

Groton Daily Independent

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Tuesday, July 29

Senior Menu: Chicken cacciatore with noodles, Italian blend, 5 cup salad, whole wheat bread.

United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.

Last Night's Jr. Legion Region game against Clark was suspended and will resume at 1:00 pm today. The game is currently scoreless in the top of the 7th inning.

Jr. Legion Baseball Tournament in Groton: Starting at 2 p.m.: Sisseton vs. Groton followed by Sisseton vs. Clark followed by Redfield vs. Clark.

Jr. Teeners Regional: 2 p.m.: Groton at Plankinton.
Groton Soccer Camp



Wednesday, July 30

Senior Menu: Cold turkey sub, lettuce, cheese and tomato, Macaroni salad, fruit.

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

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

Jr. Teeners Regional: 5 p.m.: Groton hosts Mt. Vernon/Plankinton. If a third game is required it will follow this game.

Groton Soccer Camp

Thursday, July 31

Senior Menu: Pork chop, sweet potato, corn, chocolate pudding with banana, whole wheat bread.

Aug. 1-5: Legion State B Tourney at Milbank

Aug. 8-10: State Jr. Legion at Milbank

Aug. 8-10: State Jr. Teener at Britton

Groton Daily Independent
PO Box 34, Groton SD 57445
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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.

Breaking news: At least four people, including a New York City police officer, were killed yesterday when a man fired a rifle inside a Manhattan skyscraper that houses the headquarters of both the NFL and investment firm Blackstone. The suspect, who died from a self-inflicted gunshot wound, reportedly had a documented history of mental health issues; a motive is under investigation.

Ryne Sandberg Dies

Hall of Fame second baseman Ryne Sandberg passed away yesterday at the age of 65 after a battle with metastatic prostate cancer.

Born in September 1959 in Spokane, Washington, Sandberg was affectionately known as "Ryno" and spent 15 Major League seasons with the Chicago Cubs, compiling a .285 batting average, 282 home runs, and 1,061 RBIs. He was selected for 10 All-Star teams and won nine Gold Gloves. In 1984, he was the National League MVP—including the legendary "Sandberg Game"—and helped lead the Cubs to their first postseason since 1945. At retirement, he held the MLB record for most second baseman home runs, with 277. His number, 23, is one of only four Cubs jerseys retired, and he was honored with a statue at Wrigley Field in 2024.

About one in eight men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer in their lifetime, and the disease accounts for over 15% of new male cancer cases.

Stuttering Genes Identified

Developmental stuttering is associated with 48 genes, a study published yesterday reveals. The study is the largest-ever genetic analysis of the common speech impediment, which affects 400 million people worldwide.

Researchers partnered with 23andMe to analyze the genetic information of 99,776 users who consented to participate in research and answered "yes" to a question on whether they stutter. They compared the data to over 1 million users who responded "no" and found 57 distinct genomic regions associated with those who stutter. The genetic architecture for stuttering overlapped with genetic pathways for autism, depression, asthma, and ADHD. A top associated gene for stuttering, VRK2, is linked to the ability to synchronize movements to a musical beat.

Researchers hope the findings will help identify the condition earlier and improve understanding of stuttering to reduce stigma.

'CEO Monk' Scandal

Shi Yongxin, the high-profile abbot of China's famed Shaolin Temple, was defrocked yesterday and is under investigation by Chinese authorities for allegedly embezzling funds, having numerous affairs, and fathering at least one child.

Yongxin joined the Shaolin Temple—widely regarded as the birthplace of kung fu and Chan (Zen) Buddhism—in 1981 and became abbot in 1999. Nicknamed China's "CEO monk," he transformed the 1,500-year-old temple into a global brand through ventures such as selling medicines, producing films, and establishing cultural centers overseas. While some have praised his efforts for spreading Buddhist culture, others accuse him of commercializing the faith. Yongxin has also risen to national prominence, serving as vice president of the Buddhist Association of China and an elected representative on the National People's Congress.

This week's investigation recalls allegations of financial misconduct and fathering illegitimate children made against Yongxin in 2015 by self-identified Shaolin insiders. He was cleared in 2016 of the charges by state authorities.

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Sports, Entertainment, & Culture

Bubba Wallace becomes first Black driver to win a major race at Indianapolis Motor Speedway, taking Brickyard 400 crown.

Colorado Buffaloes coach Deion Sanders reveals his bladder was removed following cancer diagnosis.

Dwight Muhammad Qawi, former world champion boxer in multiple weight classes, dies at age 72 after five-year battle with dementia.

Wallis Annenberg, philanthropist whose foundation donated around \$1.5B to charitable causes, dies at age 86.

Warner Bros. Discovery announces it will spin off into two future businesses, Warner Bros. (streaming and studios) and Discovery Global (comprising TV networks, Discovery+, and other assets).

Science & Technology

Google updates its early earthquake warning system after failing to notify as many as 10 million people ahead of Turkey's deadly 2023 quake; network uses the accelerometers of more than 2 billion phones to detect seismic activity.

Physicists demonstrate famous double-slit experiment using individual atoms to scatter light; experiment, first performed in 1801, confirms light is both a particle and a wave.

New technology delivers vaccines via dental floss; prototype approach was found to stimulate additional antibodies in the lining of the nose and lungs.

Business & Markets

US stock markets close mixed (S&P 500 +0.0%, Dow -0.1%, Nasdaq +0.3%).

Figma raises US initial public offering range to \$30 to \$32 per share in deal that could value the design-software maker at nearly \$19B.

Tesla inks \$16.5B multiyear deal to source AI chips from Samsung Electronics; Samsung shares close up nearly 7%.

PayPal to allow businesses to accept payments in more than 100 cryptocurrencies.

Spirit Airlines to furlough 270 pilots beginning Nov. 1, will demote 140 other pilots to first officer; comes after Spirit emerged from Chapter 11 bankruptcy in March.

Politics & World Affairs

Gunman kills at least three people, wounds three others outside the Grand Sierra Resort and Casino in Reno, Nevada; suspect—who has no known connection to the victims as of this writing—is hospitalized and in custody.

Thailand and Cambodia agree to ceasefire after at least 38 people are killed and hundreds of thousands displaced in five-day-long fighting.

China offers parents \$500 per child under age 3 per year in attempt to reverse declining birth rate; births fell by half from 2016 to 2024, while marriages have hit record low.

Half of the United States, roughly 198 million Americans, are under a heat advisory; temperatures reach record 100 degrees in Tampa, Florida.

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Names Released in Buffalo County Fatal Crash

What: Two vehicle fatal crash

Where: SD Highway 34, mile marker 284, 14 miles east of Ft. Thompson, SD

When: 11:03 p.m., Thursday, July 24, 2025

Driver 1: Hector Salvador Serna, 43-year-old male from Willow Lake, SD, fatal injuries

Vehicle 1: 2022 Toyota Prius

Seat belt Used: Yes

Driver 2: Tyler Brandon Koste, 24-year-old male from Hendrum, MN, no injuries

Vehicle 2: 2015 Peterbilt 579

Seat belt Used: Parked, out of cab

Buffalo County, S.D.- One man died in a late night crash with a semi Thursday evening, 14 miles east of Ft. Thompson, SD.

Preliminary crash information indicates Tyler Brandon Koste, the driver of a 2015 Peterbilt was hauling hay bales on SD Highway 34 near mile marker 284 when a strap broke causing the rear bales to fall off the trailer. In an effort to go back and clear the bales from the road, the driver attempted to turn the semi around near a gravel road intersection and the rear tires of the trailer got stuck in the south side ditch, immobilizing it. The approaching driver of a 2022 Toyota Prius, Hector Salvador Serna, collided with the trailer.

Serna sustained fatal injuries. Koste was not injured.

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

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

Names Released in Harding County Fatal Crash

What: Single vehicle fatal crash

Where: SD Highway 79, mile marker 204, four miles east of Reva, SD

When: 6:37 a.m., Friday, July 25, 2025

Driver 1: Brian Keith Huber, 58-year-old male from Frazee, MN, fatal injuries

Vehicle 1: 2017 Ford F150 with trailer

Seat belt Used: Yes

Passenger 1: Gloria Shalone Huber (spouse), 53-year-old female from Frazee, MN, no injuries

Seat belt Used: No

Harding County, S.D.- A Minnesota man died in a single-vehicle crash Friday morning four miles east of Reva, SD.

Preliminary crash information indicates Brian Keith Huber, the driver of a 2017 Ford F150 pulling an enclosed trailer was traveling south on SD Highway 79 near mile marker 204 when the vehicle crossed the center line and entered the east ditch. The trailer separated from the vehicle and overturned. The truck came to rest in a nearby field.

Brian Huber was taken by ambulance to a nearby hospital and was pronounced deceased. Gloria Shalone Huber, a passenger in the vehicle, was not injured.

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

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

2ND ANNUAL CELEBRATION IN THE PARK

SAT, AUG 2ND

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- 8AM RIB TEAM CHECK-IN
- 9:30AM RIB TEAM RULES MEETING
- 1PM LIONS START SERVING LUNCH
- 1PM CORNHOLE REGISTRATION
- 2PM CORNHOLE TOURNEY
- 1-3PM HUB CITY RADIO LIVE BROADCAST
- 1-4:30PM KIDS ACTIVITIES
 - WATER BALLONS AT 4:30PM
- **5PM RIB TASTING \$1/RIB (LIMIT 10 PER PERSON) WHILE SUPPLIES LAST**
- 6-9PM B&M TUNES KARAOKE



Enjoy karaoke and a chance to win—two split pot drawings will be held!

Groton City Park



**SOUTH DAKOTA
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Redfield rebuilds housing stock: 1 lot and 1 house at a time

Bart Pfankuch

South Dakota News Watch

REDFIELD, S.D. – About five years ago, the management team at S&S Rentals saw an opportunity to expand into the housing market in this small Spink County city known for agriculture, pheasant hunting and the state home for people with developmental disabilities.

Even though Redfield is about 60 miles southeast of Ipswich, where S&S is headquartered, the property development and management firm felt like the stage had been set for success in the city of about 2,100 people.

S&S property and risk manager Mike Hammrich said government leaders in Redfield made it easy and affordable to create new housing. The city, he said, had a regional reputation for encouraging development, made land available and paid for infrastructure to jump-start local housing growth.

"The city had built some twin homes, 12 units there, and they sold those to us," Hammrich told News Watch. "It was a really good fit for us."

That first successful purchase has led to further expansion by S&S, which has built four more duplexes in Redfield and has two more under construction.

In addition to Redfield's efforts to clear land and simplify paperwork for developers, the city — like many rural towns in South Dakota — has a shortage of available housing and immense demand from buyers and renters.

"Looking at the demand, and the possible lots the city made available, we were impressed with them," Hammrich said. "We had so many people calling that we had them rented before we even started digging the foundations."

Those projects by S&S and the new 42-lot Prairie Winds Estates subdivision now under construction in south Redfield are manifestations of a concerted, cooperative effort to expand housing opportunities by city government, private developers and local agencies such as Grow Spink and the Redfield Area Development Corporation.

But like solutions to many major problems — such as a housing shortage in an isolated rural community — the road to success was paved brick by brick, or in the case of Redfield, lot by lot and house by house.

Response: Start slow to build momentum

As Craig Johnson drives his pickup down the streets and alleyways of Redfield, he stops frequently to point out properties that he helped get built or fixed up during his 20 years as the founder and former director of Grow Spink, the local development agency.

Even as numerous people in Redfield point to Johnson as a pioneering catalyst in the rebirth of Redfield, Johnson doesn't like to take credit for successful housing development, which includes rehabilitation or rebuilding of roughly 150 dilapidated homes during his tenure.

When Johnson speaks about housing redevelopment, he sounds much like a detective who won't give up until a case is solved. If a property becomes run-down, it can infect the surrounding neighborhood,



Gianna Schieffer, executive director of Grow Spink, shown in her Redfield, S.D., office on June 12, 2025, is helping to lead housing efforts in the city. (Photo: Bart

Pfankuch/ South Dakota News Watch)

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so Johnson would try to find out who owns the land and structures, determine why a home had fallen into disrepair and discover what would motivate the owner to sell.

"You can get lost in these master plans that call for 40 or 50 homes in a development. But you should do one home first and see what it costs and what it takes to get it done," said Johnson, who retired from Grow Spink nine years ago. "You just keep doing it, and it doesn't make headlines when you're doing that few. But it's the continually building nature of it all that really matters."



Construction is ongoing in the new Prairie Winds Estates subdivision in Redfield, S.D., shown on April 25, 2025. (Photo: Bart Pfankuch/ South Dakota News Watch)

Insights: Partnerships needed for success

Developing partnerships, communicating openly and finding new funding sources are all part of successful housing redevelopment, Johnson said.

During his time with Grow Spink, Johnson obtained several hundred thousand dollars in grants, used state money to redevelop so-called brown fields and obtained a handful of houses under the state's Governor's House Program, which is fueled by inmate labor.

A can-do attitude and a dose of toughness are also sometimes needed to push forward in housing redevelopment, Johnson said. "There's all kinds of ways of how not to get something done," he said.

Providing quality housing for new and existing residents is a primary goal of housing redevelopment. But a clear spin-off benefit is making your community more attractive to new employers, he said.

"We had a lot of dilapidated buildings, so if somebody wanted to come, we had nothing to show them," Johnson said. "People want economic development to come first. But you've got to be working on housing in the background all the time, and you work on the businesses as they come."

The approach of starting small and building on successes is a recipe for success that can be duplicated in other small cities and towns, said Kristi Wagner, director of organizational relationships for Dakota Resources, a statewide nonprofit community building organization.

Dakota Resources, which is partnering with News Watch in the Engage South Dakota effort, regularly contracts with rural communities and hosts local educational events to help them thrive.

Wagner was the "community coach" who led Dakota Resource's efforts to aid Redfield in its quest to strengthen its economy and housing stock starting in 2016. A community idea session led by Dakota Resources drew more than 200 people, she said.

Wagner said a couple key messages on housing evolved from the effort in Redfield: Cooperation between community leaders and stakeholders can create an environment that encourages innovation and development, and starting small and experiencing early success builds momentum for future growth.

"Smaller rural communities can just do one property at a time," Wagner said. "They can't do multiples (properties) that a major developer can bring because those people are not going to come to the rural communities, so those communities have to take it one bite at a time."

Another idea championed by Dakota Resources during its "empowerment" process in Redfield was to encourage local officials to map out the community in regard to existing housing while also eyeing opportunities for potential new or revitalized housing, Wagner said.

"The empowerment process raised awareness to be able to do the community mapping and look at the city street-by-street," she said. "Are the houses new, do they need minimum repair, a lot of repair or are they beyond repair? And if they're beyond repair, then they can look into ownership and how those can

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be replaced.”

Proof: Public, private efforts important

Redfield’s housing development efforts have been bolstered by the vigorous efforts of two development groups that work together to boost business and housing.

Gianna Schieffer, executive director of Grow Spink, works in partnership with the Redfield Area Development Corp. (RADC) to create housing opportunities. Both organizations worked with the city to obtain, plan and prepare the land and roads for the 42-lot Prairie Winds Estates development.

Both groups also build “spec” houses on their own, each completing about one per year, that are then offered for sale to homebuyers at cost, Schieffer said. Grow Spink takes out loans to fund construction while RADC uses its own capital to build the homes, she said.

The ability to offer turn-key speculative homes to new residents or locals moving up in their housing needs provides work for local contractors while priming the pump for private housing development, Schieffer said.

Providing build-ready lots for private developers encourages rapid construction because it removes some of their up-front costs and reduces financial risk, she said.

The high cost of materials, however, has made it more difficult for Grow Spink and RADC to keep prices low for homes they build. The last Grow Spink spec home of about 1,300 square feet sold for \$290,000 in 2023, but the price of any new spec homes will easily top \$400,000, she said.

“We want to get a stronger tax base, and houses are a great way to do it because they bring in new businesses and new families,” Schieffer said. “We want to see private development first. But we’re also here to fill in the gaps and keep development going in our area.”

Limitations: Developer reaches limit in Redfield

The move by the two development agencies to make lots available for sale at reasonable prices with streets, curbs and gutters already installed was an incentive that other small cities and towns are not offering, said Hammrich, of S&S properties.

“Otherwise, we wouldn’t have gone in and developed anything there at all,” he said. “It’s a big plus for Redfield, and it works out well for us.”

Hammrich said his firm has found success in Redfield but is being cautious not to enter the market too aggressively.

S&S has likely reached its maximum presence in Redfield for now, mainly due to uncertainty about the regional economy, rising construction costs and whether further housing growth will be sustainable in a small, somewhat isolated city, he said.

Though S&S may slow down in Redfield, Hammrich said he hopes development will continue given the importance of housing as a basis for further economic growth.

“In these small towns, you’ve got to have housing because if you don’t have housing, your economy isn’t going to make it,” he said.

This story was produced by South Dakota News Watch, an independent, nonprofit organization. Read more stories and donate at sdnewswatch.org and sign up for an email to get stories when they’re published. Contact Bart Pfankuch at bart.pfankuch@sdnewswatch.org.



A new home is shown on April 24, 2025 in Redfield, S.D.

(Photo: Bart Pfankuch/ South Dakota News Watch)

T.C Schuster With 3 Hits Leads Groton Over Redfield in Jr. Legion Region Game

By GameChanger Media

T.C Schuster collected three hits in four at bats, as Groton Jr. Legion defeated Redfield Jr. Legion 12-0 on Monday at Locke/Karst Field. Schuster singled in the first inning, singled in the second inning, and singled in the fourth inning.

Groton Jr. Legion got on the board in the bottom of the first inning after Schuster singled, scoring two runs, and Braeden Fliehs was struck by a pitch, driving in a run.

Groton Jr. Legion extended their early lead with three runs in the bottom of the second thanks to RBI singles by Schuster, Ethan Kroll, and Ryder Schelle.

Groton Jr. Legion scored six runs on six hits in the bottom of the fourth inning. Schuster singled, scoring one run, an error scored one run, an error scored two runs, Tristin McGannon singled, scoring one run, and Alex Abeln singled, scoring one run.

Schuster started the game for Groton Jr. Legion. The righty gave up one hit and zero runs over five innings, striking out eight and walking one. Jackson Rude stepped on the hill first for Redfield Jr. Legion. The pitcher surrendered 13 hits and 12 runs (six earned) over four innings, striking out two and walking two.

Groton Jr. Legion collected 13 hits in the game. Schuster and Abeln each collected three hits for Groton Jr. Legion. Lincoln Krause collected two hits for Groton Jr. Legion in three at bats. Krause stole two bases. Groton Jr. Legion ran wild on the base paths, tallying six stolen bases for the game. Groton Jr. Legion turned one double play in the game. Groton Jr. Legion were sure-handed and didn't commit a single error. Krause made the most plays with eight.

Tate Bray went 1-for-2 at the plate to lead Redfield Jr. Legion in hits.

Groton Jr. Legion will travel to Clark Area Jr Legion for their next game on Monday.

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Redfield Post 92 Jr.
Legion 18U

0 - 12

Groton Post 39 Jr.
Legion

📍 Home 📅 Monday July 28, 2025

	1	2	3	4	5	R	H	E
RDFL	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3
GRTN	3	3	0	6	X	12	13	0

BATTING

Redfield Post 92 Jr. Legion 18U	R	H	RBI	BB	SO	
T Bray #17 (C)	2	0	1	0	0	1
M Zastrow #7 (1B)	2	0	0	0	0	1
C Odland #2 (CF)	2	0	0	0	0	0
J Rude #12 (P)	1	0	0	0	1	0
H Binger #10 (SS)	2	0	0	0	0	2
J Lee #42 (3B)	2	0	0	0	0	2
Z Bonin #32 (LF)	2	0	0	0	0	1
A Shotten... #4 (2B)	1	0	0	0	0	1
D Bogart #13 (RF)	1	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	15	0	1	0	1	8

TB: T Bray, **LOB:** 1

PITCHING

Redfield Post 92 Jr. Legion 18U	IP	R	ER	BB	SO	HR	
J Rude #12	4.0	13	12	6	2	2	0
Totals	4.0	13	12	6	2	2	0

L: J Rude, **P-S:** J Rude 90-48, **WP:** J Rude, **HBP:** J Rude 2, **BF:** J Rude 31

Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
L Krause #2 (C)	3	2	2	0	1	0
A Abeln #5 (SS)	4	2	3	1	0	0
N Groebl... #13 (2B)	2	2	1	0	1	0
T Schuster #3 (P)	4	2	3	3	0	0
E Kroll #14 (CF)	3	2	1	0	0	0
R Schelle #8 (3B)	3	1	2	3	0	0
B Fliehs #19 (1B)	2	0	0	1	0	0
J Bisbee #15 (RF)	3	0	0	0	0	1
T McGan... #22 (LF)	3	1	1	1	0	1
Totals	27	12	13	9	2	2

TB: N Groeblinghoff, T McGannon, L Krause 2, E Kroll, T Schuster 3, R Schelle 2, A Abeln 3, **HBP:** N Groeblinghoff, B Fliehs, **SB:** N Groeblinghoff, L Krause 2, E Kroll, T Schuster, A Abeln, **LOB:** 7

Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion	IP	R	ER	BB	SO	HR	
T Schust... #3	5.0	1	0	0	1	8	0
Totals	5.0	1	0	0	1	8	0

W: T Schuster, **P-S:** T Schuster 63-42, **BF:** T Schuster 16

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BROWN COUNTY COMMISSION AGENDA

GENERAL MEETING

TUESDAY, JULY 29, 2025, 8:45 A.M.

COMMISSIONER'S CHAMBERS

COURTHOUSE ANNEX - 25 MARKET STREET, ABERDEEN SD

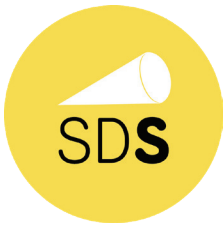
1. Call To Order - Pledge of Allegiance
2. Approval of the Agenda
3. Opportunity for Public Comment
 - ❖ *Public comment will be limited to 10 minutes or at Boards Discretion. Presentations will be limited to 3 minutes.*
4. Approve FY2026 Provisional Budget – Set Hearing Date/Authorize Advertising
5. Second Reading/Possible Adoption of following Ordinances:
 - a. Ord. #304 – Rezone for Dawn Weismantel
 - b. Ord. #305 – Rezone for Earl & Amanda Maier
 - c. Ord. #306 – Rezone for Matthew Olson
6. Consent Calendar
 - a. Approval of General Meeting Minutes for July 22, 2025
 - b. Claims/Payroll
 - c. HR Report
 - d. Auditor's Report of Account for June
 - e. Claim Assignment
 - f. Travel Request
7. Other Business
8. Executive Session (if requested per SDCL 1-25-2)
9. Adjourn

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

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

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



SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

'Operation Prairie Thunder' will assist with deportations and boost Sioux Falls law enforcement **Prison system will transport detained immigrants, National Guard will do paperwork for ICE**

BY: JOHN HULT - JULY 28, 2025 3:27 PM

SIoux FALLS — The state of South Dakota will spend more time and money in the coming months to police the streets of Sioux Falls, and to help federal agents deport immigrants who lack legal status.

The work will support the state's fast-growing city, Gov. Larry Rhoden said, and help the state's seven federal immigration agents add to their current arrest tally of 262 in the state since President Donald Trump took office.

Rhoden made the announcement Monday morning at the Sioux Falls Public Safety Administration Building.

The governor spoke from a podium that was adorned with a logo. The logo included a depiction of a buffalo, in sunglasses and a state trooper hat, and the words "Operation Prairie Thunder."

Representatives of state, county, city and federal law enforcement agencies fanned out from either side of the governor in the center's press room, alongside prosecutors, state Department of Corrections officials, Sioux Falls Mayor Paul TenHaken and Sioux Falls Republican state Rep. Greg Jamison.

"This is a comprehensive, targeted public safety initiative to protect South Dakotans," Rhoden told reporters.



Gov. Larry Rhoden speaks to reporters from a podium on July 28, 2025, at the Public Safety Administration Building in Sioux Falls. Also visible are, from left, Dan Satterlee, director of the state Division of Criminal Investigation, and Sam Olson, Minneapolis field office director for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. (John Hult/South Dakota Searchlight)

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ICE support from prison system, National Guard

On the immigration side, Rhoden told the press he'd committed the prison system and state's part-time military force to help federal agents deport people living in the country illegally.

Six members of the South Dakota National Guard will do paperwork on behalf of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, a move Rhoden said would free up those agents to search streets and communities for people to detain and deport. Three will work in Sioux Falls, three in Rapid City.

The prison system, meanwhile, will move to sign what's known as a 287(g) agreement with ICE for jail and detention, and offer transportation of detainees to and from the regional ICE headquarters in Minneapolis. Corrections Secretary Kellie Wasko said the state could continue to both move all the inmates it needs to and offer courier services to ICE – state officers would first need to complete federal training, she said – without adding additional transport officers.

The state has identified 11 people in DOC custody for likely removal, Rhoden said. Most are nonviolent offenders nearing the end of their prison terms, he said, "so it doesn't make sense for us to continue to hold them."

Each will first have their case reviewed by the state Board of Pardons and Paroles. Inmates facing possible deportation typically serve out their sentences prior to the commencement of deportation proceedings, and would need to be paroled to be released to ICE. For those among the 11 in state prison custody who committed violent offenses and have time remaining on those sentences, Rhoden said he hopes ICE will work with their home counties to make sure they're detained upon arrival.

Sam Olson, field office director for ICE, said the moves from Rhoden are a welcome counterweight to the efforts of uncooperative "sanctuary cities" and jurisdictions across the U.S.

The initiative will help ICE "extend the reach we have," he said.

The Highway Patrol signed a 287(g) agreement with ICE earlier this year, as did the South Dakota Division of Criminal Investigation. The Minnehaha County and Hughes County sheriff's offices have 287(g) agreements at the local level.

Highway Patrol: Saturation patrols, extra troopers

On the Sioux Falls policing side of the initiative, South Dakota state troopers will perform two saturation patrols per month in the city and surrounding areas. The patrol will use its helicopter as necessary to aid in drug law enforcement, and help the prison system's parole absconder apprehension team to find and detain parolees who've stopped checking in.

The 10-15 additional saturation patrol troopers come on top of the eight additional troopers Rhoden stationed permanently in Sioux Falls in February, at a one-time cost of \$1 million and an ongoing cost of \$1.4 million a year.

Sioux Falls officials and lawmakers have raised concerns – and proposed bills in Pierre – to address illegal street racing in the city in recent years. On top of targeting drug dealers and gang activity, Rhoden said, "this should also help with those efforts."

Mayor TenHaken said violent and property crime in the city are at a five-year low, but said he welcomes the help to stay ahead of the city's population growth.

"About a third of the state's population is now in the Sioux Falls metro area, so in Sioux Falls, we really value our partnerships," the mayor said.

Rhoden said the Highway Patrol would absorb the additional cost. The state hasn't calculated a dollar amount, he said, adding "I don't think that's significant enough to where we identified where that would come from, but I assumed it would be general fund dollars."

Democrats blast operation

South Dakota Democrats released statements Monday afternoon criticizing the Rhoden administration for the operation.

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The opposition party called out what it described as misplaced budget priorities, noting that the state cut benefits for needy families earlier this month, citing a lack of funding.

"We should be investing in people, not surveillance," said House Minority Leader Erin Healy, of Sioux Falls, in a statement. "Just last week, our state government slashed funding for families in poverty and now all of a sudden we have all these funds to throw at helicopters and state troopers in Sioux Falls. This is despite the falling crime statistics in the city."

State Senate Minority Leader Liz Larson, also of Sioux Falls, said she's concerned that ICE could sweep up people without criminal records, including those working in the state's agricultural community. That could bring economic harm to the state, she said.

A group called the Deportation Data Project says convicted criminals make up less than half of the Trump administration's ICE arrests nationwide, according to a Stateline story published last week, and that a large number of deportees were arrested after traffic violations, or for immigration law violations alone.

"This operation sends the wrong message to immigrant families across South Dakota," Larson said in her statement. "While I agree that we need to hold criminals accountable and be tough on crime, this goes too far. It is especially worrying given the well-documented concerns about how ICE is currently operating."

John is the senior reporter for South Dakota Searchlight. He has more than 15 years experience covering criminal justice, the environment and public affairs in South Dakota, including more than a decade at the Sioux Falls Argus Leader.

South Dakota would jump eight places in teacher pay rankings by meeting its own target

Teacher pay board also discusses retention, student behavior

BY: MAKENZIE HUBER - JULY 28, 2025 5:27 PM

If South Dakota's average teacher salary matched the state's target teacher salary, the state would have ranked 38th in the nation this year for average teacher pay.

Instead, it ranked 46th at an average salary of \$56,328, according to the 2025 National Education Association teacher salary report.

The target teacher salary isn't actually the state's goal for average teacher pay. In reality, it's a basis for the state's public education funding formula. Funding determined by the formula goes not just toward teacher salaries, but also toward overhead costs and salaries for other school workers.

In recent years, the gap between the target teacher salary and the average teacher salary in South Dakota widened. The target teacher salary for the 2023-24 school year, which is what the latest rankings are based on, was \$59,659.



A Sioux Falls School District educator teaches students reading at Lowell Elementary during the 2024-2025 school year. (Courtesy of the Sioux Falls School District)

In addition to climbing the ranks in teacher pay if the target salary was reached, South Dakota would

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have risen above neighboring states Montana and North Dakota.

Members of the state Teacher Compensation Review Board learned more about the rankings during their Monday meeting in Pierre. The group is required to meet each year by law to review teacher compensation compared to surrounding states and report the findings to the governor and Legislature.

Going forward, lawmakers hope to see progress in teacher pay due to a law passed by the 2024 Legislature that sets a minimum teacher salary and mandates increases in average teacher compensation in school districts nearly equal to increases in state education funding. About 95% of South Dakota school districts met the state's mandated minimum \$45,000 salary last school year.

Board member Sen. Taffy Howard, R-Rapid City, said she wants to see the new legislation "play out" before the board recommends further changes to adjust or improve teacher compensation.

Board turns its attention toward teacher retention, student behavior

Howard and other board members called for ways to improve teacher job satisfaction and address one of the leading reasons teachers leave the profession: behavior problems among students.

South Dakota Department of Education data presented by Caitlin Scott of Marzano Research showed that the teacher turnover rate in South Dakota is higher than most surrounding states. About 16% of teachers in April 2024 reported that they no longer taught at the same school. North Dakota was the only surrounding state with higher numbers at 23% turnover.

Elementary and music teacher vacancies were higher than average at the beginning of the 2023-24 school year, according to the data. Ahead of the 2024-25 school year, math and science teachers were revealed as having high vacancy numbers. Overall vacancies as of June of this year stood at the second lowest number since 2019 at 144 vacancies throughout the state, according to the Associated School Boards of South Dakota.

Board members discussed student-teacher ratios, funding for schools and incentives for school districts and teachers to better address student proficiency and behavior problems.

Howard told board members she'd prefer to see a list of recommendations from local school districts, rather than "unfunded mandates" from the Legislature, especially as the state faces a \$24.5 million shortfall in projected revenue.

"I would like us, if it's a purview of this committee, to try and focus more on how we can make the teacher's life better in the classroom and in the school," Howard said. "Because we don't necessarily have a lot of money to throw at this."

Howard told South Dakota Searchlight after the meeting that finding ways to address teacher retention and student behavior is a form of compensation.

"Does it always have to be a monetary form of compensation?" Howard said. "Or can we do other things to compensate them by making their life better in the classroom in general?"

South Dakota Department of Education Secretary Joseph Graves said he plans to follow up with board members on their concerns and prepare recommendations for the board's next meeting in August.

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

From property to purchases: Task force considering fundamental tax shift to reduce homeowner burden

BY: MAKENZIE HUBER - JULY 28, 2025 9:48 AM

Members of a task force aiming to reduce the property tax burden for South Dakota homeowners are considering proposals to reduce or replace property taxes by relying on sales or transaction taxes.

The task force dug into two proposals and heard a new idea from a former lawmaker at its latest meeting in Rapid City earlier this month. The Legislative Research Council also prepared other options to reduce or replace property taxes.

"It takes a lot of courage to try and digest all of this," said task force member and state House Majority Leader Scott Odenbach, R-Spearfish. "For too long, because it's such a beast, people have had trouble getting their hands around property taxes, what they fund, and increased spending, until people get forced out of their homes."

The Comprehensive Property Tax Task Force aims to recommend ways to cut the average South Dakota homeowner's property taxes by at least 50%. Lawmakers already adopted Republican Gov. Larry Rhoden's proposal earlier this year to slow property tax increases with multifaceted reforms including a five-year, countywide 3% cap on growth in owner-occupied home assessments.

Property taxes go to schools, counties, cities and other local taxing entities, such as water and fire districts. Sales taxes go to cities and the state. The state does not receive any property tax revenue.

The total, statewide amount of property taxes paid on owner-occupied homes grew by 64% from 2017 to 2024, according to state Department of Revenue data. A public outcry about rising tax bills led legislators to appoint the summer task force, which aims to propose legislation for the annual winter lawmaking session.

The task force has heard public comment not only in Rapid City but also in Sioux Falls and plans to meet three more times, including in Aberdeen and Pierre.

"I think we're at a point where we need to start coalescing ideas and presenting them," said the chairman of the task force, state Senate President Pro Tempore Chris Karr, R-Sioux Falls.



State House Speaker Jon Hansen, R-Dell Rapids, speaks during a Comprehensive Property Tax Task Force meeting on July 16, 2025, at the Ramkota in Rapid City. At left is state Senate President Pro Tempore Chris Karr, R-Sioux Falls. Karr chairs the group, and Hansen is the vice-chair. (Seth Tupper/South Dakota Searchlight)

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Task force hears new proposal

The newest proposal pitched to the task force this month would add a flat \$1.50 tax on transactions of \$15 or greater, and add a tax of 10% on smaller transactions. The new tax, said former state Sen. Julie Frye-Mueller, R-Rapid City, would replace property taxes entirely by generating \$1.75 billion in revenue.

"Our ultimate goal is to remove the threat of government or others from taking our properties with a tax lien," Frye-Mueller said.

A tax lien is a legal claim that local governments can place on a home when property taxes are delinquent. It triggers a process that can ultimately lead to the seizure and sale of the property.

The transaction taxes would be added on top of the state's current sales tax structure, which includes the state 4.2% sales tax, up to 2% city sales taxes, and up to 1% additional city taxes on alcohol, restaurants, event admissions and lodging.

With all of those rates applied, the current tax on a \$15 purchase would be \$1.08. With the additional flat transaction tax, it would grow to \$2.58.

Frye-Mueller said the transaction taxes would also be applied to purchases that are currently exempt from sales taxes. She and other speakers said it would not be regressive since property taxes would no longer exist or be figured into monthly rental amounts.

The proposal uses a calculation relying on visitor spending from 15 million people, which made some lawmakers skeptical. The state Department of Revenue would collect the tax and distribute it among local governments, based on their budgeting needs, according to the presentation. The proposal would allow the Legislature to increase the flat rate by up to a nickel each year.

The group backing the proposal, Abolish Property Taxes South Dakota, plans to ask legislators to put the plan on the ballot for voters to consider. If that fails, they plan to submit it as a citizen-initiated ballot measure for the November 2026 election.

More details on governor's proposal

Gov. Rhoden has proposed an optional county-level sales tax of a half-percent to offset participating counties' property taxes on owner-occupied homes. A "homeowner tax credit" would be applied to property taxes from the revenue generated from the half-percent sales tax, according to proposal documents. A homeowner's tax bill would show the amount of tax credits applied to the property.

If funds from the optional sales tax fully offset owner-occupied property taxes in a county, remaining funds would be used to lower property taxes for agricultural and commercial properties. The tax relief option could be referred to a public vote if residents don't agree with their local county commission's decision to impose it.

Some lawmakers worried that the sales tax idea would shift the tax burden from property to sales and South Dakotans wouldn't see an overall reduction in taxes they pay. Bureau of Finance and Management Commissioner Jim Terwilliger and Sen. Randy Deibert, R-Spearfish, said homeowners would save money.

"I'd have to spend \$50,000 before I matched my local county taxation with a 0.5% sales tax," Deibert said. "That's just in my district."

Statewide, a half-percent sales tax would replace, on average, 94% of a county's share of owner-occupied property taxes, according to estimates from the governor's administration. The proposal would not affect the property taxes received by cities, schools and other local taxing entities.

In Minnehaha County, the half-percent sales tax would cover an estimated 98% of owner-occupied property taxes. The strategy would cover an estimated 76% in Pennington County.

Counties that share jurisdiction with tribal land would see the largest potential increase in funds to offset property taxes, largely because tribal land is not subject to property taxes. The counties that would see the lowest benefit, based on the estimates, would be Turner, Clay and Meade counties at 48%, 52% and 56% of owner-occupied taxes, respectively.

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LRC studies other options

In a white paper prepared by the Legislative Research Council, eliminating the county portion of owner-occupied taxes would, on average, reduce homeowners' property taxes by 20%.

South Dakota schools rely on three education levies collected through property taxes: general education, special education and capital outlay. Eliminating the special education and general education levies would reduce average owner-occupied property taxes by 25%.

Eliminating two education and the county levies would cost \$430.8 million to counties and schools, unless the loss is replaced with different revenue sources.

The white sheet explored different ways to replace property taxes wholly or in part by increasing local governments' other revenues or capturing more state funding for local use, including cutting state government across the board, raising sales tax rates, increasing the contractor's excise tax rate, redirecting a portion of Future Fund economic development dollars toward property tax relief, increasing the state's share of video lottery revenue, removing some sales tax and property tax exemptions, and placing a new tax on vaping. Each proposal would put some or all of the savings or gains toward local governments for property tax reductions.

The research also dug into a tax that state Senate Majority Leader Jim Mehlhaff proposed at a prior meeting. Mehlhaff, R-Pierre, proposed an additional 1% tax on all sales in the state including currently exempt sales, except for items intended for resale and items that, constitutionally, cannot be taxed.

Originally, the proposal was thought to be able to replace education property taxes paid across all types of property, which was \$928.6 million in 2023. Owner-occupied property taxes paid for \$382.4 million that year. Based on the latest LRC estimate, the tax would generate about \$698 million in revenue for education.

Odenbach, who chairs the task force's school funding work group, said the revenue replacement would have to be "iron clad" and not allow local governments to increase budgets through property taxes later. He added that some exemptions in the state tax code could be repealed and cuts could be made across state government, among other things, to raise money that could be applied to reduce property taxes for South Dakotans.

"I think these things are all in the mix," Odenbach said.

South Dakota homeowners paid about \$792 million in owner-occupied property taxes in 2024. South Dakotans across all types of property paid nearly \$1.8 billion in property taxes.

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

Open Meetings Commission finds two local boards violated South Dakota law

BY: JOSHUA HAIAR - JULY 28, 2025 5:12 PM

A state commission found Monday in Pierre that two local government bodies violated the notification provisions of the state's open meetings law.

Written reprimands will be issued for the violations. The Open Meetings Commission is a five-member body appointed by the state attorney general to consider complaints about government bodies around the state.

The commission concluded the Central City Board of Trustees did not comply with state law, which requires meeting agendas to be posted publicly with the date, time and location at least 24 hours in advance. The board held a budget meeting on Sept. 23, 2024, without posting an agenda, according to complainant Christle Beukens.

Beukens filed the complaint in late 2024. She testified that agendas had routinely been posted in the past but had stopped until she raised concerns in 2023. Although the board resumed posting agendas after that, she said the Sept. 23 meeting showed the problem lingered. The commission declined to find violations on other allegations from Beukens.

The commission found that the Saddleback Road District Board in Custer County violated state open meetings laws when the board held a Sept. 7, 2024, meeting without notifying the public. The board did not post an agenda or the required 24-hour notice for the meeting. The commission declined to find violations on other allegations against the board in a complaint from Dachia Arritola.

The commission also praised the current road district board for taking steps to correct the problem.

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.



The South Dakota State Capitol at Pierre in December 2024. (Makenzie Huber/South Dakota Searchlight)

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European imports to see 15% tariffs after Trump strikes trade deal

BY: ASHLEY MURRAY - JULY 28, 2025 3:31 PM

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump and European Union leaders announced a trade framework over the weekend, just days ahead of Trump's self-imposed Friday deadline to increase import taxes and his emergency tariffs come under scrutiny in federal appeals court Thursday.

Under the agreement, a 15% tariff will be applied to all products, with some exceptions, coming into the U.S. from the 27 member nations that make up the EU.

The 15% rate will also apply to automobiles, down from the 25% levy on foreign vehicles that Trump ordered in April. Trump's 50% sectoral tariffs on foreign steel and aluminum will remain unchanged for the EU. The deal exempts certain products, including aircraft, from tariffs altogether.

Tariffs are import taxes paid to the U.S. government by businesses and other buyers that import foreign goods.

"Fifteen percent is not to be underestimated, but it was the best we could get," European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen told reporters during a press conference Sunday.

Similar to the deal Trump announced with Japan on July 23, the EU has agreed to invest \$600 billion in the United States over Trump's term. The bloc of nations has also agreed to purchase \$750 billion in U.S. energy, including liquid natural gas, over the next three years as a way to wean off of Russian fossil fuels.

'Fundamentally rebalancing'

The White House touted the deal as "fundamentally rebalancing the economic relationship between the world's two largest economies," in a press release issued Monday.

The U.S. imported more goods from the EU than it exported by about \$235.8 billion in 2024, according to Census data.

Trump had threatened to raise what he describes as "reciprocal" tariffs — tariffs on products outside sectoral categories of steel, aluminum and vehicles — to 30% by Aug. 1 on products from Europe, Japan and numerous other trading partners.

Trump set the date as the new deadline for his "Liberation Day" tariffs to take effect. The president announced the tariffs in early April and then promptly paused them after markets plummeted around the globe. The episode triggered a trade war with China, during which U.S. tariffs on Chinese goods peaked at 145% before the two parties agreed to negotiate.



President Donald Trump and European Union leaders announced a trade framework over the weekend that will set 15% import taxes on EU goods. (Photo by Getty Images)

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Appeals case looms

WASHINGTON, DC - APRIL 02: U.S. President Donald Trump holds up a chart while speaking during a "Make America Wealthy Again" trade announcement event in the Rose Garden at the White House on April 2, 2025 in Washington, DC. Touting the event as "Liberation Day", Trump is expected to announce additional tariffs targeting goods imported to the U.S. (Photo by Chip Somodevilla/Getty Images).jpeg

President Donald Trump holds up a chart while speaking during a trade announcement event in the White House Rose Garden on April 2, 2025. Trump dubbed the event "Liberation Day." (Photo by Chip Somodevilla/Getty Images)

On what the president described as "Liberation Day" on April 2, Trump heralded a universal 10% tariff on all foreign products, plus staggering additional so-called reciprocal import taxes on countries across the globe that carry trade imbalances with the U.S.

Trump justified the steep duties by declaring trade imbalances a national emergency under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act.

In February, Trump became the first president to trigger tariffs under the 1977 emergency powers law when he increased import taxes on Canada, Mexico and China in response to illegal fentanyl smuggling.

The emergency tariffs are at the center of a case that will go before the U.S. Appeals Court for the Federal Circuit Thursday.

The case stems from two lawsuits, now consolidated, filed by a handful of businesses and a dozen Democratic state attorneys general who argued the president doesn't have authority to impose tariffs under the emergency law.

The U.S. Court of International Trade struck down Trump's emergency tariffs as unconstitutional on May 28.

Arizona, Colorado, Maine, Minnesota, Nevada, New Mexico and Oregon were among the states that brought the suit.

V.O.S. Selections, a New York-based company that imports wine and spirits from 16 countries, led the business plaintiffs. Others included a Utah-based plastics producer, a Virginia-based children's electricity learning kit maker, a Pennsylvania-based fishing gear company and a Vermont-based women's cycling apparel company.

Upon appeal from the White House, the Federal Circuit allowed Trump's tariffs to remain in place while the case moved forward.

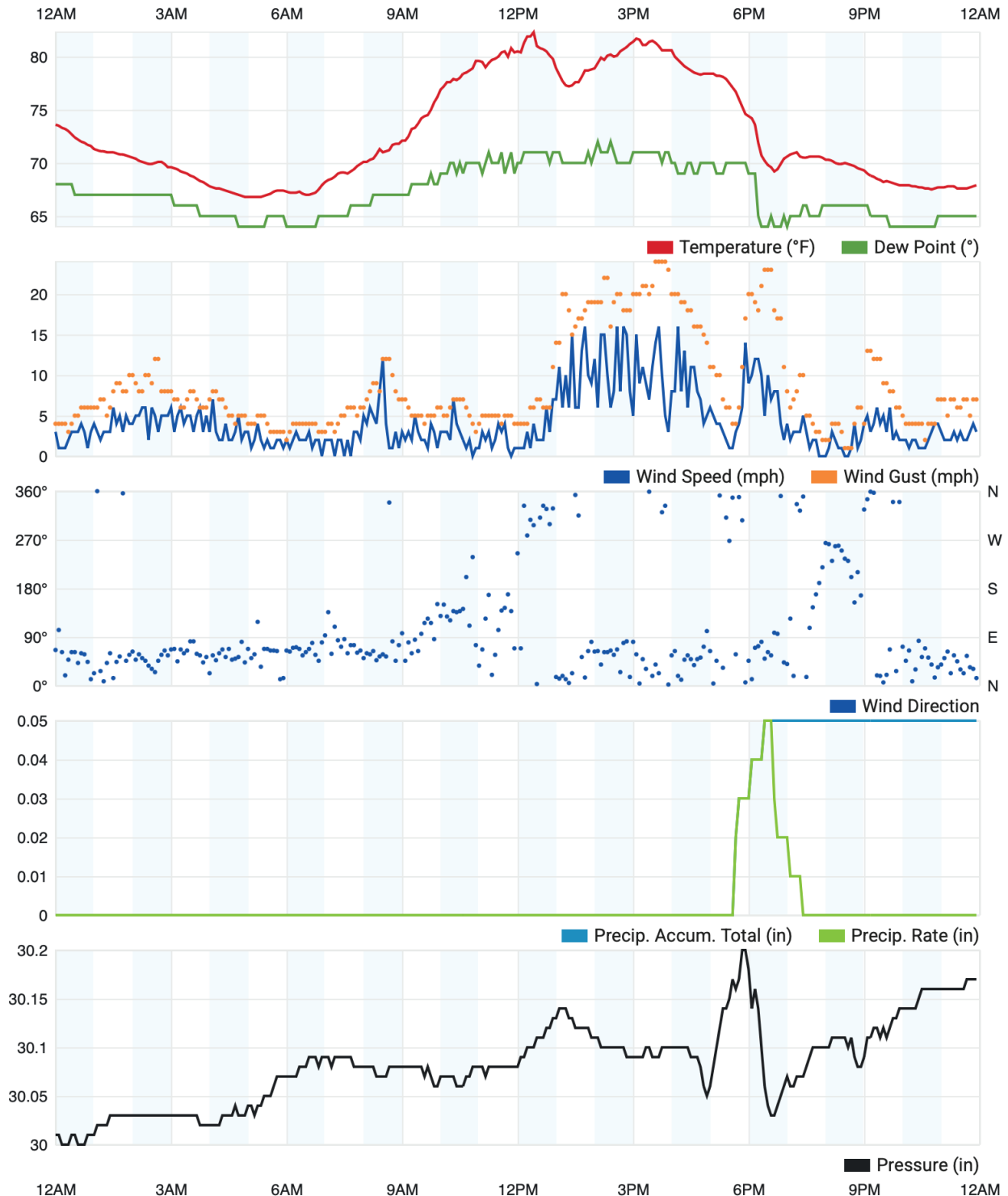
Ashley Murray covers the nation's capital as a senior reporter for States Newsroom. Her coverage areas include domestic policy and appropriations.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs

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Today



High: 80 °F

Mostly Sunny

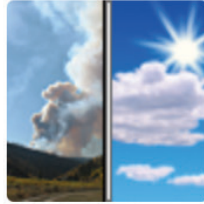
Tonight



Low: 61 °F

Mostly Cloudy

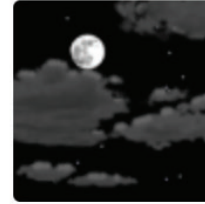
Wednesday



High: 77 °F

Areas Smoke
then Mostly
Sunny

Wednesday
Night



Low: 54 °F

Partly Cloudy

Thursday



High: 76 °F

Mostly Sunny

THREAT ASSESSMENT

HIGHEST LOCAL RISK

1

WHAT THIS MEANS:
Isolated severe storms
possible

TIMING

2 PM - 10 PM

PRIMARY THREATS

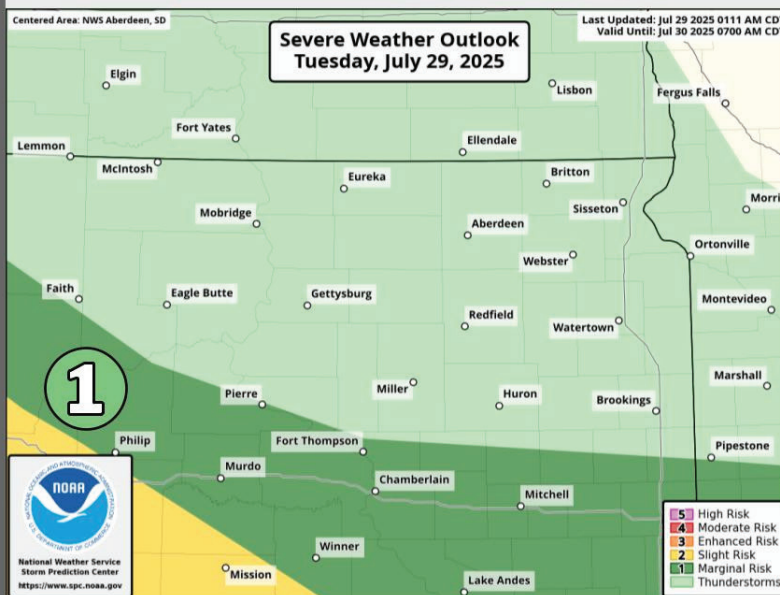


DAMAGING
WIND GUSTS
of 60 mph



LARGE HAIL
to 1 inch
diameter

Isolated SEVERE STORMS Possible Today



What to Expect:

- 60 mph wind gusts
- Hail up to 1 inch in diameter

Timing:

- Storms developing over western and central SD by mid afternoon
- Strongest storms weakening and exiting southeast in the evening. Rain and a few storms continuing overnight.

How to be
Prepared:



INDOOR SHELTER



OUTDOOR PLANS?
STAY WEATHER
AWARE



MULTIPLE WAYS TO
RECEIVE WARNINGS

There is a marginal risk (level 1 out of 5) for isolated severe storms in south central SD today. The main threats will be 60 mph wind gusts and hail up to 1 inch in diameter. Storms are expected to develop over western and central SD this afternoon. Best chance for storms will be between 2 and 10 PM CDT.

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Mid-Week Forecast Update

Today



Mainly central SD:
40-50%

Highs: 79-85°F

Lows: 59-64°F

Wednesday



20-30%

Highs: 74-81°F

Lows: 54-59°F

Thursday



20-30% overnight

Highs: 73-80°F

Lows: 54-61°F



National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD
www.weather.gov/abr

There is a 40-50% chance of showers and storms today, mainly in central/south central SD. There is also a marginal risk (level 1 out of 5) for severe storms in south central SD. Some elevated smoke will make its way into the region today creating some milky skies. Wednesday, we will again have some elevated smoke, as well as some near surface smoke for a few hours in the morning with a 20-30% chance of showers and non-severe thunderstorms mainly in central SD.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 82 °F at 12:25 PM

Heat Index: 88 °F at 12:30 PM

Low Temp: 67 °F at 5:05 AM

Wind: 25 mph at 3:44 PM

Precip: : 0.05

Day length: 14 hours, 53 minutes

Today's Info

Record High: 1109 in 1933

Record Low: 42 in 2014

Average High: 85

Average Low: 60

Average Precip in July.: 2.93

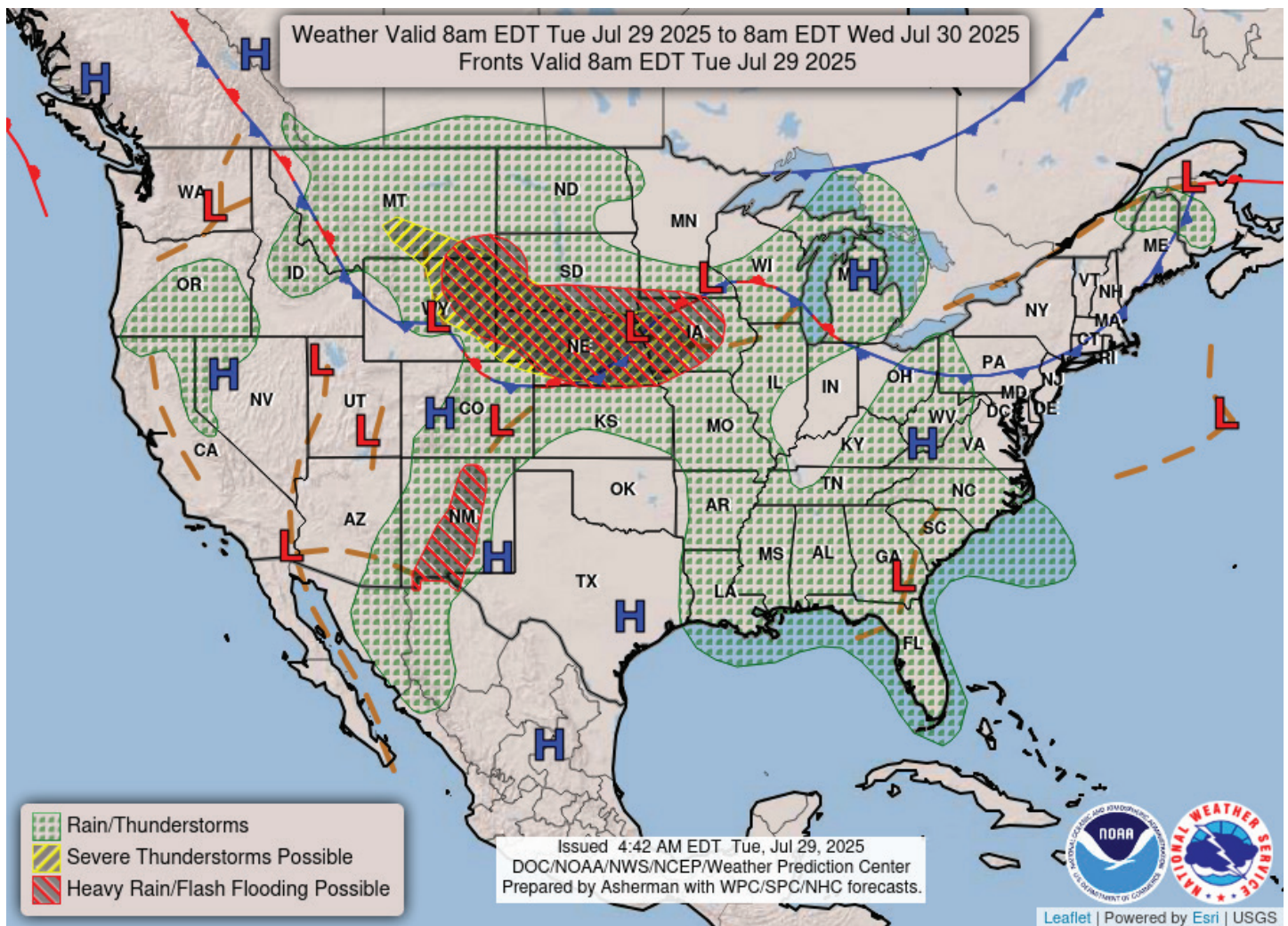
Precip to date in July: 6.91

Average Precip to date: 13.94

Precip Year to Date: 15.07

Sunset Tonight: 9:05:37 pm

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:13:16 am



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Today in Weather History

July 29, 1896: A destructive hailstorm originated in the central part of Edmunds County near Ipswich, passing southeast. This storm destroyed crops and broke glass in many windows along a path to the eastern portions of Spink County.

July 29, 2003: Winds of 70 mph, to over 100 mph caused damage in and around Redfield east to Frankfort and south to Tulare. The winds and hail damaged many roofs, crops, outbuildings, downed power lines, and poles, and also downed many branches and trees. In Redfield, a trailer home with two occupants was rolled three to four times over 75 feet. The trailer home rolled over a pickup truck and damaged it. Much of the contents in the trailer home were damaged, and the trailer home itself was a total loss. The people inside the home received minor injuries. A garage was also blown apart in Redfield with the car damaged inside. At the grain elevator in Redfield, several vehicle windows were broke out by airborne sand and rocks. A street light was ripped from the concrete in Redfield. East of Redfield, a 70-foot silo of over 70 tons was crumbled to the ground, and a large tractor shed was blown apart with damage to the contents. Wind equipment by Redfield measured winds at 106 mph before the power went out.

July 29, 2006: Record heat and high humidity affected central, north central, and northeast South Dakota for the end of July. Heat indices rose to 105 to 115 degrees across the area. Record high temperatures were set at Pierre, Mobridge, Kennebec, Timber Lake, and Aberdeen. Pierre rose to 111 degrees on each of the three days. Mobridge rose to 111 degrees on the 28th and 112 degrees on the 30th. Several record highs of 108 and 109 degrees were set at Timber Lake and Kennebec in the three-day period. Aberdeen set a record high of 106 on the 30th.

1898 - The temperature at Prineville, OR, soared to 119 degrees to establish a state record, which was tied on the 10th of August at Pendleton. (The Weather Channel)

1905 - Heavy rain in southwestern Connecticut caused a dam break, and the resulting flood caused a quarter of a million dollars damage at Bridgeport. As much as eleven inches of rain fell prior to the flood. (David Ludlum)

1958: The U.S. Congress passes legislation establishing the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), a civilian agency responsible for coordinating America's activities in space. Click [HERE](#) for more information from the History Channel.

1960: Severe thunderstorms brought damaging winds, possibly as high as 100 mph to central Oklahoma. Eight planes and several hangars were damaged at Wiley Post Airfield, while two aircraft and additional hangars were damaged at Will Rogers World Airport. The winds caused seven injuries in the area, including two youths who were injured by flying debris.

1981 - Fifty cattle, each weighing 800 pounds, were killed by lightning near Vance, AL. The lightning struck a tree and then spread along the ground killing the cattle. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather from Minnesota to Indiana and Illinois. A thunderstorm at Janesville, WI, produced wind gusts to 104 mph which flipped over two airplanes, and blew another plane 300 feet down the runway. The northeastern U.S. experienced some relief from the heat. Nine cities reported record low temperatures for the date, including Saint Johnsbury, VT, with a reading of 42 degrees. Barnet, VT, reported a morning low of 33 degrees, with frost reported on vegetation. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Afternoon and evening thunderstorms produced severe weather in Minnesota and Wisconsin. Hail three inches in diameter was reported south of Saint Cloud, MN. Hot weather prevailed in the western U.S. Fresno, CA reported a record thirteen straight days of 100 degree heat. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Morning thunderstorms in the Upper Midwest produced more than five inches of rain west of Virgil, SD. Afternoon and evening thunderstorms deluged the foothills and adjacent plains of Colorado with heavy rain. Rains of six to seven and a half inches fell in eight hours north of Greeley. Hail and heavy rain caused several million dollars damage in Weld County. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

2004: A record-setting flash flood occurred over part of the Greenville, South Carolina, during the morning hours. Six to eight inches of rain fell just east of Berea, a northwestern suburb, which caused the Reedy River through downtown Greenville crested 9 feet above flood stage. This crest was the highest level since 1908.

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THE SOURCE OF OUR SALVATION

An elderly man was sitting quietly in his rocking chair speaking softly to his beloved grandson. "It took me forty years," he said, "to learn three simple truths. I would like you to learn them this afternoon while you are young. One – I could do nothing by myself to get rid of my sins. Two – that God did not expect me to. And three – that Jesus did it all for me."

David taught those three simple truths centuries ago in one short, significant, simple verse: "Victory comes from You, oh Lord."

A story is told of a prisoner, who with the help of his friends, planned an escape. Through careful planning they smuggled a gun into the prison yard and hid it carefully from others. They informed him that a ladder would be set up against the wall where the searchlight would not expose it. And they told him that a vehicle would be awaiting him at a certain hour.

"But," he asked, "How do I get out of my cell?" "That's up to you," they said. Obviously, he did not escape. He remained in his cell because He could not take the first step.

Our Lord has taken the first step to release us from our sins through His one and only Son to be our Savior. Now, we must take the second step: toward Him or away from Him.

Our Lord is a seeking Lord who will save us from our sin through His salvation but we must take that second step is we want His salvation. His freedom is available if we take that step.

Prayer: We thank You, Heavenly Father, for Your freedom that is ours if we take "that step." Help us, in faith believing, to walk toward You so we can be with You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Victory comes from you, O Lord. May you bless your people. Psalm 3:8

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WINNING NUMBERS

MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS: 07.25.25

14 21 25 49 52 7

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$130,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 17 Hrs 20 Mins 0 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS: 07.28.25

8 12 23 25 31 10

All Star Bonus: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$3,550,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 16 Hrs 35 Mins 0 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS: 07.28.25

4 9 13 23 34 6

TOP PRIZE:

\$7,000/week

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 50 Mins 0 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS: 07.26.25

1 17 21 28 33

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$71,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 16 Hrs 50 Mins 0 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS: 07.28.25

11 25 40 50 65 21

TOP PRIZE:

\$10,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 17 Hrs 18 Mins 59 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS: 07.28.25

7 35 36 43 62 3

Power Play: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$384,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 17 Hrs 18 Mins 59 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

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Upcoming Groton Events

CANCELLED: Wine on Nine Fundraiser at Olive Grove

08/02/2025 2nd Annual Celebration in the Park/Rib Cook-Off 1-9 pm

08/07/2025 Family Fun Fest, Downtown Main Street 5:30-7:30pm

08/23/2025 Glacial Tournament at Olive Grove

09/05/2025 Homecoming Parade 1pm

09/6-7/25 Fly in/Drive in at Groton Municipal Airport

09/06/2025 Lion's Club Fall Citywide Rummage Sale 8am-3pm

09/07/2025 Sunflower Classic Couples Scramble at Olive Grove

10/10/2025 Lake Region Marching Band Festival 10am

10/11/2025 Pumpkin Fest 10am-3pm City Park

10/31/2025 Downtown Trick or Treat 4-6pm

11/27/2025 Community Thanksgiving at the Community Center 11:30am-1:30pm

11/30/2025 Snow Queen Contest, 4 p.m.

12/06/2025 Olive Grove Holiday Party and Silent Live Auction Fundraiser

News from the **AP** Associated Press

Gunman kills 4, including police officer, in shooting at New York City office tower

By PHILIP MARCELO and ERIC TUCKER Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A man stalked through a Manhattan office tower firing a rifle Monday, killing four people, including a New York City police officer, and wounding a fifth before taking his own life, officials said.

The shooting took place at a skyscraper that is home to the headquarters of both the NFL and Blackstone, one of the world's largest investment firms, as well as other tenants.

The gunman, identified by authorities as Shane Tamura of Las Vegas, had a 'documented mental health history,' according to Police Commissioner Jessica Tisch, but his motive was still unknown.

"We are working to understand why he targeted this particular location," Tisch said.

The rampage happened at the end of the workday in the same part of Manhattan where the chief executive of UnitedHealthcare was gunned down outside a hotel late last year.

Surveillance video showed the man exiting a double-parked BMW just before 6:30 p.m. carrying an M4 rifle, then marching across a public plaza into the building. Then, he started firing, Tisch said, killing a police officer working a corporate security detail and then hitting a woman who tried to take cover as he sprayed the lobby with gunfire.

The man then made his way to the elevator bank and shot a guard at a security desk and shot another man in the lobby, the commissioner said.

The man took the elevator to the 33rd floor offices of the company that owned the building, Rudin Management, and shot and killed one person on that floor. The man then shot himself, the commissioner said. The building, 345 Park Avenue, also holds offices of the financial services firm KPMG.

Slain officer was an immigrant

The officer killed was Didarul Islam, 36, an immigrant from Bangladesh who had served as a police officer in New York City for 3 1/2 years, Tisch said at a news conference.

"He was doing the job that we asked him to do. He put himself in harm's way. He made the ultimate sacrifice," Tisch said. "He died as he lived. A hero."

One man was seriously wounded and remains in critical condition, Mayor Eric Adams said. Four others got minor injuries attempting to flee.

Adams said officials are still "unraveling" what took place.

Officers found a rifle case, a revolver, magazines and ammunition in Tamura's car, Tisch said. They also found medication that belonged to Tamura, she said.

She said an initial investigation shows his vehicle traveled across the country, passing through Colorado on July 26, then Nebraska and Iowa on July 27. The car was in Columbia, New Jersey, as recently as 4:24 p.m. Monday. He drove into New York City shortly thereafter, she said.

Rudin is one of the largest privately owned real estate companies in New York City. The company dates back to 1925 and is still managed by members of the Rudin family.

Tisch said there were no indications so far that Tamura had prior connections to the real estate industry or to the city.

No one answered the door at the address listed for Tamura in Las Vegas.

Islam, the slain officer, leaves behind two young boys, and his wife is pregnant with their third child, Tisch said.

Witnesses heard 'rapid fire'

Local TV footage showed lines of people evacuating the office building with their hands above their heads in the hours after the killings.

Nekeisha Lewis was eating dinner with friends on the plaza when she heard gunfire.

"It felt like it was a quick two shots and then it was rapid fire," she told The Associated Press.

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Windows shattered and a man ran from the building saying, "Help, help. I'm shot." Lewis said.

Jessica Chen told ABC News she was watching a presentation with dozens of other people on the second floor when she "heard multiple shots go off in quick succession from the first floor."

She and others ran into a conference room and barricaded tables against the door.

"We were honestly really, really scared," she said, adding that she texted her parents to tell them that she loves them.

Some finance workers at an office building down the block were picking up dinner at a corner eatery when they heard a loud noise and saw people running.

"It was like a crowd panic," said Anna Smith, who joined the workers pouring back into the finance office building. They remained there for about two hours before being told they could leave.

Tisch says she believes two officers were working in different parts of the building as part of a program where companies can hire NYPD officers to provide security.

The building where the shooting happened is in a busy area of midtown, located a short walk north from Grand Central Terminal and about a block east of St. Patrick's Cathedral.

Through late July, New York City is on pace this year to possibly have its fewest homicides and fewest people hurt by gunfire in decades. But the city's corporate community has been on edge since last December, when UnitedHealthcare CEO Brian Thompson was killed outside a hotel hosting a conference.

The man charged in that killing, Luigi Mangione, is awaiting trial. Prosecutors accuse him of killing Thompson because he was angry at perceived corporate greed, particularly in the health insurance business. He has pleaded not guilty.

Heavy rain causes flooding, evacuations and at least 38 deaths around Beijing region

BEIJING (AP) — Almost a year's worth of rain caused flooding and landslides that washed away cars, forced evacuations and knocked out power around the Chinese capital, killing at least 38 people by Tuesday and rescue and relief work continued.

The flood risk for parts of Beijing, Hebei province and neighboring Tianjin city remained high until Tuesday evening.

State media broadcast footage of muddy waters rising into homes in rural areas and rescuers carrying an injured person on a stretcher and searching on a damaged road.

Premier Li Qiang said the heavy rain and flooding in the hard-hit Beijing district of Miyun caused "serious casualties" and called for rescue efforts, according to the Xinhua News Agency.

The Beijing Daily, a state-backed paper, reported that the city had received 54.3 centimeters (21.4 inches) of rain in the last four days, which is just a bit short of the 60 centimeters (23.6 inches) the city receives annually in a year.

The storm knocked out power in more than 130 villages in Beijing, destroyed communication lines and damaged more than 30 sections of road. More than 16 centimeters (6 inches) of rain fell on average in Beijing by midnight, with two towns in Miyun recording 54 centimeters (21 inches) of precipitation, the city said.

Heavy flooding washed away cars and downed power poles in Miyun, an outlying district that borders Hebei's Luanping county. More than 80,000 people have been relocated in Beijing, including about 17,000 in Miyun, a Beijing city statement said.

The city government said 28 people died in Miyun and two others in Yanqing district Monday.

Four additional people in neighboring Hebei province were discovered dead Tuesday, state broadcaster CCTV reported, after eight people were said to be missing after a landslide in a rural part of Luanping county in the province. Authorities had found four of the dead Monday.

Emergency rescue teams said more landslides occurred in the same region Tuesday, although they did not report any further casualties.

Uprooted trees lay in piles in the town of Taishitun, about 100 kilometers (60 miles) northeast of central

Beijing. Streets were covered with water, with mud left higher up on the walls of buildings.

Former Colombian President Uribe found guilty in bribery trial that threatens the strongman's legacy

By ASTRID SUAREZ and MANUEL RUEDA Associated Press

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — Former Colombian President Álvaro Uribe was convicted of witness tampering and bribery Monday in a historic trial that gripped the South American nation and threatened to tarnish the conservative strongman's legacy.

The ruling followed a nearly six-month trial in which prosecutors presented evidence that Uribe attempted to influence witnesses who accused the law-and-order leader of having links to a paramilitary group founded by ranchers in the 1990s.

Uribe, 73, was not in court in the capital, Bogota, for the verdict as the judge has so far not ordered his arrest. He followed the ruling from his home outside Medellin but did not immediately speak about it.

Uribe faces up to 12 years in prison but a sentencing will be delivered in a separate hearing. He is expected to appeal the ruling.

The former president, who governed from 2002 to 2010 with strong support from the United States, is a polarizing figure in Colombia, where many credit him for saving the country from becoming a failed state, while others associate him with human rights violations and the rise of paramilitary groups in the 1990s.

While the ruling was read, Uribe's opponents clashed briefly with his supporters outside the courthouse.

In a ruling that lasted more than 10 hours, Judge Sandra Heredia said there was enough evidence to determine that Uribe conspired with a lawyer to coax three former members of paramilitary groups who were in prison into changing testimony they had provided to Ivan Cepeda, a left-wing senator who had launched an investigation into Uribe's alleged ties to a paramilitary group.

The case dates to 2012, when Uribe filed a libel suit against Cepeda with the Supreme Court. But in a twist, the high court dismissed the charges against Cepeda and began investigating Uribe in 2018.

During Uribe's presidency, Colombia's military attained some of its biggest battlefield victories against Latin America's oldest leftist insurgency, pushing the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia into remote pockets and forcing the group's leadership into peace talks that led to the disarmament of more than 13,000 fighters in 2016.

Known for his tireless work ethic and short temper, Uribe still has legions of followers in Colombia and is one of the fiercest opponents of the current president, former leftist guerrilla Gustavo Petro.

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio reacted to the ruling, as it became evident that Judge Heredia was going to find the former president guilty of bribery.

"Uribe's only crime has been to tirelessly fight and defend his homeland" Rubio wrote on Monday on X. "The weaponization of Colombia's judicial branch by radical judges has now set a worrisome precedent."

Colombian President Gustavo Petro defended the ruling, writing on X that "a strong justice system" will enable Colombia to emerge from violence. He added in another message that Rubio was interfering with Colombia's sovereignty.

"The world must respect the judges of Colombia" Petro wrote.

Heredia said that her ruling should not be interpreted as "a victory for anyone" but as "an act of justice."

Critics also blame Uribe for state crimes. According to a truth commission created in 2017, more than 6,400 civilians were executed by the Colombian military and identified as members of rebel groups by soldiers seeking promotions during the conflict, in a phenomenon that peaked during the Uribe administration.

Prosecutors accused Uribe of sending lawyers to meet with imprisoned former paramilitary henchmen and pressure them to drop testimony that they had provided to Senator Cepeda.

During the trial, Uribe denied trying to flip witnesses but acknowledged seeking interviews with the men as part of his preparation for trial and to verify testimonies that were also being used in a murder trial against his brother, Santiago Uribe, who was also accused of ties to the armed paramilitaries.

Cepeda spoke to journalists after the ruling, and said that he would continue to fight for "truth and jus-

tice" for victims of Colombia's conflict. "No one can defy and taint the rule of law," he said.

Thailand and Cambodia agree to a ceasefire in their deadly border clashes

By EILEEN NG, JINTAMAS SAKSORNCHAI and SOPHENG CHEANG Associated Press

PUTRAJAYA, Malaysia (AP) — Thailand and Cambodia agreed Monday to an unconditional ceasefire during a meeting in Malaysia, in a significant breakthrough to resolve five days of deadly border clashes that have killed dozens and displaced tens of thousands.

Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Manet and Thai Acting Prime Minister Phumtham Wechayachai agreed to a halt in fighting, starting at midnight, while appearing with Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim during a meeting held under U.S. pressure in the Malaysian administrative capital of Putrajaya. The Cambodian and Thai leaders hailed the meeting's outcome and shook hands at the end of a brief news conference.

An Associated Press journalist in Cambodia reporting from close to the border with Thailand where artillery duels had been taking place said the sounds of shelling stopped about 10 minutes before the ceasefire came into effect. Reports from other fronts in the fighting were not immediately available.

The fighting began Thursday after a land mine explosion along the border wounded five Thai soldiers. Both sides blamed each other for starting the clashes, that have killed at least 35 people and displaced more than 260,000 people on both sides.

Anwar, who hosted the talks as annual chair of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations regional bloc, said both sides have reached a common understanding to take steps to return to normalcy following what he called frank discussions.

"This is a vital first step towards de-escalation and the restoration of peace and security," Anwar said.

The Malaysian meeting followed direct pressure from U.S. President Donald Trump, who warned that the U.S. might not proceed with trade deals with either country if hostilities continue, giving both sides a face-saving justification for backing away from the fighting. In a statement later Monday on social media, Trump said the two sides had "reached a CEASEFIRE and PEACE... I am proud to be the President of PEACE!"

As part of the ceasefire deal, military commanders from both sides will hold talks Tuesday to defuse tensions while Cambodia will host a border committee meeting on Aug. 4. Anwar said. The foreign and defense ministers of Malaysia, Cambodia and Thailand have also been instructed to "develop a detailed mechanism" to implement and monitor the ceasefire to ensure sustained peace, he added.

Hun Manet said he hoped that bilateral ties could return to normal soon so that almost 300,000 villagers evacuated on both sides could return home.

It is "time to start rebuilding trust, confidence and cooperation going forward between Thailand and Cambodia," he said.

Phumtham said the outcome reflected "Thailand's desire for a peaceful resolution."

The joint statement on the agreement said that the United States was a co-organizer of the talks, with participation from China. The Chinese and American ambassadors to Malaysia attended the meeting that lasted over two hours.

In a press statement, U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio, who was involved in arranging the meeting, applauded the ceasefire declaration. Rubio said he and Trump "are committed to an immediate cessation of violence and expect the governments of Cambodia and Thailand to fully honor their commitments to end this conflict."

White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt posted news of the ceasefire on X and wrote: "President Trump made this happen. Give him the Nobel Peace Prize!"

Phumtham said after his return to Bangkok that Trump had called to offer congratulations for making a move toward peace. He also said Trump told him that Thailand's talks with Washington to set tariff levels on Thai exports could now proceed and that he would seek to make them as favorable as possible.

A summary of the call from Phumtham's office said the prime minister thanked the president for his "important role" in seeking to resolve the crisis and declared that Trump would be honored and remem-

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bered in Thailand for his effort.

The violence of recent days marked a rare instance of open military confrontation between ASEAN member states, a 10-nation regional bloc that has prided itself on non-aggression, peaceful dialogue and economic cooperation. Both countries recalled their ambassadors and Thailand shut all border crossings with Cambodia, with an exception for migrant Cambodian workers returning home.

News of the ceasefire deal brought relief and hope to evacuees from both sides. Some women at a crowded evacuation shelter in Surin, Thailand, shouted for joy.

"I'm happy about that, and feeling a bit relieved," said Usa Dasri, a vendor and farmer. "We miss our home. There are many small things I'm worried about, livestock and rice fields. I don't know what might've happened to them. I want to go home, so I'm happy. I also think about our soldiers at the frontline. I want them to be safe and have a good sleep like us."

She also credited outside diplomacy for the breakthrough.

"Without them, our two countries would have had a hard time negotiating — both sides have quite a hard time talking and understanding each other," she added.

Cambodian evacuees echoed the sentiment.

Chhuot Nhav, 42, who fled her home in Oddar Meanchey province, a frontline for the fighting, said she was happy but also wary.

"I am happy because I can go home and take care of my pig, dog, chickens and my kids can now go back to school," said Chhuot Nhav, from under a series of green tarps that stretched out to the length of a school bus. But she said she will "wait until the fighting really stops" before heading back.

Another farmer Kong Sin, however, said he would head back home Tuesday if the ceasefire took place as agreed.

The 800-kilometer (500-mile) frontier between Thailand and Cambodia has been disputed for decades, but past confrontations have been limited and brief. The latest tensions erupted in May when a Cambodian soldier was killed in a confrontation that created a diplomatic rift and roiled Thailand's domestic politics.

What to know about the shooting at a New York City office tower that killed 4

NEW YORK (AP) — A man with a rifle killed an off-duty New York City police officer and three other people before taking his own life at a Manhattan office tower on Monday, according to officials.

Law enforcement officials were working to unravel what took place and why this location may have been targeted in a city that had recently announced it was on pace to have its fewest people hurt by gunfire than any year in recent decades.

Here are some things to know:

What happened?

A man exited a double parked BMW with an M4 rifle and then walked toward the building on Monday evening, according to surveillance video.

He quickly opened fire on the NYPD officer as he entered the building before shooting a woman who tried to take cover, police Commissioner Jessica Tisch said at a news conference on Monday night. He then started "spraying" the lobby with gunfire.

The man went to the elevator bank and shot a security guard who was taking cover behind a security desk and also another man in the lobby, Tisch said.

The man took the elevator to the 33rd floor to a real estate management company and one person was shot and killed on that floor. The man then walked down a hallway and shot himself, she said.

What do we know about the gunman?

Police identified Shane Tamura of Las Vegas as the gunman, although his motive and reasoning for targeting the building was not immediately clear.

Tamura had a "documented mental health history," Tisch said.

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His vehicle had traveled across the U.S. through Colorado on July 26 and then Nebraska and Iowa on July 27. It arrived in Columbia, New Jersey, as recently as Monday afternoon, before making it to New York City, she said.

Officers found a rifle case, a revolver, magazines and ammunition in his car, Tisch said.

No one answered the door at the address listed for Tamura in Las Vegas.

Who were the victims?

Didarul Islam, 36, had served as a police officer in New York City for 3 1/2 years. He was an immigrant from Bangladesh.

Islam was married and had two young boys, Tisch said. His wife is pregnant with their third child.

The names of the other victims, along with a man who was seriously wounded and remains in critical condition, have not yet been released.

Where did the shooting happen?

The shooting took place at 345 Park Avenue, a commercial office building in a busy area of midtown that is just a short walk north from Grand Central Terminal and about a block east of St. Patrick's Cathedral.

The building houses offices for companies including the NFL and real estate company Rudin, as well as finance companies KPMG and Blackstone. It also includes the consulate general of Ireland.

Shooter opens fire outside Reno casino, killing 3 and injuring several others

By ANDY BARRON and RIO YAMAT Associated Press

RENO, Nev. (AP) — A gunman opened fire Monday outside the largest casino in Reno, Nevada, killing three people and wounding three others before police shot the suspect and arrested him, officials said.

The suspect had no known connection to the victims, and it was unclear if he was a guest or an employee at the Grand Sierra Resort, one of Reno's most prominent venues that has hosted concerts, sporting events and a campaign rally by President Donald Trump before the 2024 election. Near the California border and just northeast of Lake Tahoe, the town is a popular summer tourist destination.

Police were still trying to determine a motive for the shooting.

Two victims were in critical condition, while one was treated and released from the hospital, said Chris Crawforth, the police chief of the neighboring town of Sparks whose department is leading the investigation.

The shooting occurred around 7:30 a.m. when the gunman walked up to the casino-hotel's valet parking area, pulled out a handgun and pointed it at a group of people, police said. His gun initially malfunctioned, but he quickly was able to get it to shoot multiple times before fleeing on foot through the parking lot where he encountered an armed casino security guard. Crawforth said the gunman opened fire on the guard, who returned fire as the shooter fled again.

The suspect later shot at someone driving by in the parking lot, striking and killing the driver before officers arrived on the scene within three minutes of the first shots being fired.

"There was incredible, swift action that took place," Reno Mayor Hillary Schieve said, adding that it stopped the suspect from going into the casino-hotel to continue the rampage.

The shooter had multiple firearm magazines, according to Crawforth.

The suspect fired at Reno police officers and hit a patrol vehicle. Multiple officers returned fire, striking the suspect, Crawforth said. The suspect, whose name was not released, remains in critical condition.

Michael Sisco, 60, said he was in his room and about to head to the valet for his car when he heard popping sounds. He looked out his window and saw people screaming and running from the valet area.

He said he saw a man holding his stomach and staggering before falling motionless next to a car. Sisco moved away from the window as the gunshots continued.

"A half hour after the incident I started shaking because I realized I could've been there," he said. "That's exactly where I was going."

Christina Martinez heard the shots just as she was stepping onto an elevator in the lobby, and they were still going off when she stepped out onto the 18th floor.

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Someone in a neighboring room told her there was a gunman right outside the main entrance, near where Martinez said she was getting coffee just moments before.

"I feel very blessed, but that's kind of why I had a panic attack," she said. "I was like, 'Oh my God. I was just there.'"

Hours after the shooting, the entrance inside the casino leading to the valet area was roped off to guests and privacy screens were placed in front of the glass doors to block the view outside.

In addition to those who were killed and the people taken to the hospital, three more were treated for minor injuries at the casino, according to Devon Reese, chair of the Board of Health in northern Nevada. One person was grazed by a bullet on their pinky finger, one was treated for severe anxiety and one was injured while running, he said.

One officer also was injured from what was likely "glass fragments," Reno Police Chief Kathryn Nance said.

"Tragedies like this are horrific for any community to endure," she said.

More than a year ago, two men were charged with fatally shooting another man who was staying at the resort in January 2024.

The Grand Sierra claims to have the biggest casino floor in northern Nevada and sits just a few blocks from the Reno-Tahoe International Airport. It's also one of the tallest buildings in the city, with nearly 2,000 hotel rooms.

"We are heartbroken by the senseless violence that occurred in our parking area earlier today," the casino said in a statement. "Our thoughts are with the victims and all those affected by this tragic incident."

Israeli fire kills dozens in Gaza, officials say, as aid delivery remains chaotic after new measures

By WAFAA SHURAF and SAMY MAGDY Associated Press

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip (AP) — Israeli strikes or gunfire killed at least 78 Palestinians across the Gaza Strip on Monday, including a pregnant woman whose baby was delivered after her death but also died, local health officials said. Dozens were killed while seeking food, even as Israel moved to ease restrictions on the entry of aid.

Under mounting pressure over the spiraling hunger crisis in Gaza, Israel said over the weekend that the military would pause operations in Gaza City, Deir al-Balah and Muwasi for 10 hours a day and designate secure routes for aid delivery. International airdrops of aid have also resumed.

Aid agencies say the new measures are not enough to counter worsening starvation in the territory.

Martin Penner, a spokesperson for the U.N. food agency, told The Associated Press that all 55 of its aid trucks that entered on Sunday were unloaded by crowds before reaching their destination. Another U.N. official said nothing on the ground has changed and no alternative routes were allowed.

Israel said it would continue military operations alongside the new humanitarian measures.

Newborn dies after complex surgery

A baby girl died hours after being delivered in a complex emergency cesarean. She had been placed in an incubator and was breathing with assistance from a ventilator, AP footage showed.

Her mother, Soad al-Shaer, who had been seven months pregnant with her, was among 12 Palestinians killed in an Israeli airstrike on a house and neighboring tents in the Muwasi area of Khan Younis, according to Nasser Hospital, which received the bodies.

Another strike hit a two-story house in Khan Younis, killing at least 11 people, more than half of them women and children, according to the hospital. At least five others were killed in strikes elsewhere in Gaza, according to other hospitals.

The Israeli military did not immediately respond to a request for comment on most of the strikes. It said it was not aware of one strike in Gaza City during the pause that health officials said killed one person.

Israel says it only targets militants and blames civilian deaths on Hamas because the militants operate in densely populated areas. The daily airstrikes across the territory frequently kill women and children.

Israel allows more aid to enter

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Images of emaciated children have sparked outrage around the world, including from Israel's close allies. U.S. President Donald Trump on Sunday called the images of emaciated and malnourished children in Gaza "terrible."

Israel has restricted aid to varying degrees throughout the war. In March, it cut off the entry of all goods, including fuel, food and medicine, to pressure Hamas to free hostages.

Israel partially lifted those restrictions in May but also pushed ahead on a new U.S.-backed aid delivery system that has been wracked by chaos and violence. Traditional aid providers have encountered a breakdown in law and order surrounding their deliveries.

COGAT, the Israeli military body in charge of coordinating aid shipments, said U.N. agencies collected 120 trucks for distribution on Sunday and that another 180 trucks had been allowed into Gaza.

The United Nations and aid groups say the territory needs 500-600 trucks a day to meet its needs. Israel's blockade and military operations have destroyed nearly all food production in the territory of roughly 2 million Palestinians.

Aid groups say airdrops are ineffective

Also on Monday, two air force planes from Jordan and the United Arab Emirates airdropped 17 tons of humanitarian aid in Gaza — an amount that would fill less than a single aid truck.

Aid groups say airdrops are often ineffective and dangerous, with falling parcels landing on people or in combat zones or other dangerous areas.

"At the moment, 2 million people are trapped in a tiny piece of land, which makes up just 12% of the whole strip — if anything lands in this area, people will inevitably be injured," said Jean Guy Vataux, emergency coordinator in Gaza for Doctors Without Borders.

"If the airdrops land in areas where Israel has issued displacement orders, people will be forced to enter militarized zones — once again risking their lives for food," he added.

The head of the U.N. agency for Palestinian refugees, Philippe Lazzarini, warned that airdrops are "expensive, inefficient and can even kill starving civilians," and would not address the crisis.

Dozens killed seeking aid, officials say

At least 25 people were killed by Israeli forces while seeking aid from a truck convoy passing through the southern Gaza Strip, according to health officials and witnesses. There was no immediate comment from the Israeli military.

Four children were among those killed, according to records at Nasser Hospital, which received the bodies. The shooting occurred in a military corridor Israel has carved out between the southern cities of Khan Younis and Rafah. It was not immediately clear who had supplied the convoy.

Survivors at the hospital said Israeli forces had fired toward the crowds. More than 1,000 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli fire while seeking aid since May, according to the U.N. human rights office, witnesses and local health officials.

The Israeli military has said it only fires warning shots at people who approach its forces.

The Awda hospital in central Gaza said it received the bodies of seven Palestinians who it said were killed by Israeli fire close to an aid distribution site run by the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation, an Israeli-backed American contractor. The hospital said 20 others were wounded close to the site. GHF did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Fares Awad, head of the Gaza Health Ministry's emergency service, said at least five Palestinians were killed and about 30 others were wounded by Israeli gunfire while waiting for aid trucks from the Zikim Crossing near Gaza City.

Hamas started the war with its Oct. 7, 2023, attack, in which Palestinian militants killed some 1,200 people and abducted 251 others. They still hold 50, and Israel believes that more than half the remaining hostages are dead. Most of the rest were released in ceasefires or other deals.

Israel's retaliatory offensive has killed more than 59,800 Palestinians, according to Gaza's Health Ministry. Its count doesn't distinguish between militants and civilians. The ministry operates under the Hamas government. The U.N. and other international organizations see it as the most reliable source of data on casualties.

Trump says he's shortening the 50-day deadline for Russia to end the war in Ukraine

By WILL WEISSERT Associated Press

EDINBURGH, Scotland (AP) — U.S. President Donald Trump said Monday he is giving Russian President Vladimir Putin 10 to 12 days to stop the killing in Ukraine, shortening a 50-day deadline he had given the Russian leader two weeks ago.

Russia fired an overnight barrage of more than 300 drones, four cruise missiles and three ballistic missiles, the Ukrainian air force said, as the Russian bombardment of Ukrainian cities continued despite Trump's pressure for it to end. U.S.-led peace efforts have also failed to gain momentum.

Trump had said on July 14 that he would implement "severe tariffs" on Russia unless a peace deal is reached by early September. On Monday, Trump said he would now give Putin 10 to 12 days, meaning he wants peace efforts to make progress by Aug. 7-9.

The plan includes possible sanctions and secondary tariffs targeting Russia's trading partners. The formal announcement would come later Monday or on Tuesday, Trump said.

"No reason in waiting," Trump said of the shorter timeline. "We just don't see any progress being made."

Putin has "got to make a deal. Too many people are dying," Trump said during a visit to Scotland.

There was no immediate response from Russia.

Trump repeated his criticism of Putin for talking about ending the war but continuing to bombard Ukrainian civilians.

"And I say, that's not the way to do it," Trump said. He added, "I'm disappointed in President Putin."

Asked at a news conference about a potential meeting with the Russian leader, Trump said: "I'm not so interested in talking anymore."

Still, he voiced some reluctance about imposing penalties on the Kremlin, saying that he loves the Russian people. "I don't want to do that to Russia," he said, but he noted how many Russians, along with Ukrainians, are dying in the war.

Ukraine has urged Western countries to take a tougher line with Putin. Andrii Yermak, the head of Ukraine's presidential office, thanked Trump for shortening the deadline.

"Putin understands only strength — and that has been conveyed clearly and loudly," Yermak said on Telegram, adding that Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy shared the sentiment.

Latest attacks in Ukraine

A Russian drone blew out the windows of a 25-story residential building in the Darnytskyi district of Kyiv, the head of the city's military administration, Tymur Tkachenko, wrote on Telegram. Eight people were injured, including a 4-year-old girl, he said.

The attack also started a fire in Kropyvnytskyi, in central Ukraine, local officials said, but no injuries were reported.

The main target of the Russian attack was Starokostiantyniv, in the Khmelnytskyi region of western Ukraine, the air force said. Regional authorities reported no damage or casualties.

Western Ukraine is on the other side of the country from the front line, and the Ukrainian military is believed to have significant airfields as well as arsenals and depots there.

The Russian Defense Ministry said its forces carried out an overnight strike with long-range, air-launched weapons, hitting a Ukrainian air base along with an ammunition depot containing stockpiles of missiles and components for drone production.

Heavy rains and flooding kill at least 34 people in and near Beijing

By KEN MORITSUGU and MAHESH KUMAR Associated Press

TAISHITUN, China (AP) — Heavy rains and flooding killed 30 people in Beijing, authorities in the Chinese capital reported on Tuesday, bringing the death toll from the storms in the region to at least 34.

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A city government statement said that 28 people had died in its hard-hit Miyun district and two others in Yanqing district as of midnight. Both are outlying parts of the sprawling city, far from the downtown.

More heavy rain fell overnight in the area. More than 80,000 people have been relocated in Beijing, including about 17,000 in Miyun, the statement said.

Reports on Monday said a landslide had killed four people in a rural part of Luanping county in neighboring Hebei province. Eight others were missing. A resident told the state-backed Beijing News that communications were down and he couldn't reach his relatives.

The storms had dropped more than 16 centimeters (6 inches) of rain on average in Beijing by midnight Tuesday, with two towns in Miyun recording 54 centimeters (21 inches) of precipitation, the city said.

Authorities in Miyun released water from a reservoir that was at its highest level since it was built in 1959. Authorities warned people to stay away from rivers downstream as their levels rose and as more heavy rain was forecast.

China's Premier Li Qiang said Monday that the heavy rain and flooding in Miyun caused "serious casualties," and called for rescue efforts, according to China's Xinhua News Agency.

The storm knocked out power in more than 130 villages in Beijing, destroyed communication lines and damaged more than 30 sections of road.

Heavy flooding washed away cars and downed power poles in Miyun, which borders Hebei's Luanping county.

Uprooted trees lay in piles with their bare roots exposed in the town of Taishitun, about 100 kilometers (60 miles) northeast of central Beijing. Streets were covered with water, with mud left higher up on the walls of buildings.

"The flood came rushing in, just like that, so fast and suddenly. In no time at all, the place was filling up," said Zhuang Zhelin, who was clearing mud with his family from their building materials shop.

Next door, Zhuang's neighbor Wei Zhengming, a traditional Chinese medicine practitioner, was shoveling mud in his clinic; his feet in slippers were covered in mud.

"It was all water, front and back. I didn't want to do anything. I just ran upstairs and waited for rescue. I remember thinking, if no one came to get us, we'd be in real trouble," said Wei.

Beijing authorities launched a top-level emergency response at 8 p.m. Monday, ordering people to stay inside, closing schools, suspending construction work and stopping outdoor tourism and other activities until the response is lifted.

The heaviest rain in Beijing was expected early Tuesday, with rainfall of up to 30 centimeters (12 inches) forecast for some areas.

Another 10,000 people were evacuated from the nearby Jizhou district under the city of Tianjin, Xinhua reported.

The central government said in a statement it had sent 50 million yuan (about \$7 million) to Hebei and dispatched a high-level team of emergency responders to help the affected cities, which include Chengde, Baoding and Zhangjiakou.

Beijing and Hebei suffered severe flooding in 2023.

He heard 'he's got a knife,' then ran to stop a man suspected of stabbing 11 at a Michigan Walmart

By MICHAEL CASEY Associated Press

Matthew Kolakowski was shopping for fishing gear and snacks with his daughter at a Michigan Walmart over the weekend when he heard an employee yelling "he's got a knife" followed by sounds of screaming.

Then he saw a man rushing toward the checkout counter.

"All of a sudden I see him pop up and I swear we locked eyes for a minute and I yelled at my daughter, 'Stay here.' So I just took off running," Kolakowski said, recalling the moment he decided to confront the man accused of stabbing 11 people at the Traverse City store on Saturday.

Bradford Gille was charged Monday with terrorism and 11 counts of attempted murder. Police said they

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had no apparent motive for the violent attack carried out with a 3 1/2 inch (nearly 9-centimeter) knife.

The actions of Kolakowski and some other men drew effusive praise from Grand Traverse County Sheriff Michael Shea. Overnight, the strangers became online celebrities for their heroics as a video showing the confrontation spread swiftly on social media.

Kolakowski said that as he followed the man out of the store, he saw him plunge his blade into an older woman outside. Having no weapon himself, Kolakowski grabbed a shopping cart, hoping to knock the man down as he gave chase.

"He just ran right behind her and buried his knife into her back, right in front of me," Kolakowski said. "He pulled the knife out of her and went to take off, then stopped and hesitated and turned around like he was going to go after her again. That's when he noticed me with the grocery cart ... I just went as hard as I could and just got him on his ankles with the grocery cart from behind."

Kolakowski, a 39-year-old disabled veteran, was quickly joined by another man with a shopping cart, stopping the man later identified by authorities as Gille. A third man pointed a gun toward the man, repeatedly demanding he drop the knife.

He eventually put the knife down and Kolakowski said he jumped on the man, restraining him until police quickly arrived.

"Honestly, I didn't hesitate at all," said Kolakowski, speaking from his home in nearby Kent City. Though he was wary of being stabbed himself, he said, "I just kept going."

Shea said the 11 victims were men and women ranging in age from 29 to 84, including one Walmart employee. All were expected to survive, officials said.

Authorities said Gille, 42, has a history of mental health problems and has been arrested or ticketed numerous times in the Petoskey, Michigan, area since 2001. He has also received jail sentences for assault and domestic violence-related offenses.

In 2017, he was found not guilty by reason of insanity after being charged with damaging a burial vault and tipping over grave markers at a Petoskey cemetery. And police in Petoskey reported speaking twice with Gille in recent days about loitering.

In a statement Monday, the Petoskey Department of Public Safety said the agency sought and received a court order Friday to place Gille in protective custody, deeming him a risk to himself or others.

But they could not find him — until the Traverse City stabbings occurred.

Gille's mother told the Petoskey News-Review in 2007 that her son had been in a long-term cycle of mental illness. Beverly Gille at that time praised police and judges, whom she said were trying to help him.

"He's fine when he's on his medication," she told the newspaper. "The problem is his illness tells him that he is fine and doesn't need to take his medication."

At his arraignment Monday, Gille appeared agitated and seemed to suggest he was homeless. A not-guilty plea was entered for him, and bond was set at \$100,000.

Kolakowski said that as he and the other shoppers surrounded the man in the Walmart parking lot, it was clear that something was not right. He described the man as wild-eyed and sweating heavily and describing those in the store as "bad, like he was making an excuse why he stabbed everybody."

Kolakowski brother-in-law, Chris O'Brien, who recorded the video, said the "crazy" scene unfolded incredibly fast and that Kolakowski's actions surely prevented several more stabbings.

"It's his courage that is the craziest part. It was something to witness," he said.

"A guy was stabbing people and we were just next on his list if we didn't do something right," O'Brien said. "Matt was determined to make sure it was stopping then and there and he sure as hell did that."

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2 kids killed at Miami sailing camp after barge collides with their boat, authorities say

By JESSE BEDAYN and DAVID FISCHER Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — Two children were killed and two more are in critical condition after a barge struck and sunk their boat, sending them overboard during a sailing camp in Miami on Monday, authorities said.

All six people on the sailing boat were pulled from the water by responders, and four kids were rushed to a nearby hospital where two were pronounced dead upon arrival, said Petty Officer 3rd Class Nicholas Strasburg, a spokesperson for the U.S. Coast Guard.

Two of the six who were rescued were in "good condition," Strasburg said.

The six — one adult and five kids — were in their last week of the sailing camp for children aged 7 to 15, according to the Miami Yacht Club.

"The entire MYC family is devastated by this terrible tragedy," said Emily Copeland, the commodore of the yacht club, in a statement.

The sailing boat remained submerged beneath the barge in Biscayne Bay — a body of water sandwiched between Miami and Miami Beach where there are several small islands, including Star Island, peppered with ritzy mansions.

Across the U.S. last year, there were over 550 deaths in recreational boating, but only a sliver of those — 43 — were caused by vessels crashing into each other, according to Coast Guard statistics.

"The Coast Guard will conduct a thorough investigation," said Capt. Frank Florio, who heads the Coast Guard's Miami sector, in a statement. "We remain steadfast in our commitment to accountability, improvement, and the shared responsibility of ensuring safety at sea."

Local television stations showed first responders, some in scuba diving gear, in boats around what appears to be a barge. The Coast Guard is investigating the crash.

Trump says he ended friendship with Epstein because he 'stole people that worked for me'

DARLENE SUPERVILLE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump said Monday that he ended his friendship with Jeffrey Epstein and threw the now-disgraced financier out of his private club in Florida after Epstein betrayed him more than once by hiring people who had worked for him.

Trump did not say what his employees did or where they worked, and the White House declined further comment. But the White House had previously offered a different explanation for the falling-out. Steven Cheung, the White House communications director, said in a statement last week: "The fact is that the President kicked him out of his club for being a creep."

Epstein killed himself, authorities say, in a New York jail cell in 2019 as he awaited trial on sex trafficking charges. Trump and his top allies stoked conspiracy theories about Epstein's death before Trump returned to power. They are now struggling to manage the fallout after the Justice Department said Epstein did, in fact, die by suicide and that it would not release additional documents about the case.

The president and his allies, some of whom are now in the administration, had promised to release the files.

The case has dogged Trump at home and abroad and even followed Vice President JD Vance during an appearance in his home state of Ohio on Monday. A small group of protesters assembled outside a factory in Canton that Vance toured, holding signs that spelled out "JD Protects Pedophiles" and indicating that "GOP" stands for "Guardians Of Pedophiles."

The Republican president spoke at his golf property in Turnberry, Scotland, as he sat with British Prime Minister Keir Starmer after the leaders had met and were answering questions from U.S. and U.K. journalists. Asked to explain why the relationship had faltered, Trump said, "That's such old history, very easy to explain, but I don't want to waste your time by explaining it."

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He then explained, saying he stopped talking to Epstein after "he did something that was inappropriate." "He hired help and I said, 'Don't ever do that again,'" Trump said. "He stole people that worked for me. I said, 'Don't ever do that again.' He did it again, and I threw him out of the place, persona non grata."

"I threw him out and that was it. I'm glad I did, if you want to know the truth," Trump added.

Trump recently directed Attorney General Pam Bondi to seek the public release of sealed grand jury transcripts in the case. One federal judge has denied that request; a second judge has yet to rule.

Vance on Monday visited the factory to promote Trump's tax cut and border bill, but also addressed the Epstein matter, saying the president wants "full transparency" in the case.

"The president has been very clear. We're not shielding anything," Vance said in response to a reporter's question. "The president has directed the attorney general to release all credible information and, frankly, to go and find additional credible information related to the Jeffrey Epstein case."

"Some of that stuff takes time," Vance said, adding that Trump has been "very clear. He wants full transparency."

Trump had said back in 2019 that Epstein was a fixture in Palm Beach but that the two had had a falling-out a long time ago and he hadn't spoken with Epstein for 15 years.

Trump on Monday also denied contributing to a compilation of letters and drawings to mark Epstein's 50th birthday, first reported on by the Wall Street Journal. The newspaper said the letter, believed to be from Trump, included a drawing of a woman's body.

"I'm not a drawing person," Trump said. "I don't do drawings of women, that I can tell you."

Trump also said he declined Epstein's invitation to visit a private island the financier owned.

"I never had the privilege of going to his island, and I did turn it down, but a lot of people in Palm Beach were invited to his island," Trump said. "In one of my very good moments, I turned it down. I didn't want to go to his island."

The Latest: Trump meets Starmer and disagrees with Netanyahu's claim of no starvation in Gaza

By The Associated Press undefined

Israeli strikes killed at least 36 Palestinians before U.S. President Donald Trump met with British Prime Minister Keir Starmer on Monday in Scotland, where they confirmed plans to discuss Gaza. Later in the day, the death toll across Gaza Strip rose, with local health officials saying at least 78 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli strikes or gunfire.

A day after Israel eased aid restrictions due to a worsening humanitarian crisis, Trump said he disagreed with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's statement that there was no starvation in Gaza.

Israel on Sunday announced a pause in military operations in certain areas for 10 hours daily to improve aid flow. Alongside the measures, military operations continued. Israel had no immediate comment about the latest strikes, which occurred outside the declared time frame for the pause between 10 a.m. and 8 p.m.

Aid agencies welcomed the new measures but say they are insufficient. Images of emaciated children have sparked global outrage. Most of Gaza's population now relies on aid and accessing food has become increasingly dangerous.

Here is the latest:

Palestinian community leader killed in West Bank area depicted in Oscar-winning movie

The local leader, Awdah Hathaleen, was killed in front of a community center in the Israeli-occupied West Bank on Monday evening, in an area documented in the film "No Other Land," according to his friend and the movie's director Basel Adra.

The Israeli military said an armed Israeli civilian opened fire at a group of Palestinians after they threw rocks. Israeli military and police responded to the incident. A video of the incident obtained by The Associated Press shows a settler shooting into a crowd of people.

"No Other Land," which won the Oscar this year for best documentary, chronicles the struggle by residents

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to stop the Israeli military from demolishing Palestinian Bedouin villages in an area declared a military zone by Israel in the 1980s.

Some 1,000 Palestinians have remained there despite being ordered out, and there is increasing violence with radical Israeli settlers encroaching on the villages.

14 blockade activists to remain in Israel custody until deportation

An Israeli detention court ruled Monday that 14 individuals who were on a ship attempting to breach the blockade of Gaza, will remain in custody until their deportation.

There were 21 activists and a small amount of aid onboard the Handala, a ship the Israeli military intercepted around midnight on Saturday. Seven of the passengers have already been deported, with the rest slated for deportation in the coming days.

The Handala was the second ship operated by the Freedom Flotilla Coalition that Israel has prevented in recent months from delivering aid to Gaza, where food experts have for months warned of the risk of famine. Activist Greta Thunberg was among 12 activists on board the ship Madleen when it was seized by the Israeli military in June.

Israel's opposition leader calls for immediate end to the war in Gaza

Yair Lapid, head of the opposition in Israel's parliament, called on the government to immediately end the war in Gaza, calling it "not a complete victory, but a complete disaster."

"If we don't end the war now, the hostages will not return, the IDF will continue to lose its best fighters, the humanitarian disaster will worsen, the world will close itself off to Israelis," Lapid said Monday night, and called on a coalition of moderate Arab countries, led by Egypt, to run Gaza.

"The management of humanitarian aid in Gaza has collapsed. It simply doesn't work," he said, adding that Israel was helping Hamas' campaign as the humanitarian situation continued to worsen.

Spain says it will airdrop 12 tons of food into Gaza

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez said Monday that Spain will airdrop 12 tons of food aid into Gaza from Jordan later this week, via Spanish air force planes.

Sánchez acknowledged this isn't a solution to hunger, but hopes it offers "minimal relief" alongside aid from other nations.

Spain's government has been a vocal critic of Israel's war in Gaza and has repeatedly called for a ceasefire.

Airdrops have been widely criticized by international organizations including the U.N. for failing to meet needs. The average truck that enters Gaza with humanitarian aid carries around 19 tons of aid, according to COGAT, the Israeli military body in charge of coordinating humanitarian aid in Gaza.

Jordanian official highlights Israeli's absence from UN two-state solution meeting

Israel's absence from Monday's U.N. meeting on a two-state solution was glaring, as foreign ministers gathered in New York to address the crisis without one of its central parties. While Palestinian Prime Minister Mohammed Mustafa was present, Israel sent no delegation to engage with peace proposals or represent its position.

"The Palestinians are ready to negotiate today," Ayman Safadi, Jordan's deputy foreign minister, said. "But we do not have an Israeli partner to negotiate with."

He added that since the Israelis "are not willing to sit at the table and negotiate a two state solution," then "they cannot veto us from doing what we all believe in and recognize the Palestinian state as a statement of commitment to that solution."

Germany aims to conduct joint Gaza aid airlift with Jordan

German Chancellor Friedrich Merz said Monday that Germany intends to conduct an airlift of humanitarian aid to Gaza along with Jordan.

Merz didn't provide details of the plan after a meeting of his security Cabinet, but said his defense minister will consult with France and Britain, "which are also prepared to make available such an airlift for food and medical goods." Jordan's King Abdullah II is due to meet Merz in Berlin on Tuesday.

Merz said Israel's move to lift some aid restrictions is "an important first step" but "further ones must follow quickly." He also stressed the need for a comprehensive ceasefire.

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Trump declines position on Palestinian state

U.S. President Donald Trump, who last week downplayed France's recognition of a Palestinian state, said Monday he would not take a position on the issue.

Meeting British Prime Minister Keir Starmer in Scotland, Trump reiterated; "I'm not going to take a position," adding he had no objection to Starmer's own views on the matter.

UN chief says two-state solution is 'farther than ever before'

U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres told a ministerial meeting Monday that the two-state solution to the Israel-Palestinian conflict is "farther than ever before."

He pointed to the starvation of Palestinians and the killing of tens of thousands of civilians in Gaza as well as Israel's relentless expansion of settlements in the West Bank and last week's support in Israel's parliament for its annexation.

Guterres said actions "that would forever undermine the two-state solution" must stop, and urged the two-day conference to be a "decisive turning point" rather than mere rhetoric.

UN meeting on an Israel-Palestinian two-state solution kicks off

French and Saudi foreign ministers on Monday opened a two-day U.N. meeting on a two-state solution to the decades-old Israel-Palestinian conflict, highlighting what they called "a growing international consensus" for a non-military solution to the decades-long conflict.

French Foreign Minister Jean-Noël Barrot noted the large attendance reflected global consensus to end the war in Gaza. His Saudi counterpart Prince Faisal bin Farhan called it a "historic stage" to not only end the conflict but also to advance a two-state solution.

Planes from Jordan and UAE airdrop humanitarian aid into Gaza

Two planes from the Jordanian and UAE Air Force airdropped 17 tons of humanitarian aid in Gaza on Monday, Jordan's military said. The aid packages come as hunger continues to soar across the strip.

The airdrops took place for the second day as Israel faces increasing pressure over Gaza's humanitarian crisis. However, Philippe Lazzarini, the head of the United Nations agency for Palestinian refugees, warned that airdrops are "expensive, inefficient and can even kill starving civilians."

The 17 tons of airdropped aid amounts to less than one aid truck carrying food, based on the World Food Programme's calculation of nearly 19 tons per truck.

On Sunday, 180 trucks carrying aid entered Gaza, according to the Israeli military body in charge of overseeing humanitarian aid.

Israeli settlers torch cars in Christian West Bank village, Palestinians say

Palestinian residents of the Christian village of Taybeh in the Israeli-occupied West Bank say Israeli settlers torched two cars and left graffiti overnight.

It was the latest in a series of recent settler attacks on the village near Ramallah, where the Palestinian Authority is headquartered. Taybeh is the only entirely Christian village in the Muslim-majority West Bank and home to a brewery popular with tourists and foreign diplomats.

The Israeli military said it sent forces to the village after receiving a report that suspects had set fire to Palestinian property. It said it has opened an investigation.

The West Bank has seen a rise in settler violence since Hamas' Oct. 7, 2023, attack out of Gaza triggered the war there.

UK leader to discuss Gaza peace plan with Trump

Starmer plans to discuss a U.K.-led peace plan for Gaza with Trump Monday in Scotland.

Starmer's spokesman, Dave Pares, said Britain supports Trump's efforts to reach a ceasefire in the Israel-Hamas war, and the plan aims "to turn a ceasefire into lasting peace."

The plan was discussed by Starmer, French President Emmanuel Macron and German Chancellor Friedrich Merz on Friday. Starmer will discuss it with allies "including the U.S. and Arab states" and at an emergency meeting of his Cabinet later this week, Pares said.

Details of the plan have not been made public.

Starmer is under growing pressure to follow France in recognizing a Palestinian state, a move both Israel and the U.S. have condemned. The British leader says the U.K. supports statehood for the Palestinians

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but it must be part of a wider plan for a two-state solution to the Israel-Palestinian conflict.

Pares said "it's a matter of when, not if" Britain recognizes Palestinian statehood. U.K. Foreign Secretary David Lammy is attending a conference on a two-state solution at the United Nations in New York this week.

Trump disagrees with Netanyahu's claim there is 'no starvation in Gaza'

Asked if he agreed with Netanyahu's remarks about hunger in Gaza, Trump said, "I don't know. I mean, based on television, I would say not particularly because those children look very hungry."

Starmer, standing next to Trump, said, "We've got to get that ceasefire," in Gaza and called it "a desperate situation."

Trump confirmed he and Starmer would talk about the humanitarian situation in Gaza.

Egypt president calls on Trump to assist in ending Gaza war

Egypt's leader on Monday called on Trump to help stop the war in Gaza and deliver humanitarian aid to the strip's desperate population.

In a televised speech, President Abdel Fattah el-Sissi said the American leader is "the one who is able to stop the war, deliver the aid and end this suffering."

"Please, make every effort to stop this war and deliver the aid," el-Sissi said, addressing Trump. "I believe that it's time to end this war."

He described conditions inside Gaza as "tragic" and "intolerable."

Newborn dies after mother killed

A newborn died Monday afternoon, hours after she was delivered in a complex surgery following the killing of her mother in Gaza, a hospital said.

Soad al-Shaer, who was seven months pregnant, was one of 12 Palestinians killed in an Israeli airstrike that struck a house and neighboring tents in the Muwasi area of Khan Younis, Nasser hospital said.

Her fetus survived after the surgery, according to the Palestinian Red Crescent.

The newborn was taken to Nasser hospital, where she was placed in an incubator and was breathing with assistance from a ventilator, footage from The Associated Press showed.

She died several hours later, the hospital announced.

The Israeli military did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Deaths related to malnutrition reported

Fourteen Palestinians have died of malnutrition-related causes in the Gaza Strip in the past 24 hours, the territory's Health Ministry said on Monday.

They include two children, bringing the total deaths among children from causes related to malnutrition in Gaza to 88 since the war started on Oct. 7, 2023, the ministry said in a statement.

The ministry said 59 Palestinian adults also have died of malnutrition-related causes across Gaza since the start of July, when it began counting deaths among adults.

What to know about the trial of a Colorado dentist accused of poisoning his wife

By COLLEEN SLEVIN Associated Press

DENVER (AP) — The trial of James Craig, a Colorado dentist accused of killing his wife Angela Craig by gradually poisoning her, is wrapping up. Lawyers are set to deliver closing arguments Tuesday before jurors begin deliberations.

Jurors have heard from some of Angela Craig's relatives and also women James Craig had been having affairs with, all called by prosecutors. James Craig didn't testify and his lawyers didn't present any witnesses, which they're not required to.

Who was Angela Craig?

Angela Craig, 43, was a mother of six children who friends and family say was devoted to her family. She was the youngest of 10 siblings herself and a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Described as organized and dependable, she had taken over her mother's role as the genealogist for her birth family, an important role in their faith. Her older brother Mark Pray said she had been "happy

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and positive" since she was a child. But her sister Toni Kofoed testified that her sister had confided in her about struggles she was having in her marriage. However, pushing back against defense suggestions that her sister may have killed herself, Kofoed said her sister had a "broken heart" but not a "broken mind."

What killed Angela Craig and how?

Angela Craig died in 2023 during her third trip to the hospital in a little over a week. Toxicology tests later determined she died of poisoning from cyanide and tetrahydrozoline, an ingredient found in over-the-counter eye drops. Early on, James Craig had purchased a variety of poisons before his wife's death and had put some in the protein shakes he made for her, according to police. During the trial, prosecutors alleged that he also gave her a dose of cyanide as she lay in her hospital bed on March 15, 2023, as doctors tried to figure out what was ailing her. She was declared brain dead soon afterward and never recovered.

What does James Craig say?

In a notes file later found on James Craig's phone by police, he said Angela Craig had asked him to help kill her with poison when he asked for a divorce after having affairs. In the document, which was labeled "timeline," Craig said that he had eventually agreed to purchase and prepare poisons for her to take, but not administer them. Craig said that he had put cyanide in some of the antibiotic capsules she had been taking and also prepared a syringe containing cyanide.

According to his timeline, Craig wrote that just before she had to go to the hospital on March 15, 2023, she must have ingested a mixture containing the tetrahydrozoline, the eye drop ingredient, because she became lethargic and weak, before then taking the antibiotic laced with cyanide that he said he prepared for her. Mark Pray, who was visiting to help the Craig family because of his sister's mysterious illness, testified that he gave Angela Craig the capsules after being instructed to do so by James Craig, who was not at home. Pray said his sister bent over and couldn't hold herself up after taking the medicine. He and his wife then took her to the hospital.

What do investigators and the defense say?

The lead investigator, Detective Bobbi Olson, testified that James Craig's timeline account differed from statements he had made to others about what had happened, including accusing Angela Craig of setting him up to make it look like he had killed her.

Craig is also charged with trying to hire a fellow jail inmate to kill Olson.

The defense argues that the evidence doesn't show that James Craig poisoned and killed his wife and have seemed to suggest that Angela Craig may have taken her own life. They introduced into evidence Angela Craig's journal in which she talks about the struggles in their marriage in previous years and her husband's infidelity. In one entry she wrote, "He doesn't love me and I don't blame him." The journal ended in 2018 and did not include any mentions of suicide, Olson said.

In opening statements, one of Craig's attorneys, Ashley Whitham, repeatedly described Angela Craig as "broken," partly by Craig's infidelity and her desire to stay married, since they were part of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Deion Sanders says he had bladder cancer but plans to coach the Colorado Buffaloes this season

By PAT GRAHAM AP Sports Writer

BOULDER, Colo. (AP) — Colorado coach Deion Sanders disclosed Monday that he was diagnosed with an aggressive form of bladder cancer but after surgery his oncologist has considered him cured, so he plans to coach this season.

Dr. Janet Kukreja, director of urologic oncology at the CU Cancer Center/UCHealth University of Colorado hospital, said Sanders had his bladder removed as part of the surgical plan.

"It was dynamic. It was tough. It wasn't a cakewalk. It wasn't easy," said Sanders, who arrived to his news conference wearing a cowboy hat and overalls along with sunglasses, which he removed after getting choked up. "That was a fight, but we made it."

Sanders, who turns 58 next month, has drawn headlines for his health, but the focus largely was on two

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toes he's had amputated and concerns over blood clots. He said he's had 14 surgeries since 2021, when he was still the coach at Jackson State, but kept his cancer fight private.

Sanders spoke on the eve of fall camp as he enters his third season overseeing the Buffaloes. He brought his medical team with him to discuss his diagnosis. It was revealed that a section of his intestine was reconstructed to function as a bladder. He won't need radiation or chemotherapy, Kukreja said.

"The 'C' word, when we hear that word there's normally a life sentence attached to it," Sanders said. "But not this time. But not this time."

Sanders said he lost about 25 pounds, leading him to joke, "I was like Atlanta Falcons Prime at one point."

He later added: "I truly depend on Depend, if you know what I mean. I can't control my bladder. ... Let's not be ashamed of it. Let's deal with it head on."

Just Sanders being Sanders — he remained upbeat throughout the entire process, his medical team said.

"He never folded one time and never wavered," team trainer Lauren Askevold said. "You couldn't ask for a better patient because he wants to get up and get going right away. ... It's been a hectic journey. It's been a lot. But there's a blessing in disguise with all of this."

Never once did Sanders waver in his belief that he would return to the sideline.

"I always knew I was going to coach again. It was never in my spirit, in my heart, that God wouldn't allow me to coach again," he said. "I just didn't want to be running down to the hospital once a week when I have all of this on my plate. I don't want that. I was like, 'OK, can they bring one of those machines and put them in the office?'"

Athletic director Rick George echoed Sanders.

"He's so positive, and he said he'd be back," George said. "I had every confidence that he would be."

While he dealt with the cancer diagnosis, Sanders said he had plenty of friends and family check in on him. Among those who reached out was fellow Pro Football Hall of Famer Randy Moss, who took a leave of absence from ESPN in early December after having surgery for his cancer.

"Randy Moss called me every other day to make sure I was straight," Sanders said. "Randy Moss prayed for me — he and his wife. Told me what I needed to be doing."

Sanders repeatedly stressed the importance of early detection. His cancer was discovered when he went for an annual CT scan as a precaution given his history with blood clots.

"We're lucky to have found it at this stage where I could say the word cure," Kukreja said, "because I don't use that word lightly as a cancer doctor."

The charismatic coach missed football camps in Boulder this summer amid reports that he's been ill. He returned to campus last week and announced on social media, "Back and Feeling Great!"

On Sunday, the production crew of "Well Off Media," which chronicles Sanders and the Buffaloes, posted a video on YouTube of the coach's first meeting with the team. Included is a scene dated May 9 in which Sanders said: "I don't know if I'm ready mentally, emotionally. Last night was tough, yesterday was tough, because I had to make a will. That's not easy at all, to think that you may not be here."

Sanders used humor Monday to talk about drafting a will, saying it was a chance to rank his kids. Jokes aside, he added: "You don't want to be a fool and leave and not have your business affairs in order."

Sanders has dealt with other health issues. Several of them have involved his left foot since having two toes amputated in 2021 because of blood clot issues while he was coaching at Jackson State. He missed Colorado's media day in 2023, his inaugural year, after a procedure to remove a blood clot from his right leg and another to straighten toes on his left foot.

In March, Sanders signed a contract extension through the 2029 season.

The Buffaloes kick off the season on Aug. 29 against Georgia Tech at Folsom Field. It will be the first season in quite some time that he hasn't coached one of his sons. Quarterback Shedeur Sanders was drafted by the Cleveland Browns while Shilo, a safety, is in camp with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

Deion Sanders and the Buffaloes went 4-8 in his first season and 9-4 last season, with an appearance in the Alamo Bowl. They have big shoes to fill in replacing Shedeur Sanders and Heisman Trophy winner Travis Hunter.

"I never look down. I'm always looking up and I'm always trying to go get it," Deion Sanders said. "I

want to be the best Prime I can be for everybody. For everybody."

Israel's leader claims no one in Gaza is starving. Data and witnesses disagree

By CARA ANNA Associated Press

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu says no one in Gaza is starving: "There is no policy of starvation in Gaza, and there is no starvation in Gaza. We enable humanitarian aid throughout the duration of the war to enter Gaza – otherwise, there would be no Gazans."

President Donald Trump on Monday said he disagrees with Netanyahu's claim of no starvation in Gaza, noting the images emerging of emaciated people: "Those children look very hungry."

After international pressure, Israel over the weekend announced humanitarian pauses, airdrops and other measures meant to allow more aid to Palestinians in Gaza. But people there say little or nothing has changed on the ground. The U.N. has described it as a one-week scale-up of aid, and Israel has not said how long these latest measures would last.

"This aid, delivered in this way, is an insult to the Palestinian people," said Hasan Al-Zalaan, who was at the site of an airdrop as some fought over the supplies and crushed cans of chickpeas littered the ground.

Israel asserts that Hamas is the reason aid isn't reaching Palestinians in Gaza and accuses its militants of siphoning off aid to support its rule in the territory. The U.N. denies that looting of aid is systematic and that it lessens or ends entirely when enough aid is allowed to enter Gaza.

Here's what we know:

Deaths are increasing

The World Health Organization said Sunday there have been 63 malnutrition-related deaths in Gaza this month, including 24 children under the age of 5 — up from 11 deaths total the previous six months of the year.

Gaza's Health Ministry puts the number even higher, reporting 82 deaths this month of malnutrition-related causes: 24 children and 58 adults. It said Monday that 14 deaths were reported in the past 24 hours. The ministry, which operates under the Hamas government, is headed by medical professionals and is seen by the U.N. as the most reliable source of data on casualties. U.N. agencies also often confirm numbers through other partners on the ground.

The Patient's Friends Hospital, the main emergency center for malnourished kids in northern Gaza, says this month it saw for the first time malnutrition deaths in children who had no preexisting conditions. Some adults who died suffered from such illnesses as diabetes or had heart or kidney ailments made worse by starvation, according to Gaza medical officials.

The WHO also says acute malnutrition in northern Gaza tripled this month, reaching nearly one in five children under 5 years old, and has doubled in central and southern Gaza. The U.N. says Gaza's only four specialized treatment centers for malnutrition are "overwhelmed."

The leading international authority on food crises, the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, has warned of famine for months in Gaza but has not formally declared one, citing the lack of data as Israel restricts access to the territory.

Aid trucks are swarmed by hungry people

The measures announced by Israel late Saturday include 10-hour daily humanitarian pauses in fighting in three heavily populated areas, so that U.N. trucks can more more easily distribute food.

Still, U.N. World Food Program spokesperson Martin Penner said the agency's 55 trucks of aid that entered Gaza on Monday via the crossings of Zikim and Kerem Shalom were looted by starving people before they reached WFP warehouses.

Experts say that airdrops, another measure Israel announced, are insufficient for the immense need in Gaza and dangerous to people on the ground. Israel's military says 48 food packages were dropped Sunday and Monday.

Palestinians say they want a full return to the U.N.-led aid distribution system that was in place through-

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out the war, rather than the Israeli-backed mechanism that began in May. Witnesses and health workers say Israeli forces have killed hundreds by opening fire on Palestinians trying to reach those food distribution hubs or while crowding around entering aid trucks. Israel's military says it has fired warning shots to disperse threats.

The U.N. and partners say that the best way to bring food into Gaza is by truck, and they have called repeatedly for Israel to loosen restrictions on their entry. A truck carries roughly 19 tons of supplies.

Israel's military says that as of July 21, 95,435 trucks of aid have entered Gaza since the war began. That's an average of 146 trucks per day, and far below the 500 to 600 trucks per day that the U.N. says are needed.

The rate has sometimes been as low as half of that for several months at a time. Nothing went in for 2 1/2 months starting in March because Israel imposed a complete blockade on food, fuel and other supplies entering Gaza.

Delivering aid is difficult and slow

The U.N. says that delivering the aid that is allowed into Gaza has become increasingly difficult.

When aid enters, it is left just inside the border in Gaza, and the U.N. must get Israeli military permission to send trucks to pick it up. But the U.N. says the military has denied or impeded just over half the movement requests for its trucks in the past three months.

If the U.N. succeeds in picking up the aid, hungry crowds and armed gangs swarm the convoys and strip them of supplies. The Hamas-run civilian police once provided security along some routes, but that stopped after Israel targeted them with airstrikes.

Attorneys: 'Alligator Alcatraz' detainees held without charges, barred from legal access

By MIKE SCHNEIDER Associated Press

Civil rights lawyers seeking a temporary restraining order against an immigration detention center in the Florida Everglades say that "Alligator Alcatraz" detainees have been barred from meeting attorneys, are being held without any charges and that a federal immigration court has canceled bond hearings.

The immigration attorneys argued Monday during a virtual hearing that the detainees' constitutional rights were being violated and that 100 detainees already had been deported from "Alligator Alcatraz."

Lawyers who have shown up for bond hearings for "Alligator Alcatraz" detainees have been told that the immigration court doesn't have jurisdiction over their clients, and the civil rights attorneys demanded that federal and state officials identify an immigration court that has jurisdiction over the detainees so it can start accepting petitions for bond.

"This is an emergency situation," Eunice Cho, an attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union Foundation, said during the hearing in federal court in Miami. "Officers at 'Alligator Alcatraz' are going around trying to force people to sign deportation orders without the ability to speak to counsel."

But Nicholas Meros, an attorney representing Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, said the situation had evolved since the civil rights groups' lawsuit was filed July 16. Videoconference rooms had been set up so detainees can talk to attorneys, and in-person meetings between detainees and attorneys had started.

"There have been a number of facts that have changed," Meros said during Monday's hearing.

U.S. District Judge Rodolfo Ruiz, an appointee of President Donald Trump, didn't make an immediate ruling. He asked the civil rights attorneys to refile their complaint to consolidate their pleadings as a request for a preliminary injunction, and he set a briefing schedule that will end with an in-person court hearing on Aug. 18.

The judge warned that his role was to provide relief to any proven constitutional violations and said that "attempts to transform the court into the warden of 'Alligator Alcatraz' is not going to happen here." The judge also allowed the civil rights groups to argue for the release of any agreements between the federal and state governments showing who has authority over the detention center, a murky issue since

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it opened a month ago.

Knowing more about any agreements “would be good for all sides since the court may be walking into a bit of a black hole about the interplay between the federal and state authorities and certainly jurisdictional concerns,” Ruiz said. “And that’s part of the problem — who is doing what in this facility?”

The lawsuit is the second one challenging “Alligator Alcatraz.” Environmental groups last month sued federal and state officials asking that the project built on an airstrip in the heart of the Florida Everglades be halted because the process didn’t follow state and federal environmental laws.

Attorneys for the state of Florida and federal government have argued in both cases that the federal court’s southern district in Florida was the wrong venue since the airstrip is located in neighboring Collier County, which is a part of the middle district, even though the property is owned by Miami-Dade County. They also argued that decision-making took place in Tallahassee, which is in the northern district. A hearing over whether the southern district venue is proper in the environmental case is set for Wednesday.

“All the activities that plaintiffs allege harm their interests — construction, paving, detention — occurred in the Middle District, not in the Southern District. And all the relevant decision-making occurred in either the Middle District or the Northern District of Florida,” U.S. Department of Justice attorneys said Friday in a court filing for the environmental lawsuit.

Critics have condemned the facility as a cruel and inhumane threat to detainees, while DeSantis and other Republican state officials have defended it as part of the state’s aggressive push to support President Donald Trump’s crackdown on illegal immigration.

U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem has praised Florida for coming forward with the idea, as the department looks to significantly expand its immigration detention capacity.

At a news conference in Panama City Beach on Monday, DeSantis said he hoped the pace of deportations picked up at the facility.

“The reality is, if you don’t support sending somebody back to their own country who came in illegally and has already been ordered that they’re violating the law and ordered to be removed, if you don’t support that, then you are for an open border,” DeSantis said. “I reject that. That is not how a country can operate.”

Reaction to the European Union’s trade agreement with the Trump administration

By DAVID McHUGH, THOMAS ADAMSON, JUSTIN SPIKE and NICOLE WINFIELD Associated Press
FRANKFURT, Germany (AP) — The European Union’s trade agreement with the Trump administration is getting mixed reviews. EU officials say they warded off a total economic disaster. But French officials in particular say the EU punched below its weight while economists say the deal is dangerously vague.

The deal leaves Europe with a 15% tariff on most goods imported into the U.S., with some goods categories tariff-free, but no agreement on rates for key areas such as pharmaceuticals and steel.

Here is what they’re saying:

European Commission

Failing to reach a deal by the Aug. 1 deadline would have meant a 30% tariff threatened by U.S. President Donald Trump, EU chief trade negotiator Maroš Šefčovič said.

The main aim of European officials was a negotiated agreement, rather than a tit-for-tat escalation that could have included retaliatory EU tariffs on 93 billion euros (\$108 billion) worth of goods, including U.S. agricultural products, steel and chemicals.

“A trade war may seem appealing to some, but it comes with serious consequences, with at least a 30% tariff,” Šefčovič said. “Our trans-Atlantic trade would effectively come to a halt, putting close to 5 million jobs, including those in SMEs (small- and medium-sized enterprises) in Europe, at grave risk.

“Our businesses have sent us a unanimous message: avoid escalation and work towards a solution that delivers immediate relief,” he said.

France: ‘A dark day’

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Major exports to the U.S.: Aircraft, pharmaceuticals, luxury perfumes and leather goods, wine and spirits. Senior French officials on Monday criticized the accord, with Foreign Trade Minister Laurent Saint-Martin urging a European response in the services sector, and Strategy Commissioner Clément Beaune warning it underplayed the 27-nation bloc's economic strength.

"The good news is that there is an agreement — our companies now have visibility and stability in the trans-Atlantic trade relationship," Saint-Martin said on France Inter radio. "But this agreement is not balanced, and we will need to keep working."

He pointed to digital services as a key front in the trade imbalance. "Donald Trump spent months saying he wanted to rebalance a trade relationship that disadvantages the United States, but he was only talking about goods. If we look at services, it's the opposite. So it's up to us now to carry out the work of force and rebalancing," he said.

"The United States decided to use force to impose a new law of the jungle that no longer respects the rules of international trade that we had for decades," Saint-Martin said.

Beaune, France's high commissioner for strategy and planning, said on franceinfo radio that "this is an unequal and unbalanced agreement." He warned that "Europe did not wield its strength. We are the world's leading trading power."

"When you look at it, the glass is a quarter full and three-quarters empty," Beaune said.

Prime Minister François Bayrou was even more scathing, posting on X: "It is a dark day when an alliance of free peoples, united to uphold their values and defend their interests, resigns itself to submission."

Germany: 'Avoided unnecessary escalation'

Major exports to the U.S.: Motor vehicles, pharmaceuticals and industrial machinery.

German Chancellor Friedrich Merz said that the deal would give companies a more predictable environment to plan and invest — a key EU goal after weeks of back-and-forth threats in tense talks with Trump administration officials.

"It is good that Europe and the USA have agreed and thus avoided an unnecessary escalation in trans-Atlantic trade relations," he said. "We have been able to preserve our core interests, even if I would have very much wished for further relief in trans-Atlantic trade."

Asked about negative reactions to the deal from German business, Merz countered that it was met with relief by some companies and sectors.

However, "it is completely clear to me that the tariffs that now remain — in particular the 15% against 0% for imports to the European Union — constitute a significant burden for the export-oriented economy of the Federal Republic of Germany," Merz said, noting that he had said repeatedly before the agreement that "there will be an asymmetric deal, if there is one at all."

Italy: 'Positive outcome'

Major exports to the U.S.: Industrial machinery, cars and agricultural products.

Italian Premier Giorgia Meloni, who has positioned herself as a "bridge" between the Trump administration and Europe, welcomed news of the tariff agreement as a "positive" outcome that avoided an "unpredictable and potentially devastating" trade war.

But in comments to reporters on the sidelines of a U.N. food security conference in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, she said that details still needed to be worked out and that she's still unclear what exemptions are carved out for particular industries.

"I always thought, I continue to think that a trade escalation between Europe and the United States would have unpredictable, potentially devastating consequences," she said.

Meloni said that she needed to understand what the exemptions might be, including on agricultural products, which are of concern to Italy, given its wine exports in particular.

"So there are a number of elements that are missing as well, as I don't know exactly what we are referring to when we talk about investments, gas purchases."

She noted that the deal in its current form is legally nonbinding in principle, "so there is still, let's say, room to fight."

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Hungary: Trump 'ate EU for breakfast'

Major exports to the U.S.: Packaged medicines and batteries.

Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán, an ally of Trump who has gained a following within the MAGA movement, blasted the agreement on Monday as a failure on the part of Europe's leadership.

"Even at first glance, it is obvious to me that this is not an agreement," Orbán said in a video discussion with his party's spokesman. "Donald Trump ate (European Commission President) Ursula von der Leyen for breakfast, that's what happened."

Orbán, a frequent EU critic, has been careful not to criticize Trump's administration for its trade policy, instead faulting the bloc for being unable to conclude a comprehensive tariff agreement with Washington.

Orbán said that a U.S.-U.K. trade deal, which imposed a blanket 10% tariff on British exports, was more favorable than the one concluded with the EU.

"The American president is a heavyweight negotiator, and (von der Leyen) is a featherweight," Orbán said. "The European agreement is worse than the British one, so portraying it as a success will be difficult."

Economists: Less growth, many blank spots

Jon Harrison at TS Lombard: "It is no surprise to find that trade deals agreed under duress in weeks rather than the usual years of careful negotiation leave a mass of detail incomplete and open to interpretation."

Jack Allen-Reynolds, deputy chief eurozone economist at Capital Economics: "We think this will reduce EU GDP (gross domestic product) by about 0.5%, which is worse than we had previously assumed."

"While the deal has avoided a much worse outcome for now, it remains to be seen whether it will last."

Julian Hinz, trade expert at the Kiel Institute for the World Economy: "The deal agreed yesterday is not a good deal — it is appeasement."

"While the EU may avert a trade war in the short term, it is paying a high price in the long term by abandoning the principles of the multilateral, rules-based world trade system of the World Trade Organization."

Trump talks Gaza, Ukraine and his golf course, in meeting with UK's prime minister

By WILL WEISSERT Associated Press

EDINBURGH, Scotland (AP) — President Donald Trump on Monday used his luxury golf course on Scotland's coast to host British Prime Minister Keir Starmer, mixing critical discussions on the deepening food crisis in Gaza, Russia's war in Ukraine and tariff rates with boasts about the property's opulence.

The two increasingly close leaders seemed relaxed and happy together, with Trump often treating the sit-down as if he were back in the Oval Office, while also not missing the chance to talk up his Turnberry course — which enriches his family business.

When the prime minister and his wife, Victoria, arrived at Trump Turnberry, the Republican president spent several minutes chatting with them and proudly pointing out key sites around the property.

Starmer came determined to press the U.S. to take a larger role in helping quell what he called a "desperate situation" amid increasing reports of starvation in Gaza as the Israel-Hamas war rages.

Trump at first was focused on complaining about the U.S. not having gotten enough credit for previously providing food aid. But he shifted his tone when reporters questioned him about images of emaciated children from Gaza.

Asked if he agreed with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's remarks about concerns of mass starvation in Gaza being overstated, he replied, "I don't know. I mean, based on television, I would say not particularly because those children look very hungry."

Starmer immediately was far more forceful: "I think people in Britain are revolted at seeing what they are seeing on their screens."

The president later shifted his tone dramatically and suggested a major recalibration of U.S. policy toward the territory, suggesting that Israel "has a lot of responsibility" for what's happening.

"I think Israel can do a lot," Trump said. He added that when next speaking to Netanyahu, he'd insist, "I want them to make sure they get the food," noting that the U.S. and others are giving money and food

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to Gaza and that Netanyahu has "got to, sort of, like, run it."

"I want him to make sure they get the food," Trump said.

Trump has two Scottish golf courses and is opening a third

After their meeting, Starmer flew with Trump aboard Air Force One to outside Aberdeen, where the president's family has a second golf course and is holding a ribbon-cutting for a third one on Tuesday. Trump will be its first official player, though the new course opens to the public on Aug. 13 and could see a boost in sales because of the president's promoting it.

Demonstrators protested in Balmedie, a village close to the golf course. One of them, Jean Abbot, a 67-year-old retired legal professional, accused Trump of being in "the process of dismantling Western civilization."

"He is trashing what two generations of our people have fought wars to preserve, namely democracy and freedom and the rule of law," Abbott said.

That followed protests across Scotland on Saturday decrying the president's visit as he was out golfing.

So much attention on his golf courses allows Trump to try to make good on a post from his first term in 2019, when he wrote of Turnberry, "Very proud of perhaps the greatest golf course anywhere in the world. Also, furthers U.K. relationship!"

Starmer is famously not a golfer but willingly played along with the outsized influence the president puts on properties bearing his name — and on golf's ability to shape geopolitics.

The president talked at length Monday about how he spent money lavishly to upgrade the historic Turnberry course after he bought it in 2014, declaring, "If you take a look at the windows in the various dining rooms, they're magnificent."

Starmer said he was excited to "see this amazing golf course" while promising Trump, "I'll invite you to a football ground at some stage."

Ukraine also discussed

Britain, along with France and Germany, has criticized Israel for "withholding essential humanitarian assistance" in Gaza as hunger spreads. Over the weekend, Starmer said Britain will take part in efforts led by Jordan to airdrop aid into Gaza after Israel temporarily eased restrictions.

Starmer also is under pressure from his Labour Party lawmakers to follow France in recognizing a Palestinian state, a move Israel and the U.S. have previously condemned.

But Trump said Monday of the prime minister potentially doing so, "I don't mind him taking a position." Starmer has said the U.K. supports statehood for the Palestinians but it must be "part of a wider plan" for a two-state solution to the Israel-Palestinian conflict.

Trump and Starmer also talked about a possible peace deal to end fighting in Russia's war with Ukraine, particularly trying to force Russian President Vladimir Putin to the negotiating table within a 50-day window Trump set earlier this month.

The president said he wants to announce a new window to halt the fighting for just 10 or 12 days, saying there is "no reason in waiting."

Like being back at the White House

As the leaders took more than an hour of reporters' questions, their sit-down at times played out like Trump's meetings with foreign leaders in the Oval Office. There, he fields multiple questions while his guest mostly sits quietly — even though this meeting took place in Starmer's U.K.

Trump batted away persistent inquiries about the Jeffrey Epstein case and recapped his push for the Federal Reserve to lower interest rates. He also repeated his longstanding grudge against wind farms — which he sued unsuccessfully to get removed from near his golf course in the Aberdeen area.

At another point, Trump criticized London Mayor Sadiq Khan by saying "he's done a terrible job" and he's a "nasty person."

Starmer jumped in with a chuckle: "He's a friend of mine, actually."

As they have in the past, the two men also went out of their way to praise one another. Starmer gushed, "Because we focus on what's important for our two countries, we get along very well."

They also talked about refining a bilateral trade agreement they announced last month, though there are still sticking points around steel imports.

The meeting followed Trump sitting down after golfing on Sunday with European Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen. They announced a trade framework that will put 15% tariffs on most goods from both countries, though many major details remain pending.

The leader of Scotland, meanwhile, has urged Trump to lift the current 10% tariff on Scotch whisky. First Minister John Swinney said the spirit's "uniqueness" justified an exemption.

Trump was noncommittal, though, smiling as he said, "I'm not a big whiskey drinker. But maybe I should be when I'm over here."

Trump says he wants Netanyahu to 'make sure they get the food' in Gaza amid humanitarian crisis

By MICHELLE L. PRICE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump on Monday expressed concern over the worsening humanitarian situation in Gaza and urged Israel to get people food, seemingly recalibrating his stance on Gaza as images of emaciated children have sparked renewed worries about hunger in the war-torn territory.

Trump, speaking in Scotland on Monday, said that the U.S. and other nations are giving money and food to Gaza but that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has "got to sort of like run it."

"I want him to make sure they get the food," Trump said. "I want to make sure they get the food."

Trump's comments seemed to result from the images in recent days of the worsening hunger crisis in Gaza and were more urgent than the resigned message he had about the 21-month Israel-Hamas war last week, when ceasefire talks derailed. His remarks Monday also marked a new divergence from Netanyahu after the two leaders had become closer following their nations' joint strikes in Iran.

The U.S. president was asked if he agreed with Netanyahu's comments on Sunday in which the Israeli leader said, "There is no policy of starvation in Gaza and there is no starvation in Gaza."

"I don't know," Trump replied Monday. "I mean, based on television, I would say not particularly because those children look very hungry."

Trump says US will set up food centers in Gaza

In the face of mounting international criticism, the Israeli military over the weekend began airdrops of aid, along with limited pauses in fighting in three populated areas of Gaza for 10 hours a day to help with the distribution.

Trump on Friday had expressed some resignation about the situation in Gaza after the U.S. and Israel pulled their negotiating teams out of talks in Qatar to try to reach a ceasefire. Trump said last week that Hamas was likely "going to be hunted down" and said of Israel, "They're going to have to fight and they're going to have to clean it up."

But Trump seemed more inclined to action on Monday after reports of starvation-related deaths and images of people, especially young children and infants, struggling to get food continued to emerge over the weekend, drew international outcry.

The U.S. president, speaking as he visited with British Prime Minister Keir Starmer at his Trump's Turnberry golf course, said that the U.S. was "going to set up food centers," but he didn't offer specifics.

The White House did not immediately have more information about the food centers.

International outcry grows louder

While Trump urged Netanyahu to do more to deliver aid, the U.S. leader faced similar pleas.

Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sissi said in a televised address on Monday that Trump is "the one who is able to stop the war, deliver the aid and end this suffering."

"Please, make every effort to stop this war and deliver the aid," el-Sissi said, addressing Trump in his remarks "I believe that it's time to end this war."

Trump said Hamas has stolen food and aid trying to reach people in Gaza, but when asked by a reporter about what responsibility Israel has for limiting aid to the area, he said, "Israel has a lot of responsibility."

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But he quickly said Israel was also hampered in its actions as it seeks to keep the remaining 20 hostages kept in Gaza alive.

When asked by what more can Israel do, Trump said, "I think Israel can do a lot." But he didn't offer more details and changed the subject to Iran.

"We have to help on a humanitarian basis before we do anything. We have to get the kids fed."

Starmer was more adamant than Trump, calling it "a desperate situation" in Gaza.

"I think people in Britain are revolted at seeing what they are seeing on their screens," he said.

Vice President JD Vance echoed Trump's comments as he spoke Monday in Canton, Ohio and said the U.S. was worried about the humanitarian problem in Gaza and seeing "a lot of starving children."

"Israel's got to do more to let that aid in and we've also got to wage war on Hamas so that those folks stop preventing food from coming into this territory," he said.

US and UK leaders discuss Gaza as UN discusses Israel-Palestinian two-state solution

Starmer, who faces pressure from his Labour Party to recognize a Palestinian state as France did last week, said the U.K. supports statehood for the Palestinians but it must be part of a plan for a two-state solution.

Trump said last week that France's recognition of a Palestinian state "doesn't carry any weight."

"I'm not going to take a position," Trump said Monday of recognizing a Palestinian state. He added of Starmer, "I don't mind him taking a position."

The comments came as the U.N. General Assembly on Monday brought together high-level officials to promote a two-state solution to the decades-old Israel-Palestinian conflict.

Israel and the U.S. are boycotting the two-day meeting.

US-China tariff talks may provide clues on a possible Trump-Xi meeting

By JAMEY KEATEN Associated Press

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Top trade officials from China and the United States launched a new round of talks on Monday in a bid to ease tensions over tariffs between the world's two biggest national economies.

U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent and Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng were meeting at the offices of Sweden's prime minister for two days of talks, which Bessent has said will likely lead to an extension of current tariff levels.

But other possible outcomes will be scrutinized by markets and businesses for signs of a rapprochement, after brinkmanship earlier this year.

Analysts say the talks could set the stage for a possible meeting between U.S. President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping later this year.

Other issues on the agenda include access of American businesses to the Chinese market; Chinese investment in the U.S.; components of fentanyl made in China that reach U.S. consumers; Chinese purchases of Russian and Iranian oil; and American steps to limit exports of Western technology — like chips that help power artificial intelligence systems.

The talks ended for the day after nearly five hours on Monday, and were set to reconvene on Tuesday morning.

'Large and confident partner'

Wendy Cutler, a former U.S. trade negotiator and now vice president at the Asia Society Policy Institute, said that Trump's team would face challenges from "a large and confident partner that is more than willing to retaliate against U.S. interests."

Rollover of tariff rates "should be the easy part," she said, warning that Beijing has learned lessons since the first Trump administration and "will not buy into a one-sided deal this time around."

"Beijing is more prepared and will insist on movement on U.S. tech export controls at a minimum — a difficult ask for Washington," she said, adding that many conversations will take place in the lead-up to any Xi-Trump summit.

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"Success is far from guaranteed," Cutler said. "There are numerous trip wires that can throw a wrench in this preparatory process."

The U.S.-China trade talks are the third this year, nearly four months after Trump upended global trade with his sweeping tariff proposals, including an import tax that shot up to 145% on Chinese goods. China retaliated with tariffs reaching 125% against U.S. goods, sending global financial markets into a temporary tailspin.

Extending a 90-day pause

The Stockholm meeting, following similar talks in Geneva and London, is set to extend a 90-day pause on those tariffs. During the hiatus, U.S. tariffs have been lowered to 30% on Chinese goods, and China set a 10% tariff on U.S. products.

The Trump administration, which just completed a deal on tariffs with the European Union, wants to reduce a trade deficit of \$904 billion overall last year, including a nearly \$300 billion trade deficit with China.

China's Commerce Ministry said last week that the "consultations" would raise shared concerns through the principles of "mutual respect, peaceful coexistence and win-win cooperation."

The talks with Beijing are part of a flurry of U.S. trade negotiations set off by Trump's arm-twisting "Liberation Day" tariffs against dozens of countries. Since then, some talks have borne fruit in reaching deals. Others have not.

Without an extension by Aug. 12, the tit-for-tat U.S.-China tariffs could snap back to the triple-digit levels seen before the 90-day pause reached in Geneva. Many other countries — including some developing ones that depend on exports to the U.S. — face a deadline of Friday, as the Trump administration has said that letters will go out beforehand with set rates.

Critics say Trump's tariffs penalize Americans by forcing U.S. importers to shoulder the costs or pass them on to consumers through higher prices.

Suggestion of stability

On Friday, Trump told reporters that "we have the confines of a deal with China" — just two days after Bessent told MSNBC that a "status quo" had been reached between the two sides.

While the Chinese side has offered little guidance about the specifics of its aims in Stockholm, Bessent has suggested that the situation has stabilized to the point that China and the U.S. can start looking toward longer-term balance between their economies.

For years, since China vaulted into the global trading system about two decades ago, the United States has sought to press leaders in Beijing to encourage more consumption in China and wrest greater market access to foreign-made — including American — goods.

Other sticking points in the relationship include overcapacity in China — by far the world's largest manufacturer — and concerns about whether Beijing is doing enough to control chemicals used to make fentanyl, analysts say.

In Stockholm, the Chinese will likely demand the removal of a 20% fentanyl-related tariff that Trump imposed earlier this year, said Sun Yun, director of the China program at the Washington-based Stimson Center.

Looking long-term

Experts say long-term progress in the U.S.-China trade relationship will hinge on structural changes.

Those include increased manufacturing in the United States, which is part of Trump's ambition. On the Chinese side, that could involve a reduction of excess Chinese production in many industries, including electric vehicles and steel, and increased Chinese consumer spending to ease imbalances in China's export-driven economy.

Sean Stein, president of the U.S.-China Business Council, said the talks in Stockholm offer an opportunity for the two governments to address structural reform issues. Businesses will watch for clues about a possible Trump-Xi summit, because any real deal will depend on a meeting between the pair, he said.

A deal is possible because "a lot of the things that the U.S. wants, the Chinese want as well," Stein said.

China, for example, is interested in buying U.S. soybeans, and aircraft and parts, and Chinese businesses

are interested in investing in U.S. manufacturing — which would help meet Trump's goal of reindustrialization.

Bessent has also said the Stockholm talks could address Chinese purchases of Russian and Iranian oil.

To stay sharper while aging, get active, challenge your brain, and eat healthy

By LAURAN NEERGAARD AP Medical Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — It's official: Older Americans worried about cognitive decline can stay sharper for longer by exercising both their bodies and their brains and eating healthier.

That's according to initial results released Monday from a rigorous U.S. study of lifestyle changes in seniors at risk of developing dementia. People following a combination of healthier habits slowed typical age-related cognitive decline — achieving scores on brain tests as if they were a year or two younger, researchers reported in JAMA and at the Alzheimer's Association International Conference.

It's not too late to get started -- study participants were in their 60s and 70s -- and it doesn't require becoming a pickleball champ or swearing off ice cream.

"It was the first time I felt like I was doing something proactive to protect my brain," said Phyllis Jones, 66, of Aurora, Illinois, who joined the study after caring for her mother with dementia and struggling with her own health problems.

It's too soon to know if stalling age-related decline also could reduce the risk of later Alzheimer's or other forms of dementia. But Jones and other study participants underwent brain scans and blood tests that researchers now are analyzing for clues — such as whether people also saw a reduction in Alzheimer's-related protein buildup.

"We're all on a cognitive aging clock and anything we can do to slow that clock down, to me, that is a significant benefit," said Laura Baker of Wake Forest University School of Medicine, who led the study.

What's good for the heart is good for the brain

Doctors have long encouraged physical activity and a healthy diet for brain fitness. Those steps fight high blood pressure and cholesterol, heart disease and diabetes, factors that increase the risk of dementia.

But until now the strongest evidence that specific lifestyle changes later in life could improve how people perform on brain tests came from a study in Finland.

Would it work for a more sedentary and culturally diverse U.S. population? With funding from the Alzheimer's Association and the National Institute on Aging, Baker's team tested the strategy for two years in 2,100 adults ages 60 to 79.

Here's what study participants had to do

Half of participants were randomly assigned to group classes for exercise and dietary changes plus brain-challenging homework — with peer support and coaches tracking their progress.

They did a half-hour of moderately intense exercise four times a week -- plus twice a week, they added 10 to 15 minutes of stretching and 15 to 20 minutes of resistance training.

They followed the "MIND diet" that stresses lots of leafy greens and berries plus whole grains, poultry and fish. Nothing is banned but it urges limiting red meat, fried or "fast food" and sweets, and substituting olive oil for butter and margarine.

They also had to meet someone or try something new weekly and do brain "exercises" using an online program called Brain HQ.

Other study participants, the control group, received brain-healthy advice and minimal coaching — they chose what steps to follow.

Both improved but the groups fared significantly better.

Combining social engagement with exercise and dietary steps may be key, said Jessica Langbaum of the Banner Alzheimer's Institute, who wasn't involved with the study.

"Americans want to have that one easy thing — 'If I just eat my blueberries,'" Langbaum said. "There is no one magic bullet. It is a whole lifestyle."

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How to exercise your body and mind on your own

Moderately intense physical activity means raising your heart rate and panting a bit yet still able to talk, said Wake Forest's Baker. Pick something safe for your physical capability and start slowly, just 10 minutes at a time until you can handle more, she cautioned.

Make it something you enjoy so you stick with it.

Likewise there are many options for brain exercise, Baker said – puzzles, joining a book club, learning an instrument or a new language.

Jones, a software engineer-turned-tester, learned she loves blueberry-spinach smoothies. Her favorite exercise uses an at-home virtual reality program that lets her work up a sweat while appearing to be in another country and communicating with other online users.

One challenge: How to keep up the good work

Researchers will track study participants' health for four more years and the Alzheimer's Association is preparing to translate the findings into local community programs.

Will people with stick with their new habits?

Jones lost 30 pounds, saw her heart health improve and feels sharper especially when multitasking. But she hadn't realized her diet slipped when study coaching ended until a checkup spotted rising blood sugar. Now she and an 81-year-old friend from the study are helping keep each other on track.

The lifestyle change "did not just affect me physically, it also affected me mentally and emotionally. It brought me to a much better place," Jones said.

Judge blocks Trump administration's efforts to defund Planned Parenthood

By KIMBERLEE KRUESI Associated Press

A federal judge on Monday ruled Planned Parenthood clinics nationwide must continue to be reimbursed for Medicaid funding as the nation's largest abortion provider fights President Donald Trump's administration over efforts to defund the organization in his signature tax legislation.

The new order replaces a previous edict handed down by U.S. District Judge Indira Talwani in Boston last week. Talwani initially granted a preliminary injunction specifically blocking the government from cutting Medicaid payments to Planned Parenthood members that didn't provide abortion care or didn't meet a threshold of at least \$800,000 in Medicaid reimbursements in a given year.

"Patients are likely to suffer adverse health consequences where care is disrupted or unavailable," Talwani wrote in her Monday order. "In particular, restricting Members' ability to provide healthcare services threatens an increase in unintended pregnancies and attendant complications because of reduced access to effective contraceptives, and an increase in undiagnosed and untreated STIs."

A provision in Trump's tax bill instructed the federal government to end Medicaid payments for one year to abortion providers that received more than \$800,000 from Medicaid in 2023, even to those like Planned Parenthood that also offer medical services like contraception, pregnancy tests and STD testing.

Although Planned Parenthood is not specifically named in the statute, which went into effect July 4, the organization's leaders say it was meant to affect their nearly 600 centers in 48 states. However, a major medical provider in Maine and likely others have also been hit.

In her Monday order, Talwani said that the court was "not enjoining the federal government from regulating abortion and is not directing the federal government to fund elective abortions or any healthcare service not otherwise eligible for Medicaid coverage." Instead, Talwani said that her decision would block the federal government from excluding groups like Planned Parenthood from Medicaid reimbursements when they have demonstrated a substantial likelihood of success in their legal challenge.

In its lawsuit, Planned Parenthood had argued that they would be at risk of closing nearly 200 clinics in 24 states if they are cut off from Medicaid funds. They estimated this would result in more than 1 million patients losing care.

"We're suing the Trump administration over this targeted attack on Planned Parenthood health centers

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and the patients who rely on them for care,” said Planned Parenthood’s president and CEO Alexis McGill Johnson in a statement on Monday. “This case is about making sure that patients who use Medicaid as their insurance to get birth control, cancer screenings, and STI testing and treatment can continue to do so at their local Planned Parenthood health center, and we will make that clear in court.”

The lawsuit was filed earlier this month against Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. by Planned Parenthood Federation of America and its member organizations in Massachusetts and Utah.

A health department spokesperson reiterated Monday that the agency strongly disagreed with the judge’s order, repeating previous arguments that her decision “undermines state flexibility and disregards longstanding concerns about accountability.”

“States should not be forced to fund organizations that have chosen political advocacy over patient care,” said the department’s communication director, Andrew Nixon, in an email.

Medicaid is a government health care program that serves millions of low-income and disabled Americans. Nearly half of Planned Parenthood’s patients rely on Medicaid.

Police say 3 killed, 10 injured in the Turks and Caicos Islands’ first mass shooting

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — Three young men were killed and 10 others injured at a popular night-spot in the Turks and Caicos Islands in what authorities called the British territory’s first mass shooting in recent history.

At least four suspects were involved in the shooting early Sunday on the island of Providenciales, but no one has been arrested, according to Police Commissioner Fitz Bailey, who called it “deeply disturbing.”

“We are now having a gangland-type slaying, and a lot of this gang violence seems to be concentrated in our Haitian communities,” Premier Charles Washington Misick told a press conference.

He called on the Haitian community to cooperate with police, saying some of them know how guns are being smuggled into the Turks and Caicos Islands.

“What is happening here is unlike anything we’ve ever seen before,” he said. “This is not a situation we should accept.”

The shooting comes as the archipelago cracks down on illegal immigration.

An estimated 10,900 Haitians live in the Turks and Caicos Islands, representing a third of the territory’s population. Around 80% of Haitians live in Providenciales, and 20% have permanent residency, according to the United Nations humanitarian affairs office.

Acting Gov. Anya Williams said the hospital in Providenciales was on lockdown to protect those being treated for their injuries. She said at least two of those injured were flown overseas for further treatment.

Gunman with a grudge kills 5 and wounds 2 at a Bangkok market before killing himself, police say

BANGKOK (AP) — A gunman shot and killed five people at a popular fresh food market in the Thai capital on Monday before killing himself, police said, attributing the shooting to a personal grudge.

The victims included four security guards at the Or Tor Kor market in northern Bangkok, according to a police statement. It said a vendor there was also killed, and that two others were wounded.

The market is next to the sprawling Chatuchak weekend market, which is popular with Thai and foreign tourists.

A statement by Bangkok’s Metropolitan Police Commissioner issued several hours after the shooting said the gunman’s wife told them that he had held a grudge against the security guards related to his car being scratched in 2019 or 2020. The wife has a food stall at the market, the statement said.

“Mr. Noi is a person who loves and is very protective of his car, and is also a violent person,” said the statement, identifying the suspect only by a nickname.

It said the shooter walked away after the shooting and shot himself with a handgun on a bench. He had

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been wearing a black T-shirt, military-pattern shorts, a baseball cap and a backpack.

The statement stressed that the incident involved a personal conflict and was not linked it to the border fighting with neighboring Cambodia, as had been rumored on social media.

Gun violence is not unusual in Thailand, which has fairly restrictive laws but also a high level of gun ownership.

The last mass shooting in Bangkok was in October 2023 when a teenage boy shot more than half a dozen people at the Paragon shopping mall with modified blank pistol in the city's main shopping district, killing three people.

One of the country's worst mass killings occurred in October 2022 in the northeastern province of Nong Bua Lamphu, when a police sergeant who had lost his job used guns and knives to kill 36 people, including two dozen toddlers at a day care center.

In February 2020, a disgruntled Thai army soldier shot and killed 29 people, most at a shopping mall in the northeastern city of Nakhon Ratchasima, before he was killed by police after an 18-hour standoff.

An attack on a Congolese church killed nearly 40 worshippers. Here's what to know

By OPE ADETAYO Associated Press

LAGOS, Nigeria (AP) — Nearly 40 people were killed Sunday in eastern Congo's Ituri province when rebels stormed a Catholic church during a vigil and opened fire on worshippers, including many women and children.

At least 38 people were confirmed dead in the church while another five were killed in a nearby village. The victims included 19 men, 15 women and nine children.

The attacks in Komanda town in the conflict-battered region were carried out by the Allied Democratic Force, a rebel group backed by the Islamic State that has mostly targeted villagers in eastern Congo and across the border in Uganda, the Congolese army said.

The ADF arose from tensions in neighboring Uganda

The ADF has roots in Uganda in the 1990s. Following the overthrow of long-term dictator, Idi Amin, a coalition of various discontent groups saw the new government of Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni as anti-Muslim.

Since then, the group has grown into a potent force but has been pushed out of Uganda's territories and now operates in the borderlands between Uganda and Congo, often targeting civilians in remote villages.

ADF leaders pledged allegiance in 2019 to the Islamic State and have sought to establish an Islamic caliphate in Uganda.

Rebels complicate conflicts in eastern Congo

Eastern Congo has been beleaguered by protracted conflicts for decades, dating back to the Rwanda genocide in 1994.

The conflicts have involved more than a hundred armed groups, according to the United Nations. The Rwanda-backed M23 armed group is the most prominent and launched a blitz of attacks in January in a major escalation culminating in its capture of two key cities in the region.

The Congolese and Ugandan armies have targeted the ADF in a joint military effort but analysts say it has done little, even as the rebels attack civilians.

"These joint operations have only succeeded in dispersing the ADF without really protecting civilians from their wrathful reprisals," said Onesphore Sematumba, the Congo analyst at the International Crisis Group.

This presents complex headaches for the overstretched Congolese army, which is occupied with advances by M23 and other rebel groups in the mineral-rich region.

"The ADF is taking more or less the advantage of the Congolese army's and international diplomacy's focus on the M23 further south without attracting too much attention," Sematumba said.

Attack targeted worshippers at midnight

The church attack Sunday was the latest in a series of deadly ADF assaults on civilians, including earlier

this month when the group killed 66 people in Ituri province.

The attack happened July 11 around 1 a.m. during a vigil at a Catholic church in Komanda, civil society leaders and survivors. It followed an attack a few hours earlier in the nearby village of Machongani, where five people were killed and houses razed. The attackers were believed to have come from a stronghold about 12 kilometers (7 miles) from Komanda and fled before security forces arrived.

Attack expected to worsen situation

The attack Sunday has sent shock waves around the Central African country, which is currently embroiled in numerous conflicts.

The Congolese government condemned it as "horrific" while the military described it as a "large-scale massacre" carried out in revenge for recent security operations targeting the ADF. However, M23 used the attack to accuse the government of "blatant incompetence" in attempts to protect citizens.

The United Nations peacekeeping mission in the country, MONUSCO, said the church killings will "exacerbate an already extremely worrying humanitarian situation in the province."

All 3 people aboard a small plane that crashed in the ocean off California died, officials say

MONTEREY, Calif. (AP) — All three people aboard a small twin-engine plane that crashed into the Pacific Ocean off California's central coast perished, law enforcement officials said.

The Monterey County Sheriff's Office confirmed late Sunday that the three occupants of the plane that went down about 300 yards (275 meters) off Point Pinos were dead. Officials didn't say what led to the Saturday crash.

Witnesses said they heard an aircraft engine revving and then a splash in the water, KSBW-TV reported. People on shore later reported seeing debris wash up from the crashed plane.

The twin-engine Beech 95-B55 Baron with three people aboard took off from the San Carlos airport at 10:11 p.m. and was last seen at 10:37 p.m. near Monterey, according to flight tracking data from FlightAware.com.

Searchers in a boat found one person around 3 a.m. Divers found the remaining two people inside the aircraft between 6:30 a.m. and 9:15 a.m. All three were unresponsive, the Coast Guard said.

The Federal Aviation Administration and the National Transportation Safety Board will investigate.

As Dubai cracks down on crowded, illegal apartments, migrant workers have nowhere else to go

By GABE LEVIN Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Lights flicker, doors hang off their hinges and holes in the walls expose pipes in the apartment building where Hesham, an Egyptian migrant worker, lives in Dubai, an emirate better known for its flashy skyscrapers and penthouses.

His two-bedroom rental unit is carved up to house nine other men, and what he calls home is a modified closet just big enough for a mattress.

But now the government has ordered the 44-year-old salesman out of even that cramped space, which costs him \$270 a month. He's one of the many low-paid foreign laborers caught up in a widespread crack-down by authorities in Dubai over illegal subletting.

That includes rooms lined with bunk beds that offer no privacy but are as cheap as a few dollars a night, as well as partitioned apartments like Hesham's, where plywood boards, drywall and plastic shower curtains can turn a flat into a makeshift dormitory for 10 or 20 people.

After a blaze at a high-rise in June, Dubai officials launched the campaign over concerns that partitioned apartments represent a major fire risk. Some of those evicted have been left scrambling to stay off the streets, where begging is illegal. Others fear they could be next, uncertain when or where inspectors

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might show up.

"Now we don't know what we'll do," said Hesham, who's staying put until his landlord evicts him. Like others living in Dubai's cheapest and most crowded spaces, he spoke to The Associated Press on condition only his first name be used for fear of coming into the crosshairs of authorities enforcing the ban on illegal housing.

"We don't have any other choice," he said.

Dubai Municipality, which oversees the city-state, declined an AP request for an interview. In a statement, it said authorities have conducted inspections across the emirate to curb fire and safety hazards — an effort it said would "ensure the highest standards of public safety" and lead to "enhanced quality of life" for tenants. It didn't address where those unable to afford legal housing would live in a city-state that's synonymous with luxury yet outlaws labor unions and guarantees no minimum wage.

Dubai boom boosts rents

Dubai has seen a boom since the pandemic that shows no signs of stopping. Its population of 3.9 million is projected to grow to 5.8 million by 2040 as more people move into the commercial hub from abroad.

Much of Dubai's real estate market caters to wealthy foreign professionals living there long-term. That leaves few affordable options for the majority of workers — migrants on temporary, low-wage contracts, often earning just several hundred dollars a month. Nearly a fifth of homes in Dubai were worth more than \$1 million as of last year, property firm Knight Frank said. Developers are racing to build more high-end housing.

That continued growth has meant rising rents across the board. Short-term rentals are expected to cost 18% more by the end of this year compared to 2024, according to online rental company Colife. Most migrant workers the AP spoke to said they make just \$300 to \$550 a month.

In lower-income areas, they said, a partitioned apartment space generally rents for \$220 to \$270 a month, while a single bunk in an undivided room costs half as much. Both can cost less if shared, or more depending on size and location. At any rate, they are far cheaper than the average one-bedroom rental, which real estate firm Engel & Völkers said runs about \$1,400 a month.

The United Arab Emirates, like other Gulf Arab nations, relies on low-paid workers from Africa and Asia to build, clean, babysit and drive taxi cabs. Only Emirati nationals, who are outnumbered nearly 9 to 1 by residents from foreign countries, are eligible for an array of government benefits, including financial assistance for housing.

Large employers, from construction firms and factories to hotels and resorts, are required by law to house workers if they are paid less than \$400 a month, much of which they send home to families overseas.

However, many migrants are employed informally, making their living arrangements hard to regulate, said Steffen Hertog, an expert on Gulf labor markets at the London School of Economics and Political Science. The crackdown will push up their housing costs, creating "a lot of stress for people whose life situation is already precarious," he said.

Hassan, a 24-year-old security guard from Uganda, shares a bed in a partitioned apartment with a friend. So far, the government hasn't discovered it, but he has reason to be nervous, he said.

"They can tell you to leave without an option, without anywhere to go."

Fires remain a threat in Dubai

Dubai has targeted overcrowded apartments in the past amid a spate of high-rise fires fueled by flammable siding material. The latest round of inspections came after a blaze in June at a 67-story tower in the Dubai Marina neighborhood, where some apartments had been partitioned.

More than 3,800 residents were forced to evacuate from the building, which had 532 occupied apartments, according to a police report. That means seven people on average lived in each of these units in the tower of one-, two- and three-bedroom flats. Dozens of homes were left uninhabitable.

There were no major injuries in that fire. However, another in 2023 in Dubai's historic Deira neighborhood killed at least 16 people and injured another nine in a unit believed to have been partitioned.

Ebony, a 28-year-old odd-job worker from Ghana, was recently forced to leave a partitioned apartment

after the authorities found out about it. She lived in a narrow space with a roommate who slept above her on a jerry-built plywood loft bed.

"Sometimes to even stand up," she said, "your head is going to hit the plywood."

She's in a new apartment now, a single room that holds 14 others — and sometimes more than 20 as people come and go, sharing beds. With her income of about \$400 a month, she said she didn't have another option, and she's afraid of being forced out again.

"I don't know what they want us to do. Maybe they don't want the majority of people that are here in Dubai," Ebony said.

Temu accused by EU regulators of failing to prevent sale of illegal products

By KELVIN CHAN AP Business Writer

LONDON (AP) — Chinese online retailer Temu was accused by European Union watchdogs on Monday of failing to prevent the sale of illegal products on its platform.

The preliminary findings follow an investigation opened last year under the bloc's Digital Services Act. It's a wide-ranging rulebook that requires online platforms to do more to keep internet users safe, with the threat of hefty fines.

The European Commission, the 27-nation bloc's executive branch, said its investigation found "a high risk for consumers in the EU to encounter illegal products" on Temu's site.

Investigators carried out a "mystery shopping exercise" that found "non-compliant" products on Temu, including baby toys and small electronics, it said.

Temu said in a brief statement that it "will continue to cooperate fully with the Commission."

The commission didn't specify why exactly the products were illegal, but noted that a surge in online sales in the bloc also came with a parallel rise in unsafe or counterfeit goods.

EU regulators said when they opened the investigation that they would look into whether Temu was doing enough to crack down on "rogue traders" selling "non-compliant goods" amid concerns that they are able to swiftly reappear after being suspended.

In its preliminary findings, the Commission found that Temu could have had "inadequate mitigation measures" because the company was using an "inaccurate" risk assessment that relied on general industry information, rather than specifics about its own marketplace.

"We shop online because we trust that products sold in our Single Market are safe and comply with our rules," Henna Virkkunen, the EU's executive vice-president for tech sovereignty, security and democracy, said in a news release. "In our preliminary view, Temu is far from assessing risks for its users at the standards required by the Digital Services Act."

Temu has grown in popularity by offering cheap goods - from clothing to home products — shipped from sellers in China. The company, owned by Pinduoduo Inc., a popular e-commerce site in China, has 92 million users in the EU.

The company will have the chance to examine the Commission's investigation files and respond to the accusations before the EU watchdogs make a final decision.

Violations of the DSA could result in fines of up to 6% of a company's annual global revenue and an order to fix the problems.

Train derailment that killed 3 in Germany apparently was caused by landslide

By STEFANIE DAZIO Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — Investigators believe a landslide brought on by heavy rainfall likely caused a regional train to derail in southern Germany, killing three people and injuring 41 more.

More than 100 people were aboard the Deutsche Bahn train when at least two carriages derailed Sunday

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evening in a forested area near Riedlingen, about 158 kilometers (98 miles) west of Munich.

The train's 32-year-old driver, a 36-year-old apprentice and a 70-year-old passenger were killed, police said Monday. Some of the 41 injured were seriously hurt.

Police said the downpours in the area caused a sewage shaft to overflow, likely triggering the landslide of an embankment where the derailment occurred.

There was no evidence of an external influence that could have caused the derailment, police said.

Photos from the scene showed parts of the train on its side as rescuers climbed atop the carriages.

"Such pictures shake us to the core," Deutsche Bahn CEO Richard Lutz said Monday, offering his condolences to the victims' families.

He pledged full support for the effort to clear up the cause.

Creating realistic deepfakes is getting easier than ever.

Fighting back may take even more AI

By DAVID KLEPPER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The phone rings. It's the secretary of state calling. Or is it?

For Washington insiders, seeing and hearing is no longer believing, thanks to a spate of recent incidents involving deepfakes impersonating top officials in President Donald Trump's administration.

Digital fakes are coming for corporate America, too, as criminal gangs and hackers associated with adversaries including North Korea use synthetic video and audio to impersonate CEOs and low-level job candidates to gain access to critical systems or business secrets.

Thanks to advances in artificial intelligence, creating realistic deepfakes is easier than ever, causing security problems for governments, businesses and private individuals and making trust the most valuable currency of the digital age.

Responding to the challenge will require laws, better digital literacy and technical solutions that fight AI with more AI.

"As humans, we are remarkably susceptible to deception," said Vijay Balasubramaniyan, CEO and founder of the tech firm Pindrop Security. But he believes solutions to the challenge of deepfakes may be within reach: "We are going to fight back."

AI deepfakes become a national security threat

This summer, someone used AI to create a deepfake of Secretary of State Marco Rubio in an attempt to reach out to foreign ministers, a U.S. senator and a governor over text, voice mail and the Signal messaging app.

In May someone impersonated Trump's chief of staff, Susie Wiles.

Another phony Rubio had popped up in a deepfake earlier this year, saying he wanted to cut off Ukraine's access to Elon Musk's Starlink internet service. Ukraine's government later rebutted the false claim.

The national security implications are huge: People who think they're chatting with Rubio or Wiles, for instance, might discuss sensitive information about diplomatic negotiations or military strategy.

"You're either trying to extract sensitive secrets or competitive information or you're going after access, to an email server or other sensitive network," Kinny Chan, CEO of the cybersecurity firm QiD, said of the possible motivations.

Synthetic media can also aim to alter behavior. Last year, Democratic voters in New Hampshire received a robocall urging them not to vote in the state's upcoming primary. The voice on the call sounded suspiciously like then-President Joe Biden but was actually created using AI.

Their ability to deceive makes AI deepfakes a potent weapon for foreign actors. Both Russia and China have used disinformation and propaganda directed at Americans as a way of undermining trust in democratic alliances and institutions.

Steven Kramer, the political consultant who admitted sending the fake Biden robocalls, said he wanted to send a message of the dangers deepfakes pose to the American political system. Kramer was acquitted

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last month of charges of voter suppression and impersonating a candidate.

"I did what I did for \$500," Kramer said. "Can you imagine what would happen if the Chinese government decided to do this?"

Scammers target the financial industry with deepfakes

The greater availability and sophistication of the programs mean deepfakes are increasingly used for corporate espionage and garden variety fraud.

"The financial industry is right in the crosshairs," said Jennifer Ewbank, a former deputy director of the CIA who worked on cybersecurity and digital threats. "Even individuals who know each other have been convinced to transfer vast sums of money."

In the context of corporate espionage, they can be used to impersonate CEOs asking employees to hand over passwords or routing numbers.

Deepfakes can also allow scammers to apply for jobs — and even do them — under an assumed or fake identity. For some this is a way to access sensitive networks, to steal secrets or to install ransomware. Others just want the work and may be working a few similar jobs at different companies at the same time.

Authorities in the U.S. have said that thousands of North Koreans with information technology skills have been dispatched to live abroad, using stolen identities to obtain jobs at tech firms in the U.S. and elsewhere. The workers get access to company networks as well as a paycheck. In some cases, the workers install ransomware that can be later used to extort even more money.

The schemes have generated billions of dollars for the North Korean government.

Within three years, as many as 1 in 4 job applications is expected to be fake, according to research from Adaptive Security, a cybersecurity company.

"We've entered an era where anyone with a laptop and access to an open-source model can convincingly impersonate a real person," said Brian Long, Adaptive's CEO. "It's no longer about hacking systems — it's about hacking trust."

Experts deploy AI to fight back against AI

Researchers, public policy experts and technology companies are now investigating the best ways of addressing the economic, political and social challenges posed by deepfakes.

New regulations could require tech companies to do more to identify, label and potentially remove deepfakes on their platforms. Lawmakers could also impose greater penalties on those who use digital technology to deceive others — if they can be caught.

Greater investments in digital literacy could also boost people's immunity to online deception by teaching them ways to spot fake media and avoid falling prey to scammers.

The best tool for catching AI may be another AI program, one trained to sniff out the tiny flaws in deepfakes that would go unnoticed by a person.

Systems like Pindrop's analyze millions of datapoints in any person's speech to quickly identify irregularities. The system can be used during job interviews or other video conferences to detect if the person is using voice cloning software, for instance.

Similar programs may one day be commonplace, running in the background as people chat with colleagues and loved ones online. Someday, deepfakes may go the way of email spam, a technological challenge that once threatened to upend the usefulness of email, said Balasubramaniyan, Pindrop's CEO.

"You can take the defeatist view and say we're going to be subservient to disinformation," he said. "But that's not going to happen."

Passengers flee smoking jet on emergency slide after apparent landing gear problem at Denver airport

By MINGSON LAU and JEFF MARTIN Associated Press

Passengers slid down an emergency slide of a smoking jet at Denver International Airport due to a possible problem with the plane's landing gear, authorities said.

American Airlines Flight 3023 reported a "possible landing gear incident" during its departure from Denver

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on Saturday afternoon, the Federal Aviation Administration said. The problem involved an aircraft tire, the Fort Worth, Texas-based airline said in a statement.

The Boeing 737 MAX 8 carrying 173 passengers and six crew members was on its way to Miami International Airport, American said.

Video showed people sliding down the inflatable chute near the front of the plane while clutching luggage and small children. Some passengers, including at least one adult carrying a young child, tripped at the end of the slide and fell onto the concrete runway. Passengers were then taken to the terminal by bus.

Shay Armistead, a 17-year-old from Minturn, Colorado, described a chaotic scene.

After hearing a loud "boom," the plane "started to violently shake and we were drifting to the left side of the runway," Armistead told The Associated Press in an interview.

Armistead and her teammates on a ski racing team were on their way from Colorado to Chile when it happened.

"I started grabbing my friend's hands, I was like 'Oh my God,' and then they slammed on the brakes, and we all like went forward and they finally brought the plane to a stop," she said. "It was just terrifying."

One of the passengers was taken to a hospital with a minor injury, American Airlines said in its statement. Five people were evaluated for injuries at the scene but did not require hospitalization, airport officials said.

"About halfway to takeoff speed, we hear a big bang and a pop," passenger Shaun Williams told KUSA-TV. "The pilot immediately started abort procedures for taking off. You could feel him start to hit the brakes."

Firefighters extinguished a fire on the aircraft, the Denver Fire Department said.

"All customers and crew deplaned safely, and the aircraft was taken out of service to be inspected by our maintenance team," American said.

In a statement, the FAA said it's investigating.

Armistead said she's thankful for everyone who helped her and the other passengers, and grateful that she's safe.

"You've just got to appreciate what you're given, and I'm so grateful that it wasn't worse," Armistead said. ____

This story corrects the spelling of a passenger's name. She is Shay Armistead, not Armisteaz.

Freed from Russian prisons, Ukrainian soldiers lean into counseling to rebuild their lives

By HANNA ARHIROVA and VASILISA STEPANENKO Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Since his release from a Russian prison in April, Stanislav Tarnavskyi has been in a hurry to build the life in Ukraine he dreamed about during three years of captivity.

The 25-year-old has proposed to his girlfriend, bought an apartment and adopted a golden retriever. And that was just what he accomplished one week in July.

But as busy as he is rekindling old relationships and creating new ones, Tarnavskyi cannot shake the trauma he and thousands of other Ukrainian soldiers experienced as prisoners of war. The U.N. says many endured beatings, starvation and humiliation at the hands of their captors — experiences that will leave lifelong scars.

Tarnavskyi, who was captured during the battle for Mariupol in April of 2022, regularly has nightmares about the prisons where he was held.

"I see the officers who watched over us. I dream they want to harm me, catch me," he said. When he wakes up, his heart pounds, anxiety surges — until he realizes he is in the outskirts of Kyiv, where he was forced to move because Russia occupied his hometown of Berdiansk.

As the three-year war drags on, Tarnavskyi is one of more than 5,000 former POWs back in Ukraine rehabilitating with the help of regular counseling. Regardless of any physical injuries that may require attention, psychologists say it is vital to monitor former POWs for years after their release; the cost of war, they say, echoes for generations.

A marriage proposal

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In a photography studio high above Kyiv, Ukraine's capital, sunlight floods the white walls. After a shoot that lasted several hours Tarnavskyi said the brightness was hurting his eyes, which are still sensitive from years spent in a dark cell.

But his mood couldn't be dimmed. The girlfriend who waited for his return had just consented to his surprise proposal.

"I love you very much, I am very glad that you waited for me," Tarnavskyi said, holding a thick bouquet of pink roses and a ring. "You have always been my support, and I hope you will remain so for the rest of my life. Will you marry me?"

Tarnavskyi said it was the thought of Tetiana Baieva — whom he met in 2021 — that helped stop him from taking his own life three times during captivity.

Still, he finds it hard to talk with Baieva about his time in prison. He doesn't want to be pitied.

Soon after he returned home, he was paranoid, feeling watched — a reaction to constant surveillance in prison. "If you stepped out of line, they'd (Russians) come and beat you. I still get flashbacks when I see (surveillance) cameras. If I see one, I get nervous," he said.

But with each passing week, he is feeling better, progress Tarnavskyi credits to the work he is doing with a psychologist.

Lifelong care is vital

Any small stimulus — a smell, a breeze, a color — can trigger traumatic memories for POWs, says Kseniia Voznitsyna, the director of Ukraine's Lisova Polyana mental health center for veterans on the outskirts of Kyiv.

Yet contrary to stereotypes, ex-POWs aren't more aggressive. "They tend to isolate themselves, avoid large gatherings, and struggle with trust," said Voznitsyna.

"They say time heals — five or 10 years, maybe — but it doesn't," she added. "It just feels less intense."

A 2014 study in the Journal of Behavioral Medicine found that Israeli ex-POWs and combat veterans tracked over 35 years had higher mortality rates, chronic illnesses and worse self-rated health — conditions partly tied to depression and post-traumatic stress disorder.

The authors of the study said that is why it is crucial to monitor ex-POWs and give them specialized medical and psychological care as they age.

That logic rings true to Denys Zalizko, a 21-year-old former POW who has been back in Ukraine for less than three months but is already sure his recovery will take a long time.

"You can't fool yourself. Even if you really want to, you will never forget. It will always haunt you," he said.

An artist to be

Zalizko said he survived torture, suicide attempts and relentless beatings during roughly 15 months in Russian captivity.

The first time his mother, Maria Zalizko, saw him after his release, she barely recognized him. He was thin and appeared "broken," she said, with torment in his eyes.

Zalizko's physical appearance is now almost completely different. His skin looks healthy, his muscles are taut and he has lots of energy. But still there is sadness in his eyes.

Two things keep him moving forward and help clear his mind: music and exercise.

"Pauses and stillness bring anxiety," says Zalizko.

Like Tarnavskyi, he is receiving mandatory counseling at the Lisova Polyana mental health center. And like many former POWs, he still battles hypervigilance — listening for threats, scanning his surroundings. At night, sleep comes in fragments, and that was true even before a recent uptick in nightly drone attacks by the Russian army.

For the families of POWs, the reintegration process is also a struggle.

A psychologist advised Maria Zalizko to give her son space, to avoid calling him too often. But it is Denys who often calls her, sometimes singing over the phone — a skill she taught him as a child.

"I love music. Music unites," he said, touching the tattoo of a treble clef behind his ear — inked after his return. Even in captivity, he sang quietly to himself, composing songs in his mind about love, home and war. Now he dreams of turning that passion into a career as an artist.

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"I've become stronger now," Zalizko said. "I'm not afraid of death, not afraid of losing an arm or a leg, not afraid of dying instantly. I fear nothing anymore."

Today in History: July 29, USS Forrestal accident

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Tuesday, July 29, the 210th day of 2025. There are 155 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On July 29, 1967, an accidental rocket launch on the deck of the supercarrier USS Forrestal in the Gulf of Tonkin resulted in a fire and explosions that killed 134 service members.

Also on this date:

In 1836, the newly completed Arc de Triomphe was inaugurated in Paris.

In 1858, the United States and Japan signed the Harris Treaty, formalizing diplomatic relations and trading rights between the two countries.

In 1890, artist Vincent van Gogh, 37, died of an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound in Auvers-sur-Oise, France.

In 1914, transcontinental telephone service in the U.S. became operational with the first test conversation between New York and San Francisco.

In 1921, Adolf Hitler became the leader of the National Socialist German Workers' (Nazi) Party.

In 1954, the first volume of JRR Tolkien's novel "The Lord of the Rings" ("The Fellowship of the Ring") was published.

In 1957, the International Atomic Energy Agency was established.

In 1958, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the National Aeronautics and Space Act, creating NASA.

In 1981, Britain's Prince Charles married Lady Diana Spencer in a glittering ceremony at St. Paul's Cathedral in London. (They divorced in 1996.)

In 1986, a federal jury in New York found that the National Football League had committed an antitrust violation against the rival United States Football League, but the jury ordered the NFL to pay token damages of just three dollars.

In 1994, abortion opponent Paul Hill shot and killed Dr. John Bayard Britton and Britton's escort, James H. Barrett, outside the Ladies Center clinic in Pensacola, Florida.

In 1999, a former day trader, apparently upset over stock losses, opened fire in two Atlanta brokerage offices, killing nine people and wounding 13 before shooting himself; authorities said Mark O. Barton had also killed his wife and two children.

In 2016, former suburban Chicago police officer Drew Peterson was given an additional 40 years in prison for trying to hire someone to kill the prosecutor who put him behind bars for killing his third wife.

In 2021, American Sunisa Lee won the gold medal in women's all-around gymnastics at the Tokyo Games; she was the fifth straight American woman to claim the Olympic title in the event.

Today's Birthdays: Former Sen. Nancy Kassebaum-Baker is 93. Former Sen. Elizabeth H. Dole is 89. Artist Jenny Holzer is 75. Documentary filmmaker Ken Burns is 72. Style guru Tim Gunn is 72. Rock singer-musician Geddy Lee (Rush) is 72. Rock singer Patti Scialfa (Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band) is 72. Actor Alexandra Paul is 62. Country singer Martina McBride is 59. Actor Wil Wheaton is 53. R&B singer Wanya Morris (Boyz II Men) is 52. Actor Stephen Dorff is 52. Actor Josh Radnor is 51. Hip-hop DJ/music producer Danger Mouse is 48. NFL quarterback Dak Prescott is 32.