

Groton Daily Independent

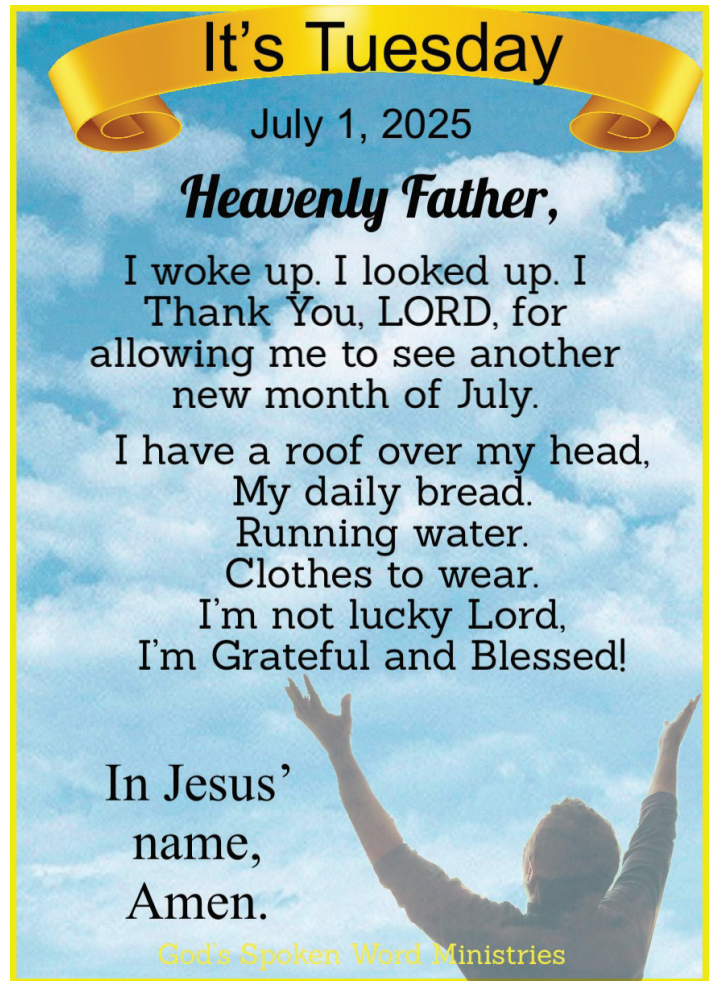
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Tuesday, July 1

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 tots, 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 rice, 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.

Heat Grips Europe

Wildfires are scorching parts of southern Europe as a lingering heat wave bakes swaths of the continent, prompting health alerts and evacuations.

Nearly 200 French schools were fully or partially closed yesterday, and 17 Italian cities are under the country's highest heat alert as of this writing. Portugal and Spain saw record June temperatures near 115 degrees Fahrenheit over the weekend. The extreme heat, expected to persist into midweek, is driven by a heat dome stretching from southwestern Europe to Turkey. Scientists say climate change contributes to the frequency and intensity of these high-pressure systems, which trap hot air like a lid on a pot.

The hot, dry air and strong winds in western Turkey have sparked wildfires that displaced over 50,000 people and temporarily shut down an international airport. Smaller fires also ignited in France's Corbières region, while Greece remains on high alert after battling blazes near Athens last week.

Central and northern Europe are also sweltering, with Britain recording its hottest opening day in Wimbledon history yesterday.

Dalai Lama Festivities

Celebrations for the Dalai Lama's 90th birthday kicked off yesterday, launching days of festivities honoring Tibetan Buddhism's spiritual leader. The ceremonies will culminate in an announcement tomorrow of a pathway for identifying the Dalai Lama's successor—his strongest indication yet that the centuries-old tradition will not die with him.

The 14th Dalai Lama was born Tenzin Gyatso in 1935. He was selected as the reincarnation of the previous Dalai Lama at 2 years old, when a senior monk visited his home, and Gyatso correctly identified objects belonging to his predecessor. The process of identifying a Dalai Lama historically begins after one's death but has recently become politicized. China—which annexed Tibet in 1950—contends it alone will name high-ranking monks, disappearing a 6-year-old boy named to the clergy in 1995.

Gyatso has lived in Dharamshala, India, since a failed Tibetan uprising in 1959. He says his successor will be born outside China.

Inflammaging Challenge

A new study published yesterday suggests low-grade, chronic inflammation may be tied to environmental factors in industrialized countries, challenging the long-held belief that the biological process—known as "inflammaging"—is a universal part of growing old.

Researchers analyzed health data from four populations: two industrialized (Italy and Singapore) and two nonindustrialized (Indigenous communities in the Bolivian Amazon and Malaysia). The study found that while inflammation levels increased with age in industrialized societies, the pattern was absent in the nonindustrialized groups, where inflammation appeared mostly linked to short-term infections rather than chronic, age-related diseases.

The findings suggest the persistent inflammation seen in wealthier nations may be more influenced by lifestyle and environmental factors, such as diet, pollution, and levels of physical activity, rather than by aging itself. The study also highlights the need to consider cultural and environmental contexts when studying the biology of aging.

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Sports, Entertainment, & Culture

Jury deliberations underway in Sean "Diddy" Combs' wide-ranging sex crimes trial, with the jury flagging for the judge that one juror was having difficulty following the judge's instructions

The US revokes visas of members of British rap punk duo Bob Vylan after the group lead the Glastonbury Festival crowd in "death to IDF" chants

Three-time NFL All-Pro Jalen Ramsey traded by the Miami Dolphins to the Pittsburgh Steelers for fellow three-time All-Pro Minkah Fitzpatrick

WNBA to expand to 18 teams by 2030, with new franchises in Cleveland, Detroit, and Philadelphia

Science & Technology

Meta formally announces Superintelligence Labs, focusing on AI models that rival human intelligence
Meta explained (1440 Topics) | Microsoft researchers say new AI tool correctly diagnoses diseases at an 85% rate, four times higher than experienced doctors

Genetic ancestry linked to risk of contracting severe cases of dengue fever; findings partially explain the wide variability in cases, disease kills around 20,000 people annually

Researchers discover switching on a single dormant gene enables mice to regrow ear tissue; discovery may lead to treatments for a variety of degenerative diseases

Business & Markets

US stock markets close up (S&P 500 +0.5%, Dow +0.6%, Nasdaq +0.5%)

DOJ lets Hewlett Packard Enterprise buy Juniper Networks for \$14B, boosting both tech firms' shares

Home Depot to buy building-products distributor GMS for about \$4.3B in bid to attract more home-building professionals

Joby Aviation shares climb 11.8% after delivering first flying air taxi to the UAE, with plans for 2026 regional launch

Saudi Arabia sovereign wealth fund's annual profits fall 60% due partly to high interest rates and inflation

Robinhood to offer tokenized US stocks and exchange-traded funds in Europe, sending shares to record high

Oracle shares up 4% after revealing \$30B in cloud deals

Politics & World Affairs

Bryan Kohberger to plead guilty to fatally stabbing four University of Idaho students in 2022; hearing scheduled for tomorrow

Police identify 20-year-old suspect in the ambush and killing of two firefighters in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, Sunday; police have not publicly identified a motive as of this writing

Senate debates amendments to President Donald Trump's domestic policy bill in hourslong process known as vote-a-rama

Department of Health and Human Services finds Harvard University in violation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act over allegations of antisemitism

Trump signs executive order ending US sanctions on Syria

Justice Department sues Los Angeles over sanctuary city policy.

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Groton City Council Meeting Agenda

July 1, 2025 – 7:00pm
City Hall – 120 N Main Street

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

1. Approval of Agenda
2. Public Comments - pursuant to SDCL 1-25-1
(Public Comments will offer the opportunity for anyone not listed on the agenda to speak to the council. Speaking time will be limited to 3 minutes. No action will be taken on questions or items not on the agenda.)
3. Senior Citizen Meals – Marla Kiesz
4. Department Reports
5. Authorization to Bid Electric Metering System
6. Authorization to Surplus 1982 International S1900 Truck and Establish Bid Opening Date
7. Establish Bid Opening Date for 2017 Ford Interceptor SUV
8. Approval of Special Event Liquor Licenses for Groton Amateur Baseball on July 15 and July 20, 2025
9. Approval of Special Event Liquor License for Celebration in the Park on August 2, 2025
10. Soccer Gates
11. Transfer of Property at 105 N 3rd Street to Groton Development Corporation
12. Appoint Banks – Dacotah Bank & SD FIT
13. Appoint Newspaper – The Groton Independent
14. Minutes
15. Bills
16. City Offices Closed on July 4, 2025, for Independence Day
17. Executive session personnel & legal 1-25-2 (1) & (3)
18. Adjournment

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BROWN COUNTY COMMISSION AGENDA GENERAL MEETING

TUESDAY, JULY 1, 2025, 8:45 A.M.

COMMISSIONER'S CHAMBERS

COURTHOUSE ANNEX - 25 MARKET STREET, ABERDEEN SD

1. Call To Order - Pledge of Allegiance
2. Approval of the Agenda
3. Opportunity for Public Comment
 - ❖ *Public comment will be limited to 10 minutes or at Boards Discretion. Presentations will be limited to 3 minutes.*
4. Jessi Paysen & Jodi Hepperle, Avera Addiction Care Center
 - a. 2026 Budget Request and Update on Program/Services
5. Request to Remove Lien from Property
6. Public Hearing for SPURS Therapeutic Riding Center Temporary Alcohol Permit for Special Event
7. Discuss Girl Scout Camp Contract and Lease Agreement
8. Approve Fireworks Permit/Authorize Chairman to sign for Richmond Lake Association to be held on July 3, 2025
9. Second Reading/Possible Adoption of the following Ordinances:
 - a. Ord. #299 – Jeff Brockel/Jacob Palmer – Rezone
 - b. Ord. #300 – Darian & Kimberly Browning – Rezone
 - c. Ord. #301 – Edward Price for Braun Family – Rezone
 - d. Ord. #302 – Amendment to Title 4 – Wind Energy System
 - e. Ord. #303 – Amendment to Title 4 – Data Centers
10. Consent Calendar
 - a. Approval of General Meeting Minutes for June 24, 2025
 - b. Claims/Payroll
 - c. HR Report
 - d. LEMPG Grant 3rd Qtr. Report
 - e. Travel Request
11. Other Business
12. Executive Session (if requested per SDCL 1-25-2)
13. Adjourn

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

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

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

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

2026 Budget Work Session following the Commission Meeting

Gov. Rhoden's Bill to Address Property Taxes Will Takes Effect

PIERRE, S.D. – Today, Governor Larry Rhoden's bill to address the rising burden of property taxes on South Dakota homeowners, SB 216, will take effect.

"SB 216 is a big win for South Dakota homeowners. It is impactful and workable, and it will certainly slow down any future tax increases," said Governor Larry Rhoden. "I am grateful for the legislators who worked with me and engaged in meaningful discussions along the way. Everyone pulled their weight in order to get this important bill passed."

SB 216 addresses the property tax burden on homeowners in the following ways:

Limits the increase in owner-occupied assessments to 3% countywide for the next 5 tax years;

Sets a 3% cap on the amount taxing districts and school capital outlay budgets can increase as a result of new construction – local government budgets don't need to grow just because a homeowner makes a small improvement to their property; and

Increases the maximum income limits for the assessment freeze program to \$55,000 for single member homes and \$65,000 for multi-member homes – the bill also increases the maximum eligible home value to \$500,000.

Governor Rhoden signed SB 216 at a signing ceremony in the Capitol Rotunda. You can find a photo of the signing [here](#).

Governor Rhoden also recently announced his Homeowner Tax Relief Proposal, which would further reduce the burden of property taxes.

"SB 216 was an important step forward, but we are not done bringing property tax relief to South Dakotans," continued Governor Larry Rhoden. "The best way to do that is through my proposal, which would give counties the option to cut property taxes and replace the revenue with a county-option sales tax. This proposal would allow out-of-state residents to pick up some of the tab, and I am confident that it will provide a meaningful property tax cut."

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Runs Hard To Come By In Groton Legion Post 39 Win over W.I.N.

By GameChanger Media

Both teams were strong on the hill on Monday, but Groton Legion Post 39 defeated W.I.N. Legion 2-1. Nick Morris started the game for Groton Legion Post 39 and recorded 21 outs.

Groton Legion Post 39 were the first to get on the board in the first when Braxton Imrie singled, scoring one run.

Mac Heinz grounded into a fielder's choice, which helped W.I.N. Legion tie the game at one in the bottom of the second.

A ground out by Logan Fischbach gave W.I.N. Legion the lead, 2-1, in the bottom of the fourth.

W.I.N. Legion committed an error, which helped Groton Legion Post 39 tie the game at two in the top of the sixth.

Morris earned the win for Groton Legion Post 39. The starting pitcher surrendered three hits and two runs (one earned) over seven innings, striking out two and walking one. Devon Fischbach took the loss for W.I.N. Legion. The pitcher went seven innings, surrendering two runs (one earned) on four hits, striking out three and walking five.

Imrie led Groton Legion Post 39 with one run batted in. The right fielder went 1-for-4 on the day. Imrie, Brevin Fliehs, Jarrett Erdmann, and Korbin Kucker each collected one hit for Groton Legion Post 39.

Chays Mansfield, Fischbach, and Beckett Halvorson each collected one hit for W.I.N. Legion. Heinz led the team with one run batted in.

Next up for Groton Legion Post 39 is a game against Big Stone City on Wednesday.

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Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion Beat W.I.N.

By GameChanger Media

Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion were triumphant over W.I.N. 6-4 on Monday.

Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion got on the board in the top of the first inning after Ethan Kroll singled, scoring two runs, and Jordan Schwan drew a walk, scoring one run.

W.I.N. took the lead, 4-3, in the bottom of the fourth thanks to singles by Mac Heinz, Alec Mikkelsen, and Logan Fischbach.

Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion jumped back into the lead in the top of the fifth inning after W.I.N. committed an error, Kroll singled down the left field line, and Schwan hit a sacrifice fly, each scoring one run.

Braeden Fliehs earned the win for Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion. The reliever surrendered five hits and two runs over one and two-thirds innings, striking out one and walking none. Jacob Schmitt took the loss for W.I.N.. The starter went five innings, surrendering six runs (two earned) on five hits, striking out nine and walking six. Alex Abeln led things off on the mound for Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion. The starting pitcher surrendered zero hits and zero runs over two innings, striking out four and walking none. Isaiah Scepaniak appeared in relief for Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion.

Kroll drove the middle of the lineup, leading Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion with three runs batted in. The second baseman went 2-for-3 on the day. Schwan led Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion with two walks. Overall, the team had a strong eye at the plate, amassing six walks for the game.

Mikkelsen went 2-for-2 at the plate to lead W.I.N. in hits. Rayne Mansfield, Heinz, Fischbach, and Mikkelsen each drove in one run for W.I.N..

Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion welcome Big Stone City on Wednesday for their next game.

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Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion 6 - 4 W.I.N.

📍 Away 📅 Monday June 30, 2025

	1	2	3	4	5	R	H	E
GRTN	3	0	0	0	3	6	5	1
W..N	0	0	1	3	0	4	7	4

BATTING

Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
L Krause #2 (C)	3	0	0	0	0	1
A Abeln #5 (P)	2	2	1	0	1	0
I Scepan... #20 (P)	1	0	0	0	0	1
N Groeb... #13 (1B)	1	1	0	0	1	1
B Fliehs #19 (1B)	0	1	0	0	1	0
T Schuster #3 (SS)	2	2	1	0	1	0
E Kroll #14 (2B)	3	0	2	3	0	0
R Schelle #8 (3B)	2	0	0	0	0	2
J Schwan #11 (CF)	0	0	0	1	2	0
T McGan... #22 (LF)	3	0	0	0	0	3
X Ellene... #21 (RF)	1	0	0	0	0	1
K Antonsen #7	0	0	0	0	0	0
K Oswald #12 (RF)	1	0	1	0	0	0
Totals	19	6	5	4	6	9

TB: K Oswald, A Abeln, E Kroll 2, T Schuster, **SF:** J Schwan, **CS:** K Oswald, **SB:** T Schuster, **LOB:** 5

PITCHING

Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion	IP	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
A Abeln #5	2.0	0	0	0	4	0
I Scepaniak #20	1.1	2	2	2	1	0
B Fliehs #19	1.2	5	2	2	0	0
Totals	5.0	7	4	4	6	0

W: B Fliehs, **P-S:** I Scepaniak 33-16, B Fliehs 32-21, A Abeln 33-19, **WP:** I Scepaniak, **HBP:** A Abeln, **BF:** I Scepaniak 7, B Fliehs 9, A Abeln 8

W.I.N.	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
M Heinz (SS)	3	1	1	1	0	0
J Schmitt (P)	3	0	1	0	0	1
B Halvorson (2B)	0	0	0	0	0	0
A Mikk... #23 (2B)	2	1	2	1	0	0
L Fischba... #11 (1B)	2	0	1	1	1	0
R Mansfield #8	3	0	1	1	0	1
L Kroll (LF)	2	1	0	0	1	1
Huetl (CF)	3	0	0	0	0	1
#60 (RF)	3	1	1	0	0	2
Totals	21	4	7	4	2	6

2B: R Mansfield, #60, **TB:** R Mansfield 2, J Schmitt, L Fischbach, #60 2, M Heinz, A Mikkelsen 2, **CS:** J Schmitt, L Fischbach, **HBP:** B Halvorson, **SB:** A Mikkelsen, L Kroll, **LOB:** 5

W.I.N.	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
J Schmitt	5.0	5	6	2	6	9	0
Totals	5.0	5	6	2	6	9	0

L: J Schmitt, **P-S:** J Schmitt 111-60, **WP:** J Schmitt, **BF:** J Schmitt 26



SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

Saying it's time for a 'new chapter,' Dusty Johnson announces his campaign for governor

BY: JOSHUA HAIAR - JUNE 30, 2025 11:47 AM

SIOUX FALLS — Framing the 2026 governor's race as a turning point for South Dakota, a supporter of Republican U.S. Rep. Dusty Johnson said Monday that the state is at a "sincere crossroads."

Will Mortenson, a Republican state legislator from Fort Pierre, introduced Johnson at a campaign launch event in Sioux Falls by saying he had never seen a governor's race "where the gap between the candidates is so wide."

"Theirs is a dangerous path that leads to a dark place for South Dakota," Mortenson said of other candidates, "but there's good news, because there is a better way and it's led by the right man."

During his campaign kickoff speech at the Canopy by Hilton hotel, Johnson emphasized unity and optimism over what he described as fear-driven politics.

"Aren't you tired of the fear and anger from small minds with small visions?" Johnson said to a hotel ballroom filled with enthusiastic supporters. "Ladies and gentlemen, President Trump talks about this as the golden age of America; South Dakota needs an energy and optimism to meet that moment."

In a press release, Johnson said South Dakota needs a "new chapter" that "drives South Dakota to a brighter future where we build better schools and safer communities, a chapter that governs with conservative principles to create new jobs, new businesses, and new opportunities in every community, and a chapter where being a workhorse, not a show horse, still means something."

Gov. Kristi Noem resigned earlier this year to become secretary of the Department of Homeland Security in President Donald Trump's administration. Her lieutenant governor, Larry Rhoden, succeeded her and is serving the remainder of her term through next year. Rhoden has not announced whether he will be a candidate to keep the job.

Two other men have already declared their candidacy for the Republican nomination for governor: state



U.S. Rep. Dusty Johnson, R-South Dakota, announces his 2026 campaign for governor during an event on June 30, 2025, at the David Lust Accelerator Building in Rapid City. (Seth Tupper/South Dakota Searchlight)

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House Speaker Jon Hansen and Aberdeen businessman Toby Doeden. Republican voters will pick their nominee in the June 2, 2026, primary election.

In a statement to South Dakota Searchlight, Hansen responded to Johnson's announcement, saying Hansen and his running mate, state Rep. Karla Lems, R-Canton, are "proven, conservative fighters."

"The more people see the battles we've won defending life, liberty and property rights, the more they will stand with us in the fight," Hansen said.

Doeden did not immediately respond to a request for comment. The Dakota First Action political action committee, which lists Doeden as its chairman, issued a statement accusing Johnson of being insufficiently supportive of President Donald Trump.

Meanwhile, 19-year-old college student Robert Arnold has announced his intention to seek the Democratic Party's nomination for governor.

Johnson's announcement was a formality after he was widely rumored to be a candidate and said last week that he planned to make a political announcement Monday.

The 48-year-old is a Republican and married father of three from Mitchell. He is serving his fourth term as South Dakota's lone member of the U.S. House of Representatives.

He previously worked as an executive of Mitchell-based telecommunications company Vantage Point Solutions from 2014 to 2018, as chief of staff to then-Gov. Dennis Daugaard from 2011 to 2014, and as an elected member of the state Public Utilities Commission from 2004 to 2011.

Johnson's decision to run for governor will open up his seat in the U.S. House. Last week, Republican state Attorney General Marty Jackley said he plans to seek that office next year, which will create an open race next year for attorney general.

Johnson led Rhoden in an April poll of registered Republicans with 28% support versus Rhoden's 27%, followed by 18% for Jackley (who had not yet announced his candidacy for Congress), 4% for Doeden, 2% for Hansen and 20% undecided. Johnson has a large head start in fundraising, with more than \$6 million of total money spread among his federal campaign committee and several federal or state political action committees.

Other major offices up for election next year in South Dakota include the U.S. Senate seat held by Republican Mike Rounds, who is expected to seek reelection. Democratic businessman and former state trooper Julian Beaudion is seeking his party's nomination to challenge Rounds. Brian Bengs, who ran unsuccessfully as a Democrat against U.S. Sen. John Thune in 2022, has said he will run as an independent next year against Rounds.

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

Former governor makes an endorsement, but not for the ticket that could include his son-in-law

BY: JOSHUA HAIAR - JUNE 30, 2025 4:23 PM

Republican former South Dakota Gov. Dennis Daugaard made an endorsement Monday in next year's race for governor, but not for the ticket that could include his son-in-law.

Daugaard endorsed U.S. Rep. Dusty Johnson, who is seeking the Republican gubernatorial nomination. Johnson's possible opponents for the nomination include current Gov. Larry Rhoden, whose lieutenant governor is Tony Venhuizen. Daugaard is Venhuizen's father-in-law.

Rhoden was the lieutenant governor for Kristi Noem, and he's serving the remainder of her term after she left in January to lead the federal Department of Homeland Security. Rhoden picked Venhuizen, who was a state legislator, as his lieutenant governor.

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Rhoden has not yet announced whether he will run for his own term as governor next year, or whether Venhuizen would be his running mate. Venhuizen declined to comment Monday when contacted by South Dakota Searchlight.

Following Daugaard's attendance at Johnson's campaign event Monday in Sioux Falls, Daugaard told South Dakota Searchlight that his endorsement honors a promise he made previously to Johnson.

"I think when you say you are going to do something, you should do it," Daugaard said, adding he doesn't know what Rhoden is going to do. Daugaard described Rhoden as a friend and an honorable public servant.

Johnson and Venhuizen each served stints as Daugaard's chief of staff — Johnson from 2011 to 2014, and Venhuizen from 2014 to 2019.

At Johnson's Monday campaign event, Daugaard described Johnson as a bridge-builder and problem-solver. "As my chief of staff, Dusty helped me cut \$127 million from our state budget to get it back to balance," Daugaard said, "without raising taxes and without cutting vital services, either, but by doing what great leaders do: getting people together, and finding consensus about ways the work can be done. And listening to different perspectives — always putting South Dakota first."

Daugaard has also frequently praised his son-in-law, including when Venhuizen was chosen as lieutenant governor in January. At the time, Daugaard said he was "very proud" of Venhuizen.

"He will be a great help to Governor Rhoden," Daugaard said then. "I know they'll be complimentary to each other, and I couldn't be happier for Tony."

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



Former South Dakota Gov. Dennis Daugaard endorses U.S. Rep. Dusty Johnson's 2026 run for governor on June 30, 2025, in Sioux Falls. (Joshua Haiar/South Dakota Searchlight)

US Senate kicks off vote-a-rama on massive tax and spending cut bill

BY: JENNIFER SHUTT - JUNE 30, 2025 1:44 PM



Senate Majority Leader John Thune, R-S.D., speaks to reporters as returns to his office from the Senate chamber at the U.S. Capitol Building on June 30, 2025 in Washington, D.C. (Photo by

Andrew Harnik/Getty Images)

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Senate launched a marathon amendment voting session Monday during which lawmakers will debate dozens of proposals from Republicans and Democrats that could significantly reshape the “big, beautiful bill” even as a final vote nears.

The vote-a-rama is expected to last throughout Monday and potentially into Tuesday, challenging senators who aren’t accustomed to having to stay on the floor for all hours of the day and night. At the end, the Senate will vote on final passage and if the tax and spending cut bill is successful it will be taken up next in the House, possibly as soon as Wednesday morning.

The first big debate and vote Monday centered around Republicans’ decision to use cur-

rent policy instead of current law to determine the bill’s fiscal impacts.

Congress has long used current law to determine how much legislation will add or subtract from annual deficits, especially when it comes to the budget reconciliation process that is being used for this bill.

But since Republicans’ 2017 tax law was set to expire at the end of the year, using the current law baseline showed significantly higher deficits than using current policy — which could prove to be a political problem.

The debate, wonky even for the Senate, could have ripple effects in the future, especially if Democrats ever get unified control of government and use the change in process that GOP lawmakers set this time around for their own policy goals.

Budget Chairman Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., said during brief debate before the vote that using current policy would allow the GOP to make many of the tax levels in the 2017 law permanent, instead of having to sunset them to comply with reconciliation rules.

“What I’m trying to do, and I’m very happy about it, is to make sure the tax cuts don’t expire 10 years from now,” Graham said.

Reconciliation bills cannot increase the deficit after the 10-year budget window ends.

Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer of New York spoke out against using current policy over current law, rebuking his Republican colleagues, though his arguments were ultimately unsuccessful.

“Republicans are doing something the Senate has never done before — deploying fake math, accounting gimmicks to hide the true cost of the bill,” Schumer said. “Look, Republicans can use whatever budgetary gimmicks they want to try to make the math work on paper but you can’t paper over the real-life economic consequences of adding tens of trillions to the debt.”

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The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office released its current law score of the bill on Sunday, showing the legislation would add \$3.253 trillion to deficits during the next decade.

Senators voted 53-47 along party lines against overruling Graham's decision to use current policy.

Narrow majority

Senators spent the next few hours debating Democratic changes to the bill that would have addressed Medicaid and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. But no Democratic proposals had been adopted as of Monday afternoon and Republicans had yet to start voting on their own amendments.

Once both sides exhaust themselves, the Senate will move on to a final passage vote. With a narrow 53-seat majority, GOP leaders can only afford to lose three members and still have the bill pass with Vice President JD Vance breaking the tie.

Two Republican senators — Thom Tillis of North Carolina and Rand Paul of Kentucky — already indicated they'll oppose the bill when they voted against advancing it late Saturday night. Altering the bill could cause issues for other senators, making the entire process a headache for GOP leadership.

Senate Majority Leader John Thune, R-S.D., said during a floor speech that the core of the sweeping package is focused on avoiding a cliff created when Republicans approved lower tax rates during President Donald Trump's first term.

"This is about extending that tax relief so the same people that benefited from it back in 2017 and for the last eight years don't end up having a colossal, massive tax increase hitting them in the face come January 1," Thune said.

Schumer sharply criticized the policy changes and spending cuts in the mega-bill, saying they would lead to fewer people being able to access safety-net programs, like Medicaid, which provides health insurance coverage for low-income people and some people with disabilities, and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, which provides food assistance for low-income people.

"How can any senator go home and tell their constituents, 'I'm sorry, I took away your health care because I wanted to give tax breaks to billionaires?'" Schumer said. "And yet Republicans are dead set on walking off a cliff by passing a bill they know will be ruinous to their own constituents."

'Wraparound amendment'

Depending on how popular an amendment is and exactly what aspects of the legislation it seeks to change, it could increase or decrease the number of GOP senators willing to vote for the final version of the bill.

Republican leaders will want to fend off all Democratic amendments, though if some do get added, Thune can use a procedural tactic called a "wraparound amendment" at the end to cut any problematic changes by wiping out Democratic amendments with a majority vote.

In addition to providing an opportunity for senators to debate nitty gritty policy details, the vote-a-rama serves a political purpose for Democrats, who will try to get at-risk senators to take votes that can then be used during the midterm elections to try to sway voters.

Those amendments will mostly focus on Maine's Susan Collins after North Carolina's Tillis announced his retirement Sunday.

While Democrats have more incentive for so-called "gotcha amendments" since they're trying to flip the Senate from red to blue, GOP leaders may also bring up amendments challenging vulnerable Democratic senators, like Georgia's Jon Ossoff.

And since the opportunity to put up as many amendments as a senator pleases is rare, both Democrats and Republicans may have an eye on purple-state lawmakers up for reelection in 2028.

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

Kristi Noem secretly took a cut of political donations

A dark money group paid \$80,000 to Noem's personal company when she was governor of South Dakota. She did not include this income on her federal disclosure forms, a likely violation of ethics requirements, experts say.

BY: JUSTIN ELLIOTT, JOSHUA KAPLAN AND ALEX MIERJESKI - JUNE 30, 2025 10:37 AM



South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem delivers her 2025 State of the State address to lawmakers at the Capitol in Pierre on Jan. 14, 2025. (Joshua Haiar/South Dakota Searchlight)

This story was originally published by ProPublica, a Pulitzer Prize-winning investigative newsroom.

In 2023, while Kristi Noem was governor of South Dakota, she supplemented her income by secretly accepting a cut of the money she raised for a nonprofit that promotes her political career, tax records show.

In what experts described as a highly unusual arrangement, the nonprofit routed funds to a personal company of Noem's that had recently been established in Delaware. The payment totaled \$80,000 that year, a significant boost to her roughly \$130,000 government salary. Since the nonprofit is a so-called dark money group — one that's not required to disclose the names of its donors — the original source of the money remains unknown.

Noem then failed to disclose the \$80,000 payment to the public. After President Donald Trump selected Noem to be his secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, she had to release a detailed accounting of her assets and sources of income from 2023 on. She did not include the income from the dark money group on her disclosure form, which experts called a likely violation of federal ethics requirements.

Experts told ProPublica it was troubling that Noem was personally taking money that came from political donors. In a filing, the group, a nonprofit called American Resolve Policy Fund, described the \$80,000 as a payment for fundraising. The organization said Noem had brought in hundreds of thousands of dollars.

There is nothing remarkable about a politician raising money for nonprofits and other groups that promote their campaigns or agendas. What's unusual, experts said, is for a politician to keep some of the money for themselves.

"If donors to these nonprofits are not just holding the keys to an elected official's political future but also literally providing them with their income, that's new and disturbing," said Daniel Weiner, a former Federal Election Commission attorney who now leads the Brennan Center's work on campaign finance.

ProPublica discovered details of the payment in the annual tax form of American Resolve Policy Fund, which is part of a network of political groups that promote Noem and her agenda. The nonprofit describes its mission as "fighting to preserve America for the next generation." There's little evidence in the public domain that the group has done much. In its first year, its main expenditures were paying Noem and covering the cost of some unspecified travel. It also maintains social media accounts devoted to promoting Noem. It has 100 followers on X.

In a statement, Noem's lawyer, Trevor Stanley, said, "Then-Governor Noem fully complied with the letter and the spirit of the law" and that the Office of Government Ethics, which processes disclosure forms for federal officials, "analyzed and cleared her financial information in regards to this entity." Stanley did not respond to follow-up questions about whether the ethics office was aware of the \$80,000 payment.

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Stanley also said that "Secretary Noem fully disclosed all of her income on public documents that are readily available." Asked for evidence of that, given that Noem didn't report the \$80,000 payment on her federal financial disclosure form, Stanley did not respond.

Before being named Homeland Security secretary, overseeing immigration enforcement, Noem spent two decades in South Dakota's government and the U.S. House of Representatives, drawing a public servant's salary. Her husband, Bryon Noem, runs a small insurance brokerage with two offices in the state. Between his company and his real estate holdings, he has at least \$2 million in assets, according to Noem's filing.

While she is among the least wealthy members of Trump's Cabinet, her personal spending habits have attracted notice. Noem was photographed wearing a gold Rolex Cosmograph Daytona watch that costs nearly \$50,000 as she toured the Salvadoran prison where her agency is sending immigrants. In April, after her purse was stolen at a Washington, D.C., restaurant, it emerged she was carrying \$3,000 in cash, which an official said was for "dinner, activities, and Easter gifts." She was criticized for using taxpayer money as governor to pay for expenses related to trips to Paris, to Canada for bear hunting and to Houston to have dental work done. At the time, Noem denied misusing public funds.

Noem's personal company, an LLC called Ashwood Strategies, shares a name with one of her horses. It was registered in Delaware early in her second term as South Dakota governor, around 1 p.m. on June 22, 2023. Four minutes later, the nonprofit American Resolve Policy Fund was incorporated in Delaware too.

American Resolve raised \$1.1 million in 2023, according to its tax filing. The group reported that it had zero employees, and what it did with that money is largely unclear.

In 2023, the nonprofit spent only about \$220,000 of its war chest — with more than a third of that going to Noem's LLC. The rest mostly went toward administrative expenses and a roughly \$84,000 travel budget. It's not clear whose travel the group paid for.

The nonprofit reported that it sent the \$80,000 fundraising fee to Noem's LLC as payment for bringing in \$800,000, a 10% cut. A professional fundraiser who also raised money for the group was paid a lower rate of 7%.

In the intervening years, American Resolve has maintained a low public profile. In March, it purchased Facebook ads attacking a local news outlet in South Dakota, which had been reporting on Noem's use of government credit cards. Noem's lawyer did not answer questions about whether the group paid her more money after 2023, the most recent year for which its tax filing is available.

The nonprofit has an affiliated political committee, American Resolve PAC, that's been more active, at least in public. Touting Noem's conservative leadership under a picture of her staring off into the sky, its website said the PAC was created to put "Kristi and her team on the ground in key races across America." Noem traveled the country last year attending events the PAC sponsored in support of Republican candidates.

American Resolve's treasurer referred questions to Noem's lawyer. In his statement, Noem's lawyer said she "did not establish, finance, maintain, or control American Resolve Fund. She was simply a vender for a non-profit entity."

While Noem failed to report the fundraising income Ashwood Strategies received on her federal financial disclosure, she did provide some other details. She described the LLC as involving "personal activities outside my official gubernatorial capacity" and noted that it received the \$140,000 advance for her book "No Going Back." The LLC also had a bank account with between \$100,001 and \$250,000 in it and at least \$50,000 of "livestock and equipment," she reported.

The fact that Ashwood Strategies is Noem's company only emerged through the confirmation process for her Trump Cabinet post. South Dakota has minimal disclosure rules for elected officials, and Noem had not previously divulged that she created a side business while she was governor.

Noem's outside income may have run afoul of South Dakota law, according to Lee Schoenbeck, a veteran Republican politician and attorney who was until recently the head of the state Senate. The law requires top officials, including the governor, to devote their full time to their official roles.

"There's no way the governor is supposed to have a private side business that the public doesn't know about," Schoenbeck told ProPublica. "It would clearly not be appropriate."

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Noem's lawyer said South Dakota law allowed her to receive income from the nonprofit.

Justin Elliott reports on money and power for ProPublica. He's currently focused on the second Trump administration, but is always looking for under-covered business and politics stories.

Joshua Kaplan, of ProPublica, covers powerful institutions and the people who are seeking to influence them, with a focus on the federal government. He's drawn to topics where he believes that in-depth, nuanced reporting has the potential to reshape the public's understanding and to lead to meaningful change.

Alex Mierjeski covers a wide range of stories as a part of ProPublica's national team. He's contributed to investigations of the Supreme Court and the federal judiciary, as well as President Donald Trump's business dealings.

Battles over public lands loom even after sell-off proposal fails

More than 250 million acres could have been sold under a proposal by GOP US Sen. Mike Lee of Utah

BY: ALEX BROWN - JUNE 30, 2025 9:47 AM

Hunters, hikers and outdoors lovers of all stripes mounted a campaign this month against a Republican proposal to sell off millions of acres of federal public land.

The public outcry was so forceful that the measure's sponsor pledged to scale back the proposal. Then on Saturday, before an initial U.S. Senate vote on Republicans' tax and spending cuts package, he withdrew it altogether.

But even though the land sales proposal was defeated, experts say federal lands face a slew of other threats from President Donald Trump's administration. Agency leaders have proposed rolling back the "Roadless Rule" that protects 58 million acres from logging and other uses. Trump's Justice Department has issued a legal opinion that the president is allowed to abolish national monuments.

Regulators have moved to slash environmental rules to ramp up logging and oil and gas production. And Trump's cuts to the federal workforce have gutted the ranks of the agencies that manage federal lands.

"This is not over even if the sell-off proposal doesn't make it," said John Leshy, who served as solicitor for the U.S. Department of the Interior during the Clinton administration. "The whole thing about leasing or selling timber or throwing them open to mining claims, that's a form of partial privatization. It's pretty much a giveaway."

Secretary of the Interior Doug Burgum has repeatedly described public lands as America's "balance sheet." He has argued that some lands could be used to provide housing, while calling for an expansion of mining and oil and gas drilling to increase their economic output.

"President Trump's energy dominance vision will end those wars abroad, will make life more affordable for every family in America by driving down inflation," Burgum said before his confirmation hearing.

Public lands advocates are bracing for ongoing battles for the rest of Trump's term in office. They expect



A June 2024 view across the Black Hills National Forest from Boulder Hill toward Black Elk Peak. (Seth Tupper/South Dakota Searchlight)

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Republicans to add last-minute public lands amendments to other bills moving through Congress, and for land management agencies to attempt to strip protections from other federal lands. Given the vocal backlash to the initial sell-off plan, advocates expect future attempts to be shaped behind closed doors and advanced with little time for opponents to mount a defense.

Meanwhile, they expect states to play a key role in shaping those battles. In Western states, where most federally owned lands are located, many leaders from both parties view public lands as special places open to all Americans and critical for clean water, wildlife and tourism. But some conservatives resent the fact that large portions of their states are managed by officials in Washington, D.C., limiting development and private enterprise.

Officials in some states, including Idaho, Utah and Wyoming, have pushed lawsuits or resolutions seeking to force the feds to hand over huge amounts of land. Public land experts say the lawmakers behind those efforts will likely press harder now that Trump is in the White House. Such state-level takeover attempts could shape the proposals that emerge from Trump's allies in Washington.

Sell-off proposal

The firestorm over federal lands exploded when U.S. Sen. Mike Lee, a Utah Republican, introduced legislation that would force the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management to sell up to 3.3 million acres of land. The measure also would direct the agencies to make more than 250 million additional acres eligible for sale.

"We've never seen a threat on this magnitude ever," said Devin O'Dea, Western policy and conservation manager with Backcountry Hunters & Anglers. "There's been an overwhelming amount of opposition. We've seen record-breaking engagement on this issue."

Lee, a longtime federal lands opponent, claimed the lands were needed for housing and argued the government has been a poor manager of its land.

"Washington has proven time and again it can't manage this land," Lee said earlier this month when announcing the proposal. "This bill puts it in better hands."

But a wide-ranging coalition of opponents argued that the proposal had no protections to ensure the lands would be used for affordable housing, and that many of the parcels eligible for sale had little housing potential. A furious social media campaign highlighted cherished hiking trails, fishing lakes and ski slopes that were in danger of being sold, urging people to call their lawmakers to oppose the measure.

In recent days, Montana Republican U.S. Sens. Steve Daines and Tim Sheehy, as well as Idaho Republican U.S. Sens. Mike Crapo and Jim Risch, came out in opposition to the land sale proposal. That put into question whether Lee's legislation could earn even a simple majority.

Then the Senate parliamentarian ruled the sell-off could not be included in the reconciliation bill without a 60-vote majority. That ruling came a day after Lee posted on social media that he would be making changes to the bill in response to concerns from Hunter Nation, a nonprofit whose board includes Donald Trump Jr.

Lee released a scaled-back measure last week that would exempt national forest lands but would direct the Bureau of Land Management to sell up to 1.2 million acres. It would require land for sale to be within five miles of a population center and developed to provide housing.

Public land advocates say Lee's changes did little to assuage their concerns. They argue that federal land sales or transfers should happen through the current, long-standing process, which requires local stakeholder input and directs the proceeds from land sales to be reinvested into conservation and public access on other parcels.

"It's the overwhelming belief of hunters and anglers that the budget reconciliation process is not the appropriate vehicle for public land sales," said O'Dea, with the hunting and fishing group.

On Saturday evening, Lee announced that he was withdrawing the proposal, saying that Senate rules did not allow him to include protections that land would not be sold to foreign interests. But he pledged to continue the battle over federal land ownership, working with Trump to "put underutilized federal land

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to work for American families.”

States’ role

While the sell-off proposal aligned with some state officials’ goal of taking over federal lands, some lands experts say private developers would have been the real winner.

“If the lands are transferred to the states without money, the states lose,” said Leshy, the former Interior Department official. “It’s a hit on their budget, which means they’re gonna have to sell them off. If states got a significant amount of public lands, a lot of that would end up in private hands.”

In Utah, where leaders have made the most aggressive push to take over federal lands, lawmakers argue that they could raise lease prices for oil and gas operations, bringing in enough revenue to cover the state’s management costs.

“The policy of the state is to keep these lands open and available to the public,” Speaker Mike Schultz, a Republican, told Stateline last month.

O’Dea pointed to an economic analysis of what it would cost Montana to take over federal lands. The report found it would cost the state \$8 billion over 20 years to take on wildfire management, deferred maintenance and mine reclamation. He noted that many Western states have sold off a majority of the “trust lands” they were granted at statehood, undermining claims that a state takeover would leave lands in the public domain.

Other proposals

While Lee’s land sales proposal has gotten the biggest headlines, public land advocates are fighting a multifront battle against the Trump administration’s moves to roll back the protected status of certain lands, slash environmental rules, and expand logging, mining and drilling operations.

“The approach is to throw as much as you can at the wall and see what sticks,” O’Dea said. “There’s only so much you can mobilize opposition to. There’s a huge risk that some of these things could fly under the radar.”

Some conservative states and industry groups say Trump is allowing federal lands to be used to their full economic potential. Alaska Sen. Dan Sullivan, a Republican, said his constituents are “keenly aware of how the federal government’s ownership of 60 percent of Alaska’s lands can inhibit economic development and cause challenges for our communities.”

Leshy noted that public lands have proven to be a popular cause, but Trump’s cuts to the federal workforce could undermine public confidence that the federal government is capable of managing the land.

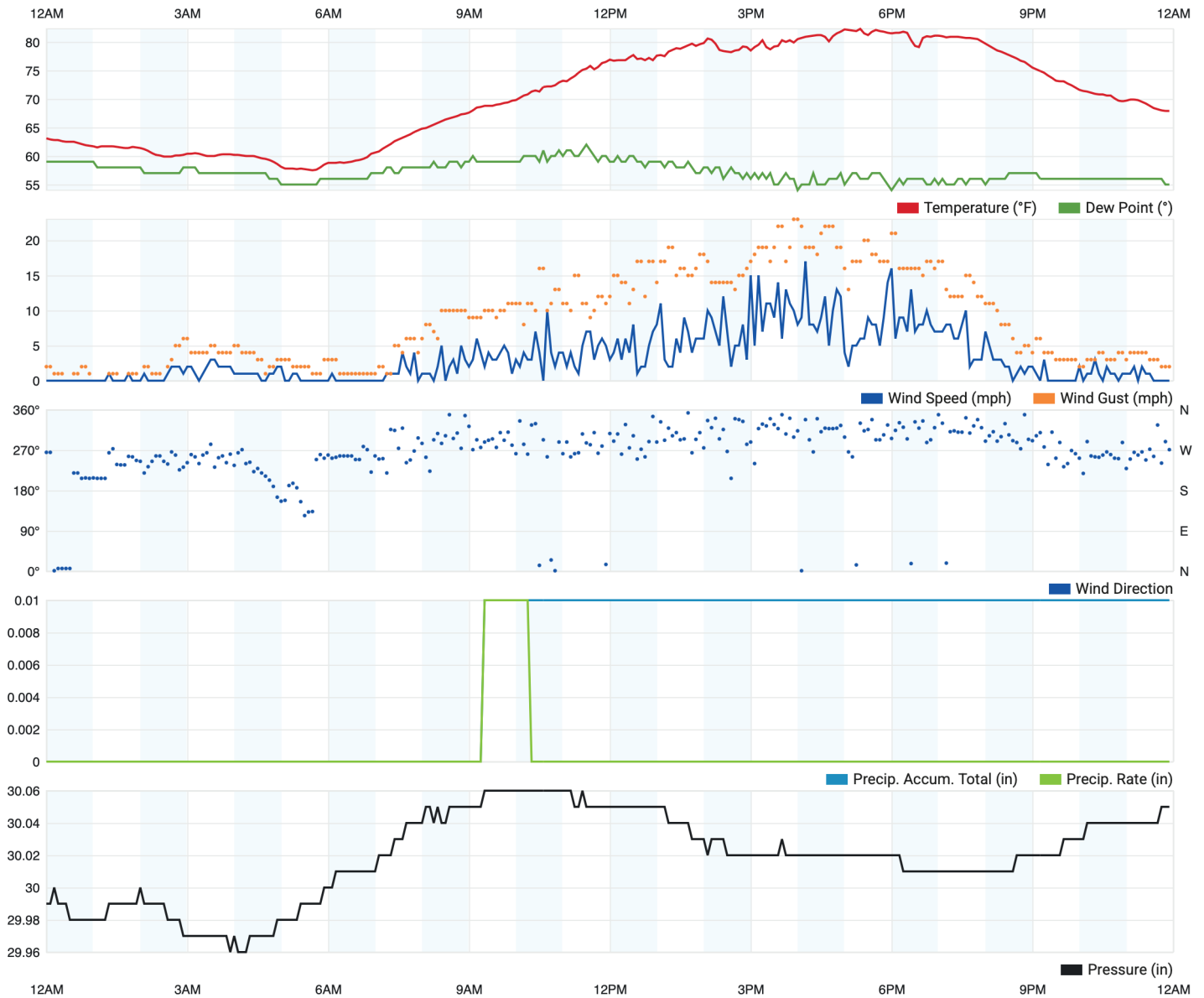
“if you make it terrible for long enough, maybe people say, ‘The feds shouldn’t be managing this, they do such a bad job,’” he said.

Based in Seattle, Alex Brown covers environmental issues for Stateline. Prior to joining Stateline, Brown wrote for The Chronicle in Lewis County, Washington state.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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Today



High: 88 °F

Sunny

Tonight



Low: 62 °F

Chance
T-storms

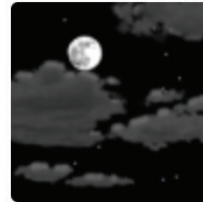
Wednesday



High: 89 °F

Slight Chance
T-storms

Wednesday
Night



Low: 66 °F

Partly Cloudy

Thursday



High: 95 °F

Hot

What's Ahead



NWS Aberdeen, SD
Mon Jun 30, 2025 3:04 PM



TUESDAY

Evening and overnight storms

Highs: 80-90°



WEDNESDAY

Rain and storms through
the day

Highs: 85-97°



THURSDAY

Evening and overnight storms

Highs: 88-95°



FRIDAY

Rain and storms through
the day

Highs: 88-95°

Temperatures and humidity will start to increase through the week. Currently, there is a chance for evening and overnight storms Tuesday and Thursday while Wednesday and Friday have a chance for rain and storms through the day.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 82 °F at 5:21 PM

Heat Index: 82 °F at 5:00 AM

Low Temp: 58 °F at 5:34 AM

Wind: 24 mph at 3:55 PM

Precip: : 0.01

Day length: 15 hours, 39 minutes

Today's Info

Record High: 101 in 1911

Record Low: 41 in 1995

Average High: 84

Average Low: 59

Average Precip in June.: 3.76

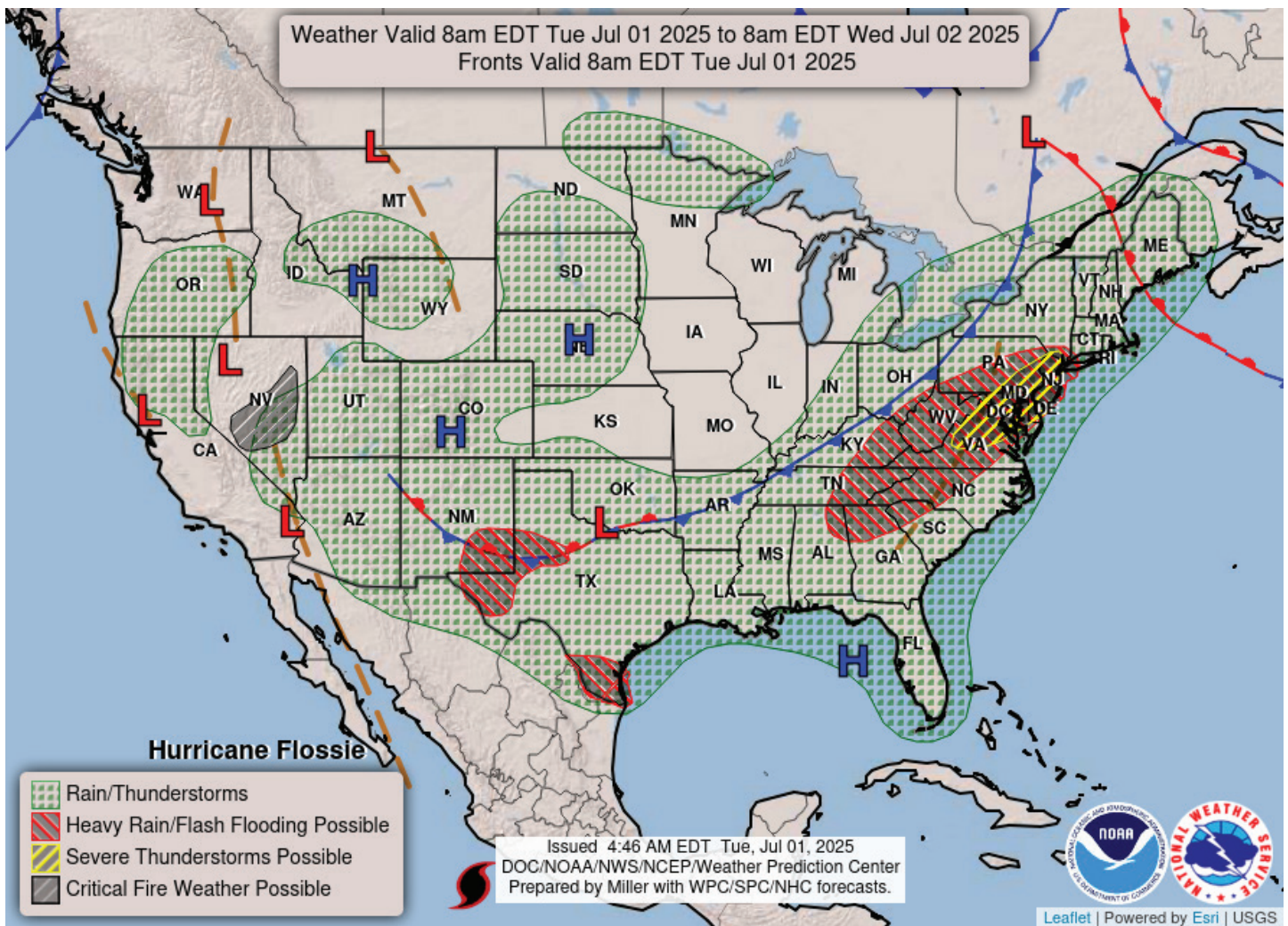
Precip to date in June: 3.31

Average Precip to date: 11.01

Precip Year to Date: 9.36

Sunset Tonight: 9:26:23 pm

Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:47:00 am



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Today in Weather History

July 1, 1928: A powerful, estimated F4 tornado moved southeast from 6 miles west of Miller, Hand County, destroying farms near the start of the path. All buildings were leveled to the ground, including two homes. A checkbook from one residence was found 10 miles away. Estimated property damaged was set at \$50,000.

July 1, 1955: An estimated F2 tornado moved northeast near Bowdle. Two barns were destroyed. A small girl and a pony were reportedly carried a quarter mile without injury. A tornado was also spotted in Emmons County in North Dakota, causing \$10,000 worth of damage.

July 1, 2005: Torrential rains of three to seven inches fell across far eastern Brown, western and northern Day, and most of Marshall Counties in late June causing widespread flooding. The flood waters slowly receded through July 10th. Many township roads and highways were flooded along with thousands of acres of cropland. Water surrounded several homes resulting in people being rescued. Some of the houses were flooded. Many bridges were damaged, and roads and culverts were washed out. In Day County, 30 roads were washed out, and 15 bridges needed repairs.

July 1, 2006: With continued little or no rainfall along with much above average temperatures, a drought expanded and intensified through July across central and north central South Dakota. Severe (D2) to an extreme (D3) drought early in July worsened to an extreme (D3) to exceptional (D4) across all of the areas by the middle of July and remained there until the end of the month. Rainfall was 1.50 inches to 2.25 inches below average for the month and from 7 to 8 inches below average for the year. Soil moisture was 4 to 5 inches below average, and lakes and river flows were well below normal. Crops and pastures were devastated due to the extreme dryness and burn bans were in effect across all of the areas. Many ranchers had to sell off much of their cattle. Throughout July, periodic high winds, low relative humidity values, along with many lightning storms resulted in several fires across central and north central South Dakota. The fires burned tens of thousands of acres of pastureland and cropland. Hundreds of firefighters worked throughout the month to contain the flames. The governor of South Dakota declared a statewide emergency and the United States Department of Agriculture declared all of the counties drought disasters. Swan Lake, in north-central South Dakota between Lowry and Hoven, had completely dried up from the long period of dryness. The last time this happened to the lake was 30 years prior in 1976. Also, Lake Oahe at Pierre was four feet above its all-time low.

1792 - A tremendous storm (a tornado or hurricane) hit Philadelphia and New York City. Many young people were drowned while out boating on that Sunday. (David Ludlum)

1861: Cherrapunji, Meghalaya, India measured 366 inches of rain during the month of July 1861. From August 1, 1860, to July 31, 1861, Cherrapunji received a record-breaking 1,041.75 inches of precipitation.

1911 - The high of just 79 degrees at Phoenix AZ was their coolest daily maximum of record for the month of July. The normal daily high for July 1st is 105 degrees. (The Weather Channel)

1979 - It snowed almost half a foot (5.8 inches) at Stampede Pass WA, a July record. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Lake Charles LA was drenched with a month's worth of rain during the early morning. More than five inches of rain soaked the city, including 2.68 inches in one hour. A thunderstorm in the southern Yakima Valley of Washington State produced high winds which downed trees up to six feet in diameter. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Showers and thunderstorms associated with the low pressure system which was once Tropical Storm Allison continued to drench parts of Mississippi, Louisiana and eastern Texas. Late night thunderstorms produced 12.58 inches of rain at Biloxi, MS, in six hours, and 10.73 inches at Gulfport MS. Flooding in Mississippi over the first six days of the month caused 55 million dollars damage. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

2002: San Antonio, Texas recorded 9.52 inches of rain on this day to set a new record for its greatest rainfall for the entire month of July.

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There's not much "middle ground" when it comes to attitudes about "teachers' pets" in the classroom or for those who are "the bosses' most trusted friends."

If a student has found "special favor" with a teacher or an employee has gained "special recognition" by someone in authority at work, the rest of the class or workforce often resent the attention they receive or the benefits they get. And, why not?

Often there seems to be "secret" or "hidden" paths to such status. How they got there, or what they did to get "rewarded" is not always obvious. At one time it was an "apple" or "box of candy" for the teacher. Perhaps it was a "cup of coffee" to begin the day or a "special gift" on a holiday for "the boss." But the way to gain this status is not published in a student handbook or organization's policy manual.

With God it's very different. He has no favorites. There are no hidden secrets if anyone wants Him to recognize them at any time or from any place. He is always waiting anxiously for us to call on Him. His ears can hear the faintest whisper from the weakest voice.

Solomon gave us some great advice: "A good man obtains favor from the Lord; but the Lord condemns a crafty man."

A "good man" in the "eyes of the Lord" is one who lives to honor God; one who does what he does because he is motivated by God to serve Him and help others. A man who is "crafty" is one who "devises evil" or hides the facts, is not open and honest, nor truthful in his dealings with or service to others.

Want God's favor? Follow Solomon's advice! Honor God, serve others, and be rewarded!

Prayer: Lord, Your instructions for success are always direct, easily understood, though difficult. Give me Your strength to be faithful to Your teachings in all I do. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Today's Scripture: "A good man obtains favor from the Lord; but the Lord condemns a crafty man." Proverbs 12:2

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

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WINNING NUMBERS

MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS: 06.27.25

18 21 29 42 50 2

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$50,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 17 Hrs 25 Mins 24 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS: 06.30.25

5 8 18 32 46 4

All Star Bonus: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$2,500,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 16 Hrs 40 Mins 24 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS: 06.30.25

7 11 26 37 41 17

TOP PRIZE:

\$7,000/week

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 55 Mins 23 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS: 06.28.25

17 20 27 29 30

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$42,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 16 Hrs 55 Mins 23 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS: 06.30.25

4 9 41 42 61 26

TOP PRIZE:

\$10,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 17 Hrs 24 Mins 23 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS: 06.30.25

13 28 44 52 55 6

Power Play: 4x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$174,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 17 Hrs 24 Mins 23 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

US Rep. Dusty Johnson announces he's entering race to become South Dakota governor

By SARAH RAZA Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota's lone member of the U.S. House, Republican Dusty Johnson, announced Monday that he will run for governor next year, potentially facing off against the incumbent governor.

"We have challenges, but our state has the foundation, the work ethic and the values we need to become even better," he said at a Sioux Falls hotel, citing priorities of cutting property taxes, combating drugs and addiction and making college and tech schools more affordable.

Johnson has served as South Dakota's only congressman since 2019, succeeding Kristi Noem's congressional tenure. He will have served eight years in the House at the end of his current term.

He has a largely conservative voting record and opposed the Respect for Marriage Act, which codified the Supreme Court's federal recognition of gay marriage.

However, he sometimes joined a minority of Republicans in voting against President Donald Trump, including when he voted to override Trump's veto of a measure that revoked his declaration of an emergency at the southern border. He was later one of 35 House Republicans who voted to establish a commission to investigate the Jan. 6 Capitol riots.

"The U.S. House can be frustrating, but let's be honest, being governor of South Dakota is going to be frustrating sometimes, too," Johnson said. "That's just the nature of the beast."

"This is not an easy area to serve," he said. "Our country, our state, we face real problems."

He told supporters that U.S. House Speaker Mike Johnson and President Donald Trump look to him "to help bridge the divide of a rowdy and colorful Republican House."

Now the 48-year-old aims to become the first elected governor since Noem, who used her time in Pierre to build a national profile and draw attention to the small-population Midwest state. Noem has since become Trump's secretary of Homeland Security, leaving her position in January which was filled by the current governor, Larry Rhoden.

Johnson is entering what could be a crowded Republican primary next June, competing against state Rep. Jon Hansen, an Aberdeen businessman who championed a landowner movement against a carbon capture pipeline. Johnson may also be challenged by Rhoden, though the latter has not yet announced a gubernatorial campaign. No Democrats have announced plans to run for governor, a post that Republicans have held since 1979.

Rhoden, a rancher who was Noem's lieutenant governor for six years, became governor in January during the state's legislative session. He has been traveling South Dakota visiting towns and businesses and touting economic development, with plans to visit Lemmon on Monday.

South Dakota Attorney General Marty Jackley has announced plans to seek Johnson's congressional seat.

Johnson first entered public office when he was elected to be a public utilities commissioner in 2004 and became the youngest commissioner in the nation at age 28. He later served as chief of staff for South Dakota Gov. Dennis Daugaard.

Court suspends Thailand's Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra to investigate leaked phone call

By JINTAMAS SAKSORNCHAI Associated Press

BANGKOK (AP) — Thailand's Constitutional Court suspended Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra from office Tuesday pending an ethics investigation over a leaked phone call with a senior Cambodian leader.

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The judges voted unanimously Tuesday to take the petition accusing her of a breach of ethics, and voted 7-2 to suspend her from duty as a prime minister. The court gave Paetongtarn 15 days to give evidence to support her case.

Paetongtarn has faced growing dissatisfaction over her handling of the latest border dispute with Cambodia, involving an armed confrontation on May 28 in which one Cambodian soldier was killed. The leaked phone call while she engaged in diplomacy with Cambodian Senate President Hun Sen set off a string of complaints and public protests.

Paetongtarn said after the court order that she would accept the process and would do her best to defend herself, as she had no other intentions but to protect the country and preserve peace.

"I only thought about what to do to avoid troubles, what to do to avoid armed confrontation, for the soldiers not to suffer any loss. I wouldn't be able to accept it if I said something with the other leader that could lead to negative consequences," she said.

She also thanked her supporters and apologized to people upset over the leaked call. She left the Government House shortly after.

Deputy Prime Minister Suriya Jungrungruangkit is expected to become the acting prime minister, although there's been no official confirmation.

Earlier Tuesday, before the court suspended Paetongtarn, King Maha Vajiralongkorn had endorsed a Cabinet reshuffle after a major party left the government coalition over the leaked phone call. The reshuffle had replaced Anutin Charvirakul, leader of the Bhumjaithai Party, as deputy prime minister.

Paetongtarn took the position of culture minister in addition to prime minister in the new Cabinet, though it's still unclear if she can take the oath to remain in that role.

Outrage over the call mostly revolved around Paetongtarn's comments toward an outspoken regional army commander and her perceived attempts to appease Hun Sen to ease border tensions.

Thousands of conservative, nationalist-leaning protesters rallied in central Bangkok on Saturday to demand Paetongtarn's resignation.

Paetongtarn also faces investigations over an alleged breach of ethics by the Office of the National Anti-Corruption Commission, whose decision could also lead to her removal.

Senators behind moves against Paetongtarn and her ministers

The Constitutional Court last year removed her predecessor over a breach of ethics. Thailand's courts, especially the Constitutional Court, are viewed as a bulwark of the royalist establishment, which has used them and nominally independent agencies such as the Election Commission to cripple or sink political opponents.

The complaint against Paetongtarn was filed by a group of senators elected last year to replace the 250 military-appointed members who had served in the upper chamber since 2019. Many of those senators face allegations of rigging the election that saw a majority of seats claimed by figures who are reportedly close to the Bhumjaithai Party.

Some senators also filed complaints against two ministers in Paetongtarn's administration: Justice Minister Tawee Sodsong and Phumtham Wechayachai, a former defense minister who is set to become the new interior minister.

The court accepted a petition on May 14 accusing the two men of abuse of power related to the investigation into the alleged Senate vote rigging. On the same day, the court partially suspended Tawee from overseeing the Department of Special Investigation, which is in charge of the case.

The prime minister is a scion of a powerful family

Paetongtarn, 38, is the youngest daughter of Thaksin Shinawatra, a popular but divisive former prime minister. Her suspension raised the possibility she could suffer a similar downfall to her predecessors in the political dynasty founded by her father.

Paetongtarn is the third Shinawatra to hold the job after her billionaire father and aunt, Yingluck Shinawatra. Both were removed from office and driven into exile following coups in 2006 and 2014.

Thaksin has faced several legal challenges since returning to Thailand in 2023. On Tuesday, he attended a court hearing in a case alleging he defamed the monarchy in 2015 in remarks to journalists in Seoul,

South Korea.

He also is under investigation over his hospital detention after his return to face an eight-year prison term on charges related to corruption and abuse of power.

He was transferred almost immediately to a hospital and later was granted clemency because of his age and health without spending a single night in jail. The complaints argue he avoided properly serving his sentence and raise the possibility Thaksin could be forced to serve prison time.

Senate Republicans seek support for Trump's big bill in overnight session

By LISA MASCARO, MARY CLARE JALONICK and MATT BROWN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate is slogging through a tense overnight session that has dragged into Tuesday, with Republican leaders buying time as they search for ways to secure support for President Donald Trump's big bill of tax breaks and spending cuts while fending off proposed amendments, mostly from Democrats trying to defeat the package.

An endgame was not immediately in sight. Senate Majority Leader John Thune of South Dakota is reaching for a last-minute agreement between those in his party worried the bill's reductions to Medicaid will leave millions without care and his most conservative flank, which wants even steeper cuts to hold down deficits ballooning with the tax cuts.

Thune declared at one point they were in the "homestretch" as he dashed through the halls at the Capitol, only to backtrack a short time later, suggesting any progress was "elusive."

At the same time House Speaker Mike Johnson has signaled more potential problems ahead, warning the Senate package could run into trouble when it is sent back to the House for a final round of voting, as skeptical lawmakers are being called back to Washington ahead of Trump's Fourth of July deadline.

"I have prevailed upon my Senate colleagues to please, please, please keep it as close to the House product as possible," said Johnson, the Louisiana Republican. House Republicans had already passed their version last month.

It's a pivotal moment for the Republicans, who have control of Congress and are racing to wrap up work with just days to go before Trump's holiday deadline Friday. The 940-page "One Big Beautiful Bill Act," as it's formally titled, has consumed Congress as its shared priority with the president.

In a midnight social media post urging them on, Trump called the bill "perhaps the greatest and most important of its kind." Vice President JD Vance summed up his own series of posts, simply imploring senators to "Pass the bill."

The GOP leaders have no room to spare, with narrow majorities in both chambers. Thune can lose no more than three Republican senators, and already two — Sen. Thom Tillis of North Carolina, who warns people will lose access to Medicaid health care, and Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky, who opposes raising the debt limit — have indicated opposition.

Attention quickly turned to key senators, Lisa Murkowski of Alaska and Susan Collins of Maine, who have also raised concerns about health care cuts, but also a loose coalition of four conservative GOP senators pushing for even steeper reductions.

Murkowski in particular was the subject of the GOP leadership's attention, as Thune and others sat beside her in conversation. Then Paul drew eyes after he returned from a visit to Thune's office.

And on social media, billionaire Elon Musk was again lashing out at Republicans as "the PORKY PIG PARTY!!!" for including a provision that would raise the nation's debt limit by \$5 trillion, which is needed to allow continued borrowing to pay the bills.

Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer of New York said his side was working to show "how awful this is."

"Republicans are in shambles because they know the bill is so unpopular," Schumer said as he walked the halls.

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A new analysis from the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office found 11.8 million more Americans would become uninsured by 2034 if the bill became law. The CBO said the package would increase the deficit by nearly \$3.3 trillion over the decade.

Senators to watch

Few Republicans appear fully satisfied as the final package emerges, in either the House or Senate.

Tillis said it is a betrayal of the president's promises not to kick people off health care, especially if rural hospitals close.

Collins had proposed bolstering the \$25 billion proposed rural hospital fund to \$50 billion, but her amendment failed. And Murkowski was trying to secure provisions to spare people in her state from some health care and food stamp cuts while also working to beef up federal reimbursements to Alaska's hospitals. They have not said how they would vote for the final package.

"Radio silence," Murkowski said when asked.

At the same time, conservative Senate Republicans proposing steeper health care cuts, including Rick Scott of Florida, Mike Lee of Utah, Ron Johnson of Wisconsin and Cynthia Lummis of Wyoming, filed into Thune's office for a near-midnight meeting.

The Senate has spent some 18 hours churning through more than two dozen amendments in what is called a vote-a-rama, a typically laborious process that went on longer than usual as negotiations happen on and off the chamber floor. The White House legislative team also was at the Capitol.

A few of the amendments — to strike parts of the bill that would limit Medicaid funds to rural hospitals or shift the costs of food stamp benefits to the states — were winning support from a few Republicans, though almost none were passing.

One amendment was overwhelmingly approved. It would strip a provision barring states from regulating artificial intelligence if they receive certain federal funding. It was approved 99-1.

What's in the big bill

All told, the Senate bill includes \$4.5 trillion in tax cuts, according to the latest CBO analysis, 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 of dollars in green energy tax credits, which Democrats warn will wipe out wind and solar investments nationwide. It would impose \$1.2 trillion in cuts, largely to Medicaid and food stamps, by imposing work requirements on able-bodied people, including some parents and older Americans, making sign-up eligibility more stringent and changing federal reimbursements to states.

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.

Democrats fighting all day and night

Unable to stop the march toward passage, the Democrats as the minority party in Congress are using the tools at their disposal to delay and drag out the process.

Democrats forced a full reading of the text, which took 16 hours, and they have a stream of amendments.

Sen. Patty Murray of Washington, the ranking Democrat on the Appropriations Committee, raised particular concern at the start of debate late Sunday 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.

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

Greenland has a message for the rest of the world: Come visit

By KWIYEON HA Associated Press

NUUK, Greenland (AP) — Greenland has a message for the rest of the world: We're waiting for you.

"Come visit Greenland," said Nukartaa Andreassen, who works for a water taxi company in the capital city, Nuuk. "Learn about it, learn about us. We love to have you. We love to tell our stories and our culture."

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The mineral-rich Arctic island is open for tourism. Whale-watching tours, excursions to the iconic puffin island and guided charters through remote settlements are just the beginning of what Greenland has to offer visitors. Locals want to show what makes the island unique beyond a recent diplomatic dustup with U.S. President Donald Trump.

"Our goal and mission is to present and be the ambassadors of Greenland," said Casper Frank Møller, the chief executive of Nuuk-based tour guide company Raw Arctic, "and to show what beauty you can experience while you're here."

The tourism industry is expected to see a boom this year following the launch of a new route between Nuuk and Newark, New Jersey. The inaugural flight June 14 was the first direct travel from the U.S. to Greenland by an American airline.

Traveling to Greenland

Before the direct flight, air passengers departing from the U.S. needed a layover in Iceland or Denmark to reach Greenland. The change benefited travelers like Doug Jenzen, an American tourist who was on the United Airlines plane from New Jersey.

"I came with the purpose of exploring some of the natural sites around the world's largest island, hoping to support things like ecotourism and sustainable travel while supporting the local economy," Jenzen said.

Cruise ships can already dock on the island but they bring less money to businesses catering to tourists because passengers sleep and usually eat on board.

Some 150,000 tourists visited Greenland in 2024, according to Naaja Nathanielsen, Greenland's business minister.

"We really want to grow the tourism sector. It's a very good fit for many in Greenland," Nathanielsen added. "Tourism is about good vibes. It's about sharing culture, sharing history. It's about storytelling. And as Inuit, that's very much part of our heritage."

The Trump effect

Greenland gained worldwide attention when Trump earlier this year announced he wanted to take control of the semiautonomous Danish territory, through a purchase or possibly by force.

Denmark, a NATO ally, and Greenland have said the island is not for sale and condemned reports of the U.S. gathering intelligence there.

Despite the diplomatic tension, Frank Møller of Raw Arctic sees an upside.

"It has kind of put Greenland on the world map. And it's definitely a situation that Raw Arctic has used to our advantage," he said.

Still, beefing up the tourism industry should happen at a pace that prioritizes the voices and comfort levels of the roughly 56,000 people on the island, he added.

Andreassen, of Nuuk Water Taxi, agreed.

"It's very important for me to tell my own story. Because I always feel like when I meet new people, I always introduce a whole Greenland," she said. "It's important for me to show our own culture, our own nature. Not by television, not by other people from other countries."

'Unforgettable moment'

In June, Pinar Saatci, a 59-year-old Turkish tourist, saw several whales breach the ocean surface during a boat tour.

"It's very exciting to be here, at the other part of the world, so far away from home," she said. "It's a very exciting and unforgettable moment."

Risskov Rejser has visited Greenland several times through her travel company for Danish travelers. But she is worried about the impact of a tourist invasion.

"For me, the worst thing would be if mass tourism starts and people come here, and sort of look upon the Greenland people as if they were a living museum," she said. "It has to be done in a respectful way and you have to consider what the consequences are."

The suspension of Thailand's prime minister over a leaked phone call stirs familiar turmoil

By JINTAMAS SAKSORNCHAI Associated Press

BANGKOK (AP) — The Constitutional Court's suspension of Thai Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra has raised questions about whether her family's political comeback last year would end with another downfall.

Paetongtarn was the third prime minister in her family, after her father, Thaksin Shinawatra, a telecom billionaire who has been one of Thailand's top political operators, and her aunt, Yingluck Shinawatra, who was the country's first female prime minister. Thaksin was ousted by a military coup in 2006 and Yingluck by a court ruling in 2014.

Thaksin remained beloved after his ouster among voters who saw in him and his allies a government that looked after their interests. While campaigning in 2022, Paetongtarn acknowledged her family ties but insisted she was not her father's proxy. "It's not the shadow of my dad. I am my dad's daughter, always and forever, but I have my own decisions," she said.

She also said she hoped her government would be able to "build opportunity and quality of life" and "make the country go forward."

Paetongtarn was suspended Tuesday by the court pending an ethics investigation a leaked phone call with senior Cambodian leader Hun Sen that was perceived as damaging to Thailand's interests and image.

Eroding trust capped by a diplomatic blunder

Her critics have said Paetongtarn's government has achieved little. Marriage equality became law but was initiated under her predecessor. Controls on cannabis were retightened after public backlash over decriminalization, but the move and its enforcement were called rushed and confusing.

Her critics also cited unsatisfactory outcomes in other Pheu Thai party policies, like unequal minimum wage increases, constant changes in a cash handout program and the stalled and controversial legalization of casinos. They also noted the lack of progress in tariffs talks with the United States.

But analysts see the leaked call following border tensions with Cambodia to be the most disastrous event by far.

The outrage has centered on Paetongtarn's comments about an outspoken Thai army commander and the perception that she was trying to appease Hun Sen.

Paetongtarn apologized but also denied that she had damaged the country. She ignored calls for her to resign or dissolve Parliament to take responsibility, which critics saw as an attempt by the Pheu Thai party to cling to power.

Napon Jatusripitak, a political science researcher at Singapore's ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute, said her response seemed "totally disconnected from political reality" and that the scandal has exposed "her leadership failures and fuels accusations that she prioritizes family interests over national welfare."

Adoration for the Shinawatra cools

Her father, Thaksin, is believed to be the key decision maker behind Pheu Thai, now led by Paetongtarn. Time and again, Thaksin-backed parties have prevailed in national elections but could not stay in office after legal rulings and destabilizing street protests engineered by Thaksin's die-hard foes.

But in 2023, Thaksin alienated many of his old supporters with what looked like a self-serving deal with his former conservative opponents. It allowed his return from exile and his party to form the new government, while sidelining the progressive Move Forward Party, which finished first in a national election but was seen by the conservative establishment as a greater threat.

Now with the current crisis, things could drastically change for the Shinawatra family.

"In light of the recent controversy, the Shinawatra spell has been broken. The only viable Shinawatra scion is now tainted," Napon said. "It would be an understatement to say that the Shinawatra name no longer guarantees electoral success."

And not everything has been squared away with her family's enemies. Yingluck remains in exile, and legal problems — arguably politically inspired — could send her to prison if she returns to Thailand. Thaksin also still faces some legal challenges.

Thailand's royalist establishment has long been disturbed that Thaksin's populist policies appeared to threaten their status and that of the monarchy at the heart of Thai identity.

Paetongtarn now also faces protests by familiar faces from the same conservative, pro-royalist group that opposed her father.

"History seems to be repeating itself in a way. Thailand seems trapped in a depressingly familiar cycle where Shinawatra-led governments come to power, only to face mounting pressure from traditional power centers, street protests, and extraparliamentary interventions that ultimately force them from office," Napon said.

Paetongtarn, 38, is the youngest of Thaksin's three children. She was an executive in a hotel business run by her family before making her public entry into politics in 2021 when the Pheu Thai party named her to lead an advisory committee.

She has two children with her husband, Pitaka Suksawat, who was a commercial pilot before he began working in one of the Shinawatras' real estate ventures.

Death toll rises to 36 after explosion at a pharmaceutical factory in southern India

By OMER FAROOQ and RAJESH ROY Associated Press

HYDERABAD, India (AP) — The death toll from Monday's massive explosion and fire at a pharmaceutical factory in India's southern state of Telangana has risen to at least 36 while about three dozen were left injured, authorities said Tuesday.

The fire department recovered the charred bodies of 34 workers from the accident site in an industrial area about 50 kilometers (31 miles) from the state capital Hyderabad, the state's fire services director G.V. Narayana Rao told The Associated Press.

Two other workers succumbed to burns and were pronounced dead in hospital, Rao said, adding that debris of the gutted pharmaceutical unit of Sigachi Industries was still being removed to find out if any more workers were trapped.

Nearly three dozen injured workers were admitted to hospitals, he said.

"The whole structure of the factory has collapsed. Fire has been doused, and we hope to finish removing the debris in the next few hours," Rao said.

Sigachi Industries did not disclose what led to the explosion and fire, but said the plant's core manufacturing infrastructure was damaged and facility operations would be halted for 90 days. The plant produces microcrystalline cellulose, a chemical compound commonly used in making drugs, the company said.

The explosion and subsequent fire was reported on Monday in the factory's spray dryer unit, which is used to process raw material into fine powder for making drugs, Rao said.

The state's Health Minister Damodar Raja Narasimha said there were 108 workers inside the factory at the time of the explosion.

"As bodies were badly burnt and mutilated, a special medical team has been deployed to conduct DNA tests", said Narasimha, adding the state government has set up a panel to investigate the cause of the incident.

Witnesses said they heard the explosion from a couple of kilometers away from the site.

India is home to some of the world's top pharmaceutical companies, playing a pivotal role in the global supply of generic medicines and vaccines. The country's robust manufacturing and cost-effective production have made it a hub for pharma giants.

Industrial accidents, particularly involving chemical reactors, aren't uncommon in such factories, underlining the need for authorities to implement stringent safety protocols and regulatory oversight in a sector critical to public health.

Sigachi Industries Limited is an Indian company dealing with active pharmaceutical ingredients, intermediates and vitamin-mineral blends, according to the company's website. It has five manufacturing facilities

across India and subsidiaries in the U.S and the United Arab Emirates.

Shares of Sigachi Industries tumbled 8% in intra-day trading Tuesday, extending the previous session's plunge of nearly 10%.

In a disclosure to the Bombay Stock Exchange on Monday, the company called the incident "unfortunate" and announced that a thorough site assessment was underway. The factory where the fire occurred contributes a little more than a fourth of the company's annual capacity.

Bryan Kohberger to plead guilty to murder in Idaho student stabbings to avoid death penalty

By REBECCA BOONE and GENE JOHNSON Associated Press

BOISE, Idaho (AP) — Bryan Kohberger has agreed to plead guilty to murdering four University of Idaho students as part of a deal to avoid the death penalty, an attorney for one victim's family said.

Shanon Gray, an attorney representing the family of Kaylee Goncalves, confirmed Monday that prosecutors informed the families of the deal by email and letter earlier in the day, and that his clients were upset about it.

"We are beyond furious at the State of Idaho," Goncalves' family wrote in a Facebook post. "They have failed us. Please give us some time. This was very unexpected."

They spoke with the prosecution on Friday about the idea of a plea deal and they explained they were firmly against it, the family wrote in another post. By Sunday, they received an email that "sent us scrambling," and met with the prosecution again on Monday to explain their views about pushing for the death penalty.

"Unfortunately all of our efforts did not matter. We DID OUR BEST! We fought harder then anyone could EVER imagine," the family wrote.

A change of plea hearing was set for Wednesday, but the family has asked prosecutors to delay it to give them more time to travel to Boise, Gray said. Kohberger's trial was set for August in Boise, where it was moved following pretrial publicity in rural northern Idaho.

Kohberger, 30, is accused in the stabbing deaths of Goncalves, Ethan Chapin, Xana Kernodle and Madison Mogen at a rental home near campus in Moscow, Idaho, early on Nov. 13, 2022. Autopsies showed the four were all likely asleep when they were attacked, some had defensive wounds and each was stabbed multiple times.

At the time, Kohberger was a criminal justice graduate student at Washington State University, about 9 miles (14.5 kilometers) west of the University of Idaho. He was arrested in Pennsylvania, where his parents lived, weeks later. Investigators said they matched his DNA to genetic material recovered from a knife sheath found at the crime scene.

No motive has emerged for the killings, nor is it clear why the attacker spared two roommates who were in the home. Authorities have said cellphone data and surveillance video shows that Kohberger visited the victims' neighborhood at least a dozen times before the killings.

The murders shocked the small farming community of about 25,000 people, which hadn't had a homicide in about five years, and prompted a massive hunt for the perpetrator. That included an elaborate effort to track down a white sedan that was seen on surveillance cameras repeatedly driving by the rental home, to identify Kohberger as a possible suspect through the use of genetic genealogy and to pinpoint his movements the night of the killings through cellphone data.

In a court filing, Kohberger's lawyers said he was on a long drive by himself around the time the four were killed.

In the letter to families, obtained by ABC News, prosecutors said Kohberger's lawyers approached them seeking to reach a plea deal. The defense team had previously made unsuccessful efforts to have the death penalty stricken as a possible punishment, including arguing that Kohberger's autism diagnosis made him less culpable.

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The prosecutors said they met with available family members last week before deciding to make Kohberger an offer.

"This resolution is our sincere attempt to seek justice for your family," the letter said. "This agreement ensures that the defendant will be convicted, will spend the rest of his life in prison, and will not be able to put you and the other families through the uncertainty of decades of post-conviction, appeals. Your viewpoints weighed heavily in our decision-making process, and we hope that you may come to appreciate why we believe this resolution is in the best interest of justice."

In a Facebook post, the Goncalves family wrote that Kaylee's 18-year-old sister, Aubrie, had been unable to attend the meeting with prosecutors. But she shared her concerns in a written statement.

"Bryan Kohberger facing a life in prison means he would still get to speak, form relationships, and engage with the world," Aubrie Goncalves wrote. "Meanwhile, our loved ones have been silenced forever. That reality stings more deeply when it feels like the system is protecting his future more than honoring the victims' pasts."

In Idaho, judges may reject plea agreements, though such moves are rare. If a judge rejects a plea agreement, the defendant is allowed to withdraw the guilty plea.

Earlier Monday, a Pennsylvania judge had ordered that three people whose testimony was requested by defense attorneys would have to travel to Idaho to appear at Kohberger's trial.

The defense subpoenas were granted regarding a boxing trainer who knew Kohberger as a teenager, a childhood acquaintance of Kohberger's and a third man whose significance was not explained.

A gag order has largely kept attorneys, investigators and others from speaking publicly about the investigation or trial.

74 killed in Gaza as Israeli forces strike a cafe and fire on people seeking food

By SAMY MAGDY and MELANIE LIDMAN Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Israeli forces killed at least 74 people in Gaza on Monday with airstrikes that left 30 dead at a seaside cafe and gunfire that left 23 dead as Palestinians tried to get desperately needed food aid, witnesses and health officials said.

One airstrike hit Al-Baqa Cafe in Gaza City when it was crowded with women and children, said Ali Abu Ateila, who was inside.

"Without a warning, all of a sudden, a warplane hit the place, shaking it like an earthquake," he said.

Dozens were wounded, many critically, alongside at least 30 people killed, said Fares Awad, head of the Health Ministry's emergency and ambulance service in northern Gaza.

Two other strikes on a Gaza City street killed 15 people, according to Shifa Hospital, which received the casualties. A strike on a building killed six people near the town of Zawaida, according to Al-Aqsa hospital.

The cafe, one of the few businesses to continue operating during the 20-month war, was a gathering spot for residents seeking internet access and a place to charge their phones. Videos circulating on social media showed bloodied and disfigured bodies on the ground and the wounded being carried away in blankets.

Meanwhile, Israeli forces killed 11 people who had been seeking food in southern Gaza, according to witnesses, hospitals, and Gaza's Health Ministry.

Nasser Hospital in the southern city of Khan Younis said it received the bodies of people shot while returning from an aid site associated with the Israeli and U.S.-backed Gaza Humanitarian Fund. It was part of a deadly pattern that has killed more than 500 Palestinians around the chaotic and controversial aid distribution program over the past month.

The shootings happened around 3 kilometers (1.8 miles) from the GHF site in Khan Younis, as Palestinians returned from the site along the only accessible route. Palestinians are often forced to travel long distances to access the GHF hubs in hopes of obtaining aid.

Nasser Hospital said an additional person was killed near a GHF hub in the southern city of Rafah. An-

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other person was killed while waiting to receive aid near the Netzarim corridor, which separates northern and southern Gaza, according to Al-Awda hospital.

Ten other people were killed at a United Nations aid warehouse in northern Gaza, according to the Health Ministry's ambulance and emergency service.

Witnesses describe Israeli gunfire

One witness, Monzer Hisham Ismail said troops attacked the crowds returning from the GHF hub in Khan Younis.

"We were targeted by (the Israeli) artillery," he said.

Yousef Mahmoud Mokheimer was walking with dozens of others when he saw troops in tanks and other vehicles racing toward them. They fired warning shots before firing at the crowds, he said.

"They fired at us indiscriminately," he said, adding that he was shot in a leg, and a man was shot while attempting to rescue him.

He said he saw troops detaining six people, including three children. "We don't know whether they are still alive," he said.

The Israeli military said it was reviewing information about the attacks. In the past, the military has said it fires warning shots at people who move suspiciously or get too close to troops including while collecting aid.

Israel wants the GHF to replace a system coordinated by the United Nations and international aid groups. Along with the United States, Israel has accused the militant Hamas group of stealing aid and using it to prop up its rule in the enclave. The U.N. denies there is systematic diversion of aid.

The Israeli military said it had recently taken steps to improve organization in the area, including the installation of new fencing and signage and the opening of additional routes to access aid.

Israel says it only targets militants and blames civilian deaths on Hamas, accusing the militants of hiding among civilians because they operate in populated areas.

Strikes in and around Gaza City intensify

The military intensified its bombardment campaign across Gaza City and the nearby Jabaliya refugee camp. On Sunday and Monday, Israel issued widespread evacuation orders for large swaths of northern Gaza.

Palestinians reported massive bombing overnight into Monday morning, describing the fresh attacks as a "scorched earth" campaign that targeted mostly empty buildings and civilian infrastructure.

"They destroy whatever left standing ... the sound of bombing hasn't stopped," said Mohamed Mahdy, a Gaza City resident who fled his damaged house Monday morning.

Awad with the emergency and ambulance services said that most of Gaza City and Jabaliya have become inaccessible and ambulances were unable to respond to distress calls from people trapped in the rubble.

The Israeli military said it had taken multiple steps to notify civilians of operations to target Hamas' military command and control centers in northern Gaza.

The war has killed over 56,000 Palestinians, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which does not distinguish between civilians and combatants. It says more than half of the dead were women and children.

The Hamas attack in October 2023 that sparked the war killed some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and took 251 others hostage. Some 50 hostages remain, many of them thought to be dead.

Bryan Kohberger to plead guilty to killing 4 University of Idaho students in deal to avoid execution

By REBECCA BOONE and GENE JOHNSON Associated Press

BOISE, Idaho (AP) — Bryan Kohberger has agreed to plead guilty to murdering four University of Idaho students as part of a deal to avoid the death penalty, an attorney for one victim's family said Monday.

Shanon Gray, an attorney representing the family of Kaylee Goncalves, confirmed that prosecutors informed the families of the deal by email and letter earlier in the day, and that his clients were upset about it.

"We are beyond furious at the State of Idaho," Goncalves' family wrote in a Facebook post. "They have failed us. Please give us some time. This was very unexpected."

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A change of plea hearing was set for Wednesday, but the family has asked prosecutors to delay it to give them more time to travel to Boise, Gray said. Kohberger's trial was set for August in Boise, where it was moved following pretrial publicity in rural northern Idaho.

Kohberger, 30, is accused in the stabbing deaths of Goncalves, Ethan Chapin, Xana Kernodle and Madison Mogen at a rental home near campus in Moscow, Idaho, early on Nov. 13, 2022. Autopsies showed the four were all likely asleep when they were attacked, some had defensive wounds and each was stabbed multiple times.

At the time, Kohberger was a criminal justice graduate student at Washington State University, about 9 miles (14.5 kilometers) west of the University of Idaho. He was arrested in Pennsylvania, where his parents lived, weeks later. Investigators said they matched his DNA to genetic material recovered from a knife sheath found at the crime scene.

No motive has emerged for the killings, nor is it clear why the attacker spared two roommates who were in the home. Authorities have said cellphone data and surveillance video shows that Kohberger visited the victims' neighborhood at least a dozen times before the killings.

The murders shocked the small farming community of about 25,000 people, which hadn't had a homicide in about five years, and prompted a massive hunt for the perpetrator. That included an elaborate effort to track down a white sedan that was seen on surveillance cameras repeatedly driving by the rental home, to identify Kohberger as a possible suspect through the use of genetic genealogy and to pinpoint his movements the night of the killings through cellphone data.

In a court filing, Kohberger's lawyers said he was on a long drive by himself around the time the four were killed.

In the letter to families, obtained by ABC News, prosecutors said Kohberger's lawyers approached them seeking to reach a plea deal. The defense team had previously made unsuccessful efforts to have the death penalty stricken as a possible punishment, including arguing that Kohberger's autism diagnosis made him less culpable.

The prosecutors said they met with available family members last week before deciding to make Kohberger an offer.

"This resolution is our sincere attempt to seek justice for your family," the letter said. "This agreement ensures that the defendant will be convicted, will spend the rest of his life in prison, and will not be able to put you and the other families through the uncertainty of decades of post-conviction, appeals. Your viewpoints weighed heavily in our decision-making process, and we hope that you may come to appreciate why we believe this resolution is in the best interest of justice."

In a Facebook post, the Goncalves family wrote that Kaylee's 18-year-old sister, Aubrie, had been unable to attend the meeting with prosecutors. But she shared her concerns in a written statement.

"Bryan Kohberger facing a life in prison means he would still get to speak, form relationships, and engage with the world," Aubrie Goncalves wrote. "Meanwhile, our loved ones have been silenced forever. That reality stings more deeply when it feels like the system is protecting his future more than honoring the victims' pasts."

In Idaho, judges may reject plea agreements, though such moves are rare. If a judge rejects a plea agreement, the defendant is allowed to withdraw the guilty plea.

Earlier Monday, a Pennsylvania judge had ordered that three people whose testimony was requested by defense attorneys would have to travel to Idaho to appear at Kohberger's trial.

The defense subpoenas were granted regarding a boxing trainer who knew Kohberger as a teenager, a childhood acquaintance of Kohberger's and a third man whose significance was not explained.

A gag order has largely kept attorneys, investigators and others from speaking publicly about the investigation or trial.

Jury returns to deliberate for a second day at Sean 'Diddy' Combs' sex trafficking trial

By MICHAEL R. SISAK and LARRY NEUMEISTER Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A jury returns to deliberate for a second day Tuesday at the sex trafficking trial of music mogul Sean "Diddy" Combs.

On Monday, jurors deliberated over five hours without reaching a verdict after receiving instructions on the law from the trial judge, Arun Subramanian.

They are deciding whether prosecutors have proven racketeering conspiracy and sex trafficking charges during a trial that began in early May.

Prosecutors say Combs for two decades used his fame, fortune and a roster of employees and associates to help him coerce and force two different girlfriends to repeatedly perform sexually with male sex workers for days at a time while he watched and sometimes filmed the drug-fueled events.

Defense lawyers say prosecutors are unjustly basing federal crimes on what Combs did in the bedroom with his girlfriends as they participated in the swinger lifestyle and on acts of domestic violence involving their client.

Combs, 55, could face 15 years in prison to life behind bars if he is convicted of all charges.

After pleading not guilty, Combs chose not to testify as his lawyers built their arguments for acquittal mostly through lengthy cross examinations of dozens of witnesses called by prosecutors, including some of Combs' former employees who took the witness stand reluctantly only after being granted immunity.

When jurors first left the room to begin deliberating on Monday, Combs sat for a while slumped in his chair at the defense table before standing and turning toward three rows of spectators packed with his family and friends.

Those supporters held hands and lowered their heads in prayer, as did Combs, who was several feet from them in the well of the courtroom. After they finished, they together applauded, and so did Combs, still clapping as he turned back toward the front of the room.

Combs also showed off two books he's reading: "The Power of Positive Thinking" by Norman Vincent Peale and "The Happiness Advantage" by Shawn Achor.

Barely an hour into deliberations, the jury foreperson sent a note to the judge, complaining that there was one juror "who we are concerned cannot follow your Honor's instructions. May I please speak with your Honor or may you please interview him?"

The judge decided instead to send jurors a note reminding them of their duties to deliberate and obligation to follow his instructions on the law.

By day's end, the jury seemed back on track, requesting clarification about what qualifies as drug distribution, an aspect of the racketeering conspiracy charge that will help determine whether Combs can be convicted or exonerated on the count.

Man shot 3 Idaho firefighters after they asked him to move vehicle. What to know about the attack

By REBECCA BOONE Associated Press

BOISE, Idaho (AP) — Authorities say two firefighters were killed and another was critically wounded after they were shot while responding to a wildfire near Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.

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

Attack began with a brush fire

Kootenai County Sheriff Bob Norris said firefighters first responded to an early afternoon report of a brushfire at Canfield Mountain, a popular hiking and biking area near the outskirts of town. A man began shooting at them after firefighters asked him to move his vehicle.

Law enforcement officials responded, locking down neighborhoods nearby and trying to find the shooter

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in hilly terrain that had plenty of cover, with thick brush and trees and smoke from the fire nearby.

First hours were chaotic

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

"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 Sunday afternoon news conference. "We are actively taking sniper fire as we speak."

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

The names of the slain and wounded firefighters were released by fire department officials on Monday afternoon.

Battalion Chief Frank Harwood, 42, who had been with the Kootenai County fire department for 17 years, was killed, county Fire and Rescue Chief Christopher Way said during a news conference.

Coeur d'Alene Fire Department Battalion Chief John Morrison, 52, was also killed. He had worked with the department for 28 years.

Coeur d'Alene Fire Department Engineer David Tysdal, 47, was in critical condition after undergoing two surgeries.

Cellphone 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 cellphone 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 and that he killed himself, the sheriff said. Investigators said he acted alone.

Who was the suspect?

The suspect has been identified as Wess Roley, a law enforcement official told The Associated Press on Monday. The official spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the investigation.

He had ties to California and Arizona and was living in Idaho "for the better part of 2024," Norris said. Authorities said Monday that Roley had relatives north of Coeur d'Alene around the Priest River area and that it appeared Roley had been living out of his vehicle.

He lived with T.J. Franks Jr. for about six months in Sandpoint, Idaho, while working for a tree service, Franks said Monday. Franks had cameras in his apartment that caught Roley throwing gang signs at them one day, which worried Franks to the point that he called police.

"I didn't know what to really think about it," Franks said. "I just called the cops and had them talk to him."

The landlord also called Franks one morning because neighbors reported that Roley's vehicle had been left running for about 12 hours. Franks said Roley was asleep in his room and said he forgot about the vehicle.

Franks said Roley "started acting a little weird" and at one point shaved his long hair off completely.

"We just kind of noticed him starting to decline or kind of go downhill," he said.

The fire complicates the crime scene

The brush fire was burning close to the suspect's body on Sunday, 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 continued Monday. Norris said a full search of the area would be done to make sure no other weapons were in the vicinity.

Procession honors fallen firefighters

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, Wash-

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ington, a neighboring city just across the state line. Another procession was planned to bring the bodies back to Coeur d'Alene on Tuesday.

Idaho Gov. Brad Little ordered U.S. and Idaho state flags to be lowered to half-staff Monday to honor the firefighters until the day after their memorial service, saying they've never seen a "heinous act of violence like this" directed at firefighters.

"This is not Idaho," Little said in a statement. "This indescribable loss is felt deeply by all those in the firefighting community and beyond."

The Latest: Senate votes on amendments to Trump's big bill ahead of July 4 deadline

By The Associated Press undefined

Possible changes to President Donald Trump's big bill of tax breaks and spending cuts are being considered in what's called a vote-a-rama, though most of the amendments are expected to fail.

After a weekend of setbacks, the Senate is rushing Monday to move ahead with the bill despite a series of challenges.

The hours ahead will be pivotal for the Republicans, who have control of Congress and are racing against Trump's self-imposed July 4 deadline. The 940-page "One Big Beautiful Bill Act," as it is now formally titled, has consumed Congress as its shared priority with the president, with no room politically to fail, even as not all Republicans are on board.

Here's the latest:

Coping at the Capitol: Pizza, card games and sneaking away to rest

The Capitol was abuzz at dinnertime as senators continued proceedings on Republicans' sweeping tax and spending bill.

Card games were played in the reception room, cigars were smoked on the balcony, and many boxes of pizza were carried through the halls of Congress. Many energy drink cans and iced coffees were in hand by all present. Groans about the process, which is likely to extend well into the morning, could be heard from staffers and senators alike.

Some Democrats, who are lobbying one protest amendment after another at the bill, took breaks in hideaways throughout the Capitol to vent with each other and rest.

GOP senators took breaks from the Senate floor as well. Sen. Tommy Tuberville, of Alabama, smoked a cigar on the Capitol terrace at sunset. Other GOP senators took calls and chatted in rooms near the Senate chamber.

This post has been updated to correct the spelling of Tuberville's name.

Sun sets on Capitol Hill as Senate moves slowly toward final vote

Nearly 12 hours after voting began, the Senate floor remained largely idle Monday evening. Senators have been voting on amendments, but none have passed. While senators have mingled on the floor, most negotiations have taken place behind closed doors.

Republicans have repeatedly expressed hope for a final vote around midnight, but that timeline was in jeopardy late into the evening. Senate Majority Leader John Thune said there was still a chance to wrap things up before day's end but added they were still "trying to construct a list" of what each senator wants.

Elon Musk pledges to back GOP House member who's met Trump's ire

The tech billionaire has said that he's getting out of politics, but his X posts tell a different story.

On Monday, the tech billionaire and former DOGE chief lashed out multiple times at Republicans for backing Trump's tax cuts bill, calling the GOP "the PORKY PIG PARTY!!" for including a provision that would raise the nation's debt limit by \$5 trillion and calling the bill "political suicide" for Republicans.

After a post pledging to work toward primarying members of Congress who backed the bill, Musk re-

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sponded "I will" to a post in which former Michigan Rep. Justin Amash asked for Musk's support of Thomas Massie.

Trump aides are already honed in on the Kentucky Republican for voting against the measure, launching a new super PAC devoted to defeating him.

Musk spent at least \$250 million supporting Trump in the presidential campaign, as the main contributor to America PAC. In May, he said he would likely spend "a lot less" on politics in the future.

Trump instructs cabinet to review US policy toward Cuba

The president ordered his top cabinet officers to examine current sanctions on Cuba and come up with ways to tighten them within 30 days.

In a memorandum sent to the State, Treasury, Commerce, Interior, Agriculture departments and virtually every other federal agency on Monday, Trump said the reviews should focus on Cuba's treatment of dissidents, its policies directed at dissidents and how it allows money from the U.S. to be sent into the country through remittances from Cuban Americans living in the U.S.

In one potential significant change, the order said the U.S. should look for ways to shut down all tourism to the island and also to restrict educational tours to groups that are organized and run only by American citizens.

The move is not a surprise given that Trump has previously said he plans to rescind the easing of sanctions and other penalties in Cuba that were instituted during President Barack Obama's and Joe Biden's terms in office.

GOP senators tread carefully about criticizing Musk

Even as Elon Musk attacked them on social media, Republican senators tried to remain diplomatic and avoid hitting back at the former top Trump adviser.

"At the end of the day, you know, we should be thankful for the work that he did," GOP Sen. Jim Justice said. "But I'm sure Elon's got a real ego, and sometimes egos can really clash."

Musk on social media said Republicans who vote for the current form of Trump's big bill "will lose their primary next year if it is the last thing I do on this Earth." Among those up for reelection is Sen. Joni Ernst, who is also chair of the Senate DOGE caucus.

"I really appreciate what Elon has done with our DOGE work, and we're going to keep working on that with various rescissions packages," Ernst told reporters. "But at the end of the day what we also don't want is a \$4.3 trillion tax increase on American taxpayers."

Tillis likely to wade into primary for his successor

North Carolina Sen. Thom Tillis, the two-term senator who announced his retirement Sunday after clashing with Trump over his tax breaks and spending cuts bill, said he would likely get involved in the GOP primary for his replacement.

"I've run successful two statewide races, and I got a pretty good idea of the profile you need to win," Tillis told The Associated Press.

Ideally, Tillis said, Senate Republicans and the White House would land on a GOP candidate who could navigate both a primary and the general election in North Carolina. The swing state will likely be home to the most competitive Senate race in next year's midterm elections.

One candidate Tillis does not want as the nominee: Mark Robinson, the former lieutenant governor who ran for the state's top job last year.

"He would probably lose by a larger margin than he did the last time," Tillis said, speculating that Trump would likely not endorse Robinson again.

US Capitol Police arrest 38 people protesting GOP bill

Police say 38 people protesting the Republican tax and spending cut bill being considered in the Senate have been arrested so far Monday at the U.S. Capitol.

The arrests took place at two sites, inside the Capitol Rotunda and at an intersection near the Capitol, U.S. Capitol Police said. Those arrested were charged with crowding, obstructing and incommoding.

A group called Repairers of the Breach said in a statement that their members led the effort. They said

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the demonstration continues a tradition of nonviolent actions at the Capitol confronting unjust policies and calling the nation to higher ground.

Former Transportation Secretary Buttigieg says it's 'time to speak up'

Former Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg used Facebook to implore voters to step up to Trump's bill of tax breaks and spending cuts while there is still time.

"If there was ever a time to call your Senator, this is it. Voting has begun on the GOP plan to cut off health care for working-class Americans and slash taxes for the wealthiest," he said. "This bill would kick millions off their health insurance, and thousands will even lose their lives - unless we stop it in its tracks. Some Republicans are breaking ranks, showing it's not too late. Time to speak up!"

Judges consider whether Trump can use wartime act against Tren de Aragua gang

Lawyers for the Trump administration and immigrants are sparring in court over whether the president can use an 18th century wartime act against the Venezuelan Tren de Aragua gang.

The case before the conservative 5th Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans is likely to end up before the U.S. Supreme Court.

The Alien Enemies Act has only been used three times before in U.S. history, during the War of 1812 and the two world wars. Trump invoked it in March against Tren de Aragua, which he claims is acting as an arm of the Venezuelan government.

The ACLU and other groups sued, saying that was improper.

Disagreements over Trump's crypto interests resurface ahead of big bill vote

As the Senate prepared to vote on the major bill Monday, Democrats introduced an amendment to ban the president and his family from directly or indirectly issuing or profiting from cryptocurrencies.

"No elected official should be able to run a crypto scheme to sell influence and enrich themselves," Democratic Sen. Jeff Merkley said.

Republicans rejected the measure along party lines. Sen. Cynthia Lummis, a key GOP crypto supporter, said it would have stifled innovation.

The issue has divided the chamber all year, as cryptocurrency legislation has advanced without confronting potential financial gains for Trump and his family.

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Musk critiques GOP tax and spending bill

Multibillionaire Elon Musk is again denouncing Republicans' sweeping tax and spending package as senators negotiate ahead of a final pivotal vote on the bill.

"It is obvious with the insane spending of this bill, which increases the debt ceiling by a record FIVE TRILLION DOLLARS that we live in a one-party country - the PORKY PIG PARTY!!" Musk wrote on the social platform X.

A section of the GOP bill would indeed raise the debt ceiling, though the provision largely approves the federal government to pay debts that have already been incurred. If the debt ceiling were not raised, the U.S. would default on its debts, meaning that the government would not pay back those who had lent the nation money or not pay for services and goods already purchased by the government.

Military asks to pull 200 troops back from California protest duty

The top military commander in charge of troops deployed to Los Angeles to respond to protests against immigration raids has asked Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth if 200 of those forces could be returned to

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wildfire fighting duty, two U.S. officials told The Associated Press on Monday.

Trump ordered the deployment of about 4,000 California National Guard troops and 800 active-duty Marines against the wishes of Gov. Gavin Newsom in early June.

California has entered peak wildfire season, and Newsom has warned that the Guard is now understaffed.

The top military commander of those troops, U.S. Northern Command head Gen. Gregory Guillot, recently submitted a request to Hegseth to return 200 of the National Guard troops back to the California National Guard's wildfire unit, the officials said.

The officials spoke on the condition of anonymity to provide details not yet announced publicly.

Trump administration approves \$510 million arms sale to Israel

The State Department said the sale approved Monday includes more than 7,000 bomb guidance kits for two different types of Joint Direct Attack Munitions.

"The United States is committed to the security of Israel, and it is vital to U.S. national interests to assist Israel to develop and maintain a strong and ready self-defense capability," the department said in a statement. "This proposed sale is consistent with those objectives."

Netanyahu to visit the White House next week

Trump will host Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for talks at the White House next Monday, according to a U.S. administration official.

The visit comes as the U.S. leader has begun stepping up his push on the Israeli government to broker a ceasefire and hostage agreement and bring about an end to the war in Gaza.

The official was not authorized to comment publicly on the visit that hasn't been formally announced and spoke on the condition of anonymity.

Trump lodges customer service complaint

In a pair of posts on Truth Social, Trump said he was trying to hold a conference call with faith leaders from all over the country, but he was unable to start the call because of technical difficulties, which he blamed on AT&T.

"If the Boss of AT&T, whoever that may be, could get involved — It would be good," he wrote. "There are tens of thousands of people on the line!" In another post, he said: "AT&T ought to get its act together."

Representatives for AT&T responded — also on social media — replying to a post from the White House press secretary on X sharing Trump's complaints:

"We've reached out to the White House and are working to quickly understand and assess the situation," AT&T said.

The issue was resolved and the call started 20 minutes late, according to a White House official who was not authorized to speak publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Trump touts big bill in mass call with faith leaders

Trump spoke to thousands of faith leaders in a conference call Monday, the first in a series of regular calls that the White House expects him to periodically hold with religious leaders.

Trump, who created a White House faith office this year, spoke to between 8,000 and 10,000 leaders of Christian, Jewish and Muslim faiths on the call, according to a White House official who was not authorized to speak publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

During the call, according to the official, Trump spoke for about 15 minutes and touted provisions in his big tax breaks and spending cuts bill like the boost to the child tax credit, the Israel-Iran ceasefire and African peace deals he brokered, and the pardons he issued for anti-abortion activists.

Thune and Johnson not at the White House after all

Despite assertions from press secretary Karoline Leavitt that the president met Monday at the White House with the top two congressional leaders, that wasn't the case.

A spokesman for Senate Majority Leader John Thune said the South Dakota Republican was not at the White House on Monday and had no plans to go there later that day. Johnson was not at the White House either.

Thune is overseeing the so-called "vote-a-rama" session in the Senate ahead of a final vote on Trump's

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tax-and-border bill.

"Teams are obviously in close contact/coordination, as always," the spokesperson, Ryan Wrasse, said on X, "but we're continuing to move through vote-a-rama in the Senate as we work to move this bill one step closer to the president's desk."

Trump may be planning to release new US tariff rates on several countries, including possibly Japan, by next week

Kevin Hassett, director of the National Economic Council, told reporters at the White House that Trump "is going to finalize the frameworks we negotiated with a whole bunch of countries after the weekend."

That followed Trump posting on his social media site that Japan wasn't buying enough rice from the U.S. "They won't take our RICE, and yet they have a massive rice shortage," the president wrote, before adding "we'll just be sending them a letter."

Trump has suggested that the U.S. will be sending letters to many countries, informing them of the new tariff rates they will face from the U.S. after a July 9 deadline when the president's 90-day pause on "reciprocal" tariffs expires.

Hassett said of tariff negotiations with Japan that there will "still be discussions right up to the end."

FBI and NSA say ceasefire won't end threat of pro-Iranian cyberattacks

A ceasefire between Iran and Israel has not ended the threat of cyberattacks from hacking groups supportive of Tehran, the FBI and federal cybersecurity officials said Monday.

In a public bulletin, the authorities warned that hacking groups affiliated or supportive of Tehran may still seek to disrupt or disable important infrastructure, such as utilities, transportation centers and economic hubs. Hackers may also target defense contractors or other American companies with ties to Israel, the agencies warned.

The warning outlined recommendations including the use of regular software updates and strong password management systems to shore up digital defenses.

Hackers backing Tehran have targeted U.S. banks, defense contractors and energy companies following American strikes on Iranian nuclear facilities — but so far have not caused widespread disruptions.

Obama and Bush fault Trump's gutting of USAID, in tributes marking independent agency's last day

Former Presidents Barack Obama and George W. Bush have delivered rare open remarks questioning the Trump administration's gutting of the main U.S. aid agency, including funding cuts to a popular AIDS and HIV program.

Obama called Trump's dismantling of the U.S. Agency for International Development "inexplicable" and "a colossal mistake."

Bush addressed Trump cuts and rule changes to PEPFAR, an AIDS and HIV prevention and care program credited with saving 25 million lives around the world.

"Is it in our national interests that 25 million people who would have died now live? I think it is," Bush said.

The Democratic and Republican former presidents spoke in video remarks to USAID staffers. While the videoconference was closed to press, some of the videos were shared with The Associated Press.

Obama addressed the thousands in the USAID community listening online. "Your work has mattered, and will matter for generations to come," he told them.

Trump set to sign an executive order ending sanctions on Syria

Leavitt says Trump will sign an executive order ending U.S. economic sanctions on Syria and promoting a "path to prosperity and peace."

The U.S. granted Syria sweeping exemptions from sanctions in May. The press secretary said it was "an action that the president promised."

Leavitt said Trump wants Syria to be "stable, unified and at peace with itself and its neighbors."

Trump is set to sign the executive order on Monday afternoon.

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Trump doesn't want NYC mayoral candidate to win but will work with anyone, White House says

Leavitt was asked about the push from some Republicans to have the Democratic mayoral candidate Zohran Mamdani "denaturalized," lose his U.S. citizenship and deported, but the press secretary said she had not heard Trump call for that.

"Certainly, he does not want this individual elected," Leavitt said.

She said Trump is "always willing to work with everyone," but said that she thinks that "the president would find it difficult to work with someone like that if he is elected."

White House keeps levying attacks on Fed chair Powell

Following Trump's lead, White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt ripped into Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell, a Trump appointee who has held off on benchmark rate cuts until the U.S. central bank can gauge the impact of Trump's tariffs.

"I would remind the Fed chair, and I would remind the entire world, that this is a president who was a businessman first, and he knows what he is doing," said Leavitt.

The White House spokesperson opened Monday's briefing by reading a note from Trump to Powell.

"Jerome, you are, as usual, too late," Leavitt said, reading the correspondence from the president. "You have cost the USA a fortune and continue to do so. You should lower the rate by a lot. Hundreds of billions of dollars are being lost and there is no inflation."

The Fed's preferred measure of inflation, the personal consumption expenditures price index, is tracking at 2.3% annually, slightly higher than the Fed's 2% target. The Fed sees political independence as a key value for the integrity of the monetary policies it sets with the goals of stabilizing prices and maximizing employment.

Leavitt demurred when asked why Trump had not simply fired Powell, a move that could rattle financial markets. She said the question could be asked to Trump directly. Trump has said he could fire Powell if he wanted, but a recent Supreme Court ruling indicated that the Fed chair has a unique status.

Leavitt says Thune and Johnson were at the White House

White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt says of the Trump-backed tax cut and spending bill seemingly on the verge of clearing Congress, "Republicans need to stay tough and unified during the home stretch, and we are counting on them to get the job done."

Leavitt told reporters during her briefing that Senate Majority Leader John Thune and House Speaker Mike Johnson were at the White House on Monday to discuss passing what Trump calls the "big, beautiful bill."

Leavitt also said Trump was confident the bill would be passed and at the White House to be signed by July 4, an informal deadline the president has been pushing for weeks.

Homeland Security secretary and Florida representative to join Trump on visit to new immigration detention facility

White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt said at a news briefing Monday that Kristi Noem, the secretary of Homeland Security, and Florida Republican Rep. Byron Donalds will join Trump and DeSantis Tuesday to view the detention facility in the Florida Everglades.

Leavitt said the new facility has only one road in and the only way out for those detained there is on a flight.

"It is isolated and surrounded by dangerous wildlife and unforgiving terrain," Leavitt said.

Republicans reject amendments to Trump's big bill on key Democratic priorities

In the run-up to a final Senate vote on Trump's big bill of tax cuts and spending cuts, Republicans have voted down Democratic amendments to strike portions of the bill that would reduce funding for rural hospitals, food stamps and Medicaid.

Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, joined Democrats on an amendment to strike language that would force rural hospitals to limit their services. Sen. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska, joined Democrats on that vote and a separate Democratic motion to prevent the legislation from shifting some food stamp costs to states.

On a party-line vote, Republicans also dismissed a motion by Democrats to strike any provision that

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would cut Medicaid.

Trump planning to visit Everglades migrant detention site dubbed 'Alligator Alcatraz'

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis said Trump is planning to visit on Tuesday a site in the Everglades where Florida officials want to detain migrants, which has been dubbed "Alligator Alcatraz."

The Florida Republican said the site "will be ready for business" by Tuesday.

"What'll happen is you bring people in there. They ain't going anywhere once they're there, unless you want them to go somewhere, because good luck getting to civilization. So the security is amazing," DeSantis said, hinting at the alligators that swim in the wetlands surrounding the abandoned airport site and prompting some laughs from the audience at an unrelated press conference.

DeSantis said he spoke with Trump over the weekend and announced the site obtained approval from the Department of Homeland Security last week.

Trump administration finds Harvard failed to protect Jewish students

Harvard University failed to protect Jewish students from harassment, the Trump administration concluded after an investigation, threatening to cut all federal funding from the Ivy League school if it fails to take action.

A federal task force sent a letter to Harvard on Monday finding the university violated civil rights laws requiring colleges to protect students from discrimination based on race or national origin.

It says investigators found Harvard was at times a "willful participant in anti-Semitic harassment of Jewish students, faculty, and staff" and that campus leaders allowed antisemitism to fester on the campus in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

The Senate has launched its first vote of the day, and it's wonky

It's a challenge to the Republicans' budgeting method for the big bill that Democrats decry as "magic math" and are trying to strike from the process.

GOP senators have argued that Trump's 2017 tax cuts are considered "current policy" and extending them indefinitely shouldn't be counted in the total cost of the package.

Democrats argue that the Trump tax breaks, which are set to expire if Congress fails to act this year, are piling onto the national deficit. The actual vote is in the weeds — a motion to appeal the ruling of the chair that allows the budgeting method to move ahead.

Senate Majority Leader Thune says 'it's time to vote' on Trump's big bill

Sen. John Thune says "it's time to vote" on the massive tax and spending cuts package that has been moving through the Senate for several weeks and that Trump wants on his desk by July 4.

Thune pushed back on Democratic arguments that it would hurt working people, noting that Congress passed new work requirements for welfare recipients under President Bill Clinton in the 1990s.

The GOP bill includes new work requirements for Medicaid and Food stamp recipients, among other cuts to those programs.

"This is good for the American people," Thune said.

Senate opens with long day ahead as Republicans try to pass Trump's big bill

The Senate is beginning an all-day session of amendment votes ahead of an expected final vote on Trump's big bill of spending cuts and tax cuts. The session could last into the night.

Democrats are expected to offer amendments to strike tax breaks for the wealthy and cuts to the Medicaid program, among many others.

Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer said in opening remarks that he will start with an amendment that would block any provisions that increase costs for working families or small businesses "to pay for tax cuts for billionaires."

"The American people will not forget what Republicans do in this chamber today," Schumer said.

Senate Republicans in sprint on Trump's big bill after weekend of setbacks

The Senate will try to sprint ahead on Trump's big bill of tax breaks and spending cuts after a weekend of setbacks.

An all-night session to consider an endless stream of proposed amendments, called a vote-a-rama, was

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abruptly postponed.

It's now scheduled to launch when the Senate gavels open Monday. With Democrats united against the Republican president's legislation, the voting could take all day.

The day ahead could be pivotal for Republicans, who are racing to meet Trump's Fourth of July deadline to pass the bill. The House is being called back to session for votes as soon as Wednesday, if the Senate can pass the bill.

Trump suggests no extension on tariff pause

Speaking on Fox Business, Trump reiterated his desire to send "a very fair letter" to each country letting them know what their tariff rates will be.

The president said he didn't think he'll need to extend the pause on higher tariffs, which are supposed to take effect July 9.

He mused about what one of his letters could say. "Dear Mr. Japan, here's the story: You're going to pay a 25% tariff on your cars," he said.

What's in the latest version of Trump's big bill moving through the Senate

By KEVIN FREKING and LISA MASCARO Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republicans are inching closer to getting their tax and spending cut bill through Congress with a final Senate vote likely late Monday or early Tuesday.

At some 940 pages, the legislation is a sprawling collection of tax breaks, spending cuts and other Republican priorities, including new money for national defense and deportations. President Donald Trump has admonished Republicans, who hold majority power in the House and Senate, to skip their holiday vacations and deliver the bill by the Fourth of July.

Democrats are united against the legislation and were offering scores of amendments to alter it Monday as the Senate slogged through what is known as a vote-a-rama. Senators can offer an unlimited number of amendments, with each receiving a vote. Once the bill clears the Senate, it would have to pass the House before Trump can sign it into law.

Here's the latest on what's in the bill. There could be changes as GOP lawmakers continue to negotiate.

Tax cuts are the priority

Republicans say the bill is crucial because there would be a massive tax increase after December when tax breaks from Trump's first term expire. The legislation contains about \$4.5 trillion in tax cuts.

The existing tax rates and brackets would become permanent under the bill. It temporarily would add new tax breaks that Trump campaigned on: no taxes on tips, overtime pay, the ability to deduct interest payments for some automotive loans, along with a \$6,000 deduction for older adults who earn no more than \$75,000 a year.

It would boost the \$2,000 child tax credit to \$2,200. Millions of families at lower income levels would not get the full credit.

A cap on state and local deductions, called SALT, would quadruple to \$40,000 for five years. It's a provision important to New York and other high tax states, though the House wanted it to last for 10 years.

There are scores of business-related tax cuts, including allowing businesses to immediately write off 100% of the cost of equipment and research.

The wealthiest households would see a \$12,000 increase from the legislation, which would cost the poorest people \$1,600 a year, according to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office analysis of the House's version.

Middle-income taxpayers would see a tax break of \$500 to \$1,500, the CBO said.

Money for deportations, a border wall and the Golden Dome

The bill would provide some \$350 billion for Trump's border and national security agenda, including \$46 billion for the U.S.-Mexico border wall and \$45 billion for 100,000 migrant detention facility beds, as he

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aims to fulfill his promise of the largest mass deportation operation in U.S. history.

Money would go for hiring 10,000 new Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers, with \$10,000 signing bonuses and a surge of Border Patrol officers, as well. The goal is to deport some 1 million people per year.

The homeland security secretary would have a new \$10 billion fund for grants for states that help with federal immigration enforcement and deportation actions.

To help pay for it, immigrants would face various new fees, including when seeking asylum protections.

For the Pentagon, the bill would provide billions for ship building, munitions systems, and quality of life measures for servicemen and women, as well as \$25 billion for the development of the Golden Dome missile defense system. The Defense Department would have \$1 billion for border security.

How to pay for it? Cuts to Medicaid and other programs

To help partly offset the lost tax revenue and new spending, Republicans aim to cut back on Medicaid and food assistance for the poor.

Republicans argue they are trying to rightsize the safety net programs for the population they were initially designed to serve, mainly pregnant women, the disabled and children, and root out what they describe as waste, fraud and abuse.

The package includes new 80-hour-a-month work requirements for many adults receiving Medicaid and food stamps, including older people up to age 65. Parents of children 14 and older would have to meet the program's work requirements.

There's also a proposed new \$35 co-payment that can be charged to patients using Medicaid services.

More than 71 million people rely on Medicaid, which expanded under Obama's Affordable Care Act, and 40 million use the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program. Most already work, according to analysts.

The Congressional Budget Office estimates that 11.8 million more Americans would become uninsured by 2034 if the bill became law and 3 million more would not qualify for food stamps.

The Senate proposes a \$25 billion Rural Hospital Transformation Program to help offset reduced Medicaid dollars. It's a new addition, intended to win over holdout GOP senators and a coalition of House Republicans warning that the proposed Medicaid provider tax cuts would hurt rural hospitals.

A 'death sentence' for clean energy?

Republicans are proposing to dramatically roll back tax breaks designed to boost clean energy projects fueled by renewable sources such as energy and wind. The tax breaks were a central component of President Joe Biden's 2022 landmark bill focused on addressing climate change and lowering healthcare costs.

Democratic Oregon Sen. Ron Wyden went so far as to call the GOP provisions a "death sentence for America's wind and solar industries and an inevitable hike in utility bills."

Under the bill, a tax credit that subsidizes the production of electricity would be eliminated for any wind and solar plant not plugged into the grid by the end of 2027. But Republicans aren't just looking to roll back the tax breaks Biden put into place: they're also looking to add a tax for new wind and solar projects that use a certain percentage of components from China.

A tax break for people who buy new or used electric vehicles would expire on Sept. 30 of this year, instead of at the end of 2032 under current law.

Meanwhile, a tax credit for the production of critical materials will be expanded to include metallurgical coal used in steelmaking.

Trump savings accounts and so, so much more

A number of extra provisions reflect other GOP priorities.

The House and Senate both have a new children's savings program, called Trump Accounts, with a potential \$1,000 deposit from the Treasury.

The Senate provided \$40 million to establish Trump's long-sought "National Garden of American Heroes."

There's a new excise tax on university endowments. A \$200 tax on gun silencers and short-barreled rifles and shotguns was eliminated. One provision bars money to family planning providers, namely Planned Parenthood, while \$88 million is earmarked for a pandemic response accountability committee.

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Another section expands the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act, a hard-fought provision from GOP Sen. Josh Hawley of Missouri, for those impacted by nuclear development and testing.

Billions would go for the Artemis moon mission and for exploration to Mars.

The bill would deter states from regulating artificial intelligence by linking certain federal AI infrastructure money to maintaining a freeze. Seventeen Republican governors have asked GOP leaders to drop the provision.

Additionally, a provision would increase the nation's debt limit, by \$5 trillion, to allow continued borrowing to pay already accrued bills.

What's the final cost?

Altogether, the Congressional Budget Office projects that the bill would increase federal deficits over the next 10 years by nearly \$3.3 trillion from 2025 to 2034.

Or not, depending on how one does the math.

Senate Republicans are proposing a unique strategy of not counting the existing tax breaks as a new cost because those breaks are already "current policy." Republican senators say the Senate Budget Committee chairman has the authority to set the baseline for the preferred approach.

Under the alternative Senate GOP view, the bill would reduce deficits by almost a half-trillion dollars over the coming decade, the CBO said.

Democrats say this is "magic math" that obscures the true costs of the tax breaks. Some nonpartisan groups worried about the country's fiscal trajectory are siding with Democrats in that take. The Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget says Senate Republicans are employing an "accounting gimmick that would make Enron executives blush."

Trump administration finds Harvard failed to protect Jewish students, threatens to cut all funding

By COLLIN BINKLEY AP Education Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's administration on Monday intensified its battle with Harvard University, formally finding the school tolerated antisemitism — a step that could jeopardize all of Harvard's federal funding, including federal student aid.

In a letter sent to Harvard, a federal task force said its investigation had found the university was a "willful participant" in antisemitic harassment of Jewish students and faculty. The task force threatened to refer the case to the Justice Department to file a civil rights lawsuit "as soon as possible," unless Harvard comes into compliance.

The finding escalates the White House's conflict with Harvard, which has faced mounting sanctions after rejecting a list of federal demands calling for sweeping changes to campus governance, hiring and admissions. Already, the government has slashed more than \$2.6 billion in research grants. But the civil rights violation could jeopardize Harvard's eligibility to accept federal loans or grants for students to attend the university — a penalty often referred to as a "death sentence" in higher education.

"Failure to institute adequate changes immediately will result in the loss of all federal financial resources and continue to affect Harvard's relationship with the federal government," officials said in the letter, which was obtained by The Associated Press and first reported by The Wall Street Journal.

The Trump administration for months has accused Harvard of tolerating antisemitism on its campus, but a formal investigative finding gives the administration a channel to block more federal funding.

Trump personally has railed against Harvard, but on June 20 suggested a deal resolving the monthslong conflict could be coming soon. In a post on social media, Trump said Harvard has "acted extremely appropriately" during negotiations. He did not elaborate on the terms of a potential resolution.

Harvard has not commented on whether it is negotiating with the White House. On Monday, Harvard said it strongly disagrees with the government's findings and is committed to fighting bias.

"Antisemitism is a serious problem and no matter the context, it is unacceptable," the university said in

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a statement. "Harvard has taken substantive, proactive steps to address the root causes of antisemitism in its community."

Federal officials made their case in a 57-page report detailing an investigation by the civil rights office of the Department of Health and Human Services. The agency is among several represented on a federal antisemitism task force.

The government's investigation largely relied on a campus antisemitism study commissioned by Harvard and released in April. Federal officials cited numerous details from that report, including accounts of Jewish students who said they were spit on and faced chants on campus including "Heil Hitler."

It focuses heavily on last year's protests over the Israel-Hamas war. In the letter to Harvard, federal officials said the campus was "overrun by an impermissible, multiweek encampment" that left Jewish and Israeli students fearful and disrupted their studies.

It accuses Harvard of imposing lax and inconsistent discipline against students who participated in the encampment, noting that none were suspended.

Harvard President Alan Garber has acknowledged problems with antisemitism and anti-Muslim bias on campus, but he says Harvard has made strides to fight prejudice. He announced new initiatives in April upon release of the antisemitism study.

"Harvard cannot — and will not — abide bigotry," Garber wrote at the time.

The Monday letter finds Harvard violated Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Such findings have almost always been resolved through voluntary resolutions between schools and the federal government. The Trump administration has taken a much sharper edge than its predecessors, however.

It has been decades since an administration even attempted to strip a school or college of its federal funding over civil rights violations. Trump officials are seeking that outcome in a Justice Department lawsuit against Maine over transgender athletes, and it's threatening the same action in a similar investigation into California.

Trump officials have barraged Harvard with sanctions after it became the first university to defy White House demands addressing accusations of antisemitism and liberal bias. Along with research cuts, the administration has attempted to bar Harvard from hosting foreign students, and President Donald Trump has said the school should lose its tax-exempt status.

Some of the actions have been blocked by courts after Harvard sued, accusing the government of illegal retaliation.

Harvard's previous funding cuts were carried out under a provision allowing the government to end grants and contracts that no longer align with federal priorities. That strategy is believed to be unprecedented and is being challenged in court. But by invoking a civil rights violation, the government has put Harvard on an established path to further penalties.

Netanyahu will visit the White House next Monday as Trump presses for a ceasefire in Gaza

By AAMER MADHANI Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump will host Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for talks at the White House next Monday as the U.S. leader steps up his push on the Israeli government and Hamas to broker a ceasefire and hostage agreement and bring about an end to the war in Gaza.

The impending visit was confirmed by two U.S. administration officials who spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to comment publicly on it.

The trip will be Netanyahu's third visit to the White House since Trump returned to office in January, and it comes after the United States inserted itself into Israel's war against Iran by attacking Iranian nuclear sites. After brokering a ceasefire between the two countries, Trump has signaled that he's turning his attention to bringing a close to the fighting between Israel and Hamas.

Trump on Friday told reporters that "we think within the next week we're going to get a ceasefire" in

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Gaza, but didn't offer any further explanation for his optimism.

White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt said Monday that Trump and administration officials were in constant communication with Israeli leadership and that bringing about an end to the Gaza conflict is a priority for Trump.

"It's heartbreaking to see the images that have come out from both Israel and Gaza throughout this war, and the president wants to see it end," Leavitt added. "He wants to save lives."

Israeli Minister for Strategic Affairs Ron Dermer is in Washington this week for talks with senior administration officials on a Gaza ceasefire, Iran and other matters.

Talks between Israel and Hamas have repeatedly faltered over a major sticking point — whether the war should end as part of any ceasefire agreement. About 50 hostages remain captive in Gaza, with less than half believed to be alive.

With Netanyahu's visit, the timing of which was first reported by Axios, Trump will embrace the Israeli leader while continuing to push back against skeptical questions from Democratic lawmakers and others about how far U.S. and Israeli strikes have set back Iran's nuclear program.

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.

Rafael Grossi, head of the International Atomic Energy Agency, said on CBS' "Face the Nation" on Sunday 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 inspectors access.

Trump in recent days has also inserted himself into Israeli domestic affairs, calling for charges against Netanyahu in his ongoing corruption trial to be thrown out. He has condemned the trial as a "WITCH HUNT" and vowed that the United States will be the one who "saves" Netanyahu from serious corruption charges.

The decision by Trump to plunge himself into one of Israel's most heated debates has unnerved some in its political class.

Meanwhile, the Trump administration on Monday approved a new half-billion-dollar arms sale to Israel to resupply its military with bomb guidance kits for precision munitions.

The State Department said the sale is worth \$510 million. It includes more than 7,000 guidance kits for two different types of Joint Direct Attack Munitions, or JDAMs.

The deal is relatively small given that the U.S. provides Israel with more than \$3 billion annually in military aid. But Israel has relied on JDAMs and other related US weaponry in its war against Hamas in Gaza and its recent strikes against Iran.

"The United States is committed to the security of Israel, and it is vital to U.S. national interests to assist Israel to develop and maintain a strong and ready self-defense capability," the department said in a statement. "This proposed sale is consistent with those objectives."

No verdict on first day of jury deliberations at Sean 'Diddy' Combs' sex trafficking trial

By MICHAEL R. SISAK and LARRY NEUMEISTER Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Jury deliberations got underway on Monday in Sean "Diddy" Combs' federal sex trafficking trial and hit a snag almost as soon as they started. But, by the end of the day, jurors indicated they were making progress weighing complex charges that could put the hip-hop mogul in prison for life.

The first day of deliberations saw a flurry of notes from the jury and Combs and his supporters bowing their heads in prayer in the courtroom — but no verdict.

The jury of eight men and four women are sifting through seven weeks of sometimes graphic and emotional testimony about the rap, fashion and reality TV impresario's propensity for violence and his sexual predilections, including drug-fueled sex marathons dubbed "freak-offs" or "hotel nights."

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About an hour in, the foreperson reported that a juror might be having trouble following the 61 pages worth of instructions the judge had just read to them.

"We are concerned (the juror) cannot follow your honor's instructions," the foreperson said in a note to Judge Arun Subramanian just after 12:30 p.m.

After the judge originally proposed asking the jury foreperson the nature of concerns about the fellow juror, defense lawyer Marc Agnifilo suggested caution and that it was better to say less than more.

"We can always ratchet it up. We can't ratchet it down," Agnifilo said.

Subramanian sent his response to the jury around 2 p.m., reminding the panel to deliberate and to follow his instructions on the law.

The jury sent another note about three hours later asking for clarification on the part of the instructions addressing drug distribution — an allegation included in Combs' racketeering conspiracy charge.

As deliberations were happening, Combs prayed with his family and friends in the courtroom. Wearing his customary sweater and khakis, he stood facing his contingent in the audience and bowed his head with them. As they finished, they applauded, along with Combs.

Combs also showed off two books he's reading: "The Power of Positive Thinking," by Norman Vincent Peale and "The Happiness Advantage," by Shawn Achor.

As he sent the jury to deliberate, Subramanian told the five alternate jurors to remain on standby at home in case they're needed at a later point.

Jurors were provided with a laptop loaded with all of the exhibits shown in court, including text messages, photographs and videos of the sexual encounters at the heart of the case.

Combs, 55, has pleaded not guilty to federal charges of racketeering conspiracy, two counts of sex trafficking — relating to two of his ex-girlfriends — and two counts of transportation to engage in prostitution for allegedly arranging to fly his girlfriends and sex workers across state lines.

In closing arguments last week, federal prosecutors and Combs' defense team took their last shots at convincing jurors to convict or acquit the Grammy Award-winning founder of Bad Boy Records.

"The defendant used power, violence and fear to get what he wanted," Assistant U.S. Attorney Christy Slavik said. "He thought that his fame, wealth and power put him above the law."

She said that he used his "close inner circle and a small army of personal staff, who made it their mission to meet the defendant's every desire, promote his power and protect his reputation at all costs."

Defense lawyer Marc Agnifilo countered, "This isn't about crime. It's about money." He noted that one of Combs' accusers in the criminal case also sued him in civil court.

"He is not a racketeer. He is not a conspirator to commit racketeering. He is none of these things. He is innocent. He sits there innocent. Return him to his family, who have been waiting for him," the lawyer told jurors.

In all, 34 witnesses testified, headlined by Combs' former girlfriends Cassie — the R&B singer born Cassandra Ventura — and "Jane," who testified under a pseudonym. Both women said he often was violent toward them. Cassie said he forced her into hundreds of sexual encounters with paid male sex workers while Jane recounted numerous "hotel nights."

Jurors also saw now-infamous security camera video of Combs beating, kicking and dragging Cassie at a Los Angeles hotel in 2016 and clips from videos of sexual encounters.

Combs chose not to testify, and his lawyers didn't call any witnesses in their defense case. His attorneys elected instead to challenge the accusers' credibility during lengthy cross-examination questioning.

The defense has acknowledged that Combs veered into violence, but his lawyers maintain that the sex acts were consensual. They contend that prosecutors are intruding in Combs' personal life and that he's done nothing to warrant the charges against him.

An 82-year-old woman who was injured in a firebomb attack in Boulder, Colorado, has died

By COLLEEN SLEVIN and MEAD GRUVER Associated Press

DENVER (AP) — An 82-year-old Colorado woman who was injured in a Molotov cocktail attack on demonstrators in support of Israeli hostages in Gaza has died, prosecutors said Monday.

Karen Diamond died as a result of the severe injuries she suffered in the June 1 attack in downtown Boulder, Colorado, the local district attorney's office said in a statement. Prosecutors have listed 29 victims, including 13 who were physically injured.

Mohamed Sabry Soliman already faced dozens of charges in state court including attempted first-degree murder, using an incendiary device, and animal cruelty because a dog was hurt in the attack. He has not been arraigned on those charges that now include first-degree murder.

The Associated Press left a voicemail Monday for Soliman's public defender in the state case. The office generally bars its lawyers from commenting on their cases to the media. A preliminary hearing to determine whether there's enough evidence for a trial is set for July 15.

Separately, Soliman has been indicted on 12 federal hate crime counts. He entered a not guilty plea to those charges in federal court on Friday.

Leaders of the Boulder Jewish Community Center announced in an email Monday that Diamond died June 25 and said she will be deeply missed.

"Karen was a cherished member of our community, someone whose warmth and generosity left a lasting impact on all who knew her," executive director Jonathan Lev and board chair David Paul said.

Diamond helped at her synagogue and volunteered for several local groups, including the University of Colorado University Women's Club and a local music festival.

Gov. Jared Polis said in a statement Monday that he was devastated by Diamond's death, and that it will be felt deeply by the city of Boulder, the state and the Jewish community.

"Karen was taken from us too soon, and we mourn her loss while remembering her life and the impact she had on those who loved her," Polis said.

Prosecutors said Diamond's family has asked for privacy.

Diamond and her husband were enthusiastic volunteers since the 1990s for a local historic preservation organization, Historic Boulder, Inc. The couple often helped with public tours of old homes, said Melanie Muckle, the organization's administrator.

"Their generosity with their time and their talent and their kindness, I can't overstate that," Muckle said.

During the demonstration, Soliman posed as a gardener and wore a construction vest to get close to the group before launching the attack, prosecutors allege.

Investigators say Soliman told them he intended to kill the participants at the weekly demonstration. He yelled "Free Palestine" as he threw just two of more than two dozen Molotov cocktails he had prepared.

Prosecutors have identified 29 people who are considered victims of the attack, including 13 who were physically injured. The others were nearby and are considered victims because they could have been hurt. A dog was also injured in the attack.

Prosecutors previously said there were 15 victims but the number has increased as investigators discovered more people who were at the scene.

The victims were targeted because of their perceived or actual national origin, prosecutors allege. An attack motivated by someone's political views is not considered a hate crime under federal law.

Soliman told investigators he tried to buy a gun but was not able to because he was not a "legal citizen." Federal authorities have said the Egyptian national has been living in the U.S. illegally with his family.

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A heat wave covers much of Europe and higher temperatures are on the way

By SUZAN FRASER and JOSEPH WILSON Associated Press

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — A heat wave covered much of Europe on Monday, with a record-hot first day of play at Wimbledon and high winds fanning forest fires in Turkey.

Heat warnings were issued for parts of Spain, Portugal, Italy, Germany and the U.K., with new highs expected on Wednesday before rain should bring respite to some areas.

"Extreme heat is no longer a rare event — it has become the new normal," U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres tweeted from Seville, Spain, where temperatures hit 42 degrees Celsius (108 degrees Fahrenheit). He called for action to fight climate change, saying "the planet is getting hotter & more dangerous."

Dr. Hans Kluge, head of the World Health Organization's Europe office, warned in a statement that the scorching heat "silently threatens the people who need protection most: older adults, children, outdoor workers and anyone living with chronic health conditions."

Portugal

Portuguese authorities issued a red heat warning for seven of 18 districts as temperatures were forecast to hit 43 C (109F).

Spain

Spain's national weather service said no relief from the first heat wave of the year is expected until Thursday. Sunday's national average of 28 C (82F) set a new high temperature for June 29 since records were started in 1950.

France

In France, where air conditioning remains relatively rare, authorities were taking extra effort to care for homeless and elderly people. Misting stations doused passers-by along the River Seine in Paris.

France's first significant forest fires of the season consumed 400 hectares (988 acres) of woods Sunday and Monday in the southern Aude region. Water-dumping planes and some 300 firefighters were mobilized, the regional emergency service said.

Turkey

In Turkey, forest fires forced the temporary closure of the airport in Izmir, the state-run Anadolu Agency reported. Authorities evacuated four villages as a precaution, the Forestry Ministry said.

Firefighters battled a blaze that broke out Monday near residential areas in Hatay province, near the border with Syria, that prompted 1,500 people to evacuate.

Italy

In Italy, the Health Ministry put 21 cities under its "red" alert, which indicates "emergency conditions with possible negative effects" on healthy, active people as well as others. Regional governments in north-western Liguria and southern Sicily put restrictions on outdoor work.

There were torrential rains in the north, and parts of Bardonecchia near Turin were covered in sludge after the Frejus river burst its banks. RAI state television said one person was killed.

Britain

Britain's national weather service said the Wimbledon tennis tournament was facing what could be its hottest start, with temperatures just under 30 C (85F). Tournament rules allow players to take a 10-minute break when the heat goes above 30.1 C mid-match.

Germany

Temperatures in southern Germany were forecast as high as 39 C (102F) on Wednesday. Some towns and regions imposed limits on how much water can be taken from rivers and lakes.

At the Berlin zoo, elephants were showered with water and bears treated with blocks of ice containing fruit.

Judge again delays Abrego Garcia's release from Tennessee jail over deportation concerns

By TRAVIS LOLLER and BEN FINLEY Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Kilmar Abrego Garcia will stay in jail for now over concerns from his lawyers that he could be deported if he's released to await his trial on human smuggling charges, a federal judge in Tennessee ruled Monday.

Abrego Garcia's attorneys had asked the judge to delay his release because of what they described as "contradictory statements" by President Donald Trump's administration over what would happen to the Salvadoran national. The lawyers wrote in a brief to the court Friday that "we cannot put any faith in any representation made on this issue" by the Justice Department, adding that the "irony of this request is not lost on anyone."

Justice Department spokesman Chad Gilmartin told The Associated Press on Thursday that the department intends to try Abrego Garcia on the smuggling charges before it moves to deport him, stating that Abrego Garcia "has been charged with horrific crimes."

Hours earlier, Justice Department attorney Jonathan Guynn told a federal judge in Maryland that the U.S. government plans to deport Abrego Garcia to a "third country" that isn't El Salvador. Guynn said there was no timeline for the deportation plans.

Abrego Garcia's attorneys on Friday cited Guynn's comments as a reason to fear he would be deported "immediately."

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

Abrego Garcia's attorneys have accused the Trump administration of bringing Abrego Garcia back "to convict him in the court of public opinion" with the intention of deporting him before he has a chance to defend himself at trial.

"In a just world, he would not seek to prolong his detention further," his attorneys wrote Friday.

U.S. Magistrate Judge Barbara Holmes in Nashville ruled June 22 that federal prosecutors failed to show that Abrego Garcia was a flight risk or a danger to the community.

During a court hearing June 25, Holmes set specific conditions for Abrego Garcia's release that included him living with his brother, a U.S. citizen, in Maryland. But she held off on releasing him over concerns that prosecutors can't prevent ICE from deporting him.

Acting U.S. Attorney Rob McGuire told the judge he lacks jurisdiction over U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, stating he has no way to prevent Abrego Garcia's deportation.

Abrego Garcia's attorneys have asked the judge to delay his release until a July 16 court hearing, which will consider a request by prosecutors to revoke Abrego Garcia's release order while he awaits trial. Abrego Garcia pleaded not guilty on June 13 to smuggling charges.

The Department of Homeland Security, which includes ICE, did not respond directly to a question from The Associated Press on Friday regarding its plans for Abrego Garcia. A DHS spokesperson, Tricia McLaughlin, said in a statement that "he will never go free on American soil."

When the Trump administration deported Abrego Garcia in March, it violated a U.S. immigration judge's order in 2019 that barred his expulsion to his native country. The immigration judge had found that Abrego Garcia faced a credible threat from gangs that had terrorized him and his family.

The human smuggling charges pending against Abrego Garcia stem from a 2022 traffic stop for speeding in Tennessee, during which Abrego Garcia was driving a vehicle with nine passengers without luggage.

Nebraska Republican Rep. Don Bacon cites political dysfunction in deciding not to seek reelection

By MARGERY A. BECK Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — U.S. Rep. Don Bacon, a Republican from Nebraska, announced Monday he will not seek reelection next year amid an increasingly polarized political climate.

Bacon, 61, said at a news conference at Omaha's airport that he would not seek a sixth term representing Nebraska's second district with its so-called blue dot that includes many progressive voters around Omaha.

Bacon has had to navigate an ever-thinning line between staying in his party's and President Donald Trump's good graces without alienating his increasingly Democratic district. He said he is proud of his bipartisan approach in the face of bitter partisanship in Washington.

"It is disconcerting to get attacked from the right," Bacon said.

Bacon said he believes he could win the district again, but wants to spend more time with his family in Omaha.

"I think it's time for a new Republican to be your nominee that can do 12-14 hours a day and hold this seat," Bacon said.

Bacon said in "this district, you got to win swing voters. It's just a fact of life." But Republicans will have a good shot at keeping the seat in 2026, he said, because he believes Democrats in the race so far appeal mainly to the hard left.

An Air Force veteran first elected in 2016, he won reelection in 2024. He serves on the House Armed Services Committee and has been at the center of many debates in Congress. He has also been chairman of the conservative-centrist Republican Main Street Caucus in the House. He plans to finish his term.

Bacon has earned a reputation as a centrist — an increasingly rare designation among Republicans as the party has moved farther to the right. But he has long acknowledged that moderation is a necessary attribute for anyone seeking to represent the Omaha-centered district, which is closely divided between Republican and Democratic voters.

Nebraska is one of two states that doesn't follow a winner-take-all system of awarding Electoral College votes. Instead, Nebraska and Maine allow presidential electoral votes to be split by congressional district. Bacon's district has seen its electoral vote go to a Democratic presidential candidate three times — to Barack Obama in 2008, to Joe Biden in 2020 and to Kamala Harris in 2024.

The political climate is rapidly changing in Omaha, where voters recently rejected a fourth term for Republican Mayor Jean Stothert in favor of her Democratic opponent, John Ewing.

Seeing an opportunity to flip a vulnerable seat in the U.S. House where Republicans hold a razor-thin margin, several Democrats have already announced their candidacies. The most widely recognized is John Cavanaugh, a state senator from Omaha who's father, John J. Cavanaugh III, represented the 2nd District in Congress from 1977 to 1981.

Bacon has managed to survive the district's swing to the left by staying squarely in the middle. In his most recent campaigns, he touted his bipartisan credentials in political ads and cited his willingness to buck his party to support measures such as the Biden administration's popular 2021 infrastructure investment bill.

Despite Bacon's willingness to rebuke both his party and the Trump administration, he has consistently voted with most of their agenda. But his criticism has been enough to draw the growing ire of his party. Bacon faced a primary challenger in 2024 endorsed by the Nebraska Republican Party, which is led by Trump loyalists.

Even so, Bacon has grown more vocal in his criticism. That includes Trump's chaotic tariff policies, with Bacon going so far as to introduce a bill to return tariff-issuing authority to Congress.

Bacon said he won't decide whether to vote for Trump's tax cut and spending bill until he sees the final form. The House bill that focused on adding work requirements to Medicaid and auditing the program would do good things, he said, but he's wary of changes made in the Senate.

"Are we better off keeping the tax credits and increased spending for military we have in there?" Bacon pondered. "There's a lot of great stuff in this legislation, too, so we've got to weigh it out."

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On Sunday, Republican Sen. Thom Tillis of North Carolina also decided to not seek reelection next year. He had held to his opposition of President Donald Trump's tax breaks and spending cuts package because of its reductions to health care programs.

US skips global UN meeting aimed at raising trillions of dollars to combat poverty

By JOSEPH WILSON and EDITH M. LEDERER Associated Press

BARCELONA, Spain (AP) — Leaders of many of the world's nations, but not the United States, gathered Monday in Spain to tackle the growing gap between rich and poor nations and try to drum up trillions of dollars needed to close it.

More than 70 world leaders and other delegates unanimously adopted the so-called Seville Commitment — named for the host city — which had previously been hammered out in the run-up to the meet, without changes. It said delegates have agreed to launch "an ambitious package of reforms and actions to close the financing gap with urgency."

The gathering was held while many countries face escalating debt burdens, declining investments, decreasing international aid and increasing trade barriers. Still, there is hope that the world can address one of the most important global challenges: ensuring all people have access to food, health care, education and water.

"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 four-day Financing for Development meeting being co-hosted by the U.N. and Spain.

The hosts said the meeting was an opportunity to 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 badly lagging Sustainable Development Goals for 2030.

Along with heads of state and government, representatives of international financial institutions, development banks, philanthropic organizations, the private sector and civil society also attended.

The summit is an opportunity "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," Spain's Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez told delegates.

'Collective mobilization'

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

U.N. Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed last week called the U.S. withdrawal from the conference "unfortunate," adding that 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."

The European Union and France also said they were not going to be dissuaded by the American-led trend toward unilateralism.

"Collective mobilization can still work," French President Emmanuel Macron said on Monday.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen reaffirmed the bloc's commitment to development financing, saying, "Our commitment is here to stay."

Interest on debt payments

The Sevilla Commitment calls for a 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 of private financing by providing incentives for investing in critical areas like infrastructure. It also calls for reforms to help countries deal with rising debt.

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

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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.

Angolan President Joao Lourenco, speaking for the African Group, said debt payments "consumes more resources than those allocated to health and education combined" for many countries.

US objections

Jonathan Shrier, acting U.S. Representative to the Economic and Social Council, told the June 17 meeting that "our commitment to international cooperation and long-term economic development remains steadfast." He said the text "crosses many of our red lines."

He said those include 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 funder of foreign aid before the Trump administration dismantled its main aid agency, the U.S. Agency for International Development. It drastically slashed foreign assistance funding, calling it wasteful and contrary to the Republican president's agenda.

Other Western donors also have cut back international aid.

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 has killed at least 46 people and injured dozens, 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, the 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 said that forecasters cannot rule out a repeat of extreme weather like the 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 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.

On Sunday, the National Disaster Management Authority had warned of potential hazards and advised people against crossing rivers and streams.

Cleveland, Detroit, Philadelphia are set to join the WNBA as expansion franchises starting in 2028

By DOUG FEINBERG AP Basketball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — A look at the three expansion teams that the WNBA is adding over the next few years:

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Cleveland

First year of play: 2028.

Majority ownership group: Dan Gilbert, who owns the Cleveland Cavaliers.

Where they'll play: Rocket Arena, home of the Cavaliers.

Practice facility: Retrofit a facility in Independence, Ohio, that is currently used by the Cavaliers.

What they're saying: "They're a ready-made operation, arena, demographic, the psychographic, all the data, those numbers," WNBA Commissioner Cathy Engelbert said. "I'm a data geek. All the data we've been looking at as it relates to what would make a successful franchise and obviously look no further than what we already did in the Bay Area."

Detroit

First year of play: 2029.

Majority ownership group: Tom Gores, who owns the Detroit Pistons.

Minority owners: Grant Hill, Chris Webber, Jared Goff.

Where they'll play: Little Caesars Arena, home of the Pistons.

Practice facility: Building a new facility.

What they're saying: "I think this will be bigger than just the basketball team coming back. It's recognition of all the things that are happening in the city. And finally, I think it's going to have a real economic impact," Pistons vice chairman Arn Tellem said.

Philadelphia

First year of play: 2030.

Majority ownership group: Josh Harris, who owns the Philadelphia 76ers.

Where they'll play: A new arena being built in downtown Philadelphia.

Practice facility: The 76ers have a practice facility in Camden, New Jersey.

What they're saying: "Philly fans are passionate, they are full on. They hold you accountable and they hold everyone accountable, the players, the team, the ownership and, you know, we embrace that and embrace them," said Harris Blitzer Sports & Entertainment Managing Partner and co-founder Josh Harris, who owns the 76ers. "There's a lot of names who've come out of Philly women's and men's basketball, and there are a lot of girls playing basketball in Philly right now and this is something that needed to happen."

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 cellphone data to "hone in" on a wooded area where they found the suspect's body with a firearm nearby as flames rapidly 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

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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.

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

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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.

Today in History: July 1, Dominion of Canada is formed

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, July 1, the 182 day of 2024. There are 183 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 1, 1867, Canada became a self-governing dominion of Great Britain as the British North America Act took effect. Called Dominion Day until 1982, the national holiday is now known as Canada Day.

Also on this date:

In 1863, the pivotal, three-day Civil War Battle of Gettysburg, resulting in a Union victory, began in Pennsylvania.

In 1903, the first Tour de France began. (It ended on July 19, won by Maurice Garin.)

In 1944, delegates from 44 countries began meeting at Bretton Woods, New Hampshire, where they agreed to establish the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

In 1963, the U.S. Post Office inaugurated its five-digit ZIP codes.

In 1973, the Drug Enforcement Administration was established.

In 1984, the first movie rated PG-13 ("Red Dawn," starring Patrick Swayze) debuted.

In 1991, President George H.W. Bush nominated federal appeals court judge Clarence Thomas to the Supreme Court, beginning an ultimately successful confirmation process marked by allegations of sexual

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harassment.

In 1997, Hong Kong reverted to Chinese rule after 156 years as a British colony.

In 2004, actor Marlon Brando died in Los Angeles at age 80.

In 2015, after more than a half-century of hostility, the United States and Cuba declared their intent to reopen embassies in each other's capitals, leading to a historic full restoration of diplomatic relations between the Cold War foes.

In 2018, LeBron James announced that he would be signing with the Los Angeles Lakers, leaving Cleveland for the second time in his career.

In 2019, 15-year-old Coco Gauff, the youngest player to qualify at Wimbledon in the professional era, defeated 39-year-old Venus Williams in the first round.

Today's Birthdays: Actor-dancer Leslie Caron is 94. Actor Jamie Farr (TV: "M(asterisk)A(asterisk)S(asterisk)H") is 91. Dancer-choreographer Twyla Tharp is 84. Actor Genevieve Bujold is 83. Rock singer Deborah Harry (Blondie) is 80. Actor Terrence Mann is 74. Rock singer Fred Schneider (The B-52s) is 74. Pop singer Victor Willis (Village People) is 74. Actor-comedian Dan Aykroyd is 73. Actor Alan Ruck is 69. Mystery novelist Louise Penny is 67. Singer Evelyn "Champagne" King is 65. Olympic track champion Carl Lewis is 64. Actor Dominic Keating (TV: "Star Trek: Enterprise") is 62. Actor Pamela Anderson is 58. Actor Henry Simmons is 55. Hip-hop artist Missy Elliott is 54. Actor Julianne Nicholson is 54. Singer-songwriter Sufjan Stevens is 50. Actor Liv Tyler is 48. Hockey Hall of Famer Jarome Iginla is 48. Actor Hilarie Burton is 43. Actor Lea Seydoux (LEE'-uh say-DOO') is 40. Actor-singer Chloe Bailey is 27. Actor Storm Reid is 22.

Groton Jr. Teeners 14U Looks To Continue Strong Play Against Smittys 13/14 2025 Aberdeen

Groton Jr. Teeners 14U have been playing well lately, going 7-3 in their last 10 games. They'll put that strong play to the test when they go up against Smittys 13/14 2025 Aberdeen on Tuesday at Groton SD with a double header starting at 5:30 p.m..

Last Time Out:

Lincoln Shilhanek collected three hits to lead Groton Jr. Teeners 14U over Clear Lake 14U 18-3. Smittys 13/14 2025 Aberdeen held off for a 6-5 victory over Bismarck.

Player Highlight:

Kyson Kucker hits and pitches for Groton Jr. Teeners 14U. Kucker primarily plays left field on the field. Kucker has an on-base percentage of 0.467 this season thanks in part to a 0.238 average and eight walks. Kucker has induced 12 groundballs on 25 balls in play this season.

About Groton Jr. Teeners 14U:

Groton Jr. Teeners 14U will look to add to their 5-game winning streak. They are 11-5 overall this season. Jordan Schwan's 1.525 OPS leads Groton Jr. Teeners 14U. The center fielder has a 0.629 OBP and a 0.897 slugging percentage this season. Shilhanek leads Groton Jr. Teeners 14U with 14 and two-thirds innings pitched. The right-handed pitcher has a 3.34 ERA this season. Keegan Kucker leads Groton Jr. Teeners 14U with 109 total fielding chances this season. Kucker's primary position is catcher.

About Smittys 13/14 2025 Aberdeen:

Smittys 13/14 2025 Aberdeen has played well lately, going 6-4 in their last 10 games. They have a 9-4 record overall. Cade Trefz's 1.495 OPS leads Smittys 13/14 2025 Aberdeen. The third baseman has a 0.600 OBP and a 0.895 slugging percentage this season. Tobin German leads Smittys 13/14 2025 Aberdeen with 20 innings pitched. Brody Kaan leads Smittys 13/14 2025 Aberdeen with 50 total fielding chances this season. Kaan's primary position is first base.