

# Groton Daily Independent

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## **Tuesday, July 22**

Senior Menu: Lasagna rotini bake, seven layer salad, tropical fruit, breadstick.

United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.

Region 6B Legion Tourney in Sisseton

## **Wednesday, July 23**

Senior Menu: Roast beef, mashed potatoes with gravy, carrots, fruit, whole wheat bread.

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

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

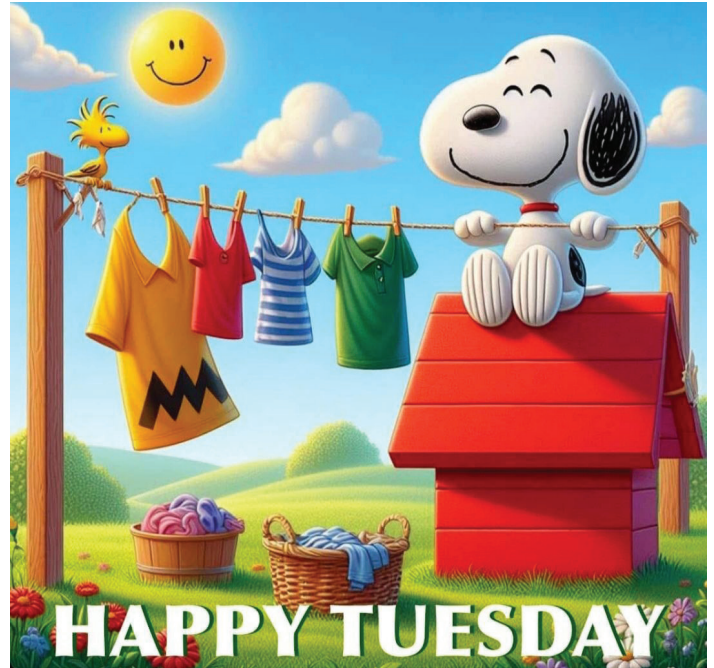
Emmanuel Lutheran: WELCA Guest Day, 6 p.m.

Region 6B Legion Tourney in Sisseton

## **Groton Daily Independent**

**PO Box 34, Groton SD 57445**

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



## **Thursday, July 24**

Senior Menu: Beef and broccoli stir fry, wild rice, green beans, peaches, whole wheat bread.

Region 6B Legion Tourney in Sisseton

## **Friday, July 25**

Senior Menu: Ranch chicken breast, baked potato, California blend, strawberry ambrosia, whole wheat bread.

Ferney Open Golf Tourney at Olive Grove

Region 6B Legion Tourney in Sisseton

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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.**

## Israel Expands Operations

Israel expanded its ground operations into the previously spared city of Deir al-Balah in central Gaza for the first time yesterday. Deir al-Balah is one of the area's primary humanitarian hubs, where displaced Palestinians have been sheltered, and contains aid warehouses, health clinics, and critical water infrastructure. Nearly 88% of the Gaza Strip is estimated to have been evacuated or classified as military zones, with roughly 2 million Palestinians displaced.

The Israeli military advance comes as officials believe some of the 50 remaining hostages, abducted during Hamas' cross-border attack on Oct. 7, 2023, may be held in Deir al-Balah. At least 20 of the hostages are thought to be still alive.

Meanwhile, the UK, Canada, Japan, and 25 other countries issued a joint statement yesterday criticizing Israel's approach to, and restrictions on, aid delivery in Gaza. The Hamas-run Gaza Health Ministry reported more than 1,000 Palestinians have died since late May while attempting to access aid, and the UN has said nearly 800 casualties have occurred en route to or at aid sites operated by the US- and Israeli-backed Gaza Humanitarian Foundation.

## Harvard Funding Hearing

Lawyers for Harvard University and the Trump administration appeared in federal court yesterday over whether Harvard can recoup roughly \$2.6B in research grants.

The administration cut the grants in April after accusing Harvard of antisemitism; a letter last month from the Education Department found Harvard guilty of violating Jewish students' civil rights. Harvard says the cuts were retaliatory after the Ivy League rejected demands by a federal task force to end all diversity, equity, and inclusion programs and rework its faculty hiring and admissions process, among other changes.

Harvard is the world's largest academic research institute with a \$53.2B endowment, and is responsible for more scientific output than any other university. Since the Trump administration began cutting funding, the university has paused hundreds of research projects, including on tuberculosis, ALS, and chemotherapy.

The federal judge yesterday appeared poised to rule in Harvard's favor. If so, President Donald Trump has pledged to appeal.

## Four-Day Workweek Study

Results from the largest trial of four-day workweeks, published yesterday, revealed the shortened schedule—without any pay cuts—boosts job satisfaction, reduces burnout, and improves well-being.

Nearly 2,900 workers from 141 organizations in the US, Canada, the UK, Ireland, Australia, and New Zealand shifted to 32-hour four-day weeks for six months. Companies had two months to restructure workflows, largely by trimming unnecessary meetings. At the end of the study, employees reported improved performance, better sleep, and less fatigue. Over 90% of participating companies kept the truncated schedule, suggesting output and profit weren't harmed, though the study didn't measure company-wide productivity.

While many Americans view the five-day workweek as standard, it only became commonplace after the passage of the Fair Labor Standards Act in 1938. Interest in shorter workweeks has grown since the COVID-19 pandemic reignited conversations about work-life balance, with 22% of national survey respondents reporting their employer offered four-day weeks in 2024, compared to 14% in 2022.

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## Sports, Entertainment, & Culture

Malcolm-Jamal Warner, actor and director best known for starring role in "The Cosby Show," dies at age 54 of an accidental drowning while on vacation in Costa Rica.

Tom Troupe, actor whose career spanned more than 60 years, dies at age 97.

"Superman" hauls in more than \$400M at global box office and helps Warner Bros. pass Disney as top-grossing studio at US domestic box office for 2025.

President Donald Trump threatens to restrict stadium deal for the NFL's Washington Commanders unless they restore former Redskins name; Trump also urges the MLB's Cleveland Guardians to bring back Indians moniker.

## Science & Technology

Security researchers say weekend hack via Microsoft's SharePoint likely affected about 100 organizations, including government agencies in the US, the UK, and Germany; attack likely carried out by a single actor.

Supernovae study suggests dark energy—the mysterious force driving universal expansion—may be weakening over time; if confirmed, results would point to not-yet-discovered physics governing the universe.

Researchers sequence genes of y-larvae, an enigmatic species of parasitic crustacean; despite being identified in the late 1800s, the adult form of the creatures has never been observed.

## Business & Markets

US stock markets close mixed (S&P 500 +0.1%, Dow -0.0%, Nasdaq +0.4%).

Opendoor Technologies shares surge 42.7% after investor Eric Jackson predicts a turnaround; online real estate company dubbed the latest meme stock and trading briefly halted due to volatility concerns.

Southwest Airlines announces assigned seating will begin Jan. 27.

Auto giant Stellantis warns of \$2.7B net loss for the first half of 2025, citing early effects of tariffs.

Sandwich chain Subway hires former Burger King executive as CEO.

Trump Media shares rise 3.1% after the company buys \$2B in bitcoin and related securities.

Citigroup joins Goldman in asking junior bankers to disclose other offers in effort to combat competitive recruiting by private equity firms.

## Politics & World Affairs

Federal appeals court overturns 2017 conviction of Pedro Hernandez, a former bodega stock clerk who confessed to kidnapping and killing six-year-old Etan Patz in 1979.

Former Kentucky police officer Brett Hankison sentenced to 33 months in prison for role in 2020 raid that killed Breonna Taylor; Hankison fired 10 shots into Taylor's apartment, but didn't hit anyone.

Bangladeshi Air Force training jet crashes into two-story building at a school in Dhaka, killing at least 20 people, injuring 171 others; cause of the accident is under investigation.

Alaska Airlines grounds all flights for three hours due to hardware-related electrical outage.

Trump administration releases over 240,000 pages related to FBI surveillance of the late Martin Luther King Jr. before his 1968 assassination.

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**Members of the Locke family poses for a photo on July 12 during the second day of the 12U VFW South Dakota Baseball Tournament in Groton. Individuals include from the left in the back row: Matt, Jerry, Mitchell, Wyatt and Dalton. The front row includes Rose, Mason and Randy.** (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



**Members of the Locke family pose for a photo on July 12 during the second day of the 12U VFW South Dakota Baseball Tournament in Groton. Individuals include from left Mason, Matt, Jerry, Mitchell, Wyatt and Dalton.** (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



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**Homebase umpire Wyatt Locke keeps an eye on the pitch during Saturday's game between the Britton Jr. Jacks and Canova Gang during the VFW state 12U tournament.** (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



**Homebase umpire Wyatt Locke calls a strike during Saturday's game between the Britton Jr. Jacks and Canova Gang during the VFW state 12U tournament.** (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



**Base umpire Dalton Locke prepares to run to second base following a runner during Saturday's game between the Britton Jr. Jacks and Canova Gang during the VFW state 12U tournament.** (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



**Homebase umpire Wyatt Locke shows the pitch count during Saturday's game between the Britton Jr. Jacks and Canova Gang during the VFW state 12U tournament.** (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)

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## Groton Jr. Teeners 14U Trounce Faulkton 14U

By GameChanger Media

Groton Jr. Teeners 14U easily dispatched Faulkton 14U on Monday, 16-6.

Groton Jr. Teeners 14U got on the board in the top of the first inning after Lincoln Shilhanek grounded out, and Kolton Antonsen singled to the left side of the infield, each scoring one run.

Groton Jr. Teeners 14U added one run in the second. Keegan Kucker scored after tagging up, making the score 3-1.

Faulkton 14U made the score 5-3 in the bottom of the second after Brayden Heime drew a walk, scoring one run, Bryant Coltman singled, scoring one run, and Simeon Sime singled, scoring two runs.

Groton Jr. Teeners 14U jumped into the lead in the top of the third when Sam Crank drew a walk, scoring one run, Kucker singled, scoring two runs, and Heime induced Asher Zimmerman to hit into a fielder's choice, but one run scored.

Groton Jr. Teeners 14U scored six runs on five hits in the top of the fourth inning. Shilhanek singled, scoring two runs, Antonsen doubled, scoring one run, Crank doubled, scoring one run, Noah Scepaniak drew a walk, scoring one run, and Paxton Hartung induced Zimmerman to hit into a fielder's choice, but one run scored.

Jordan Schwan earned the win for Groton Jr. Teeners 14U. The hurler surrendered zero hits and one run over three and two-thirds innings, striking out 11 and walking five. Heime took the loss for Faulkton 14U. The pitcher went three innings, surrendering 13 runs (12 earned) on nine hits, striking out none and walking eight. Tucker Leicht began the game for Groton Jr. Teeners 14U. The hurler allowed three hits and five runs over one and one-third innings, striking out two and walking six.

Groton Jr. Teeners 14U tallied 12 hits in the game. Kucker led Groton Jr. Teeners 14U with three runs batted in from the number nine spot in the lineup. The right-handed hitter went 2-for-2 on the day. Antonsen, Schwan, Kucker, and Shilhanek each collected two hits for Groton Jr. Teeners 14U. Crank led Groton Jr. Teeners 14U with three walks. Overall, the team had a strong eye at the plate, tallying 13 walks for the game. Zimmerman, Schwan, Kucker, Crank, Trayce Schelle, and Kyson Kucker each stole multiple bases for Groton Jr. Teeners 14U. Groton Jr. Teeners 14U stole 15 bases in the game.

Sime provided pop in the middle of the lineup, and led Faulkton 14U with two runs batted in. The infielder went 2-for-3 on the day. Heime led Faulkton 14U with three walks. Overall, the team had a strong eye at the plate, tallying 11 walks for the game. Sime stole two bases.

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## Lincoln Shilhanek's Big Day Propels Groton Jr. Teeners 14U Past Faulkton 14U

By GameChanger Media

Lincoln Shilhanek drove in five runs on three hits to lead Groton Jr. Teeners 14U past Faulkton 14U 17-6 on Monday. Shilhanek singled in the second scoring two, singled in the third scoring two, and doubled in the fourth scoring one.

Groton Jr. Teeners 14U won thanks in part to nine runs in the second inning. Noah Scepaniak grounded out, scoring one run, Gavin Hanten drew a walk, scoring one run, Jordan Schwan drew a walk, scoring one run, Shilhanek singled, scoring two runs, and Sam Crank hit an inside the park grand slam.

A double by Kolton Antonsen put Groton Jr. Teeners 14U on the board in the top of the first.

A double by Waylon Adams gave Faulkton 14U the lead, 2-1, in the bottom of the first.

Groton Jr. Teeners 14U scored six runs on five hits in the top of the third inning. Hanten grounded out, scoring two runs, Shilhanek singled, scoring two runs, Keegan Kucker drew a walk, scoring one run, and Kyson Kucker singled, scoring one run.

Kucker earned the win for Groton Jr. Teeners 14U. The right-handed pitcher allowed six hits and six runs (five earned) over four innings, striking out three and walking five. Henry Homm took the loss for Faulkton 14U. The starting pitcher went three and one-third innings, allowing 16 runs (seven earned) on nine hits, striking out one and walking 10.

Groton Jr. Teeners 14U piled up 11 hits in the game. Trayce Schelle and Shilhanek each collected three hits for Groton Jr. Teeners 14U. Groton Jr. Teeners 14U had a strong eye at the plate, accumulating 10 walks for the game. Schwan and Kucker led the team with two walks each. Scepaniak stole two bases.

Adams drove the middle of the lineup, leading Faulkton 14U with three runs batted in. The outfielder went 1-for-2 on the day. Brayden Heime went 2-for-3 at the plate to lead Faulkton 14U in hits. Tate Bray stole two bases.

Next up for Groton Jr. Teeners 14U is a game at Milbank 14U on Wednesday.

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## SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

### Rounds wins Trump endorsement after playing deal-making role in rescinding public media funds

BY: SETH TUPPER - JULY 21, 2025 4:39 PM

President Donald Trump issued a reelection endorsement Monday for South Dakota's U.S. Sen. Mike Rounds, days after Rounds helped pass Trump's cancellation of previously approved funds for public broadcasting and foreign aid.

Rounds, a Republican former governor, is serving his second term in the U.S. Senate. He's up for reelection next year.

In a message posted to social media, Trump described Rounds as an "incredibly strong advocate for the wonderful people of South Dakota." Trump wrote that Rounds has his "Complete and Total Endorsement."

Rounds shared the endorsement on social media and thanked Trump, writing, "I look forward to working with you to make America even better!"

The endorsement came on the heels of Rounds helping to pass Trump's rescission of Corporation for Public Broadcasting funds last week.

Rounds had expressed concerns about canceling \$1.1 billion of previously approved funding for the corporation. He announced his support after saying he'd negotiated with the Trump administration to move \$9.4 million from an account within the Interior Department to at least two dozen Native American radio stations in multiple states that depend on the corporation for much of their funding.

The legislation also cancels about \$8 billion in foreign aid spending that Congress had appropriated for dozens of programs, including global health initiatives. After Rounds announced his support, the bill advanced 51-50 on a procedural vote in the Senate, on its way to eventual passage.

The Trump endorsement completes a two-year political shift for Rounds, who endorsed U.S. Sen. Tim Scott, R-South Carolina, for president in May 2023 and did not attend Trump's September 2023 rally with then-Gov. Kristi Noem in a Rapid City arena.

No Republican has come forward so far to challenge Rounds for the party's nomination.

The other declared candidates for the Senate seat are Julian Beaudion, a Democratic business owner and former state trooper, and Brian Bengs, who is running as an independent after running unsuccessfully as a Democrat against Republican Sen. John Thune in 2022.



**U.S. Sen. Mike Rounds, R-South Dakota, speaks at Madison's Lewis and Clark Regional Water System ribbon cutting on Aug. 21, 2024. At left is U.S. Sen. John Thune, R-South Dakota.** (Makenzie Huber, South Dakota Searchlight)

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South Dakota's primary election is June 2, 2026, and the general election is Nov. 3, 2026.

*Seth is editor-in-chief of South Dakota Searchlight. He was previously a supervising senior producer for South Dakota Public Broadcasting and a newspaper journalist in Rapid City and Mitchell.*

## Republican candidate spends \$187,000 on TV ads so far, a year before SD's primary election

BY: JOSHUA HAIAR - JULY 21, 2025 2:30 PM

South Dakota Republican governor candidate Toby Doeden spent about \$187,000 on broadcast television ads in the first month after his campaign announcement, one year before the state's Republican primary election.

Candidates for statewide offices in South Dakota don't face a state campaign finance disclosure deadline until January. But Federal Communications Commission rules require stations that use public airwaves to disclose details of political ad buys.

Those reports show Doeden purchased \$186,925 of airtime across the state from May 28 through July 1 — the most recent reports available.

Doeden, an Aberdeen businessman, launched his campaign on May 28. His television ads highlight his business background and his support for President Donald Trump.

"While Congressman Johnson is busy coddling lobbyists and special interest groups in an effort to finance his campaign, my family and I are traveling to all four corners of our state listening to the concerns of the hardworking people who make South Dakota great," Doeden told South Dakota Searchlight in a written statement. "Our campaign is citizen-led, focused forward, and ready to unite conservatives around a better and brighter future for South Dakota residents."

Doeden is the owner of Aberdeen Chrysler Center, Redfield Ford and other retail businesses and real estate.

Other Republicans who have declared a candidacy for governor are U.S. Rep. Dusty Johnson, of Mitchell, and state House Speaker Jon Hansen, of Dell Rapids. Another Republican frequently mentioned as a potential candidate is former lieutenant governor and current Gov. Larry Rhoden, who is serving the remainder of former Gov. Kristi Noem's second term after she resigned to join the Trump Cabinet. The only declared Democratic candidate is Robert Arnold, a college student.

Johnson sent a written statement to Searchlight.

"While Toby has been busy spending a tremendous amount of money, I've focused my efforts on federal spending — cutting wasteful spending and securing the border," Johnson said.

Johnson had spent \$27,895 on broadcast television advertising through June 30, which his campaign ordered prior to his campaign announcement that day, according to FCC files.



**Toby Doeden announces his candidacy for the Republican nomination for governor of South Dakota during an event on May 28, 2025, in Aberdeen.** (Joshua Haiar/South Dakota Searchlight)

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Johnson doesn't have to file a new state campaign finance report until January, but existing reports from his federal committee and affiliated political action committees show he's accumulated over \$6 million that could be used to aid his campaign.

Hansen has not yet spent any money on broadcast television advertising. He told Searchlight his campaign is being funded "the way it was meant to be: by grassroots conservative Republicans who care about their state and want a proven conservative fighter in the governor's office."

"The people of our state do not want big money or D.C. special interests ruling our state. Our state motto is 'under God, the people rule,' and I'm fighting to keep it that way," Hansen said in a statement.

The early start to the governor's race has the attention of political observers. Drey Samuelson worked as Democratic former U.S. Sen. Tim Johnson's chief of staff for many years. He said Rhoden and Rep. Johnson will run in the "moderately conservative lane," and Doeden and Hansen will "swim in the MAGA lane," referencing the acronym for President Donald Trump's "Make America Great Again" slogan.

That means Doeden and Hansen are likely to split their supporters, said Samuelson, who added that Doeden's early spending could pressure Hansen to drop out of the race.

"If I'm Toby Doeden, I'd offer to make Jon Hansen my lieutenant governor in exchange for him dropping out — if he took it, it's a totally new race," Samuelson said.

Hansen said he isn't going anywhere.

"No amount of big money spending will change our campaign — we've never backed down from doing what's right, and we're not going to start now," he said. "We're all in."

Brad "Murdoc" Jurgensen has decades of experience in broadcast media and advertising, working as president of HomeSlice Media in Rapid City. He also co-hosts a South Dakota politics podcast, "Dakota Town Hall." He said Doeden's TV ad spending is notable not for its amount, "but for its timing."

"He's trying to capitalize on being the only active candidate this far out from the 2026 primary," Jurgensen said. "The goal appears to be boosting name recognition, fundraising and organizing at the grassroots level before competitors ramp up."

Jurgensen said Doeden's effort stands out in South Dakota, "where races have historically been shorter and cheaper. But this was already happening in other states."

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

## **COMMENTARY**

### **South Dakotans in Congress betray their state with votes that could kill SD Public Broadcasting**

#### **While targeting NPR for Trump, national politicians will destroy local stations**

I never thought I would see the day when U.S. Senators John Thune and Mike Rounds and Rep. Dusty Johnson would sell out their South Dakota values and upbringing to become puppets of a president.

Nor did I think I would see them damage institutions that are at the core of South Dakota's society. Unfortunately, it appears that President Donald Trump is so powerful that personal values no longer matter.

Last week, all three voted to rescind \$1.1 billion in funding for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting — funding that all three had previously voted to approve.

It's clear that National Public Radio was Trump's target. He believes taxpayer money shouldn't be going to support news he perceives as a challenge to his line of thinking.

But often when we act hastily and with little thought, the grenades we throw miss the intended target and damage innocent victims.

Such is the case here. Only 1% of NPR's operating budget and 15% of the Public Broadcasting System



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**From left, U.S. Sen. John Thune, U.S. Sen. Mike Rounds and U.S. Rep. Dusty Johnson, all Republicans of South Dakota, talk about agriculture policy at Dakotafest in Mitchell on Aug. 21, 2024.** (Joshua Haiar/South Dakota Searchlight)

budget comes from the corporation, and both will survive. Most of the corporation's funding goes to support local public broadcasting systems, which likely will not.

"After the cut, NPR is still going to be NPR and PBS is still going to be PBS," said Julie Overgaard, executive director of South Dakota Public Broadcasting. "They are all going to continue to exist."

So will public stations in the major metropolitan areas.

"It's the places like us that will suffer the most," Overgaard said. "The reason the CPB was set up was so that rural communities can share in a collective public media."

"We don't have enough people and wealth to exist on our own. The very thing they were trying to eliminate will survive. Instead, it's something very important to our state that will be eliminated."

Programs like "South Dakota Focus," "In the Moment," "Dakota Life" and "Jazz Nightly," along with state-house coverage and broadcasts of high school sports and activities, may all disappear.

What a legacy for Thune, Rounds and Johnson — the men who destroyed SDPB.

Last week while casting their votes, they hid behind the need to cut the budget deficit. Funny. They found deficit religion only a few weeks after they voted for Trump's Big Beautiful Bill Act that increases the deficit. The more talented politicians become, the better they are at creating alternative realities.

Here's the reality of SDPB's future.

The impending loss of \$2 million in funding from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting may force SDPB to quickly cut up to 20 people from its 60-member staff. The damage likely will be worse. Even if SDPB could raise \$2 million in three months, it probably wouldn't matter.

The Corporation for Public Broadcasting is essentially dead as of Sept. 30, severing the technical backbone of SDPB's network. It facilitates the sharing of programming from network to network. It facilitates emergency alerts and emergency alerts. It handles SDPB's website and negotiates music broadcast rights nationally.

"The situation is grave, fluid and chaotic," Overgaard said.

Rounds acted like he was the champion leading up to the vote, holding out to the last minute as he secured an agreement to find \$9.4 million in funding elsewhere for communication towers on Native American reservations. That's not likely to be sustainable in the long-term.

"It's a nice gesture, but it is hollow in its result," Overgaard said of Rounds' action. "It will still result in the demise of tribal stations."

Programs like Native American News and other nationally shared music and talk programs likely won't be produced, and the national network that distributes it won't exist. Money and technical support for local programming also disappear.

SDPB had just survived a funding fight in the South Dakota Legislature after then-Gov. Kristi Noem suggested cutting \$3.6 million in state funding, also largely aimed at silencing NPR. Legislators were inundated with calls, and the result was an overwhelming restoration of funding.



"We know we are very important in people's daily lives," Overgaard said. "They trust us in moments of crisis and joy. This has nothing to do with whether we are a valued service. This is politics. I don't know that we ever had a chance to win this."

The only chance is for federal funding to be restored in the upcoming federal budget, perhaps absent taxpayer support for NPR and PBS.

SDPB supporters will have opportunities to speak with their congressional delegates during the upcoming August recess. Looking at constituents in the eye can be uncomfortable.

Trump puppets are not what we thought we elected. Thune, Rounds and Johnson, what have you become?

*Brad Johnson is a certified general real estate appraiser and longtime journalist. He is past president of South Dakota Lakes and Streams Association, president of the South Dakota Wildlife Federation, a member of the National Wildlife Federation's board of directors, and served 16 years on the South Dakota Board of Water and Natural Resources. He lives in Rapid City and Watertown.*

## Trump tax law runs up deficit by \$3.4T, throws 10 million off health insurance, CBO says

BY: JENNIFER SHUTT - JULY 21, 2025 5:55 PM



**President Donald Trump holds up the "One Big Beautiful Bill Act" that was signed into law during an Independence Day military family picnic on the South Lawn of the White House on July 4, 2025 in Washington, D.C.** (Photo by Alex Brandon – Pool/Getty Images)

WASHINGTON — Republicans' "big, beautiful" law will add \$3.394 trillion to deficits during the next decade and lead 10 million people to lose access to health insurance, according to an analysis released Monday by the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office.

The updated assessment of the sweeping tax and spending cuts law came weeks after nearly every GOP lawmaker voted to approve the legislation ahead of a self-imposed Fourth of July deadline. The law made permanent the 2017 tax cuts from President Donald Trump's first term and provided billions to carry out his plans of mass deportations, an immigration crackdown and increased defense spending.

Maya MacGuineas, president of the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget, wrote in a statement that it is "still hard to believe that policymakers just added \$4 trillion to" deficits after Republican lawmakers "have spent months or years appropriately

fuming about our unsustainable fiscal situation."

"This is a dangerous game we are playing," MacGuineas wrote. "It has been going on for years, and it was brought to new levels with this bill. And it is time to stop."

CBO released numerous reports throughout the months-long process showing how various parts of the bill would affect federal spending and health care access, but the scorekeeper needed additional time to evaluate changes Republicans made during the last few days of debate.

The latest figures are similar to a preliminary report CBO released earlier this month projecting the final version of the package, which underwent considerable changes in the Senate, would likely lead to a \$3.4 trillion increase in deficits between 2025 and 2034.

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That total was significantly higher than the \$2.4 trillion increase in deficits CBO expected the original House version of the bill would have had during the next decade.

## **Health spending to fall by more than \$1 trillion**

Republicans' numerous changes to health programs, predominantly Medicaid, will reduce federal spending during the next decade by \$1.058 trillion.

The law made more than a dozen changes to the state-federal health program for lower income individuals and certain people with disabilities, though some of those have larger budget impacts than others.

Language barring Medicaid spending from going to Planned Parenthood for one year would actually increase federal deficits during the 10-year window by \$53 million.

The CBO score shows that policy change would decrease federal spending by \$44 million this fiscal year and another \$31 million during the next fiscal year, before increasing deficits by \$91 million during fiscal year 2027 and continuing.

That section of the law is on hold for the moment after a federal judge issued a temporary restraining order earlier this month that required the Trump administration to continue paying Planned Parenthood for routine health care coverage for Medicaid enrollees.

Federal law for decades has barred the federal government from spending taxpayer dollars for abortion services with limited exceptions, so the one-year prohibition on Medicaid funding to Planned Parenthood would have blocked patients enrolled in the program from going to their clinics for routine health appointments, like annual physicals and cancer screenings.

The CBO report didn't include a state-by-state breakdown of the effects of the health care changes in the law, but the agency is expected to release more detailed analysis of the health impacts in the coming weeks.

## **Nutrition assistance cuts**

Apart from Medicaid, two large projected deficit reductions in the law come in the agriculture title's sections on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP.

A provision requiring states to pay for some portion of SNAP benefits starting in fiscal 2028 would save the federal government between \$5.7 billion and \$6 billion per year, totalling just less than \$41 billion for the first seven years it will be in effect.

And new work requirements for SNAP would result in \$68.6 billion less in federal spending over the 10 years starting in fiscal 2026, the CBO projected.

## **Federal student loan program**

Republicans' streamlining of the federal student loan program is projected to reduce federal spending in the next decade by \$270.5 billion.

As part of a sweeping overhaul of higher education, the law limits repayment options for borrowers with any loans made on or after July 1, 2026, to either a standard repayment plan or an income-based repayment plan.

## **Extension and expansion of tax cuts**

The extension of Trump's 2017 tax law, plus new tax breaks, will cost \$4.472 trillion over the next decade, according to the latest CBO score.

The United States collects the majority of its revenue from individual taxpayers, and the continuation of lowered income tax brackets, plus an increased standard deduction, will comprise the bulk of lost revenue over 10 years, adding up to \$3.497 trillion.

Trump also campaigned on several other tax cut promises, including no tax on tips and overtime, as well as no tax on car loan interest. The temporary provisions come with stipulations and will end in 2029. Together they will cost \$151.868 billion.

The child tax credit increases under the new law to \$2,200, up from \$2,000, though lawmakers did not increase the amount lower income families can receive as a tax refund. The CBO estimates the bumped-up tax credit will cost \$626.345 billion over the next decade.

Lawmakers offset some costs of the bill by repealing clean energy tax credits, including ending tax credits for personal and commercial electric vehicles, nixing energy efficiency improvement credits for homeowners, and terminating clean electricity production credits. In all, Republicans saved \$487.909 billion from axing the measures meant to address the effects of climate change.

*Jacob Fischler, Shauneen Miranda and Ashley Murray contributed to this report.*

*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.*

## Judge orders Trump administration to 'stop violating the law!' and publish spending details

BY: JENNIFER SHUTT - JULY 21, 2025 11:13 AM

WASHINGTON — A federal judge on Monday ordered the Trump administration to once again publish details about the pace at which it plans to spend money approved by Congress.

U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia Judge Emmet Sullivan wrote in his ruling that Congress "has sweeping authority" to require the president to post a website detailing how it doles out taxpayer dollars throughout the year.

"As explained in this Memorandum Opinion, there is nothing unconstitutional about Congress requiring the Executive Branch to inform the public of how it is apportioning the public's money," he wrote. "Defendants are therefore required to stop violating the law!"

The ruling won't take effect until Thursday at 10 a.m. Eastern, giving the Trump administration time to appeal and to seek the ruling be put on hold during the appeals process.

Sullivan was appointed to the federal district court by President Bill Clinton but was selected for two prior judicial appointments by President Ronald Reagan and President George H. W. Bush.



**Office of Management and Budget Director Russ Vought testifies before the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee on Jan. 15, 2025.**

(Screenshot from committee webcast)

### Website pulled down

More than two years ago, Congress began requiring the White House budget office to publicly post apportionment information and the Biden administration took that step, though Trump officials pulled down the website in March.

That decision led to two separate lawsuits, one from Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington and another from the Protect Democracy Project.

Apportionments are the first step the executive branch takes when spending money appropriated by Congress. The documents and their footnotes usually detail how quickly, or how slowly, departments and



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agencies plan to send money out the door throughout the fiscal year.

The documents and the public website would have been a window into whether the Trump administration was impounding, or refusing to spend, funding that lawmakers have said it should allocate on behalf of taxpayers.

## Trump administration protested provision

An attorney for the Department of Justice argued during a May hearing the Trump administration believes the provision is unconstitutional and seeks to micromanage how the executive branch spends federal funds throughout the year.

The DOJ lawyer also said posting the information within two business days, as called for in the law, would require the White House budget office to divert staff from other work.

Lawyers for CREW and Protect Democracy Project told the judge the White House was in clear violation of the law and that the data is valuable information that helps the organizations monitor if a president were to cease spending on programs funded by Congress.

The watchdog organization attorneys noted during that hearing the Government Accountability Office is looking into dozens of instances where the administration held onto congressionally approved funding instead of spending it.

They said the Freedom of Information Act, or FOIA, wasn't a helpful alternative to the website since it can take months or years for organizations to get a response to their request.

## Public's right to see decisions

Sullivan wrote in the 60-page ruling the Trump administration "complaining about the extra work" that goes along with posting the information on a public website represents "a management issue; not a constitutional one."

"Here, Congress has determined that OMB's apportionment decisions should be publicly available so that, among other things, it and the public can see whether they are consistent with congressional appropriations," Sullivan wrote, adding the website aids Congress with "its undisputed oversight role."

"The Acts do not dictate how OMB should apportion funds, nor do they establish a congressional management role in the administration of apportionments," Sullivan wrote. "The Acts merely require that the final apportionment decisions be made publicly available to provide transparency to Congress and the public."

Sullivan rejected an argument from the Trump administration that publicly sharing details about the pace at which it's spending taxpayer dollars was unconstitutional because it required "the disclosure of privileged information."

"There is no evidence in the record remotely supporting the notion that the apportionment documents are presidential communications or are in any way subject to the presidential communications privilege," Sullivan wrote. "Accordingly, the Court rejects this constitutional claim."

## Advocates applaud ruling

Cerin Lindgrensavage, counsel for Protect Democracy Project, wrote in a statement the judge's ruling "makes clear that the executive branch cannot simply ignore appropriations laws they disagree with on policy grounds, no matter what President (Donald) Trump or OMB Director Russell Vought thinks.

"Congress passed a law making sure the American public could see how their taxpayer dollars are being spent, and we will continue to hold the administration accountable for making good on that promise."

Nikhel Sus, deputy chief counsel at CREW, wrote in a separate statement that the organization applauds "the court's thorough and well-reasoned decision, which reaffirms Congress's constitutional authority to require public disclosure of how taxpayer dollars are spent.

"Americans have a right to know how taxpayer money is being spent. Ensuring public access to this information serves as a critical check on the executive branch's abuse and misuse of federal funds."

Rachel Cauley, communications director for the White House Office of Management and Budget, wrote



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in a statement the administration strongly disagrees with the ruling.

"This leftist, anti-Trump judge undermines the President's ability to effectively manage his agencies," Cauley wrote. "Moreover, these progressive dark money groups have zero standing to claim injury for not having access to this privileged internal information."

The Department of Justice did not return a request for comment about the ruling or whether the administration would appeal to the Circuit Court.

U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee ranking member Patty Murray, D-Wash., wrote in a statement that "the law is clear as day: every president is required to show the public how they are spending taxpayer dollars, and it is past time President Trump and Russ Vought get the website they illegally ripped down back up."

Senate Appropriations Chairwoman Susan Collins, R-Maine, didn't immediately return a request for comment.

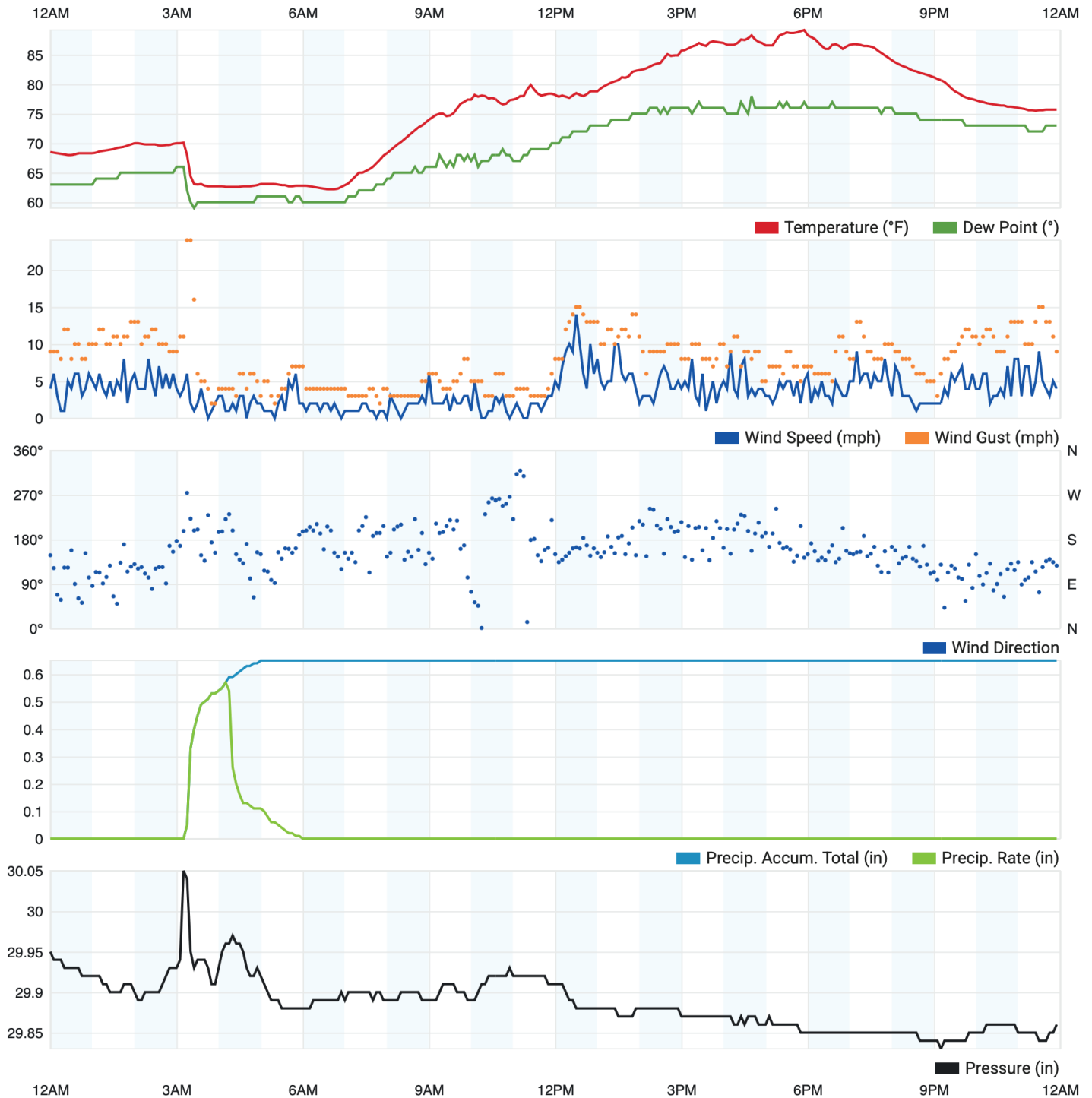
*Jennifer covers the nation's capital as a senior reporter for States Newsroom. Her coverage areas include congressional policy, politics and legal challenges with a focus on health care, unemployment, housing and aid to families.*

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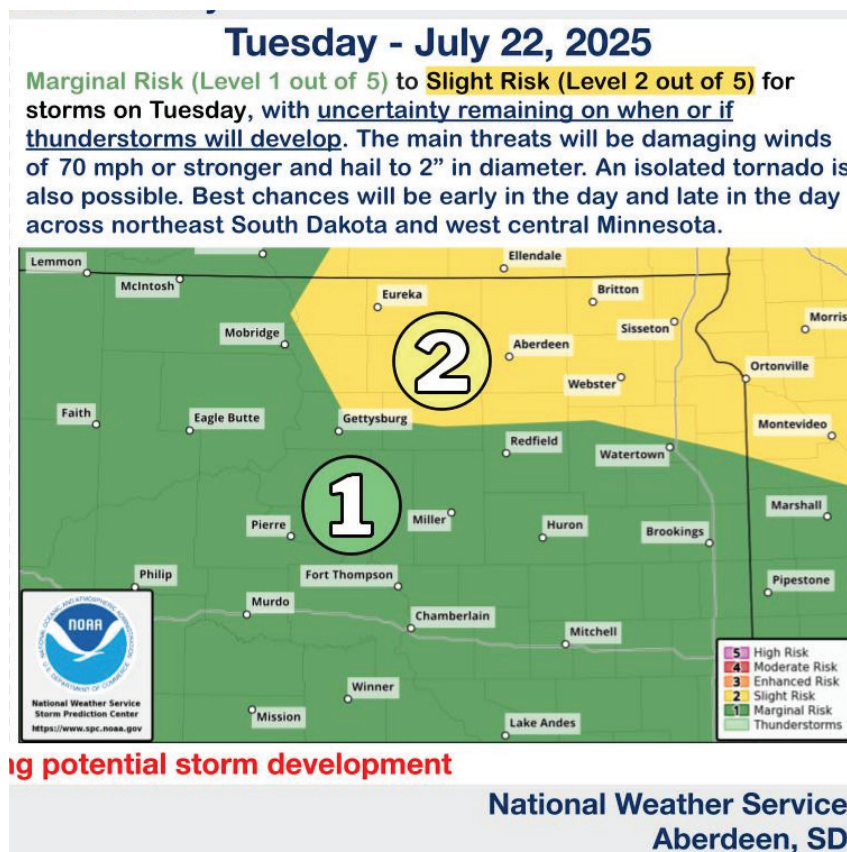
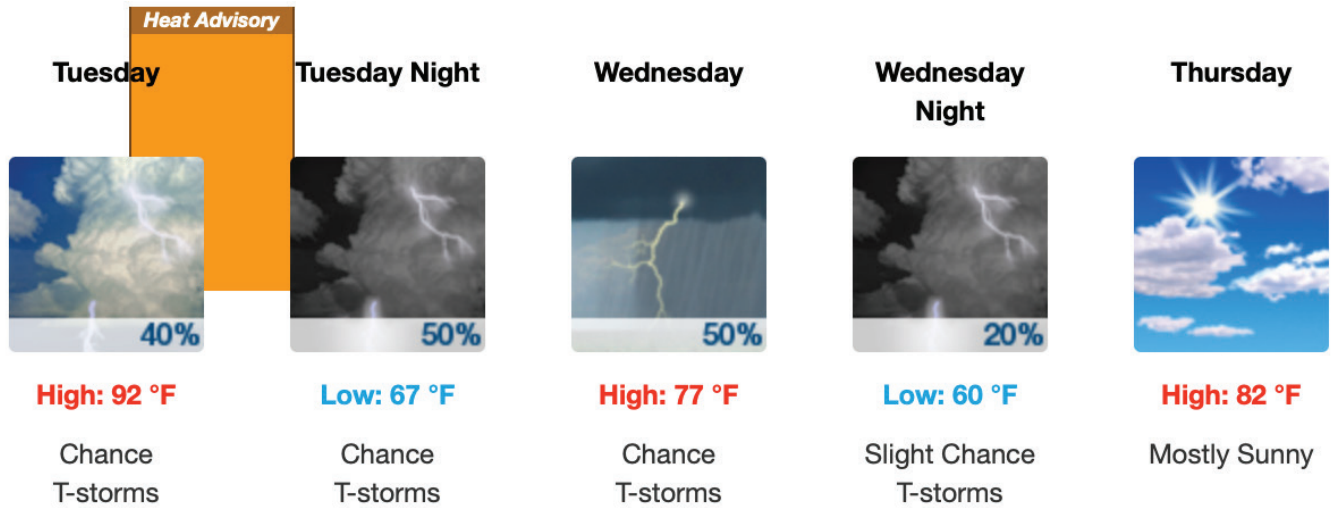
## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs

July 21, 2025



# Groton Daily Independent

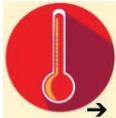
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Tuesday will have a risk for isolated severe weather, with a Marginal to Slight Risk (level 2 of 5). There is a conditional risk for storms, meaning that there is a high uncertainty on if storms will even develop in the first place. Hail of 1 inch in diameter and wind gusts of 60 miles per hour are the main threats with any severe weather that does develop tonight. Tornadoes also cannot be ruled out at this time. The main threats for Tuesday will be hail to 2 inches in diameter and wind gusts to 70 miles per hour or more. A tornado or two again can't be ruled out.

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## Hot Tuesday!

- Hottest temperatures of 100° will be across south central South Dakota during the afternoon
- Moderate Heat Risk with portions of south central/northeast SD in Major Heat Risk

### Risk of Heat-Related Impacts

Little to None

- Little to no risk from expected heat.

Minor

- This level of heat affects primarily those individuals extremely sensitive to heat, especially when outdoors without effective cooling and/or adequate hydration.

Moderate

- This level of heat affects most individuals sensitive to heat, especially those without effective cooling and/or adequate hydration.
- Impacts possible in some health systems and in heat-sensitive industries.

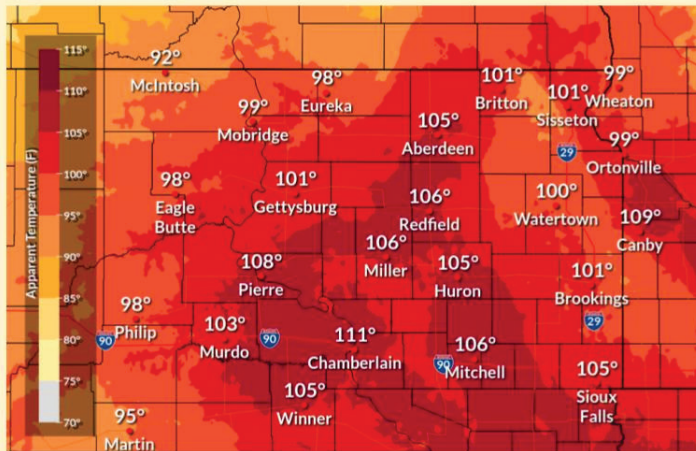
Major

- This level of heat affects anyone without effective cooling and/or adequate hydration.
- Impacts likely in some health systems, heat-sensitive industries and infrastructure.

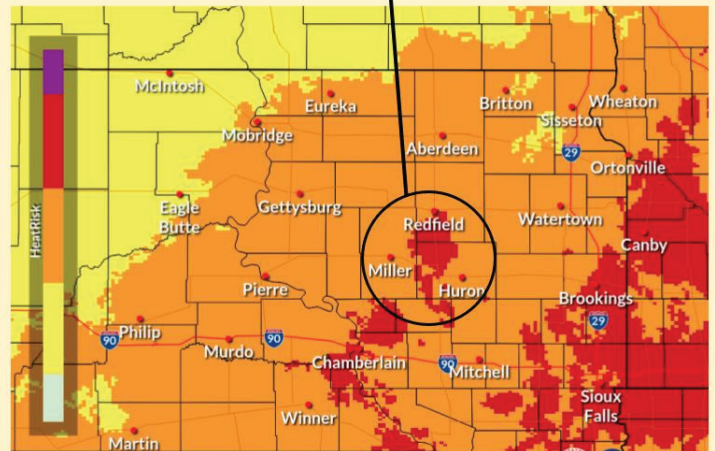
Extreme

- This level of rare and/or long-duration extreme heat with little to no overnight relief affects anyone without effective cooling and/or adequate hydration.
- Impacts likely in most health systems, heat-sensitive industries and infrastructure.

### Tuesday's Maximum Heat Indices



### Tuesday's Heat Risk Potential



In addition to the severe weather threat, we will see heat indices increasing once again over the area on Tuesday. The greatest heat indices will be over parts of south central and northeast SD, with values that may exceed 105 to 110 degrees during the afternoon hours.



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## Yesterday's Groton Weather

**High Temp: 89 °F at 5:55 PM**

**Heat Index: 103 °F at 4:45 PM**

**Low Temp: 62 °F at 6:37 AM**

**Wind: 24 mph at 3:13 AM**

**Precip: : 0.65 (+.50 so far this morning)**

Day length: 15 hours, 9 minutes

## Today's Info

Record High: 111 in 1934

Record Low: 46 in 1980

Average High: 85

Average Low: 60

Average Precip in July.: 2.36

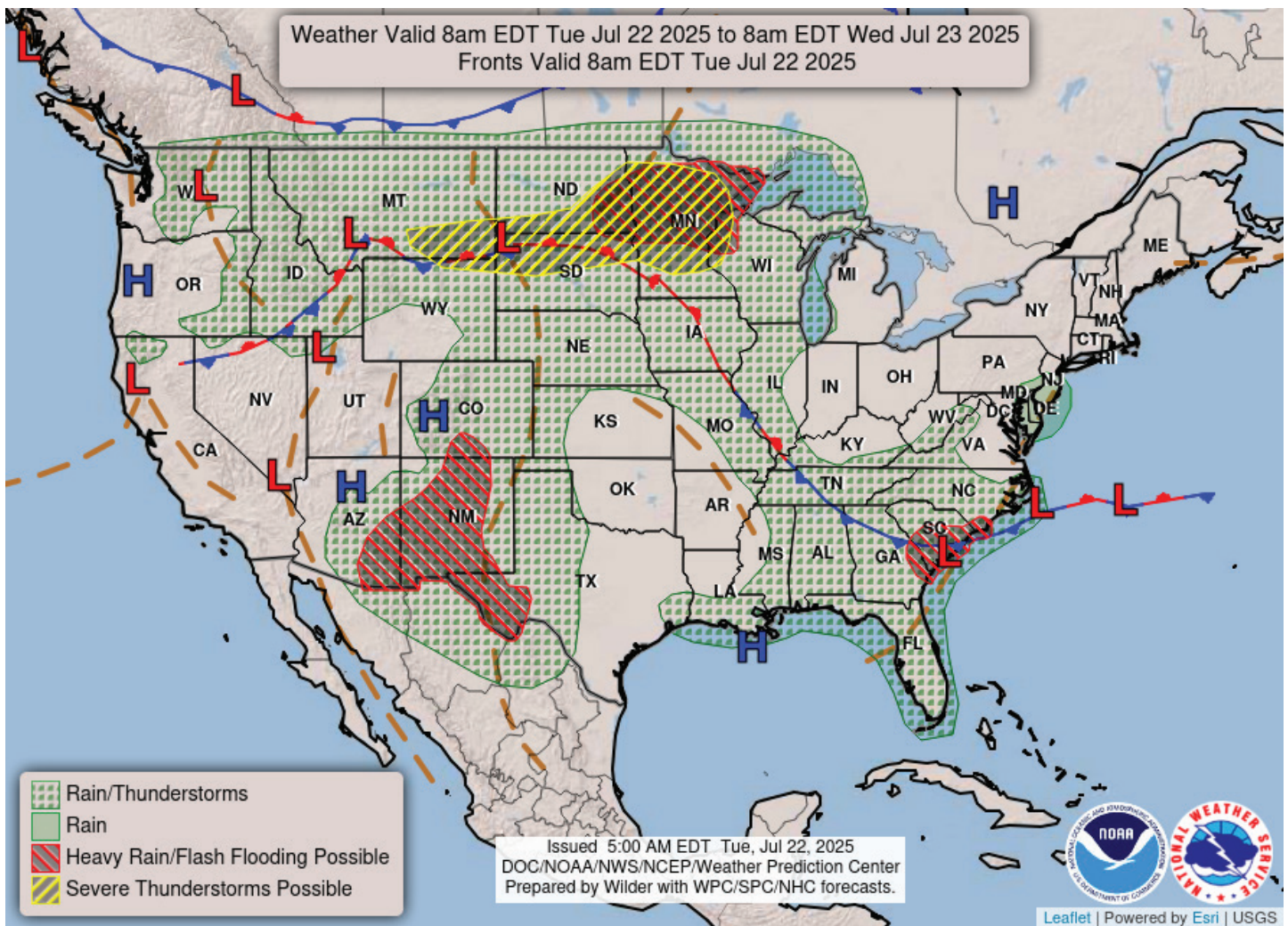
Precip to date in July: 4.41

Average Precip to date: 13.37

Precip Year to Date: 14.53

Sunset Tonight: 9:13:25 pm

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:05:27 am



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## **Today in Weather History**

July 22, 1926: An estimated F2 tornado moved east across the northern part of Hyde County, destroying two barns.

July 22, 1999: An F0 tornado touched down briefly on a farm southeast of Onida. Over half of the roof of a 40 by 45-foot building was torn off and deposited in a tree belt 200 yards to the north. A grain auger was also damaged when it was pushed up against a granary. A semi-trailer was blown over. About 400 acres of ripe wheat was also flattened, and some sunflowers suffered damage as a result of the tornado.

July 22, 2011: Numerous severe thunderstorms brought hail up to the size of golf balls, damaging winds over 70 mph, along with flash flooding to parts of north central and northeast South Dakota. Most of the hail occurred in Grant and Codington counties. Several roads were flooded by nearly 4 inches of rain in Grant County. Five miles west of South Shore in Codington County, over 3 inches of rain brought flash flooding to several roads. The strong winds were observed in Corson, Walworth, and McPherson counties. About 9 miles west of Long Lake, eighty mph winds ripped a grain bin from the fasteners, pushed the north wall of a garage in, snapped several corral poles, moved a semitrailer four feet, and caused some minor damage to the house. Also, many branches were broken off along with several trees uprooted.

1918 - A single bolt of lightning struck 504 sheep dead in their tracks at the Wasatch National Forest in Utah. Sheep often herd together in storms, and as a result the shock from the lightning bolt was passed from one animal to another. (David Ludlum)

1986 - Hurricane Estelle passed 120 miles south of the Hawaiian Islands creating a ten to twenty foot surf. The large swells resulted from a combination of high tides, a full moon, and 50 mph winds. The hurricane also deluged Oahu Island with as much as 6.86 inches of rain on the 24th and 25th of the month. (Storm Data)

1987 - Barrow, AK, receives 1.38 inches in 24 hours on the 21st and 22nd, an all-time record for that location. The average annual precipitation for Barrow is just 4.75 inches. Thunderstorms in Montana produced 4 to 6 inches of rain in Glacier County causing extensive flooding along Divide Creek. Missoula, MT, received 1.71 inches of rain in 24 hours, a record for the month of July. (The National Weather Summary) (The Weather Channel)

1988: Dust devils are not a unique phenomenon, but usually they stay minimal. This was not the case in Dickinson County, Iowa where a powerful dust devil developed on the edge of Lake Okoboji. It picked up whole sections of several docks and swept away all of the loose dirt in the area. Estimated winds exceeded 60 mph.

1988 - Six cities in the south central U.S. reported record low temperatures for the date, including Pueblo, CO, with a reading of 48 degrees. Thunderstorms over the Atlantic Coast Region drenched Wilmington, NC, with 6.49 inches of rain in about eight hours. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Showers and thunderstorms prevailed across the southeastern third of the country. Afternoon thunderstorms in Florida produced wind gusts to 86 mph at Zephyrhills, and gusts to 92 mph at Carrollwood and Lutz. Thunderstorm winds gusting to 69 mph at Crystal Lake damaged nineteen mobile homes. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1993: The levee, holding back the flooding Mississippi River at Kaskaskia, Illinois, ruptures, forcing the town's people to flee on barges. The incident at Kaskaskia was the most dramatic event of the flood. At 9:48 a.m., the levee broke, leaving the people of Kaskaskia with no escape route other than two Army Corp of Engineers barges. By 2 p.m., the entire town was underwater.

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We were sitting in the break room having lunch. I had been invited to eat with the employees to connect with a young man who was having serious financial and marital problems.

When he finished eating, he took his plastic dinnerware to the sink, washed them, wrapped them in a napkin, and put them in his pocket.

Another employee noticed what he did and said sarcastically, "Wow, you're really having it tough. Want mine too? No doubt your family could use them."

When those words pierced his heart, he burst into tears, dropped his head to his chest and stood quietly, not knowing what to say. One more blow for him to deal with and struggle to overcome on his path to survival.

I walked up to him, put my arm around his shoulder and said, "I've gone through difficult times, too. I'm glad I had to do without when I was your age because now I understand your feelings and know you will survive."

The one who oppresses the poor is not a friend of God. In fact, such behavior reflects their attitude toward the One who created both.

If anyone has contempt for another person, it spills over onto God — for He gave life for both and they are of equal value in His sight.

We sometimes forget that His Son died for both — as He did for each of us.

Whatever anyone has is a gift from God to be used to honor Him — including plastic dinnerware. Jesus made that extremely clear when He said, "I tell you the truth, whatever you did to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me."

When we share our love and resources with those in need, as Solomon said, we honor God.

Today's Prayer: Heavenly Father, we ask for hearts filled with compassion to care for those in need of love and life's essentials. May we care for them as You care for us.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Today's Scripture: "Whoever oppresses the poor shows contempt for their Maker, but whoever is kind to the needy honors God." Proverbs 14:31

*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: 07.18.25

11 43 54 55 63 3

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

**\$110,000,000**

NEXT DRAW: 17 Hrs 26 Mins 11 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS: 07.21.25

5 7 13 47 52 6

All Star Bonus: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

**\$3,120,000**

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 16 Hrs 41 Mins 11 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS: 07.21.25

1 12 19 38 48 10

TOP PRIZE:

**\$7,000/week**

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 56 Mins 11 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS: 07.19.25

6 8 15 30 32

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

**\$63,000**

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 16 Hrs 56 Mins 11 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS: 07.21.25

2 41 56 59 66 6

TOP PRIZE:

**\$10,000,000**

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 17 Hrs 25 Mins 11 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS: 07.21.25

8 11 28 33 42 2

Power Play: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

**\$325,000,000**

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 17 Hrs 25 Mins 12 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

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## **Upcoming Groton Events**

007/25/2025 Ferney Open Scramble Golf at Olive Grove  
08/01/2025 Wine on Nine Fundraiser at Olive Grove  
08/09/2025 2nd Annual Celebration in the Park/Rib Cook-Off 1-9:30pm  
08/14/2025 Family Fun Fest, Downtown Main Street 5:30-7:30pm (2nd Thursday)  
08/23/2025 Glacial Tournament at Olive Grove  
09/05/2025 Homecoming Parade 1pm  
09/6-7/25 Fly in/Drive in at Groton Municipal Airport  
09/06/2025 Lion's Club Fall Citywide Rummage Sale 8am-3pm  
09/07/2025 Sunflower Classic Couples Scramble at Olive Grove  
10/10/2025 Lake Region Marching Band Festival 10am  
10/11/2025 Pumpkin Fest 10am-3pm City Park  
10/31/2025 Downtown Trick or Treat 4-6pm  
11/27/2025 Community Thanksgiving at the Community Center 11:30am-1:30pm  
11/30/2025 Snow Queen Contest, 4 p.m.  
12/06/2025 Olive Grove Holiday Party and Silent Live Auction Fundraiser



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SOUTH DAKOTA AMERICAN LEGION REGION 1B SR BRACKET

JULY 22-24, 2025

BREWSTER/GUNDERSON FIELD, SISSETON, SOUTH DAKOTA

Big Stone City Post 229

7/22  
Game 1  
4:00 PM  
Webster Post 40

Groton Post 39

7/22  
Game 2  
6:00 PM  
Sisseton Post 50

Loser Game 1  
7/23  
Game 4  
5:00 PM  
Loser Game 2

Winner Game 1

7/23

Game 3  
2:00 PM

Winner Game 2

7/23

Game 5  
7:00 PM

Winner Game 4

Loser Game 3

7/24

Game 6  
2:00 PM

Winner Game 5



Game 7 (If Necessary)  
7/24 4:00 PM

Champion

Loser Game 6 (if first loss)

## Jr. Legion Baseball Region Tournament

Locke/Karst Field, Groton

Monday, July 28 starting at Noon

Sisseton vs. Redfield

Groton vs. Redfield

Clark vs. Groton

Tuesday, July 29 starting at 2 p.m.

Sisseton vs. Groton

Sisseton vs. Clark

Redfield vs. Clark

If no one is undefeated, or there is no clear winner, a formula is used to determine who will advance to state tournament August 8-10 in Milbank.

## Jr. Teener Region Tournament

July 28 and 30

Only two teams in the region (Groton and Mt. Vernon/Plankinton) so the best of three games will advance to state.

Monday, July 28, 6 p.m. in Plankinton

Wednesday, July 30, 5 p.m. in Groton

If a third game is required it will be played after the game in Groton.

## News from the **AP** Associated Press

### **Israeli forces push into parts of a central Gaza city that the war had largely spared**

By WAFAA SHURAF, MELANIE LIDMAN and SAMY MAGDY Associated Press

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip (AP) — Israeli troops for the first time Monday pushed into areas of a central Gaza city where several aid groups are based, in what appeared to be the latest effort to carve up the Palestinian territory with military corridors.

Deir al-Balah is the only Gaza city that has not seen major ground operations or suffered widespread devastation in 21 months of war, leading to speculation that the Hamas militant group holds large numbers of hostages there. The main group representing hostages' families said it was "shocked and alarmed" by the incursion and demanded answers from Israeli leaders.

Israel says the seizure of territory in Gaza is aimed at pressuring Hamas to release hostages, but it is a major point of contention in ongoing ceasefire talks.

The U.N. food agency, meanwhile, accused Israeli forces of firing on a crowd of Palestinians seeking humanitarian aid over the weekend. The Gaza Health Ministry called it one of the deadliest attacks on aid-seekers in the war that has driven the territory to the brink of famine.

In the latest sign of international frustration, the United Kingdom, France and 23 other Western-aligned countries issued a statement saying "the war in Gaza must end now." They harshly criticized Israel's restrictions on humanitarian aid and called for the release of the 50 hostages remaining in Gaza.

Evacuation orders dropped at dawn

Associated Press reporters heard explosions and saw smoke rising from parts of the city that were ordered evacuated on Sunday. The Israeli military official, speaking on condition of anonymity in line with regulations, said it was the first time ground troops had operated in the area.

A man living in the evacuation zone, who spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of retribution, said Israel dropped pamphlets at dawn ordering people to evacuate. Two hours later, tanks rolled into the area.

He said his 62-year-old father, who had spent the night elsewhere, fled from house to house as Israeli forces moved in and saw them flattening structures with bulldozers and tanks. Both men managed to leave the evacuation zone.

WHO says Israel raided its compound and detained staff

The World Health Organization said Israeli forces raided its main staff residence in Deir al-Balah, forcing women and children to evacuate on foot toward the coast.

"Male staff and family members were handcuffed, stripped, interrogated on the spot and screened at gunpoint," the U.N. health agency said in a statement. It said two staff and two family members were detained, with three later released and one still being held.

The WHO said its main warehouse in the city, which is in the evacuation zone, was damaged by an explosion and a fire, hurting the agency's ability to help hospitals and emergency medical teams. There was no immediate comment from the Israeli military.

United Nations spokesperson Stephane Dujarric had earlier said two U.N. guesthouses in Deir al-Balah were damaged by shrapnel. He said the cause was still being investigated but that heavy Israeli airstrikes had been reported in the area. Local and international staff will continue to work there, he said.

The military declined to say if it had ordered the evacuation of aid groups based in the city, saying only that it maintains continuous contact with them and facilitates their relocation when necessary.

Separately, the military announced that a 19-year-old soldier was killed and an officer was severely wounded in combat in southern Gaza.

U.N. says nearly 90% of Gaza is now off limits

Tens of thousands of people have sought refuge in Deir al-Balah during repeated waves of mass displacement in Gaza.

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The U.N. humanitarian coordinator says 87.8% of Gaza is now under evacuation orders or inside Israeli military zones, "leaving 2.1 million civilians squeezed into a fragmented 12 per cent of the Strip, where essential services have collapsed."

Israel has taken over large areas of Gaza and split the territory with corridors stretching from the border to the sea as it seeks to pressure Hamas to release more hostages.

In response to the Deir al-Balah incursion, the Hostages and Missing Families Forum warned in its statement that "the people of Israel will not forgive anyone who knowingly endangered the hostages — both the living and the deceased. No one will be able to claim they didn't know what was at stake."

Hamas-led militants abducted 251 people in the Oct. 7, 2023, attack that triggered the war and killed around 1,200 people. Fewer than half of the 50 hostages still in Gaza are believed to be alive.

Israel blames the deaths of Palestinian civilians on Hamas because the militants operate in densely populated areas, and it accuses the group of prolonging the war because Hamas has not accepted Israel's terms for a ceasefire.

Rare condemnation from U.N. food agency

The World Food Program, in a rare condemnation, said the crowd surrounding its convoy in northern Gaza on Sunday "came under fire from Israeli tanks, snipers and other gunfire." It said "countless lives" were lost. A photographer working with the AP counted 51 bodies at two hospitals.

The Gaza Health Ministry said at least 80 people were killed. Israel's military said it fired warning shots "to remove an immediate threat" and questioned the death toll reported by the Palestinians. It declined to comment on the WFP statement.

Hundreds of people have been killed while seeking food in recent weeks, both from U.N. convoys and separate aid sites run by an Israeli-backed group that has been mired in controversy.

The Palestinian death toll from the war has climbed to more than 59,000, according to Gaza's Health Ministry. Its count does not distinguish between militants and civilians, but the ministry says more than half of the dead are women and children. The ministry is part of the Hamas government, but the U.N. and other international organizations see it as the most reliable source of data on casualties.

Israel detains Gaza Health Ministry spokesperson

Gaza health officials said at least 18 people, including three women and five children, were killed in Israeli strikes overnight and into Monday.

At least three people were killed when crowds of Palestinians waiting for aid trucks were shot at in the area of the Netzarim corridor in central Gaza, according to two hospitals that received the bodies.

The Gaza Health Ministry said Israeli forces detained Dr. Marwan al-Hams, acting director of the strip's field hospitals and the ministry's spokesman.

Israeli troops killed a local journalist, Tamer al-Zaanein, who was accompanying al-Hams, and wounded two other people when they detained him near a Red Cross field hospital in southern Gaza, according to the Health Ministry and the journalist's family.

The International Committee of the Red Cross declined to provide details but said it was "very concerned" about safety and security around the hospital "and the impact this can have on patients and staff."

Israeli military officials offered no immediate comment on any of the strikes.

Israel again strikes rebel-held port in Yemen

The fighting in Gaza has triggered conflicts elsewhere in region, including between Israel and the Iranian-backed Houthi rebels in Yemen, who have fired missiles and drones at Israel in what they say is in solidarity with Palestinians.

The Israeli military said it struck the Hodeidah port in Yemen early Monday. Israel has struck the port before, including two weeks ago, accusing the Houthis of using it to import arms from Iran.

Israeli Defense Minister Israel Katz said the targets included areas of the port that Israel had destroyed in previous strikes. "The Houthis will pay heavy prices for launching missiles towards the state of Israel," Katz said.



## Bangladesh mourns 31 dead in jet crash as students protest to demand accountability

By JULHAS ALAM Associated Press

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP) — Hundreds of students protested near the site of the crash of a Bangladesh air force training jet into a school in the nation's capital, demanding accountability, compensation for victims' families and the halt of training flights.

The death toll from the crash rose to 31 on Tuesday, including 25 students, a teacher who died from burn injuries she sustained while helping others get out of the burning building, and the pilot of the training aircraft.

Firefighters further secured the scene of the crash in Dhaka's densely-populated Uttara neighborhood while an investigation by the military was ongoing. The country's civil aviation authority was not involved in the investigation directly.

Bangladesh, in shock after the crash involving its air force, marked Tuesday as a national day of mourning, with the national flag flying at half-staff across the country.

Monday's crash at the Milestone School and College caused a fire that left the two-story school building in Dhaka in flames. Officials said 171 people, mostly students and many with burns, were rescued and taken from the scene in helicopters, ambulances, motorized rickshaws and in the arms of firefighters and parents.

The students protesting outside the crash site at the Milestone School and College Tuesday demanded "accurate" publication of identities of the dead and injured, compensation for the families, and an immediate halt to the use of "outdated and unsafe" training aircraft by the Bangladesh air force.

They chanted slogans and accused security officials of beating them and manhandling teachers on Monday.

The students later became furious after two senior government advisers arrived at the scene, forcing the officials to take cover.

On Tuesday, 78 people, mostly students, remained hospitalized, said Sayeedur Rahman, a special assistant to Bangladesh's interim leader Muhammad Yunus. Twenty deaths were reported initially, and seven died of their injuries overnight, authorities said.

Maherin Chowdhury, a teacher who rescued more than 20 students from the burning school, died from severe burn injuries, her colleague Tanzina Tanu said.

Doctors said late Monday that the condition of about two dozen injured remained critical. A blood donation camp has been opened at a specialized burn hospital where most of the injured were being treated.

Twenty bodies have been handed over to their families, with some of them possibly needing DNA matching after they were charred beyond recognition. Many relatives waited overnight at a specialized burn hospital for the bodies of their loved ones.

The Chinese-made F-7 BGI training aircraft experienced a "technical malfunction" moments after takeoff from the A.K. Khandaker air force base at 1:06 p.m. Monday, according to a statement from the military.

The pilot, Flight Lt. Mohammed Toukir Islam, made "every effort to divert the aircraft away from densely populated areas toward a more sparsely inhabited location," the military said, adding that it would investigate the cause of the crash.

The Milestone school, about an 11-kilometer (7-mile) drive from the air force base, is in a densely populated area near a metro station and numerous shops and homes.

It was the pilot's first solo flight as he was completing his training course. It remained unclear if he managed to eject before the jet hit the building.

The first funeral prayers were held for the pilot in Dhaka on Tuesday morning and second prayers will be held in southwestern Rajshahi district where his parents live.

It is the deadliest plane crash in the Bangladeshi capital in recent memory. In 2008, another F-7 training jet crashed outside Dhaka, killing its pilot, who had ejected after he discovered a technical problem.

## Russian attacks in Ukraine kill a child and wound 24 before planned direct peace talks

By ILLIA NOVIKOV Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Russian forces struck three Ukrainian cities in overnight attacks, killing a child and wounding at least 24 people, officials said Tuesday, a day before a planned third round of direct peace talks between delegations from Moscow and Kyiv.

Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's announcement late Monday that the negotiations would take place generated little hope they would deliver any progress on ending the three-year war. That is despite the Trump administration's efforts to push forward peace efforts, which have stalled as Russian President Vladimir Putin is reluctant to budge from his demands.

The previous two rounds were held in Istanbul, and Russian media reports said the Turkish city likely would also host the meeting this time. The talks in May and June led to a series of exchanges of prisoners of war and the bodies of fallen soldiers but produced no other agreements.

The war has continued unabated, meanwhile. Russia is driving hard to break through at eastern and northeastern points on the 1,000-kilometer (620-mile) front line. It is also firing upwards of 700 drones a night at Ukrainian cities.

From dusk on Monday evening, Russia struck the Ukrainian regions of Sumy in the northeast, Odesa in the south and eastern Kramatorsk.

In Kramatorsk, a glide bomb hit an apartment building, starting a fire, according to the head of the city's military administration, Oleksandr Honcharenko. A boy born in 2015 was killed, local officials said, without giving his exact age. Five other people were reported wounded.

The Sumy region came under multiple waves of attacks, the regional military administration reported. A drone hit a gas station in the town of Putyvl, wounding four people, including a 5-year-old boy, it said. A second drone strike hit the same location less than two hours later, wounding seven more.

After dark, two powerful Russian glide bombs were dropped on Sumy city, wounding 13 people, including a 6-year-old boy. According to regional authorities, five apartment buildings, two private homes and a shopping mall were damaged in the attack. Acting Mayor Artem Kobzar said the blasts shattered windows and destroyed balconies in residential buildings.

Also Tuesday, Russia's Defense Ministry said air defenses downed 35 Ukrainian long-range drones over several regions overnight, including three over the Moscow region.

## A Bangladesh air force jet crashes into a school in Dhaka, killing at least 27 people

By JULHAS ALAM Associated Press

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP) — A Bangladesh air force training aircraft crashed into a school in the nation's capital Monday afternoon, killing the pilot and 26 other people, most of whom were students, officials said.

The crash caused a fire that left the two-story building in Dhaka smoldering. Officials said 171 people, mostly students and many with burns, were rescued and taken from the scene in helicopters, ambulances, motorized rickshaws and in the arms of firefighters and parents.

Twenty deaths were reported initially, and seven died of their injuries overnight, authorities said Tuesday morning. Doctors said late Monday that the condition of about two dozen injured remained critical.

On Tuesday, 78 people, mostly students, remained hospitalized.

Twenty bodies have been handed over to their families. Some of the charred bodies were beyond recognition and they might need DNA tests for matching. A blood donation camp has been opened at a specialized burn hospital where most of the injured were being treated.

Maherin Chowdhury, a teacher who rescued more than 20 students from the burning school, died from severe burn injuries, her colleague Tanzina Tanu said.

The Chinese-made F-7 BGI training aircraft experienced a "technical malfunction" moments after takeoff

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at 1:06 p.m., and the pilot attempted to divert the plane to a less populated area before crashing into the campus of Milestone School and College, according to a statement from the military.

But it remained unclear how the pilot died: whether he was inside the jet or ejected himself before it hit the building. The military did not provide any details on that.

Many relatives waited overnight at a specialized burn hospital for bodies of their loved ones.

Around midnight, Mohammed Abdur Rahim was looking for his cousin Afia Akter in a hospital. "We could not find my cousin. She is missing. Doctors here have asked us to go to other hospitals," he told The Associated Press.

Students said the school's buildings trembled violently, followed by a big explosion that sent them running for safety. A desperate scene soon unfolded at the crash site, as panicked relatives searched for loved ones. Screams filled the air at a nearby hospital.

The Milestone school is in Dhaka's Uttara neighborhood, about an 11-kilometer (7-mile) drive from the A.K. Khandaker air force base. The school is in a densely populated area near a metro station and numerous shops and homes.

The pilot, Flight Lt. Mohammed Toukir Islam, made "every effort to divert the aircraft away from densely populated areas toward a more sparsely inhabited location," the military said, adding that it would investigate the cause of the crash.

Local media said it was the pilot's solo flight as he was completing his training course.

It is the deadliest plane crash in the Bangladeshi capital in recent memory. In 2008, another F-7 training jet crashed outside Dhaka, killing its pilot, who had ejected after he discovered a technical problem.

The government announced a day of mourning Tuesday, with flags to fly at half-staff across the country.

Mosammat Sagorika, who scored four goals Monday to defeat Nepal in an under 20 women's South Asian soccer championship match, dedicated the country's win to the crash victims.

"Many people have died, and many are injured. So, we all are sad," the 17-year-old Sagorika told reporters.

Bangladeshi cricket all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan and other leading cricketers also expressed their shock.

At the crash site Monday afternoon, a father sprinted with his daughter cradled in his arms. A mother cried out, having found her younger child, but desperately searched for her older one.

Another father described his feeling of helplessness while waiting to learn the fate of his daughter.

"The plane crashed on the building where my daughter was. My wife called me, but I was praying so I could not pick up," Jewel, who goes by one name, said at the scene. "When I came here I saw there was a huge fire. There was a dead body of a child."

Luckily, his daughter was safe, he said, but he saw many other children suffering from burns.

Students also scrambled to see what had happened. "We fought with the crowd and the soldiers to get close to the crash site in our school," said Estiak Elahi Khan, who is in the 11th grade. "What I saw I can't describe that ... that's terrible."

Doctors at Uttara Adhunik Hospital said more than 60 students, many between the ages of 12 and 16, were transferred to a special hospital for burn victims.

By Monday evening, rescuers continued to scour the debris, searching for bodies. A crane was being used to remove debris.

Bangladesh's interim leader, Muhammad Yunus, also pledged an investigation, and he expressed his deep sorrow over the "heartbreaking accident." He called it "a moment of deep national grief."

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi also expressed shock and sadness. "Our hearts go out to the bereaved families," Modi said in a post on X. "India stands in solidarity with Bangladesh and is ready to extend all possible support and assistance."

Rafiq Taha, a student who was not present at the time of the crash, said by phone that the school, with some 2,000 students, offers classes from elementary grades through high school.

"I was terrified watching videos on TV," the 16-year-old said. "My God! It's my school."



## **Swarms of Russian drones attack Ukraine nightly as Moscow puts new emphasis on the deadly weapon**

By The Associated Press undefined

The long-range Russian drones come in swarms each night, buzzing for hours over Ukraine by the hundreds, terrorizing the population and attacking targets from the industrial east to areas near its western border with Poland.

Russia now often batters Ukraine with more drones in a single night than it did during some entire months in 2024, and analysts say the barrages are likely to escalate. On July 8, Russia unleashed more than 700 drones — a record.

Some experts say that number could soon top 1,000 a day.

The spike comes as U.S. President Donald Trump has given Russia until early September to reach a ceasefire or face new sanctions — a timeframe Moscow is likely to use to inflict as much damage as possible on Ukraine.

Russia has sharply increased its drone output and appears to keep ramping it up. Initially importing Shahed drones from Iran early in the 3 1/2-year-old war, Russia has boosted its domestic production and upgraded the original design.

The Russian Defense Ministry says it's turning its drone force into a separate military branch. It also has established a dedicated center for improving drone tactics and better training for those flying them.

Fighting 'a war of drones'

Russian engineers have changed the original Iranian Shahed to increase its altitude and make it harder to intercept, according to Russian military bloggers and Western analysts. Other modifications include making it more jamming-resistant and able to carry powerful thermobaric warheads. Some use artificial intelligence to operate autonomously.

The original Shahed and its Russian replica — called "Geran," or "geranium" — have an engine to propel it at 180 kph (just over 110 mph). A faster jet version is reportedly in the works.

The Washington-based Institute for the Study of War noted that cooperation with China has allowed Russia to bypass Western sanctions on imports of electronics for drone production. Ukraine's military intelligence estimates that Russia receives up to 65% of components for its Geran drones from China. Beijing rejects the claims.

Russia initially launched its production of the Iranian drones at factory in Alabuga, located in Tatarstan. An Associated Press investigation found employees at the Alabuga plant included young African women who said they were duped into taking jobs there. Geran production later began at a plant in Udmurtia, west of the Ural Mountains. Ukraine has launched drone attacks on both factories but failed to derail production.

A report Sunday by state-run Zvezda TV described the Alabuga factory as the world's biggest attack drone plant.

"It's a war of drones. We are ready for it," said plant director Timur Shagivaleyev, adding it produces all components, including engines and electronics, and has its own training school.

The report showed hundreds of black Geran drones stacked in an assembly shop decorated with Soviet-style posters. One featured images of the father of the Soviet nuclear bomb, Igor Kurchatov, legendary Soviet space program chief, Sergei Korolyov, and dictator Josef Stalin, with the words: "Kurchatov, Korolyov and Stalin live in your DNA."

Shifting tactics and defenses

The Russian military has improved its tactics, increasingly using decoy drones named "Gerbera" for a type of daisy. They closely resemble the attack drones and are intended to confuse Ukrainian defenses and distract attention from their more deadly twins.

By using large numbers of drones in one attack, Russia seeks to overwhelm Ukrainian air defenses and keep them from targeting more expensive cruise and ballistic missiles that Moscow often uses alongside the drones to hit targets like key infrastructure facilities, air defense batteries and air bases.

Former Russian Defense Ministry press officer Mikhail Zvinchuk, who runs a popular war blog, noted

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the Russian military has learned to focus on a few targets to maximize the impact. The drones can roam Ukraine's skies for hours, zigzagging past defenses, he wrote.

"Our defense industries' output allows massive strikes on practically a daily basis without the need for breaks to accumulate the necessary resources," said another military blogger, Alexander Kots. "We no longer spread our fingers but hit with a punching fist in one spot to make sure we hit the targets."

Ukraine relies on mobile teams armed with machine guns as a low-cost response to the drones to spare the use of expensive Western-supplied air defense missiles. It also has developed interceptor drones and is working to scale up production, but the steady rise in Russian attacks is straining its defenses.

How Russia affords all those drones

Despite international sanctions and a growing load on its economy, Russia's military spending this year has risen 3.4% over 2024, according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, which estimated it at the equivalent of about \$200 billion. While budgetary pressures could increase, it said, the current spending level is manageable for the Kremlin.

Over 1.5 million drones of various types were delivered to the military last year, said President Vladimir Putin.

Frontelligence Insight, a Ukraine-based open-source intelligence organization, reported this month that Russia launched more than 28,000 Shahed and Geran drones since the full-scale invasion began in 2022, with 10% of the total fired last month alone.

While ballistic and cruise missiles are faster and pack a bigger punch, they cost millions and are available only in limited quantities. A Geran drone costs only tens of thousands of dollars — a fraction of a ballistic missile.

The drones' range of about 2,000 kilometers (1,240 miles) allows them to bypass some defenses, and a relatively big load of 40 kilograms (88 pounds) of explosives makes them a highly effective instrument of what the Center for Strategic and International Studies calls "a cruel attritional logic."

CSIS called them "the most cost-effective munition in Russia's firepower strike arsenal."

"Russia's plan is to intimidate our society," Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said, adding that Moscow seeks to launch 700 to 1,000 drones a day. Over the weekend, German Maj. Gen. Christian Freudling said in an interview that Russia aims for a capability of launching 2,000 drones in one attack.

Russia could make drone force its own military branch

Along the more than 1,000-kilometer (600-mile) front line, short-range attack drones have become prolific and transformed the fighting, quickly spotting and targeting troops and weapons within a 10-kilometer (6-mile) kill zone.

Russian drone units initially were set on the initiative of midlevel commanders and often relied on equipment purchased with private donations. Once drones became available in big numbers, the military moved last fall to put those units under a single command.

Putin has endorsed the Defense Ministry's proposal to make drones a separate branch of the armed forces, dubbed the Unmanned Systems Troops.

Russia has increasingly focused on battlefield drones that use thin fiber optic cables, making them immune to jamming and have an extended range of 25 kilometers (over 15 miles). It also has set up Rubicon, a center to train drone operators and develop the best tactics.

Such fiber optic drones used by both sides can venture deeper into rear areas, targeting supply, support and command structures that until recently were deemed safe.

Michael Kofman, a military expert with the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, said the Russian advancements have raised new defensive challenges for Ukraine.

"The Ukrainian military has to evolve ways of protecting the rear, entrenching at a much greater depth," Kofman said in a recent podcast.

## Trump and Philippine leader plan to talk tariffs and China at the White House

By DIDI TANG Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump plans to host Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Tuesday at the White House, as the two countries are seeking closer security and economic ties in the face of shifting geopolitics in the Indo-Pacific region.

Marcos, who met Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth on Monday, is set to become the first Southeast Asian leader to hold talks with Trump in his second term.

Marcos' three-day visit shows the importance of the alliance between the treaty partners at a time when China is increasingly assertive in the South China Sea, where Manila and Beijing have clashed over the hotly contested Scarborough Shoal.

Washington sees Beijing, the world's No. 2 economy, as its biggest competitor, and consecutive presidential administrations have sought to shift U.S. military and economic focus to the Asia-Pacific in a bid to counter China. Trump, like others before him, has been distracted by efforts to broker peace in a range of conflicts, from Ukraine to Gaza.

Tariffs also are expected to be on the agenda. Trump has threatened to impose 20% tariffs on Filipino goods on Aug. 1 unless the two sides can strike a deal.

"I intend to convey to President Trump and his Cabinet officials that the Philippines is ready to negotiate a bilateral trade deal that will ensure strong, mutually beneficial and future-oriented collaborations that only the United States and the Philippines will be able to take advantage of," Marcos said Sunday when he was departing for Washington, according to his office.

Manila is open to offering zero tariffs on some U.S. goods to strike a deal with Trump, finance chief Ralph Recto told local journalists.

White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt hinted that a trade agreement with the Philippines was in the works. "Perhaps this will be a topic of discussion," she told reporters Monday when asked about tariff negotiations.

The White House said Trump will discuss with Marcos the shared commitment to upholding a free, open, prosperous and secure Indo-Pacific.

Before a meeting with Marcos at the Pentagon, Hegseth reiterated America's commitment to "achieving peace through strength" in the region.

"Our storied alliance has never been stronger or more essential than it is today, and together we remain committed to the mutual defense treaty," Hegseth said Monday. "And this pact extends to armed attacks on our armed forces, aircraft or public vessels, including our Coast Guard anywhere in the Pacific, including the South China Sea."

Marcos, whose country is one of the oldest U.S. treaty allies in the Pacific region, told Hegseth that the assurance to come to each other's mutual defense "continues to be the cornerstone of that relationship, especially when it comes to defense and security cooperation."

He said the cooperation has deepened since Hegseth's March visit to Manila, including joint exercises and U.S. support in modernizing the Philippines' armed forces. Marcos thanked the U.S. for support "that we need in the face of the threats that we, our country, is facing."

China, the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan have been involved in long-unresolved territorial conflicts in the South China Sea, a busy shipping passage for global trade.

The Chinese coast guard has repeatedly used water cannon to hit Filipino boats in the South China Sea. China accused those vessels of entering the waters illegally or encroaching on its territory.

Hegseth told a security forum in Singapore in May that China poses a threat and the U.S. is "reorienting toward deterring aggression by Communist China."

During Marcos' meeting Monday with Rubio, the two reaffirmed the alliance "to maintain peace and stability" in the region and discussed closer economic ties, including boosting supply chains, State Department spokesperson Tammy Bruce said.



The U.S. has endeavored to keep communication open with Beijing. Rubio and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi met this month on the sidelines of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations regional forum in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. They agreed to explore "areas of potential cooperation" and stressed the importance of managing differences.

## **Looming over two cases threatening Musk's car company is a single question: Can he be trusted?**

By BERNARD CONDON and DAVID FISCHER Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — Elon Musk fought court cases on opposite coasts Monday, raising a question about the billionaire that could either speed his plan to put self-driving Teslas on U.S. roads or throw up a major roadblock: Can this wildly successful man who tends to exaggerate really be trusted?

In Miami, a Tesla driver who has admitted he was wrong to reach for a dropped cell phone moments before a deadly accident, spoke of the danger of putting too much faith in Musk's technology — in this case his Autopilot program.

"I trusted the technology too much," said George McGee, who ran off the road and killed a woman out stargazing with her boyfriend. "I believed that if the car saw something in front of it, it would provide a warning and apply the brakes."

In unusual coincidence, regulators arguing an Oakland, California, case tried to pin exaggerated talk about the same Tesla technology at the center of a request to suspend the carmaker from being able to sell vehicles in the state.

Musk's tendency to talk big — whether it's his cars, his rockets or his government costing-cutting efforts — have landed him in trouble with investors, regulators and courts before, but rarely at such a delicate moment.

After his social media spat with President Donald Trump, Musk can no longer count on a light regulatory touch from Washington. Meanwhile, sales of his electric cars have plunged and so a hit to his safety reputation could threaten his next big project: rolling out driverless robotaxis — hundreds of thousands of them — in several U.S. cities by the end of next year.

The Miami case holds other dangers, too. Lawyers for the family of the dead woman, Naibel Benavides Leon, recently convinced the judge overseeing the jury trial to allow them to argue for punitive damages. A car crash lawyer not involved in the case, but closely following it, said that could cost Tesla tens of millions of dollars, or possibly more.

"I've seen punitive damages go to the hundreds of millions, so that is the floor," said Miguel Custodio of Los Angeles-based Custodio & Dubey. "It is also a signal to other plaintiffs that they can also ask for punitive damages, and then the payments could start compounding."

That Tesla has allowed the Miami case to proceed to trial is surprising. It has settled at least four deadly accidents involving Autopilot, including payments just last week to a Florida family of a Tesla driver. That said, Tesla was victorious in two other jury cases, both in California, that also sought to lay blame on its technology for crashes.

Lawyers for the plaintiffs in the Miami case argue that Tesla's driver-assistance feature, called Autopilot, should have warned the driver and braked when his Model S sedan blew through flashing lights, a stop sign and a T-intersection at 62 miles-an-hour in an April 2019 crash. Tesla said that drivers are warned not to rely on Autopilot, or its more advanced Full Self-Driving system. It says the fault entirely lies with the "distracted driver" just like so many other "accidents since cellphones were invented."

Driver McGee settled a separate suit brought by the family of Benavides and her severely injured boyfriend, Dillon Angulo.

McGee was clearly shaken when shown a dashcam video Monday of his car jumping a Key West, Florida, road and hitting a parked Chevrolet Tahoe which then slammed into Benavides and sent her 75 feet through the air to her death. Asked if he had seen those images before, McGee pinched his lips, shook his head,

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then squeaked out a response, "No."

Tesla's attorney sought to show that McGee was fully to blame, asking if he had ever contacted Tesla for additional instructions about how Autopilot or any other safety features worked. McGee said he had not, though he was heavy user of the features. He said he had driven the same road home from work 30 or 40 times. Under questioning, he also acknowledged he alone was responsible for watching the road and hitting the brakes.

Summarizing the testimony, Tesla said in a statement after the court adjourned that McGee had "stated the simple truth that we all know: If he had just paid attention to the road instead of searching for his dropped cell phone and pressing the accelerator—which he was doing for over a minute before the crash—this tragic accident would never have happened."

But lawyers for the Benavides family had a chance in the courtroom at parrying that line of argument, asking McGee if he would have taken his eyes off the road and reached for his phone had he been driving any car other than a Tesla on Autopilot.

McGee responded, "I don't believe so."

The case is expected to continue for two more weeks.

In the California case, the state's Department of Motor Vehicles is arguing before an administrative judge that Tesla has misled drivers by exaggerating the capabilities of its Autopilot and Full Self-Driving features. A court filing claims even those feature names are misleading because they offer just partial self-driving.

Musk has been warned by federal regulators to stop making public comments suggesting Full Self-Driving allows his cars to drive themselves because it could lead to overreliance on the system, resulting in possible crashes and deaths. He also has run into trouble with regulators for Autopilot. In 2023, the company had to recall 2.3 million vehicles for problems with the technology and is now under investigation for saying it fixed the issue though it's unclear it has, according to regulatory documents.

The California case is expected to last another four days.

## **Trump administration releases FBI records on MLK Jr. despite his family's opposition**

By BILL BARROW Associated Press

The Trump administration on Monday released records of the FBI's surveillance of Martin Luther King Jr., despite opposition from the slain Nobel laureate's family and the civil rights group that he led until his 1968 assassination.

The digital document dump includes more than 240,000 pages of records that had been under a court-imposed seal since 1977, when the FBI first gathered the records and turned them over to the National Archives and Records Administration.

In a lengthy statement released Monday, King's two living children, Martin III, 67, and Bernice, 62, said their father's killing has been a "captivating public curiosity for decades." But the pair emphasized the personal nature of the matter and urged that the files "be viewed within their full historical context."

The Kings got advance access to the records and had their own teams reviewing them. Those efforts continued even as the government granted public access. Among the documents are leads the FBI received after King's assassination and details of the CIA's fixation on King's pivot to international anti-war and anti-poverty movements in the years before he was killed. It was not immediately clear whether the documents shed new light on King's life, the Civil Rights Movement or his murder.

"As the children of Dr. King and Mrs. Coretta Scott King, his tragic death has been an intensely personal grief — a devastating loss for his wife, children, and the granddaughter he never met -- an absence our family has endured for over 57 years," they wrote. "We ask those who engage with the release of these files to do so with empathy, restraint, and respect for our family's continuing grief."

They also repeated the family's long-held contention that James Earl Ray, the man convicted of assassinating King, was not solely responsible, if at all.

Bernice King was 5 years old when her father was killed at the age of 39. Martin III was 10.

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A statement from the office of Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard called the disclosure “unprecedented” and said many of the records had been digitized for the first time. She praised President Donald Trump for pushing the issue.

Release is ‘transparency’ to some, a ‘distraction’ for others

Trump promised as a candidate to release files related to President John F. Kennedy’s 1963 assassination. When Trump took office in January, he signed an executive order to declassify the JFK records, along with those associated with Robert F. Kennedy’s and MLK’s 1968 assassinations.

The government unsealed the JFK records in March and disclosed some RFK files in April.

The announcement from Gabbard’s office included a statement from Alveda King, Martin Luther King Jr.’s niece, who is an outspoken conservative and has broken from King’s children on various topics — including the FBI files. Alveda King said she was “grateful to President Trump” for his “transparency.”

Separately, Attorney General Pam Bondi’s social media account featured a picture of the attorney general with Alveda King.

Besides fulfilling Trump’s order, the latest release means another alternative headline for the president as he tries to mollify supporters angry over his administration’s handling of records concerning the sex trafficking investigation of Jeffrey Epstein, who killed himself behind bars while awaiting trial in 2019, during Trump’s first presidency. Trump last Friday ordered the Justice Department to release grand jury testimony but stopped short of unsealing the entire case file.

Bernice King and Martin Luther King III did not mention Trump in their statement Monday. But Bernice King later posted on her personal Instagram account a black-and-white photo of her father, looking annoyed, with the caption “Now, do the Epstein files.”

And some civil rights activists did not spare the president.

“Trump releasing the MLK assassination files is not about transparency or justice,” said the Rev. Al Sharpton. “It’s a desperate attempt to distract people from the firestorm engulfing Trump over the Epstein files and the public unraveling of his credibility among the MAGA base.”

The King Center, founded by King’s widow and now led by Bernice King, reacted separately from what Bernice said jointly with her brother. The King Center statement framed the release as a distraction — but from more than short-term political controversy.

“It is unfortunate and ill-timed, given the myriad of pressing issues and injustices affecting the United States and the global society,” the King Center, linking those challenges to MLK’s efforts. “This righteous work should be our collective response to renewed attention on the assassination of a great purveyor of true peace.”

Records mean a new trove of research material

The King records were initially intended to be sealed until 2027, until Justice Department attorneys asked a federal judge to lift the sealing order early. Scholars, history buffs and journalists have been preparing to study the documents for new information about his assassination on April 4, 1968, in Memphis, Tennessee.

The Southern Christian Leadership Conference, which King co-founded in 1957 as the Civil Rights Movement blossomed, opposed the release. The group, along with King’s family, argued that the FBI illegally surveilled King and other civil rights figures, hoping to discredit them and their movement.

It has long been established that then-FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover was intensely interested if not obsessed with King and others he considered radicals. FBI records released previously show how Hoover’s bureau wiretapped King’s telephone lines, bugged his hotel rooms and used informants to gather information, including evidence of King’s extramarital affairs.

“He was relentlessly targeted by an invasive, predatory, and deeply disturbing disinformation and surveillance campaign orchestrated by J. Edgar Hoover through the Federal Bureau of Investigation,” the King children said in their statement.

“The intent ... was not only to monitor, but to discredit, dismantle and destroy Dr. King’s reputation and the broader American Civil Rights Movement,” they continued. “These actions were not only invasions of privacy, but intentional assaults on the truth — undermining the dignity and freedoms of private citizens



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who fought for justice, designed to neutralize those who dared to challenge the status quo."

The Kings said they "support transparency and historical accountability" but "object to any attacks on our father's legacy or attempts to weaponize it to spread falsehoods."

Opposition to King intensified even after the Civil Rights Movement compelled Congress and President Lyndon B. Johnson to enact the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. After those victories, King turned his attention to economic justice and international peace. He criticized rapacious capitalism and the Vietnam War. King asserted that political rights alone were not enough to ensure a just society. Many establishment figures like Hoover viewed King as a communist threat.

King's children still don't accept the original explanation of assassination

King was assassinated as he was aiding striking sanitation workers in Memphis, part of his explicit turn toward economic justice.

Ray pleaded guilty to King's murder. Ray later renounced that plea and maintained his innocence until his death in 1998.

King family members and others have long questioned whether Ray acted alone, or if he was even involved. Coretta Scott King asked for the probe to be reopened, and in 1998, then-Attorney General Janet Reno ordered a new look. Reno's Justice Department said it "found nothing to disturb the 1969 judicial determination that James Earl Ray murdered Dr. King."

In their latest statement, Bernice King and Martin Luther King III repeated their assertions that Ray was set up. They pointed to a 1999 civil case, brought by the King family, in which a Memphis jury concluded that Martin Luther King Jr. had been the target of a conspiracy.

"As we review these newly released files," the Kings said, "we will assess whether they offer additional insights beyond the findings our family has already accepted."

## Judge gives ex-officer nearly 3 years in Breonna Taylor raid, rebuffs DOJ call for no prison time

By DYLAN LOVAN Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — A federal judge on Monday sentenced a former Kentucky police officer to nearly three years in prison for using excessive force during the deadly 2020 Breonna Taylor raid, rebuffing a U.S. Department of Justice recommendation of no prison time for the defendant.

Brett Hankison, who fired 10 shots during the raid but didn't hit anyone, was the only officer on the scene charged in the Black woman's death. He is the first person sentenced to prison in the case that rocked the city of Louisville and spawned weeks of street protests over police brutality that year.

U.S. District Judge Rebecca Grady Jennings, in sentencing Hankison, said no prison time "is not appropriate" and would minimize the jury's verdict from November. Jennings said she was "startled" there weren't more people injured in the raid from Hankison's blind shots.

She sentenced Hankison, 49, to 33 months in prison for the conviction of use of excessive force with three years of supervised probation to follow the prison term. He will not report directly to prison. The U.S. Bureau of Prisons will determine where and when he starts his sentence, Jennings said.

The judge, who presided over two of Hankison's trials, expressed disappointment with a sentencing recommendation by federal prosecutors last week, saying the Justice Department was treating Hankison's actions as "an inconsequential crime" and said some of its arguments were "incongruous and inappropriate."

Civil rights attorney Ben Crump, who helped Taylor's family secure a \$12 million wrongful death settlement against the city of Louisville, had called the department's recommendation "an insult to the life of Breonna Taylor and a blatant betrayal of the jury's decision."

Crump was at Monday's hearing and said he had hoped for a longer sentence but was "grateful that (Hankison) is at least going to prison and has to think for those 3 years about Breonna Taylor and that her life mattered."

Afterward, before a crowd outside the courthouse, Crump sounded a familiar chant: "Say Her name." The crowd yelled back: "Breonna Taylor!" And he and other members of Taylor family's legal team issued

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a subsequent statement criticizing the Justice Department.

"While today's sentence is not what we had hoped for — nor does it fully reflect the severity of the harm caused — it is more than what the Department of Justice sought. That, in itself, is a statement," the statement said.

Hankison's 10 shots the night of the March 2020 botched drug raid flew through the walls of Taylor's apartment into a neighboring apartment, narrowly missing a neighboring family.

The 26-year-old's death, along with the police killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis, sparked racial injustice and police brutality protests nationwide that year.

But the Justice Department, under new leadership since President Donald Trump took office in January, sought no prison time for Hankison, in an abrupt about-face by federal prosecutors after the department spent years prosecuting the former detective. They suggested time already served, which amounted to one day, and three years of supervised probation.

Taylor's mother, Tamika Palmer, said she was disappointed that the new federal prosecutors assigned to the case were not pushing for a tougher sentence. On many occasions inside the courtroom Monday, lead federal prosecutor Rob Keenan agreed with Hankison's defense attorneys on factors that would decrease Hankison's punishment.

"There was no prosecution in there for us," Palmer said afterward. "Brett had his own defense team, I didn't know he got a second one."

Taylor was shot in her hallway by two officers after her boyfriend fired from inside the apartment, striking an officer in the leg. Neither of the other officers was charged in state or federal court after prosecutors deemed they were justified in returning fire into the apartment. Louisville police used a drug warrant to enter Taylor's apartment, but found no drugs or cash inside.

A separate jury deadlocked on federal charges against Hankison in 2023, and he was acquitted on state charges of wanton endangerment in 2022.

In their recent sentencing memo, federal prosecutors wrote that though Hankison's "response in these fraught circumstances was unreasonable given the benefit of hindsight, that unreasonable response did not kill or wound Breonna Taylor, her boyfriend, her neighbors, defendant's fellow officers, or anyone else."

Jennings acknowledged Monday that officers were provoked by Taylor's boyfriend's gunshot, but said "that does not allow officers to then do what they want and then be excused."

While the hearing was going on, Louisville police arrested four people in front of the courthouse who it said were "creating confrontation, kicking vehicles, or otherwise creating an unsafe environment." Authorities didn't list charges against them.

Federal prosecutors had argued that multiple factors — including that Hankison's two other trials ended with no convictions — should greatly reduce the potential punishment. They also argued he would be susceptible to abuse in prison and suffers from post-traumatic stress disorder.

The sentencing memorandum was submitted by Harmeet Dhillon, chief of the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division and a Trump political appointee who in May moved to cancel settlements with Louisville and Minneapolis that had called for overhauling their police departments.

In the Taylor case, three other ex-Louisville police officers have been charged with crafting a falsified warrant, but have not gone to trial. None were at the scene when Taylor was shot. The warrant used to enter her apartment was one of five issued that night in search of evidence on an alleged drug dealer that Taylor once had an association with.

## Pentagon withdraws 700 Marines from Los Angeles

By JAIMIE DING Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The Pentagon ordered the U.S. Marines to leave Los Angeles on Monday, more than a month after President Donald Trump deployed them to the city against the objections of local leaders.

The 700 Marines were deployed June 9 on the fourth day of protests in downtown LA over the administration's crackdown on immigration. Four thousand National Guard soldiers were also deployed.

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Their presence in the city had been limited to two locations with federal buildings in Los Angeles, including the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement office and detention facility downtown. During their deployment outside a federal complex in west LA, the Marines temporarily detained a man who said he was rushing to get to a Veterans Affairs appointment.

The decision to pull back the Marines comes after half of the National Guard troops were ordered to leave the city last week. The rest remain.

Pentagon spokesman Sean Parnell said the military presence "sent a clear message: lawlessness will not be tolerated."

Mayor Karen Bass held a press conference Monday morning ahead of the announcement with several leaders of veteran groups who raised concerns about the deployment of military troops on domestic soil. They called for the remainder of troops to be withdrawn from Los Angeles.

"This is another win for Los Angeles but this is also a win for those serving this country in uniform," Bass said in a statement. "Los Angeles stands with our troops, which is why we are glad they are leaving."

California Gov. Gavin Newsom sued the federal government in June over the deployment of the National Guard, arguing that Trump violated the law when he activated the troops without notifying him. Newsom also asked the judge for an emergency stop to troops helping carry out immigration raids.

While a lower court ordered Trump to return control of the Guard to California, the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals last month temporarily blocked the judge's order.

Newsom originally included the Marines in the lawsuit, but the case has primarily focused on the Guard since.

In response to the Pentagon's announcement pulling back the Marines, Newsom reiterated his call for the remaining Guard troops to be sent home as well.

"The women and men of the California National Guard deserve more than to continue serving as puppets in Trump and Stephen Miller's performative political theater," Newsom said in a statement. "There was never a need for the military to deploy against civilians in Los Angeles."

Local authorities have disputed the Trump administration's characterization of the city as a "war zone."

The protests in Los Angeles have been largely limited to a few blocks downtown containing City Hall, federal buildings and an immigration detention facility. Demonstrations in the city and the region in recent weeks have been largely small impromptu protests around arrests.

In one of the most raucous days of protest, thousands of people took to the streets June 8 in response to Trump's deployment of the Guard, blocking off a major freeway as law enforcement used tear gas, rubber bullets and flash bangs to control the crowd. Photos captured several Waymo robotaxis set on fire.

A day later, police officers used flash bangs and shot projectiles as they pushed protesters through Little Tokyo, where bystanders and restaurant workers rushed to get out of their way.

Bass set a curfew in place for about a week that she said had successfully protected businesses and helped restore order.

## **Malcolm-Jamal Warner, 'Cosby Show' actor, dies at 54 in Costa Rica drowning**

By JAVIER CORDOBA and ANDREW DALTON Associated Press

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica (AP) — Malcolm-Jamal Warner, who as teenage son Theo Huxtable on "The Cosby Show" was central to a cultural phenomenon that helped define the 1980s, died at 54 in an accidental drowning in Costa Rica, authorities there said Monday.

Costa Rica's Judicial Investigation Department said Warner drowned Sunday afternoon on a beach on Costa Rica's Caribbean coast. He was swimming at Playa Cocles in Limon province when a current pulled him deeper into the ocean.

"He was rescued by people on the beach," the department's initial report said, but first responders from Costa Rica's Red Cross found him without vital signs and he was taken to the morgue.



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Warner created many TV moments etched in the memories of Generation X children and their parents, including a pilot-episode argument with Cosby about grades and careers, and another episode where Theo tries in vain to hide his ear piercing from his dad.

Theo was the only son among four daughters in the household of Cosby's Cliff Huxtable and Phylicia Rashad's Clair Huxtable on the NBC sitcom, and he would be one of the prime representations of American teenage life and Black boyhood on a show that was the most popular in America for much of its run from 1984 to 1992.

Warner worked for more than 40 years as an actor and director, also starring in the sitcoms "Malcolm & Eddie" and "Read Between the Lines," and in the medical drama "The Resident."

His final credits came in TV guest roles, including a dramatic four-episode arc last year on the network procedural "9-1-1," where he played a nurse who was a long-term survivor of a terrible fire.

"I grew up with a maniacal obsession with not wanting to be one of those 'where are they now kids,'" Warner told The Associated Press in 2015. "I feel very blessed to be able to have all of these avenues of expression ... to be where I am now and finally at a place where I can let go of that worry about having a life after 'Cosby.'"

He played Theo Huxtable for eight seasons, appearing in each of the 197 episodes of "The Cosby Show" and earning an Emmy nomination for supporting actor in a comedy in 1986.

Actor Viola Davis was among those giving tribute Monday.

"Theo was OUR son, OUR brother, OUR friend. He was absolutely so familiar, and we rejoiced at how TV got it right!," The Oscar winner said on Instagram. "But Malcolm got it right ... we reveled in your life and are gutted by this loss."

The Cosby legacy

Like the rest of the "Cosby Show" cast, Warner had to contend with the sexual assault allegations against its titular star, whose conviction in a Pennsylvania court was later overturned.

Warner told the Associated Press in 2015 that the show's legacy was "tarnished."

"My biggest concern is when it comes to images of people of color on television and film," Warner said. "We've always had 'The Cosby Show' to hold up against that. And the fact that we no longer have that, that's the thing that saddens me the most because in a few generations the Huxtables will have been just a fairy tale."

Representatives for Cosby declined immediate comment.

Life after Theo

Warner's first major post-"Cosby" role came on the sitcom "Malcolm & Eddie," co-starring with comedian Eddie Griffin in the popular series on the defunct UPN network from 1996 to 2000.

"My heart is heavy right now," Griffin said on Instagram Monday. "Rest easy my brother for you have Won in life and now you have won forever eternal bliss.."

In the 2010s, he starred opposite Tracee Ellis Ross as a family-blending couple for two seasons on the BET sitcom "Read Between The Lines." He also had a role as O.J. Simpson's friend Al Cowlings on "American Crime Story" and was a series regular on Fox's "The Resident."

"First I met you as Theo with the rest of the world then you were my first TV husband," Ross said on Instagram. "My heart is so so sad. What an actor and friend you were: warm, gentle, present, kind, thoughtful, deep, funny, elegant."

Warner's film roles included the 2008 rom-com "Fool's Gold" with Matthew McConaughey and Kate Hudson. A poet and a musician, Warner was a Grammy winner, for best traditional R&B performance, and was nominated for best spoken word poetry album for "Hiding in Plain View."

Warner also worked as a director, helming episodes of "Malcolm & Eddie," "Read Between the Lines," "The Resident" and "All That."

An actor's childhood

Warner, named after Malcolm X and jazz pianist Ahmad Jamal, was born in 1970 in Jersey City, New Jersey. His mother, Pamela Warner, served as his manager when he began pursuing acting at age 9.

In the early 1980s, he made guest appearances on the TV shows "Matt Houston" — his first credit —

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and "Fame."

Warner was 13 when he landed the role of Theo in an audition after a broad search for the right child actor.

Cosby was a major star at the time, and the show was certain to be widely seen, but few could've predicted the huge phenomenon it would become.

For many the lasting image of Theo, and of Warner, is of him wearing a badly botched mock designer shirt sewed by his sister Denise, played by Lisa Bonet. The "Gordon Gartrell" shirt later became a meme-able image: Anthony Mackie wore one on "The Tonight Show" with Jimmy Fallon and the profile picture on Warner's Instagram shows a toddler sporting one.

Warner would develop a love-hate relationship with the character.

"Theo was very good to me. And I think that show and that role is timeless. And I'm very proud of that role," Warner said in a recent podcast interview, while noting that he'd tried to separate himself from the role and for years would recoil when fans addressed him as Theo.

"Part of the distancing for me is not wanting to see how much of Malcolm is in Theo. I remember doing the show and I always thought that Theo is corny. I want Theo to be cooler," he told Melyssa Ford on her "Hot & Bothered" podcast. "Somebody called me America's favorite white Black boy. And I was 15. ... It hurt me. ... That's cultural trauma."

Warner was married with a young daughter, but chose to not publicly disclose their names. His representatives declined immediate comment on his death.

## **Russia launches a major aerial attack on Kyiv hours before high-level talks on support for Ukraine**

By EMMA BURROWS and ILLIA NOVIKOV Associated Press

Russia unleashed one of its largest aerial assaults on Ukraine in recent months hours before Britain and Germany chaired a meeting Monday to discuss U.S. President Donald Trump's plans for NATO allies to provide Ukraine with weapons.

The drone and missile attack on Kyiv, Ukraine's capital, killed two people and wounded 15, including a 12-year-old, Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said. The deadly assault underscored the urgency of Ukraine's need for further Western military aid, especially in air defense, a week after Trump said deliveries would arrive in Ukraine within days.

A drone struck the entrance to a subway station in Kyiv's Shevchenkivskyi district where people had taken cover. Videos posted on social media showed the station platform engulfed by smoke, with dozens inside. The heaviest strikes hit the city's Darnytskyi district, where a kindergarten, supermarket and warehouse facilities caught fire.

French Foreign Minister Jean-Noël Barrot, who arrived in Kyiv on Monday for talks with Zelenskyy, visited some of the damaged area.

Zelenskyy and Barrot spoke about expanding defense cooperation, including a decision by French companies to start manufacturing drones in Ukraine, and advancing Ukraine's path toward European Union membership, the Ukrainian leader said on social media.

Western defense chiefs meet on Ukraine

The virtual meeting of high-level military officials was led by British Defense Secretary John Healey and his German counterpart Boris Pistorius. U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth and NATO leader Mark Rutte, as well as NATO's Supreme Allied Commander Europe, Gen. Alexis Grynkeiwich, attended the so-called Ukraine Defense Contact Group meeting.

Moscow has intensified its long-range attacks on Ukrainian cities, and analysts say the barrages are likely to escalate as Russian drone production expands.

Ukraine's new Defense Minister Denys Shmyhal urged allies to speed up deliveries of American air defense systems under the plan put forward by Trump.

"I request the U.S. to make these weapons available for purchase, and our European partners to extend

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all the needed financing for their procurement,” Shmyhal, who until recently served as prime minister, told the meeting.

Trump’s arms plan, announced a week ago, involves European nations sending American weapons, including Patriot air defense missile systems, to Ukraine via NATO — either from existing stockpiles or buying and donating new ones.

In a shift of tone toward Russia, Trump last week gave Moscow a 50-day deadline to agree to a cease-fire or face tougher sanctions.

At Monday’s meeting, Healey was expected to urge Ukraine’s Western partners to launch a “50-day drive” to get Kyiv the weapons it needs to fight Russia’s bigger army and force Russian President Vladimir Putin to the negotiating table, the U.K. government said in a statement.

NATO’s Grynkeiwich told The Associated Press on Thursday that “preparations are underway” for weapons transfers to Ukraine while U.S. Ambassador to NATO Matthew Whitaker said he couldn’t give a time frame.

European Commissioner for Defense and Space Andrius Kubilius visited Washington on Monday ahead of talks with U.S. officials about European defense and support for Ukraine.

Kubilius told reporters he welcomed Trump taking a harder line on Putin, calling it “a new opening in how we can support Ukraine.”

“If you combine American economic power and European economic power we are something like 20 times Russia’s power,” he said. “We need political will.”

Kyiv wants American-made Patriot missile systems

Germany has said it offered to finance two new Patriot systems for Ukraine and raised the possibility of supplying systems it already owns and having them replaced by the U.S.

But delivery could take time, German Chancellor Friedrich Merz suggested, because “they have to be transported, they have to be set up; that is not a question of hours, it is a question of days, perhaps weeks.”

Other Patriot systems could come thanks to Switzerland, whose defense ministry said Thursday it was informed by the U.S. Defense Department that it will “reprioritize the delivery” of five previously ordered systems to support Ukraine.

While Ukraine waits for Patriots, a senior NATO official said the alliance is still coordinating the delivery of other military aid — such as ammunition and artillery rounds — which includes aid from the U.S. that was briefly paused. The official spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive matters.

In a video address, Zelenskyy said another round of talks between Ukrainian and Russian delegations was planned for Wednesday. He said he discussed the preparations with Rustem Umerov, who led the Ukrainian team in the previous two rounds, but didn’t give further details.

The previous negotiations were held in Istanbul, and Russian media reports said it would likely remain the host city. The talks in May and June led to a series of exchanges of prisoners of war but produced no other agreements.

Ukraine fires drones at Moscow

The overnight Russian barrage of Kyiv began shortly after midnight and continued until around 6 a.m. Residents were kept awake by machine-gun fire, buzzing drone engines and multiple loud explosions.

It was the first major attack on Kyiv since Trump’s special envoy to Ukraine, Keith Kellogg, arrived in the city last Monday. Russia halted strikes during his visit.

Russia’s Ministry of Defense said its attack used drones and Kinzhal hypersonic missiles. It said the barrage successfully targeted airfield infrastructure and Ukraine’s military-industrial complex.

Ukraine’s air force said Russia launched 426 Shahed and decoy drones overnight and on Monday, as well as 24 missiles of various types. It said 200 drones were intercepted with 203 more jammed or lost from radars.

Ukraine, meanwhile, continued to deploy its domestically produced long-range drones. Russia’s Ministry of Defense said its forces shot down 74 Ukrainian drones overnight, almost a third of them destroyed close to the Russian capital. Twenty-three drones were shot down in the Moscow region, the ministry said, 15 of which were intercepted over the city itself.



## 3 Democrat-led states have rolled back Medicaid access for people lacking permanent legal status

By TRÂN NGUYỄN and DEVI SHASTRI Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — For nearly 20 years, Maria would call her sister — a nurse in Mexico — for advice on how to manage her asthma and control her husband's diabetes instead of going to the doctor in California.

She didn't have legal status, so she couldn't get health insurance and skipped routine exams, relying instead on home remedies and, at times, getting inhalers from Mexico. She insisted on using only her first name for fear of deportation.

Things changed for Maria and many others in recent years when a handful of Democrat-led states opened up their health insurance programs to low-income immigrants regardless of their legal status. Maria and her husband signed up the day the program began last year.

"It changed immensely, like from Earth to the heavens," Maria said in Spanish of Medi-Cal, California's Medicaid program. "Having the peace of mind of getting insurance leads me to getting sick less."

At least seven states and the District of Columbia have offered coverage for immigrants since mostly 2020. But three of them have done an about-face, ending or limiting coverage for hundreds of thousands of immigrants who aren't in the U.S. legally in California, Illinois and Minnesota.

The programs cost way more than officials had projected at a time when the states are facing multi-billion-dollar deficits now and in the future. In Illinois, adult immigrants ages 42-64 without legal status have lost their health care to save an estimated \$404 million. All adult immigrants in Minnesota no longer have access to the state program, saving nearly \$57 million. In California, no one will automatically lose coverage, but new enrollments for adults will stop in 2026 to save more than \$3 billion over several years.

Cuts in all three states were backed by Democratic governors who once championed expanding health coverage to immigrants.

The Trump administration this week shared the home addresses, ethnicities and personal data of all Medicaid recipients with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials. Twenty states, including California, Illinois and Minnesota, have sued.

Health care providers told The Associated Press that everything, especially the fear of being arrested or deported, is having a chilling effect on people seeking care. And states may have to spend more money down the road because immigrants will avoid preventive health care and end up needing to go to safety-net hospitals.

"I feel like they continue to squeeze you more and more to the point where you'll burst," Maria said, referencing all the uncertainties for people who are in the U.S. without legal permission.

'People are going to die'

People who run free and community health clinics in California and Minnesota said patients who got on state Medicaid programs received knee replacements and heart procedures, and were diagnosed for serious conditions like late-stage cancer.

CommunityHealth is one of the nation's largest free clinics, serving many uninsured and underinsured immigrants in the Chicago area who have no other options for treatment. That includes the people who lost coverage July 1 when Illinois ended its Health Benefits for Immigrants Adults Program, which served about 31,500 people ages 42-64.

One of CommunityHealth's community outreach workers and care coordinator said Eastern European patients she works with started coming in with questions about what the change meant for them. She said many of the patients also don't speak English and don't have transportation to get to clinics that can treat them. The worker spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity to protect patients' privacy.

HealthFinders Collaborative in Minnesota's rural Rice and Steele counties south of Minneapolis serves low-income and underinsured patients, including large populations of Latino immigrants and Somali refugees. Executive director Charlie Mandile said they're seeing patients rushing to squeeze in appointments

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and procedures before 19,000 people age 18 and older are kicked off of insurance at the end of the year.

Free and community health clinics in all three states say they will keep serving patients regardless of insurance coverage — but that might get harder after the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services decided this month to restrict federally qualified health centers from treating people without legal status.

CommunityHealth CEO Stephanie Wilding said she always worried about the stability of the program because it was fully state funded, “but truthfully, we thought that day was much, much further away.”

“People are going to die. Some people are going to go untreated,” Alicia Hardy, chief executive officer of CommuniCARE+OLE clinics in California, said of the state’s Medicaid changes. “It’s hard to see the humanity in the decision-making that’s happening right now.”

A spokesperson for the Minnesota Department of Human Services said ending the state’s program will decrease MinnesotaCare spending in the short term, but she acknowledged health care costs would rise elsewhere, including uncompensated care at hospitals.

Minnesota House Speaker Lisa Demuth, a Republican, said the state’s program was not sustainable.

“It wasn’t about trying to be non-compassionate or not caring about people,” she said. “When we looked at the state budget, the dollars were not there to support what was passed and what was being spent.”

Demuth also noted that children will still have coverage, and adults lacking permanent legal status can buy private health insurance.

Health care providers also are worried that preventable conditions will go unmanaged, and people will avoid care until they end up in emergency rooms — where care will be available under federal law.

One of those safety-net public hospitals, Cook County Health in Chicago, treated about 8,000 patients from Illinois’ program last year. Dr. Erik Mikaitis, the health system’s CEO, said doing so brought in \$111 million in revenue.

But he anticipated other providers who billed through the program could close, he said, adding: “Things can become unstable very quickly.”

Monthly fees, federal policies create barriers

State lawmakers said California’s Medi-Cal changes stem from budget issues — a \$12 billion deficit this year, with larger ones projected ahead. Democratic state leaders last month agreed to stop new enrollment starting in 2026 for all low-income adults without legal status. Those under 60 remaining on the program will have to pay a \$30 monthly fee in 2027.

States are also bracing for impact from federal policies. Cuts to Medicaid and other programs in the recently signed massive tax and spending bill include a 10% cut to the federal share of Medicaid expansion costs to states that offer health benefits to immigrants starting October 2027.

California health officials estimate roughly 200,000 people will lose coverage after the first full year of restricted enrollment, though Gov. Gavin Newsom maintains that even with the rollbacks, California provides the most expansive health care coverage for poor adults.

Every new bill requires a shift in Maria’s monthly calculations to make ends meet. She believes many people won’t be able to afford the \$30-a-month premiums and will instead go back to self-medication or skip treatment altogether.

“It was a total triumph,” she said of Medi-Cal expansion. “But now that all of this is coming our way, we’re going backwards to a worse place.”

Fear and tension about immigration raids are changing patient behavior, too. Providers told the AP that, as immigration raids ramped up, their patients were requesting more virtual appointments, not showing up to routine doctor’s visits and not picking up prescriptions for their chronic conditions.

Maria has the option to keep her coverage. But she is weighing the health of her family against risking what they’ve built in the U.S.

“It’s going to be very difficult,” Maria said of her decision to remain on the program. “If it comes to the point where my husband gets sick and his life is at risk, well then, obviously, we have to choose his life.”

## Harvard seeks billions in funding restored at a pivotal hearing in its standoff with Trump

By MICHAEL CASEY Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — Harvard University appeared in federal court Monday in a pivotal case in its battle with the Trump administration, as the storied institution argued the government illegally cut \$2.6 billion in federal funding.

President Donald Trump's administration has battered the nation's oldest and wealthiest university with sanctions for months as it presses a series of demands on the Ivy League school, which it decries as a hotbed of liberalism and antisemitism.

Harvard has resisted, and the lawsuit over the cuts to its research grants represents the primary challenge to the administration in a standoff that is being widely watched across higher education and beyond.

A lawyer for Harvard, Steven Lehotsky, said at Monday's hearing the case is about the government trying to control the "inner workings" of Harvard. The funding cuts, if not reversed, could lead to the loss of research, damaged careers and the closing of labs, he said.

"It's not about Harvard's conduct," he said. "It's about the government's conduct toward Harvard."

The case is before U.S. District Judge Allison Burroughs, who is presiding over lawsuits brought by Harvard against the administration's efforts to keep it from hosting international students. In that case, she temporarily blocked the administration's efforts.

At Monday's hearing, Harvard asked her to reverse a series of funding freezes. Such a ruling, if it stands, would revive Harvard's sprawling scientific and medical research operation and hundreds of projects that lost federal money.

A lawyer for the government, Michael Velchik, said the Trump administration has authority to cancel the grants after concluding the funding did not align with its priorities, namely Trump's executive order combating antisemitism.

He argued Harvard allowed antisemitism to flourish at the university following the Oct. 7, 2023, Hamas-led attacks on Israel, including protesters camped out on campus chanting antisemitic slogans as well attacks on Jewish students.

"Harvard claims the government is anti-Harvard. I reject that," said Velchik, a Harvard alumnus. "The government is pro-Jewish students at Harvard. The government is pro-Jewish faculty at Harvard."

Judge questions basis for government's findings on antisemitism

Burroughs pushed back, questioning how the government could make "ad-hoc" decisions to cancel grants and do so without offering evidence that any of the research is antisemitic. At one point, she called the government's assertions "mind-boggling."

She also argued the government had provided "no documentation, no procedure" to "suss out" whether Harvard administrators "have taken enough steps or haven't" to combat antisemitism.

"The consequences of that in terms of constitutional law are staggering," she said. "I don't think you can justify a contract action based on impermissible suppression of speech. Where do I have that wrong?"

Velchik said the case comes down to the government's choosing how best to spend billions of dollars in research funding.

Harvard's lawsuit accuses the Trump administration of waging a retaliation campaign against the university after it rejected a series of demands from a federal antisemitism task force in April. A second lawsuit over the cuts filed by the American Association of University Professors and its Harvard faculty chapter has been consolidated with the university's.

The task force's demands included sweeping changes related to campus protests, academics and admissions. For example, Harvard was told to audit the viewpoints of students and faculty and admit more students or hire new professors if the campus was found to lack diverse points of view.

Harvard President Alan Garber says the university has made changes to combat antisemitism but said no government "should dictate what private universities can teach, whom they can admit and hire, and which areas of study and inquiry they can pursue."

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Monday's hearing ended without Burroughs issuing a ruling from the bench. A ruling is expected later in writing.

Harvard faculty, alumni rally against cuts

Several dozen alumni from Harvard joined students and faculty to decry the effort to cut the federal funds, holding up signs reading "Hands Off Harvard," "Strong USA Needs Strong Harvard" and "Our Liberty Is Not For Sale."

Anurima Bhargava, who wrote the amicus brief on behalf of more than 12,000 fellow Harvard alumni in the case, said the graduates spoke up because "they understand what is at stake here and what the end goal of the government is, to take away our ability to pursue the mission, the freedom and the values that have been the cornerstone of higher education."

Three Harvard researchers who lost their federal funding spoke about disruptions to the long-term impact of funding on cancer, cardiovascular diseases and other health conditions. They said the cuts could force researchers to go overseas to work.

"Unfortunately, the termination of this research work would mean the end of this progress and the implications are serious for the well-being of Americans and our children into the future," said Walter Willett, a Harvard professor of epidemiology and nutrition who lost grants that funded long-term studies of men's and women's health.

"This is just one example of the arbitrary and capricious weaponization of taxpayer money that is undermining the health of Americans," he said.

Trump's pressure campaign involves a series of sanctions

The same day Harvard rejected the government's demands, Trump officials moved to freeze \$2.2 billion in research grants. Education Secretary Linda McMahon declared in May that Harvard would no longer be eligible for new grants, and weeks later the administration began canceling contracts with Harvard.

As Harvard fought the funding freeze in court, individual agencies began sending letters announcing the frozen research grants were being terminated. They cited a clause that allows grants to be scrapped if they no longer align with government policies.

Harvard, which has the nation's largest endowment at \$53 billion, has moved to self-fund some of its research, but warned it can't absorb the full cost of the federal cuts.

In court filings, the school said the government "fails to explain how the termination of funding for research to treat cancer, support veterans, and improve national security addresses antisemitism."

The Trump administration denies the cuts were made in retaliation and argues the government has wide discretion to cancel contracts for policy reasons.

The research funding is only one front in Harvard's fight with the government. The Trump administration also has sought to prevent the school from hosting foreign students, and Trump has threatened to revoke Harvard's tax-exempt status.

Finally, last month, the Trump administration formally issued a finding that the school tolerated antisemitism — a step that eventually could jeopardize all of Harvard's federal funding, including federal student loans or grants. The penalty is typically referred to as a "death sentence."

After Monday's hearing, Trump took to his social media platform, Truth Social, to attack Burroughs, calling her a "TOTAL DISASTER." Burroughs was appointed by former President Barack Obama.

"Harvard has \$52 Billion Dollars sitting in the Bank, and yet they are anti-Semitic, anti-Christian, and anti-America," he wrote. "Much of this money comes from the U.S.A., all to the detriment of other Schools, Colleges, and Institutions, and we are not going to allow this unfair situation to happen any longer."

## **US stocks set more records as Verizon begins a big week for profit reports with a beat**

By STAN CHOE AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — U.S. stock indexes inched their way to more records on Monday to kick off a week full of profit updates from big U.S. companies.



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The S&P 500 rose 0.1% and squeaked past its prior all-time high set on Thursday. The Dow Jones Industrial Average edged down by 19 points, or less than 0.1%, and the Nasdaq composite added 0.4% to its own record.

Verizon Communications helped lead the way and rose 4%. The telecom giant reported a stronger profit for the latest quarter than analysts expected, along with higher revenue than forecast. Following the better-than-expected performance, Verizon raised its forecasts for profit and other financial measures for the full year.

That helped offset a 5.4% drop for Sarepta Therapeutics, which continued to fall after the Food and Drug Administration said on Friday that it asked the company to voluntarily stop all shipments of Elevidys, its gene therapy for Duchenne muscular dystrophy, due to safety concerns.

Block, Jack Dorsey's company behind Square, Cash App and other tech brands climbed 7.6% in its first trading after learning it will join the widely followed and imitated S&P 500 index. It will take the place of Hess, which Chevron bought, before trading begins on Wednesday.

Cleveland-Cliffs rallied 12.4% after the steel producer reported a smaller loss for the spring than analysts expected. It shipped a record 4.3 million net tons of steel during the quarter, and CEO Lourenco Goncalves said the company has begun to see "the positive impact that tariffs have on domestic manufacturing" and other things.

It's a major supplier to the auto industry, and President Donald Trump's tariffs steer companies hoping to sell cars in the United States toward steel made in the country.

Other U.S. companies, though, are navigating the downsides and complications of tariffs, which raise prices on all kinds of things imported to the United States. That includes General Motors, which will report its latest profit results later this week, along with such market heavyweights as Alphabet, Coca-Cola and Tesla.

Many of Trump's stiff proposed tariffs are currently on pause after Trump extended the deadline for talks with other countries in order to give more time to reach potential trade deals that could lower the tax rates. The next big deadline, at least for now, is Aug. 1.

It's still early days in this earnings reporting season, but most big U.S. companies have been topping analysts' expectations, as is usually the case.

Some encouraging undertones may already be emerging. An upward inflection in demand for travel that United Airlines said it's seen recently, combined with better-than-expected data on U.S. retail sales, may indicate that U.S. consumers remain in decent health, Bank of America strategist Savita Subramanian said in a BofA Global Research report. That could offer a strong source of support for the economy.

Companies will need to keep delivering solid profit growth to tamp down criticism that the U.S. stock market may be looking expensive again after prices reached records despite potential worries about tariffs and the economy.

All told, the S&P 500 rose 8.81 points to 6,305.60. The Dow Jones Industrial Average slipped 19.12 to 44,323.07, and the Nasdaq composite rose 78.52 to 20,974.17.

In the bond market, Treasury yields eased. The yield on the 10-year Treasury fell to 4.38% from 4.44% late Friday.

In stock markets abroad, indexes were mixed in Europe after finishing modestly higher in much of Asia. Markets were closed for a holiday in Japan, where the ruling Liberal Democrats lost their coalition majorities in both houses of parliament for the first time since 1955 following Sunday's upper house election and the loss of their lower house majority in October.

A grim Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba has vowed to stay on after the drubbing by voters frustrated over rising prices and political instability. Analysts said they expect his weakened government to crank up spending, adding to Japan's huge debt burden.

## Appeals court orders new trial for man convicted in 1979 Etan Patz case

By JENNIFER PELTZ Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The man convicted in the 1979 killing of 6-year-old Etan Patz was awarded a new trial Monday as a federal appeals court overturned the guilty verdict in one of the nation's most notorious missing child cases.

Pedro Hernandez has been serving 25 years to life in prison since his 2017 conviction. He had been arrested in 2012 after a decades-long, haunting search for answers in Etan's disappearance, which happened on the first day he was allowed to walk alone to his school bus stop in New York City.

The appeals court said the trial judge gave a "clearly wrong" and "manifestly prejudicial" response to a jury note during Hernandez's 2017 trial — his second. His first trial ended in a jury deadlock in 2015. His lawyers said he was innocent.

The court ordered Hernandez's release unless the 64-year-old gets a new trial within "a reasonable period."

The Manhattan district attorney's office, which prosecuted the case, said it was reviewing the decision. The trial predated current DA Alvin Bragg, a Democrat.

Harvey Fishbein, an attorney for Hernandez, declined to comment when reached Monday by phone.

A message seeking comment was sent to Etan's parents. They spent decades pursuing an arrest, and then a conviction, in their son's case and pressing to improve the handling of missing-child cases nationwide.

Etan was among the first missing children pictured on milk cartons. His case contributed to an era of fear among American families, making anxious parents more protective of kids who had been allowed to roam and play unsupervised in their neighborhoods.

The Patzes' advocacy helped establish a national missing-children hotline and made it easier for law enforcement agencies to share information about such cases. The May 25 anniversary of Etan's disappearance became National Missing Children's Day.

"They waited and persevered for 35 years for justice for Etan which today, sadly, may have been lost," former Manhattan DA Cyrus Vance Jr. said after hearing about Monday's reversal. Vance, now in private practice, had prioritized reexamining the case and oversaw the trials.

Etan was a first grader who always wanted "to do everything that adults did," his mother, Julie Patz, told jurors in 2017.

So on the morning of May 25, 1979, she agreed the boy could walk by himself to the school bus stop a block and a half away. She walked him downstairs, watched him walk part of the way and never saw him again.

For decades, Etan's parents kept the same apartment and even phone number in case he might try to reach them.

Etan's case spurred a huge search and an enduring, far-flung investigation. But no trace of him was ever found. A civil court declared him dead in 2001.

Hernandez was a teenager working at a convenience shop in Etan's downtown Manhattan neighborhood when the boy vanished. Police met him while canvassing the area but didn't suspect him until they got a 2012 tip that he'd made remarks years earlier about having killed a child in New York, not mentioning Etan's name.

Hernandez then told police he'd lured Etan into the store's basement by promising the boy a soda, then choked him because "something just took over me." He said he put Etan, still alive, in a box and left it with curbside trash.

Hernandez's lawyers said his confession was false, spurred by a mental illness that makes him confuse reality with imagination. He also has a very low IQ.

His daughter testified that he talked about seeing visions of angels and demons and once watered a dead tree branch, believing it would grow. Prosecutors suggested Hernandez faked or exaggerated his symptoms.

The defense pointed to another suspect, a convicted child molester who made incriminating statements

years ago about Etan but denied killing him and later insisted he wasn't involved in the boy's disappearance. He was never charged.

The trials happened in a New York state court. Etan's appeal eventually wound into federal court and revolved around Hernandez' police interrogation in 2012.

Police questioned Hernandez for seven hours — and they said he confessed — before they read him his rights and started recording. Hernandez then repeated his admission on tape, at least twice.

During nine days of deliberations, jurors sent repeated queries about those statements. The last inquiry asked whether they had to disregard the two recorded confessions if they concluded that the first one was invalid.

The judge said no. The appeals court said the jury should have gotten a more thorough explanation of its options, which could have included disregarding all of the confessions.

## **Kilmar Abrego Garcia's lawyers ask judge to delay release from jail over deportation fears**

By BEN FINLEY Associated Press

Lawyers for Kilmar Abrego Garcia have asked a federal judge in Tennessee to delay releasing him from jail in order to prevent the Trump administration from trying to swiftly deport the Maryland construction worker.

U.S. District Judge Waverly Crenshaw Jr. in Nashville is expected to rule soon on whether to free Abrego Garcia while he awaits trial on human smuggling charges. If the Salvadoran national is released, U.S. officials have said he would be immediately detained by immigration authorities and targeted for deportation.

Abrego Garcia became a prominent face in the debate over President Donald Trump's immigration policies when he was wrongfully deported to his native El Salvador in March. That expulsion violated a U.S. immigration judge's order in 2019 that shields Abrego Garcia from deportation to El Salvador because he likely faces threats of gang violence there.

The administration claimed that Abrego Garcia was in the MS-13 gang, although he wasn't charged and has repeatedly denied the allegation. Facing mounting pressure and a U.S. Supreme Court order, the Trump administration returned Abrego Garcia to the U.S. last month to face the smuggling charges, which his attorneys have called "preposterous."

The smuggling case stems from a 2022 traffic stop for speeding, during which Abrego Garcia was driving a vehicle with nine passengers. Police in Tennessee suspected human smuggling, but he was allowed to drive on.

U.S. officials have said they'll try to deport Abrego Garcia to a country that isn't El Salvador, such as Mexico or South Sudan, before his trial starts in January because they allege he's a danger to the community.

U.S. Magistrate Judge Barbara Holmes in Nashville ruled a month ago that Abrego Garcia is eligible for release after she determined he's not a flight risk or a danger. Abrego Garcia's attorneys asked her to keep him in jail over deportation concerns.

Holmes' ruling is being reviewed by Crenshaw after federal prosecutors filed a motion to revoke her release order.

Abrego Garcia's attorneys initially argued for his release but changed their strategy because of the government's plans to deport him if he is set free. With Crenshaw's decision imminent, Abrego Garcia's attorneys filed a motion Sunday night for a 30-day stay of any release order. The request would allow Abrego Garcia to "evaluate his options and determine whether additional relief is necessary."

Earlier this month, U.S. officials detailed their plans to try to expel Abrego Garcia in a federal court in Maryland. That's where Abrego Garcia's American wife, Jennifer Vasquez Sura, is suing the Trump administration over his wrongful deportation in March and is trying to prevent another expulsion.

U.S. officials have argued that Abrego Garcia can be deported because he came to the U.S. illegally around 2011 and because a U.S. immigration judge deemed him eligible for expulsion in 2019, although not to his native El Salvador.

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Following the immigration judge's decision in 2019, Abrego Garcia was released under federal supervision, received a federal work permit and checked in with Immigration and Customs Enforcement each year, his attorneys have said. But U.S. officials recently stated in court documents that they revoked Abrego Garcia's supervised release.

Abrego Garcia's attorneys in Maryland have asked U.S. District Judge Paula Xinis to order the federal government to send Abrego Garcia to that state to await his trial, a bid that seeks to prevent deportation.

His lawyers also asked Xinis to issue at least a 72-hour hold that would prevent immediate deportation if he's released from jail in Tennessee. Xinis has not ruled on either request.

## **Number of people saved from burning Indonesian ferry rises to 575, rescuers say**

By GRACEY WAKARI Associated Press

MANADO, Indonesia (AP) — Rescuers in Indonesia responding to a ferry that caught fire and killed at least three people said Monday they had rescued 575 people — far more than originally reported — and that two people were still missing.

The KM Barcelona V-A caught fire Sunday in the sea off North Sulawesi province, and initial reports said five people were dead and about 280 rescued, based on the ship's manifest. However, by Monday afternoon officials updated the death toll to three, with two missing, and said many more people were aboard than were listed, and that 575 of them were rescued.

It is common in Indonesia for the number of passengers on a boat or ferry to differ from the manifest. Such discrepancies can reflect overcrowding and complicate search and rescue efforts, said navy First Adm. Franky Pasuna Sihombing.

The KM Barcelona V-A was making its regular half-day journey between the ports of Melonguane and Manado when it caught fire about midday Sunday, Sihombing said.

A coast guard ship, six rescue vessels and several inflatable boats were deployed in the rescue operation, Sihombing said. The crews pulled many people from the sea and took them to nearby islands, and local fishermen also saved some survivors wearing life jackets as they were drifting in the choppy waters.

Three bodies were recovered, including a pregnant woman, and rescuers were searching for two passengers reportedly still missing, the Manado city Search and Rescue Agency said in a statement.

The ferry's manifest initially registered only 280 passengers and 15 crew members, but by Monday afternoon the search and rescue agency confirmed that 575 survivors had been rescued, including a 2-month-old baby whose lungs were filled with seawater. The baby is now in a stable condition at a hospital.

The ferry had a capacity of 600 people.

Indonesia is an archipelago of more than 17,000 islands where ferries are a common method of travel. Disasters occur regularly, with weak safety enforcement often blamed.

A speedboat carrying 18 people capsized during a storm July 14, and all its occupants were found rescued by the next day. Earlier in the month, a ferry sank near Indonesia's resort island of Bali, leaving at least 19 dead and 16 others missing. A two-week search operation involved more than 600 rescuers, three navy ships, 15 boats, a helicopter and divers.

## **Beef prices have soared in the US — and not just during grilling season**

By JOSH FUNK AP Business Writer

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Anyone firing up the grill this summer already knows hamburger patties and steaks are expensive, but the latest numbers show prices have climbed to record highs.

And experts say consumers shouldn't expect much relief soon either.

The average price of a pound of ground beef rose to \$6.12 in June, up nearly 12% from a year ago, according to U.S. government data. The average price of all uncooked beef steaks rose 8% to \$11.49 per



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pound.

But this is not a recent phenomenon. Beef prices have been steadily rising over the past 20 years because the supply of cattle remains tight while beef remains popular.

In fact, the U.S. cattle herd has been steadily shrinking for decades. As of Jan. 1, the U.S. had 86.7 million cattle and calves, down 8% from the most recent peak in 2019. That is the lowest number of cattle since 1951, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Many factors including drought and cattle prices have contributed to that decline. And now the emergence of a pesky parasite in Mexico and the prospect of widespread tariffs may further reduce supply and raise prices.

Here's a look at what's causing the price of beef to rise.

**Smaller herd**

The American beef industry has gotten better at breeding larger animals, so ranchers can provide the same amount of beef with fewer cattle, said David Anderson, a livestock economist at Texas A&M.

Then in 2020, a three-year drought began that dried out pastures and raised the cost of feed for cattle, according to the American Farm Bureau. Drought has continued to be a problem across the West since then, and the price of feed has put more pressure on ranchers who already operate on slim profit margins.

In response, many farmers slaughtered more female cattle than usual, which helped beef supplies in the short term but lowered the size of future herds. Lower cattle supplies has raised prices.

In recent years cattle prices have soared, so that now animals are selling for thousands of dollars apiece. Recent prices show cattle selling for more than \$230 per hundredweight, or hundred pounds.

Those higher prices give ranchers more incentive to sell cows now to capture profits instead of hanging onto them for breeding given that prices in the years ahead may decrease, Anderson said.

"For them, the balance is, 'Do I sell that animal now and take this record high check?' Or 'do I keep her to realize her returns over her productive life when she's having calves?'" Anderson said. "And so it's this balancing act and so far the side that's been winning is to sell her and get the check."

**Disease dilemma**

The emergence of a flesh-eating pest in cattle herds in Mexico has put extra pressure on supply because officials cut off all imports of cattle from south of the border last year. Some 4% of the cattle the U.S. feeds to slaughter for beef comes from Mexico.

The pest is the New World screwworm fly, and female flies lay eggs in wounds on warm-blooded animals. The larvae that hatch are unusual among flies for feeding on live flesh and fluids instead of dead material. American officials worry that if the fly reaches Texas, its flesh-eating maggots could cause large economic losses as they did decades ago before the U.S. eradicated the pest.

Agricultural economist Bernt Nelson with the Farm Bureau said the loss of that many cattle is putting additional pressure on supply that is helping drive prices higher.

**Tariff trouble**

President Donald Trump's tariffs have yet to have a major impact on beef prices but they could be another factor that drives prices higher because the U.S. imports more than 4 billion pounds of beef every year.

Much of what is imported is lean beef trimmings that meatpackers mix with fattier beef produced in the U.S. to produce the varieties of ground beef that domestic consumers want. Much of that lean beef comes from Australia and New Zealand that have only seen a 10% tariff, but some of it comes from Brazil where Trump has threatened tariffs as high as 50%.

If the tariffs remain in place long-term, meat processors will have to pay higher prices on imported lean beef. It wouldn't be easy for U.S. producers to replace because the country's system is geared toward producing fattier beef known for marbled steaks.

**Prices will likely stay high**

It's the height of grilling season and demand in the U.S. for beef remains strong, which Kansas State agricultural economist Glynn Tonsor said will help keep prices higher.

If prices remain this high, shoppers will likely start to buy more hamburger meat and fewer steaks, but that doesn't appear to be happening broadly yet — and people also don't seem to be buying chicken or

pork instead of beef.

Nelson said that recently the drought has eased — allowing pasture conditions to improve — and grain prices are down thanks to the drop in export demand for corn because of the tariffs. Those factors, combined with the high cattle prices might persuade more ranchers to keep their cows and breed them to expand the size of their herds.

Even if ranchers decided to raise more cattle to help replace those imports, it would take at least two years to breed and raise them. And it wouldn't be clear if that is happening until later this fall when ranchers typically make those decisions.

"We've still got a lot of barriers in the way to grow this herd," Nelson said. Just consider that a young farmer who wants to add 25 bred heifers to his herd has to be prepared to spend more than \$100,000 at auction at a time when borrowing costs remain high.

There is typically a seasonal decline in beef prices as grilling season slows down into the fall, but those price declines are likely to be modest.

## Trump threatens to hold up stadium deal if Washington Commanders don't switch back to Redskins

By JOE REEDY and ADRIANA GOMEZ LICON Associated Press

CLEVELAND (AP) — President Donald Trump is threatening to hold up a new stadium deal for Washington's NFL team if it does not restore its old name of the Redskins, which was considered offensive to Native Americans.

Trump also said Sunday that he wants Cleveland's baseball team to revert to its former name, the Indians, saying there was a "big clamoring for this" as well.

The Washington Commanders and Cleveland Guardians have had their current names since the 2022 seasons and both have said they have no plans to change them back.

Trump said the Washington football team would be "much more valuable" if it restored its old name.

"I may put a restriction on them that if they don't change the name back to the original 'Washington Redskins,' and get rid of the ridiculous moniker, 'Washington Commanders,' I won't make a deal for them to build a Stadium in Washington," Trump said on his social media site.

His latest interest in changing the name reflects his broader effort to roll back changes that followed a national debate on cultural sensitivity and racial justice. The team announced it would drop the Redskins name and the Indian head logo in 2020 during a broader reckoning with systemic racism and police brutality.

The Commanders and the District of Columbia government announced a deal earlier this year to build a new home for the football team at the site the old RFK Stadium, the place the franchise called home for more than three decades.

Trump's ability to hold up the deal remains to be seen. President Joe Biden signed a bill in January that transferred the land from the federal government to the District of Columbia.

The provision was part of a short-term spending bill passed by Congress in December. While D.C. residents elect a mayor, a city council and commissioners to run day-to-day operations, Congress maintains control of the city's budget.

Josh Harris, whose group bought the Commanders from former owner Dan Snyder in 2023, said earlier this year the name was here to stay. Not long after taking over, Harris quieted speculation about going back to Redskins, saying that would not happen. The team did not immediately respond to a request for comment following Trump's statement.

The Washington team started in Boston as the Redskins in 1933 before moving to the nation's capital four years later.

The Cleveland Guardians' president of baseball operations, Chris Antonetti, indicated before Sunday's game against the Athletics that there weren't any plans to revisit the name change.

"We understand there are different perspectives on the decision we made a few years ago, but obviously it's a decision we made. We've got the opportunity to build a brand as the Guardians over the last four

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years and are excited about the future that's in front of us," he said.

Cleveland announced in December 2020 it would drop Indians. It announced the switch to Guardians in July 2021. In 2018, the team phased out "Chief Wahoo" as its primary logo.

The name changes had their share of supporters and critics as part of the national discussions about logos and names considered racist.

Trump posted Sunday afternoon that "The Owner of the Cleveland Baseball Team, Matt Dolan, who is very political, has lost three Elections in a row because of that ridiculous name change. What he doesn't understand is that if he changed the name back to the Cleveland Indians, he might actually win an Election. Indians are being treated very unfairly. MAKE INDIANS GREAT AGAIN (MIGA)!"

Matt Dolan, the son of the late Larry Dolan, no longer has a role with the Guardians. He ran the team's charity endeavors until 2016.

Matt Dolan was a candidate in the Ohio U.S. Senate elections in 2022 and '24, but lost.

Washington and Cleveland share another thing in common. David Blitzer is a member of Harris' ownership group with the Commanders and holds a minority stake in the Guardians.

## **Republicans can't stop talking about Joe Biden. That may be a problem**

By BILL BARROW and MATT BROWN Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — It's been six months since Joe Biden left the Oval Office. Republicans, including President Donald Trump, can't stop talking about him.

The House has launched investigations asserting that Biden's closest advisers covered up a physical and mental decline during the 82-year-old Democrat's presidency. The Senate has started a series of hearings focused on his mental fitness. And Trump's White House has opened its own investigation into the Biden administration's use of the presidential autopen, which Trump has called "one of the biggest scandals in the history of our country."

It all fits with Trump's practice of blaming his predecessors for the nation's ills. Just last week, he tried to deflect criticism of his administration's handling of the Jeffrey Epstein sex trafficking case by casting blame on others, including Biden.

Turning the spotlight back on the former president carries risks for both parties heading into the 2026 midterms. The more Republicans or Democrats talk about Biden, the less they can make arguments about the impact of Trump's presidency — positive or negative — especially his sweeping new tax cut and spending law that is reshaping the federal government.

"Most Americans consider Joe Biden to be yesterday's news," Republican pollster Whit Ayres said.

Republicans want Biden's autopen to become a flashpoint

Seeking to avenge his 2020 loss to Biden, Trump mocked his rival's age and fitness incessantly in 2024, even after Biden dropped his reelection bid and yielded to then-Vice President Kamala Harris.

He and other Republicans seemed poised to spend the summer touting their new tax, spending and policy package. But Trump, now 79 and facing his own health challenges, has refused to let up on Biden, and his allies in the party have followed suit.

Republican Rep. Derrick Van Orden of Wisconsin called the Biden White House's use of the autopen "a massive scandal," while Republican Rep. Nick Lalota insists his New York constituents "are curious as to what was happening during President Biden's days."

White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt recently confirmed the administration would pursue an investigation of the Biden administration's use of the presidential autopen. Trump and other Republicans have questioned whether Biden was actually running the country and suggested aides abused a tool that has long been a routine part of signing presidentially approved actions.

"We deserve to get to the bottom of it," Leavitt said.

Biden has responded to the criticism by issuing a statement saying he was, in fact, making the decisions during his presidency and that any suggestion otherwise "is ridiculous and false."

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Congressional committees investigate

On Capitol Hill, the House Oversight Committee has convened hearings on use of the autopen and Biden's fitness for office. Van Orden cited the Constitution's Article II vesting authority solely with the president.

"It doesn't say chief of staff. It doesn't say an autopen," he said.

The House panel subpoenaed Biden's physician and a top aide to former first lady Jill Biden. Both invoked Fifth Amendment protections that prevent people from being forced to testify against themselves in government proceedings.

"There was no there there," said Democratic Rep. Wesley Bell of Missouri, a member of the committee who called the effort "an extraordinary waste of time."

The committee's chairman, Rep. James Comer, wants to hear from former White House chiefs of staff Ron Klain and Jeff Zients; former senior advisers Mike Donilon and Anita Dunn; and other former top aides Bruce Reed, Steve Ricchetti and Annie Tomasini, among others. Republicans confirmed multiple dates for the sessions through late September, ensuring it will remain in the headlines.

Investigations could crowd out GOP efforts to define Trump positively

That GOP schedule comes as both parties work feverishly to define Trump's start to his second term.

His so-called "One Big Beautiful Bill" is a mix of tax cuts, border security measures and cuts to safety net programs such as Medicaid, a joint state-federal insurance program for lower-income Americans. Polls suggest some individual measures are popular while others are not and that the GOP faces headwinds on tilting the public in favor of the overall effort.

A recent poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research found that about two-thirds of U.S. adults view the bill as a win for the wealthy and another found that only about one-quarter of U.S. adults felt Trump's policies have helped them. In the policy survey, he failed to earn majority support on any of the major issues, including the economy, immigration, government spending and health care. Immigration, especially, had been considered a major strength for Trump politically.

It is "rather tone deaf," said Bell, for Republicans to go after Biden given those circumstances.

"Americans want us to deal with the issues that are plaguing our country now ... the high cost of living, cost of food, the cost of housing, health care," Bell said, as he blasted the GOP for a deliberate "distraction" from what challenges most U.S. households.

The effort also comes with Trump battling his own supporters over the Justice Department's decision not to publicly release additional records related to the Epstein case.

"The Epstein saga is more important to his base than whatever happened to Joe Biden," said Ayres, the GOP pollster.

Even Lalota, the New York congressman, acknowledged a balancing act with the Biden inquiries.

"My constituents care most about affordability and public safety," Lalota said. "But this is an important issue nonetheless."

Democrats don't want to talk about Biden

With Republicans protecting a narrow House majority, every hotly contested issue could be seen as determinative in the 2026 midterm elections.

That puts added pressure on Republicans to retain Trump's expanded 2024 coalition, when he increased support among Black and Hispanic voters, especially men, over the usual Republican levels. But that's considerably harder without Trump himself on the ballot. That could explain Republican efforts to keep going after Biden given how unpopular he is with Trump's core supporters.

Democrats, meanwhile, point to their success in the 2018 midterms during Trump's first presidency, when they reclaimed the House majority on the strength of moderate voters, including disaffected Republicans. They seem confident that Republicans' aggressiveness about Biden does not appeal to that swath of the electorate.

But even as they praise Biden's accomplishments as president, Democrats quietly admit they don't want to spend time talking about a figure who left office with lagging approval ratings and forced his party into a late, difficult change at the top of the ticket.



Democratic Rep. Don Beyer of Virginia said Biden was productive while acknowledging he "was not at the top of his game because of his age." He said Democrats want to look forward, most immediately on trying to win control of the House and make gains in the Senate.

"And then who's our standard bearer in 2028?" Beyer said. "And how do we minimize the Trump damage with what we have right now?"

## US envoy doubles down on support for Syria's government and criticizes Israel's intervention

By ABBY SEWELL Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — A U.S. envoy doubled down on Washington's support for Syria's new government, saying Monday there is "no Plan B" to working with it to unite the country still reeling from years of civil war and wracked by new sectarian violence.

In an exclusive interview with The Associated Press, Tom Barrack also criticized Israel's recent intervention in Syria, calling it poorly timed and saying it complicated efforts to stabilize the region.

Barrack is ambassador to Turkey and special envoy to Syria, with a short-term mandate in Lebanon. He spoke in Beirut following more than a week of clashes in Syria's southern province of Sweida between militias of the Druze religious minority and Sunni Muslim Bedouin tribes.

Syrian government forces intervened, ostensibly to restore order, but ended up siding with the Bedouins before withdrawing under a ceasefire agreement with Druze factions. Hundreds have been killed in the fighting, and some government fighters allegedly shot dead Druze civilians and burned and looted homes.

Neighboring Israel intervened last week on behalf of the Druze, who are seen as a loyal minority within Israel and often serve in its military. Israel launched dozens of strikes on convoys of government forces in Sweida and struck the Ministry of Defense headquarters in central Damascus.

Over the weekend, Barrack announced a ceasefire between Syria and Israel. Syrian government forces have redeployed in Sweida to halt renewed clashes between the Druze and Bedouins, and civilians from both sides were set to be evacuated Monday.

US envoy suggests Israel wants to see a divided Syria

Barrack told the AP that "the killing, the revenge, the massacres on both sides" are "intolerable," but that "the current government of Syria, in my opinion, has conducted themselves as best they can as a nascent government with very few resources to address the multiplicity of issues that arise in trying to bring a diverse society together."

At a press conference later, he said Syrian authorities "need to be held accountable" for violations.

Regarding Israel's strikes on Syria, Barrack said: "The United States was not asked, nor did they participate in that decision, nor was it the United States' responsibility in matters that Israel feels is for its own self-defense."

However, he said Israel's intervention "creates another very confusing chapter" and "came at a very bad time."

Prior to the violence in Sweida, Israel and Syria had been in talks over security matters, while the Trump administration had been pushing them to move toward full normalization of diplomatic relations.

When the latest fighting erupted, "Israel's view was that south of Damascus was this questionable zone, so that whatever happened militarily in that zone needed to be agreed upon and discussed with them," Barrack said. "The new government (in Syria) coming in was not exactly of that belief."

The ceasefire announced Saturday between Syria and Israel is a limited agreement addressing only the conflict in Sweida, he said. It does not address broader issues including Israel's contention that the area south of Damascus should be a demilitarized zone.

In the discussions leading up to the ceasefire, Barrack said "both sides did the best they can" to reach agreement on specific questions related to the movement of Syrian forces and equipment from Damascus to Sweida.

"Whether you accept that Israel can intervene in a sovereign state is a different question," he said.

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He suggested that Israel would prefer to see Syria fragmented and divided rather than a strong central state in control of the country.

"Strong nation-states are a threat — especially Arab states are viewed as a threat to Israel," he said. But in Syria, he said, "I think all of the the minority communities are smart enough to say, 'We're better off together, centralized.'"

Later Monday, Israeli Defense Minister Israel Katz posted on X that Israel's strikes "were the only way to stop the massacre of the Druze in Syria, who are brothers of our Druze brothers in Israel."

Katz added: "Whoever criticizes the attacks are not familiar with the facts." It was not clear if he was responding to Barrack's comments.

Distrust among minorities including the Kurds

The violence in Sweida has deepened the distrust of minority religious and ethnic groups in Syria toward the new government in Damascus, which is led by Sunni Muslim former insurgents who unseated longtime autocratic ruler, Bashar Assad in an offensive in December.

The attacks on Druze civilians followed the deaths of hundreds of civilians from the Alawite minority, to which Assad belongs, earlier this year in sectarian revenge attacks on the Syrian coast. While interim President Ahmad al-Sharaa has promised to protect minorities and punish those who target civilians, many feel his government has not done enough.

At the same time, Damascus has been negotiating with the Kurdish forces that control much of north-east Syria to implement an agreement that would merge the U.S.-backed, Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces with the new national army.

Barrack, who spoke to SDF leader Mazloum Abdi over the weekend, said he does not believe the violence in Sweida will derail those talks and that there could be a breakthrough "in the coming weeks."

Neighboring Turkey, which wants to curtail the influence of Kurdish groups along its border and has tense relations with Israel, has offered to provide defense assistance to Syria.

Barrack said the U.S. has "no position" on the prospect of a defense pact between Syria and Turkey.

"It's not in the U.S.'s business or interest to tell any of the surrounding nations with each other what to do," he said.

Hezbollah disarmament remains a thorny issue

Barrack's visit to Lebanon came amid domestic and international pressure for the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah to give up its remaining arsenal after a bruising war with Israel that ended with a U.S.-brokered ceasefire agreement in November.

Speaking at a press conference, Barrack said the ceasefire agreement "didn't work."

Israel has continued to launch near-daily airstrikes in Lebanon that it says are aimed at stopping Hezbollah from rebuilding its capabilities. Hezbollah has said it will not discuss disarming until Israel stops its strikes and withdraws its forces from all of southern Lebanon.

While the U.S. has been pushing for Hezbollah's disarmament, Barrack described the matter as "internal" to Lebanon.

"There's no consequence, there's no threat, there's no whip, we're here on a voluntary basis trying to usher in a solution," he said. He added that the U.S. "can't compel Israel to do anything" when it comes to the ceasefire.

## **Today in History: July 22, First solo around-the-world flight**

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, July 22, the 203rd day of 2025. There are 162 days left in the year.

Today in History:

On July 22, 1933, Aviator Wiley Post landed at Floyd Bennett Field in New York City, completing the first solo flight around the world in 7 days, 18 hours and 49 minutes.

Also on this date:

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In 1862, President Abraham Lincoln presented to his Cabinet a preliminary draft of the Emancipation Proclamation.

In 1934, bank robber John Dillinger was shot to death by federal agents outside Chicago's Biograph Theater, where he had just seen the Clark Gable movie "Manhattan Melodrama."

In 1937, the U.S. Senate rejected President Franklin D. Roosevelt's proposal to add more justices to the Supreme Court.

In 1942, the Nazis began transporting Jews from the Warsaw Ghetto to the Treblinka concentration camp.

In 1943, American forces led by Gen. George S. Patton captured Palermo, Sicily, during World War II.

In 1975, the House of Representatives joined the Senate in voting to restore the American citizenship of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee.

In 1991, police in Milwaukee arrested Jeffrey Dahmer, who later confessed to murdering 17 men and boys.

In 1992, Colombian drug lord Pablo Escobar escaped from his luxury prison near Medellin (meh-deh-YEEN'). (He was slain by security forces in December 1993.)

In 2011, Anders Breivik (AHN'-durs BRAY'-vihk), a self-described "militant nationalist," massacred 69 people at a Norwegian island youth retreat after detonating a bomb in nearby Oslo that killed eight others in the nation's worst violence since World War II.

In 2015, a federal grand jury indictment charged Dylann Roof, the young man accused of killing nine Black church members in Charleston, South Carolina, with 33 counts including hate crimes that made him eligible for the death penalty. (Roof would become the first person sentenced to death for a federal hate crime; he is on death row at a federal prison in Indiana.)

In 2022, Steve Bannon, a longtime ally of Donald Trump, was convicted of contempt charges for defying a congressional subpoena from the House committee investigating the Jan. 6 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol. (After challenging his conviction, Bannon served a four-month prison sentence in 2024 and was released.)

Today's Birthdays: Actor Terence Stamp is 87. Singer George Clinton is 84. Actor-singer Bobby Sherman is 82. Former Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, R-Texas, is 82. Movie writer-director Paul Schrader is 79. Actor Danny Glover is 79. Singer Mireille Mathieu is 79. Actor-comedian-director Albert Brooks is 78. Rock singer Don Henley is 78. Author S.E. Hinton is 77. Film composer Alan Menken is 76. Jazz musician Al Di Meola (mee-OH'-lah) is 71. Actor Willem Dafoe is 70. Actor John Leguizamo is 65. R&B singer Keith Sweat is 64. Folk singer Emily Saliers (Indigo Girls) is 62. Actor-comedian David Spade is 61. Actor Rhys Ifans (rees EYE'-fanz) is 58. Actor/singer Jaime Camil is 52. Singer Rufus Wainwright is 52. Actor Franka Potente (poh-TEN'-tay) is 51. Actor Selena Gomez is 33. NFL running back Ezekiel Elliott is 30.