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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

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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: An 8.8-magnitude earthquake struck off the coast of Russia's Kamchatka Peninsula, triggering tsunami waves in Russia and Japan as well as tsunami alerts for much of the US West Coast. Meanwhile, evacuation warnings are in effect for Hawaii as of this writing.

NYC Shooter Identified

Authorities revealed yesterday the gunman who killed four people in a New York City office building Monday night had driven cross-country from Nevada to carry out the attack. They believe the 27-year-old intended to target the National Football League offices but took the wrong elevator. He died by suicide after killing three people in the lobby and one person on the 33rd floor with a semiautomatic rifle. A fifth person is critically wounded.

A note found on the gunman's body claimed he suffered from chronic traumatic encephalopathy, a degenerative brain disease linked to repeated head trauma, which causes symptoms including memory loss, confusion, and aggression. The disease is common in football, with 99% of donated NFL player brains indicating CTE, and the risk is correlated with years of playing the sport. CTE can only be diagnosed after death (see why). The gunman reportedly played high school football and asked for his brain to be evaluated for CTE post-death.

Mass shootings are relatively rare in New York. See a database here.

Coast-to-Coast Connection

Union Pacific and Norfolk Southern announced an \$85B merger yesterday, creating the first coast-to-coast rail operator in the US. The combined company, which will retain the Union Pacific name and have a projected value of \$250B, will unite 52,000 miles of track across 43 states, linking Union Pacific's western network to Norfolk Southern's eastern system.

Company leaders said the merger will transform shipping and boost domestic manufacturing by streamlining logistics for goods ranging from grains to automobiles. They forecast \$2.75B in annualized synergies through enhanced routes and increased intermodal services—moving goods in one container using two or more transport types. The new company will be headquartered in Omaha, while Atlanta remains a key hub for technology and operations.

The railroads plan to file for regulatory approval within six months, with plans to close in early 2027, pending a decision from the Surface Transportation Board. Labor unions expressed concern about service disruption, higher rates, and potential job losses, though the companies said all union jobs will be preserved.

Emissions Rule Rollback?

The Environmental Protection Agency yesterday proposed repealing a 2009 "endangerment finding" that declared six key greenhouse gases, including carbon dioxide, to be a threat to public health and welfare. The regulation underpins a range of emissions standards affecting motor vehicles, power plants, and oil and gas operations.

The "endangerment finding" was established following a Supreme Court decision recognizing greenhouse gases as air pollutants under the Clean Air Act. The legal foundation enabled the EPA to set emissions restrictions, including a rule finalized last year that limits tailpipe emissions from passenger cars and light trucks. The transportation sector is the largest source of US greenhouse gases (see overview).

The proposal kicks off a 90-day public comment period. Environmental advocates warn repealing the finding would undermine efforts to address climate change and increase risks to the environment by allowing higher pollution levels. Industry groups welcomed the proposed rollback, claiming annual consumer savings of up to \$54B.

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Sports, Entertainment, & Culture

Thirteen novels tapped for prestigious 2025 Booker Prize for fiction longlist, featuring authors from across nine nations.

Beyoncé's "Cowboy Carter" tour hauls in over \$400M in ticket sales, with Beyoncé becoming the first American artist to top \$400M in two separate tours, including her 2023 "Renaissance Tour".

American Katie Ledecky wins 1,500-meter freestyle at 2025 World Aquatics Championships to extend her record for most world championship individual gold medals with 17.

Science & Technology

OpenAI unveils Study Mode, using ChatGPT with instructions tailored by educators to provide information structured in a way similar to classroom teaching.

Jewel wasps are capable of slowing down their rate of aging as larvae, significantly extending their life span and decelerating their biological clocks.

Scientists capture first image of the sugar coating surrounding individual cells with atomic-scale resolution; results may lead to new drug delivery techniques.

Business & Markets

US stock markets close lower (S&P 500 -0.3%, Dow -0.5%, Nasdaq -0.4%) as US-China tariff talks stall and investors await today's Federal Reserve interest rate decision.

Securities and Exchange Commission allows in-kind creations and redemptions by authorized participants for crypto exchange-traded products.

Spotify shares drop 11.6% after the company's second quarter revenue falls short of projections.

Sony sues Chinese gaming company Tencent for allegedly knocking off its "Horizon" franchise.

JPMorgan Chase in advanced talks to replace Goldman Sachs as Apple's credit card program partner.

Boeing delivers most planes since 2018; cuts quarterly losses to \$176M, compared to \$1.1B a year prior.

UPS shares drop 10.6% after package volume and earnings decline in second quarter.

Novo Nordisk shares fall 21.8% after company names new CEO and slashes Wegovy forecasts.

Politics & World Affairs

United Kingdom says it will recognize a Palestinian state in September, barring a ceasefire deal and the resumption of UN aid in Gaza.

UCLA reaches \$6M settlement over allegations it discriminated against Jewish students (More)

Former Jeffrey Epstein associate Ghislaine Maxwell agrees to testify before the House Oversight Committee on the condition she is granted immunity, clemency.

President Donald Trump tells reporters Epstein poached employees from his Mar-a-Lago club.

Senate confirms Emil Bove as a federal appeals court judge amid whistleblower complaints about his conduct.

The US and China continue trade negotiations, with uncertainty over whether President Donald Trump will extend tariff truce.

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Yes.

South Dakota U.S. Sens. John Thune and Mike Rounds and Rep. Dusty Johnson voted to cut \$1.1 billion in federal funding to public broadcasting.

South Dakota Public Broadcasting expects to lose \$2.2 million – 23% of its budget. That will result in cuts to programming and 15-20 positions lost, SDPB said.

During a telephone town hall on July 24, Johnson praised the state's public broadcasting network but defended the cuts due to the deficit.

"I do think when you have \$37 trillion in debt, you've got to get back to basics," Johnson said. "Unfortunately, that was the place for the White House to try to start."

Rounds cited the need to take "meaningful steps to reduce wasteful spending," but he negotiated a deal with President Trump's administration that would secure \$9.1 million for Native American radio stations.

Thune said the vote was a "small but important step toward fiscal sanity."

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

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Legion Baseball Official Travis Kurth administers the Code of Sportsmanship prior to Day 2 of the Groton Junior Legion Region Tournament Tuesday. Groton players are on the left in blue with Sisseton on the right. (Photo by Bruce Babcock)

Nick Groebelinghoff Of Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion Shuts Out Sisseton **By GameChanger Media**

Nick Groebelinghoff shut down Sisseton, throwing a complete game shutout and leading Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion to a 5-0 victory on Tuesday at Locke/Karst Field.

A single by T.C Schuster put Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion on the board in the top of the third.

Bryson Hanson opened the game for Sisseton. The pitcher allowed eight hits and five runs (two earned) over four and two-thirds innings, striking out four and walking four.

Schuster and Ethan Kroll were a force together in the lineup, as they each collected three hits for Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion. Lincoln Krause and Schuster each drove in one run for Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion. Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion turned one double play in the game. Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion didn't commit a single error in the field. Krause had the most chances in the field with seven.

Luke Nielsen went 2-for-3 at the plate to lead Sisseton in hits. Sisseton turned one double play in the game.

Clark went undefeated in the two day tournament to advance to the state tournament. Groton finished second with a 2-1 record, Sisseton was third at 1-2 and Redfield was fourth at 0-3.

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Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion 5 - 0 Post 50 Jr Legion 16U

📍 Away 📅 Tuesday July 29, 2025

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	R	H	E
GRTN	0	0	2	0	3	0	0	5	9	0
PST5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	5

BATTING

Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
L Krause #2 (C)	4	1	2	1	1	1
A Abeln #5 (3B)	5	0	0	0	0	1
N Groebli... #13 (P)	4	0	0	0	0	1
T Schuster #3 (SS)	4	1	3	1	0	0
E Kroll #14 (CF)	4	1	3	0	0	0
R Schelle #8 (2B)	4	0	0	0	0	0
B Fliehs #19 (1B)	4	1	0	0	0	1
#9 (RF)	2	0	1	0	2	1
T McGan... #22 (LF)	2	1	0	0	1	1
Totals	33	5	9	2	4	6

2B: T Schuster, **TB:** T Schuster 4, E Kroll 3, L Krause 2, #9, **SAC:** T McGannon, **SB:** T Schuster, L Krause, T McGannon, **LOB:** 12

PITCHING

Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion	IP	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
N Groe... #13	7.0	5	0	0	6	0
Totals	7.0	5	0	0	6	0

W: N Groeblichhoff, **P-S:** N Groeblichhoff 67-58, **BF:** N Groeblichhoff 25

Post 50 Jr Legion 16U	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
L Nelson #12 (SS)	3	0	1	0	0	0
L Nielsen #22 (3B)	3	0	2	0	0	0
M Dahlen #3 (1B)	3	0	1	0	0	0
R Anderson #10 (C)	3	0	0	0	0	1
J Hamm #5 (LF)	3	0	0	0	0	1
B Hanson #11 (P)	3	0	1	0	0	0
J Muehler #21 (CF)	3	0	0	0	0	3
K Deutsch #18 (RF)	1	0	0	0	0	1
R Lincoln #7 (RF)	1	0	0	0	0	0
A Stickland #4 (2B)	2	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	25	0	5	0	0	6

TB: B Hanson, M Dahlen, L Nelson, L Nielsen 2, **LOB:** 4

Post 50 Jr Legion 16U	IP	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
B Hanson #11	4.2	8	5	2	4	4
M Dahlen #3	2.1	1	0	0	0	2
Totals	7.0	9	5	2	4	6

L: B Hanson, **P-S:** B Hanson 92-55, M Dahlen 30-21, **WP:** B Hanson, **BF:** B Hanson 28, M Dahlen 10

Bats Stymied For Both Teams As Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion Loses To Clark Area Jr Legion

By GameChanger Media

Both teams were strong on the mound on Monday, but Clark Area Jr Legion was just a little bit stronger at the plate in their 1-0 victory over Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion. Alex Abeln started the game for Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion and recorded 18 outs.

Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion was right in it until Clark Area Jr Legion singled in the seventh inning.

Abeln stepped on the bump first for Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion. The hurler surrendered one hit and one run over six innings, striking out seven and walking three. Charlie Luvaas stepped on the bump first for Clark Area Jr Legion. The righty gave up two hits and zero runs over six innings, striking out four and walking two.

Lincoln Krause and Ryder Schelle each collected one hit for Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion.

Bennett Pommer went 1-for-3 at the plate and led the team with one run batted in. Charlie Luvaas and Bennett Pommer each collected one hit for Clark Area Jr Legion. Jakob Steen and Ky Vandersnick each stole multiple bases for Clark Area Jr Legion. Clark Area Jr Legion were sure-handed and didn't commit a single error. Jakob Steen made the most plays with six.

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Clark Area Jr Legion 1 - 0 Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion

📍 Home 📅 Monday July 28, 2025

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	R	H	E
CLRK	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	0
GRTN	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1

BATTING

Clark Area Jr Legion	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
Will Hov... #10 (CF)	3	0	0	0	0	1
Watson... #14 (SS)	1	0	0	0	2	0
Jakob Ste... #21 (C)	2	0	0	0	1	0
Damian... #61 (RF)	3	0	0	0	0	1
Ky Vand... #55 (1B)	2	1	0	0	0	1
Charlie L... #20 (P)	3	0	1	0	0	0
Max Bra... #43 (3B)	3	0	0	0	0	1
Bennett... #99 (LF)	3	0	1	1	0	1
Talen Hu... #19 (2B)	3	0	0	0	0	2
Totals	23	1	2	1	3	7

TB: Bennett Pommer, Charlie Luvaas, **CS:** Damian Severson, **HBP:** Ky Vandersnick, **SB:** Ky Vandersnick 2, Jakob Steen 2, Charlie Luvaas, **LOB:** 5

PITCHING

Clark Area Jr Legion	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
Charlie... #20	6.0	2	0	0	2	4	0
Watson... #14	1.0	0	0	0	1	2	0
Totals	7.0	2	0	0	3	6	0

P-S: Watson Grantham 19-10, Charlie Luvaas 95-62, **HBP:** Charlie Luvaas 2, **BF:** Watson Grantham 4, Charlie Luvaas 23

Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
L Krause #2 (C)	3	0	1	0	0	1
A Abeln #5 (P)	3	0	0	0	0	0
N Groebl... #13 (2B)	1	0	0	0	0	0
T Schuster #3 (SS)	2	0	0	0	1	0
E Kroll #14 (CF)	3	0	0	0	0	0
R Schelle #8 (3B)	2	0	1	0	0	0
B Fliehs #19 (1B)	3	0	0	0	0	1
J Bisbee #15 (RF)	1	0	0	0	2	1
T McGan... #22 (LF)	2	0	0	0	0	2
K Oswald #12 (LF)	1	0	0	0	0	1
Totals	21	0	2	0	3	6

TB: L Krause, R Schelle, **SAC:** R Schelle, **CS:** R Schelle, **HBP:** N Groebelinghoff 2, **SB:** L Krause, **LOB:** 6

Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
A Abeln #5	6.0	1	1	1	3	7	0
N Groe... #13	1.0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	7.0	2	1	1	3	7	0

P-S: A Abeln 81-46, N Groebelinghoff 14-12, **WP:** A Abeln, **HBP:** A Abeln, **BF:** A Abeln 23, N Groebelinghoff 4

Big Sixth Inning Leads Groton Jr. Teeners 14U Past MVP Titans

By GameChanger Media

Groton Jr. Teeners 14U defeated MVP Titans 12-2 on Tuesday at Plankinton thanks in part to 12 runs in the sixth inning. Wesley Borg singled, scoring two runs, Asher Zimmerman drew a walk, scoring one run, Trayce Schelle drew a walk, scoring one run, Jordan Schwan singled, scoring one run, Lincoln Shilhanek singled, scoring one run, Zach Fliehs drew a walk, scoring one run, Kolton Antonsen was struck by a pitch, driving in a run, Borg drew a walk, scoring one run, Noah Scepaniak grounded out, scoring one run, and an error scored two runs.

A single by Lucas Hanson put MVP Titans on the board in the bottom of the fourth.

Borg earned the win for Groton Jr. Teeners 14U. The starter allowed four hits and one run over five innings, striking out seven and walking three. Trysten Eide took the loss for MVP Titans. The hurler went five innings, giving up three runs on six hits, striking out six and walking three. Schwan and Schelle each appeared in relief for Groton Jr. Teeners 14U.

Borg led Groton Jr. Teeners 14U with three runs batted in from the number seven spot in the lineup. The pitcher went 1-for-3 on the day. Schwan led Groton Jr. Teeners 14U with two hits in two at bats. Groton Jr. Teeners 14U had patience at the plate, amassing eight walks for the game. Zimmerman and Schwan led the team with two bases on balls each. Groton Jr. Teeners 14U were sure-handed in the field and didn't commit a single error. Keegan Kucker had the most chances in the field with 10.

Sutton Fristad led MVP Titans with one run batted in. The infielder went 1-for-2 on the day. Alex Rojas, Fristad, Preston Nedved, Teagan Bush, and Hanson each collected one hit for MVP Titans. MVP Titans had a strong eye at the plate, accumulating six walks for the game. Brentley Nelson and Eide led the team with two free passes each. Rojas, Nelson, and Eide each stole multiple bases for MVP Titans. MVP Titans stole eight bases in the game.

Groton will host Mt. Vernon/Plankinton in the second game of the region. Game time is 5 p.m. If Groton wins the game, they will advance to state. If Mt. Vernon/Plankinton wins, then a third game will be played right after the 5 p.m. game with the winner of that game going to state.

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SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

Wind blows a path of destruction across southeastern South Dakota

Governor visits Hudson, which suffered some of the worst damage

BY: MAKENZIE HUBER - JULY 29, 2025 8:08 PM

HUDSON — At least no one was hurt.

That's what Amanda Lounsbery said as she stepped over toppled tree limbs littering her yard and tripped over flattened soybeans while surveying damage in one of her fields. It's what her neighbors repeated as they cleared trees from streets.

Winds over 90 miles per hour on Monday night raged through Hudson, said Lincoln County Emergency Manager Harold Timmerman. The town of 320 people is in southeastern South Dakota near the Iowa border.

The storm was part of a larger system. Hail up to 1.75 inches in diameter was reported in south-central South Dakota, along with a tornado near Dixon in Gregory County earlier in the day and numerous reports of damaging wind, according to the Sioux Falls office of the National Weather Service. Those reports came one day after a tornado destroyed a farmhouse and several outbuildings near Henry in northeastern South Dakota.

Lounsbery's sons, who are volunteer firefighters, served as spotters during the storm and said they saw a funnel west of town. According to the NWS, no tornadoes touched down near Hudson. The damage was caused by straight-line winds from a "downburst," which is when wind in a storm system is forced downward and spreads outward once it hits the ground.

Lounsbery hadn't seen her husband in nearly 24 hours, since he's a volunteer firefighter and was focused on ensuring everyone's safety. The fire department knocked on every house's door after the storm passed Monday night. Dozens of South Dakotans drove from nearby towns and from as far away as Vermillion and Watertown to help with recovery.

Gov. Larry Rhoden surveyed the damage Tuesday afternoon and offered up to 30 South Dakota prison inmates to Hudson officials to help with cleanup. But that might not be necessary, given the outpouring of support and assistance from neighboring communities, he added. Public Safety Secretary Bob Perry said local officials haven't requested state assistance yet.

Rhoden added that he doesn't plan to call in the South Dakota National Guard and isn't sure if the damage calls for a federal disaster declaration.



Amanda Lounsbery (left) and her son Hayden Lounsbery survey damage to their family's soybean fields on July 29, 2025. Their grain bin carved a path into the field and split into two pieces after a storm system moved through the area the previous evening. The system damaged trees, homes and other structures. (Makenzie Huber/South Dakota Searchlight)

Hudson Mayor Steve Wickre said the support among neighbors showcases what's best about Hudson: its people and their resiliency.

Officials don't know the financial impact of the damage yet. They said a nursing home was evacuated due to a power outage.

Lounsbery and many of her neighbors' power was still out as of 6 p.m. on Tuesday. Her garage was caved in, and pieces of her neighbors' shed roof landed in her soybean field across from her house just outside of town. Her toppled grain bin carved a path into another field, where it sat split into two pieces.

"I was really upset last night," Lounsbery said, "but now I realize my people are OK. We'll be OK."

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.

Advocates worry Medicaid work requirements will block care for people with substance use disorders

South Dakota congressman defends new provisions in Big Beautiful Bill Act

BY: JOSHUA HAIAR - JULY 29, 2025 6:01 PM

SIoux FALLS — South Dakota health professionals and advocates are warning that new Medicaid work requirements could disrupt care for people struggling with substance use disorders and other behavioral health problems.

Angela Kennecke, CEO of the addiction-focused non-profit Emily's Hope, said people with a history of addiction often have criminal records. She said that means they face steep obstacles in the job market.

"If you can't get a job, you lose coverage," she said. "But without coverage, you can't get treatment. That's the cycle we're concerned about."

Kennecke spoke to South Dakota Searchlight after a roundtable discussion organized by U.S. Rep. Dusty Johnson, R-South Dakota, on Tuesday at Avera Behavioral Health Hospital.

Wyatt Urlacher, a clinical social worker with South Dakota Urban Indian Health, told the roundtable he's worried, and "I'm sure I'm not the only one."

"The majority of my clients are covered by Medicaid," he said.

Kim Malsam-Rysdon, Avera's vice president of public policy and a former South Dakota secretary of health, talked with South Dakota Searchlight after the discussion.

"We know that people who have access to health insurance, whether that's Medicaid or anything else, are more likely to get the care they need earlier," Malsam-Rysdon said. "So it's a big concern for us when folks may lose their health care coverage for whatever reason."

Medicaid is a federal-state program that pays for the health care of low-income people. Under the new federal policy in the Big Beautiful Bill Act, Medicaid recipients will be required to log 80 hours a month of work, job training, education or volunteering to keep their benefits.

Johnson defended the new Medicaid requirements, highlighting the list of exemptions.



U.S. Rep. Dusty Johnson, R-South Dakota, fields questions during a roundtable discussion at Avera Behavioral Health Hospital in Sioux Falls on July 29, 2025. (Joshua

Haiar/South Dakota Searchlight)

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"What people don't understand is that seniors, young people, pregnant women, people with children, folks with disabilities, people in areas with high unemployment, veterans and tribal members are unaffected by the work requirement," Johnson said.

A March 3 analysis in the journal Health Affairs estimated that 2.29 million Medicaid enrollees with a substance use disorder in the U.S. would still be at high risk of losing coverage under a work requirement that includes exemptions for people with disabilities, those looking for work, or in school or training. That is largely due to the number of people with a substance use disorder who are unable to meet a work requirement.

Taylor Clark, the operations supervisor at Choices Recovery Services in Sioux Falls, told South Dakota Searchlight that 95% of the people who seek care there are Medicaid recipients, and few of those people are employed. Clark said that without Medicaid for those seeking care, services may be in jeopardy.

A \$50 billion fund created by the bill to help rural providers deal with lost Medicaid reimbursements is expected to bring at least \$500 million to South Dakota over five years. But Johnson said the money is temporary rather than permanent.

"This is not a forever pot of money," Johnson told Searchlight. "States should not use this to just fund ongoing operations. They need to ask themselves, 'How do we use this money to transition to a better system?'"

Johnson said providers should invest in technologies to help deliver greater access to cost-effective health care.

The Medicaid work requirement will take effect nationally at the end of 2026.

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.

Iowa disciplinary board reprimands lawyer representing landowners in pipeline suits

Plus, federal appeals court denies request for rehearing in Summit case

BY: CAMI KOONS, IOWA CAPITAL DISPATCH - JULY 29, 2025 4:51 PM

The Iowa Supreme Court Attorney Disciplinary Board reprimanded Brian Jorde, an attorney who has represented hundreds of landowners in lawsuits against pipelines, including Iowa and South Dakota landowners opposed to the Summit Carbon Solutions pipeline.

The disciplinary board wrote in the reprimand that Jorde presented information that was "misleading or deceptive" during Iowa and South Dakota utilities commission proceedings regarding permit applications for the carbon sequestration project.

Jorde, part of Domina Law Group out of Omaha, represented 155 landowners in the Iowa Utilities Commission's evaluation of Summit Carbon Solutions' permit application to construct more than 600 miles of a pipeline carrying liquid carbon dioxide sequestered from biorefineries across the state. The pipeline would travel through Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, South Dakota and eventually be stored in underground rock formations in North Dakota.

In the Iowa permit proceedings, Jorde filed pretrial testimony on behalf of landowners, including Nancy Dugan.

Dugan had filed her own information in the IUC proceedings as well and, according to the reprimand, had been in contact via email with Jorde.

Jorde also represented landowners in the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission's hearings on Summit's permit application. According to the records provided in the reprimand, he asked for and received Dugan's permission to submit some of her research that had already been submitted in the IUC dockets,

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Brian Jorde, a lawyer for landowners, argues a carbon pipeline case before the South Dakota Supreme Court on March 19, 2024.

(Dave Bordewyk/South Dakota NewsMedia Association)

to the South Dakota hearings.

Jorde's filings on behalf of Dugan, however, included introductory written testimony, which Dugan later said, in an email to Jorde obtained by the advisory board, were "not statements I would choose to submit."

The reprimand said Dugan did not approve these written statements. The statement submitted in South Dakota had an electronic signature at the bottom, but the IUC document had not been signed by Dugan.

Dugan clarified in her email to Jorde that she was not a landowner and was worried about being called to testify. Jorde, in response, said the filing with the IUC must have happened inadvertently by staff who filed a number of pretrial testimony. He assured Dugan he did not intend to call her to testify, according to the included emails.

In subsequent emails, Dugan asked Jorde to retract the statement, or allow her to submit a revised version that included her actual responses. According to the reprimand, Dugan later learned the same statements had been submitted in South Dakota and again emailed Jorde asking him to refrain from filing any affidavits on her behalf unless it was something she had written or reviewed or approved.

In April 2024, months after the IUC hearing occurred, Dugan brought up the issue again to Jorde asking him to rescind the statements from the IUC record, according to the reprimand. Jorde said the pretrial testimony was not used in the hearing and therefore not part of the record, so he was unsure what action the IUC would take. He later said to the board the filing was not "material" information to the proceedings, the reprimand states.

"If I file a request to have it deleted for instance that will bring more attention to something Summit and others are not even thinking about now," Jorde said in an email excerpt included in the letter from the advisory board.

According to the advisory board, Jorde contacted the IUC about removing the testimony, but did not contact the South Dakota commission about the issue.

The written testimony attributed to Dugan was not used in the commission hearings in either state.

Dugan brought the issue to the attention of the IUC council and Nebraska attorney disciplinary authorities, where the matter was brought to the Iowa Supreme Court Attorney Disciplinary Board.

The board concluded the actions in South Dakota were "deceptive" and wrote it was "deeply concerning" that Jorde and his staff did not mention to Dugan the extra pages filed in addition to the research she had consented to filing.

The board was less clear on its ruling on the Iowa document because Jorde claimed it was inadvertently submitted, which was enforced by the blank notarization. The board "found it troubling" Jorde did not withdraw the filing upon learning it had been inadvertently filed.

The board concluded that the "severity of the misrepresentation issues" did not "rise to level" of many previously prosecuted matters, but "the duty of candor is one of the most basic and fundamental obligations we require of lawyers."

Jorde did not file any exceptions to the reprimand within the allowed 30-day window, meaning the reprimand was made "final and public" according to the document.

In a message to Iowa Capital Dispatch, Jorde said his focus remains on his clients.

"I decided not to contest this matter and have moved on," Jorde wrote.

There is no further disciplinary action beyond the public reprimand.

Federal appeals court denies request for rehearing

A federal appeals court denied a rehearing petition Monday from Iowa counties involved in a case against Summit Carbon Solutions regarding a county's ability to enact local pipeline ordinances.

Shelby and Story County supervisors petitioned the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit for an en banc rehearing earlier this month following the judge's ruling in favor of Summit in June.

One judge dissented in the majority opinion that all of the ordinances set by the counties would be preempted by the Pipeline Safety Act.

An en banc rehearing, as requested by the counties and supported via amicus briefs from the states of Minnesota, Michigan, Oregon, Vermont and from Pipeline Safety Trust, would require a rehearing of the case with all 11 active judges at the appeals court.

The order denying the petition for rehearing did not include any additional information or opinion from the judge.

Cami Koons is an Iowa Capital Dispatch reporter covering agriculture and the environment. She previously worked at publications in Kansas and Missouri, covering rural affairs.

SD providers hope over \$500 million for rural health care offsets expected Medicaid coverage losses

State plans to 'lean in' to tech upgrades for work-requirement monitoring

BY: MAKENZIE HUBER - JULY 29, 2025 9:49 AM

Changes to Medicaid could leave thousands of South Dakotans uninsured and impair an already fragile rural health care system, advocates worry. But a concurrent \$50 billion in federal funding for rural providers nationwide over the next five years could blunt the impact on the system.

That's a "mixed bag for South Dakota," said Shelly Ten Napel, CEO of the Community HealthCare Association of the Dakotas.

President Donald Trump signed changes into law earlier this month as part of his One Big Beautiful Bill Act. The changes to the state-federal health insurance program for people with low incomes aim to rid the system of fraud and waste and save the federal government \$1 trillion over a decade, according to Republicans who supported the bill. The savings support tax cuts prioritized by Trump, along with new spending on immigration control and defense projects.

The nonpartisan health research organization KFF estimated 13,000 South Dakotans could lose Medicaid coverage, primarily by failing to meet new work requirements. Combined with the expected expiration of the Obama-era Affordable Care Act's enhanced premium tax credits at the end of this year, the projected number of uninsured South Dakotans rises to about 20,000, according to KFF.

Key changes to Medicaid aside from work requirements don't significantly affect South Dakota, state Department of Social Services officials said. The state doesn't rely on provider taxes capped in the law, doesn't have problems with deceased or duplicate people enrolled, they said, and uses a different type

PHONE NUMBER

DIRECTIONS TO YOUR HOME (IF NO STREET ADDRESS)

WHAT IS THE BEST TIME TO CONTACT YOU BETWEEN 8AM AND 5PM

What programs are you applying for?

☐ SNAP ☐ TANF ☒ MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

ARE YOU APPLYING FOR TANF FOR YOUR OWN CHILDREN? YOU WILL BE CONTACTED WITHIN 2 BUSINESS DAYS OF THE

☐ YES ☐ NO

DO YOU WANT ASSISTANCE PAYING FOR PREMIUMS OR M

☐ YES ☐ NO

HOW MANY MONTHS IN THE PAST DO YOU NEED

TWO THREE

An economic assistance application for the South Dakota Department of Social Services. (Photo illustration by Makenzie Huber/South Dakota Searchlight)

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of payment model than other states. Medicaid Director Heather Petermann said South Dakotans should not "despair."

"South Dakota is in a much different place," Petermann said. "When people hear the news of 'doomsday is coming,' but it reflects the kinds of cuts that are occurring for states that use other types of models or mechanisms to pay for Medicaid than South Dakota does, that projects fear instead of informing people that there's going to be a pathway for them."

How work requirements will affect state government, hospitals

South Dakota had proposed its own Medicaid work requirements, but Department of Social Services Secretary Matt Althoff said the state will withdraw those now that work requirements are included in the new federal law.

By 2027, states must require able-bodied Medicaid enrollees to work or volunteer 80 hours a month or be in school at least half-time. Exemptions include people who are pregnant or postpartum, disabled, eligible for the Indian Health Service, and recently released from incarceration, among others.

South Dakotans voted in 2022 to expand Medicaid to adults with incomes up to 138% of the poverty level. Most South Dakotans on expanded Medicaid already work or would meet the exemptions, according to Ten Napel.

"It's unfortunate there has to be a lot of administrative work just to confirm that," she said.

The federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services must release additional guidance by the end of this year, leaving a year before the work requirement implementation guideline. Althoff said he's confident South Dakota can meet the deadline.

He's unsure how the new requirements will affect the state's budget, since it'll mean an upgrade in technology and potentially more staff. The change requires Medicaid recipients to verify their eligibility more frequently.

"That is precisely why we want to lean in to technology," Althoff said. "Can we do twice the workload of determinations with the equivalent amount of staff?"

Althoff told lawmakers on the state's budgeting committee this month that he is unsure "all of the federal dollars for one-time costs will meet" the state's needs for Medicaid changes.

State officials aren't sure how many South Dakotans will remain on Medicaid, especially because the change requires applicants to meet work requirements for four weeks prior to enrollment. As of June, 29,843 South Dakotans were enrolled in the expanded portion of the Medicaid population. There were 144,310 total Medicaid recipients in the state.

Ten Napel urged caution, suggesting the state should apply for an extension to ensure the program is set up properly before it's implemented.

"Where work requirements have been implemented in other states, we've seen a lot of checking in and people having to remember to do it and get paperwork done," Ten Napel said, "and many people just drop out of coverage either because they don't understand the requirements or because of the complexity of other things happening in their lives."

Tim Rave, CEO of the South Dakota Association of Healthcare Organizations, said work requirements could also take a toll on providers.

"It could take two to three years before work requirements are fully implemented," Rave said. "From there, if it impacts us as the models say it could, I think services will be cut, or potentially locations will close. We have to see how this all rolls out and what actual impacts are."

Funding injection in rural health could soften cuts

In a statement, representatives with Sioux Falls-based Sanford Health said the law "introduces financial pressures" for health systems.

Twenty percent of hospitals in South Dakota run in the negative margin, according to Rave.

"Obviously, every facility will do what they can to remain open," Rave said. "It'll just be a matter of what

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services they'll be able to provide."

Services most at risk in rural areas include maternal and women's health, behavioral health and dental, Ten Napel said.

People who live in rural areas nationwide are more likely to have health insurance through Medicaid, which puts rural health facilities at risk of lost funding and a rise in unpaid care if patients lose coverage.

Concern about rural health led to the creation of the \$50 billion rural health fund in the Big Beautiful Bill Act. South Dakota is set to receive at least \$100 million a year over the next five years, as long as the state submits a "detailed rural health transformation plan." The state could receive more, based on how the rest of the funding is distributed to states.

"Our budget is smaller than most states, so disproportionately, we're probably impacted for the good," Rave said. "It certainly doesn't have the sting it does in other states."

According to KFF, the largest declines in federal Medicaid spending will be in states with expanded Medicaid and higher shares of rural residents. While Kentucky will be impacted the most, losing a projected \$12.3 billion, federal Medicaid spending in rural areas in South Dakota over the next decade will decrease by a projected \$487 million. Questions remain, according to KFF, about how the funding will be distributed among states.

The state and health providers plan to collaborate about how the funds can be used. Ten Napel said the money can be invested in training, recruitment and shoring up rural preventative and primary care access.

"How do we invest these resources so that in 10 years, we're in a better place than we are today?" Ten Napel said. "We know investment in the front end can save money on the back end."

But that funding alone likely won't "fully address the broader challenges rural providers will face," Sanford representatives said.

"We look forward to working closely with our state and federal elected officials," the statement read, "to implement these changes in ways that protect access, support innovation and strengthen care for rural America."

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.

US Senate confirms Trump pick to head Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

BY: SHAUNEEN MIRANDA - JULY 29, 2025 7:39 PM

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Senate voted to confirm Susan Monarez as director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on Tuesday.

Monarez — whom the Senate confirmed on a party-line vote, 51-47 — will now be responsible for the national public health agency within the Department of Health and Human Services. The Atlanta-based agency has faced backlash as HHS Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. pursues a vaccine-skeptical agenda.

GOP Sens. Bill Hagerty of Tennessee and Dan Sullivan of Alaska did not vote.

Monarez was the acting director of the CDC between January and March. She previously served as the deputy director of the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health, which is part of HHS.

Monarez, who has a Ph.D. in microbiology and immunology, will be the first person without a medical degree to hold the title since 1953.

The White House originally selected former Florida U.S. Rep. Dave Weldon to lead the CDC but withdrew the nomination in March.

Monarez's confirmation followed a procedural vote earlier Tuesday that saw her advance, 52-47, along party lines.

Kennedy continues to face scrutiny after he fired all 17 members of the Advisory Committee on Immu-

nization Practices, or ACIP, in June and named eight new members — a number of whom are viewed as skeptical of vaccines.

Vermont independent Sen. Bernie Sanders, ranking member of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions, launched an investigation alongside seven Democratic members of the committee Tuesday regarding Kennedy's firings and replacements within the critical vaccine panel.

"By removing all 17 of ACIP's members and replacing them with eight individuals handpicked to advance your anti-vaccine agenda, you have put decades of non-partisan, science-backed work — and, as a result, Americans' lives — at risk," the senators wrote in a letter to Kennedy.

Those seven Democratic committee members include Sens. John Hickenlooper of Colorado, Lisa Blunt Rochester of Delaware, Angela Alsobrooks of Maryland, Ed Markey of Massachusetts, Maggie Hassan of New Hampshire, Andy Kim of New Jersey and Tim Kaine of Virginia.

Shauneen Miranda is a reporter for States Newsroom's Washington bureau. An alumna of the University of Maryland, she previously covered breaking news for Axios.



Susan Monarez, President Donald Trump's nominee to be the director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, testifies during her confirmation hearing before the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions on June 25, 2025. (Photo by Kayla Bartkowski/Getty Images)

Trump's EPA proposes rollback of basis for climate change rules, sparking Dem outrage

BY: JACOB FISCHLER - JULY 29, 2025 5:22 PM

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency submitted a proposal Tuesday to rescind a 2009 finding that has provided the foundation for the agency's regulation of greenhouse gas emissions that cause climate change, drawing strong opposition from Democrats and climate groups.

Administrator Lee Zeldin said the EPA would scrap what is known as its endangerment finding, established under President Barack Obama. The determination called climate change a danger to human health and therefore gave the EPA power to regulate the greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide from cars and trucks.

The finding provided the framework for numerous EPA regulations, including a 2024 rule requiring increasingly strict tailpipe emissions standards.

But Zeldin, who announced the proposal during an appearance in Indianapolis, said that framework created uncertainty for auto manufacturers and buyers and hurt the wider economy.

President Donald Trump's EPA would eliminate the finding, he said.

"With this proposal, the Trump EPA is proposing to end sixteen years of uncertainty for automakers and American consumers," Zeldin said in a written statement. Under Obama and President Joe Biden, the agency "twisted the law, ignored precedent, and warped science to achieve their preferred ends and stick American families with hundreds of billions of dollars in hidden taxes every single year."

The announcement touched off outrage from congressional Democrats and groups that advocate for strong action to curb the climate crisis.

"With this action, Trump and EPA Administrator Zeldin are putting massive corporate polluters in the

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EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin, center, announces his agency's plans for deregulation from an Indianapolis trucking facility on Tuesday, July 29, 2025. At left is Indiana Gov. Mike Braun and at right is Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita. (Photo by Leslie Bonilla Muñiz/Indiana Capital Chronicle)

agencies were due deference in drafting regulations, indicated the endangerment finding overstepped, the EPA said in a news release.

Repealing the finding would increase consumer choice, lower prices for goods delivered by truck and save \$54 billion annually in associated taxes, the EPA said.

The agency will accept public comments on the proposal until Sept. 21.

Health and economic impact

Despite the Trump EPA's assertion that the move would save money for Americans, climate groups said the opposite was true, and that the finding would hurt access to alternative energy sources.

"The reason (Trump) is doing this is not scientific," former Washington Gov. Jay Inslee said in an interview with States Newsroom. "It's just his slavish devotion to his billionaire friends in the oil and gas industry that he wants to help, and destroy the ability of Americans to get clean and cheap — I want to emphasize cheap — electricity. This is not just a health issue. It's a financial health issue, basically denying Americans the ability to get the most reasonably priced electricity in America."

Inslee, a Democrat who sought his party's presidential nomination in 2020 on a platform that emphasized climate issues, is a national spokesperson and executive with the advocacy group Climate Power.

"It's a reckless move that will make Americans less safe and hurt our economy by slowing the growth of affordable clean energy and fueling the heat waves, storms, floods, and wildfires that threaten people's homes and communities," U.S. House Natural Resources ranking Democrat Jared Huffman, of California, said in a statement.

Democrats and environmental groups also argued the scientific evidence clearly showed greenhouse gas emissions were harmful.

"You can't with a straight face argue that pollution is not endangering human health," Inslee said. "Look at the deaths that are piling up. Flash floods and heat domes, asthma and cardiovascular events. This stuff is bad for human health. I don't know how you can make the argument otherwise."

driver's seat at EPA and it will be everyday Americans who pay the price — with their health, their energy bills, their jobs, their homes, and even with their lives," House Energy and Commerce ranking Democrat Frank Pallone of New Jersey wrote in a statement.

"The only winners from this proposal are corporate polluters who will be allowed to dump unlimited pollution into our communities without any consequences."

EPA denies it has authority

In a Tuesday notice in the Federal Register, the EPA said it would rescind all greenhouse gas emissions standards for vehicles, consistent with its opinion that the endangerment finding was unlawful.

"The EPA no longer believes that we have the statutory authority and record basis required to maintain this novel and transformative regulatory program," the agency said.

Supreme Court cases in recent years, including a decision that limited the EPA's power to regulate power plants and a decision that denied federal

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Lawsuits ahead

Legal challenges from Democratic attorney generals are almost certainly imminent, Inslee said Tuesday afternoon.

"If a lawsuit hasn't been filed yet, I'll have to call (Washington Attorney General) Nick Brown and tell him to hurry up," he said. "It's been a couple hours now."

In a statement, Brown said he would "consider all options if EPA continues down this cynical path. We won't stand by as our children's future is sacrificed to appease fossil fuel interests."

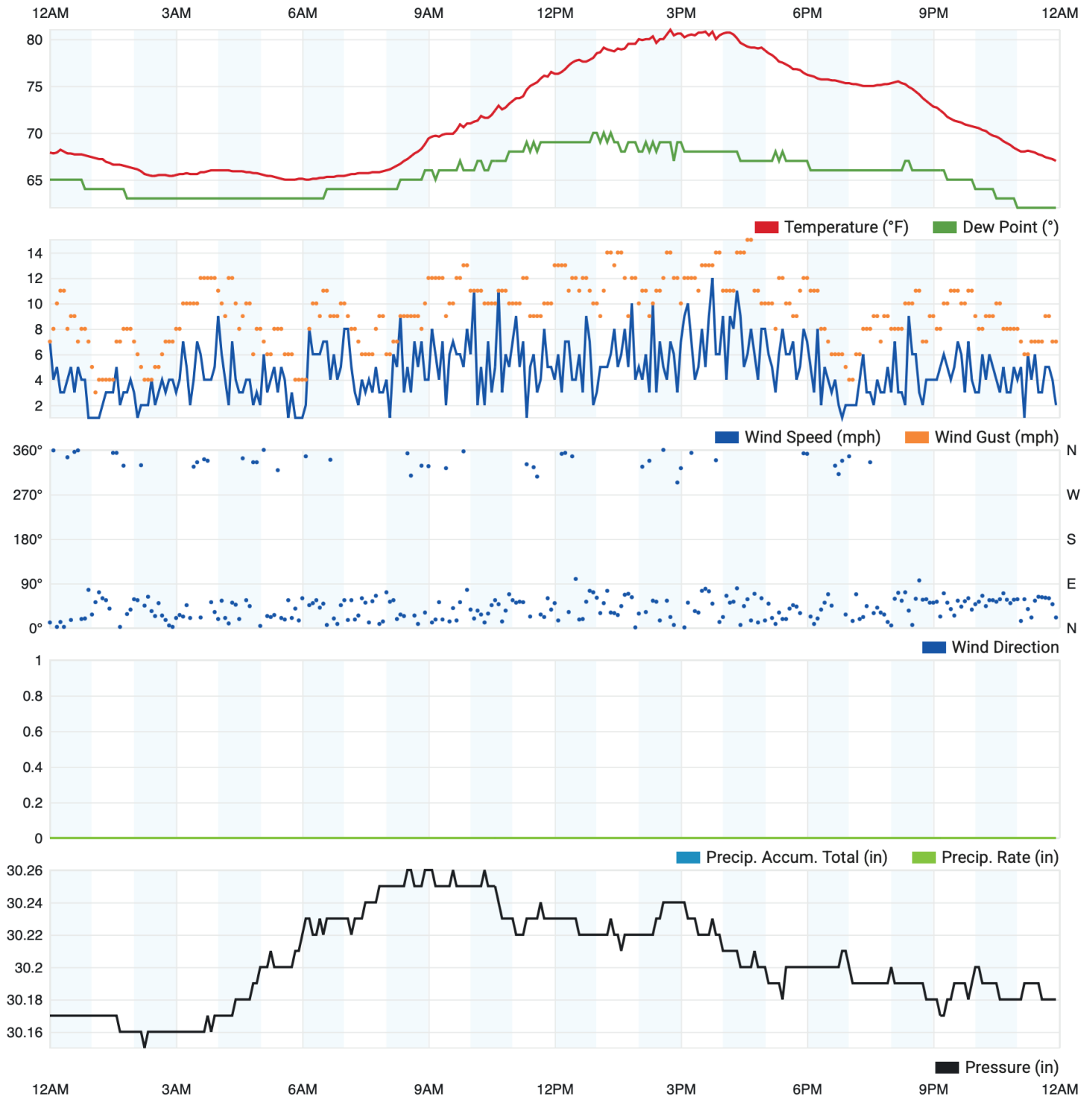
Jacob covers federal policy and helps direct national coverage as deputy Washington bureau chief for States Newsroom. Based in Oregon, he focuses on Western issues. His coverage areas include climate, energy development, public lands and infrastructure.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs

July 29, 2025



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Today



High: 78 °F

Areas Smoke

Tonight



Low: 55 °F

Partly Cloudy

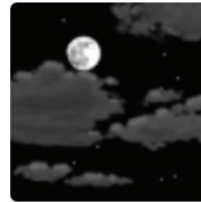
Thursday



High: 77 °F

Mostly Sunny

Thursday
Night



Low: 56 °F

Partly Cloudy

Friday



High: 76 °F

Partly Sunny

Today's Forecast



Highs: 75-82°

Lows: 53-59°

Elevated smoke will remain
over the region today, light
surface smoke will move north
to south across the area



National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD
weather.gov/abr



There is a slight chance (15-20%) of some showers and non-severe thunderstorms today, concentrated in south central SD. Otherwise, elevated smoke will remain over the region today and some light surface smoke will move north to south across the area during the daylight hours.

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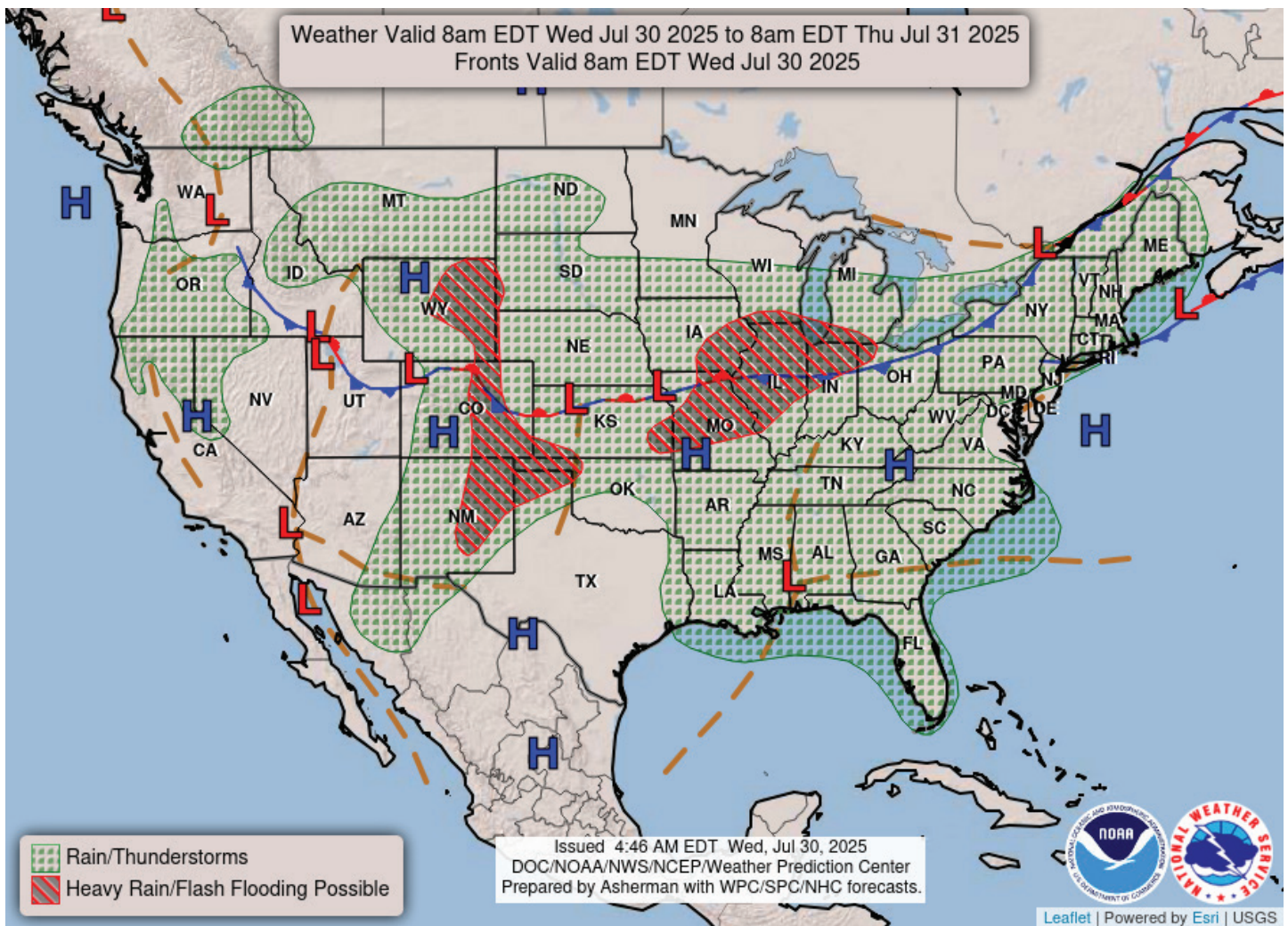
Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 81 °F at 2:45 P
Heat Index: 85 °F at 2:45 PM
Low Temp: 65 °F at 6:04 AM
Wind: 15 mph at 4:32 PM
Precip: : 0.00

Day length: 14 hours, 51 minutes

Today's Info

Record High: 106 in 2006
Record Low: 39 in 1971
Average High: 85
Average Low: 60
Average Precip in July.: 3.01
Precip to date in July: 6.91
Average Precip to date: 14.02
Precip Year to Date: 15.07
Sunset Tonight: 9:04:23 pm
Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:14:26 am



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Today in Weather History

July 30, 1981: Operation Skywarn organized by the National Weather Service in Bismarck four years ago had a perfect opportunity to put the training into operation on this day. A spotter 20 miles west of Bismarck identified a rotating wall cloud 10 minutes before a tornado touchdown. The strong tornado was rated as having F3 strength, leaving behind an 18-mile long path of destruction. The force of the storm drove a stick between a tire and rim. A 6-inch steel beam was twisted and found near the high tension tower which had been toppled.

July 30, 2001: Strong winds of 81 mph blew much of the roof off of the bowling alley in Mobridge. Some flying debris also damaged a trailer home. Many trees were snapped in two or uprooted, and many power lines were downed. High winds brought down tree branches and also knocked the power out for several hours in Pollock.

July 30, 2010: Very heavy rains of 5 to 10 inches caused the Rosehill Dam to break in the early morning hours in southeast Hand County. Flash flooding began around 1 am CDT with two campers being swept up around 130 am CDT. The two campers clung to a tree until they could be rescued about 6 am CDT. They were both injured with one camper being treated for hypothermia and other airlifted to Sioux Falls for broken ribs and head trauma. The dam broke at 330 am CDT with the spillway breaking at 420 am CDT. There was between a 100 to the 150-foot hole left by the dam break. The flash flooding continued downstream on Sand Creek causing damage to area farms, filling basements, and flooding many roads.

1949 - The state record for Connecticut was established when the town of Greenville registered an afternoon high of 102 degrees. (The Weather Channel)

1965 - The temperature at Portland, OR, reached 107 degrees to equal their all-time record high. (The Weather Channel)

1970: Hurricane Celia was born in the northwest of the Caribbean Sea on this day. The hurricane would be one of the worst ever to hit Texas and would reach Texas late on August 3. The storm reached its peak as it made landfall near Corpus Christi, Texas, as a strong Category 3 hurricane. Hurricane Celia is currently the last major hurricane to make landfall on the middle Texas Coast until Hurricane Harvey in 2017.

1979 - A forty-minute hailstorm bombed Fort Collins, CO, with baseball to softball size hail. Two thousand homes and 2500 automobiles were damaged, and about 25 persons were injured, mainly when hit on the head by the huge stones. A three month old baby died later of injuries. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Afternoon highs of 105 degrees at Aberdeen SD, 102 degrees at Bismarck, ND, and 102 degrees at Pueblo, CO, were records for the date. Pueblo, CO, reported just .09 inch of rain for the first thirty days of the month. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - A dozen cities in the north central and northeastern U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date. Downtown Baltimore, MD, hit 103 degrees, marking a record eight days of 100 degree heat for the month, and ten for the year. The high of 101 degrees at Billings, MT, marked a record seventeen days of 100 degree heat for the year. Thunderstorms produced severe weather in the northeast, with nearly fifty reports of large hail or damaging winds in Pennsylvania and New York State. A tree fell on a car at Erie, PA, injuring four persons. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Morning thunderstorms over central Missouri deluged Columbia with 5.98 inches of rain causing flash flooding. Daytime thunderstorms in Kentucky drenched Paducah with 1.73 inches of rain in less than half an hour. Evening thunderstorms in the north central U.S. produced wind gusts to 78 mph east of Moccasin, MT. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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**A CONSCIOUS REJECTION OR REFUSAL
TO ACCEPT DISCIPLINE OR THE
WILLINGNESS TO CONSIDER IT AS AN
IMPORTANT ASPECT IN LIFE IS A SIGN
OF IGNORANCE...**

We often apply words without understanding the importance of their exact meaning.

The word ignorant is a good example. To be sure, I am ignorant about many things. I know nothing about quantum physics, but that does not mean I am dumb. I cannot fly an airplane, but that does not mean I am stupid.

Rather, in both areas of knowledge, I am ignorant about quantum physics and how to fly an airplane—but not dumb or stupid. Being ignorant differs from ignoring something. It means that I lack knowledge or information about a subject. It may or may not impact my life in a harmful way.

But if I ignore something important or significant that can affect my well-being—that is different.

Something not to be ignored is discipline, because it has serious consequences: "He who ignores discipline despises himself; but whoever heeds correction gains understanding."

A conscious rejection or refusal to accept discipline—or the willingness to consider it an important aspect of life—is a sign of ignorance. Solomon says that a person who ignores discipline "despises himself" and is "unwilling to be corrected."

This often refers to personal pride or an unwillingness to see myself as I am. It's as though I say to myself, "It does not matter what the truth is about me—I refuse to admit it."

If we look at this from another perspective, it is the same as a sinner saying to God: "I don't need You. I can make it by myself. I need nothing—including You."

However, if we accept God's correction for our lives by accepting His grace through faith in His Son, we will receive His salvation—which is the beginning of a new life and insight.

Today's Prayer: Thank You, Father, for all we have because of Your love. May we gladly accept Your correction and salvation and begin a new life in and through Your Son.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Today's Scripture: Those who disregard discipline despise themselves, but the one who heeds correction gains understanding. Proverbs 15:32

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

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WINNING NUMBERS

MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS: 07.29.25

17 30 34 63 67 11

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$140,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 2 Days 17 Hrs 20 Mins 28 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: 16 Hrs 35 Mins 28 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS: 07.29.25

2 4 15 18 42 7

TOP PRIZE:

\$7,000/week

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 50 Mins 28 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS: 07.26.25

1 17 21 28 33

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$71,000

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 50 Mins 28 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS: 07.28.25

11 25 40 50 65 21

TOP PRIZE:

\$10,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 17 Hrs 19 Mins 28 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: 17 Hrs 19 Mins 28 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

A derecho with at least one 99 mph gust swept the Upper Plains and Midwest, the weather service says

By MARGERY A. BECK Associated Press

Strong storms that brought hurricane-force winds to an area stretching from the Upper Plains to the Midwest have been preliminarily classified by the National Weather Service as a derecho, defined as a long-lived line of storms with extreme winds.

The weather service's Storm Prediction Center said Tuesday it made the determination based on local storm reports showing straight-line winds gusting well over 60 mph (97 kph) from South Dakota and into Iowa, Minnesota and western areas of Illinois and Wisconsin from late Monday into early Tuesday. A storm is classified as a derecho if its wind damage swath extends more than 240 miles (386 kilometers) and has wind gusts of at least 58 mph (93 kph) or greater along most of the length of the storm's path.

Many areas reported gusts of over 75 mph (121 kph). The highest reading appeared to be in northwestern Iowa just before 10 p.m. Monday, when a gust clocked at 99 mph (159 kph) was recorded at Sioux Center.

The high winds tore down trees and tree limbs throughout the region, damaged some buildings and left thousands of customers without power by midday Tuesday. But the overnight derecho was not nearly as destructive as others in recent history, like one in 2020 that traveled from eastern Nebraska across Iowa and into Wisconsin and Illinois, reaching wind speeds of a major hurricane and flattening an estimated 100,000 trees in and around Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

A December 2021 derecho in the Great Plains and Upper Midwest spawned at least 45 tornadoes, caused widespread damage and killed at least five people.

The overnight storms didn't drop as much rain as was feared, meteorologists said.

"It looks like everything certainly stayed under 2 inches," or 5 centimeters, said Alexis Jimenez, a National Weather Service meteorologist in Des Moines, Iowa.

That could change, at least for Iowa, Tuesday night into Wednesday, Jimenez said.

"It's southwest Iowa's turn for thunderstorms with heavy rain," Jimenez said. "We're looking at maybe some more damaging winds. Of course, none of the magnitude as we saw last night."

The weather service said severe thunderstorms are expected Tuesday into Wednesday from southern Montana into the central High Plains and across much of Nebraska and Iowa.

The Latest: Powerful waves travel across Pacific after 8.8-magnitude earthquake

By The Associated Press undefined

A tsunami sent powerful waves toward coastal areas of Russia's Kuril Islands, Japan and Hawaii and Alaska after a powerful, 8.8-magnitude earthquake struck off the coast of Russia early Wednesday. Warnings are also in place for Alaska and other coasts south toward New Zealand.

The Japan Meteorological Agency said a tsunami as high as 60 centimeters (2 feet) had been detected as the waves moved south along the Pacific coast from Hokkaido to Tokyo Bay. Officials urged caution, saying that bigger waves could come later.

Damage and evacuations were reported in the Russian regions nearest the quake's epicenter on the Kamchatka Peninsula and officials declared a state of emergency in several areas.

Here's the latest:

Russia declares state of emergency in areas hit by earthquake

The Russian authorities declared a state of emergency on the Kuril Islands and in Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky, the main city on the Kamchatka peninsula.

They earlier reported that several tsunami waves flooded the fishing port of Severo-Kurilsk, the main city

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on the islands, and cut power supplies to the area. Russia's Oceanography Institute said tsunami waves that hit the city topped 6 meters (19 feet).

Japan asserts territorial rights to the four Pacific islands it calls the Northern Territories. They were taken by the Soviet Union in the final days of World War II, and the dispute has kept the countries from signing a peace treaty.

In Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky, local officials said that municipal workers had checked about 600 apartment buildings and found no major damage that would require evacuations. The inspections are continuing. The city is located on the coast of Avacha Bay, which protects it from waves.

The Oceanology Institute said that tsunami waves might have been as high as 10-15 meters (33-49 feet) in some sections of the sparsely populated Kamchatka coast.

8.8-magnitude quake was among the strongest this century

Wednesday's 8.8-magnitude quake was among the four strongest earthquakes this century, and among the eight strongest since 1900, according to the USGS.

The earthquake occurred along the Pacific Ring of Fire, the ring of seismic faults around the Pacific Ocean where most of the world's earthquakes occur.

The 2011 Japan quake and the 2004 earthquake off Indonesia were 9.1 magnitude, and a 2010 earthquake in Chile also was recorded at 8.8 magnitude.

Japanese official warns evacuees they might not be able to return home by day's end

Japan's Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshimasa Hayashi told evacuees in the tsunami-affected areas that they might not be able to return home by the end of the day on Wednesday.

Hayashi said waves could remain high for at least one day, and he urged evacuees to take precautions and stay well hydrated in the summer heat.

Damage and minor injuries reported in Russian Far East

Local authorities on Russia's Kamchatka peninsula said several people were injured during the massive quake, but didn't give an exact number.

Oleg Melnikov, head of the regional health department, said a few people hurt themselves while rushing to leave buildings and a hospital patient received an injury while jumping out of a window. Melnikov said that all injured people were in satisfactory condition.

A video released by Russian media outlet showed a team of doctors at a cancer clinic on Kamchatka holding a patient and clutching medical equipment as the quake rocked an operating room, before continuing with surgery after the shaking stopped. Officials said the doctors will receive decorations.

In Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky, Kamchatka's regional capital, the quake damaged a local kindergarten, which was not in operation due to ongoing repair work.

The Russian authorities said that tsunami waves topping 3 meters (10 feet) hit Severokurilsk, the main city on the Pacific archipelago that Russia calls the Kuril Islands.

Severokurilsk Mayor Alexander Ovsyannikov said the city's was flooded by four tsunami waves, which washed fishing boats into the sea, but no major damage was recorded in the city. Power supplies were shut off and the authorities were checking the power network after the flooding.

Japan also asserts territorial rights to the islands it calls the Northern Territories, which were taken by the Soviet Union in the final days of World War II. The dispute has kept the countries from signing a peace treaty.

Water recedes at Hawaii beaches as tsunami reaches Oahu

Hawaii Gov. Josh Green said officials observed water receding by 20 to 30 feet (6 to 9 meters) at Haleiwa Harbor on Oahu, the state's most populous island, an indication tsunami waves will arrive. The waves pulling out left boats to lay on dry rock and sand. "That gave us pause," Green said.

So far no damage has been recorded, but it will take two to three hours of observation before authorities will be able to determine whether the event has passed, Green said.

Pacific island nations urge people to avoid coastlines

Authorities in a number of small island nations in the South Pacific Ocean urged people to stay away from coastlines, familiarize themselves with evacuation routes and await further guidance from officials,

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but did not order evacuations.

Some tiny and low-lying Pacific island chains are among the world's most imperiled by tsunamis and rising seas.

Cautions to stay away from beaches until any wave surges passed late Wednesday were issued by officials in Fiji, Samoa, Tonga, Federated States of Micronesia and Solomon Islands.

Nearly 2 million people under evacuation advisories in Japan

Japan's Fire and Disaster Management Agency said nearly 2 million residents are now under evacuation advisories in more than 220 municipalities along the Pacific coast as of midday Wednesday.

It added that one person was slightly injured on the northern island of Hokkaido when a woman in her 60s fell while rushing to evacuate. She was taken to a hospital.

Governor says Hawaii is ready for evacuations

Hawaii Gov. Josh Green said data from Midway Atoll, which is part of the way between Japan and Hawaii, measured tsunami waves from peak to trough of 6 feet (1.8 meters).

He said waves hitting Hawaii could be bigger or smaller and it was too early to tell how large they would be. A tsunami of that size would be akin to a three foot (90 centimeter) wave riding on top of surf, he said.

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He told a new conference that a wave that size could move cars and throw fences around.

"It can dislodge trees, that's why you can't just be out there. The impact is at great speed," Green said. "Any any structure that gets loose and strikes the individual could take them out. And people can drown quite easily with the force of that kind of wave."

Green said Black Hawk helicopters have been activated and high-water vehicles were ready to go in case authorities need to rescue people.

"But please do not put yourself in harm's way," he said.

Tsunami sirens sound in remote California city

The small Northern California community of Crescent City turned on its tsunami sirens to warn residents about possible waves.

"You are hearing a Tsunami Siren. We are under a Tsunami Warning. Please stay away from beaches and waterways. A predicted wave may hit at 11:55 pm. We are waiting on additional information about any level of evacuation," read a post from the City Hall Facebook account.

The city in rural Northern California has roughly 6,000 residents.

A tsunami in 1964 caused by an earthquake in Alaska caused a wave 21 feet (6.4 meters) high to hit the city, killing 11 people and destroying its downtown.

Lines form at Honolulu gas stations

There were long lines at gas stations near downtown Honolulu, with standstill traffic even in areas away from the shoreline.

A Texaco gas station in the Nuuanu-Punchbowl neighborhood closed early so that workers could go home. The workers set out cones at pumps and turned away motorists.

Jimmy Markowski, on a family vacation from Hot Springs, Arkansas, ended up at the closed Texaco station after fleeing their Waikiki beach resort in a caravan of three cars carrying 15 people.

"All we're trying to do is just figure out what we're going to do for the next three or four hours," he said. "We've got water, we got some snacks ... we're going to stay elevated. This is our first tsunami warning ever. So this is all new to us."

Honolulu resident Kale A'i stopped at the station after spending more than an hour on what would normally be a 12-minute drive from his home near the coast. He was trying to get to his grandfather's house further inland.

"I've always tried to be a little bit more cautious because it's better to be safe than sorry," he said.

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Larger swells hit Japan

A tsunami of 60 centimeters (2 feet) arrived at Hamanaka town on the northern Japanese island of Hokkaido and Kuji port in Iwate on the main island, up from the earlier tsunami of 40 cm (1.3 ft), according to the JMA. A tsunami of 20 cm (7.9 inches) was detected in the Tokyo Bay, according to the Japan Meteorological Agency.

Shiji Kiyomoto, a JMA earthquake and tsunami response official, said second or third tsunami waves of tsunami had arrived. Kiyomoto did not say when tsunami alerts would be lifted, and said high waves may last for at least a day, urging residents to stay at safe places.

What is a tsunami?

Tsunamis are waves triggered by earthquakes, underwater volcanic eruptions and submarine landslides. After an underwater earthquake, the seafloor rises and drops, which lifts water up and down. The energy from this pushes sea water that transfers to waves.

Many people think of tsunamis as one wave. But they are typically multiple waves that rush ashore like a fast-rising tide.

Some tsunamis are small and don't cause damage. Others can cause massive destruction. In 2004, a 9.1 magnitude earthquake struck off the coast of Indonesia, causing waves that leveled remote villages, ports and tourist resorts along the Indian Ocean across Southeast and South Asia.

Tsunami warning issued for parts of China

China's Ministry of Natural Resources' Tsunami Warning Center has issued an alert for parts of the country's east coast along Shanghai and Zhejiang provinces.

The warning forecasts that waves could reach between 0.3 to 1 meter (1 to 3 feet).

Shanghai and Zhejiang are already under alert as Typhoon CoMay is expected to land in the Zhejiang province Wednesday.

'A series of powerful waves'

Dave Snider, tsunami warning coordinator with the National Tsunami Warning Center in Alaska, said Tuesday evening he had not heard of any specific reports of damage from the tsunami generated by the 8.8-magnituded earthquake.

Forecasted maximum tsunami heights ranged from less than 1 foot to about 5 feet (less than 30 centimeters to 1.5 meters) across parts of Alaska, Oregon, Washington and California, with higher levels projected in isolated areas.

The center said some places could still be feeling impacts from the tsunami for hours or perhaps more than a day.

"A tsunami is not just one wave," Snider said. "It's a series of powerful waves over a long period of time. Tsunamis cross the ocean at hundreds of miles an hour — as fast as a jet airplane — in deep water. But when they get close to the shore, they slow down and start to pile up. And that's where that inundation problem becomes a little bit more possible there."

Hawaii authorities set up evacuation shelters at schools and community centers

Honolulu won't operate bus trips scheduled to start after 6 p.m. local time. Drivers still on routes after that and who are in inundation zones will head to higher ground.

"We want everyone to stay safe," said Honolulu Fire Department Chief Sheldon Hao. "Evacuate early so you don't put yourself in a tough situation."

US National Weather Service warns people against going to the coast to look for tsunami waves

"This will NOT be a single wave. Do NOT try to go to the coast to take photos," the National Weather Service San Francisco Bay Area office posted on X.

The agency warned people could put themselves and any rescue teams that may be out at risk.

The Bay Area is under a tsunami advisory. Communities further north are under a warning.

Tsunami forecast to hit parts of Vancouver Island, British Columbia

The province's emergency preparedness agency said waves of less than 30 centimeters (less than 1 foot) were expected to reach Tofino around 11:30 p.m. Tuesday local time. A tsunami advisory spans much of

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British Columbia's coast and the agency said "multiple waves over time" were expected. The waves are expected to first reach remote Langara Island around 10:05 p.m.

The agency said local governments should consider evacuating marinas, beaches and other areas near the ocean.

Mexico's Navy warns Pacific coast to anticipate tsunami waves

Mexico's Navy says waves between 30 to 100 centimeters (1 to 3.3 feet) are expected on the Mexican Pacific coast after the tsunami set off by the 8.8-magnitude earthquake in Russia's Far East.

In a report, the Navy's tsunami warning center said the waves will begin to reach the northern coast in Ensenada, near California, at around 2:22 a.m. Wednesday central time in Mexico, and it will continue south along the Pacific coast until it reaches the Chiapas states around 7:15 a.m. local time.

The Pacific coast remains under a tsunami advisory, and the Navy recommended people stay away from the beaches until it suspends an alert.

900,000 people under evacuation advisories in Japan

Japan's Fire and Disaster Management Agency said so far no injuries or damage have been reported.

The agency, in response to the tsunami alert, issued an evacuation advisory to more than 900,000 residents in 133 municipalities along Japan's Pacific coast, from Hokkaido to Okinawa. The number of people who actually took shelter was not available.

A tsunami of 50 centimeters (1.6 feet) was detected at the Ishinomaki, the highest detected so far in the aftermath of Wednesday's earthquake, according to the Japan Meteorological Agency.

The strongest quake in over a decade

The earthquake at 8:25 a.m. Japan time had a preliminary magnitude of 8.0, Japan and U.S. seismologists said. The U.S. Geological Survey later updated its measurement to 8.8 magnitude.

It appears to be the strongest anywhere in the world since the March 2011 quake off northeast Japan that was 9.0 magnitude and caused a massive tsunami that set off meltdowns at a nuclear power plant.

Only a few stronger earthquakes have ever been measured around the world.

Connections restored in Russian peninsula hit hard by the earthquake

Internet and phone connections have been restored in Kamchatka following the massive earthquake, according to the Russian news agency Tass.

Videos posted on social media showed the façade of a collapsed kindergarten in Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky. No casualties were reported.

A port in Severo-Kurilsk, on the Kuril Islands in the Pacific, was flooded after a tsunami wave hit the area.

Russian news agencies quoting the regional Health Ministry said several people sought medical help in Kamchatka after the earthquake, but no serious injuries were reported.

Tsunami alert in Japan complicates transportation

Ferries connecting Hokkaido and Aomori on the northern tip of Japan's Honshu island were suspended, as well as those connecting Tokyo and nearby islands.

Some local train operations have been suspended or delayed as well, according to operators.

Sendai airport says its runway has been temporarily closed.

Tsunami waves detected at multiple points on Japan's Pacific coast

Japan Meteorological Agency says a tsunami as high as 40 centimeters (1.3 feet) has been detected at 16 locations as the waves have moved south along the Pacific coast from Hokkaido down to just northeast of Tokyo.

Officials urge residents to use caution as bigger waves could come later.

New Zealand warns of 'strong and unusual currents and unpredictable surges' along its coastlines

New Zealand authorities issued warnings of "strong and unusual currents and unpredictable surges" along all coastlines of the South Pacific island nation.

Waves were not expected to arrive until late Wednesday night local time, officials said.

The alert sent to New Zealanders' phones by the government emergency management agency said people should move out of the water, off beaches and shore areas and away from harbors, marinas, rivers

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and estuaries, but officials stopped short of issuing evacuation warnings.

Japanese nuclear power plants stop work

Japanese nuclear power plants along the Pacific coasts have suspended their work schedule in response to the tsunami alert, but so far no abnormalities have been reported.

Tokyo Electric Power Company Holdings, which operates the tsunami-hit Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant, said about 4,000 workers are taking shelter at higher grounds on the plant complex while monitoring remotely to ensure plant safety.

Its release of treated radioactive wastewater into the sea is also temporarily suspended as a cautionary step.

Russian scientists call the earthquake a 'unique event'

The 8.8-magnitude earthquake was the strongest to hit that area in Kamchatka since 1952, according to the local branch of the Geophysical Survey of the Russian Academy of Sciences.

In a statement posted on their Telegram channel, they called the earthquake a "unique event." They said the epicenter was near a recent earthquake that struck the peninsula on July 20.

While the situation "was under control," they said there are risks of aftershocks, which could last for up to a month, and warned against visiting certain coastal areas.

Oregon officials say small tsunami expected to reach the state's coastline

The Oregon Department of Emergency Management said on Facebook that small tsunami waves were expected to reach parts of the state's coastline starting around 11:40 p.m. local time, with wave heights between 1 to 2 feet (30 to 60 centimeters).

It urged people to stay away from beaches, harbors and marinas and to remain in a safe location away from the coast until the advisory is lifted.

"This is not a major tsunami, but dangerous currents and strong waves may pose a risk to those near the water," the department said.

Oregon is under a tsunami advisory, along with much of the U.S. West Coast spanning British Columbia, Washington state and California.

This item has been updated to correct that wave heights are expected to reach between 1 and 2 feet, not 1 and 3 feet.

The Philippines warns residents of possible tsunami waves

Philippine authorities warned provinces and towns along the archipelago's eastern coast facing the Pacific of possible tsunami waves of less than 1 meter (3 feet) that could hit between 1:20 p.m. to 2:40 p.m. (local time) and advised people to stay away from the beach and coastal areas.

"It may not be the largest of waves, but these can continue for hours and expose people swimming in the waters to danger," Teresito Bacolcol of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology told The Associated Press.

First waves hit Hokkaido in Japan and Russia's Kuril Islands

The Japan Meteorological Agency said a first tsunami wave of about 30 centimeters (about 1 foot) reached Nemuro on the eastern coast of Hokkaido.

The first tsunami wave hit the coastal area of Severo-Kurilsk, the main settlement on Russia's Kuril Islands in the Pacific, according to the local governor Valery Limarenko.

He said residents were safe and staying on high ground until the threat of a repeat wave was gone.

Gunman who killed 4 in NYC building blamed NFL for mental health issues and was targeting its office

By JENNIFER PELTZ, CEDAR ATTANASIO, DAVE COLLINS and JOHN SEEWER Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A gunman who killed four people inside a Manhattan office tower blamed his mental health problems on the National Football League and intended to target its headquarters but took the wrong elevator, officials said Tuesday.

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Shane Tamura, a Las Vegas casino security worker, was carrying a handwritten note in his wallet that claimed he had chronic traumatic encephalopathy, known as CTE, investigators said. He accused the league of hiding the dangers of brain injuries linked to contact sports.

Tamura, 27, sprayed the skyscraper's lobby with bullets then shot another person in a 33rd-floor office on Monday before he killed himself, authorities said. Among the dead were a police officer, a security guard and two people who worked at companies in the building. An NFL employee was badly wounded but survived.

The attacker's grievances with the NFL emerged as police worked to piece together his background and motivations, and as loved ones began to mourn the dead.

It's unclear whether Tamura showed symptoms of CTE, which can be diagnosed only by examining a brain after death.

Tamura, who played high school football in California a decade ago but never played in the NFL, had a history of mental illness, police said without giving details. In the three-page note found on his body, he accused the NFL of concealing the dangers to players' brains for profit. The degenerative brain disease has been linked to concussions and other repeated head trauma common in contact sports such as football.

Detectives planned to question a man who supplied gun parts for the AR-15-style rifle used in the attack, including the weapon's lower receiver, Police Commissioner Jessica Tisch said in a video statement.

She and members of the force also paid tribute to Officer Didarul Islam, who was guarding the building on a paid security job when he was killed. His flag-draped remains arrived late Tuesday afternoon at the Bronx mosque preparing for his funeral.

A multifaith vigil

Mayor Eric Adams visited the scene and recalled working in the mailroom of the building as a young man.

"To have to walk through and see the remnants of violence at that level, tore at me," he told mourners at an evening multifaith vigil for those killed.

Muslim, Sikh, Buddhist, Hindu, Christian and other faith leaders delivered prayers at the gathering held at a park about a dozen blocks from where the shooting took place.

Both Adams and Gov. Kathy Hochul spoke of the need for stronger gun laws. Hochul said guns designed to kill people on battlefields shouldn't be in New York buildings.

"We cannot respond to senseless gun laws through vigils," Adams said.

NFL boss calls shooting 'unspeakable'

Tamura's note repeatedly said he was sorry and asked that his brain be studied for CTE. He mentioned a PBS Frontline documentary about the disease and referred to former NFL player Terry Long, who was diagnosed with CTE, and the manner in which Long killed himself in 2005.

The NFL long denied the link between football and CTE, but it acknowledged the connection in 2016 testimony before Congress and has paid more than \$1.4 billion to retired players to settle concussion-related claims.

NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell, who works out of the offices, called the shooting "an unspeakable act of violence," saying he was deeply grateful to the law enforcement officers who responded.

Goodell said in a memo to staff that the injured NFL employee was hospitalized in stable condition.

The shooting happened at a skyscraper on Park Avenue, one of the nation's most recognized streets, just blocks from Grand Central Terminal and Rockefeller Center. It is less than a 15-minute walk from where UnitedHealthcare CEO Brian Thompson was shot and killed last December by a man who prosecutors say was angry over what he saw as corporate greed.

Monday's attack drew a response from the White House, with President Donald Trump posting that his "heart is with the families of the four people who were killed" and that the officer "made the ultimate sacrifice."

Video shows the gunman stroll into the building

Tamura, who worked in the security department at the Horseshoe Las Vegas but failed to show up for his shift Sunday, drove across the country over the past few days and into New York City just before the

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attack, Tisch said.

Surveillance video showed Tamura exit his BMW outside the building at about 6:30 p.m. Monday wearing a button-down shirt and jacket with the rifle at his side.

Once inside the lobby, he opened fire and killed Islam and Wesley LePatner, a real estate executive at the investment firm Blackstone, which occupies much of the building. Tamura then made his way toward the elevator bank, shooting the NFL employee and an unarmed security guard, Aland Etienne, who helped control access to the upper floors.

Tamura waited for the next elevator to arrive in the lobby, let a woman walk safely out of the elevator, then rode it up to the 33rd-floor offices of the company that owns the building, Rudin Management. He killed a worker for that company before killing himself, officials said.

Friends and family mourn killed officer

Islam, 36, had served as a police officer in New York City for over three years and was an immigrant from Bangladesh, Tisch said. He was working a department-approved job, in his New York Police Department uniform, when he was shot.

Islam leaves a pregnant wife and two children. Friends and family stopped by their Bronx home on Tuesday to drop off food and pay their respects.

"He was a very friendly guy and a hardworking guy," said Tanjim Talukdar, who knew him best from Friday prayers. "Whenever I see him or he sees me, he says, 'How are you, my brother?'"

Senate confirms Trump lawyer Emil Bove for appeals court, pushing past whistleblower claims

By MARY CLARE JALONICK and ERIC TUCKER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate confirmed former Trump lawyer Emil Bove 50-49 for a lifetime appointment as a federal appeals court judge Tuesday as Republicans dismissed whistleblower complaints about his conduct at the Justice Department.

A former federal prosecutor in the Southern District of New York, Bove was on Trump's legal team during his New York hush money trial and defended Trump in the two federal criminal cases. He will serve on the 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, which hears cases from Delaware, New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

Democrats have vehemently opposed Bove's nomination, citing his current position as a top Justice Department official and his role in the dismissal of the corruption case against New York City Mayor Eric Adams. They have also criticized his efforts to investigate department officials who were involved in the prosecutions of hundreds of Trump supporters who were involved in the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol.

Bove has accused FBI officials of "insubordination" for refusing to hand over the names of agents who investigated the attack and ordered the firing of a group of prosecutors involved in those Jan. 6 criminal cases.

Whistleblowers cite evidence against Bove

Democrats have also cited evidence from whistleblowers, a fired department lawyer who said last month that Bove had suggested the Trump administration may need to ignore judicial commands — a claim that Bove denies — and new evidence from a whistleblower who did not go public. That whistleblower recently provided an audio recording of Bove that runs contrary to some of his testimony at his confirmation hearing last month, according to two people familiar with the recording.

The audio is from a private video conference call at the Department of Justice in February in which Bove, a top official at the department, discussed his handling of the dismissed case against Adams, according to transcribed quotes from the audio reviewed by The Associated Press.

The people spoke on the condition of anonymity because the whistleblower has not made the recording public. The whistleblower's claims were first reported by the Washington Post.

None of that evidence has so far been enough to sway Senate Republicans — all but two of them voted to confirm Bove as GOP senators have deferred to Trump on virtually all of his picks.

Democrats say Bove's confirmation is a 'dark day'

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Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., said that Bove's confirmation is a "dark day" and that Republicans are only supporting Bove because of his loyalty to the president.

"It's unfathomable that just over four years after the insurrection at the Capitol, when rioters smashed windows, ransacked offices, desecrated this chamber, Senate Republicans are willingly putting someone on the bench who shielded these rioters from facing justice, who said their prosecution was a grave national injustice," Schumer said.

Republican Sens. Susan Collins of Maine and Lisa Murkowski of Alaska voted against Bove's confirmation. "I don't think that somebody who has counseled other attorneys that you should ignore the law, you should reject the law, I don't think that that individual should be placed in a lifetime seat on the bench," Murkowski said Tuesday.

At his confirmation hearing last month, Bove addressed criticism of his tenure head-on, telling lawmakers he understands some of his decisions "have generated controversy." But Bove said he has been inaccurately portrayed as Trump's "henchman" and "enforcer" at the department.

In a letter to the Senate Judiciary Committee released Tuesday evening just before the vote, Bove said he does not have the whistleblower's recording but is "undeterred by this smear campaign."

A February call emerges as evidence

Senators at the Judiciary Committee hearing asked Bove about the February 14 call with lawyers in the Justice Department's Public Integrity Section, which had received significant public attention because of his unusual directive that the attorneys had an hour to decide among themselves who would agree to file on the department's behalf the motion to dismiss the case against Adams.

The call was convened amid significant upheaval in the department as prosecutors in New York who'd handled the matter, as well as some in Washington, resigned rather than agree to dispense with the case.

According to the transcript of the February call, Bove remarked near the outset that interim Manhattan U.S. Attorney Danielle Sassoon "resigned about ten minutes before we were going to put her on leave pending an investigation." But when asked at the hearing whether he had opened the meeting by emphasizing that Sassoon and another prosecutor had refused to follow orders and that Sassoon was going to be reassigned before she resigned, Bove answered with a simple, "No."

In a letter to Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, Bove defended his testimony as accurate, noting that the transcript of the call shows he didn't use the word "reassigned" when talking to the prosecutors.

At another moment, Bove said he did not recall saying words that the transcript of the call reflects him as having said — that whoever signed the motion to dismiss the Adams case would emerge as leaders of the section.

But in the letter to Grassley, Bove said he did not intend to suggest that anyone would be rewarded for submitting the memo but rather that doing so would reflect a willingness to follow the chain of command, something he said was the "bare minimum required of mid-level management" of a government agency.

Republicans decry 'unfair accusations'

Grassley said Tuesday that he believes Bove will be a "diligent, capable and fair jurist."

He said his staff had tried to investigate the claims but that lawyers for the whistleblowers would not give them all of the materials they had asked for until Tuesday, hours before the vote. The "vicious rhetoric, unfair accusations and abuse directed at Mr. Bove" have "crossed the line," Grassley said.

The first whistleblower complaint against Bove came from a former Justice Department lawyer who was fired in April after conceding in court that Kilmar Abrego Garcia, a Salvadoran man who had been living in Maryland, was mistakenly deported to an El Salvador prison.

That lawyer, Erez Reuveni, described efforts by top Justice Department officials in the weeks before his firing to stonewall and mislead judges to carry out deportations championed by the White House.

Reuveni described a Justice Department meeting in March concerning Trump's plans to invoke the Alien Enemies Act over what the president claimed was an invasion by the Venezuelan gang Tren de Aragua. Reuveni said Bove raised the possibility that a court might block the deportations before they could hap-

pen. Reuveni claims Bove used a profanity in saying the department would need to consider telling the courts what to do and "ignore any such order," Reuveni's lawyers said in the filing.

Bove said he has "no recollection of saying anything of that kind."

Trump says Epstein 'stole' young women from Mar-a-Lago spa, including Virginia Giuffre

By CHRIS MEGERIAN and ERIC TUCKER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump said Tuesday that Jeffrey Epstein "stole" young women who worked for the spa at Mar-a-Lago, the latest evolution in his description of how their highly scrutinized relationship ended years ago.

One of the women, he acknowledged, was Virginia Giuffre, who was among Epstein's most well-known sex trafficking accusers.

Trump's comments expanded on remarks he had made a day earlier, when he said he had banned Epstein from his private club in Florida two decades ago because his one-time friend "stole people that worked for me." At the time, he did not make clear who those workers were.

The Republican president has faced an outcry over his administration's refusal to release more records about Epstein after promises of transparency, a rare example of strain within Trump's tightly controlled political coalition. Trump has attempted to tamp down questions about the case, expressing annoyance that people are still talking about it six years after Epstein died by suicide while awaiting trial, even though some of his own allies have promoted conspiracy theories about it.

Ghislaine Maxwell, Epstein's imprisoned former girlfriend, was recently interviewed inside a Florida courthouse by the Justice Department's No. 2 official, Deputy Attorney General Todd Blanche, though officials have not publicly disclosed what she said. Her lawyers said Tuesday that she's willing to answer more questions from Congress if she is granted immunity from future prosecution for her testimony and if lawmakers agree to satisfy other conditions.

Aboard Air Force One while returning from Scotland, Trump said he was upset that Epstein was "taking people who worked for me." The women, he said, were "taken out of the spa, hired by him — in other words, gone."

"I said, listen, we don't want you taking our people," Trump said. When it happened again, Trump said he banned Epstein from Mar-a-Lago.

Asked if Giuffre was one of the employees poached by Epstein, he demurred but then said "he stole her."

The White House originally said Trump banned Epstein from Mar-a-Lago because he was acting like a "creep."

Giuffre died by suicide earlier this year. She claimed that Maxwell spotted her working as a spa attendant at Mar-a-Lago in 2000, when she was a teenager, and hired her as Epstein's masseuse, which led to sexual abuse.

Although Giuffre's allegations did not become part of criminal prosecutions against Epstein, she is central to conspiracy theories about the case. She accused Epstein of pressuring her into having sex with powerful men.

Maxwell, who has denied Giuffre's allegations, is serving a 20-year-prison sentence in a Florida federal prison for conspiring with Epstein to sexually abuse underage girls.

A spokeswoman for the House Oversight Committee, which requested the interview with Maxwell, said the panel would not consider granting the immunity she requested.

The potential interview is part of a frenzied, renewed interest in the Epstein saga following the Justice Department's statement earlier this month that it would not be releasing any additional records from the investigation, an abrupt announcement that stunned online sleuths, conspiracy theorists and elements of Trump's political base who had been hoping to find proof of a government coverup.

Since then, the Trump administration has sought to present itself as promoting transparency, with the department urging courts to unseal grand jury transcripts from the sex-trafficking investigations. A judge

in Florida last week rejected the request, though similar requests are pending in New York.

In a letter Tuesday, Maxwell's attorneys said that though their initial instinct was for Maxwell to invoke her Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination, they are open to having her cooperate provided that lawmakers satisfy their request for immunity and other conditions.

But the Oversight Committee seemed to reject that offer outright.

"The Oversight Committee will respond to Ms. Maxwell's attorney soon, but it will not consider granting congressional immunity for her testimony," a spokesperson said.

Separately, Maxwell's attorneys have urged the Supreme Court to review her conviction, saying she did not receive a fair trial. They also say that one way she would testify "openly and honestly, in public," is in the event of a pardon by Trump, who has told reporters that such a move is within his rights but that he has not been asked to do it.

"She welcomes the opportunity to share the truth and to dispel the many misconceptions and misstatements that have plagued this case from the beginning," the lawyers said.

Victims of New York City shooting include a police officer and an executive at investment firm

By DAVE COLLINS Associated Press

He came to New York City as an immigrant from Bangladesh and worked his way up the nation's largest police force.

Didarul Islam had worked as a school safety agent before becoming a patrol officer less than four years ago. But on Monday, that promising career was cut short.

While working a uniformed security assignment, Islam was killed in a midtown Manhattan skyscraper by a gunman targeting the NFL, whose headquarters are in the Park Avenue tower.

The 36-year-old Bronx officer was the first of four people killed in the attack, including a security guard, real estate firm employee and investment firm executive.

"Officer Islam's death was yet another reminder of everything you risk just by showing up to work," Police Commissioner Jessica Tisch said Tuesday. "He knew that risk. He embraced it. He understood what it meant to put the safety of others above his own."

Blackstone, one of the world's largest investment firms, confirmed that Wesley LePatner, a senior managing director specializing in real estate, was among those fatally shot.

Security officer Aland Etienne was also killed, his labor union said.

The Rudin family, which owns the building and Rudin Management, said in a statement that one of their employees was a victim of the shootings but did not disclose the person's name at the request of relatives. Police officials said a woman was found dead on the building's 33rd floor in Rudin's offices.

NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell said in a memo to staff that an employee at the league's headquarters was seriously wounded but in stable condition at a hospital. He did not name the person. All other league workers were safe, Goodell said.

Mayor Eric Adams said police found a note suggesting the shooter, Shane Tamura, 27, of Las Vegas, was convinced he had chronic traumatic encephalopathy, a degenerative brain disease that has been linked to concussions in contact sports but can't be diagnosed until death. He had played high school football in California about a decade ago.

Police officer's body returned to Bronx neighborhood

Islam's flag-draped body was solemnly escorted to a Bronx mosque Tuesday in preparation for his burial. Hundreds of his colleagues lined the street.

Mourners recalled his work ethic and deep faith and generosity in the Muslim community.

Islam was married with two young sons and a third child on the way. He had been a New York City police officer for 3 1/2 years and worked out of a Bronx precinct.

Well-wishers visiting Islam's home brought food for relatives gathered inside. Across the street, a public

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school where one or more of Islam's children attended displayed a poster praising him as a loving parent and NYPD hero.

"He was a very friendly guy and a hardworking guy," said Tanjim Talukdar, who remembered Islam from Friday prayers at the mosque. "Whenever I see him or he sees me he says, 'How are you, my brother?'"

Sgt. Mohammad Islam, who is not related, said he saw himself in his fallen comrade, as a fellow father and an immigrant from Bangladesh. Both, he said, achieved the American dream by entering public service.

Family remembers fallen security guard as 'light in our lives'

Aland Etienne, an unarmed building guard, was shot as he manned the lobby security desk where he kept watch over the elevator bank to the upper floors.

His brother said the family was reeling from the shocking loss.

"He was more than a brother—he was a father, a son, and a light in our lives," Gathmand Etienne wrote on Facebook. "Our hearts are shattered, and we're asking for your prayers and strength as we navigate this painful time."

The president of the union representing security officers hailed Etienne as a "New York hero" whose untimely death was a grim reminder of the sacrifice and risk his job entailed.

Etienne had been a licensed unarmed security guard since 2017 and had worked at the building since 2019, with a prior stint in 2017, according to the union.

"Every time a security officer puts on their uniform, they put their lives on the line," said Manny Pastreich, president of Local 32BJ of the Service Employees International Union. "Their contributions to our city are essential, though often unappreciated."

Blackstone executive was Yale graduate who specialized in real estate

LePatner, 43, was Blackstone's global head of core plus real estate and chief executive officer of Blackstone Real Estate Income Trust, the firm said. She joined the company in 2014 after working for more than a decade at Goldman Sachs, where she also handled real estate.

She graduated summa cum laude from Yale University in 2003 with a bachelor's degree in history and served on the boards of several organizations, including The Metropolitan Museum of Art, the firm said. A company statement said executives and other employees were devastated by her death and described her as "brilliant, passionate, warm, generous and deeply respected."

LePatner's family said their hearts were broken and asked that their privacy be respected as they mourn. They also offered condolences to other families who lost loved ones in the shooting.

"We cannot properly express the grief we feel upon the sudden and tragic loss of Wesley," they said in a statement. "She was the most loving wife, mother, daughter, sister and relative, who enriched our lives in every way imaginable."

Author Bruce Feiler said in a Facebook post that he was shocked, saddened and furious over LePatner's death. He said they served together on a board at Yale.

"At 43, she was the most effortless and impressive person — you wanted to follow her wherever she went," he wrote. "A mentor to young women and generous friend to everyone who knew her, she was on the board of her children's Jewish day school, recently joined the board of The Met, and just felt in every way like the kind of leader we all want and need in these unsettling times."

Here's what to know about CTE, the brain disease the NYC shooter blamed for his mental health issues

By JIMMY GOLEN AP Sports Writer

BOSTON (AP) — The degenerative brain disease that has besieged the National Football League for two decades with a billion-dollar lawsuit, congressional hearings, an A-list movie and an unrelenting cortege of ex-players' obituaries has now intruded on America's favorite sport in the most violent manner yet.

The Las Vegas casino worker who killed four people in a New York City skyscraper that is home to the NFL's headquarters carried a note blaming the league for his mental health problems.

Shane Tamura, 27, who played football in high school, said in a three-page note found in his wallet that

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he had chronic traumatic encephalopathy — diagnosable only after death — and implored those who found him: “Study my brain.” Among his grievances against the NFL was a claim that the league put its profits ahead of player safety by concealing the harm CTE, and football, can cause.

Echoing an eerie trend in NFL player suicides, he shot himself in the chest, preserving his brain for an autopsy that could confirm whether his layman’s diagnosis was correct.

A degenerative brain disease that has been linked to concussions and other head trauma common in military combat and contact sports, CTE has been diagnosed in more than 100 former NFL players and arisen as an existential threat to the United States’ most powerful pro sports league.

Its dangers have led some states to consider banning youth football, prompted leagues at most levels to limit contact drills in practice, and spawned a series of concussion protocols and other rule changes designed to take the most violent edges off the hard-hitting sport.

Here is what we know and don’t know about the connection between CTE, the NFL and the shooter.

What is CTE?

Chronic traumatic encephalopathy can affect regions of the brain involved with regulating behavior and emotions. This can lead to memory loss, depression, violent mood swings and other cognitive and behavioral issues, though researchers note that these symptoms can also be linked to other illnesses.

Experts say symptoms can arise years or decades after the last brain trauma. Evidence of the disease has been found not just in those with long professional careers but in high school athletes as well.

Why is it associated with the NFL?

Researchers have established a connection between CTE and contact sports, military combat and other activities with repeated blows to the head. After more than a decade of denial, the NFL conceded the link between football and CTE in 2016 testimony before Congress, and has so far paid more than \$1.4 billion to retired players to settle concussion-related claims.

The 2015 Will Smith film “Concussion” detailed the pioneering efforts of forensic pathologist Bennet Omalu, whose diagnosis of CTE in Pittsburgh Steelers Hall of Fame center Mike Webster was the first in a former NFL player. Hall of Famers Ken Stabler, Frank Gifford and Junior Seau have also been diagnosed with CTE, as has Aaron Hernandez; in a 2017 paper, evidence of the disease was found in 110 of the 111 former NFL players’ brains studied.

Did the NFL headquarters shooter have CTE?

It’s not possible to say.

For now, CTE can only be diagnosed definitively by examining the brain posthumously through an autopsy. According to Boston University’s Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy Center, progressive degeneration of brain tissue in people with CTE includes the buildup of an abnormal protein called tau in a pattern that distinguishes it from other diseases such as Alzheimer’s.

Parents want more warnings after a brain-eating amoeba killed their son on a South Carolina lake

By JEFFREY COLLINS Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — Two weeks after Jaysen Carr spent the Fourth of July swimming and riding on a boat on one of South Carolina’s most popular lakes, he was dead from an amoeba that lives in the warm water and entered his brain through his nose.

His parents had no clue the brain-eating amoeba, whose scientific name is *Naegleria fowleri*, even existed in Lake Murray, just 15 miles (24 kilometers) west of Columbia.

They found out when a doctor, in tears, told them the diagnosis after what seemed like a fairly regular headache and nausea took a serious turn.

Jaysen, 12, fought for a week before dying on July 18, making him one of about 160 people known to have died from the amoeba in the U.S. in the past 60 years.

As they grieve their son, the boy’s parents said they were stunned to learn South Carolina, like most

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other U.S. states, has no law requiring public reporting of deaths or infections from the amoeba. The lake wasn't closed and no water testing was performed. If they hadn't spoken up, they wonder if anyone would have even known what happened.

"I can't believe we don't have our son. The result of him being a child was losing his life. That does not sit well. And I am terrified it will happen to someone else," Clarence Carr told The Associated Press as his wife sat beside him, hugging a stuffed tiger that had a recording of their middle child's heartbeat.

The best Fourth of July ever

Jaysen loved sports. He played football and baseball. He loved people, too. As soon as he met you, he was your friend, his father said. He was smart enough to have skipped a grade in school and to play several instruments in his middle school band in Columbia.

"He either loved you or he just didn't know you," his father said. "He was the type of person who could go to a jump park and five minutes later say, 'This is my friend James.'"

Friends invited Jaysen and his family for the Fourth of July holiday weekend on the lake, where Jaysen spent hours swimming, fishing and riding on an inner tube that was being pulled by a boat.

"Mom and Dad, that was the best Fourth of July I've ever had," Clarence Carr remembered his son telling him.

A headache suddenly gets worse

A few days later, Jaysen's head started to hurt. Pain relievers helped. But the next day the headache got worse and he started throwing up. He told the emergency room doctors exactly where he was hurting. But soon he started to get disoriented and lethargic.

The amoeba was in his brain, already causing an infection and destroying brain tissue. It entered through his nose as water was forced deep into his nasal passages, possibly from one of the times Jaysen jumped into the water. It then traveled along his olfactory nerve into his brain.

The amoeba caused an infection called primary amebic meningoencephalitis. Fewer than 10 people a year get it in the U.S., and over 95% of them die. The last death from the amoeba in South Carolina was in 2016, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The amoeba is fairly common. There is no science-based threshold for what level of the organism in the water would be safe or unsafe, and it would be difficult to test water regularly, the South Carolina Department of Environmental Services said in a statement.

Researchers are still trying to figure out why the infections are so rare. Some people have been found to have had antibodies, signaling they may have survived exposure. Others may die from brain swelling and other problems without the amoeba ever being detected.

Last year, the CDC started a pilot program of giving infected patients an antibiotic approved for use in Europe that has killed the amoeba in lab studies

The amoeba is found in warm water and the infection is almost always fatal

The amoeba becomes dangerous in water that stays over 77 degrees Fahrenheit (25 degrees Celsius) and for years has been seen almost exclusively in the summer in the southern part of the country. But a few recent cases have popped up in Maryland, Indiana and Minnesota, scientists said.

The CDC said 167 cases of the infection have been reported in the U.S. between 1962 and 2024, and only four people have survived.

One infection in a body of water doesn't increase the chances of another infection in the same body of water, the CDC said. The amoeba cannot move from one person to another.

Boys seem most susceptible, but researchers don't know if that is simply because they are more likely to jump and dive into the water or play in sediment at the bottom of lakes.

The amoeba can show up in hot springs, rivers and, on rare occasions, in tap water. That's why doctors recommend using sterile water for cleaning nasal passages with a neti pot.

The only way to be completely safe is to not swim in lakes or rivers and, if you do, keep your head above water. Pinching your nose or using nose clips when diving or swimming can keep water out of your nose.

Parents want others to know the danger from the brain-eating amoeba

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As he sat in an intensive care hospital room with his son, Clarence Carr couldn't help but think of all the people on the lake.

He wondered if any of them had any clue about the microscopic danger in that water.

"There are entire families out there on pontoon boats, jumping off, just like our kids were having the time of their lives," he said. "It very well could be their last moments, and they are unaware of it."

Record-breaking heat wave scorches Southeast US

By RUSS BYNUM and MIKE SCHNEIDER Associated Press

SAVANNAH, Ga. (AP) — Residents in the Southeast U.S. are no strangers to heat in the summertime. But this week's sweltering hot weather set at least one record and has forecasters urging residents to limit time outside on Tuesday if possible — and stay hydrated.

The all-time high temperature at Tampa International Airport was broken on Sunday when the thermometer hit 100 degrees Fahrenheit (37.8 degrees Celsius). The previous record had been 99 F (37.2 C) in June 2020.

The National Weather Service said Tuesday the prolonged heat is expected to peak in the Southeast at midweek. A strong upper ridge also was generating a "dangerous and prolonged" heat wave in the central and eastern sections of the country. An extreme heat warning was in effect through Wednesday night in New Jersey counties outside New York City, and the mercury hit an unseemly 97 F (36 C) in Manhattan.

No relief in the shade

In Savannah, Georgia, landscaper Darius Cowherd took a break Tuesday in the cab of his work truck after spending the morning mowing grass, trimming bushes and blowing leaves in Forsyth Park in the coastal city's downtown historic district.

Sipping from a giant water bottle almost the size of a gallon jug, he said, "I filled it with ice at 7 this morning and it's all melted by 10:30."

A canopy of live oak trees in much of the park provided little relief.

"It's hot even when you're working in the shade," said Cowherd, who wore a wide-brimmed hat to shield his face and neck.

The National Weather Service predicted temperatures in Savannah would reach 97 F (36 C) Tuesday, with heat index values — what the temperature feels like — approaching a broiling 110 F (43 C).

Breaking records

The heat wave was expected to set records across Florida on Tuesday, with highs around 100 F. Heat index values in the Tampa Bay area were expected to range from 113 to 118 F (45 to 47.7 C).

"We have extreme heat warnings in Georgia, down through northern Florida that would also include places like the Tampa Bay and Orlando metro areas," said Peter Mullinax, a meteorologist at the National Weather Service. "We're going to see today more opportunities for temperatures to be near 100 again."

However, rain is in the forecast for Wednesday, which will likely cool things off a bit.

Extreme heat warnings also were issued in the country's center from New Orleans up to St. Louis, the meteorologist said. The heat index value on Tuesday was expected to reach as high as 110 F around the St. Louis area and in southwest Illinois.

'Too much' heat

In downtown Savannah, scattered tourists trudged along the sidewalks despite the heat. A few carried umbrellas to keep the sun at bay.

A block away, Luis Hernandez was working in direct sun on a ladder painting second-floor windows on a 19th century home. He wore long sleeves to protect against sunburn.

Hernandez said a co-worker made sure he and his fellow house painters had a cooler filled with drinking water. About every two hours, they would go inside to take breaks in the air-conditioning.

"Sure, it's hot," Hernandez said — almost "too much."

With temperatures climbing Tuesday afternoon in Tallahassee, Willie Gaines and his workers took a break from painting white traffic lines on a newly paved road near the All Saints neighborhood. As they

sat in the shade of tree, heat radiated off the blacktop. The air was thick with the fumes of fresh asphalt. "Everybody's complaining they ain't never seen it this hot," Gaines said.

Pope Leo XIV surprises Catholic youth festival with unexpected popemobile salute

By NICOLE WINFIELD Associated Press

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope Leo XIV surprised tens of thousands of young Catholics on Tuesday and showed up unexpectedly at a Holy Year welcome ceremony, thrilling the kids and receiving a rock star's welcome in the first big youth event of his pontificate.

Leo emerged in St. Peter's Square in his popemobile at the end of an evening Mass that kicked off the Jubilee of Youth, a weeklong celebration for young Catholics. The estimated 120,000 young pilgrims who had packed the square erupted in shocked cheers and chants, as Leo looped around the square and up and down the boulevard leading to it.

For 20 minutes, Leo beamed, waved and clearly seemed to enjoy the outpouring of enthusiasm from his perch on the popemobile, as he took in the sea of cheering, flag-waving young people from around the world as the setting sun cast a golden glow over the basilica.

In a brief off-the-cuff salute and blessing from the altar, he told the young pilgrims that they were beacons of light, hope and peace that the world needs today.

"The world needs messages of hope. You are this message, and must give hope to everyone," he said in a mix of Spanish, English and Italian. "We want peace in the world. We want peace in the world!"

Leo, the first American pope, hadn't been expected to meet with the young pilgrims as a group until the weekend, when he was to preside over a vigil Saturday and Mass on Sunday in the highlight of the Jubilee week.

Tuesday's Mass had been celebrated by the Italian archbishop who organized the Holy Year, Archbishop Rino Fisichella, but it was he who urged the kids to not leave the square at the end, because the pope "had a surprise for us."

The crowd responded with the classic refrain from Catholic youth gatherings: "This is the youth of the pope."

Rome abuzz with Catholic youths

This week, downtown Rome has swarmed with energetic, singing and dancing masses of teenage Catholic scouts, church and Catholic school groups whose numbers are expected to swell to 500,000 by the weekend.

It all had the vibe of a scaled-down World Youth Day, the once-every-three-year Catholic Woodstock festival that was inaugurated by St. John Paul II and maintained by every pope since.

Tuesday began with groups of Catholic influencers — priests, nuns and ordinary faithful who use their social media presence to preach and teach the faith — passing through the basilica's Holy Door, a rite of passage for the estimated 32 million people participating in the Vatican's 2025 Holy Year celebrations.

Audience with influencers

Francis met with some of the influencers earlier Tuesday and thanked them for using their digital platforms to spread the faith. But he warned them against neglecting human relationships in their pursuit of clicks and followers, and cautioned them to not fall prey to fake news and the "frivolity" of online encounters.

"It is not simply a matter of generating content, but of creating an encounter between hearts," Leo said in a speech that showed his ease in switching between languages. "Be agents of communion, capable of breaking down the logic of division and polarization, of individualism and egocentrism."

"It is up to us — to each one of you — to ensure that this culture remains human," he said. "Our mission — your mission — is to nurture a culture of Christian humanism, and to do so together" in what he called the only networks that really matter: of friendship, love and the "network of God."

Pablo Licheri, who founded the Catholic Mass Times app, which provides locations and times for Catholic liturgies around the world and has registered 2 million downloads, said that he has been heartened by both

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Leo's message of unity and the enthusiasm of young Catholics like him who have descended on Rome. "I was especially moved to meet so many fellow Catholic influencers in person and to pray together with others who share the same passion for spreading the joy of God's love," he said after Tuesday's Mass.

Trump EPA moves to repeal landmark 'endangerment finding' that allows climate regulation

By MATTHEW DALY Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's administration on Tuesday proposed revoking a scientific finding that has long been the central basis for U.S. action to regulate greenhouse gas emissions and fight climate change.

The proposed Environmental Protection Agency rule would rescind a 2009 declaration that determined that carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases endanger public health and welfare. The "endangerment finding" is the legal underpinning of a host of climate regulations under the Clean Air Act for motor vehicles, power plants and other pollution sources that are heating the planet.

Repealing the finding "will be the largest deregulatory action in the history of America," EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin said Tuesday.

"There are people who, in the name of climate change, are willing to bankrupt the country," Zeldin said on the conservative "Ruthless" podcast. "They created this endangerment finding and then they are able to put all these regulations on vehicles, on airplanes, on stationary sources, to basically regulate out of existence, in many cases, a lot of segments of our economy. And it cost Americans a lot of money."

The EPA proposal must go through a lengthy review process, including public comment, before it is finalized, likely next year. Environmental groups are likely to challenge the rule change in court.

Zeldin called for a rewrite of the endangerment finding in March as part of a series of environmental rollbacks announced at the same time in what he said was "the greatest day of deregulation in American history." A total of 31 key environmental rules on topics from clean air to clean water and climate change would be rolled back or repealed under Zeldin's plan.

Under the Obama and Biden administrations, his predecessors at EPA "twisted the law, ignored precedent and warped science to achieve their preferred ends and stick American families with hundreds of billions of dollars in hidden taxes every single year," Zeldin said Tuesday at an event in Indiana announcing the proposed rule change.

Tailpipe emission limits also targeted

The EPA also called for rescinding limits on tailpipe emissions that were designed to encourage automakers to build and sell more electric vehicles, a rule Trump incorrectly labels an EV "mandate." The transportation sector is the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in the United States.

Environmental groups said Zeldin's action seeks to deny reality even as weather disasters exacerbated by climate change grow worse in the U.S. and around the world.

"As Americans reel from deadly floods and heat waves, the Trump administration is trying to argue that the emissions turbocharging these disasters are not a threat," said Christy Goldfuss, executive director of the Natural Resources Defense Council. "It boggles the mind and endangers the nation's safety and welfare."

Under Zeldin and Trump, "the EPA wants to shirk its responsibility to protect us from climate pollution, but science and the law say otherwise," she added. "If EPA finalizes this illegal and cynical approach, we will see them in court."

Three former EPA leaders have also criticized Zeldin, saying his March announcement targeting the endangerment finding and other rules imperiled the lives of millions of Americans and abandoned the agency's dual mission to protect the environment and human health.

"If there's an endangerment finding to be found anywhere, it should be found on this administration because what they're doing is so contrary to what the Environmental Protection Agency is about," Christine Todd Whitman, who led EPA under Republican President George W. Bush, said after Zeldin's plan was made public.

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The EPA proposal follows an executive order from Trump that directed the agency to submit a report "on the legality and continuing applicability" of the endangerment finding. Conservatives and some congressional Republicans hailed the plan, calling it a way to undo economically damaging rules to regulate greenhouse gases.

But environmental groups, legal experts and Democrats said any attempt to repeal or roll back the endangerment finding would be an uphill task with slim chance of success. The Supreme Court ruled in 2007 that EPA has authority to regulate greenhouse gases as air pollutants under the Clean Air Act.

Passing court muster could be an issue

The EPA proposal "seeks to deny settled science by creating legal distinctions that have no basis in the law," said Abigail Dillen, president of the environmental law firm Earthjustice. Rather than take seriously its responsibility to protect public health, "the Trump administration is pretending that the pollution causing climate change is not hurting us, even as we suffer more devastating climate disasters every year," she said.

If finalized, repeal of the endangerment finding would erase current limits on greenhouse gas pollution from cars, factories, power plants and other sources and could prevent future administrations from proposing rules to tackle climate change.

"The endangerment finding is built on a rock-solid scientific foundation that has gotten even stronger over time," said Fred Krupp, president of the Environmental Defense Fund. The finding "has supported commonsense solutions that reduce pollution, give us cleaner air and protect our health and our jobs," he said.

Climate scientists warned that overturning the endangerment finding would undermine decades of scientific progress and damage the credibility of U.S. institutions tasked with protecting the environment. The 12 hottest years on record have all occurred since 2009, and heat-related deaths are rising while wildfires are now more frequent and severe, said Scott Saleska, professor of ecology and evolutionary biology at the University of Arizona.

"To repeal the endangerment finding now would be like a driver who is speeding towards a cliff taking his foot off the brake and instead pressing the accelerator," Saleska said.

Jim Walsh, policy director of the environmental group Food & Water Watch, used a more explosive metaphor. "Lee Zeldin's assertion that the EPA shouldn't address greenhouse gas emissions is like a fire chief claiming they shouldn't fight fires," he said. "It is as malicious as it is absurd."

Sean 'Diddy' Combs asks for release on a \$50 million bond ahead of sentencing in October

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Music mogul Sean "Diddy" Combs is asking a judge to free him on a \$50 million bond while he awaits sentencing in October after a jury found him not guilty of the most serious federal charges he faced earlier this month.

In a court filing Tuesday, Combs' lawyer argued that conditions at the Metropolitan Detention Center in Brooklyn are dangerous, noting that others convicted of similar prostitution-related offenses were typically released before sentencing.

"Sean Combs should not be in jail for this conduct," Marc Agnifilo said. "In fact, he may be the only person currently in a United States jail for being any sort of john, and certainly the only person in jail for hiring adult male escorts for him and his girlfriend."

A spokesperson for the U.S. attorney's office in Manhattan did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Prosecutors have previously insisted he remains a flight risk.

Combs, 55, faces up to a decade in prison on two counts of transportation to engage in prostitution for flying people around the country, including his girlfriends and male sex workers, for sexual encounters. A conviction on racketeering conspiracy or sex trafficking could have put one of hip-hop's celebrated figures in prison for life.

Immediately after he was acquitted on July 2, Agnifilo had asked that Combs be released on bond.

But Judge Arun Subramanian denied it, saying Combs at the time had not met the burden of showing by clear and convincing evidence a "lack of danger to any person or the community."

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Combs is the latest celebrity inmate to be locked up at MDC Brooklyn, the only federal jail in New York City, joining a list that includes R. Kelly, Ghislaine Maxwell and cryptocurrency fraudster Sam Bankman-Fried.

Anchorage warns hikers after 2 bear attacks in a week

By MARK THIESSEN Associated Press

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) — Authorities are warning hikers to steer clear of streams and rivers where salmon are running and to take precautions after bears mauled hikers on two different occasions within a week in Anchorage.

Both unidentified hikers survived the attacks in separate parts of the municipality of Anchorage, a sprawling urban-wildlife interface that spreads across 1,961 square miles (5,079 square kilometers), an area slightly larger than the state of Rhode Island.

Anchorage is home to about 290,000 people, or about 40% of the state's population, and all kinds of wildlife, including an estimated 350 black bears, 65 brown bears and 1,600 moose.

One Facebook group captures stunning videos and photographs of bears, moose, wolves and other wildlife living and traveling within a half mile of a populated neighborhood in east Anchorage, in the shadows of the Chugach Mountains.

"Every year we recommend that folks avoid salmon-bearing streams because that concentrates both species of bears," said Cory Stantorf, the Anchorage area biologist for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. "That's a major food source for these animals as they get ready for that hibernation season coming up."

Both bear maulings in the last week occurred near populated areas, including the second attack Saturday near the suburb of Eagle River.

A man was walking on a trail that runs parallel to the south fork of the Eagle River, where salmon are running, when his unleashed dog happened upon a brown bear with a cub, said Timothy Gurnett, a Chugach State Park ranger.

The bear mauled the hiker, who unloaded his entire can of spray deterrent to ward off the bear, first to stop the attack and then a second time when the bear returned. The sow and her cub disappeared into the woods.

Armed officials searched for the bear on foot and with a drone, but the bear had left the area.

Officials believe the sow was protecting her cub, and don't intend to kill it.

"That's not something we go after bears for because any sow in that position would have likely done the same," Stantorf said.

The first attack occurred July 22 when a bear attacked a woman on a popular trail in a hillside neighborhood overlooking Anchorage and Cook Inlet.

The woman called police and said she had been attacked by what she thought was a brown bear about 2 miles (3.2 kilometers) into the trail near the Stuckagain Heights neighborhood.

Cyndi Wardlow, a regional supervisor for the state Department of Fish and Game, said shortly after the attack that it has not been determined if the bear was a brown bear or a cinnamon black bear, which could look like a brown bear.

Visibility on the trail was very low, with tall grass and heavy brush. Wardlow said staff was able to collect hair and scat samples for submission for analysis, but it could take two weeks to get results. Stantorf said they are still waiting for results.

Officials were hoping the samples could shed light on the type of bear and if it was male or female. Since they didn't know what they were working with, she said they weren't actively searching for an animal after that.

At this time of the year, people should avoid the salmon-bearing waterways.

"There's so many other places to hike," Gurnett said. Those areas include over 300 miles (483 kilometers) of trails within Chugach State Park, 95% of which lies within the Municipality of Anchorage.

Hikers should be extra vigilant when they are next to a river since the water masks sounds, and bears don't hear people coming. Hikers could carry and sound air horns to let bears know they are nearby.

"Bears don't want to be around us. They want to be somewhere else," he said.

Regardless of where people may hike, whether it is in the backcountry or near waterways, there is always a chance they could have a bear encounter or come across a moose, wolf or wolverine, Stantorf said.

Stantorf recommends people travel in groups, make noise, have bear spray ready, don't run or hike with earbuds in, keep pets leashed and be aware of your surroundings.

'Worst-case scenario of famine' is happening in Gaza, food crisis experts warn

By SAM MEDNICK and CARA ANNA Associated Press

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) — The "worst-case scenario of famine is currently playing out in the Gaza Strip," the leading international authority on food crises said in a new alert Tuesday, predicting "widespread death" without immediate action.

The alert, still short of a formal famine declaration, follows an outcry over images of emaciated children in Gaza and reports of dozens of hunger-related deaths after nearly 22 months of war. International pressure led Israel over the weekend to announce measures, including daily humanitarian pauses in fighting in parts of Gaza and airdrops. The U.N. and Palestinians on the ground say little has changed, and desperate crowds continue to overwhelm delivery trucks before they reach their destinations.

The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, or IPC, said Gaza has teetered on the brink of famine for two years, but recent developments have "dramatically worsened" the situation, including "increasingly stringent blockades" by Israel.

A formal famine declaration, which is rare, requires the kind of data that the lack of access to Gaza, and mobility within, has largely denied. The IPC has only declared famine a few times — in Somalia in 2011, South Sudan in 2017 and 2020, and parts of Sudan's western Darfur region last year.

But independent experts say they don't need a formal declaration to know what they're seeing in Gaza. "Just as a family physician can often diagnose a patient she's familiar with based on visible symptoms without having to send samples to the lab and wait for results, so too we can interpret Gaza's symptoms. This is famine," Alex de Waal, author of "Mass Starvation: The History and Future of Famine" and executive director of the World Peace Foundation, told The Associated Press.

What it takes to declare famine

An area is classified as in famine when all three of the following conditions are confirmed:

At least 20% of households have an extreme lack of food, or are essentially starving. At least 30% of children six months to 5 years old suffer from acute malnutrition or wasting, meaning they're too thin for their height. And at least two people or four children under 5 per 10,000 are dying daily due to starvation or the interaction of malnutrition and disease.

The report is based on available information through July 25 and says the crisis has reached "an alarming and deadly turning point." It says data indicate that famine thresholds have been reached for food consumption in most of Gaza — at its lowest level since the war began — and for acute malnutrition in Gaza City. The report says nearly 17 out of every 100 children under the age of 5 in Gaza City are acutely malnourished.

Mounting evidence shows "widespread starvation." Essential health and other services have collapsed. One in three people in Gaza is going without food for days at a time, according to the World Food Program. Hospitals report a rapid increase in hunger-related deaths in children under 5. Gaza's population of over 2 million has been squeezed into increasingly tiny areas of the devastated territory.

"This is not a warning. It is a reality unfolding before our eyes," U.N. secretary-general Antonio Guterres said in a statement on the new report, adding that the "trickle of aid must become an ocean."

More deaths to come

The IPC alert calls for immediate and large-scale action and warns: "Failure to act now will result in widespread death in much of the strip."

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Humanitarian workers agreed.

"If we don't have the conditions to react to this mass starvation, we will see this exponential rise," said Rachael Cummings, humanitarian director for Save the Children International, based in Gaza. "So we will see thousands and potentially tens of thousands of people die in Gaza. That is preventable." She described children digging through trash piles outside their office, looking for food.

Anything less than a ceasefire and a return to the U.N.-led aid system in place before Israel's blockade in early March "is policymakers condemning tens of thousands of people in Gaza to death, starvation and disease," said Rob Williams, CEO for War Child Alliance.

"All of the children who are currently malnourished will die. That is, unless there's an absolutely rapid and consistent reversal of what is happening," said Dr. Tarek Loubani, medical director for Glia, based in Gaza. 'Open every border crossing'

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 eased those restrictions in May but also pushed ahead with a new U.S.-backed aid delivery system that has been wracked by chaos and violence. The traditional, U.N.-led aid providers say deliveries have been hampered by Israeli military restrictions and incidents of looting, while criminals and hungry crowds swarm entering convoys.

While Israel says there's no limit on how many aid trucks can enter Gaza, U.N. agencies and aid groups say even the latest humanitarian measures are not enough to counter the worsening starvation.

"The fastest and most effective way to save lives right now is to open every border crossing," Tjada D'Oyen McKenna, head of Mercy Corps, the international relief agency, said in a statement Tuesday. Aid groups call the airdrops ineffective and dangerous, saying they deliver less aid than trucks.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said no one is starving in Gaza and that Israel has supplied enough aid throughout the war, "otherwise, there would be no Gazans."

Israel's closest ally now appears to disagree. "Those children look very hungry," President Donald Trump said Monday.

Why are scientists dressing pigs in clothes and burying them in Mexico?

By MARÍA VERZA Associated Press

ZAPOCAN, Mexico (AP) — First the scientists dress dead swine in clothes, then they dispose of the carcasses. Some they wrap in packing tape, others they chop up. They stuff the animals into plastic bags or wrap them in blankets. They cover them in lime or burn them. Some are buried alone, others in groups. Then they watch.

The pigs are playing an unlikely role as proxies for humans in research to help find the staggering number of people who have gone missing in Mexico during decades of drug cartel violence.

Families of the missing are usually left to look for their loved ones with little support from authorities. But now, government scientists are testing the newest satellite, geophysical and biological mapping techniques — along with the pigs — to offer clues that they hope could lead to the discovery of at least some of the bodies.

130,000 missing and counting

The ranks of Mexico's missing exploded in the years following the launch of then-President Felipe Calderón's war against drug cartels in 2006. A strategy that targeted the leaders of a handful of powerful cartels led to a splintering of organized crime and the multiplication of violence to control territory.

With near complete impunity, owing to the complicity or inaction of the authorities, cartels found that making anyone they think is in their way disappear was better than leaving bodies in the street. Mexican administrations have sometimes been unwilling to recognize the problem and at other times are staggered by the scale of violence their justice system is unprepared to address.

Mexico's disappeared could populate a small city. Official data in 2013 tallied 26,000 missing, but the

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count now surpasses 130,000 — more than any other Latin American nation. The United Nations has said there are indications that the disappearances are “generalized or systematic.”

If the missing people are found — dead or alive — it is usually by their loved ones. Guided by information from witnesses, parents and siblings search for graves by walking through cartel territory, plunging a metal rod into the earth and sniffing for the scent of death.

Around 6,000 clandestine graves have been found since 2007, and new discoveries are made all the time. Tens of thousands of remains have yet to be identified.

Testing creative solutions

Jalisco, which is home to the Jalisco New Generation Cartel, has the largest number of people reported missing in Mexico: 15,500. In March, human bone fragments and hundreds of items of clothing were discovered at a cartel ranch in the state. Authorities denied it was the site of a mass grave.

José Luis Silván, a coordinator of the mapping project and scientist at CentroGeo, a federal research institute focused on geospatial information, said Jalisco’s disappeared are “why we’re here.”

The mapping project, launched in 2023, is a collaboration by Guadalajara University, Mexico’s National Autonomous University and the University of Oxford in England, alongside the Jalisco Search Commission, a state agency that organizes local searches with relatives.

“No other country is pushing so strongly, so creatively” to test and combine new techniques, said Derek Congram, a Canadian forensic anthropologist, whose expertise in geographic information systems inspired the Mexican project.

Still, Congram warns, technology “is not a panacea.”

“Ninety percent of searches are resolved with a good witness and digging,” he said.

Plants, insects and decomposing pigs

Silván walks by a site where scientists buried 14 pigs about two years ago. He says they may not know how well the technology works, where and when it can be used, or under what conditions, for at least three years.

“Flowers came up because of the phosphorous at the surface, we didn’t see that last year,” he said as he took measurements at one of the gravesites. “The mothers who search say that that little yellow flower always blooms over the tombs and they use them as a guide.”

Pigs and humans are closely related, famously sharing about 98% of DNA. But for the mapping project, the physical similarities also matter. According to the U.S. National Library of Medicine, pigs resemble humans in size, fat distribution and the structure and thickness of skin.

A big Colombian drone mounted with a hyperspectral camera flies over the pig burial site. Generally used by mining companies, the camera measures light reflected by substances in the soil, including nitrogen, potassium, phosphorus, and shows how they vary as the pigs decompose. The colorful image it produces offers clues of what to look for in the hunt for graves.

“This isn’t pure science,” Silván said. “It is science and action. Everything learned has to be applied immediately, rather than wait for it to mature, because there’s urgency.”

Researchers also employ thermal drones, laser scanners and other gadgets to register anomalies, underground movements and electrical currents. One set of graves is encased behind a pane of transparent acrylic, providing a window for scientists to observe the pigs’ decomposition in real time.

The Jalisco commission compares and analyzes flies, beetles, plants and soil recovered from the human and pig graves.

Each grave is a living “micro ecosystem,” said Tunuari Chávez, the commission’s director of context analysis.

Science to serve society

Triggered by the disappearance of 43 students in 2014, Silván and his colleagues started gathering information about ground-penetrating radar, electric resistivity and satellite imagery from around the world. They studied University of Tennessee research on human corpses buried at a “body farm.” They looked at grave-mapping techniques used in the Balkans, Colombia and Ukraine.

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"What good is science or technology if it doesn't solve problems?" he said.

They learned new applications of satellite analysis, then began their first experiments burying pigs and studying the substances criminals use to dispose of bodies. They found lime is easily detected, but hydrocarbons, hydrochloric acid and burned flesh are not.

Chávez's team worked to combine the science with what they knew about how the cartels operate. For example, they determined that disappearances in Jalisco commonly happened along cartel routes between Pacific ports, drug manufacturing facilities and the U.S. border, and that most of the missing are found in the same municipality where they disappeared.

Expert relatives

The experience of the families of the missing also informs the research.

Some observed that graves are often found under trees whose roots grow vertically, so those digging the graves can remain in the shade. Mothers of missing loved ones invited by researchers to visit one of the pig burial sites were able to identify most of the unmarked graves by sight alone, because of the plants and soil placement, Silván said.

"The knowledge flows in both directions," he said.

Maribel Cedeño, who has been looking for her missing brother for four years, said she believes the drones and other technology will be helpful.

"I never imagined being in this situation, finding bodies, becoming such an expert," she said of her quest.

Héctor Flores has been searching for his son since 2021. He questions why so much time and effort has been invested in methods that have not led to concrete discoveries, when the families have proven track records with little official support.

Although the research has not yet concluded, the Jalisco Search Commission is already using a thermal drone, a laser scanner and a multispectral camera to help families look for their missing relatives in some cases. But it is unclear whether authorities across Mexico will ever be willing to use, or able to afford, the high-tech aides.

Congram, the forensic scientist, said researchers are aware of the limitations of technology, but that "you always have to try, fail, fail again and keep trying."

The Latest: Gaza death toll passes 60,000 as Israel and Trump feel pressure over famine alert

The Associated Press undefined

The Palestinian death toll in Gaza passed 60,000 on Tuesday. The world's leading authority on food crises said the "worst-case scenario of famine is currently playing out" in the territory of over 2 million people as starvation deaths rise. And the United Nations said far too little food and other aid was entering the enclave, while most of Tuesday's dead were gunned down seeking aid.

Pressure grew on Israel's closest ally, the United States, to act as Americans' support for Israeli military action declines sharply. And the British prime minister says the U.K. will recognize a Palestinian state in September unless Israel agrees to a ceasefire.

Here's the latest:

Malta to recognize a Palestinian state, leader says

Malta plans to recognize a Palestinian state in September, Prime Minister Robert Abela said in a social media post.

Malta's decision was formally communicated to the United Nations during the U.N. conference under way in New York, Abela added.

"Our country's position reflects our commitment to finding a solution in favor of lasting peace in the Middle East," wrote Abela, who had previously said he intended to be the Maltese leader to recognize a Palestinian state.

Italian Premier Giorgia Meloni has said Italy backs an eventual Palestinian state but that the time wasn't right to recognize it. Meloni has backed Israel's right to defend itself while providing humanitarian aid to

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Gaza and airlifting out wounded Palestinians for treatment in Italy.

The Holy See, for its part, recognized the Palestinian state officially in 2015 and has said such recognition was the best solution to ending the conflict.

Trump says he thinks Europe will help with Gaza aid

President Donald Trump says he thinks the European Union will put up more money to aid hungry Palestinians in Gaza.

"We want to take it one thing at a time. They need food, and they need people to be able to get them the food," he told reporters.

The EU has been the world's biggest supplier of aid to the Palestinians, when the aid is allowed to go through.

Trump also talked about setting up "food centers" under Israeli control, saying that "we think they can do a good job with it. They want to preside over the food centers to make sure the distribution is proper." It was not clear how that would differ from the Israeli-backed American contractor that opened aid distribution centers in Gaza in May. Chaos has surrounded that system meant as an alternative to the U.N.-backed one.

Trump said he last spoke to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu two days ago.

UN conference supports two-state solution

A U.N. high-level conference has given "unwavering support" to a two-state solution to the Israel-Palestinian conflict and calls on Israel to commit to a Palestinian state.

The non-binding declaration adopted at a conference at the U.N. General Assembly sets out "a concrete time-bound action plan." Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu opposes a two-state solution, and his government and close ally the United States boycotted the conference.

The declaration's plan envisions the Palestinian Authority governing and controlling all Palestinian territory, with a transitional administrative committee established under its umbrella after a ceasefire in Gaza.

The plan also supports deployment of "a temporary international stabilization mission" operating under U.N. auspices to support the transfer of security to the Palestinian Authority.

UK foreign secretary defends conditions on Palestinian statehood

British Foreign Secretary David Lammy has defended the U.K.'s decision on recognition of Palestinian statehood in September if Israel does not agree to a ceasefire and long-term peace process.

Lammy told reporters at the United Nations that "what we have attempted to do is affect the situation on the ground, and I sincerely hope that we see a dramatic improvement to the suffering that we see and a commitment to a ceasefire."

The U.K. announcement came a day after President Donald Trump met with the British prime minister. Lammy was asked if Trump was given a heads-up.

While the U.S. and U.K. have the "most special" relationship, Lammy responded, "we have always been clear that no country has veto on solemn decisions that we make in the United Kingdom."

Applause at UN conference for British statement

Britain's foreign secretary has been applauded at a U.N. conference after announcing that the U.K. will recognize a Palestinian state in September unless Israel agrees to a ceasefire in Gaza and takes steps to long-term peace.

David Lammy spoke at a ministerial meeting on the two-state solution to the Israel-Palestine conflict. He was immediately interrupted with loud and sustained applause in the U.N. General Assembly hall.

Lammy also said the rejection by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government of a two-state solution "is wrong morally and it's wrong strategically," stressing that it harms the Israeli people by closing off the only path to peace.

France welcomes British announcement on Palestinian state

France has welcomed British Prime Minister Keir Starmer's announcement that the U.K. will recognize a Palestinian state in September unless Israel agrees to a ceasefire in Gaza and takes steps to long-term peace.

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Last week, French President Emmanuel Macron made a surprise diplomatic gamble by announcing that France will recognize Palestine in September.

French Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot posted on social media that "Together, through this momentous decision and our joint efforts, we are ending the infinite cycle of violence and re-opening the prospect of peace in the region."

Palestinians chase airdrops into the sea

Scores of Palestinians in the Gaza town of Zawaida swam into the sea to retrieve what they could from airdrops of aid.

Kamel Qoraan returned to shore with a soaked bag of tea powder, saying that airdropping aid is "humiliating" and calling for the opening of border crossings for trucks. The United Nations and partners say trucks deliver far more aid.

Associated Press reporters in Gaza said much of the airdropped aid has fallen in so-called red zones that Israel has ordered people to evacuate from.

Some people seemed relieved to get anything. One boy smiled as he clutched a small sack of flour. One man had a can of beans. Momen Abu Etayya said his son urged him to chase the airdrops, and dashed into the sea. "I was only able to bring him three biscuits," he said.

U.K. to recognize Palestinian state in September unless Israel agrees to ceasefire

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer says the U.K. will recognize a Palestinian state in September unless Israel agrees to a ceasefire in Gaza and takes steps toward long-term peace.

Starmer told ministers at a rare summertime Cabinet meeting that Britain will recognize a state of Palestine before the United Nations General Assembly, "unless the Israeli government takes substantive steps to end the appalling situation in Gaza, reaches a ceasefire, makes clear there will be no annexation in the West Bank and commits to a long-term peace process that delivers a two state solution."

EU humanitarian team not allowed into Gaza, official says

A team from the European Union's humanitarian aid agency was "not authorized" by Israel to join a convoy heading into Gaza, according to a senior European Commission official. The official was not authorized to be publicly named according to EU policy.

The EU "didn't receive any convincing explanation" from Israel's military or foreign service, the official said. There was no immediate Israeli comment.

The EU has sought to monitor delivery of food and fuel in Gaza under a new aid agreement with Israel. It says at least 160 trucks should enter Gaza daily along with 200,000 liters of fuel, and more border crossings should open.

But the EU does not have adequate evidence Israel has fulfilled its end of the bargain, the official said.

— Sam McNeil in Brussels

WFP says half of what it wants to get into Gaza is reaching

The U.N. World Food Program says only about half of the aid it has requested to enter Gaza is reaching the territory after Israel eased restrictions on entry over the weekend.

WFP wants 100 trucks per day entering the territory of over 2 million people as deaths from starvation increase.

Ross Smith, the U.N. agency's director of emergencies, says they lack "follow-through on the ground" such as faster clearance and approval for aid trucks. He says that "we need sustained effort at scale for weeks at a time."

Draft says ministers to make 'unwavering commitment' to two-state solution

A draft document for a U.N. conference says foreign ministers will make an "unwavering commitment" to a two-state solution to the Israel-Palestine conflict. The document obtained by The Associated Press would stress "the importance of unifying the Gaza Strip with the West Bank under the Palestinian Authority."

It also will invite all countries that have not recognized the state of Palestine to do so, and "urge countries who have not done so yet to establish normal relations with Israel." The draft was circulated for comment by conference co-chair France ahead of the conference's final day on Tuesday.

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— Edith M. Lederer

Top UN official says famine alert in Gaza is 'undeniable'

United Nations secretary-general Antonio Guterres says the new alert on Gaza from the world's leading international authority on food crises "confirms what we have feared: Gaza is on the brink of famine."

"The facts are in — and they are undeniable," Guterres said in a statement. "Palestinians in Gaza are enduring a humanitarian catastrophe of epic proportions. This is not a warning. It is a reality unfolding before our eyes." He again called for the free and unimpeded flow of food, water, medicine and fuel into the strip, saying that the "trickle of aid must become an ocean."

Germany joins airdrop effort in Gaza

German Chancellor Friedrich Merz says two of his country's military aircraft are on their way to Jordan to join the airdrops of aid to Gaza.

Merz said after meeting Jordan's King Abdullah II on Tuesday that the two Airbus A400M planes can join airdrops by the weekend, possibly as early as Wednesday.

Abdullah acknowledged that airdrops are "a drop in the ocean," though "it does send a signal and pressure on Israel that we are trying the best that we can." He insisted that "truck traffic needs to be started as quickly as possible."

France to join airdrops for Gaza

A French diplomatic official says France will carry out airdrops of humanitarian aid to Gaza in the coming days. The official spoke on condition of anonymity in line with government policy.

The official stressed that the airdrops are not intended to replace larger-scale relief efforts. France is also working to establish overland deliveries, which it described as "by far the most effective solution for delivering massive, unimpeded humanitarian relief."

Why there hasn't been a formal declaration of famine in Gaza

By JAMEY KEATEN and SAM MEDNICK Associated Press

The leading international authority on food crises said Tuesday that the "worst-case scenario of famine is currently playing out in Gaza." It predicted "widespread death" without immediate action.

The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, or IPC, said Gaza has been on the brink of famine for two years, and that recent developments, including "increasingly stringent blockades" by Israel, have "dramatically worsened" the situation.

Even though Israel eased a 2 1/2-month blockade on the territory in May, aid groups say only a trickle of assistance is getting into the enclave and that Palestinians face catastrophic levels of hunger 21 months into the Israeli offensive launched after Hamas' Oct. 7 attack.

Hundreds have been killed by Israeli forces as they try to reach aid sites or convoys, according to witnesses, health officials and the United Nations' human rights office. The military says it has only fired warning shots.

The IPC warning stopped short of a formal declaration of famine. Here's why:

The IPC and aid groups says Gaza's hunger crisis is worsening

Gaza's population of roughly 2 million Palestinians relies almost entirely on outside aid. Israel's offensive has wiped out what was already limited local food production. Israel's blockade, along with ongoing fighting and chaos inside the territory, has further limited people's access to food.

The U.N. World Food Program says Gaza's hunger crisis has reached "new and astonishing levels of desperation." Nearly 100,000 women and children are suffering from severe acute malnutrition, and a third of Gaza's population is going days without eating, Ross Smith, the agency's director for emergencies, said Monday.

The Gaza Health Ministry says there have been 82 malnutrition-related deaths in Gaza this month, including 24 children. It did not give their exact cause of death. The ministry, part of the Hamas-run government, is staffed by medical professionals and its figures on war deaths are seen by the U.N. and other experts as the most reliable estimate of casualties.

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Famine occurs when these conditions are met

The IPC was first set up in 2004 during the famine in Somalia. It includes more than a dozen U.N. agencies, aid groups, governments and other bodies.

Famine can appear in pockets — sometimes small ones — and a formal classification requires caution.

The IPC has only declared famine a few times — in Somalia in 2011, and South Sudan in 2017 and 2020, and last year in parts of Sudan's western Darfur region. Tens of thousands are believed to have died in Somalia and South Sudan.

It rates an area as in famine when all three of these conditions are confirmed:

- 20% of households have an extreme lack of food, or are essentially starving.
- At least 30% of children 6 months to 5 years old suffer from acute malnutrition, based on a weight-to-height measurement; or 15% of that age group suffer from acute malnutrition based on the circumference of their upper arm.
- At least two people, or four children under 5, per 10,000 are dying daily due to starvation or the interaction of malnutrition and disease.

Gaza poses a major challenge for experts because Israel severely limits access to the territory, making it difficult and in some cases impossible to gather data.

The IPC said Tuesday that data indicate famine thresholds have been reached for food consumption in most of Gaza, and for acute malnutrition in Gaza City.

Famine declarations usually come from the UN or governments

While the IPC says it is the "primary mechanism" used by the international community to conclude whether a famine is happening or projected, it typically doesn't make such a declaration itself.

Often, U.N. officials together with governments will make a formal statement based on an analysis from the IPC.

But the IPC says once a famine is declared it's already too late. While it can prevent further deaths, it means many people will have died by the time a famine is declared.

It's not always clear that hunger is the cause of death

Most cases of severe malnutrition in children arise through a combination of lack of nutrients along with an infection, leading to diarrhea and other symptoms that cause dehydration, said Alex de Waal, author of "Mass Starvation: The History and Future of Famine" and executive director of the World Peace Foundation.

"There are no standard guidelines for physicians to classify cause of death as 'malnutrition' as opposed to infection," he said.

When famine occurs, there are often relatively few deaths from hunger alone. Far more people die from a combination of malnutrition, disease and other forms of deprivation. All of these count as excess deaths — separate from violence — that can be attributed to a food crisis or famine, he said.

The war has made it hard to get accurate information

Israel's offensive has gutted Gaza's health system and displaced some 90% of its population. With hospitals damaged and overwhelmed by war casualties, it can be difficult to screen people for malnutrition and collect precise data on deaths.

"Data and surveillance systems are incomplete and eroded," said James Smith, an emergency doctor and lecturer in humanitarian policy at the University College London who spent more than two months in Gaza.

"Which means that all health indicators — and the death toll — are known to be an underestimation," he said.

Even when famine is declared, the response can be lacking

A declaration of famine should in theory galvanize the international community to rush food to those who need it. But with aid budgets already stretched, and war and politics throwing up obstacles, that doesn't always happen.

"There is not a big, huge bank account" to draw on, said OCHA's Laerke. "The fundamental problem is that we build the fire engine as we respond."

Aid groups say plenty of food and other aid has been gathered on Gaza's borders, but Israel is allowing

only a small amount to enter. Within Gaza, gunfire, chaos and looting have plagued the distribution of food.

The international pressure led Israel to announce new measures over the weekend, including daily humanitarian pauses in fighting in parts of Gaza and airdrops of food. Israel says there's no limit on how many aid trucks can enter Gaza.

U.N. agencies say Israeli restrictions, and the breakdown of law and order, make it difficult to distribute the food that does come in.

"Only a massive scale-up in food aid distributions can stabilize this spiraling situation, calm anxieties and rebuild the trust within communities that more food is coming," the World Food Program said. "An agreed ceasefire is long overdue."

Trump administration wants Harvard to pay far more than Columbia as part of settlement

By COLLIN BINKLEY AP Education Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration is pressing for a deal with Harvard University that would require the Ivy League school to pay far more than the \$200 million fine agreed to by Columbia University to resolve multiple federal investigations, according to two people familiar with the matter.

Harvard would be expected to pay hundreds of millions of dollars as part of any settlement to end investigations into antisemitism at its campus, said the people, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss internal deliberations. Harvard leaders have been negotiating with the White House even as they battle in court to regain access to billions in federal research funding terminated by the Trump administration.

The White House's desire to get Harvard to pay far more than Columbia was first reported by The New York Times, which said the school has signaled a willingness to pay as much as \$500 million.

Harvard did not immediately comment.

The Trump administration plans to use its deal with Columbia as a template for other universities, with financial penalties that are now seen as a staple for future agreements. Last week, Columbia leaders agreed to pay \$200 million as part of a settlement to resolve investigations into alleged violations of federal antidiscrimination laws and restore more than \$400 million in research grants.

Columbia had been in talks for months after the Trump administration accused the university of allowing the harassment of Jewish students and employees amid a wave of campus protests over the Israel-Hamas war. Harvard faces similar accusations but, unlike Columbia, the Cambridge, Massachusetts, school challenged the administration's funding cuts and subsequent sanctions in court.

Last week, President Donald Trump said Harvard "wants to settle" but he said Columbia "handled it better."

The Trump administration's emphasis on financial penalties adds a new dimension for colleges facing federal scrutiny. In the past, civil rights investigations by the Education Department almost always ended with voluntary agreements and rarely included fines.

Even when the government has levied fines, they've been a small fraction of the scale Trump is seeking. Last year, the Education Department fined Liberty University \$14 million after finding the Christian school failed to disclose crimes on its campus. It was the most the government had ever fined a university under the Clery Act, following a \$4.5 million fine dealt to Michigan State University in 2019 for its handling of sexual assault complaints against disgraced sports doctor Larry Nassar.

The University of Pennsylvania agreed this month to modify school records set by transgender swimmer Lia Thomas, but that school's deal with the Trump administration included no fine.

The Trump administration has opened investigations at dozens of universities over allegations of antisemitism or racial discrimination in the form of diversity, equity and inclusion policies. Several face funding freezes akin to those at Harvard, including more than \$1 billion at Cornell University and \$790 million at Northwestern University.

Last week, Education Secretary Linda McMahon called the Columbia deal a "roadmap" for other colleges, saying it would "ripple across the higher education sector and change the course of campus culture for

years to come."

Millionaires multiply across the US, but most find it's not all mansions and champagne

By MATT SEDENSKY AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — As a child, Heidi Barley watched her family pay for groceries with food stamps. As a college student, she dropped out because she couldn't afford tuition. In her twenties, already scraping by, she was forced to take a pay cut that shrunk her salary to just \$34,000 a year.

But this summer, the 41-year-old hit a milestone that long felt out of reach: She became a millionaire.

A surging number of everyday Americans now boast a seven-figure net worth once the domain of celebrities and CEOs. But as the ranks of millionaires grow fatter, the significance of the status is shifting alongside perceptions of what it takes to be truly rich.

"Millionaire used to sound like Rich Uncle Pennybags in a top hat," says Michael Ashley Schulman, chief investment officer at Running Point Capital Advisors, a wealth management firm in El Segundo, California. "It's no longer a backstage pass to palatial estates and caviar bumps. It's the new mass-affluent middle-weight class, financially secure but two zeros short of private-jet territory."

Inflation, ballooning home values and a decades-long push into stock markets by average investors have lifted millions into millionairehood. A June report from Swiss bank UBS found about one-tenth of American adults are members of the seven-digit club, with 1,000 freshly minted millionaires added daily last year.

Thirty years ago, the IRS counted 1.6 million Americans with a net worth of \$1 million or more. UBS — using data from the United Nations, World Bank, International Monetary Fund and central banks of countries around the globe — put the number at 23.8 million in the U.S. last year, a nearly 15-fold increase.

The expanding ranks of millionaires come as the gulf between rich and poor widens. The richest 10% of Americans hold two-thirds of household wealth, according to the Federal Reserve, averaging \$8.1 million each. The bottom 50% hold 3% of wealth, with an average of just \$60,000 to their names.

Federal Reserve data also shows there are differences by race. Asian people outpace white people in the U.S. in median wealth, while Black and Hispanic people trail in their net worth.

Barley was working as a journalist when her newspaper ended its pension program and she got a lump-sum payout of about \$5,000. A colleague convinced her to invest it in a retirement account, and ever since, she's stashed away whatever she could. The investments dipped at first during the Great Recession but eventually started growing. In time, she came to find catharsis in amassing savings, going home and checking her account balances when she had a tough day at work.

Last month, after one such day, she realized the moment had come.

"Did you know that we're millionaires?" she asked her husband.

"Good job, honey," Barley says he replied, unfazed.

It brought no immediate change. Like many millionaires, much of her wealth is in long-term investments and her home, not easy-to-access cash. She still lives in her modest Orlando, Florida, house, socks away half her paycheck, fills the napkin holder with takeout napkins and lines trash cans with grocery bags.

Still, Barley says it feels powerful to cross a threshold she never imagined reaching as a child.

"But it's not as glamorous as the ideas in your head," she says.

All wealth is relative. To thousandairees, \$1 million is the stuff of dreams. To billionaires, it's a rounding error. Either way, it takes twice as much cash today to match the buying power of 30 years ago.

A net worth of \$1 million in 1995 is equivalent to about \$2.1 million today, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

A seven-figure net worth is, to some, as outdated a yardstick as a six-figure salary. Nonetheless, "millionaire" is peppered in everything from politics to popular music as shorthand for rich.

"It's a nice round number but it's a point in a longer journey," says Dan Usen, a 41-year-old from Providence, Rhode Island, who works in information technology and who hit the million-dollar mark last month. "It definitely gives you some room to breathe."

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No other country comes close to the U.S. in the sheer number of millionaires, though relative to population, UBS found Switzerland and Luxembourg had higher rates.

Kenneth Carow, a finance professor at Indiana University's Kelley School of Business, says commonalities emerge among today's millionaires. The vast majority own stocks and a home. Most live below their means. They value education and teach financial responsibility to their children.

"The dream of becoming a millionaire," Carow says, "has become more obtainable."

Jim Wang, 45, a software engineer-turned finance blogger from Fulton, Maryland, says even if hitting \$1 million was essentially "a non-event" for him and his wife, it still held weight for him as the son of immigrants who saved money by turning the heat off on winter nights.

The private jets he envisioned as a kid may not have materialized at the million-dollar threshold, but he still sees it as a marker that brings a certain level of security.

"It's possible, even with a regular job," he says. "You just have to be diligent and consistent."

The resilience of financial markets and the ease of investing in broad-based, low-fee index funds has fueled the balances of many millionaires who don't earn massive salaries or inherit family fortunes.

Among them is a burgeoning community of younger millionaires born out of the movement known as FIRE, for Financial Independence Retire Early.

Jason Breck, 48, of Fishers, Indiana, embraced FIRE and reached the million-dollar mark nine years ago. He promptly quit his job in automotive marketing, where he generally earned around \$60,000 a year but managed to stow away around 70% of his pay.

Now, Breck and his wife spend several months a year traveling. Despite being retired, they continue to grow their balance by sticking to a tight budget and keeping expenses to \$1,500 a month when they're in the U.S. and a few hundred dollars more when they travel.

Hitting their goal hasn't translated to luxury. There is no lawn crew to cut the grass, no Netflix or Amazon Prime, no Uber Eats. They fly economy. They drive a 2005 Toyota.

"It's not a golden ticket like it was in the past," Breck says. "For us, a million dollars buys us freedom and peace of mind. We're not yacht rich, but for us, we're time rich."

What Americans think about Israel's military action in Gaza, according to a new Gallup poll

By LINLEY SANDERS and AMELIA THOMSON-DEVEAUX Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Support for Israel's military action in Gaza has declined substantially among U.S. adults, with only about one-third approving, according to a new Gallup poll — a drop from the beginning of the war with Hamas, when about half of Americans approved of Israel's operation.

The new polling also found that about half of U.S. adults now have an unfavorable view of Israel's prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, the most negative rating he has received since he was first included in Gallup polling in 1997. The poll was conducted from July 7-21, while reports of starvation in Gaza led to international criticism of Israel's decision to restrict food aid but before President Donald Trump expressed concern over the worsening humanitarian situation.

The findings underscore the Israeli government's dramatic loss of support within the U.S. But not everyone is shifting — instead, the war has become more politically polarizing. The rising disapproval is driven by Democrats and independents, who are much less likely to approve of Israel's actions than they were in November 2023, weeks after Hamas' Oct. 7 surprise attack and after Israel expanded its ground offensive in Gaza.

Republicans, on the other hand, remain largely supportive of both Israel's military actions and Netanyahu. Most Americans now disapprove of Israeli military action in Gaza.

The new poll finds that about 6 in 10 U.S. adults disapprove of the military action Israel has taken in Gaza, up from 45% in November 2023.

Support for the war has been dwindling in Gallup's polling for some time. In March 2024, about half of U.S. adults disapproved of Israel's military action in Gaza, which fell slightly as the year wore on.

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In a new low, only 8% of Democrats and one-quarter of independents say they now approve of Israel's military campaign. Some of that decline may be attributed to the change in administration. While former President Joe Biden faced significant pushback from fellow Democrats on his handling of the conflict between the Israelis and the Palestinians, they may be even more frustrated by the approach of Trump, a Republican.

Young adults are also much more likely to disapprove of Israel's actions. Only about 1 in 10 adults under age 35 say they approve of Israel's military choices in Gaza, compared with about half of those who are 55 or older.

Gallup senior editor Megan Brenan says the latest figures reflect the enduring partisan divide. Even as Democrats grow increasingly unhappy with Israel's military campaign, Republicans remain supportive.

"We've seen this drop in approval since last fall, and it's really driven by Democrats and independents," Brenan says. "Republicans are still willing to be in this for the time being."

Netanyahu's favorability among US adults is historically low

Views of Netanyahu have also grown less favorable over the past few years, with more viewing him negatively than positively in measurements taken since the war in Gaza began.

About half of U.S. adults, 52%, now have an unfavorable view of Netanyahu in the new poll, which overlapped with Netanyahu's recent visit to the U.S. Just 29% view him positively, and about 2 in 10 either haven't heard of him or don't have an opinion.

That's a change — although not a huge one — since December 2023, when 47% of U.S. adults had an unfavorable view of Netanyahu and 33% had a favorable opinion. But it's a reversal from as recently as April 2019, when more U.S. adults viewed him positively than negatively.

Republicans have a much more positive view of Netanyahu than Democrats and independents do. About two-thirds of Republicans view him favorably, which is in line with last year. About 1 in 10 Democrats and 2 in 10 independents feel the same way.

"This is the first time we've seen a majority of Americans, with an unfavorable view of him," Brenan says. "All of these questions in this poll show us basically the same story, and it's not a good one for the Israeli government right now."

Trump is unlikely to face the same pressure on his approach to Israel

More than half of U.S. adults, 55%, disapprove of Trump's handling of the situation in the Middle East, according to a July AP-NORC poll.

But the conflict has not weighed as heavily on Trump as it did on Biden, who watched Democrats splinter on the issue. That's because of Trump's solid support from his base on this issue, further reflected in Republicans' continued approval of Israel's military action. About 8 in 10 Republicans approve of Trump's handling of the situation in the Middle East. By contrast, only about 4 in 10 Democrats approved of Biden's handling of the conflict between the Israelis and the Palestinians last summer, shortly before he dropped out of the presidential race.

In an AP-NORC poll from March, Republicans were significantly more likely than Democrats and independents to say they sympathized more with the Israelis than with the Palestinians in the conflict.

And while Americans overall were more likely to say it was "extremely" or "very" important for the United States to provide humanitarian relief to Palestinians in Gaza than to say the same about providing aid to Israel's military, Republicans said the opposite — more saw military aid to Israel as a higher priority than providing humanitarian relief to the Palestinians in Gaza.

Russia kills 27 civilians in Ukraine as the Kremlin remains defiant over Trump threats

By HANNA ARHIROVA and ILLIA NOVIKOV Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Glide bombs and ballistic missiles struck a Ukrainian prison and a medical facility overnight as Russia's relentless strikes on civilian areas killed at least 27 people across the country, officials said Tuesday, despite U.S. President Donald Trump's threat to soon punish Russia with sanctions

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and tariffs unless it stops.

Four powerful Russian glide bombs hit a prison in Ukraine's southeastern Zaporizhzhia region, authorities said. They killed at least 16 inmates and wounded more than 90 others, Ukraine's Justice Ministry said.

In the Dnipro region of central Ukraine, authorities said Russian missiles partially destroyed a three-story building and damaged nearby medical facilities, including a maternity hospital and a city hospital ward. At least three people were killed, including a 23-year-old pregnant woman, and two other people were killed elsewhere in the region, regional authorities said.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said that overnight Russian strikes across the country hit 73 cities, towns and villages. "These were conscious, deliberate strikes — not accidental," Zelenskyy said on Telegram.

Trump said Tuesday he is giving Russian President Vladimir Putin 10 days to stop the killing in Ukraine after three years of war, moving up a 50-day deadline he had given the Russian leader two weeks ago. The move meant Trump wants peace efforts to make progress by Aug. 8.

Trump has repeatedly rebuked Putin for talking about ending the war but continuing to bombard Ukrainian civilians. But the Kremlin hasn't changed its tactics.

"I'm disappointed in President Putin," Trump said during a visit to Scotland.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Tuesday that Russia is determined to achieve its goals in Ukraine, though he said Moscow has "taken note" of Trump's announcement and is committed to seeking a peaceful solution.

Zelenskyy welcomed Trump's shortening of the deadline. "Everyone needs peace — Ukraine, Europe, the United States and responsible leaders across the globe," Zelenskyy wrote in a post on Telegram. "Everyone except Russia."

The Kremlin pushes back against Trump

The Kremlin pushed back, with a top Putin lieutenant warning Trump against "playing the ultimatum game with Russia."

"Russia isn't Israel or even Iran," former president Dmitry Medvedev, who is deputy head of the country's Security Council, wrote on social platform X.

"Each new ultimatum is a threat and a step towards war. Not between Russia and Ukraine, but with his own country," Medvedev said.

Since Russia's full-scale invasion of its neighbor, the Kremlin has warned Kyiv's Western backers that their involvement could end up broadening the war to NATO countries.

"Kremlin officials continue to frame Russia as in direct geopolitical confrontation with the West in order to generate domestic support for the war in Ukraine and future Russian aggression against NATO," the Institute for the Study of War, a Washington think tank, said late Monday.

Russia attacks with glide bombs, drones and missiles

The Ukrainian air force said Russia launched two Iskander-M ballistic missiles along with 37 Shahed-type strike drones and decoys at Ukraine overnight. It said 32 Shahed drones were intercepted or neutralized by Ukrainian air defenses.

The Russian attack close to midnight Monday hit the Bilenkivska Correctional Facility with glide bombs, according to the State Criminal Executive Service of Ukraine.

Glide bombs, which are Soviet-era bombs retrofitted with retractable fins and guidance systems, have been laying waste to cities in eastern Ukraine, where the Russian army is trying to pierce Ukrainian defenses. The bombs carry up to 3,000 kilograms (6,600 pounds) of explosives.

At least 42 inmates were hospitalized with serious injuries, while another 40 people, including one staff member, sustained various injuries.

The strike destroyed the prison's dining hall, damaged administrative and quarantine buildings, but the perimeter fence held and no escapes were reported, authorities said.

Ukrainian officials condemned the attack, saying that targeting civilian infrastructure, such as prisons, is a war crime under international conventions.

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The assault occurred exactly three years after an explosion killed more than 50 people at the Olenivka detention facility in the Russia-occupied Donetsk region, where dozens of Ukrainian prisoners were killed.

Russia and Ukraine accused each other of shelling the prison. The Associated Press interviewed over a dozen people with direct knowledge of details of that attack, including survivors, investigators and families of the dead and missing. All described evidence they believed points directly to Russia as the culprit. The AP also obtained an internal United Nations analysis that found the same.

Russian forces also struck a grocery store in a village in the northeastern Kharkiv region, police said, killing five and wounding three civilians.

Authorities in the southern Kherson region reported one civilian killed and three wounded over the past 24 hours.

Alongside the barrages, Russia has also kept up its grinding war of attrition, which has slowly churned across the eastern side of Ukraine at a heavy cost in troop losses and military hardware.

The Russian Defense Ministry claimed Tuesday that Russian troops have captured the villages of Novoukrainka in the Donetsk region and Temyrivka in the Zaporizhzhia region.

Ukraine launches long-range drones

Ukraine has sought to fight back against Russian strikes by developing its own long-range drone technology, hitting oil depots, weapons plants and disrupting commercial flights.

Russia's Defense Ministry said Tuesday that air defenses downed 74 Ukrainian drones over several regions overnight, including 43 over the Bryansk region.

Yuri Slyusar, the head of the Rostov region said a man in the city of Salsk was killed in a drone attack, which started a fire at the Salsk railway station.

Officials said a cargo train was set ablaze at the Salsk station and the railway traffic via Salsk was suspended. Explosions shattered windows in two cars of a passenger train and passengers were evacuated.

With AI plan, Trump keeps chipping away at a foundational environmental law

By MELINA WALLING and MATTHEW DALY Associated Press

When President Donald Trump rolled out a plan to boost artificial intelligence and data centers, a key goal was wiping away barriers to rapid growth.

And that meant taking aim at the National Environmental Policy Act — a 55-year-old, bedrock law aimed at protecting the environment through a process that requires agencies to consider a project's possible impacts and allows the public to be heard before a project is approved. Data centers, demanding vast amounts of energy and water, have aroused strong opposition in some communities.

The AI Action Plan Trump announced last week would seek to sweep aside NEPA, as it's commonly known, to streamline environmental reviews and permitting for data centers and related infrastructure. Republicans and business interests have long criticized NEPA for what they see as unreasonable slowing of development, and Trump's plan would give "categorical exclusions" to data centers for "maximum efficiency" in permitting.

A spokeswoman for the White House Council on Environmental Quality said the administration is "focused on driving meaningful NEPA reform to reduce the delays in federal permitting, unleashing the ability for America to strengthen its AI and manufacturing leadership."

Trump's administration has been weakening the law for months.

"It's par for the course for this administration. The attitude is to clear the way for projects that harm communities and the environment," said Erin Doran, senior staff attorney at environmental nonprofit Food & Water Watch.

Here's what to know about this key environmental law, and Trump's effort to weaken it:

What is NEPA and why does it matter?

NEPA is a foundational environmental law in the United States, "essentially our Magna Carta for the envi-

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ronment,” said Wendy Park, a senior attorney at the Center for Biological Diversity, another environmental group, referring to the 13th century English legal text that formed the basis for constitutions worldwide.

Signed into law by President Richard Nixon in 1970, NEPA requires federal agencies proposing actions such as building roads, bridges or energy projects to study how their project will affect the environment. Private companies are also frequently subject to NEPA standards when they apply for a permit from a federal agency.

In recent years, the law has become increasingly important in requiring consideration of a project’s possible contributions to climate change.

“That’s a really important function because otherwise we’re just operating with blinders just to get the project done, without considering whether there are alternative solutions that might accomplish the same objective, but in a more environmentally friendly way,” Park said.

But business groups say NEPA routinely blocks important projects that often take five years or more to complete.

“Our broken permitting system has long been a national embarrassment,” said Marty Durbin, president of the U.S. Chamber’s Global Energy Institute. He called NEPA “a blunt and haphazard tool” that too often is used to block investment and economic development.

The White House proposal comes as Congress is working on a permitting reform plan that would overhaul NEPA, addressing long-standing concerns from both parties that development projects -- including some for clean energy -- take too long to be approved.

What’s happened to NEPA recently?

NEPA’s strength — and usefulness — can depend on how it’s interpreted by different administrations.

Trump, a Republican, sought to weaken NEPA in his first term by limiting when environmental reviews are required and limiting the time for evaluation and public comment. Former Democratic President Joe Biden restored more rigorous reviews.

In his second term, Trump has again targeted the law.

An executive order that touched on environmental statutes has many agencies scrapping the requirement for a draft environmental impact statement. And the CEQ in May withdrew Biden-era guidance that federal agencies should consider the effects of planet-warming greenhouse gas emissions when conducting NEPA reviews.

Separately, the U.S. Supreme Court in May narrowed the scope of environmental reviews required for major infrastructure projects. In a ruling involving a Utah railway expansion project aimed at quadrupling oil production, the court said NEPA wasn’t designed “for judges to hamstring new infrastructure and construction projects.”

“It’s been a rough eight months for NEPA,” said Dinah Bear, a former general counsel at the Council on Environmental Quality under both Democratic and Republican presidents.

John Ruple, a research professor of law at the University of Utah, said sidelining NEPA could actually slow things down. Federal agencies still have to comply with other environmental laws, like the Endangered Species Act or Clean Air Act. NEPA has an often overlooked benefit of forcing coordination with those other laws, he said.

Some examples of cases where NEPA has played a role

A botanist by training, Mary O’Brien was working with a small organization in Oregon in the 1980s to propose alternative techniques to successfully replant Douglas fir trees that had been clear-cut on federal lands. Aerially sprayed herbicides aimed at helping the conifers grow have not only been linked to health problems in humans but were also killing another species of tree, red alders, that were beneficial to the fir saplings, O’Brien said.

The U.S. Forest Service had maintained that the herbicides’ impact on humans and red alders wasn’t a problem. But under NEPA, a court required the agency to redo their analysis and they ultimately had to write a new environmental impact statement.

“It’s a fundamental concept: ‘Don’t just roar ahead.’ Think about your options,” O’Brien said.

O’Brien, who later worked at the Grand Canyon Trust, also co-chaired a working group that weighed in

on a 2012 Forest Service proposal, finalized in 2016, for aspen restoration on Monroe Mountain in Utah. Hunters, landowners, loggers and ranchers all had different opinions on how the restoration should be handled. She said NEPA's requirement to get the public involved made for better research and a better plan.

"I think it's one of the laws that's the most often used by the public without the public being aware," said Stephen Schima, senior legislative counsel at environmental law nonprofit Earthjustice. "NEPA has long been the one opportunity for communities and impacted stakeholders and local governments to weigh in."

Schima said rolling back the power of NEPA threatens the scientific integrity of examining projects' full impacts.

"Decisions are going to be less informed by scientific studies, and that is one of the major concerns here," he said.

Ruple said uncertainty from NEPA changes and competing opinions on how to comply with the law's requirements may invite even more litigation.

"And all of this will fall on the shoulder of agencies that are losing the staff needed to lead them through these changes," he said.

Palestinian death toll in Israel-Hamas war passes 60,000, Gaza Health Ministry says

By WAFAA SHURAF and SAMY MAGDY Associated Press

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip (AP) — More than 60,000 Palestinians have been killed during the Israel-Hamas war, Gaza's Health Ministry said Tuesday. Israeli strikes overnight killed more than two dozen people, mostly women and children, according to health officials.

The Israeli offensive, launched in response to Hamas' attack on southern Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, has destroyed vast areas of Gaza, displaced around 90% of the population and fueled a catastrophic humanitarian crisis.

Experts warned Tuesday that the territory of about 2 million Palestinians is on the brink of famine after Israeli restrictions and a breakdown of security have made it nearly impossible to safely deliver aid.

The Health Ministry, part of the Hamas-run government, said that the death toll has climbed to 60,034, with 145,870 others wounded since the war started. The victims include 18,592 children and 9,782 women. Together, they make up nearly half the dead.

The ministry, which doesn't distinguish between civilians and combatants in its count, is staffed by medical professionals. The United Nations and other independent experts view its figures as the most reliable count of casualties. Israel has disputed its figures, but hasn't provided its own account of casualties.

Dozens killed, most while seeking aid

Airstrikes on tents housing displaced people in the built-up Nuseirat refugee camp late Monday killed 30 people, including 12 children and 14 women, according to Al-Awda Hospital.

There was no immediate comment from the Israeli military.

Israel says it only targets militants and blames civilian deaths on Hamas, saying the militants operate in populated areas. The military said that it targeted Hamas military infrastructure over the past day, including rocket launchers, weapons storage facilities and tunnels.

Hospital officials, meanwhile, said that they received the bodies of an additional 33 people who were killed by gunfire around an aid convoy in southern Gaza on Monday, bringing the toll to 58. Witnesses said that Israeli forces fired toward the crowd.

Another 14 Palestinians were killed on Tuesday near a site in central Gaza run by the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation, or GHF, an Israeli-backed American contractor, according to local hospitals. GHF said that there were no violent incidents near its sites on Tuesday.

The Israeli military said it was "not aware of casualties" as a result of Israeli gunfire near the GHF site. There was no comment from the military on the shooting near the aid convoy on Monday.

More than 1,000 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli fire while seeking aid since May, according to

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witnesses, health officials and the U.N. human rights office. Israel, which controls large areas of Gaza where aid is distributed, says that it has only fired warning shots at those who approach its forces.

Hunger crisis 'dramatically' worsens

The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, or IPC, the foremost international authority on food crises, said that Gaza has teetered on the brink of famine for two years. But it said that recent developments, including Israeli restrictions, have "dramatically worsened" the situation.

"The facts are in — and they are undeniable," U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres said. "Palestinians in Gaza are enduring a humanitarian catastrophe of epic proportions ... The trickle of aid must become an ocean."

Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Saar denied that Israel was deliberately starving Gaza, and said that the focus on hunger was part of a "distorted campaign of international pressure."

"This pressure is directly sabotaging the chances for a ceasefire and hostage deal. It is only pushing towards military escalation by hardening Hamas's stance," he said Tuesday.

The U.S. and Israel have both recalled their negotiating teams over the past week as long-running negotiations over a ceasefire and hostage release seem to have stalled.

Palestinians swim for airdropped aid

Under mounting international pressure, Israel announced a series of measures over the weekend to increase the flow of aid, including expanded humanitarian corridors and international aid drops. U.N. officials say there has been little change on the ground so far, and much more is needed.

Air force cargo planes from Jordan and the United Arab Emirates have dropped aid over Gaza in recent days, and France and Germany have announced plans to join that effort.

But Associated Press reporters in Gaza said that much of the aid has fallen in so-called red zones that Israel has ordered people to evacuate from.

Dozens of Palestinians raced into the Mediterranean Sea on Tuesday to try and retrieve food from airdropped parcels that went off course. Some could be seen returning with soaked bags of tea and flour. One man held a can of beans.

Momen Abu Etayya said that his son had told him to "catch the plane" when they saw it flying in the distance.

"I came to try to get aid from the sea. I almost drowned," he said, adding that he had only managed to get three packets of biscuits.

U.N. agencies and aid groups have long expressed skepticism about airdrops over Gaza, saying they are far costlier and deliver much less aid than land shipments. Parcels can land on desperate crowds, causing injuries or deaths, and can also spark deadly stampedes as thousands try to reach them.

Hunger-related deaths

The World Health Organization says more than 60 people have died this month from malnutrition-related causes, including 24 children under age 5.

Overall, 88 children died of causes related to malnutrition since the start of the war, while 58 adults died this month from malnutrition-related causes, according to the Gaza Health Ministry.

During hunger crises, people can die from malnutrition or from common illnesses or injuries that the body isn't strong enough to fight. The ministry doesn't include hunger-related deaths in its overall toll.

Hamas-led militants killed about 1,200 people, mostly civilians, in the attack that sparked the war, and abducted another 251. They are still holding 50 captives, around 20 believed to be alive, after most of the rest were released in ceasefires or other deals.

The war took a major turn in early March when Israel imposed a complete 2½-month blockade, barring the entry of all food, medicine, fuel and other goods. Weeks later, Israel ended a ceasefire with a surprise bombardment and began seizing large areas of Gaza, measures it said were aimed at pressuring Hamas to release more hostages.

At least 8,867 Palestinians have been killed since then.

Israel eased the blockade in May, but U.N. agencies say it hasn't allowed nearly enough aid to enter and that they have struggled to deliver it because of Israeli restrictions and the breakdown of law and order.

An alternative Israeli-backed system run by GHF has been marred by violence and controversy.

Venus Williams receives a wild-card entry with Reilly Opelka to play mixed doubles at the US Open

By HOWARD FENDRICH AP Tennis Writer

Venus Williams' comeback is headed to the U.S. Open next month, when she will enter the redesigned mixed doubles tournament with Reilly Opelka via a wild-card entry.

The 45-year-old Williams, who returned to the tennis tour last week after more than a year away, and Opelka were among the 14 teams announced Tuesday by the U.S. Tennis Association for its mixed doubles event on Aug. 19-20.

Eight of the pairings received direct entry into the field based on having the highest combined current singles rankings, and six were given wild cards by the USTA.

The players with spots in the bracket include nine who have won at least one Grand Slam singles title and 14 who are ranked in the WTA or ATP top 10 for singles.

The eight duos with direct entry are No. 11 Emma Navarro and No. 1 Jannik Sinner; No. 10 Paula Badosa and No. 5 Jack Draper; No. 3 Iga Swiatek and No. 13 Casper Ruud; No. 12 Elena Rybakina and No. 4 Taylor Fritz; No. 7 Amanda Anisimova and No. 9 Holger Rune; Belinda Bencic and No. 3 Alexander Zverev; No. 4 Jessica Pegula and No. 15 Tommy Paul; No. 5 Mirra Andrejeva and No. 14 Daniil Medvedev.

Badosa originally had sought a place in the field with Stefanos Tsitsipas, while Draper initially was going to play alongside Zheng Qinwen.

In addition to Williams-Opelka, the wild-card entrants are Emma Raducanu and No. 2 Carlos Alcaraz; No. 8 Madison Keys and No. 12 Frances Tiafoe; Olga Danilovic and No. 6 Novak Djokovic; Taylor Townsend — who made her debut at No. 1 in women's doubles this week — and No. 7 Ben Shelton; and last year's U.S. Open mixed doubles champions, Sara Errani and Andrea Vavassori.

It's a group of star players that stands in stark contrast to the sort of lesser-known players and doubles specialists usually found in the mixed doubles bracket at a Grand Slam tournament. Some players were critical of the planned changes when they were announced in February, and Errani and Vavassori called the new setup a "pseudo-exhibition focused only on entertainment and show" that would shut out true doubles players.

In a bid to attract some of the sport's biggest names, the USTA increased the prize money, switched mixed doubles from the same time as the singles and other doubles events to the week before the start of singles competition and reduced the format to first-to-four-game sets with no-ad scoring.

A total of 16 duos will be competing for the \$1 million top prize; the last two wild-card pairs will be announced by the USTA later.

It is still possible that Williams will ask for, and receive, a wild-card entry for singles. Those are expected to be announced by the USTA the week of Aug. 11.

She won one match each in singles and doubles at the D.C. Open in Washington last week after not competing anywhere since the Miami Open in March 2024.

Williams owns seven Grand Slam titles in singles, 14 in women's doubles — all won with her younger sister Serena — and two in mixed doubles.

The 6-foot-11 (2.11-meter) Opelka is a 27-year-old American who used to be ranked in the top 20 and is now No. 74 after missing nearly two full seasons because of injuries.

Among the partnerships the USTA had said were hoping to get into the tournament that were not on Tuesday's list: Katie Boulter and Alex de Minaur, who are engaged to be married; Jasmine Paolini and Lorenzo Musetti; Aryna Sabalenka and Grigor Dimitrov; Naomi Osaka and Nick Kyrgios; Karolina Muchova and Andrey Rublev; Iva Jovic and Jenson Brooksby; Gaby Dabrowski and Felix Auger-Aliassime; Demi Schuurs and Tallon Griekspoor; Katerina Siniakova and Marcelo Arevalo; Desirae Krawczyk and Evan King; and Su-Wei Hsieh and Jan Zielinski.

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."

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.

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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.

Trump's tariffs could squeeze US factories and boost costs by up to 4.5%, a new analysis finds

By JOSH BOAK and PAUL WISEMAN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — As President Donald Trump prepares to announce new tariff increases, the costs of his policies are starting to come into focus for a domestic manufacturing sector that depends on global supply chains, with a new analysis suggesting factory costs could increase by roughly 2% to 4.5%.

"There's going to be a cash squeeze for a lot of these firms," said Chris Bangert-Drowns, the researcher at the Washington Center for Equitable Growth who conducted the analysis. Those seemingly small changes at factories with slim profit margins, Bangert-Drowns said, "could lead to stagnation of wages, if not layoffs and closures of plants" if the costs are untenable.

The analysis, released Tuesday, points to the challenges Trump might face in trying to sell his tariffs to the public as a broader political and economic win and not just as evidence his negotiating style gets other nations to back down. The success of Trump's policies ultimately depends on whether everyday Americans become wealthier and factory towns experience revivals, a goal outside economists say his Republican administration is unlikely to meet with tariffs.

Trump has announced new frameworks with the European Union, Japan, the Philippines, Indonesia and Britain that would each raise the import taxes charged by the United States. He's prepared to levy tariffs against goods from dozens of other countries starting on Friday in the stated range of 15% to 50%.

The U.S. stock market has shown relief the tariff rates aren't as high as Trump initially threatened in April and hope for a sense of stability going forward. Trump maintains the tariff revenues will whittle down the budget deficit and help whip up domestic factory jobs, all while playing down the risks of higher prices.

"We've wiped out inflation," Trump said last Friday before boarding Marine One while on his way to Scotland.

But there's the possibility of backlash in the form of higher prices and slower growth once tariffs flow more fully through the world economy.

A June survey by the Atlanta Federal Reserve suggested companies would on average pass half of their tariff costs onto U.S. consumers through higher prices. Labor Department data shows America lost 14,000 manufacturing jobs after Trump rolled out his April tariffs, putting a lot of pressure as to whether a rebound starts in the June employment report coming out Friday.

With new tariffs in place, there are new costs for factories

The Washington Center for Equitable Growth analysis shows how Trump's devotion to tariffs carries potential economic and political costs for his agenda. In the swing states of Michigan and Wisconsin, more than 1 in 5 jobs are in the critical sectors of manufacturing, construction, mining and oil drilling and

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maintenance that have high exposures to his import taxes.

The artificial intelligence sector Trump last week touted as the future of the economy is dependent on imports. More than 20% of the inputs for computer and electronics manufacturing are imported, so the tariffs could ultimately magnify a hefty multitrillion-dollar price tag for building out the technology in the U.S.

The White House argues American businesses will access new markets because of the trade frameworks, saying companies will ultimately benefit as a result.

"The 'Made in USA' label is set to resume its global dominance under President Trump," White House spokesman Kush Desai said.

Still lots of uncertainty, but world economy faces a new toll

There are limits to the analysis. Trump's tariff rates have been a moving target, and the analysis looks only at additional costs, not how those costs will be absorbed among foreign producers, domestic manufacturers and consumers. Also, the legal basis of the tariffs as an "emergency" act goes before a U.S. appeals court on Thursday.

Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said in an interview last week on Fox Business Network's "Kudlow" show countries were essentially accepting the tariffs to maintain access to the U.S. market. "Everyone is willing to pay a toll," he said.

But what Bessent didn't say is U.S. manufacturers are also paying much of that toll.

"We're getting squeezed from all sides," said Justin Johnson, president of Jordan Manufacturing Co. in Belding, Michigan, northeast of Grand Rapids. His grandfather founded the company in 1949.

The company, which makes parts used by Amazon warehouses, auto companies and aerospace firms, has seen the price of a key raw material — steel coil — rise 5% to 10% this year.

Trump has imposed 50% tariffs on imported steel and aluminum. Jordan Manufacturing doesn't buy foreign steel. But by crippling foreign competition, Trump's tariffs have allowed domestic U.S. steelmakers to hike prices.

Johnson doesn't blame them. "There's no red-blooded capitalist who isn't going to raise his prices" under those circumstances, he said.

Trump says no inflation from tariffs, but businesses see higher prices

The Trump White House insists inflation is not surfacing in the economy, issuing a report through the Council of Economic Advisers this month saying the price of imported goods fell between December of last year and this past May. "These findings contradict claims that tariffs or tariff-fears would lead to an acceleration of inflation," the report concludes.

Ernie Tedeschi, director of economics at the Budget Lab at Yale University, said that the more accurate measure would be to compare the trends in import prices with themselves in the past and that the CEA's own numbers show "import prices have accelerated in recent months."

The latest estimate from the Budget Lab at Yale is the tariffs would cause the average household to have \$2,400 less than it would otherwise have.

Keeping the economy on a knife's edge

Josh Smith, founder and president of Montana Knife Co., called himself a Trump voter but said he sees the tariffs on foreign steel and other goods as threatening his business.

For instance, Smith just ordered a \$515,000 machine from Germany that grinds his knife blades to a sharp edge. Trump had imposed a 10% tax on products from the EU that is set to rise to 15% under the trade framework he announced Sunday. So Trump's tax on the machine comes to \$77,250 — about enough for Smith to hire an entry-level worker.

Smith would happily buy the bevel-grinding machines from an American supplier. But there aren't any. "There's only two companies in the world that make them, and they're both in Germany," Smith said.

Then there's imported steel, which Trump is taxing at 50%. Until this year, Montana Knife bought the powdered steel it needs from Crucible Industries in Syracuse, New York. But Crucible declared bankruptcy last December, and its assets were purchased by a Swedish firm, Erasteel, which moved production to Sweden.

Smith beat the tariffs by buying a year's worth of the steel in advance. But starting in 2026, the specialty

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steel he'll be importing from Sweden is set to be hit with a 50% duty.

"The average American is not sitting in the position I am, looking at the numbers I am and making the decisions each day, like, 'Hey, we cannot hire those extra few people because we might have to pay this tariff on this steel or this tariff on this grinder,'" he said. "I want to buy more equipment and hire more people. That's what I want to do."

Government shutdown talk is starting early ahead of a difficult funding fight in Congress this fall

By KEVIN FREKING Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — It's become tradition. Congressional leaders from both major political parties blame each other for a potential government shutdown as the budget year draws to a close.

But this year, the posturing is starting extraordinarily early.

The finger-pointing with more than two months to go in the fiscal year indicates the threat of a stoppage is more serious than usual as a Republican-controlled Congress seeks to make good on its policy priorities, often with no support from the other political party.

Democratic leadership from both chambers and the two panels responsible for drafting spending bills met behind closed doors recently to discuss the strategy ahead. The leaders emerged demanding that Republicans work with them but were careful to avoid spelling out red lines if Republicans don't.

"We are for a bipartisan, bicameral bill. That's what always has been done," said Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer. "The onus is on the Republicans to help us make that happen."

On the Republican side, lawmakers describe the Democrats as itching for a shutdown. Senate Majority Leader John Thune said Schumer had threatened a shutdown should Republicans pass a bill to roll back \$9 billion in public broadcasting and foreign aid funds. Republicans subsequently passed those cuts.

"It was disturbing to see the Democratic leader implicitly threatening to shut down the government in his July 'Dear Colleague' letter, but I'm hopeful that he does not represent the views of Senate Democrats as a whole," Thune said.

Where things stand on government funding

The federal government is operating on a full-year continuing resolution that provided about \$1.7 trillion in spending for defense and non-defense programs. The funding expires Sept. 30.

President Donald Trump requested a comparable amount for the coming fiscal year, but the Republican proposed dramatically overhauling how that money is distributed to include more for defense and border security and significantly less for health, education, housing and foreign assistance.

So far, the House has approved two of the 12 annual spending bills. The Senate has yet to approve any, but those bills that have advanced out of the Senate Appropriations Committee are enjoying bipartisan support while the House bills are generally advancing out of committee on party line votes.

This week, the Senate is expected to consider the appropriations bill to fund military construction projects and the Department of Veterans Affairs, generally one of the easier spending bills to pass. One or two others could get added to the package.

Congress got off to a late start on the funding process. Republicans prioritized Trump's tax and spending cut bill. Most lawmakers agree Congress will need to pass a stop-gap measure before Sept. 30 to avoid a shutdown and allow lawmakers more time to work on the full-year spending measures.

The view from Democrats

Democrats overwhelmingly opposed this year's funding bill that expires in two months. But in the end, Schumer and nine Democratic colleagues decided a government shutdown would be even worse. They voted to allow the bill to proceed and overcome a filibuster, giving Republicans the ability to pass it on their own on a final vote.

Schumer took considerable heat from progressives for his strategy. House Democratic leadership issued a statement at the time saying "House Democrats will not be complicit." And members of his own caucus publicly expressed disagreement.

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"If we pass this continuing resolution for the next half year, we will own what the president does," said Sen. Adam Schiff, D-Calif. "I am not willing to take ownership of that."

Some liberal groups threatened to hold protests at various events Schumer was planning to promote a new book, and some of those events ended up being postponed due to security concerns.

The Democratic frustrations have only grown stronger in the ensuing months.

First, the Democrats watched the Trump administration slow-walk or block hundreds of billions of dollars from going out in part through the work of its Department of Government Efficiency. Then they watched as Republicans passed Trump's big tax and spending cut bill without any Democratic votes.

Finally, they watched as Republicans this month canceled \$9 billion in foreign aid and public broadcasting funds when much of it had been previously agreed to on a bipartisan basis.

Meanwhile, Trump's director of the Office of Management and Budget, Russ Vought, declared that the appropriations process "has to be less bipartisan."

Democrats complain that much of the work taking place in the House has been a waste of time, since those partisan bills have no chance of getting 60 votes in the 100-member Senate.

"At this point in time, why have appropriations if they can just unilaterally through rescissions whack it all away?" said Rep. Mike Quigley, D-Ill. "I think what you're seeing is more frustration than I've ever witnessed."

Republicans position for impasse

Republicans control all the levers of power in Washington. That could make it harder to blame Democrats for a shutdown. But in the end, any bill will need some Democratic support to get the 60 votes needed to overcome a filibuster.

"Our concern is that from their standpoint, they want to have a shutdown," Sen. John Hoeven, R-N.D., said of Democrats. "... The Democrats see it as a way to derail the agenda that we're putting through."

Sen. John Barrasso, the No. 2-ranked Republican in the Senate, said Republicans were determined to hold votes on the 12 spending bills. He said that Schumer "had unilaterally shut down the appropriations process" in previous years by not holding such votes, moving instead to negotiate directly with GOP leadership in the House and then-President Joe Biden's Democratic administration on an all-encompassing spending package.

"If Democrats walk away from this process again, simply to protect wasteful Washington spending," Barrasso said, "they will be the ones sabotaging the Senate and shutting down the government."

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.

Building houses NFL HQ, KPMG, Blackstone and Rudin Management

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

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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.

The officer killed 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 officer who was killed, 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.

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.

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Today in History: July 30, Jenner takes gold in Montreal

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Wednesday, July 30, the 211th day of 2025. There are 154 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On July 30, 1976, Bruce Jenner, now known as Caitlyn Jenner, set a world record of 8,618 points and won the gold medal in the Olympic decathlon at the Montreal Summer Games.

Also on this date:

In 1619, the first representative assembly in Colonial America convened in Jamestown in the Virginia Colony.

In 1864, during the Civil War, Union forces tried to take Petersburg, Virginia, by exploding a gunpowder-laden mine shaft beneath Confederate defense lines; the attack failed.

In 1916, German saboteurs blew up a munitions plant on Black Tom, an island near Jersey City, New Jersey, killing about a dozen people.

In 1930, Uruguay won the first FIFA World Cup, defeating Argentina 4-2.

In 1945, the Portland class heavy cruiser USS Indianapolis, having just delivered components of the atomic bomb to Tinian in the Mariana Islands during World War II, was torpedoed by a Japanese submarine; only 316 out of nearly 1,200 service members survived.

In 1956, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed a measure making "In God We Trust" the national motto, replacing "E Pluribus Unum."

In 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Social Security Amendments of 1965, which led to the creation of Medicare and Medicaid.

In 2008, ex-Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic (RA'-doh-van KA'-ra-jich) was extradited to The Hague to face genocide charges after nearly 13 years on the run. (He was sentenced by a U.N. court in 2019 to life imprisonment after being convicted of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes.)

In 2012, three electric grids in India collapsed in a cascade, cutting power to 620 million people in the world's biggest blackout.

In 2013, U.S. Army Pfc. Chelsea Manning was acquitted of aiding the enemy — the most serious charge she faced — but was convicted of espionage, theft and other charges at Fort Meade, Maryland, more than three years after she'd spilled secrets to WikiLeaks. (The former intelligence analyst was later sentenced to up to 35 years in prison, but the sentence was commuted by President Barack Obama in his final days in office.)

In 2016, 16 people died when a hot air balloon caught fire and exploded after hitting high-tension power lines before crashing into a pasture near Lockhart, Texas, about 70 miles northeast of San Antonio.

Today's Birthdays: Former Major League Baseball Commissioner Bud Selig is 91. Blues musician Buddy Guy is 89. Singer Paul Anka is 84. Actor and former California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger is 78. Actor Jean Reno is 77. Actor Ken Olin is 71. Actor Delta Burke is 69. Law professor Anita Hill is 69. Singer-songwriter Kate Bush is 67. Film director Richard Linklater is 65. Actor Laurence Fishburne is 64. TV personality Alton Brown is 63. Actor Lisa Kudrow is 62. Basketball Hall of Famer Chris Mullin is 62. Actor Vivica A. Fox is 61. Actor Terry Crews is 57. Actor Simon Baker is 56. Film director Christopher Nolan is 55. Actor Tom Green is 54. Actor Christine Taylor is 54. Actor Hilary Swank is 51. Olympic gold medal beach volleyball player Misty May-Treanor is 48. Actor Jaime Pressly is 48. Alt-country singer-musician Seth Avett (AY'-veht) is 45. Former soccer player Hope Solo is 44. Actor Yvonne Strahovski is 43. Actor Martin Starr is 43. Actor Gina Rodriguez is 41. Actor Nico Tortorella is 36. Actor Joey King is 26.