
4:40 AM

Mild Start With Building Heat & Humidity Through The Week

Today



20%
East Of I-29
Dry Elsewhere

**Highs:
76 - 83**

Tuesday



30-40% Chance
For Storms

**Highs:
83 - 92**

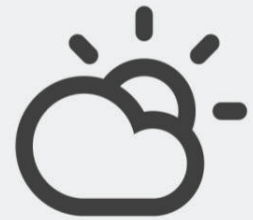
Wednesday



10% - 20%
Increasing
Humidity

**Highs:
85 - 96**

Thursday



Humid

**Highs:
87 - 98**



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

National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

Just an isolated weak storm or two across far eastern SD/western MN this afternoon. As we move forward into the week, we will see temperatures on the increase along with humidity

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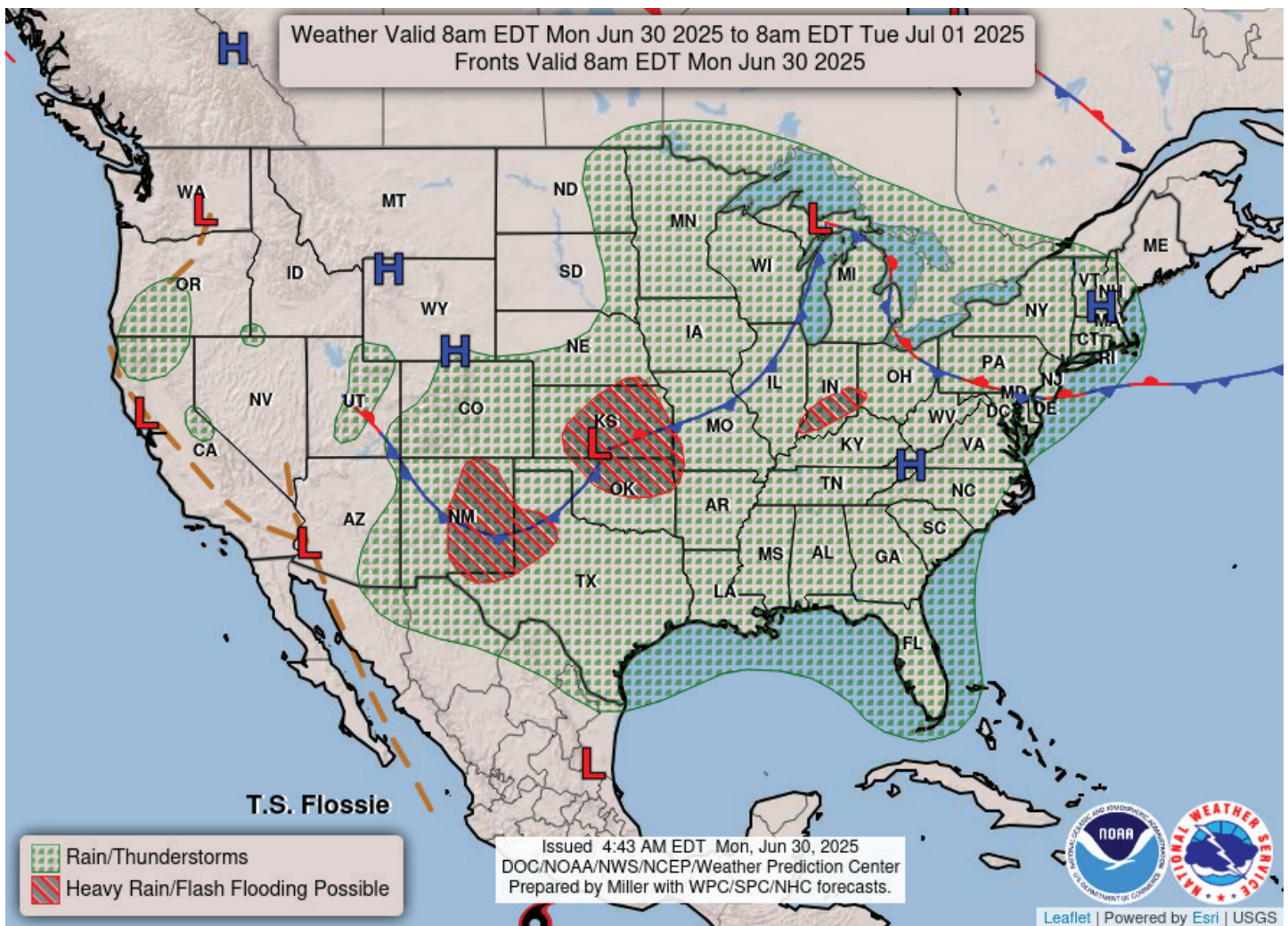
Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 90 °F at 3:48 PM
Heat Index: 88 °F at 3:00 PM
Low Temp: 63 °F at 11:28 PM
Wind: 41 mph at 9:43 PM
Precip: : 0.17

Day length: 15 hours, 40 minutes

Today's Info

Record High: 104 in 1931
Record Low: 38 in 1918
Average High: 84
Average Low: 58
Average Precip in June.: 3.76
Precip to date in June: 3.31
Average Precip to date: 11.01
Precip Year to Date: 9.36
Sunset Tonight: 9:26:35 pm
Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:46:24 am



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Today in Weather History

June 30, 1991: Thunderstorms dropped over 2 inches of rain over Brown, Marshall, and Roberts County. The rain washed out many county roads and flooded low-lying areas. Several streets were impassable in Aberdeen. Officially, Aberdeen recorded 1.91 inches of rain.

June 30, 1992: An F2 tornado lifted a roof off a house 18 miles east of Pierre. A barn was destroyed, and power lines and trees were downed. Also, an estimated wind gust of 61 mph was observed 5 miles west of Miller in Hand County.

1792: The first recorded tornado in Canadian history struck the Niagara Peninsula between Foothill and Port Robinson, leveling some houses and uprooting trees between the communities.

1886 - The second destructive hurricane in nine days hit the Apalachicola-Tallahassee area. (David Ludlum)

1900: The combination of high winds and the presence of wooded fuel-filled cargo helped to spread fire on the Hoboken Docks in New Jersey. The fire began when cotton bales caught fire and spread to nearby volatile liquids. The fire killed at least 300 people and was seen in New York City.

1912: An estimated F4 tornado ripped through Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada on this day. The storm became the deadliest tornado in Canada's history as it killed 28 people along a rare, 18.5-mile track from south to north.

1942 - The temperature at Portland, OR, hit 102 degrees, an all-time record for that location. (The Weather Channel)

1972 - The entire state of Pennsylvania was declared a disaster area as a result of the catastrophic flooding caused by Hurricane Agnes, which claimed 48 lives, and caused 2.1 billion dollars damage. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Hot weather prevailed in the Pacific Northwest, with readings above 100 degrees reported as far north as southern British Columbia. Yakima, WA, reported a record high of 100 degrees, while temperatures near the Washington coast hovered near 60 degrees all day. Thunderstorms prevailed from southwest Texas to New England. Thunderstorm winds gusting to 100 mph at Gettysburg, PA, killed one person. High winds and large hail caused more than five million dollars damage to property and crops in Lancaster County, PA. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Thunderstorms in eastern Kansas drenched Worden with 12.21 inches of rain, and a wall of water two to four feet deep swept through Lone Star, KS, flooding every home in the town. Up to ten inches of rain was reported southeast of Callaway, NE. Thunderstorm winds gusted to 75 mph at Winfield, KS. Seventeen cities in the north central and northeastern U.S. reported record low temperatures for the date, including Duluth, MN, with a reading of 36 degrees. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Winnfield, LA, reported 22.52 inches of rain in three days, and more than thirty inches for the month, a record for June. Shreveport LA received a record 17.11 inches in June, with a total for the first six months of the year of 45.55 inches. Thunderstorms also helped produce record rainfall totals for the month of June of 13.12 inches at Birmingham AL, 14.66 inches at Oklahoma City, OK, 17.41 inches at Tallahassee FL, 9.97 inches at Lynchburg, VA, and more than 10.25 inches at Pittsburgh, PA. Pittsburgh had also experienced a record wet month of May. (The National Weather Summary)

1999: Mount Baker, Washington closed out a record snowfall season both for the United States and the verifiable world record as the seasonal total from July 1, 1998, to June 30, 1999, finished with 1,140 inches.

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There are certain words that seem to “ignite” our emotions. When we hear them, we react without thinking, take positions that are rigid and resolute, deep-seated feelings surface causing fear and frustration, and may or may not cause problems. These words are usually attached to memories from our past but impact our actions and attitudes the moment we hear them.

A good example would be the words “love” and “discipline.” On one occasion, Solomon used these two words in one verse:

“To learn, you must love discipline.”

The word “love” in this verse means “to hold dear or to desire actively.” So, if we want to learn God’s wisdom, we must give it priority in our life and pursue it actively, believing that it will become a positive influence and assure us of God’s blessings.

“Discipline” in this verse means “to instruct,” or “to willingly be taught the truths of God’s Word.” And, for some this may be a problem. Often God’s instructions – His wisdom – are contrary to our selfish interests and ambitions. When it comes to learning and following God’s instructions, we choose not to “hold them dear to our hearts” and “have a desire to actively pursue them.” We look for moments of happiness and the immediate gratification of pleasures that quickly pass and leave painful memories.

In the final analysis, it’s “neither natural nor normal” to “desire” instruction that goes against our sinful “nature.” But, it is essential if we want the peace of God in our hearts and His presence in our lives and if we want the truths of His wisdom to guard us and guide us throughout life.

Prayer: Help us, Lord, to be willing to open our hearts and accept Your truths. We know that they are the way to eternal life and the assurance of Your peace and protection.

In Jesus Name, Amen.

Today’s Scripture: “To learn, you must love discipline; it is stupid to hate correction.” Proverbs 12:1

We all need the encouragement, comfort, and peace that comes through God’s grace. Our daily devotionals, known as Seeds of Hope, have been a means through which thousands of people have experienced this grace. Each devotional comes from God’s Word and we pray this good “seed” finds good soil in your heart. Our aim is that the Seeds of Hope will be a great source of daily encouragement to you and that God will use them to draw you near to Him

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WINNING NUMBERS

MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS: 06.27.25

18 21 29 42 50 2

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$50,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 16 Hrs 14 Mins
58 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS: 06.28.25

6 25 26 37 45 1

All Star Bonus: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$2,450,000

NEXT DRAW: 15 Hrs 29 Mins 58
Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS: 06.29.25

12 24 29 34 48 4

TOP PRIZE:

\$7,000/week

NEXT DRAW: 15 Hrs 44 Mins 58
Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS: 06.28.25

17 20 27 29 30

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$42,000

NEXT DRAW: 2 Days 15 Hrs 44
Mins 58 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS: 06.28.25

8 15 22 34 62 22

TOP PRIZE:

\$10,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 13 Mins 58
Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS: 06.28.25

4 35 43 52 62 12

Power Play: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$162,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 13 Mins 58
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

World shares are mixed after US stocks hit an all-time high

By ELAINE KURTENBACH AP Business Writer

BANGKOK (AP) — World shares started the week mixed, with European markets opening lower, after U.S. stocks closed at an all-time high following their recovery from the shocks of the Trump administration's trade policies.

Canada's decision to cancel a plan to tax U.S. technology firms that had led President Donald Trump to halt trade talks helped to steady the markets.

U.S. stock futures advanced after Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney said the talks had resumed. The future for the S&P 500 was up 0.4% while that for the Dow Jones Industrial Average gained 0.5%.

Germany's DAX edged 0.2% lower to 23,979.42, while the CAC 40 in Paris also gave up 0.2%, to 7,676.98. Britain's FTSE 100 lost 0.3% to 8,773.30.

In Asian trading, Tokyo's Nikkei 225 climbed 0.8% to 40,487.39.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng lost 0.9% to 24,072.28, while the Shanghai Composite index advanced 0.6% to 3,444.43.

China reported that its factory activity improved slightly in June after Beijing and Washington agreed in May to postpone imposing higher tariffs on each others' exports, though manufacturing remained in contraction.

In South Korea, the Kospi gained 0.5% to 3,071.70. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 rose 0.3% to 8,542.30.

Taiwan's Taixex lost 1.4% and the Sensex in India was down 0.6%. In Bangkok, the SET gained 0.7%.

On Friday, the S&P 500 rose 0.5% to 6,173.07, above its previous record set in February. The key measure of Wall Street's health fell nearly 20% from Feb. 19 through April 8.

The Nasdaq composite gained 0.5% to 20,273.46, its own all-time high. The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 1% to 43,819.27.

The gains on Friday were broad, with nearly every sector within the S&P 500 rising. Nike soared 15.2% for the biggest gain in the market, despite warning of a steep hit from tariffs.

An update on inflation Friday showed prices ticked higher in May, though the rate mostly matched economists' projections.

Inflation remains a big concern. Trump's on-again-off-again tariff policy has made it difficult for companies to make financial forecasts and strained household budgets. A long list of businesses from carmakers to retailers have warned that higher import taxes will likely hurt their revenues and profits.

The U.S. has 10% baseline tariffs on all imported goods, along with higher rates for Chinese goods and other import taxes on steel and autos and the threat of more severe tariffs continues to hang over the economy. The current pause on a round of retaliatory tariffs against a long list of nations is set to expire on July 9. Failure to negotiate deals or further postpone the tariffs could once again rattle investors and consumers.

In an interview with Fox News Channel's "Sunday Morning Futures," Trump said his administration will notify countries that the trade penalties will take effect unless there are deals with the United States. Letters will start going out "pretty soon" before the approaching deadline, he said.

The Federal Reserve is monitoring the tariff situation with a big focus on inflation. The rate of inflation has been stubbornly sitting just above the central bank's target of 2%. In a report Friday, its preferred gauge, the personal consumption expenditures index, rose to 2.3% in May. That's up from 2.2% the previous month.

The Fed cut interest rates three times in late 2024 following a historic series of rate hikes to cool inflation, but has held back this year due to worries that the tariffs could reignite inflation. The PCE was as high as 7.2% in 2022, while the more commonly used consumer price index hit 9.1%.

Economists still expect at least two rate cuts before the end of the year.

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Bond yields held relatively steady. The yield on the 10-year Treasury fell to 4.26% from 4.27% late Friday. The two-year Treasury yield, which more closely tracks expectations for what the Federal Reserve will do, stood at 3.73%.

In other dealings early Monday, U.S. benchmark crude oil lost 15 cents to \$65.37 per barrel. Brent crude, the international standard, gave up 18 cents to \$66.62 per barrel.

The U.S. dollar fell to 144.26 Japanese yen from 144.46 yen. The euro fell \$1.1721 from \$1.1725.

Nations are meeting to drum up trillions to combat poverty — but the US isn't going

By JOSEPH WILSON and EDITH M. LEDERER Associated Press

BARCELONA, Spain (AP) — Many of the world's nations are gathering starting Monday in Spain for a high-level conference to tackle the growing gap between rich and poor nations and try to drum up trillions of dollars needed to close it. The United States, previously a major contributor, pulled its participation, so finding funding will be tough.

The four-day Financing for Development meeting in the southern city of Seville is taking place as many countries face escalating debt burdens, declining investments, decreasing international aid and increasing trade barriers.

"Financing is the engine of development. And right now, this engine is sputtering," United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said in his opening comments at the conference.

"We are here in Sevilla to change course, to repair and rev up the engine of development to accelerate investment at the scale and speed required."

The U.N. and Spain, the conference co-hosts, believe the meeting is an opportunity to reverse the downward spiral, close the staggering \$4 trillion annual financing gap to promote development, bring millions of people out of poverty and help achieve the U.N.'s wide-ranging and badly lagging Sustainable Development Goals for 2030.

Even though the gathering comes amid global economic uncertainty and high geopolitical tensions, there is hope among the hosts that the world can address one of the most important global challenges — ensuring all people have access to food, health care, education and water.

"The government of Spain believes that this summit is an opportunity for us to change course, for us to raise our voice in the face of those who seek to convince us that rivalry and competition will set the tone for humanity and for its future," Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez told the delegates as he inaugurated the conference.

The ambitious package seeks to reverse decline in development

High-level delegations, including more than 70 world leaders, are attending in Seville, the U.N. said, along with several thousand others from international financial institutions, development banks, philanthropic organizations, the private sector and civil society.

At its last preparatory meeting on June 17, the United States rejected the 38-page outcome document that had been negotiated for months by the U.N.'s 193 member nations and announced its withdrawal from the process and from the Seville conference.

The rest of the countries then approved the document by consensus and sent it to Seville, where it is expected to be adopted by conference participants without changes. It will be known as the Seville Commitment — or Compromiso de Sevilla in Spanish.

The document says the leaders and high-level representatives have decided to launch "an ambitious package of reforms and actions to close the financing gap with urgency," saying it is now estimated at \$4 trillion a year.

Among the proposals and actions, it calls for minimum tax revenue of 15% of a country's gross domestic product to increase government resources, a tripling of lending by multilateral development banks, and scaling up private financing by providing incentives for investing in critical areas like infrastructure. It also

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calls for a number of reforms to help countries deal with rising debt.

U.N. trade chief Rebeca Grynspan said recently that "development is going backward" and the global debt crisis has worsened.

Last year, 3.3 billion people were living in countries that pay more interest on their debts than they spend on health or education — and the number will increase to 3.4 billion people this year, according to Grynspan. And developing countries will pay \$947 billion to service debts this year, up from \$847 billion last year.

She spoke at a press conference where an expert group on debt appointed by Guterres presented 11 recommendations that they say can resolve the debt crisis, empower borrowing countries and create a fairer system.

US objections to the document

While the U.S. objected to many actions in the outcome document, American diplomat Jonathan Shrier told the June 17 meeting: "Our commitment to international cooperation and long-term economic development remains steadfast."

He said, however, that the text "crosses many of our red lines," including interfering with the governance of international financial institutions, tripling the annual lending capacity of multilateral development banks and proposals envisioning a role for the U.N. in the global debt architecture.

Shrier also objected to proposals on trade, tax and innovation that are not in line with U.S. policy, as well as language on a U.N. framework convention on international tax cooperation.

The United States was the world's largest single founder of foreign aid. The Trump administration has dismantled its main aid agency, the U.S. Agency for International Development, while drastically slashing foreign assistance funding, calling it wasteful and contrary to the Republican president's agenda. Other Western donors also have cut back international aid.

U.N. Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed said last week that the U.S. withdrawal from the conference was "unfortunate," stressing that "many of the recommendations you see cannot be pursued without a continuous engagement with the U.S."

After Seville, "we will engage again with the U.S. and hope that we can make the case that they be part of the success of pulling millions of people out of poverty."

A violent ambush in Idaho leaves 2 firefighters dead and 1 injured. What to know about the attack

By REBECCA BOONE Associated Press

BOISE, Idaho (AP) — Authorities say two firefighters were killed and another was badly injured after they were ambushed and shot while responding to a wildfire near Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, on Sunday afternoon.

Here's what to know about the attack, the investigation and next steps.

Ambush starts with a brush fire

Kootenai County Sheriff Bob Norris said firefighters first responded to an early afternoon report of a brush fire at Canfield Mountain, a popular and scenic hiking and biking area near the outskirts of town. But once the firefighters arrived, someone began shooting at them.

The fire was set to lure the firefighters into an ambush, Norris said.

Law enforcement officials responded, locking down the neighborhoods near the hiking area and trying to find the shooter in hilly terrain that had plenty of cover, with thick brush and trees and smoke from the fire nearby.

First hours are chaotic, with injuries and number of shooters unknown

Over the next few hours, it wasn't clear if hikers or other recreationists were stuck on the mountain, or if any civilians had been injured in the shooting, Norris said. What was clear was the danger the firefighters and responding law enforcement faced. They exchanged gunfire with the shooter, he said.

"We don't know how many suspects are up there, and we don't know how many casualties there are," Norris told reporters at a 4:30 p.m. news conference. "We are actively taking sniper fire as we speak."

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A spokesperson with Kootenai Health, later confirmed that three patients were transported to the hospital — two were dead by the time they arrived, and a third was injured.

The deceased included a firefighter from the Coeur d'Alene Fire Department and one from Kootenai County Fire and Rescue. A third firefighter was badly injured but had made it through surgery and was "fighting for his life," Norris said later that night.

Cell phone data helps law enforcement find the suspect

Faced with more than 17,000 square feet (1,580 square meters) of containment area, part of it burning, authorities used cell phone data to narrow their search. They identified a cell signal around 3:15 p.m. and noticed it had not changed location for some time, Norris said.

A tactical response team went to the location and found a deceased man with a weapon nearby. Officials believe the man was the shooter, the sheriff said.

The fire complicates the crime scene

The fire was burning close to the body of the suspect, and so authorities had to "scoop the body up" before it was engulfed in flames, Norris said.

Crews were stationed around the area overnight and the sheriff said the investigation would continue Monday morning.

Norris said investigators believe that once they are able to fully search the area, they may find that more weapons had been placed by the suspect.

Names and other details have not been released

The names of the slain and injured firefighters have not been released.

Nor has the name of the suspect, whose identity authorities are waiting to confirm, Norris said.

A procession of fire and law enforcement vehicles accompanied the bodies of the fallen firefighters as they were taken from the hospital in Coeur d'Alene to the medical examiner's office in Spokane, Washington, a neighboring city just across the state line.

Israeli settlers rampage at a military base in the West Bank

By MELANIE LIDMAN Associated Press

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) — Dozens of Israeli settlers rampaged around a military base in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, setting fires, vandalizing military vehicles, spraying graffiti and attacking soldiers, the military said.

Sunday night's unrest came after several attacks in the West Bank carried out by Jewish settlers and anger at their arrests by security forces attempting to contain the violence over the past few days.

More than 100 settlers on Wednesday evening entered the West Bank town of Kfar Malik, setting property ablaze and opening fire on Palestinians who tried to stop them, Najeb Rostom, head of the local council, said. Three Palestinians were killed after the military intervened. Israeli security forces arrested five settlers.

"No civilized country can tolerate violent and anarchic acts of burning a military facility, damaging IDF property and attacking security personnel by citizens of the country," Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said.

Footage on Israeli media showed dozens of young, religious men typically associated with "hilltop youth," an extremist movement of Israeli settlers who occupy West Bank hilltops and have been accused of attacking Palestinians and their property.

The footage showed security forces using stun grenades as dozens of settlers gathered around the military base just north of Ramallah. The Israeli military released photos of the infrastructure burned in the attack, which it said included "systems that help thwart terrorist attacks and maintain security."

Far-right Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir, who has often defended Israelis accused of similar crimes, offered a rare condemnation of Sunday's violence. "Attacking security forces, security facilities, and IDF soldiers who are our brothers, our protectors, is a red line, and must be dealt with in full severity. We are brothers," he wrote on X.

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Opposition leader Yair Lapid told Israel's Army radio that the riots were carried out by "Jewish terrorists, gangs of criminals, who feel backed by the (governing) coalition."

A hard-line supporter of Jewish settlements, Ben-Gvir was previously convicted in Israel of racist incitement and support for terrorist groups, and has called for the deportation of all Arab citizens from Israel. Though once widely shunned by Israel's politicians, Ben-Gvir's influence has grown and alongside a shift to the right in the country's electorate has further emboldened violence from extremist settlers in the West Bank.

Defense Minister Israel Katz vowed Monday to "eradicate this violence from the root," and implored the extremist settlers to remember that many of the security forces are exhausted reservists serving multiple rounds of duty.

Over the past two years of the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza, Palestinian residents in the West Bank have reported a major increase in Israeli checkpoints and delays across the territory. Israel, meanwhile, says threats from the West Bank against its citizens are on the rise.

Israel captured the West Bank, Gaza and east Jerusalem in the 1967 Mideast war, and Palestinians want all three territories for their future state. The West Bank is home to some 3 million Palestinians live under seemingly open-ended Israeli military rule, and 500,000 Jewish settlers. The international community overwhelmingly considers settlements illegal.

A week of heavy rains and floods across Pakistan kills 46 people including 13 family members

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP) — Nearly a week of heavy monsoon rains and flash floods across Pakistan have killed at least 46 people and injured dozens as continuing severe weather similar to past emergencies remains possible, officials said Monday.

The fatalities caused by abnormally strong downpours since Tuesday include 22 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 13 in eastern Punjab province, seven in southern Sindh and four in southwestern Balochistan, National Disaster Management Authority and provincial emergency officials said.

"We are expecting above-normal rains during the monsoon season and alerts have been issued to the concerned authorities to take precautionary measures," said Irfan Virk, a Pakistan Meteorological Department deputy director.

Virk warned forecasters cannot rule out a repeat of the "extreme situation" seen during devastating floods in 2022. Rains inundated a third of the country, killing 1,737 people and causing widespread destruction.

The deaths from the past week include 13 tourists from a family of 17 who were swept away Friday. The other four family members were rescued from the flooded Swat River in the northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

Rescuers found 12 bodies from the group and divers continued searching Monday for the remaining victim, said Bilal Faizi, a provincial emergency service spokesman.

The incident drew widespread condemnation online over what many called a slow response by emergency services.

Gunman started Idaho blaze and then fatally shot 2 firefighters in ambush attack, officials say

By REBECCA BOONE and CHRISTOPHER WEBER Associated Press

BOISE, Idaho (AP) — A man armed with a rifle started a wildfire Sunday and then began shooting at first responders in a northern Idaho mountain community, killing two firefighters and wounding a third during a barrage of gunfire over several hours, authorities said.

A shelter-in-place order was lifted Sunday night after a tactical response team used cell phone data to "hone in" on a wooded area where they found the suspect's body with a firearm nearby as flames rapidly

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approached, Kootenai County Sheriff Bob Norris said.

Officials did not release his name, nor did they say what kind of gun was found.

"We do believe that the suspect started the fire, and we do believe that it was an ambush and it was intentional," Norris said at a Sunday night news conference. "These firefighters did not have a chance."

Sheriff's officials said crews responded to a fire at Canfield Mountain just north of Coeur d'Alene around 1:30 p.m., and gunshots were reported about a half hour later.

Investigators said the gunman acted alone.

"We believe that was the only shooter that was on that mountain at that time," Norris said.

Three victims were brought to Kootenai Health, said hospital spokesperson Kim Anderson. Two were dead on arrival and the third was being treated for injuries, Anderson said. The wounded firefighter was "fighting for his life" after surgery and was in stable condition, Norris said.

The scene was sheer pandemonium as the brush fire burned and firefighters rushed to the scene only to come under heavy fire.

First responders made urgent calls for help on their radios: "Everybody's shot up here ... send law enforcement now," according to one dispatch.

Gov. Brad Little said "multiple" firefighting personnel were attacked.

"This is a heinous direct assault on our brave firefighters," Little said on X. "I ask all Idahoans to pray for them and their families as we wait to learn more."

Norris said it appeared the sniper was hiding in the rugged terrain and using a high-powered rifle. He said he instructed deputies to fire back.

Just as the evening press conference was expected to begin, the bodies of the slain firefighters arrived in the nearby city of Spokane, Washington, escorted by a procession of fire and law enforcement vehicles. Firefighters and others saluted as the vehicles passed by.

An alert by the Kootenai County Emergency Management Office asked people to avoid the area around Canfield Mountain Trailhead and Nettleton Gulch Road, about 4 miles (6.5 km) north of downtown Coeur d'Alene.

Though the shelter-in-place order was lifted, the sheriff's office cautioned residents to be prepared because the fire was still burning.

The FBI responded to the scene with technical teams and tactical support, Deputy Director Dan Bongino said.

The Idaho House Republican Leadership said in a statement: "We are horrified by the murder of two firefighters in Coeur d'Alene, and shocked by such a vicious attack on our first responders. We are praying for them, the injured, their families and their colleagues."

Coeur d'Alene is a city of 55,000 residents near the border with Washington. Canfield Mountain is a popular hiking and biking area on the city's outskirts, covered with trees and heavy brush and crisscrossed with trails that lead into a national forest.

Fire is always a big concern for the region, said Bruce Deming, whose property abuts the trail system. When he noticed smoke on the ridge Sunday afternoon, he wondered why no firefighting helicopters were responding.

When a friend texted to tell him about the shooting, he realized why he wasn't seeing aircraft: "Because they're concerned about being shot at," he said.

As deputies set up posts nearby, Deming pointed them to a trail that starts near his backdoor and leads directly to the site of the fire.

"I just don't want to have to wake up in the middle of the night to figure if somebody's out prowling around my place," he said.

Debate is underway in the Senate on Trump's big bill, but overnight voting is delayed

By LISA MASCARO, KEVIN FREKING and JOEY CAPPELLETTI Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Debate has been underway in the Senate late into the night, with Republicans wrestling President Donald Trump's big bill of tax breaks and spending cuts over mounting Democratic opposition — and even some brake-pumping over the budget slashing by the president himself.

The outcome from the weekend of work in the Senate remains uncertain and highly volatile, and overnight voting has been pushed off until Monday. GOP leaders are rushing to meet Trump's Fourth of July deadline to pass the package, but they barely secured enough support to muscle it past a procedural Saturday night hurdle in a tense scene. A handful of Republican holdouts revolted, and it took phone calls from Trump and a visit from Vice President JD Vance to keep it on track.

GOP Sen. Thom Tillis of North Carolina announced Sunday he would not seek reelection after Trump badgered him for saying he could not vote for the bill with its steep Medicaid cuts. A new analysis from the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office found that 11.8 million more Americans would become uninsured by 2034 if the bill became law. It also said the package would increase the deficit by nearly \$3.3 trillion over the decade.

But other Senate Republicans, along with conservatives in the House, are pushing for steeper cuts, particularly to health care, drawing their own unexpected warning from Trump.

"Don't go too crazy!" the president posted on social media. "REMEMBER, you still have to get reelected."

All told, the Senate bill includes some \$4 trillion in tax cuts, making permanent Trump's 2017 rates, which would expire at the end of the year if Congress fails to act, while adding the new ones he campaigned on, including no taxes on tips.

The Senate package would roll back billions in green energy tax credits that Democrats warn will wipe out wind and solar investments nationwide, and impose \$1.2 trillion in cuts, largely to Medicaid and food stamps, by imposing work requirements and making sign-up eligibility more stringent.

Additionally, the bill would provide a \$350 billion infusion for border and national security, including for deportations, some of it paid for with new fees charged to immigrants.

If the Senate can pass the bill, it would need to return to the House. Speaker Mike Johnson has told lawmakers to be on call for a return to Washington this week.

Democrats ready to fight all night

Unable to stop the march toward passage of the 940-page bill, the Democrats as the minority party in Congress is using the tools at its disposal to delay and drag out the process.

Democrats forced a full reading of the text, which took some 16 hours. Then senators took over the debate, filling the chamber with speeches, while Republicans largely stood aside.

"Reckless and irresponsible," said Sen. Gary Peters of Michigan. "A gift to the billionaire class," said Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont.

Sen. Patty Murray, the ranking Democrat on the Appropriations Committee, raised particular concern about the accounting method being used by the Republicans, which says the tax breaks from Trump's first term are now "current policy" and the cost of extending them should not be counted toward deficits.

"In my 33 years here in the United States Senate, things have never — never — worked this way," said Murray, the longest-serving Democrat on the Budget Committee.

She said that kind of "magic math" won't fly with Americans trying to balance their own household books.

"Go back home and try that game with your constituents," she said. "We still need to kick people off their health care — that's too expensive. We still need to close those hospitals — we have to cut costs. And we still have to kick people off SNAP — because the debt is out of control."

Sanders said Tillis' decision not to seek reelection shows the hold that Trump's cult of personality has over the GOP.

"We are literally taking food out of the mouths of hungry kids," Sanders said, while giving tax breaks to Jeff Bezos and other wealthy billionaires.

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GOP leaders unfazed

Republicans are using their majorities to push aside Democratic opposition, and appeared undeterred, even as they have run into a series of political and policy setbacks.

"We're going to pass the 'Big, beautiful bill,'" said Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., the Budget Committee chairman.

The holdout Republicans remain reluctant to give their votes, and their leaders have almost no room to spare, given their narrow majorities. Essentially, they can afford three dissenters in the Senate, with its 53-47 GOP edge, and about as many in the House, if all members are present and voting.

Trump, who has at times allowed wiggle room on his deadline, kept the pressure on lawmakers to finish. He threatened to campaign against Tillis, who was worried that Medicaid cuts would leave many without health care in his state. Trump badgered Tillis again on Sunday morning, saying the senator "has hurt the great people of North Carolina."

Later Sunday, Tillis issued a lengthy statement announcing he would not seek reelection in 2026.

In an impassioned evening speech, Tillis shared his views arguing the Senate approach is a betrayal of Trump's promise not to kick people off health care.

"We could take the time to get this right," he thundered. But until then, he said he would remain opposed.

Democrats can't filibuster, but can stall

Using a congressional process called budget reconciliation, the Republicans can rely on a simple majority vote in the Senate, rather than the typical 60-vote threshold needed to overcome objections.

Without the filibuster, Democrats have latched on to other tools to mount their objections.

One is the full reading of the bill text, which has been done in past situations. Democrats also intended to use their full 10 hours of available debate time, which was underway.

And then Democrats are prepared to propose dozens of amendments to the package, a process called vote-a-rama. But Republicans late Sunday postponed that expected overnight session to early Monday.

GOP senators to watch

As Saturday's vote tally teetered, attention turned to Sen. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska, who was surrounded by GOP leaders in intense conversation. She voted "yes."

Several provisions in the package are designed for her state in Alaska, but some were out of compliance of the strict rules by the Senate parliamentarian.

A short time later, Majority Leader John Thune, R-S.D., drew holdouts Sen. Rick Scott of Florida, Mike Lee of Utah and Cynthia Lummis of Wyoming to his office. Vance joined in.

Later, Scott said, "We all want to get to yes."

Trump calls for a Gaza ceasefire deal as some Palestinians are skeptical

By TIA GOLDENBERG, SAMY MAGDY and WAFAA SHURAFU Associated Press

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) — U.S. President Donald Trump on Sunday urged progress in ceasefire talks in the 20-month war in Gaza between Israel and Hamas, though some weary Palestinians were skeptical about the chances. Israel issued a new mass evacuation order for parts of northern Gaza.

Ron Dermer, a top adviser to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, was set to travel to Washington this week for talks on a ceasefire, an Israeli official said, and plans were being made for Netanyahu to travel there in the coming weeks, a sign there may be movement on a deal.

Netanyahu was meeting with his security Cabinet on Sunday evening, the official said on condition of anonymity to discuss plans that hadn't been finalized.

"MAKE THE DEAL IN GAZA. GET THE HOSTAGES BACK!!!" Trump wrote on social media early Sunday. Trump raised expectations Friday by saying there could be an agreement within the next week.

Some Palestinians doubtful of latest efforts

An eight-week ceasefire was reached as Trump took office earlier this year, but Israel resumed the war

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in March after trying to get Hamas to accept new terms on next steps.

"Since the beginning of the war, they have been promising us something like this: Release the hostages and we will stop the war," said one Palestinian, Abdel Hadi Al-Hour. "They did not stop the war."

Israeli attacks continued. An airstrike Sunday evening hit a house sheltering displaced people in the Jabaliya al-Nazla area, killing at least 15, according to Fares Awad, head of the Gaza's Health Ministry's ambulance and emergency services in the territory's north. He said women and children made up over half the dead.

Israel's military did not comment on the strike, but the area fell under the latest evacuation order.

During a visit to Israel's internal security service, Shin Bet, Netanyahu said that the Israel-Iran war and ceasefire have opened many opportunities: "First of all, to rescue the hostages. Of course, we will also have to solve the Gaza issue, to defeat Hamas, but I estimate that we will achieve both tasks."

Major sticking point for any deal

But talks between Israel and Hamas have repeatedly faltered over a major sticking point — whether the war should end as part of any ceasefire agreement.

Hamas official Mahmoud Merdawi accused Netanyahu of stalling progress on a deal, saying on social media that the Israeli leader insists on a temporary agreement that would free just 10 of the hostages. About 50 hostages remain, with less than half believed to be alive.

Netanyahu spokesperson Omer Dostri said that "Hamas was the only obstacle to ending the war," without addressing Merdawi's claim.

Hamas says it is willing to free all the hostages in exchange for a full withdrawal of Israeli troops and an end to the war in Gaza. Israel rejects that offer, saying it will agree to end the war if Hamas surrenders, disarms and goes into exile, something that the group refuses.

The war in Gaza began with the Hamas-led attack on southern Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, in which militants killed 1,200 people and took roughly 250 hostage.

Gaza's Health Ministry said that another 88 people had been killed by Israeli fire over the past 24 hours, raising the war's toll among Palestinians to 56,500. The ministry, which operates under the Hamas government, doesn't distinguish between militants and civilians in its count, but says more than half of the dead are women and children.

The war has displaced most of Gaza's population, often multiple times, obliterated much of the urban landscape and left people overwhelmingly reliant on outside aid, which Israel has limited since the end of the latest ceasefire.

Fewer than half of Gaza's hospitals are even partly functional, and more than 4,000 children need medical evacuation abroad, a new U.N. humanitarian assessment says.

"We are exhausted, we are tired. We hope to God that the war will end," said one Palestinian, Mahmoud Wadi.

Military moves toward center of Gaza City

Israel's military ordered a mass evacuation of Palestinians in large swaths of northern Gaza, home to hundreds of thousands who had returned during the ceasefire earlier this year.

The order includes multiple neighborhoods in eastern and northern Gaza City, as well as the Jabaliya refugee camp. Palestinians in Gaza City began loading children, bedding and other essentials onto donkey carts, uprooted once more.

The military will expand its attacks westward to the city's center, with calls for people to move toward the Muwasi area in southern Gaza, Col. Avichay Adraee, a military spokesperson, said on social media.

The offensive aims to move Palestinians to southern Gaza, so forces can more freely operate against militants. Rights groups say it would amount to forcible displacement.

Trump slams Netanyahu trial

Trump also doubled down on his criticism of the legal proceedings against Netanyahu, who is on trial for alleged corruption, calling it "a POLITICAL WITCH HUNT."

In the post Saturday evening, Trump said the trial interfered with ceasefire talks, saying Netanyahu "is

right now in the process of negotiating a Deal with Hamas, which will include getting the Hostages back.”

Last week, Trump called for the trial to be canceled. It was a dramatic interference in the domestic affairs of a sovereign state. It unnerved many in Israel, despite Trump’s popularity there.

The trial has repeatedly been postponed at Netanyahu’s request, citing security and diplomatic developments.

On Sunday, the court agreed to call off two more days of testimony by him scheduled this week.

Iran releases death toll of Israel’s Evin prison attack as officials remain suspicious of ceasefire

By FARNOUSH AMIRI and DAVID RISING Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Dozens of staff members, two inmates and a bystander were among the casualties of Israel’s attack last week on Tehran’s Evin prison, a notorious facility where many political prisoners and dissidents have been held.

The death toll from the strike was released Sunday by Iran’s judiciary and confirmed by human rights groups as the one-week mark of the ceasefire between Israel and Iran approaches, despite suspicions on both sides about whether the truce will hold.

Judiciary spokesperson Asghar Jahangir posted on the office’s official Mizan news agency website that at least 71 people were killed by the strike, including staff, soldiers, prisoners and members of visiting families.

While officials did not provide a breakdown of the casualty figures, the Washington-based Human Rights Activists in Iran said at least 35 were staff members and two were inmates. Others killed included a person walking in the prison vicinity and a woman who went to meet a judge about her imprisoned husband’s case, the organization said.

The June 23 attack, the day before the ceasefire between Israel and Iran took hold, hit several prison buildings and prompted concerns from rights groups about inmates’ safety.

It remains unclear why Israel targeted the prison, but it came on a day when the Defense Ministry said it was attacking “regime targets and government repression bodies in the heart of Tehran.”

The news of the prison attack was quickly overshadowed by an Iranian attack on a U.S. base in Qatar later that day, which caused no casualties, and the announcement of the ceasefire.

On the day of the attack, the New York-based Center for Human Rights in Iran criticized Israel for striking the prison, seen as a symbol of the Iranian regime’s repression of any opposition, saying it violated the principle of distinction between civilian and military targets.

Prison attack came near the end of 12 days of strikes

Over the 12 days before the ceasefire was declared, Israel claimed it killed around 30 Iranian commanders and 11 nuclear scientists, while hitting eight nuclear-related facilities and more than 720 military infrastructure sites.

More than 1,000 people were killed, including at least 417 of them civilians, according to the Washington-based Human Rights Activists group.

In retaliation, Iran fired more than 550 ballistic missiles at Israel, most of them intercepted, but those that got through caused damage in many areas and killed 28 people.

Abbas Araghchi, Iran’s foreign minister, said in a Saturday letter to United Nations officials — obtained by The Associated Press — that the international body should recognize Israel and the U.S. “as the initiators of the act of aggression” against Iran over the war and that their targeting of a sovereign country should require “compensation and reparation.”

At the same time, advocates have said that Iran was legally obligated to protect the prisoners held in Evin, and slammed authorities in Tehran for their “failure to evacuate, provide medical assistance or inform families” following the attack.

The judiciary spokesperson said some of the injured were treated on site, while others were taken to hospitals.

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Iran had not previously announced any death toll at the prison, though on Saturday, it confirmed that top prosecutor Ali Ghanaatkar — whose prosecution of dissidents, including Nobel Peace Prize winner Narges Mohammadi, led to widespread criticism by human rights groups — had been killed in the attack.

He was one of about 60 people for whom a massive public funeral procession was held Saturday in Tehran. He was to be buried at a shrine in Qom on Sunday.

Iran worries whether the ceasefire will hold

While Israel and Iran have been adhering to the truce, Iranian officials raised suspicions Sunday about whether the other side would continue to keep its word.

Abdolrahim Mousavi, the chief of staff for Iran's armed forces, said in a conversation with Saudi Arabia's defense minister that the country is prepared if there were another surprise Israeli attack.

"We did not initiate the war, but we responded to the aggressor with all our might, and since we have complete doubts about the enemy's adherence to its commitments, including the ceasefire, we are prepared to give them a strong response if they repeat the aggression," Mousavi said, according to Iranian state TV agency IRNA.

It's unclear how much damage was done to the nuclear program

Much remained unclear about the status of Iran's nuclear program, which incited the initial Israeli attack. U.S. President Donald Trump says American strikes "obliterated" the program, while Iranians say that he's exaggerating.

Rafael Grossi, the head of the International Atomic Energy Agency, told CBS' "Face the Nation" in an interview airing Sunday that Iran's capacities remain, but it is impossible to access the full damage to the nuclear program unless inspectors are allowed in, which Iranian officials have not authorized.

"It is clear that there has been severe damage, but it's not total damage, first of all. And secondly, Iran has the capacities there, industrial and technological capacities. So if they so wish, they will be able to start doing this again," Grossi said.

Republican Sen. Thom Tillis of North Carolina won't run in 2026 after opposing Trump's bill

By ALI SWENSON and SEUNG MIN KIM Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republican Sen. Thom Tillis of North Carolina said Sunday he will not seek reelection next year, an abrupt announcement that came one day after he staked out his opposition to President Donald Trump's tax breaks and spending cuts package because of its reductions to health care programs.

His decision creates a political opportunity for Democrats seeking to bolster their numbers in the 2026 midterm elections, creating a wide-open Senate race in a state that has long been a contested battleground. It could also make Tillis a wild card in a party where few lawmakers are willing to risk Trump's wrath by opposing his agenda or actions. Trump had already been threatening him with a primary challenge, and posted Sunday that Tillis' announcement was "Great News!"

"In Washington over the last few years, it's become increasingly evident that leaders who are willing to embrace bipartisanship, compromise, and demonstrate independent thinking are becoming an endangered species," Tillis said in a lengthy statement.

Tillis said he was proud of his career in public service but acknowledged the difficult political environment for those who buck their party and go it alone.

"I look forward to having the pure freedom to call the balls and strikes as I see fit and representing the great people of North Carolina to the best of my ability," Tillis said in a statement.

Republicans hold a 53-47 edge in the Senate.

Trump, in social posts, had berated Tillis for being one of two Republican senators who voted on Saturday night against advancing the massive tax bill.

The Republican president accused Tillis of seeking publicity with his "no" vote and threatened to campaign

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against him, accusing the senator of doing nothing to help his constituents after last year's devastating floods in western North Carolina from Hurricane Helene.

"Tillis is a talker and complainer, NOT A DOER," Trump wrote.

The announcement from the two-term senator surprised senior Republicans with its timing, but not necessarily the substance. Tillis had planned to announce his reelection plans later this year, likely September at the latest, but had been heavily leaning in favor of retiring, according to a person close to the senator.

In the hours before his announcement, Tillis was weighing two questions: whether Trump and the White House would give him freedom to campaign with some independence, and whether Tillis would have the full protection of Senate Republican leaders, said the person, who was granted anonymity to discuss internal dynamics.

The GOP leadership's decision to forge ahead with cuts to Medicaid that Tillis repeatedly warned would devastate North Carolina, and the president's Truth Social post calling for a primary challenger to the senator made it clear to him that the answers to those two questions were no.

Tillis then decided he would announce his retirement, with the thinking that it would remove any ambiguity whether he would flip his opposition to the GOP's sweeping tax bill.

He informed Trump and Senate Majority Leader John Thune on Saturday night of his decision to retire.

The North Carolina Republican Party chairman, Jason Simmons, said the party wishes Tillis well and "will hold this seat for Republicans in 2026." Sen. Tim Scott of South Carolina, the chairman of the campaign arm for Senate Republicans, did not mention Tillis in a statement but said the party's winning streak in North Carolina will continue. Scott noted that Trump won the state three times.

Democrats expressed confidence about their prospects.

Former Rep. Wiley Nickel, who announced his candidacy in April, said he was ready for any Republican challenger.

"I've flipped a tough seat before and we're going to do it again," Nickel said in a statement.

Some said Tillis' decision is another sign of the dramatic transformation of the Republican Party under Trump, with few lawmakers critical of the president or his agenda remaining in office.

It "proves there is no space within the Republican Party to dissent over taking health care away from 11.8 million people," said Lauren French, spokesperson for the Senate Majority PAC, a political committee aligned with the chamber's Democratic members.

Tillis rose to prominence in North Carolina when, as a second-term state House member, he quit his IBM consultant job and led the GOP's recruitment and fundraising efforts in the chamber for the 2010 elections. Republicans won majorities in the House and Senate for the first time in 140 years.

Tillis was later elected as state House speaker and helped enact conservative policies on taxes, gun rights, regulations and abortion while serving in the role for four years. He also helped push a state constitutional referendum to ban gay marriage, which was approved by voters in 2012 but was ultimately struck down by the courts as unconstitutional.

In 2014, Tillis helped flip control of the U.S. Senate to the GOP after narrowly defeating Democratic Sen. Kay Hagan. During his more than a decade in office, he championed issues such as mental health and substance abuse recovery, Medicaid expansion and support for veterans.

As a more moderate Republican, Tillis became known for his willingness to work across the aisle on some issues. That got him into trouble with his party at times, most notably in 2023 when North Carolina Republicans voted to censure him over several matters, including his challenges to certain immigration policies and his gun policy record.

"Sometimes those bipartisan initiatives got me into trouble with my own party," Tillis said, "but I wouldn't have changed a single one."

CIA chief told lawmakers Iran nuclear program set back years with strikes on metal conversion site

By AAMER MADHANI Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — CIA Director John Ratcliffe told skeptical U.S. lawmakers that American military strikes destroyed Iran's lone metal conversion facility and in the process delivered a monumental setback to Tehran's nuclear program that would take years to overcome, a U.S. official said Sunday.

The official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss the sensitive intelligence, said Ratcliffe laid out the importance of the strikes on the metal conversion facility during a classified hearing for U.S. lawmakers last week.

Details about the private briefings surfaced as President Donald Trump and his administration keep pushing back on questions from Democratic lawmakers and others about how far Iran was set back by the strikes before last Tuesday's ceasefire with Israel took hold.

"It was obliterating like nobody's ever seen before," Trump said in an interview on Fox News Channel's "Sunday Morning Futures." "And that meant the end to their nuclear ambitions, at least for a period of time."

Ratcliffe also told lawmakers that the intelligence community assessed the vast majority of Iran's amassed enriched uranium likely remains buried under the rubble at Isfahan and Fordo, two of the three key nuclear facilities targeted by U.S. strikes.

But even if the uranium remains intact, the loss of its metal conversion facility effectively has taken away Tehran's ability to build a bomb for years to come, the official said.

Rafael Grossi, head of the International Atomic Energy Agency, said Sunday on CBS' "Face the Nation" that the three Iranian sites with "capabilities in terms of treatment, conversion and enrichment of uranium have been destroyed to an important degree."

But, he added, "some is still standing" and that because capabilities remain, "if they so wish, they will be able to start doing this again." He said assessing the full damage comes down to Iran allowing in inspectors.

"Frankly speaking, one cannot claim that everything has disappeared, and there is nothing there," Grossi said.

Trump has insisted from just hours after three key targets were struck by U.S. bunker-buster bombs and Tomahawk missiles that Iran's nuclear program was "obliterated."

His defense secretary, Pete Hegseth, has said they were "destroyed." A preliminary report issued by the U.S. Defense Intelligence Agency, meanwhile, said the strikes did significant damage to the Fordo, Natanz and Isfahan sites, but did not totally destroy the facilities.

As a result of Israeli and U.S. strikes, Grossi says that "it is clear that there has been severe damage, but it's not total damage." Israel claims it has set back Iran's nuclear program by "many years."

The metal conversion facility that Ratcliffe said was destroyed was located at the Isfahan nuclear facility. The process of transforming enriched uranium gas into dense metal, or metallization, is a key step in building the explosive core of a bomb.

Secretary of State Marco Rubio in comments at the NATO summit last week also suggested that it was likely the U.S. strikes had destroyed the metal conversion facility.

"You can't do a nuclear weapon without a conversion facility," Rubio said. "We can't even find where it is, where it used to be on the map. You can't even find where it used to be because the whole thing is just blackened out. It's gone. It's wiped out."

The CIA director also stressed to lawmakers during the congressional briefing that Iran's air defense was shattered during the 12-day assault. As a result, any attempt by Iran to rebuild its nuclear program could now easily be thwarted by Israeli strikes that Iran currently has little wherewithal to defend against, the official said.

Ratcliffe's briefing to lawmakers on the U.S. findings appeared to mesh with some of Israeli officials' battle damage assessments.

Israeli officials have determined that Iran's ability to enrich uranium to a weapons-grade level was neutralized for a prolonged period, according to a senior Israeli military official who was not authorized to

talk publicly about the matter.

Tehran's nuclear program also was significantly damaged by the strikes killing key scientists, damage to Iran's missile production industry and the battering of Iran's aerial defense system, according to the Israeli's assessment.

Grossi, and some Democrats, note that Iran still has the know-how.

"You cannot undo the knowledge that you have or the capacities that you have," Grossi said, emphasizing the need to come to a diplomatic deal on the country's nuclear program.

Key moments from the closing arguments at Sean 'Diddy' Combs' sex trafficking trial

By MICHAEL R. SISAK and LARRY NEUMEISTER Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A jury will begin deliberations on Monday over the fate of Sean "Diddy" Combs after hearing wildly differing views from prosecutors and a defense lawyer over whether he engaged in sex trafficking for two decades.

Two prosecutors insisted that he had coerced, threatened and sometimes viciously forced two ex-girlfriends to have sex with male sex workers to satisfy his sexual urges. They cited multiple acts of violence he carried out against them as proof that they had no say.

A defense lawyer then mocked the government's closing argument and warned that prosecutors were employing a novel approach to sex crimes that risked turning the swinger lifestyle that Combs and his girlfriends enjoyed into potential crimes for all Americans.

Combs, 55, the founder of Bad Boy Entertainment, has pleaded not guilty to sex trafficking and racketeering conspiracy charges in the trial, which continues Monday when the judge will read instructions on the law to jurors before they begin deliberations.

Here are key moments from closing arguments on Thursday and Friday:

Prosecutors showed they weren't withdrawing claims against Combs

Prosecutors triggered headlines last week that they had backed off or eliminated claims of arson and kidnapping against Combs when they said they were removing instructions on the law regarding them to be given jurors on Monday in response to the judge's request to streamline the case for the jury.

"The Government is no longer planning to proceed on these theories of liability so instructions are no longer necessary," prosecutors wrote in a letter to the judge.

But when Assistant U.S. Attorney Christy Slavik launched closings on Thursday, she gave the allegations of arson and kidnapping a starring role in her first sentences, naming them before any others.

"Over the last several weeks, you've learned a lot about Sean Combs. He's the leader of a criminal enterprise. He doesn't take no for an answer. And now you know about many crimes the defendant committed with members of his enterprise: Kidnapping of one of the defendant's employees; arson by trying to blow up a car; forced labor, including of an employee the defendant repeatedly sexually assaulted; bribery of a security officer to keep damning evidence against the defendant buried; and of course, the brutal crimes at the heart of this case — sex trafficking," she said.

The arson claim stemmed from evidence that Slavik said showed Combs was behind the firebombing of rapper Kid Cudi's Porsche in 2012. The kidnapping allegation also related to Cudi. Slavik said Combs kidnapped one of his employees to join him when he broke into Cudi's home after learning the rapper was dating his girlfriend.

A defense lawyer strikes back, belittling government's case

Attorney Marc Agnifilo in an at-times folksy presentation spared few theatrics in mocking the government's case against Combs as overreach, saying hundreds of agents poured into Combs' residences in Miami and Los Angeles to seize hundreds of bottles of baby oil and Astroglide lubricant.

"I guess it's all worth it because they found the Astroglide. They found it in boxes, boxes of Astroglide

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taken off the streets. Whew, I feel better already," he said. "The streets of America are safe from the Astroglide!"

From the start, Agnifilo portrayed prosecutors as unjustly targeting Combs after a former girlfriend of nearly 11 years — Cassandra "Cassie" Ventura — sued him in November 2023. She testified for four days in the trial's first week.

The lawsuit was settled for \$20 million the next day but she touched off a criminal probe with her allegations of being subjected to hundreds of drug-fueled "freak-offs" in which she alleged she was forced to perform sexually for days with male sex workers while Combs watched, filmed and directed the action.

A woman who testified under the pseudonym "Jane" also testified during the trial that she experienced "hotel nights" similar to "freak-offs" in a relationship with Combs from 2021 until his arrest.

Agnifilo maintained the prosecution was an unjust attack on a prominent and wildly successful Black entrepreneur.

"They took Astroglide and they took baby oil, and that ends up being the evidence in this case, because his businesses are outstanding. There's nothing about the businesses to find. There's nothing about the businesses to make into a criminal case," he said.

Defense personalizes the case for jurors, calling it attack on 'your bedroom'

Agnifilo tried to cast the case for the jury as an attack on everyone's bedroom and the secrets of one's sex life.

"They go into the man's bedroom. They go into the man's most private life. Where is the crime scene? The crime scene is your private sex life. That's the crime scene," he said as he stood before jurors, who were largely expressionless as they took occasional notes and watched the closings.

The lawyer said it was not uncommon that Combs liked to film sexual events with his girlfriends, calling it "sort of typical, you know, homemade porn" and adding that "I don't think by any stretch of the imagination this is the only man in America making homemade porn."

Still, he said, investigators "take yellow crime scene tape, figuratively, and they wrap it around his bedroom. Crime scene — your bedroom, your hotel rooms, where you go with your girlfriends. Crime scenes. A lot of yellow tape."

Then, he gave a nod to the 50th anniversary of the movie "Jaws," resurrecting a classic line from Hollywood history when he said: "We need a bigger roll of crime scene tape, because that's just not going to be enough."

Judge agrees defense went too far saying prosecutors targeted Combs

Just after Agnifilo told jurors that it "takes a lot of courage to acquit," he ripped the government's case a final time in stark terms, saying the trial was "very different" from any other trial.

"I think that the evidence shows, and you can conclude, that the government targeted Sean Combs," he said, noting that nobody complained to the government to instigate a probe, but investigators instead began their work a day after Cassie filed her lawsuit.

After the jury left the room at the conclusion of Agnifilo's four-hour summation, his statement about targeting drew an outcry from the prosecutor, Slavik.

When the jury returned, Judge Arun Subramanian noted the remark Agnifilo had made about targeting Combs and told jurors that "the decision of the government to investigate an individual or the decision of a grand jury to indict an individual is none of your concern."

In rebuttal, a prosecutor tells jurors that Combs is 'not a god'

Assistant U.S. Attorney Maurene Comey got the final word with a rebuttal presentation to jurors, telling them: "The defendant is not a god."

She said that Combs in his mind "was untouchable." She noted that one former personal assistant even described him as a "god among men."

"For 20 years, the defendant got away with his crimes. That ends in this courtroom," she said. "He is a person. And in this courtroom, he stands equal before the law. Overwhelming evidence proves his guilt. It is time to hold him accountable. Find him guilty."

Pope Leo XIV marks feast day as Vatican launches campaign to help erase its \$57-68 million deficit

By NICOLE WINFIELD Associated Press

ROME (AP) — Pope Leo XIV on Sunday celebrated a special feast day traditionally used by the Catholic Church to drum up donations from the faithful, with the Vatican under the first American pope rolling out a new campaign to urge ordinary Catholics to help bail out the deficit-ridden Holy See.

Leo celebrated Mass in St. Peter's Basilica, marking the Feast of Saints Peter and Paul, during which he gave the pallium woolen stole to 54 new archbishops. He thanked donors who have contributed to the church, using the language of the publicity campaign to say their financial support was a sign of union with his young pontificate.

In churches around the world, Masses on the June 29 feast day often include a special collection for Peter's Pence, a fund which both underwrites the operations of the central government of the Catholic Church and pays for the pope's personal acts of charity.

Vatican American-style fundraising pitch

With a promotional video, poster, QR code and website soliciting donations via credit card, PayPal, bank transfer and post office transfer, the Vatican is betting this year that an American-style fundraising pitch under the Chicago-born Leo will do more to help keep the Holy See bureaucracy afloat and erase its 50 million to 60 million euro (\$57-68 million) structural deficit.

The video features footage of Leo's emotional first moments as pope, when he stepped out onto the loggia of St. Peter's Basilica and later choked up as he received the fisherman's ring of the papacy. With an evocative soundtrack in the background, the video superimposes a message, available in several languages, urging donations to Leo via the Peter's Pence collection.

"With your donation to Peter's Pence, you support the steps of the Holy Father," it says. "Help him proclaim the Gospel to the world and extend a hand to our brothers and sisters in need. Support the steps of Pope Leo XIV. Donate to Peter's Pence."

Pope thanks donors

At the end of his noon blessing Sunday, Leo used the same language about his first steps to say the Peter's Pence fund is "a sign of communion with the pope and participation with his Apostolic Ministry."

"From the heart, I thank those who with their gifts are supporting my first steps as the successor of St. Peter," he said.

The fund has been the source of scandal in recent years, amid revelations that the Vatican's secretariat of state mismanaged its holdings through bad investments, incompetent management and waste. The recent trial over the Vatican's bungled investment in a London property confirmed that the vast majority of Peter's Pence contributions had funded the Holy See's budgetary shortfalls, not papal charity initiatives as many parishioners had been led to believe.

Between the revelations and the COVID-19 pandemic, which closed churches and canceled out the traditional pass-the-basket collection on June 29, Peter's Pence donations fell to 43.5 million euros in 2022 — a low not seen since 1986 — that was nevertheless offset the same year by other investment income and revenue to the fund.

Donations rose to 48.4 million euros (about \$56.7 million) in 2023 and hit 54.3 million euros (nearly \$63.6 million) last year, according to the Peter's Pence annual report issued last week. But the fund incurred expenses of 75.4 million euros (\$88.3 million) in 2024, continuing the trend in which the fund is exhausting itself as it covers the Holy See's budgetary shortfalls.

Vatican faces shortfall in pension fund

On top of the budget deficit, the Vatican is also facing a 1 billion euro (about \$1.17 billion) shortfall in its pension fund that Pope Francis, in the months before he died, warned was unable in the medium term to fulfill its obligations.

Unlike countries, the Holy See doesn't issue bonds or impose income tax on its residents to run its operations, relying instead on donations, investments and revenue generated by the Vatican Museums, and

sales of stamps, coins, publications and other initiatives.

For years, the United States has been the greatest source of donations to Peter's Pence, with U.S. Catholics contributing around a quarter of the total each year.

Vatican officials are hoping that under Leo's pontificate, with new financial controls in place and an American math major running the Holy See, donors will be reassured that their money won't be misspent or mismanaged.

"This is a concrete way to support the Holy Father in his mission of service to the universal Church," the Vatican's economy ministry said in a press release last week announcing the annual collection and new promotional materials surrounding it. "Peter's Pence is a gesture of communion and participation in the Pope's mission to proclaim the Gospel, promote peace, and spread Christian charity."

Star witness against Kilmar Abrego Garcia won't be deported, court records show

Associated Press undefined

WASHINGTON (AP) — Court records show that the Trump administration has agreed to spare from deportation a key witness in the federal prosecution of Kilmar Abrego Garcia in exchange for his cooperation in the case.

Jose Ramon Hernandez Reyes, 38, has been convicted of smuggling migrants and illegally reentering the United States after having been deported. He also pleaded guilty to "deadly conduct" in connection with a separate incident where he drunkenly fired a gun in a Texas community.

Records reviewed by The Washington Post show that Hernandez Reyes has been released early from federal prison to a halfway house and has been given permission to stay in the U.S. for at least a year.

Prosecutors have identified Hernandez Reyes as the "first cooperator" in the case against Abrego, according to court filings. The Department of Homeland Security maintains that Hernandez owned the SUV that Abrego Garcia was allegedly using to smuggle migrants when the Tennessee Highway Patrol stopped him in 2022. That traffic stop is at the center of the criminal investigation against Abrego Garcia.

Hernandez Reyes is among a handful of cooperating witnesses who could help the administration deport Abrego Garcia.

Abrego Garcia, a construction worker who had been living in Maryland, became a flashpoint over Trump's hard-line immigration policies when he was mistakenly deported to his native El Salvador in March. Facing mounting pressure and a Supreme Court order, the administration returned him this month to face the smuggling charges, which his attorneys have called "preposterous."

On Friday, attorneys for Abrego Garcia asked a federal judge in Tennessee to delay his release from jail because of "contradictory statements" by the administration over whether or not he'll be deported upon release.

A federal judge in Nashville has been preparing to release Abrego Garcia to await trial on human smuggling charges. But she's been holding off over concerns that U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement would swiftly detain him and try to deport him again.

Abrego Garcia's attorneys are now asking the judge to continue to detain him following statements by administration officials "because we cannot put any faith in any representation made on this issue by" the Justice Department.

Abrego Garcia has pleaded not guilty.

Russia launches the biggest aerial attack since the start of the war, Ukraine says

By VOLODYMYR YURCHUK Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Russia launched its biggest aerial attack against Ukraine overnight, a Ukrainian official said Sunday, part of an escalating bombing campaign that has further dashed hopes for a breakthrough in efforts to end the 3-year-old war.

Russia fired a total of 537 aerial weapons at Ukraine, including 477 drones and decoys and 60 missiles, Ukraine's air force said. Of these, 249 were shot down and 226 were lost, likely having been electronically jammed.

The onslaught was "the most massive airstrike" on the country since the beginning of Russia's full-scale invasion in February 2022, taking into account both drones and various types of missiles, Yuriy Ihnat, head of communications for Ukraine's air force, told The Associated Press. The attack targeted several regions, including western Ukraine, far from the front line.

Poland and allied countries scrambled aircraft to ensure the safety of Polish airspace, the country's air force said.

Three people were killed in each of the drone strikes in the Kherson, Kharkiv and the Dnipropetrovsk regions, according to the three governors.

Another person was killed by an airstrike in Kostyantynivka, local officials said. In addition to aerial attacks, a man died when Russian troops shelled the city of Kherson, and the body of a 70-year-old woman was found under the rubble of a nine-story building hit by Russian shelling in the Zaporizhzhia region.

In the far-western Lviv region, a large fire broke out at an industrial facility in the city of Drohobych following a drone attack that also cut electricity to parts of the city.

Ukraine's air force said one of its F-16 warplanes supplied by its Western partners crashed after sustaining damage while shooting down air targets. The pilot died.

Russia has recently been improving its drone technology as well as its tactics, striking Ukraine with increasing success.

Russian troops reportedly advance in Donetsk

Russia's Defense Ministry said it had shot down three Ukrainian drones overnight.

Two people were wounded in another Ukrainian drone attack on the city of Bryansk in western Russia, regional Gov. Alexander Bogomaz said Sunday morning, adding that seven more Ukrainian drones had been shot down over the region.

Meanwhile, Russia claimed Sunday that it had taken control of the village of Novoukrainka in the partially Russian-occupied Donetsk region.

Russian forces have been slowly grinding forward at some points on the roughly 1,000-kilometer (620-mile) front line, though their incremental gains have been costly in terms of troop casualties and damaged armor.

In other developments, Russia's foreign intelligence chief, Sergei Naryshkin, said he had spoken on the phone with his U.S. counterpart, CIA Director John Ratcliffe.

"I had a phone call with my American counterpart and we reserved for each other the possibility to call at any time and discuss issues of interest to us," Naryshkin said in remarks to state TV reporter Pavel Zarubin, who posted them on his Telegram channel on Sunday.

Sunday's attacks follow Russian President Vladimir Putin's comments two days ago that Moscow is ready for a fresh round of direct peace talks in Istanbul. Two recent rounds of talks between Russian and Ukrainian delegations in Istanbul were brief and yielded no progress on reaching a settlement.

Zelenskyy withdraws Ukraine from an anti-land mine pact

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy signed a decree to withdraw Ukraine from the Ottawa Convention banning antipersonnel land mines, a Ukrainian lawmaker said Sunday. The move follows similar recent steps by the Baltic States and Poland.

The 1997 treaty prohibits the use, production, stockpiling and transfer of antipersonnel land mines in an

effort to protect civilians from explosives that can maim or kill long after fighting ends.

"This is a step that the reality of war has long demanded," said Roman Kostenko, secretary of the Ukrainian parliamentary committee on national security, defense and intelligence. He noted that Russia is not a party to the convention "and is massively using mines against our military and civilians."

NBA free agent Malik Beasley under investigation regarding gambling allegations, AP source says

By LARRY LAGE AP Sports Writer

DETROIT (AP) — NBA free agent Malik Beasley is under investigation by the U.S. District Attorney's office regarding gambling allegations tied to league games, a person familiar with the situation told The Associated Press on Sunday.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to comment on the matter.

"We are cooperating with the federal prosecutors' investigation," NBA spokesman Mike Bass said in a statement released to the AP and other outlets on Sunday.

ESPN was the first to report on the investigation.

"There have been no charges against Malik," Steve Haney, Beasley's attorney, told the AP. "It's just an investigation at this point. We hope people reserve judgement until he's charged — or if he's charged. It's not uncommon for there to be a federal investigation."

The probe into Beasley comes 14 months after the NBA banned Toronto's Jontay Porter, who was linked to a prop bet investigation and eventually pleaded guilty to committing wire fraud.

This past season, The Wall Street Journal was first to report that Terry Rozier — then of the Charlotte Hornets — was under investigation for activity related to unusual betting patterns surrounding him in a March 2023 game.

Rozier, now of the Miami Heat, has not been charged with any crime, nor has he faced any sanction from the NBA.

Porter's ban came after a similar investigation into his performance and "prop bets" — wagers where bettors can choose whether a player will reach a certain statistical standard or not during a game. The Porter investigation started once the league learned from "licensed sports betting operators and an organization that monitors legal betting markets" about unusual gambling patterns surrounding Porter's performance in a game on March 20, 2024, against Sacramento.

The league determined that Porter gave a bettor information about his own health status prior that game and said that another individual — known to be an NBA bettor — placed an \$80,000 bet that Porter would not hit the numbers set for him in parlays through an online sports book. That bet would have won \$1.1 million.

Beasley signed last year with the Pistons, taking a one-year contract for \$6 million in the hopes of cashing in this summer as a free agent. A second person, speaking to AP on condition of anonymity because no deal was announced, said Detroit was "very interested" in re-signing Beasley to a multi-year contract this summer. Those talks might be in jeopardy, given the uncertainty regarding the federal probe.

He made a single-season, franchise-record 319 3-pointers in the regular season. He helped Detroit make the playoffs for the first time since 2019 and end an NBA-record 15-game postseason losing streak in the first round against the New York Knicks.

Beasley averaged 16.3 points last season and has averaged 11.7 points over his career with Denver, Minnesota, Utah, the Los Angeles Lakers, Milwaukee and Detroit. He scored a career-high 19.6 points a game during the 2020-21 season with the Timberwolves.

The Atlanta native played at Florida State and the Nuggets drafted him No. 19 overall in 2016.

Trump says he's not planning to extend a pause on global tariffs beyond July 9

By DAVID KLEPPER and ALI SWENSON Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump says he is not planning to extend a 90-day pause on tariffs on most nations beyond July 9, when the negotiating period he set would expire, and his administration will notify countries that the trade penalties will take effect unless there are deals with the United States. Letters will start going out "pretty soon" before the approaching deadline, he said.

"We'll look at how a country treats us — are they good, are they not so good — some countries we don't care, we'll just send a high number out," Trump told Fox News Channel's "Sunday Morning Futures" during a wide-ranging interview taped Friday and broadcast Sunday.

Those letters, he said, would say, "Congratulations, we're allowing you to shop in the United States of America, you're going to pay a 25% tariff, or a 35% or a 50% or 10%."

Trump had played down the deadline at a White House news conference Friday by noting how difficult it would be to work out separate deals with each nation. The administration had set a goal of reaching 90 trade deals in 90 days.

Negotiations continue, but "there's 200 countries, you can't talk to all of them," he said in the interview.

Trump also discussed a potential TikTok deal, relations with China, the strikes on Iran and his immigration crackdown.

Here are the key takeaways:

Few details on possible TikTok deal

A group of wealthy investors will make an offer to buy TikTok, Trump said, hinting at a deal that could safeguard the future of the popular social media platform, which is owned by China's ByteDance.

"We have a buyer for TikTok, by the way. I think I'll need, probably, China approval, and I think President Xi (Jinping) will probably do it," Trump said.

Trump did not offer any details about the investors, calling them "a group of very wealthy people."

"I'll tell you in about two weeks," he said when asked for specifics.

It's a time frame Trump often cites, most recently about a decision on whether the U.S. military would get directly involved in the war between Israel and Iran. The U.S. struck Iranian nuclear sites just days later.

Earlier this month, Trump signed an executive order to keep TikTok running in the U.S. for 90 more days to give his administration more time to broker a deal to bring the social media platform under American ownership.

It is the third time Trump extended the deadline. The first one was through an executive order on Jan. 20, his first day in office, after the platform went dark briefly when a national ban — approved by Congress and upheld by the Supreme Court — took effect.

Trump insists US 'obliterated' Iran's nuclear facilities

U.S. strikes on Iran "obliterated" its nuclear facilities, Trump insisted, and he said whoever leaked a preliminary intelligence assessment suggesting Tehran's nuclear program had been set back only a few months should be prosecuted.

Trump said Iran was "weeks away" from achieving a nuclear weapon before he ordered the strikes.

"It was obliterated like nobody's ever seen before," Trump said. "And that meant the end to their nuclear ambitions, at least for a period of time."

Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, said Sunday on X that Trump "exaggerated to cover up and conceal the truth." Iran's ambassador to the United Nations, Amir Saeid Iravani, told CBS' "Face the Nation" that his country's nuclear program is peaceful and that uranium "enrichment is our right, and an inalienable right and we want to implement this right" under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. "I think that enrichment will not — never stop."

Rafael Grossi, the head of the International Atomic Energy Agency, said on CBS that "it is clear that there has been severe damage, but it's not total damage."

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Grossi also said the U.N. nuclear watchdog has faced pressure to report that Iran had a nuclear weapon or was close to one, but "we simply didn't because this was not what we were seeing."

Of the leak of the intelligence assessment, Trump said anyone found to be responsible should be prosecuted. Journalists who received it should be asked who their source was, he said: "You have to do that and I suspect we'll be doing things like that."

His press secretary said Thursday that the administration is investigating the matter.

A 'temporary pass' for immigration raids on farms and hotels?

As he played up his immigration crackdown, Trump offered a more nuanced view when it comes to farm and hotel workers.

"I'm the strongest immigration guy that there's ever been, but I'm also the strongest farmer guy that there's ever been," the Republican president said.

He noted that he wants to deport criminals, but it's a problem when farmers lose their laborers and it destroys their businesses.

Trump said his administration is working on "some kind of a temporary pass" that could give farmers and hotel owners control over immigration raids at their facilities.

Earlier this month, Trump had called for a pause on immigration raids disrupting the farming, hotel and restaurant industries, but a top Homeland Security official followed up with a seemingly contradictory statement. Tricia McLaughlin said there would be "no safe spaces for industries who harbor violent criminals or purposely try to undermine" immigration enforcement efforts.

Status of China trade talks

Trump praised a recent trade deal with Beijing over rare earth exports from China and said establishing a fairer relationship will require significant tariffs.

"I think getting along well with China is a very good thing," Trump said. "China's going to be paying a lot of tariffs, but we have a big (trade) deficit, they understand that."

Trump said he would be open to removing sanctions on Iranian oil shipments to China if Iran can show "they can be peaceful and if they can show us they're not going to do any more harm."

But the president also indicated the U.S. isn't afraid to retaliate against Beijing. When Fox News Channel host Maria Bartiromo noted that China has tried to hack U.S. systems and steal intellectual property, Trump replied, "You don't think we do that to them?"

Lando Norris holds off Oscar Piastri to win Formula 1's Austrian Grand Prix

SPIELBERG, Austria (AP) — In the week when the "F1" movie hit theaters, Formula 1 delivered some real-life cinematic moments of its own.

Teammates fought for the lead and came close to colliding as Lando Norris held off a race-long challenge from his McLaren teammate Oscar Piastri to win the Austrian Grand Prix on Sunday and lift his title hopes.

Norris and Piastri battled for the lead early on, with the Australian briefly into the lead before Norris took the position back. A rash lunge by Piastri nearly caused a collision soon after.

Piastri lost ground at the pit stops and was run wide onto the grass by Alpine's Franco Colapinto while cutting through traffic. He soon made up ground on Norris but couldn't get close enough to try another overtake.

Over the radio, Norris called it a "beautiful one-two" finish for the team.

"We had a great battle, that's for sure," he added later. "A lot of stress, but a lot of fun. A nice battle, so well done to Oscar."

They next head to Norris' home race on July 6 in Britain, the halfway point of the season.

A two-horse race at the top

More than ever this season, the title fight focuses on the two McLarens after defending champion Max Verstappen was hit by Kimi Antonelli on the opening lap, ending his race.

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Overall leader Piastri leads second-placed Norris by 15 points, with Verstappen still third but now 61 off the lead. He told broadcaster Sky Sports after the race that he hoped the incident would at least mean fewer questions about his title chances.

Two weeks after Norris apologized to McLaren for colliding with Piastri in Canada, it was Piastri's turn to say sorry to the team for a near-collision between the two drivers on Sunday. The Australian also said he regretted not making more of his few seconds in the lead earlier in the race.

"I hope it was good watching because it was pretty hard work from the car," Piastri said. "I tried my absolute best and probably could have done a better job when I just got ahead momentarily."

Piastri added later that he was "probably pushing the limits a bit much from my side once or twice but we're fighting for race wins in Formula 1. It's going to be pretty tough."

Ferrari strong with third and fourth

Charles Leclerc was third for his third podium finish in four races, with his Ferrari teammate Lewis Hamilton fourth.

George Russell, who won the last race in Canada, was fifth for Mercedes and Liam Lawson sixth for Racing Bulls in his best result of the season.

Fernando Alonso of Aston Martin held off Sauber's Gabriel Bortoleto for seventh in a late-race battle between two drivers who know each other well off track. Two-time champion Alonso has guided the Brazilian's career through his management company.

Bortoleto was able to celebrate his first points finish in his rookie season, leaving Colapinto and the driver he replaced at Alpine, Jack Doohan, as the only competitors without any points in 2025.

The second Sauber of Nico Hulkenberg was ninth and Esteban Ocon finished 10th for Haas.

How Democrats in America's most Jewish city embraced a critic of Israel for New York mayor

By JILL COLVIN Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — In choosing Zohran Mamdani as their candidate for mayor, Democrats in America's most Jewish city have nominated an outspoken critic of Israel, alarming some in New York's Jewish community and signaling a sea change in the priorities of one of the party's most loyal voting groups.

The 33-year-old democratic socialist's surprisingly strong performance against former Gov. Andrew Cuomo makes clear that taking a stance against Israel is no longer disqualifying in a Democratic primary. The state Assembly member has declined to support the right of Israel to exist as a Jewish state, refused to denounce the term "global intifada" and supports an organized effort to put economic pressure on Israel through boycotts and other tactics.

Yet he excelled in the city with the largest Jewish population outside of Israel, and with the support of many Jewish voters.

Mamdani's success reflects the ideological realignment of many American Jews since the Oct. 7, 2023, attack by Hamas on Israel that led to Israel's invasion of Gaza. Many Democratic voters, including Jews, have grown dismayed by Israel's conduct in the war and are deeply critical of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. That is especially true among younger, more progressive voters, many of whom have rejected the once-broadly accepted notion that anti-Israel sentiment is inherently antisemitic.

For others, Mamdani's showing has spurred new fears about safety and the waning influence of Jewish voters in a city where anti-Jewish hate crime has surged. Last year, Jews were the target of more than half of the hate crimes in the city.

"Definitely people are concerned," said Rabbi Shimon Hecht, of Congregation B'nai Jacob in Brooklyn, who said he has heard from congregants in recent days who hope Mamdani will be beaten in the November general election, where he will face Mayor Eric Adams, who is running as an independent, Republican Curtis Sliwa, and possibly Cuomo, if he stays in the race.

"I think like every upsetting election, it's a wake-up call for people," Hecht said. "I strongly believe that

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he will not be elected as our next mayor, but it's going to take a lot of uniting among the Jewish people and others who are concerned about these issues. We have to unify."

Veteran New York Democratic political strategist Hank Sheinkopf put it more bluntly, predicting a hasty exodus of religious Jews from the city and a decline in long-standing Jewish influence that would be replicated elsewhere.

"It's the end of Jewish New York as we know it," he said, adding: "New York is a petri dish for national Democratic politics. And what happened here is what will likely happen in cities across the country."

Israel was a key campaign issue

Mamdani's top Democratic rival, the former governor, had called antisemitism and support for Israel "the most important issue" of the campaign.

Mamdani's backers repeatedly accused Cuomo of trying to weaponize the issue. Many drew parallels to the way Republican President Donald Trump has cast any criticism of Israel's actions as antisemitic, claiming Jews who vote for Democrats "hate Israel" and their own religion.

For some Mamdani supporters, the election results signaled a rejection by voters of one of Cuomo's arguments: that an upstart socialist with pro-Palestinian views posed a threat to New York's Jewish community.

Many were focused on issues such as affordability in a notoriously expensive city, or flat-out opposed to Cuomo, who was forced to resign in disgrace amid sexual harassment allegations.

Aiyana Leong Knauer, a 35-year-old Brooklyn bartender who is Jewish and backed Mamdani, said the vote represented "New Yorkers, many of them Jewish, saying we care more about having an affordable city than sowing division."

"Many of us take really deep offense to our history being weaponized against us," she said. "Jewish people all over the world have well-founded fears for their safety, but Jews in New York are safe overall."

Others agreed with Mamdani's views on Israel.

Beth Miller, political director of Jewish Voice for Peace Action, an anti-Zionist, progressive group that worked on Mamdani's behalf, said Mamdani "was actually pretty popular among a lot of Jewish voters."

"That is not in spite of his support for Palestinian rights. That is because of his support for Palestinian rights," she said. "There has been a massive rupture within the Jewish community and more and more Jews of all generations, but especially younger generations," she said, now refuse to be tied to what they see as a rogue government committing atrocities against civilians.

Polls show support for Israel has declined since the war began. Overall, a slight majority of Americans now express a "somewhat" or "very" unfavorable opinion of Israel, according to a March Pew Research Center poll, compared with 42% in 2022. Democrats' views are particularly negative, with nearly 70% holding an unfavorable opinion versus less than 40% of Republicans.

Beyond the mayoral race

Mamdani's wasn't the only race where Israel was on voters' minds.

In Brooklyn, City Councilwoman Shahana Hanif, who represents Park Slope and surrounding areas, drew criticism for her Palestinian advocacy. Some said she had failed to respond forcefully to antisemitic incidents in the district.

Yet Hanif, the first Muslim woman elected to the City Council, easily beat her top challenger, Maya Kornberg, who is Jewish, despite an influx of money from wealthy, pro-Israel groups and donors.

That outcome dismayed Ramon Maislen, a developer who launched Brooklyn BridgeBuilders to oppose Hanif's reelection and said antisemitism did not seem to resonate with voters.

"We were very disappointed with our neighbors' response," he said.

While campaigning against Hanif, he said he was routinely screamed at by residents and accused of supporting genocide.

"I think that those of us in the Jewish community that are attuned to that are cognizant that there's been some kind of cultural sea change that's occurring," he said. "What we're seeing is a legitimization of hatred that isn't happening in any other liberal or progressive space."

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Mamdani's record and rhetoric

Mamdani has repeatedly pledged to fight antisemitism, including during an appearance on "The Late Show With Stephen Colbert," where he was grilled on his stance. He was joined on the show by city comptroller and fellow candidate Brad Lander, the city's highest-ranking Jewish official, who had cross-endorsed him. He has also said he would increase funding for anti-hate crime programming by 800%.

But many of his comments have angered Jewish groups and officials, most notably his refusal to disavow the phrase "globalize the intifada," which has been used as a slogan in recent protests. Many Jews see it as a call to violence against Israeli civilians. In a podcast interview, Mamdani said the phrase captured a "a desperate desire for equality and equal rights in standing up for Palestinian human rights."

Given another opportunity to condemn the phrase, Mamdani on Sunday told NBC's "Meet the Press" that it was not his role to police speech and he pledged to be a mayor who "protects Jewish New Yorkers and lives up to that commitment through the work that I do."

Mamdani also supports the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement, which aims to pressure governments, schools and other institutions to boycott Israeli products, divest from companies that support the country, and impose sanctions. The Anti-Defamation League calls it antisemitic and part of a broader campaign to "delegitimize and isolate the State of Israel."

Mamdani has also said that, as mayor, he would arrest Netanyahu if the Israeli leader tried to enter the city.

The ADL in a statement Thursday warned candidates and their supporters not to use "language playing into dangerous antisemitic canards that time and time again have been used to incite hatred and violence against Jews."

In his victory speech, Mamdani alluded to the criticism he'd received and said he would not abandon his beliefs. But he also said he would "reach further to understand the perspectives of those with whom I disagree and to wrestle deeply with those disagreements."

Rap duo Bob Vylan's anti-Israel chants prompt UK police to review Glastonbury acts

By SYLVIA HUI Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — British police said they were examining videos of a band that led chants of "death to the IDF" — Israel Defense Forces — at the Glastonbury Festival.

Rapper Bobby Vylan, of rap punk duo Bob Vylan, led crowds attending the festival on Saturday in chants of "free, free Palestine" and "death, death to the IDF."

Avon and Somerset Police said that it was aware of comments made by acts at the festival, and said officers will review video evidence "to determine whether any offenses may have been committed that would require a criminal investigation."

Irish-language rap group Kneecap also performed Saturday despite a terror charge for one of its members over allegedly supporting Hezbollah, leading a huge crowd in chants of "Free Palestine."

The Israeli Embassy to the U.K. said on social media that it was "deeply disturbed by the inflammatory and hateful rhetoric expressed on stage at the Glastonbury Festival."

Health Secretary Wes Streeting on Sunday condemned Bob Vylan's actions as "appalling." He told Sky News that the BBC and festival organizers had to answer questions about how the comments were broadcast live to millions.

However, he also urged Israel to "take the violence of their own citizens towards Palestinians more seriously" when asked about the Israeli embassy's condemnation of the band's actions.

The minister referred to the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Gaza and "the fact that Israeli settler terrorists attacked a Christian village this week, setting it on fire," and urged Israel to "get your own house in order."

The government said its culture secretary has spoken to the BBC director general about Bob Vylan's performance.

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The BBC said it issued a warning on screen about “very strong and discriminatory language” during the live stream.

Glastonbury is Britain’s biggest summer music festival and draws some 200,000 music fans each year to Worthy Farm in southwest England. Almost 4,000 acts perform on 120 stages.

Festival organizers said on Instagram that Vylan’s chants “very much crossed a line.”

“We are urgently reminding everyone involved in the production of the Festival that there is no place at Glastonbury for antisemitism, hate speech or incitement to violence.”

“With almost 4,000 performances at Glastonbury 2025, there will inevitably be artists and speakers appearing on our stages whose views we do not share, and a performer’s presence here should never be seen as a tacit endorsement of their opinions and beliefs,” it said.

Bob Vylan’s two members both keep their real names secret for privacy reasons. Founded in 2017, the band has released four albums.

Kneecap, which has drawn criticism over its comments on Middle East politics, also gave an impassioned performance for tens of thousands of fans.

Liam Óg Ó hAiníde, who performs under the stage name Mo Chara, has been charged under the Terrorism Act with supporting a proscribed organization for allegedly waving a Hezbollah flag at a concert in London in November.

The rapper, who was charged under the anglicized version of his name, Liam O’Hanna, is on unconditional bail before a further court hearing in August.

The group has been under scrutiny since videos emerged allegedly showing the band shouting “up Hamas, up Hezbollah” and calling on people to kill lawmakers.

On Saturday band members led the audience in chants of “Free Palestine” and “Free Mo Chara.” They also aimed an expletive-laden chant at U.K. Prime Minister Keir Starmer, who has said he didn’t think it was “appropriate” for Kneecap to play Glastonbury.

Rod Stewart, Olivia Rodrigo and The Prodigy are among acts playing Sunday for Glastonbury’s final day.

Weather forecasters say a second tropical storm has formed along coastal Mexico

MIAMI (AP) — Weather forecasters say a second tropical storm has formed along coastal Mexico.

Shortly after announcing Tropical Storm Barry off the country’s Atlantic coast on Saturday morning, the National Hurricane Center in Miami said Tropical Storm Flossie formed along Mexico’s west coast.

The storm’s center was about 240 miles (about 390 kilometers) south of Acapulco and about 485 miles (780 kilometers) southeast of Manzanillo. Its maximum sustained winds were clocked at 40 mph (65 kph) and it was moving west at 9 mph (15 kph).

Carlos Alcaraz loves playing on grass and is trying to win a third Wimbledon title in a row

By HOWARD FENDRICH AP Tennis Writer

LONDON (AP) — Carlos Alcaraz’s first match on a grass court came just six years ago.

He’s obviously a quick study.

When Wimbledon gets started Monday, the 22-year-old from Spain will play in the first Centre Court match of this fortnight, an honor reserved for the previous year’s men’s champion. The contest against Fabio Fognini will open Alcaraz’s bid for a third consecutive championship at the place.

That’s something only four men have achieved in the Open era, which began in 1968: Bjorn Borg, Pete Sampras, Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic. Not bad company.

Alcaraz already is 5-0 in Grand Slam finals, which includes going 2-0 at the French Open — which he won three weeks ago via a comeback from two sets down against No. 1 Jannik Sinner in the final — and

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1-0 at the U.S. Open.

Last year, the No. 2-ranked Alcaraz became the youngest man to win a major trophy on each surface: grass, clay and hard courts.

But he's got a fondness for the green stuff.

"The most beautiful tennis that we can watch is on grass. The style that the people bring to the court when they play on grass. ... The sound of the ball," said Alcaraz, who will go into Monday on a career-best 18-match winning streak, including a title at the Queen's Club tournament on grass last weekend. "The movement is really tough, but when you get it, it's kind of (as though) you're flying."

He loves that it allows him to show off the variety in his game and all of the skills he possesses.

Few players smile as much as Alcaraz does while in the thick of things, no matter what challenges might be presented by the foe across the net or the tension of the moment. He is as creative as it gets with a racket in hand, sometimes to his own detriment, and admits enjoying seeing replays on arena video screens after some of his best deliveries (that technology isn't used at the All England Club, but perhaps it should be).

"I really want to hit slices, drop shots, going to the net all the time, playing aggressively," said Alcaraz, who said he lost to two-time Wimbledon champion Andy Murray during a round of golf early in the week. "I think on grass it's the style that you have to play, so that's what I like the most."

Other Grand Slam champions in action on Day 1 — when the temperature is expected to be around 90 degrees Fahrenheit (32 degrees Celsius) — include No. 1 Aryna Sabalenka against a qualifier making her Grand Slam debut, Carson Branstine; No. 6 Madison Keys, the Australian Open champion in January, against Elena-Gabriela Ruse; 2023 Wimbledon winner Marketa Vondrousova against No. 32 McCartney Kessler; and 2021 U.S. Open champ Daniil Medvedev against Benjamin Bonzi. Others in action: 2024 Wimbledon runner-up Jasmine Paolini, 2024 U.S. Open runner-up Taylor Fritz, and three-time major finalist Alexander Zverev.

It's instructive to hear what Djokovic had to say about Alcaraz after a straight-set loss in last year's final at the All England Club.

"He just was better than me in every aspect of the game," Djokovic said. "In movement, in the way he was just striking the ball beautifully, serving great. Everything."

Those words carry weight. Djokovic has won seven of his men's-record 24 Grand Slam trophies at Wimbledon but was the runner-up to Alcaraz in 2023 and 2024.

When it comes to the idea of joining an elite group by completing a three-peat two weeks from now, Alcaraz insisted that isn't the sort of thing he really cares about or spends time considering.

He wants the title, yes. But where it would place him in history? Leave that to others.

"I really want to lift the trophy," Alcaraz said. "But right now, I'm not thinking about who I could join if I win three Wimbledons in a row."

3 killed and a dozen others hospitalized after crowd surge at eastern India Hindu festival

By RAJESH ROY Associated Press

NEW DELHI (AP) — Three people were killed and more than a dozen hospitalized Sunday following a sudden crowd surge and stampede at a popular Hindu festival in eastern India, local authorities said.

"There was a sudden crowd surge of devotees for having a glimpse of the Hindu deities during which a few people either fainted, felt suffocated or complained of breathlessness," said Siddharth Shankar Swain, the top government official in Puri.

Swain told The Associated Press that 15 people were rushed to a local government hospital, where three people were pronounced dead. Autopsies are planned to determine the exact causes of death. The other 12 people have been discharged.

Tens of thousands of devotees gathered in the coastal town early Sunday at Shree Gundicha Temple, near the famous Jagannatha Temple, to catch a glimpse of the deities onboard three chariots, Swain said.

The coastal temple town of Puri comes alive each year with the grand "Rath Yatra," or chariot festival,

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in one of the world's oldest and largest religious processions. The centuries-old festival involves Hindu deities being taken out of the temple and driven in colorfully decorated chariots.

The festival is one of Hinduism's most revered events and draws hundreds of thousands of devotees annually from across India and the world.

Naveen Patnaik, a former top elected official of Odisha state where Puri is located, said in a social media post that "no government machinery (was) present to manage the surging crowds, highlighting a shocking lapse in duty."

"While I refrain from accusing the government of criminal negligence, their blatant callousness has undeniably contributed to this tragedy," he said.

Patnaik called the incident a "stampede" that "exposes the government's glaring incompetence in ensuring a peaceful festival for devotees."

In a social media post, Mohan Charan Majhi, the top elected official of Odisha, apologized for the incident, saying it occurred "due to stampede among devotees" amid excitement to have a glimpse of the deities.

Majhi said the security negligence will be investigated immediately.

"This negligence is inexcusable," he said, adding that concrete action will be taken against the persons involved.

Flint's still-unfinished lead pipe replacement serves as cautionary tale to other cities

By MICHAEL PHILLIS and TAMMY WEBBER Associated Press

FLINT, Mich. (AP) — Jeffrey Bell watched as crews dug up and replaced neighbors' lead water pipes, hoping his mother's house would be next. Workers told him it wasn't on their list but probably assigned to another contractor.

With Flint's lead pipe replacement program winding down this year, Bell and his elderly mother worried the home they share was forgotten. Betty Bell repeatedly called the city while continuing to buy bottled drinking water, as she had for years. Finally someone called to say the water line was fine — records indicate it was checked in 2017. But the Bells hadn't known that, exemplifying residents' confusion over a process marred by delays and poor communication.

"I have even more questions now," Jeffrey Bell said.

About a decade after Flint's water crisis caused national outrage, replacement of lead water pipes still isn't finished. Although the city recently said it completed work required under a legal settlement, the agreement didn't cover vacant homes and allowed owners to refuse, potentially leaving hundreds of pipes in the ground. The state agreed to oversee work on those properties and says it's determined to finish by fall.

Flint's missteps offer lessons for municipalities that face a recently imposed federal mandate to replace their own lead service lines. The Trump administration is expected to soon tell a federal appeals court if it will stand by that mandate.

"I think other cities are racing not to be Flint," said Margie Kelly, a spokesperson with the environmental nonprofit Natural Resources Defense Council, which reached a settlement with the city to force it to replace lead pipes.

Flint falters

Flint's crisis was set in motion in 2014, when a state-appointed emergency manager ended a contract with Detroit's water system and switched to the Flint River to save money. But the state didn't require treatment to prevent corrosion that caused lead to leach into the water.

High levels of lead eventually were detected in drinking water and children's blood. Outbreaks of Legionnaires' disease that killed a dozen people were also linked, in part, to the city's water.

In 2017, Flint entered into a settlement requiring it to replace all lead pipes and fix dug-up yards for free within three years. Funds were directed first toward homes with known lead lines at the NRDC's insistence, which meant workers couldn't tackle neighborhoods systematically. And finding those homes proved chal-

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lenging because many records were missing or inaccurate — some handwritten on notecards dating to the early 1900s.

"The city's overall management of the program was ineffective," and it could have better coordinated work geographically, said Sarah Tallman, an attorney with the NRDC.

That stalled the program and, ultimately, the city had to check every pipe anyway. COVID-19 also slowed work.

Flint Department of Public Works Director Kenneth Miller, who was hired last year, said the city didn't know how many homeowners had opted out of lead pipe replacement or how many properties had simply been missed as contractors came and went.

"Just like any other organization, people get lax, people stop doing things, people get laid off and the person that used to do it doesn't do it anymore," he said.

Because the city didn't keep accurate records of repairs, a judge ordered officials to visually check thousands of properties that had been excavated.

Yards torn up by contractors sometimes sat that way for months or years. For months, Danyele Darrough's lawn was a mess and the sidewalk and driveway were covered, she said. Grass seed that workers applied never grew. Finally this spring, nearly three years later, she bought bags of topsoil and seed to fix her lawn herself.

"It was like, yeah, we knew it; we couldn't trust them," said Darrough.

Miller said the city now has robust data management, which he recommends to other communities tackling lead lines.

Steep population loss left thousands of vacant homes that will require contractors to cap lead lines where they're found, said Eric Oswald, drinking water director at Michigan's Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy.

"The state and the city wanted to absolutely make sure that ... we leave no stone unturned," he said.

Trust is key

In Flint, government at every level caused the lead crisis or delayed fixing it, according to an EPA inspector general report. The scandal damaged trust in government — nearly 700 Flint homeowners declined free lead pipe replacement, the NRDC said.

Flint finally adopted an ordinance last year to prevent homeowners from opting out.

"It's very difficult to get across the finish line unless you've got something to enforce," Oswald said. Benton Harbor, across the state, implemented a similar provision early on, helping its work move smoothly.

Now officials are working from a list of more than 4,000 properties where there could be a lead line, sending letters and making in-person visits to homes, if needed. Miller said he hopes the outreach will show that customer service is now a priority, but it will take time to rebuild trust.

Some also distrust the Environmental Protection Agency, which in May lifted a long-standing emergency order for Flint water. The agency said it's now safe to drink from the tap after years of tests showing sharply reduced lead levels.

"We don't know what to believe," resident Aonie Gilcreast said at a recent community gathering. "We don't trust the system" because officials have said "time after time after time that everything was fine."

As other cities and towns start replacing their own lead pipes — there are roughly 9 million in the U.S. — one thing should be top of mind, experts say: Digging them up isn't just a construction job, but also a test of community trust.

To replace the lines that connect the water main in the street to homes, workers usually must dig in the street and yard, and enter the home. When residents trust local government, they're more willing to grant that access.

"With lead, as with everything else, the first time people hear from their water utility can't be when there is a concern," said Greg Kail, spokesperson at utility industry group American Water Works Association. Instead, it is important for utilities to reach out to residents about what they plan to do and enlist trusted community groups in the effort.

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Newark charges forward

Newark, New Jersey, avoided Flint's pitfalls when facing its own lead crisis.

In 2019, about two years after elevated levels were revealed and with funds available, the mayor said the city would replace more than 20,000 lead pipes at no cost to residents — and do it within three years. But a challenge soon emerged: Newark has lots of renters who couldn't approve the work.

"We couldn't get into the houses. We couldn't find the owners," said Kareem Adeem, Newark's water and sewer director. "They don't live there. They had no interest in taking care of the lead service line."

So the city passed an ordinance making lead pipe removals mandatory and giving renters permission to approve the work.

Then contractors moved quickly through the city block by block — a lesson learned from Flint.

For the most stubborn holdouts, officials told them when they'd start replacement work and said they'd turn the water off until the resident allowed them to complete it. The threat was enough. They never had to actually turn off anybody's water, Adeem said.

Sometimes, people would recognize Adeem from TV and he could start a conversation — a crack in a resident's determination to say no. He worked with trusted community groups, too.

And the decision that ensured people's property was cleaned up afterward? The contractors weren't fully paid until they finished the work and fixed any damage.

The last Hong Kong pro-democracy party that held street protests disbands

By KANIS LEUNG Associated Press

HONG KONG (AP) — Hong Kong pro-democracy political party League of Social Democrats announced on Sunday it had disbanded due to immense political pressure, the latest casualty in a years-long crack-down that has already quieted much of the city's once-vocal opposition.

Following massive anti-government protests in 2019, many leading activists were prosecuted or jailed under a 2020 national security law imposed by Beijing. Dozens of civil society groups dissolved. Media outlets critical of the government shuttered.

The League of Social Democrats was the only pro-democracy party that still staged small street protests from time to time and held street booth activities to carry on its advocacy despite the risks.

Its chairperson, Chan Po-ying, said the disbandment decision was made after careful deliberation, especially taking into account the consequences to its members and comrades. Chan refused to elaborate on the pressure but said she was proud to say that the party had still contributed to the city's pro-democracy movement in these few years.

"We have stayed true to our original aspirations and haven't let down to the trust placed in us by those who went to prison," she said. "While we are now forced to disband and feel an ache in our conscience, we have no other choice," she said.

Protests became rare under Beijing's grip

Hong Kong, a former British colony, will mark the 28th anniversary of returning to Chinese rule on July 1. The city used to hold annual pro-democracy protests that day and other various demonstrations demanding better policies.

But those were ceased after most organizing groups were disbanded and the leading activists were jailed. Critics say the drastic political changes under the security law reflect that the freedoms Beijing promised to keep intact in 1997 are shrinking.

The Beijing and Hong Kong governments insist the law is necessary for the city's stability. A Chinese official overseeing Hong Kong affairs in 2023 said protests are not the only way for people to express their views, signaling Beijing's stance toward demonstrations in the city.

In April, Hong Kong's biggest pro-democracy party, the Democratic Party, also voted to give its leadership the mandate to move toward a potential disbandment. Party veterans told The Associated Press that

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some members were warned of consequences if the party didn't shut down. A final vote is expected at a later date.

Chan said she believed the "one country, two systems" principle, which Beijing uses to govern Hong Kong, has already ended, pointing to the Chinese government's imposition of the security law and introducing the idea of "soft resistance," a term officials use to refer to underlying security risks.

"One country, two systems has already (become) one country, one system," she said.

A party known for confrontational tactics

Founded in 2006, the League of Social Democrats was a left-wing political party that opposed what it called collusion between government and business, upheld the principle that people have a say and was firmly committed to the interests of underprivileged residents.

It was widely known for its more aggressive tactics when fighting for change. Its members have thrown bananas, eggs and luncheon meat at officials or pro-Beijing lawmakers as a protest gesture. Its party platform said the group advocated non-violent resistance but would not avoid physical confrontations — a stance that set it apart from older, traditional pro-democracy groups.

It once had three lawmakers in office. Its longest-serving lawmaker, Leung Kwok-hung — Chan's husband — was disqualified from the legislature due to his manner of taking his oath in office in 2017.

Members arrested and jailed over activism

On the streets, the group's activism led to the arrests and jailing of its members from time to time.

Last year, Leung and prominent LGBTQ+ activist Jimmy Sham, a former party leader, were sentenced to nearly seven years and more than four years over their roles in an unofficial primary election under the sweeping security law. Sham was freed from prison last month.

In recent years, the party has had limited political influence, no longer holding any seats in the legislature or local district councils. Even a bank ceased to provide bank account services to the group.

But it continued to stage small protests from time to time, despite sometimes those activities leading to arrests. On June 12, Chan and other members were fined after being found guilty over their street booth activities.

Undeterred by their convictions, they kept pressing on and protested against the ruling outside the court.

Chan wiped away tears during Sunday's press conference and chanted slogans with other members at the end.

She said she doesn't believe that democracy will come in the near future.

"Moving forward is not at all easy," she said. "I hope everyone can become like an ember, a flying spark — still carrying light, keeping that light alive, no matter how small it may be."

After centuries of isolation, ultra-Orthodox Jews engage with the world more than ever

By MICHAEL WEISSENSTEIN Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Frieda Vizel left an ultra-Orthodox Jewish sect in New York in a crisis of faith at 25. But instead of cutting ties, she became a successful online personality and guide to the tight-knit world she had been raised in.

She gives sold-out tours of Williamsburg, Brooklyn — home base of the Satmar dynasty — and runs a popular YouTube channel focused on the subculture engaging more with the outside world after centuries of separation.

In mid-June, Vizel took a group of Jewish, Christian and Muslim tourists to see synagogues and schools, and visit kosher delis and shops. Instead of Barbie dolls, there were little ultra-Orthodox Jewish figurines. The rabbinically approved products included cellphones without screens, and DVDs and MP3 players pre-loaded with approved music and films, so no internet connection is needed.

Yet ultra-Orthodox men on the street offered friendly greetings and praise for Vizel's recent postings even though rabbis advise them to avoid the internet unless needed for business, family or other essential needs.

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"It's an interesting moment," Vizel said. "They're saying, 'What is the whole world saying about us?'"

Growth and religious change

Williamsburg and a handful of other locations worldwide — from Monsey, New York, to Stamford Hill, London to Bnei Brak, Israel — host the strictest followers of Orthodox Judaism. In a minority religion it's a minority set apart by its dedication above all else to the Torah and its 613 commandments, from No. 1 — worshipping God — to less-followed measures like No. 568 — not cursing a head of state.

One in seven Jews worldwide are strictly Orthodox, or Haredi. It's a population of roughly 2 million out of 15 million Jews, according to Daniel Staetsky, a demographer with the London-based Institute for Jewish Policy Research.

In a 2022 report, he projects that the strictly Orthodox population could double in size in 15 years. Another study projects that a third of American Jews will be Orthodox by 2063.

Many in the community marry young and have large families.

"You're getting three generations of ultra-Orthodox for every two generations of Reform Jews in the U.S.," said Alan Cooperman, director of religion research at the Pew Research Center.

"They are becoming the face of Judaism," Vizel said.

Reform and secular Jews

It's happening while many Reform Jews in the U.S. are becoming less religious and intermarrying. That means that Jewish Americans as a whole are becoming either Orthodox or more secular, Cooperman said.

"There has been a major change, I think, that has taken place over the last generation or two and that is the polarization of American Jewry, much as we've seen the vast polarization of America as a whole," said Jonathan Sarna, a professor of American Jewish history at Brandeis University.

Among American Jews aged 18 to 29, 17% are Orthodox — a bigger share than in older generations, Pew found. And as a growing number of American Jews are Orthodox, a greater percent is Republican. Still, the majority of American Jews remain Democrats.

The Pew Research Center found in 2020 that 75% of Orthodox Jews voted or leaned Republican.

Walking out of Gottlieb's Restaurant with his salami sandwich, Samuel Sabel — a grocery store worker and journalist — said that "a lot of the policies Republicans have go together with our beliefs," citing school choice, and opposition to abortion and same-sex marriage as examples.

Orthodox political activism is "at the highest point it's ever been," said Rabbi Avi Shafran, the retired director of public affairs at the Orthodox group Agudath Israel. "No question about that."

"There is time and money and ability and savvy and education that allows for a much more, aggressive, much more positive and active effort on political things," he said.

But while cultural issues are important, "when push comes to shove, we'll vote our interests, our immediate interests, not the larger issues that are always on the table," Shafran said.

"We are practical," he said. "Put it that way."

Politics — local, national and global

Vizel guided her group past "Get out the vote" signs in Yiddish, along with a campaign letter from Donald Trump in the window of Gottlieb's deli.

In New York City's Democratic primary for the mayoral election, former Gov. Andrew Cuomo intensely courted Orthodox communities, counting at least 36 sects and yeshivas — religious schools — among his supporters.

But Cuomo suffered a stunning upset at the hands of Zohran Mamdani in a demonstration of grassroots organizing over bloc voting.

In Florida, Orthodox Jews backed Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis before he signed an expansion of taxpayer-funded vouchers for private schools, a movement that has galvanized religious groups across denominations.

But the election this month for the World Zionist Congress — an international body predating Israel that controls more than 1,500 square miles (3885 square kilometers) of land there, along with about \$1 billion a year from land sales — showed dominance by the Reform bloc despite intense campaigning by

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Orthodox parties and strong results ahead of coalition building.

The 2020 Pew study found that Reform Jews are 37% of the American Jewish populace, followed by Jews that claim no particular branch — 32% —and then Conservatives at 17% .

The Orthodox make up 9%.

The president of the Union for Reform Judaism, the largest Jewish group in North America, said “it’s a mistake to assume unaffiliated Jews don’t care about being Jewish — many do, and Reform Judaism often reflects their spiritual and moral values.

“Reform Jews continue to hold overwhelmingly liberal worldviews and political values,” Rabbi Rick Jacobs wrote. “In the aftermath of October 7th, many have deepened their connection to Jewish peoplehood while remaining firmly committed to justice, equity, and peace through the Reform Movement.”

Rabbi Pesach Lerner founded the Orthodox party Eretz Hakodesh five years ago to compete in the election for the World Zionist Congress.

The main American party representing Reform Judaism in the Zionist Congress had a better individual showing than Lerner’s in voting in the United States, but Orthodox parties did well and said they were optimistic that coalition-building would let them compete with traditional liberal Jewish interests.

Reform Jews and their allies “went so far to the left of traditional, of national, or family values, in ‘wokeism,’ that I’m glad the right finally decided that they can’t sit back on the sidelines,” Lerner said.

Today in History: June 30, Night of the Long Knives

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Monday, June 30, the 181st day of 2025. There are 184 days left in the year.

Today’s Highlight in History:

On June 30, 1934, Adolf Hitler launched his “blood purge” of political and military rivals in Germany in what came to be known as the “Night of the Long Knives.”

Also on this date:

In 1918, labor activist and socialist Eugene V. Debs was arrested in Cleveland, charged under the Espionage Act of 1917 for a speech he had made two weeks earlier in which he denounced U.S. involvement in World War I. (Debs was sentenced to prison and disenfranchised for life.)

In 1921, President Warren G. Harding nominated former President William Howard Taft to be chief justice of the United States, succeeding the late Edward Douglass White.

In 1936, Margaret Mitchell’s novel “Gone With the Wind” was released.

In 1958, the U.S. Senate passed the Alaska statehood bill.

In 1971, the Supreme Court ruled, 6-3, that the government could not prevent The New York Times or The Washington Post from publishing the Pentagon Papers.

In 1971, A Soviet space mission ended in tragedy when three cosmonauts aboard Soyuz 11 were found dead of asphyxiation inside their capsule after it had returned to Earth.

In 1985, 39 American hostages from a hijacked TWA jetliner were freed in Beirut after being held for 17 days.

In 1994, the U.S. Figure Skating Association stripped Tonya Harding of the national championship and banned her for life for her role in the attack on rival Nancy Kerrigan.

In 2009, American soldier Pfc. Bowe R. Bergdahl went missing from his base in eastern Afghanistan, and was later confirmed to have been captured by insurgents after walking away from his post. (Bergdahl was released on May 31, 2014, in exchange for five Taliban detainees; he pleaded guilty to desertion and misbehavior before the enemy, but was spared a prison sentence by a military judge.)

In 2012, Islamist Mohammed Morsi was sworn in as Egypt’s first freely elected president during a pair of ceremonies.

In 2016, then-Defense Secretary Ash Carter announced that transgender people would be allowed to

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serve openly in the U.S. military, ending one of the last bans on service in the armed forces.

In 2019, Donald Trump became the first sitting U.S. president to set foot in North Korea, meeting Kim Jong-un at the Demilitarized Zone between North and South Korea.

In 2020, then-Mississippi Gov. Tate Reeves signed a landmark bill retiring the last state flag bearing the Confederate battle emblem. Boston's arts commission voted unanimously to remove a statue depicting a freed slave kneeling at Abraham Lincoln's feet.

In 2022, Ketanji Brown Jackson was sworn in to the U.S. Supreme Court, shattering a glass ceiling as the first Black woman on the nation's highest court.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Lea Massari ("L'Avventura") is 92. Actor Nancy Dussault (doo-SOH') is 89. Olympic track champion Billy Mills is 87. Oceanographer Robert Ballard is 83. Singer-songwriter Glenn Shorrock (Little River Band) is 81. Jazz musician Stanley Clarke is 74. Actor David Garrison ("Married...with Children") is 73. Actor-comedian David Alan Grier is 69. Conductor Esa-Pekka Salonen is 67. Actor Vincent D'Onofrio is 66. Actor Deirdre Lovejoy ("The Wire") is 63. Actor Rupert Graves is 62. Boxer Mike Tyson is 59. Actor Monica Potter is 54. Actor Rick Gonzalez is 46. Actor Lizzy Caplan is 43. Country music singer-songwriter Cole Swindell is 42. Singer and actress Fantasia is 41. Olympic swimming champion Michael Phelps is 40. Baseball player Trea Turner is 32.