

Groton Daily Independent

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Aug. 1-5: Legion State B Tourney at Milbank
Aug. 8-10: State Jr. Legion at Milbank
Aug. 8-10: State Jr. Teener at Volga
Aug. 6-17: State Amateur at Brandon



Dunk tank getting set up and filled yesterday for today's Second Annual Celebration in the Park.

Groton Daily Independent
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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.

Summer Jobs Slowdown

US employers added fewer-than-expected nonfarm jobs in July at 73,000, while the country's unemployment rate ticked up to 4.2% from 4.1% as expected, per government data released yesterday. Meanwhile, the number of jobs added in May and June was downgraded from over 140,000 jobs per month to fewer than 20,000 per month, indicating the labor market is weaker than previously thought.

The jobs added in July is lower than economists' estimates of a gain of 100,000 but higher than the 19,000 and 14,000 downwardly revised jobs in May and June, respectively. Analysts say several headwinds, including President Donald Trump's new tariffs on dozens of trading partners and stricter immigration policies, have increased business uncertainty, leading to cautious hiring amid federal workforce reductions. Trump yesterday also ordered the firing of the Senate-confirmed Department of Labor official who oversees the monthly jobs report, alleging the figures were manipulated (though there is no evidence supporting the claim). S

Most of the jobs in July were added in healthcare (55,000), ambulatory healthcare services (34,000), and hospitals (16,000). Average hourly earnings rose 0.3% month over month, as expected, and 3.9% year over year, slightly higher than expected.

Corporation for Public Broadcasting says it will shut down.

The CPB subsidizes over 1,500 local media stations, including those affiliated with PBS and NPR; it was created by Congress in 1967. CPB announced Friday it will begin shutting down operations and cut the majority of its staff by Sept. 30. The move follows Congress' decision last month to claw back nearly \$8B in previously authorized funding for foreign aid programs and \$1.1B in funding for the CPB over the next two years.

"Fire clouds" over Arizona and Utah wildfires create their own climate.

Wildfires in the Grand Canyon and Monroe, Utah, are creating pyrocumulus and pyrocumulonimbus "fire clouds," which can generate their own dangerous weather, including strong winds that threaten to spread the fires rapidly. Pyrocumulus clouds are smoke- and ash-filled clouds formed by rising hot air from fires; if conditions allow, they grow into pyrocumulonimbus clouds, which are intense fire-driven thunderstorm clouds. The clouds have been observed for several days, with some producing fire tornadoes and contributing to the hazardous conditions amid ongoing drought and extreme heat.

South African rhino horns turned radioactive to curb poaching.

The Rhisotope Project in South Africa has developed a safe method to embed low-level radioactive isotopes into rhino horns to combat poaching. The horns are detectable by radiation scanners at borders and ports worldwide, including through 40-foot shipping containers. The project aims to deter illegal wildlife trafficking by offering a tool to protect endangered rhino populations. Last year, 420 rhinos were killed in South Africa.

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Pre-Incan tomb with 1,000-year-old remains unearthed in Peru.

Utility workers expanding underground gas networks in Lima, Peru, uncovered two pre-Incan tombs, one empty and the other containing the 1,000-year-old remains of an individual along with four clay vessels and three pumpkin shell artifacts. The discovery adds to over 2,200 archaeological findings made during more than 20 years of similar excavation work by the gas company, Cálidda, in a city known for having more than 400 archaeological sites from the Inca era or earlier periods.

Ghislaine Maxwell moved from Florida federal prison to Texas.

Maxwell, convicted of sex trafficking minors tied to late financier Jeffrey Epstein, has been transferred from a Florida federal prison to a minimum-security facility in Texas. The move comes as Maxwell pursues a deal to lessen her sentence or obtain a pardon, reportedly negotiating with the Justice Department for potential revelations about Epstein and his associates.

Humankind(ness)

Today, we're sharing a story from reader R. Simpson in Granbury, Texas.

"My legs have not been cooperating with me since I had a mini stroke a few months ago. Therefore, I bought some comfortable tennis shoes to wear when I go grocery shopping. I was walking in the grocery store when I noticed that my shoe strings were untied. I looked around for a chair to sit down to tie my shoes. No chair was available, so I was straining to tie my shoe when a young lady said, 'Let me help you.' She sat down on the floor and tied my shoes for me. Then she showed me the loop that she made, which would help me tie the shoes tighter so they would stay tied. As I thanked her, she replied, 'I'm glad that I could be helpful.'"

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Gives Back!**



COMMON CENTS THRIFT STORE

**is Seeking a Volunteer
Manager + Assistants!**

Are you passionate about community, organizing, and helping others? Common Cents is looking for **A Volunteer Manager and Volunteer Assistants** to help lead our team and keep the store running smoothly.

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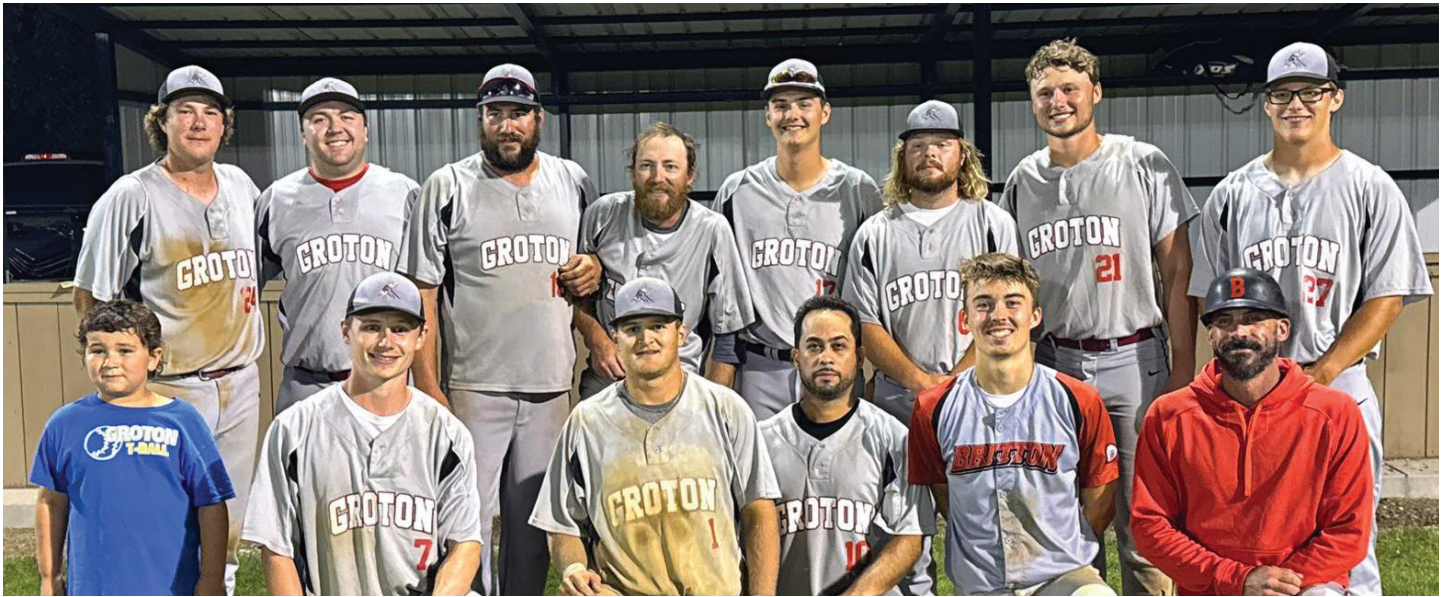


Volunteer Store Manager – Help coordinate volunteers, organize donations, and oversee daily operations.



Volunteer Assistants – Help sort items, stock shelves, greet shoppers, and create a welcoming space!

209 N MAIN STREET, GROTON, SD
Need more info? Call 605-216-2350



Groton Locke Electric Amateurs head to state

In back, left to right, are Ty Sieber, Dylan Frey, Brian Hansen, Spencer Locke, Cade Larson, Ryan Groebelinghoff, Jonah Schmidt and Bradin Althoff; in front, left to right, are Batboy Granger Hansen, Austin Jones, Carlos Camacho, William Richter and B.J. Richter. The State Class B Tournament is held in Brandon August 6-17. (Photo from Groton Amateur Baseball Facebook Page)

Jonah Schmidt Drives 4 Runners Home In Groton Locke Electric Victory Over Faulkton Hitmen Amateurs

By GameChanger Media

Jonah Schmidt drove in four runs on one hit to lead Groton Locke Electric past Hitmen Amateurs 11-10 on Thursday at Faulkton. In the seventh inning, Schmidt hit a grand slam to left field.

Bats blistered as Groton Locke Electric collected 13 hits and Hitmen Amateurs tallied seven in the high-scoring game.

Hitmen Amateurs got on the board in the top of the first inning after Beau Kirsch doubled, scoring one run, and an error scored two runs.

Hitmen Amateurs added one run in the third after Blaze Herdman grounded into a fielder's choice.

Layne Cotton hit a solo home run to right field in the top of the ninth for the Hitmen Amateurs.

Groton Locke Electric tied the game in the bottom of the ninth thanks to a double by Ty Sieber, and an error.

Schmidt stepped on the hill first for Groton Locke Electric. The starter allowed one hit and four runs (two earned) over two innings, striking out three and walking 10. Jett Kleinsasser led things off on the mound for Hitmen Amateurs. The hurler allowed six hits and one run over six innings, striking out seven and walking two. Ryan Groebelinghoff and BJ Richter each appeared in relief for Groton Locke Electric.

Groton Locke Electric amassed 13 hits in the game. Sieber and Ben Althoff each collected five hits for Groton Locke Electric. Brian Hansen collected two hits for Groton Locke Electric in six at bats. Groton Locke Electric turned two double plays in the game.

Cotton provided pop in the middle of the lineup, and led Hitmen Amateurs with three runs batted in. The number three hitter went 2-for-6 on the day. Herdman paced Hitmen Amateurs with four walks. Overall, the team had patience at the plate, tallying 17 walks for the game.

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Hitmen Amateurs 10 - 11 Groton Locke Electric

📍 Home 📅 Thursday July 31, 2025

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	R	H	E
HTMN	3	0	1	0	0	1	4	0	1	0	10	7	5
GRTN	0	1	0	0	0	0	7	0	2	1	11	13	2

BATTING

Hitmen Amateurs	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
R Soler #26 (SS)	2	1	0	0	3	1
B Herdm... #24 (2B)	3	2	0	1	4	0
L Cotton #4 (C)	6	3	2	3	1	1
B Kirsch #30 (LF)	6	1	1	1	0	3
J Kleinsa... #48 (P)	3	1	1	1	1	1
G Bruegg... #1 (3B)	5	0	1	0	1	1
R Cleme... #27 (RF)	4	2	1	0	2	0
C Stephe... #11 (1B)	4	0	1	0	2	3
P McDo... #29 (CF)	2	0	0	0	3	1
Totals	35	10	7	6	17	11

2B: B Kirsch, G Brueggeman, **HR:** L Cotton 2, **TB:** R Clemente, B Kirsch 2, L Cotton 8, J Kleinsasser, C Stephenson, G Brueggeman 2, **SAC:** P McDonnell, **HBP:** R Soler 2, J Kleinsasser 2, **SB:** B Herdman, **LOB:** 17

PITCHING

Hitmen Amateurs	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
J Klein... #48	6.0	6	1	1	2	7	0
C Steph... #11	0.1	4	6	3	1	0	1
L Cotton #4	3.1	3	4	1	2	4	0
Totals	9.2	13	11	5	5	11	1

L: L Cotton, **P-S:** L Cotton 71-43, J Kleinsasser 107-61, C Stephenson 18-11, **WP:** L Cotton, J Kleinsasser 2, **HBP:** L Cotton 2, **BF:** L Cotton 18, J Kleinsasser 26, C Stephenson 7

Groton Locke Electric	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
T Sieber #24 (SS)	6	2	5	2	0	1
R Groebli... #0 (LF)	3	1	0	0	2	1
B Althoff #27 (CF)	6	1	0	0	0	4
J Schmidt #21 (P)	5	1	1	4	1	0
B Hansen #18 (1B)	6	1	2	0	0	0
B Althoff #1 (3B)	6	3	5	0	0	1
S Locke #15 (RF)	3	0	0	0	1	1
W Richt... #19 (2B)	0	1	0	0	1	0
B Richter #19 (C)	2	0	0	1	0	0
A Jones #7 (RF)	2	1	0	0	0	1
D Frey #6 (2B)	1	0	0	0	0	1
C Cama... #10 (C)	3	0	0	0	0	1
Totals	43	11	13	7	5	11

2B: T Sieber 3, B Althoff 2, **HR:** J Schmidt, **TB:** T Sieber 8, B Althoff 7, B Hansen 2, J Schmidt 4, **SF:** B Richter, **CS:** R Groeblichhoff, **HBP:** R Groeblichhoff, C Camacho, **SB:** B Althoff, **LOB:** 11

Groton Locke Electric	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
J Schmi... #21	2.0	1	4	2	10	3	0
B Richter #19	4.2	3	5	5	4	7	1
R Groebli... #0	3.1	3	1	1	3	1	1
Totals	10.0	7	10	8	17	11	2

W: R Groeblichhoff, **P-S:** B Richter 101-54, R Groeblichhoff 48-27, J Schmidt 80-33, **WP:** B Richter 5, J Schmidt, **HBP:** B Richter 2, R Groeblichhoff, J Schmidt, **BF:** B Richter 23, R Groeblichhoff 16, J Schmidt 18

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Groton Legion Post 39 Lose To Winner/Colome Legion

By GameChanger Media

Groton Legion Post 39 could not keep pace with Winner/Colome Legion 5-0 on Friday.

Winner/Colome Legion got on the board in the top of the second inning after Zachary Olson hit a sacrifice fly, Groton Legion Post 39 committed an error, and Groton Legion Post 39 committed an error, each scoring one run.

Winner/Colome Legion added one run in the third after Konner Osborn grounded out.

Nick Morris began the game for Groton Legion Post 39. The starting pitcher allowed five hits and five runs (three earned) over seven innings, striking out two and walking four. Dylan Brandis stepped on the hill first for Winner/Colome Legion. The right-handed pitcher surrendered three hits and zero runs over five innings, striking out one and walking one.

Leadoff hitter Teylor Diegel led Groton Legion Post 39 with two hits in two at bats.

Ryder Halligan led Winner/Colome Legion with two hits in three at bats. Olson and Halligan each drove in one run for Winner/Colome Legion. Halligan stole three bases. Winner/Colome Legion ran wild on the base paths, collecting six stolen bases for the game. Winner/Colome Legion were sure-handed in the field and didn't commit a single error. Olson had the most chances in the field with five.

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State Class B Legion Tournament

In the first round of the State Legion Class "B" Tournament being played in Milbank, Dell Rapids defeated Clark/Willow Lake, 1-0; Parkston defeated Dakota Valley, 7-5; Winner/Colome defeated Groton, 5-0; and Scotland/Menno/Freeman/Canistota Post 152 79ers defeated Milbank, 8-2.

Today's schedule:

Groton (25-8) plays an elimination game against Clark/Willow Lake Post 60 at 10 a.m.

Dakota Valley plays tournament hosts Milbank Post 9 in an elimination game at approximately 12:30 p.m.

Winner/Colome (16-2) battles Dell Rapids Post 65 in the first semifinal contest at 4 p.m.

Parkston faces off against Scotland/Menno/Freeman Canistota Post 152 at approximately 6:30 p.m.

Lawrence County Fatal Crash

What: Single vehicle fatal crash

Where: US 14A at mile marker 43, 1 mile east of Deadwood, South Dakota

When: 6:57 p.m., Thursday, July 31, 2025

Driver 1: 70-year-old male from Pompano Beach, Florida, fatal injuries

Vehicle 1: 1999 Harley Davidson MC

Lawrence County, S.D.- A Pompano Beach, Florida man died in a single-vehicle crash Thursday evening near Deadwood, South Dakota.

Names of the those involved have not been released pending notification of family members.

Preliminary crash information indicates the driver of a 1999 Harley Davidson MC was traveling west on US 14A. He left the roadway and entered the ditch, separating from his motorcycle. He was pronounced dead on the scene.

All information released is preliminary.

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

2ND ANNUAL CELEBRATION IN THE PARK

SAT, AUG 2ND

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

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



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

Groton City Park

FUNDRAISER EVENT DAY
SATURDAY, AUGUST 9TH, 2025
RESTORE OUR HERITAGE



Municipal Building

Join us for a fun-filled day at our **Municipal Building Restoration Fundraiser**! Participate in a poker run, enjoy delicious food from a food truck, listen to live music from two local bands, and bid on amazing items at our live auction. Your support helps preserve our community's heritage and brings us one step closer to restoring our beloved building. Come make a difference! Support our community and have fun!

EVENT SCHEDULE



2:30pm - Poker Run Registration at Conde Park (ATV, UTV, Motorcycle, Car, Golf Cart, Bicycle...Whatever you want to ride!)*
Ride begins at 3:00pm and ends at 5:00pm with 4 stops in town

2:30pm - 12:30am - Food Truck (Burgers, Roast Beef Sandwiches, Brats, Hot Dogs, Potato Salad, Macaroni Salad and Chips served by Trixy Schwabe)



6:00pm - 8:30pm - Music by Bob Styles

9:00pm - 12:00am - Music by The Barstool Prophets



****The Live Auction will be held at 8:30 ****



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Walking Taco and a drink
Free Will Donation
Proceeds go to Groton's Angel Tree
15 N Main, St. #103
Groton Daily Independent
Suggested Donation: \$5

Family Fun Fest -Thursday, Aug. 7 ~ 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.



SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

Secretary of state apologizes for sharing list labeling thousands as public assistance applicants

BY: JOSHUA HAIAR - AUGUST 1, 2025 4:18 PM



South Dakota Secretary of State Monae Johnson speaks during a press conference about election security and integrity on Oct. 9, 2024, at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. (Zach Wendling/Nebraska Examiner)

South Dakota's secretary of state is taking responsibility for the release of sensitive voter registration data, after her office published a spreadsheet that labeled thousands of residents as having registered to vote at government assistance agencies.

"As Secretary of State, I take full responsibility for the release of this information. My office is committed to both transparency and protecting voter privacy," Secretary of State Monae Johnson said in a statement Friday. "Upon discovering the issue, we acted immediately to remove the data and prevent further dissemination."

The data was posted online following the passage of a new law requiring the state's full voter registration list to be freely available to the public. But among the fields included in the data was "Source of Registration," which publicly identified people who registered at offices for the Supplemental

Nutrition Assistance Program, the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program, or the Women, Infants and Children program.

In all, 7,186 people were labeled as having registered to vote while applying for public assistance, according to a Searchlight analysis.

The release of the information drew criticism from lawmakers and the public alike.

"This is what happens when you put the wrong people in charge," said state House Minority Leader Erin Healy, D-Sioux Falls, who voted against the bill. "We talk a lot about freedom and privacy in this state, so it's a shame that this legislation led to this type of breach."

The list contains the information of 668,419 registered voters — their names, addresses, phone numbers, email addresses, party registrations and other personal information.

The South Dakota Secretary of State's Office "apologizes for the disclosure of information," according to the statement, and is committed to "restoring public trust following this error."

While voter registration at a public assistance agency does not necessarily mean a person receives benefits, Johnson said her office will notify affected individuals by mail. She said county auditors have also been contacted, and individuals who accessed the original data will be asked to delete any copies.

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The new law, which passed earlier this year with some bipartisan support and went into effect in July, was sold as increasing transparency in elections by making voter registration information accessible without a \$2,500 fee. Activists who favor the hand-counting of ballots, oppose the use of vote-counting machines and deny the legitimacy of the 2020 presidential election were among those who promoted the legislation as an "election integrity" measure.

The Secretary of State's Office said voters with concerns are encouraged to contact the office directly. Meanwhile, the potential for a lawsuit against the state looms. The American Civil Liberties Union of South Dakota on Friday invited affected people to fill out the legal intake form on its website.

"Removing these files does not wash away the damage that has been done," the ACLU said in a news release. "Private information about South Dakotans has now been made public to anyone who downloaded the files in the past month."

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.

Corporation for Public Broadcasting to close its doors after loss of funding

**BY: SHAUNEEN MIRANDA
- AUG. 1, 2025 5:39 PM**

WASHINGTON — The Corporation for Public Broadcasting announced Friday that it will be shutting down.

The announcement came just one day after a major Senate appropriations bill omitted funding for the nonprofit that funds public media and a week after President Donald Trump signed a bill into law that yanked \$1.1 billion in previously approved spending for CPB.

CPB, which Congress authorized in 1967, provides funds for National Public Radio, the Public Broadcasting Service and hundreds of local stations across the United States. President Donald Trump and fellow Republicans have criticized NPR and PBS of left-leaning bias, an



A sign for the Public Broadcasting Service is seen on its building headquarters on Feb. 18, 2025 in Arlington, Virginia. (Photo by

Kayla Bartkowski/Getty Images)

accusation the public media organizations have rejected.

"Despite the extraordinary efforts of millions of Americans who called, wrote, and petitioned Congress to preserve federal funding for CPB, we now face the difficult reality of closing our operations," Patricia Harrison, president and CEO of CPB, said in a statement Friday.

"CPB remains committed to fulfilling its fiduciary responsibilities and supporting our partners through

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this transition with transparency and care," Harrison said.

She added that "public media has been one of the most trusted institutions in American life, providing educational opportunity, emergency alerts, civil discourse, and cultural connection to every corner of the country."

CPB said employees were notified Friday that the majority of staff positions "will conclude with the close of the fiscal year on September 30, 2025," and a small transition team will stay through January 2026.

The Senate Appropriations Committee on Thursday approved the Labor, Health and Human Services and Education spending bill for fiscal year 2026, which did not include any CPB funding.

Sen. Patty Murray of Washington state, the top Democrat on the panel, expressed her disappointment over the lack of a CPB allocation in the bill during a committee markup.

"It is a shameful reality and now communities across the country will suffer the consequences as over 1,500 stations lose critical funding," Murray said.

In a win for the Trump administration, Congress passed a rescissions package in July that clawed back \$9 billion in previously approved spending for public broadcasting and foreign aid, including \$1.1 billion for CPB.

Trump signed the measure into law just days later.

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.

Tribal police to lawmakers: Recognize us as law enforcement

State definition of officer can cause hiccups for prosecution, mutual aid across state-tribal borders

BY: JOHN HULT - AUGUST 1, 2025 11:24 AM



Sisseton-Wahpeton Police Captain Gary Gaikowski speaks to the State-Tribal Relations Committee on July 31, 2025, in Agency Village. (John Hult/South Dakota Searchlight)

AGENCY VILLAGE — If a Sisseton police officer gets punched on state land in Sisseton, Roberts County State's Attorney Dylan Kirchmeier can charge the assailant with a felony for assaulting a police officer.

If that assailant also punches tribal police officer who's there assist, Kirchmeier doesn't have that option.

South Dakota law doesn't include tribal police in its definition of a law enforcement officer, Kirchmeier told members of the State-Tribal Relations Committee on Thursday. But in Roberts County, tribal police work alongside sheriff's deputies and city officers on a regular basis, sometimes as backup, sometimes as first responders when they're closer the scene when a call comes in.

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"I feel like that is doing a disservice to the tribal officers, because they're doing the same job that any state law enforcement officer is," Kirchmeier said. "It's a bad loophole."

Roberts County includes parts of the Lake Traverse Reservation, where the Sisseton-Wahpeton Police Department and tribal courts have jurisdiction. But the checkerboard nature of tribal land – one side of the road can be tribal, the other state – means that policing agencies wind up interwoven, for the safety of their officers and residents alike.

It's not uncommon for suspects to cross tribal and state lines in the course of committing a crime, Kirchmeier said, particularly in vehicle pursuits.

Gary Gaikowski, the tribal police captain for the past 20 years and a longtime member of South Dakota's Law Enforcement Standards and Training Commission, said the working relationships benefit both sides and public safety.

"Everything that affects the state, Roberts County, the city of Sisseton, affects us," Gaikowski told the committee. "And most of the time, it's the same individuals that we're arresting."

That should move the Legislature to change the law to recognize tribal officers as law enforcement.

"It does kind of, excuse my language, suck, to not be recognized as law enforcement officers," he said.

Both men urged the committee to explore changes to the law to protect tribal police who aid their stateside counterparts.

Mutual aid agreements: Thorny territory

Gaikowski said he understands the thorny nature of cooperation between tribes and outside law enforcement. Attempts to push for more formal mutual aid agreements have met political resistance at the tribal council level, he told the committee.

Algin Young, South Dakota's secretary of tribal affairs, told the committee he faced some of the same resistance during his stint as chief of the Oglala Sioux Tribal Police Department in Pine Ridge.

Tribal governments don't want state officials arresting their citizens, Young said, but might nonetheless see value in outside help. Working with the tribe and Pennington County eventually led to a setup in 2022 that opened the door to mutual aid between the county and the tribe, Young said, without giving the county the power to enforce state law on tribal land.

That should be the model for a state agency like the Highway Patrol, Young said.

"We have to be sensitive to what the tribes want," he said. "We'll go when they want, and we'll leave when they ask us to."

Bob Perry, secretary of the Department of Public Safety, told the lawmakers on the State-Tribal Relations Committee that the state is working with tribes to convince them to allow more agreements like that. He recently traveled to the Yankton Sioux Tribe to meet with leadership on the possibility of agreements with the Highway Patrol.

The state's closest formal partnership is with the Crow Creek Sioux Tribe, which uses state troopers for law enforcement only during its annual powwow, but Perry said there are other signs of progress on public safety cooperation.

There's currently a Highway Patrol saturation operation taking place on the Standing Rock Reservation. Highway Patrol captains meet quarterly with officials on that reservation, and on the Cheyenne River Reservation.

"All law enforcement understands this is a good, good thing," Perry said of mutual aid. "But there's still some mistrust in the tribal communities that we have to overcome."

Possible model: Missing people and violent crime

Perry pointed out that the Highway Patrol does accident reconstruction in fatal crashes on tribal land, and it doesn't hesitate to put helicopters in the air if a child goes missing on tribal lands and tribal officials reach out for help.

Mark Van Norman, a special counsel for the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate, told the committee that the

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prevalence of missing and murdered Indigenous people and the widespread hunger to address the issue among tribal governments could serve as a building block for trust.

President Donald Trump signed an executive order to address the MMIP issue, Van Norman pointed out, so there's a willingness at the federal level to improve cooperation.

"We've been thinking that when we have missing people, that we would like to get an immediate response so that we can try and rescue the people within 72 hours," Van Norman said.

Agreements for mutual aid in missing people cases could naturally extend, Van Norman said, to cooperation on cases involving violent crime.

Concerns about jurisdictional challenges aren't especially pronounced for Gaikowski, Kirchmeier and Roberts County Sheriff Tyler Appel, the sheriff said. Appel's jail holds adult and juvenile inmates for the tribe, he said, and major cases like homicides are all-hands-on-deck situations.

"Perceptions from community members tend to be more of a challenge than us working together," Appel said. "Captain Gaikowski's department and I work very well together. Gary and I share phone calls and text messages on a pretty frequent basis."

Fort Pierre Republican Rep. Will Mortenson, the committee's chair, said he was encouraged to hear that, and said he hopes the state can make more progress in allowing police to help each other across tribal lines.

"It seems like what we need is for the politicians to have the trust in law enforcement that law enforcement has in each other," said Mortenson, a member of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe. "The more I think about this issue, the more I think we've got a politician problem, not a law enforcement problem."

After the meeting, Mortenson said his comments were a reference to politicians "on any side" who might monkeywrench mutual aid.

The committee's next meeting will take place in mid-September, he said, and will be hosted jointly by the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe and the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe.

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

Trump levies a host of new tariffs on U.S. trading partners

BY: ASHLEY MURRAY - AUGUST 1, 2025 5:23 PM

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump pushed ahead with his promise to raise tariffs on foreign goods by Aug. 1, signing an order late Thursday increasing import taxes on products from nearly every U.S. trading partner.

Trump's directive, and new data on weaker job growth, sent markets tumbling Friday.

The president imposed a 15% base tariff on products imported from nearly three dozen nations across five continents, plus the 27 trading nations that comprise the European Union. Trump slapped higher rates on select other countries, ranging from 18% on goods from Nicaragua to 30% on South Africa and 50% on Brazil.

The White House hailed the "reciprocal" tariffs as "a necessary and powerful tool to put America First after many years of unsustainable trade deficits that threaten our economy and national security," according to a press release accompanying the executive order.

Trump describes the tariffs as "reciprocal" because they are his response to countries that have trade deficits with the U.S. — meaning that country sells more products to the U.S. than it buys.

U.S. Trade Representative Jamieson Greer called the new rates "historic."

"Over the past few months, the President's tariff program and the ensuing 'Trump Round' of trade negotiations have accomplished what the World Trade Organization and multilateral negotiations have not been able to achieve at scale: expansive new market access for U.S. exporters, increased tariffs to defend critical American industries, and trillions of new manufacturing investments and purchases of goods that will

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create great American jobs and help reassert American leadership in key strategic sectors," Greer said in a statement Wednesday.

The tariff announcement, combined with a weaker-than-expected jobs report Friday from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, caused sell-offs Friday from the three major U.S. stock indexes, according to financial media reports.

Trump fumed Friday afternoon about report adjustments that significantly decreased jobs numbers for May and June, even calling for the commissioner for labor statistics to be fired.

Tariffs and lawsuits

Trump made history earlier this year when he became the first president to trigger tariffs under the 1977 International Emergency Economic Powers Act.

The move sparked legal challenges from small businesses and Democratic-led states, and the plaintiffs faced the Trump administration Thursday in federal appeals court.

Tariffs are taxes on imported products that U.S. companies and other buyers pay to the U.S. government.

Trump announced staggering tariffs under an emergency declaration on April 2, what he referred to as "Liberation Day," but delayed the new import taxes after global markets plummeted in response to the shock announcement.

Trump also separately announced Thursday a 35% levy on imported products from Canada that fall outside the bounds of an already established trade agreement between the U.S., Canada and Mexico.

Trump continued a 25% tariff on certain Mexican goods, but paused any rate increases to allow for 90 days of negotiations, according to media reports. The U.S. is continuing negotiations with China, whose products face a base import tax rate of 30%.

Marc Noland, executive vice president and director of studies for the Peterson Institute for International Economics, said Trump's latest tariff rates are "unfortunate."

"It will contribute to higher prices and slower growth here in the United States," Noland said, adding there's "a question about how sustainable they are legally here in the U.S."

"And it's particularly unfortunate, because I'm looking at the entire list of countries and see that the countries with the highest rates are the countries that are in the worst shape — Laos gets 40%, Syria got 41%, Myanmar gets 40%. It's the poorest, most desperate countries that are getting hit with the highest tariffs. So it's bad for us and it's bad for the world," Noland told States Newsroom in an interview Friday.

The 15% rate on imports from dozens of countries mirrors the deals Trump announced in recent weeks with Japan, South Korea and European Union — though many details remain unknown.

"There are real questions about what exactly did anybody agree to," Noland said. "And you know this,



A container ship arrives at the Port of Oakland on Aug. 1, 2025 in Oakland, California. President Donald Trump announced that his Aug. 1 deadline for trade deals will not be extended and sweeping tariffs will be imposed on certain countries beginning that day. (Photo by Justin Sullivan/Getty Images)

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these don't have the force of law that a treaty negotiated and passed by our Congress and somebody else's national legislature have like, say, the U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement, which, as we see, was unilaterally abrogated."

'Predictable' trade agenda urged

Trade and industry advocates have also reacted to the new tariffs.

Gary Shapiro, CEO and vice chair of the Consumer Technology Association, issued a statement Thursday saying Trump's new rates "highlight the uncertainty American innovators face in today's trade environment."

"CTA continues to urge the Administration and Congress to pursue a predictable, forward-looking trade agenda rooted in fairness and collaboration with trusted partners," said Shapiro, whose organization hosts the annual CES trade show in Las Vegas, Nevada. "American innovation thrives when markets are open, trade rules are clear, and businesses are free to focus on creating jobs and bringing groundbreaking technologies to market."

The National Foreign Trade Council warned that "Whatever progress that's ultimately achieved as part of these new trade deals will come at the steep price of significant U.S. tariff increases and the erosion of trust with America's key partners."

The statement Thursday from the industry group's president, Jake Colvin, continued: "Institutionalizing the highest U.S. duties since the Great Depression, coupled with ongoing uncertainty, will ultimately make American businesses less competitive globally and consumers worse off while harming relationships with close geopolitical allies and trading partners."

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

State obligations for future retiree costs continue to grow, study finds

BY: KEVIN HARDY, STATELINE - AUGUST 1, 2025 9:52 AM

While more than a dozen states have shrunk their pension debt obligations in recent years, a majority continue to see growth in the gap between the amount of money retirees have been promised and the amount of cash states have set aside.

In a new analysis released this week, The Pew Charitable Trusts concluded that states' unfunded pension liabilities grew to nearly \$1.3 trillion in fiscal year 2022, largely because of lower-than-expected investment returns.

Total liabilities for future pension costs as a share of state revenues increased more than 22 percentage points between fiscal years 2008 and 2022 — reaching nearly 66% in fiscal 2022, Pew found. It's an important issue for current public employees and retirees as well as state policymakers, who must balance the growing tab with other



A January 2025 view of the South Dakota State Capitol in Pierre. (Makenzie Huber/South Dakota Searchlight)

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spending priorities.

"Long-term liabilities are not always top of mind for state policymakers because they are paid for over decades," Pew's report reads. "Yet, when they grow faster than a state's revenue, those liabilities can squeeze state budgets and constrain future public investments."

Between 2008 and 2022, unfunded pension obligations grew relative to state revenue in 34 states. In 16 states, unfunded pension liabilities decreased. Pew researchers found Illinois had the largest unfunded pension liability of any state, followed by New Jersey, Mississippi, Connecticut and Kentucky.

In four states — New York, South Dakota, Tennessee and Washington — pension plan assets exceeded what was owed.

Pew found states have made progress specifically on closing gaps on unfunded retiree health care costs — which decreased by nearly 8 percentage points as a share of state revenues between 2008 and 2019, falling to 45% in 2019.

And all 50 states collectively shrunk their outstanding debt loads relative to revenue by more than 6 percentage points from fiscal years 2018 to 2022, which fell to 18% of revenues by 2022.

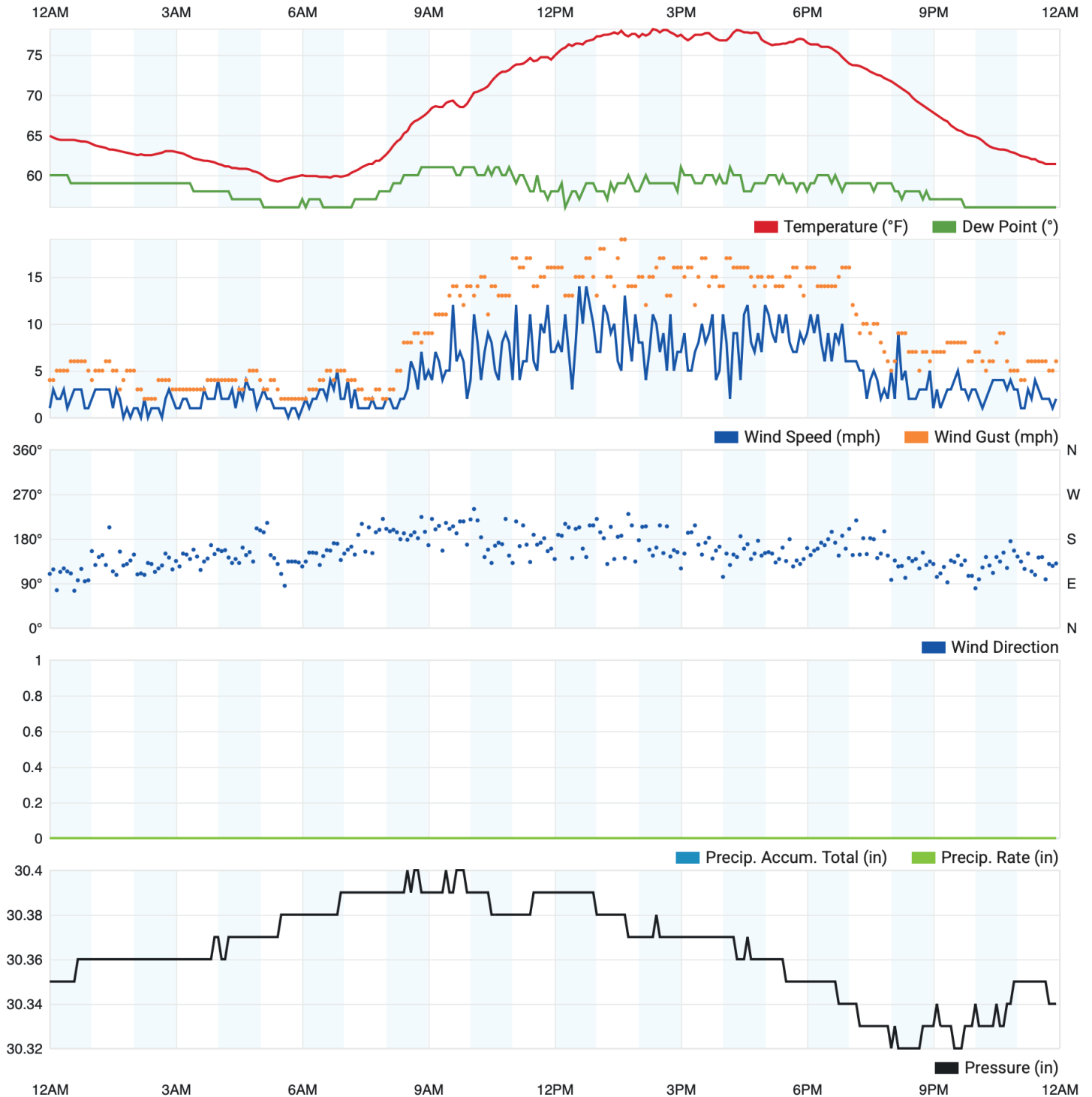
Kevin Hardy covers business, labor and rural issues for Stateline from the Midwest.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs

August 1, 2025



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Saturday

Saturday Night

Sunday

Sunday Night

Monday



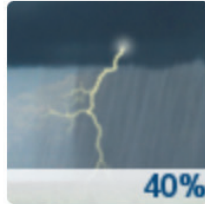
High: 75 °F

Chance
T-storms then
Chance
Showers



Low: 62 °F

Chance
T-storms



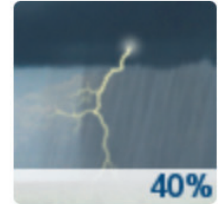
High: 77 °F

Heavy Rain



Low: 62 °F

Chance
T-storms



High: 78 °F

Chance
T-storms

On and Off Thunderstorm Chances through the weekend into early next week



August 2, 2025 4:31 AM

***20-50% storms with coverage remaining scattered**

***Severe weather is generally not expected this weekend, but can't rule out a couple of stronger storms especially Monday when a marginal risk for severe weather is possible**

***Any slow moving storms may produce locally heavy rain.**

Forecast

Today	Sunday	Monday
SMOKE	SMOKE	SMOKE
70-85°	70-85°	75-85°

National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

A series of disturbances moving through the area the next few days will keep an on again/off again threat for showers and thunderstorms in place across central and northeast South Dakota and west central Minnesota. Severe weather is generally not expected through the weekend, but still can't totally rule out a couple of strong storms. A marginal risk (level 1 of 5) has been posted for Monday when there's a better chance for organized severe weather. Wildfire smoke will continue more or less the next couple days and mainly be concentrated aloft with some light concentrations at ground level.

THREAT ASSESSMENT

HIGHEST LOCAL RISK

1

WHAT THIS MEANS:
ISOLATED severe storms
possible

**Monday into
Monday night**

PRIMARY THREATS



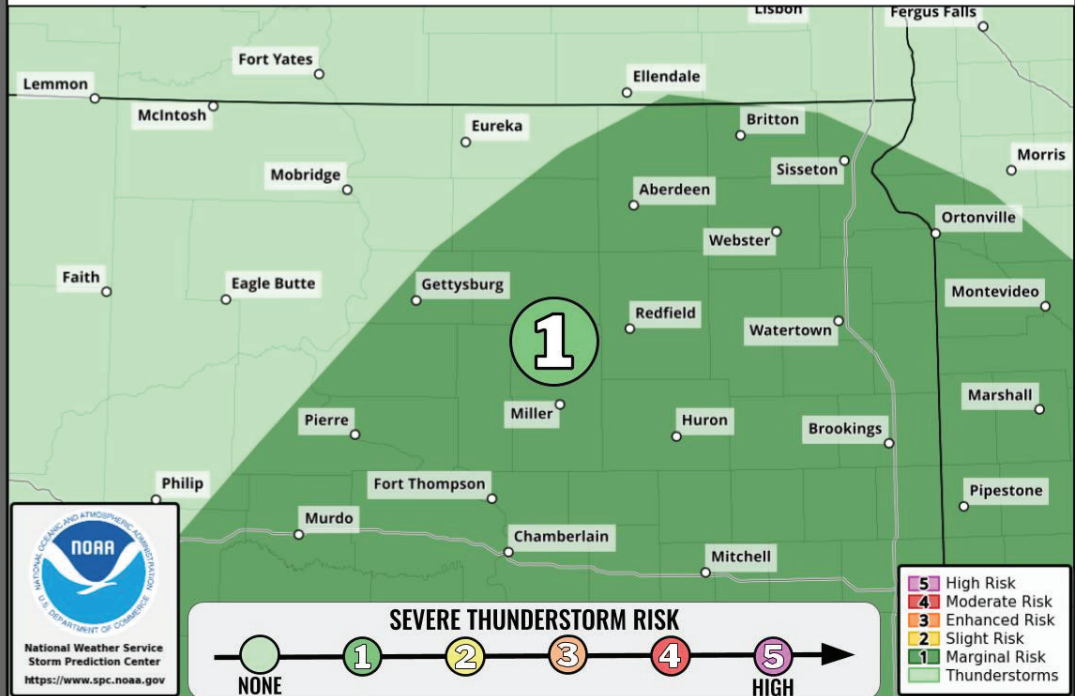
LARGE
HAIL to 1
inch in
diameter



DAMAGING
WIND GUSTS to
60 mph



Isolated **SEVERE STORMS** Monday



A disturbance moving through the region on Monday may lead to the development of a few strong to severe thunderstorms. The Storm Prediction Center has posted a marginal risk (level 1 of 5) for severe weather. Large hail and damaging winds are the expected primary threats. If you have any outdoor plans, pay attention to the latest forecast changes through the weekend.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 78 °F at 2:21 PM

Heat Index: 79 °F at 2:30 PM

Low Temp: 59 °F at 5:24 AM

Wind: 19 mph at 1:31 PM

Precip: : 0.00

Day length: 14 hours, 43 minutes

Today's Info

Record High: 105 in 1938

Record Low: 40 in 2018

Average High: 85

Average Low: 59

Average Precip in August.: 0.15

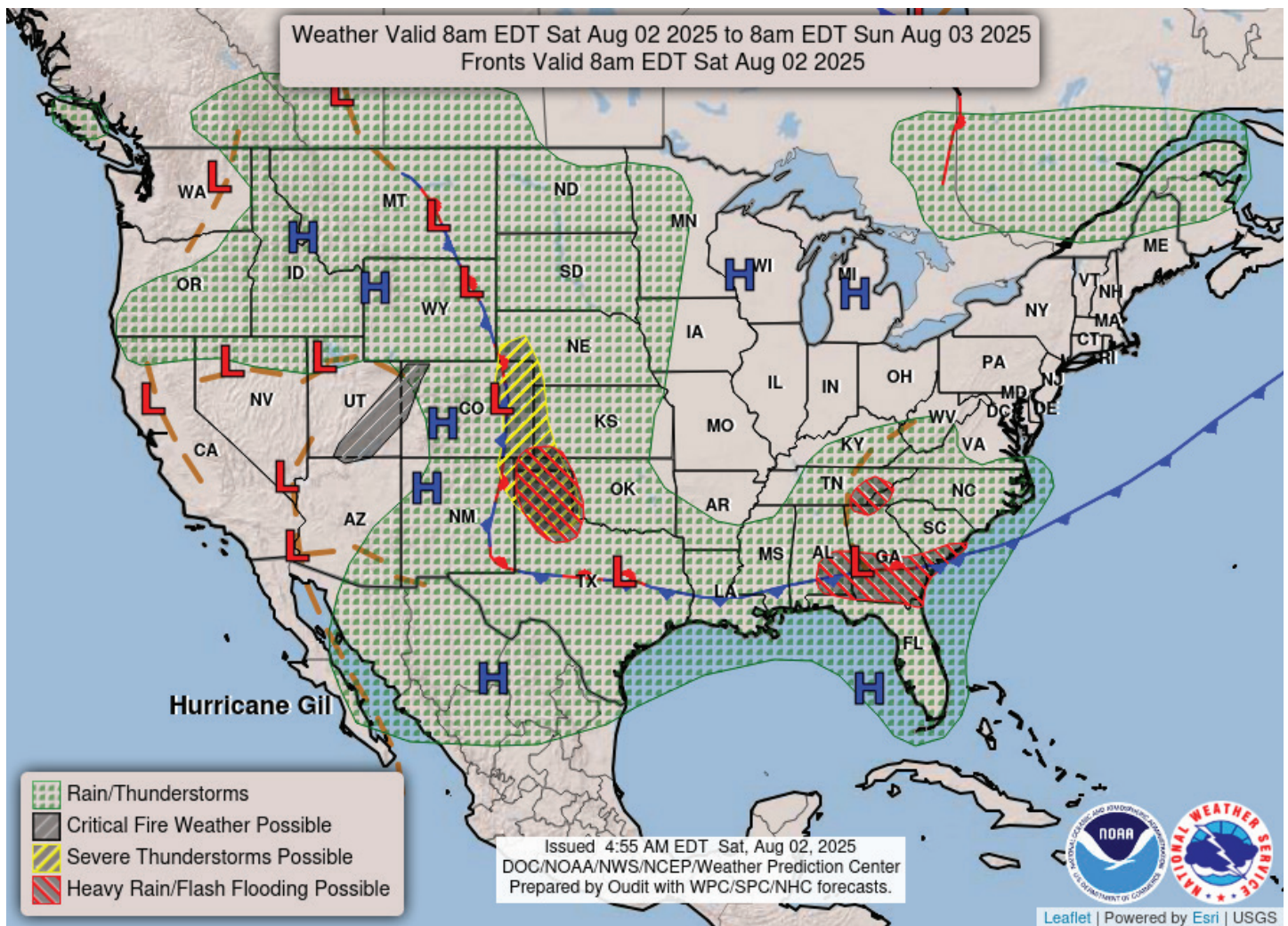
Precip to date in August: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 14.25

Precip Year to Date: 15.07

Sunset Tonight: 9:00:31 pm

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:17:56 am



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Today in Weather History

August 2, 1960: Hail, the size of a hen egg caused moderate damage to a total loss of corn, soybean, and grain crops on 50 to 75 farms in Marshall, Roberts, and Grant Counties. High winds caused damage to buildings and uprooted trees in Britton.

1954 - Severe thunderstorms produced golf ball size hail for thirty minutes in north central Kansas. One drift measured 200 feet long, seventy feet wide and three feet deep. (The Weather Channel)

1975 - Record heat gripped New England. Highs of 104 degrees at Providence, RI, and 107 degrees at Chester and New Bedford, MA, established state records. The heat along the coast of Maine was unprecedented, with afternoon highs of 101 degrees at Bar Harbor and 104 degrees at Jonesboro. (The Weather Channel)

1985: A strong and sudden wind gusts cause a plane crash at the Dallas/Fort Worth Airport in Texas that kills 135 people. The rapid and unexpected formation of a supercell, an incredibly powerful form of a thunderstorm, led to the tragedy.

1987 - Hot weather continued in the central U.S. Fifteen cities reported record high temperatures for the date, including Concordia KS with a reading of 106 degrees, and Downtown Kansas City, MO, with a high of 105 degrees. Evening thunderstorms produced severe weather in the Ohio Valley and the north central U.S. Thunderstorms in South Dakota produced wind gusts to 70 mph at Philip, and hail two inches in diameter at Faulkton. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Searing heat continued from the Middle and Upper Mississippi Valley to the Middle and Northern Atlantic Coast States. Twenty-six cities reported record high temperatures for the date. Chicago IL reported a record seven days of 100 degree heat for the year. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Low pressure representing the remains of Hurricane Chantal deluged north central Texas with heavy rain. Up to 6.50 inches drenched Stephens County, and Wichita Falls reported 2.22 inches of rain in just one hour. Bismarck, ND, reported a record warm morning low of 75 degrees, and record hot afternoon high of 101 degrees, and evening thunderstorms in North Dakota produced wind gusts to 78 mph at Lakota. Early evening thunderstorms in Florida produced high winds which downed trees at Christmas. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

2006: Johannesburg, South Africa residents see snow flurries for the first time in at least eight years.

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Seeds of Hope

Guido Ministries

Commit to the Lord whatever
you do and your plans will
succeed.

-Proverbs 16:3

Before you make a decision, make a plan or set a goal, ask these questions, said T.B. Matson, our ethics professor.

"Can I ask God to bless what I am about to do?"

"Is what I am planning to do going to honor God?"

"Would I feel comfortable to ask others to join me in prayer for what I am asking God to do for me?"

"Would others agree with me that what I am about to do will be God-honoring?"

We often act and react without pausing to pray about or even consider the consequences of our behavior. Sometimes when things seem to be getting out of control, we run to God and plead for Him to "correct this terrible mess I've created, for Your name is at stake."

Others may say, "Well, it looked good when I started but where is God now?"

Because of our sinful nature, we often act without seeking God's approval before setting out on a project. We think, plan, work, and then wonder what happens to our ideas when things go wrong.

We forget the need to go to God first because of our desire to act independently and self-sufficiently. If we look to and depend on God, we automatically admit we are insufficient on our own and need His help. And who wants to think they need help?

Wisely Solomon wrote, "Commit to the Lord whatever you do and your plans will succeed." The word used for commit literally means roll over. So if in prayer, we roll over our plans to God for His blessing, protection, and guidance, we can expect them to succeed.

Today's Prayer: Father, we pray that You will remove all pride from our hearts and help us realize our need for Your guidance. May we realize our need for You at all times. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Today's Scripture: "Commit to the Lord whatever you do and your plans will succeed." Proverbs 16:3

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: 08.01.25

18 27 29 33 70 22

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$150,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS: 07.30.25

9 13 26 43 51 4

All Star Bonus: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$3,740,000

NEXT DRAW: 15 Hrs 16 Mins 27 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS: 08.01.25

8 20 22 24 36 15

TOP PRIZE:

\$7,000/week

NEXT DRAW: 15 Hrs 31 Mins 26 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS: 07.30.25

2 8 10 25 28

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$75,000

NEXT DRAW: 15 Hrs 31 Mins 26 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS: 07.30.25

13 32 65 66 68 7

TOP PRIZE:

\$10,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 26 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS: 07.30.25

4 15 35 50 64 8

Power Play: 4x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$410,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 27 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

Corporation for Public Broadcasting to shut down after being defunded by Congress, targeted by Trump

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Corporation for Public Broadcasting, a cornerstone of American culture for three generations, announced Friday it would take steps toward its own closure after being defunded by Congress — marking the end of a nearly six-decade era in which it fueled the production of renowned educational programming, cultural content and even emergency alerts.

The demise of the corporation, known as CPB, is a direct result of President Donald Trump's targeting of public media, which he has repeatedly said is spreading political and cultural views antithetical to those the United States should be espousing. The closure is expected to have a profound impact on the journalistic and cultural landscape — in particular, public radio and TV stations in small communities across the United States.

CPB helps fund both PBS and NPR, but most of its funding is distributed to more than 1,500 local public radio and television stations around the country.

The corporation also has deep ties to much of the nation's most familiar programming, from NPR's "All Things Considered" to, historically, "Sesame Street," "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood" and the documentaries of Ken Burns.

The corporation said its end, 58 years after being signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson, would come in an "orderly wind-down." In a statement, it said the decision came after the passage through Congress of a package that clawed back its funding for the next two budget years — about \$1.1 billion. Then, the Senate Appropriations Committee reinforced that policy change Thursday by excluding funding for the corporation for the first time in more than 50 years as part of a broader spending bill.

"Despite the extraordinary efforts of millions of Americans who called, wrote, and petitioned Congress to preserve federal funding for CPB, we now face the difficult reality of closing our operations," said Patricia Harrison, the corporation's president and CEO.

A last-gasp attempt at funding fails

Democratic members of the Senate Appropriations Committee made a last-ditch effort this week to save the CPB's funding.

As part of Thursday's committee deliberations, Sen. Tammy Baldwin, D-Wis., authored but then withdrew an amendment to restore CPB funding for the coming budget year. She said she still believed there was a path forward "to fix this before there are devastating consequences for public radio and television stations across the country."

"It's hard to believe we've ended up in the situation we're in," she said. "And I'm going to continue to work with my colleagues to fix it."

But Sen. Shelley Moore Capito, R-W.Va., sounded a less optimistic tone.

"I understand your concerns, but we all know we litigated this two weeks ago," Capito said. "Adopting this amendment would have been contrary to what we have already voted on."

CPB said it informed employees Friday that most staff positions will end with the fiscal year on Sept. 30. It said a small transition team will stay in place until January to finish any remaining work — including, it said, "ensuring continuity for music rights and royalties that remain essential to the public media system."

"Public media has been one of the most trusted institutions in American life, providing educational opportunity, emergency alerts, civil discourse, and cultural connection to every corner of the country," Harrison said. "We are deeply grateful to our partners across the system for their resilience, leadership, and unwavering dedication to serving the American people."

The impact will be widespread

NPR stations use millions of dollars in federal money to pay music licensing fees. Now, many will have to renegotiate these deals. That could impact, in particular, outlets that build their programming around

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music discovery. NPR President and CEO Katherine Maher estimated recently, for example, that some 96% of all classical music broadcast in the United States is on public radio stations.

Federal money for public radio and television has traditionally been appropriated to the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, which distributes it to NPR and PBS. Roughly 70% of the money goes directly to the 330 PBS and 246 NPR stations across the country, although that's only a shorthand way to describe its potential impact.

Trump, who has called the CPB a "monstrosity," has long said that public broadcasting displays an extreme liberal bias, helped create the momentum in recent months for an anti-public broadcasting groundswell among his supporters in Congress and around the country. It is part of a larger initiative in which he has targeted institutions — particularly cultural ones — that produce content or espouse attitudes that he considers "un-American." The CPB's demise represents a political victory for those efforts.

His impact on the media landscape has been profound. He has also gone after U.S. government media that had independence charters, including the venerable Voice of America, ending that media outlet's operations after many decades.

Trump also fired three members of the corporation's board of directors in April. In legal action at the time, the fired directors said their dismissal was governmental overreach targeting an entity whose charter guarantees it independence.

SpaceX delivers four astronauts to the International Space Station just 15 hours after launch

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — SpaceX delivered a fresh crew to the International Space Station on Saturday, making the trip in a quick 15 hours.

The four U.S., Russian and Japanese astronauts pulled up in their SpaceX capsule after launching from NASA's Kennedy Space Center. They will spend at least six months at the orbiting lab, swapping places with colleagues up there since March. SpaceX will bring those four back as early as Wednesday.

Moving in are NASA's Zena Cardman and Mike Fincke, Japan's Kimiya Yui and Russia's Oleg Platonov — each of whom had been originally assigned to other missions. "Hello, space station!" Fincke radioed as soon as the capsule docked high above the South Pacific.

Cardman and another astronaut were pulled from a SpaceX flight last year to make room for NASA's two stuck astronauts, Boeing Starliner test pilots Butch Wilmore and Suni Williams, whose space station stay went from one week to more than nine months. Fincke and Yui had been training for the next Starliner mission. But with Starliner grounded by thruster and other problems until 2026, the two switched to SpaceX.

Platonov was bumped from the Soyuz launch lineup a couple of years ago because of an undisclosed illness.

Their arrival temporarily puts the space station population at 11.

"It was such an unbelievably beautiful sight to see the space station come into our view for the first time," Cardman said once on board.

While their taxi flight was speedy by U.S. standards, the Russians hold the record for the fastest trip to the space station — a lightning-fast three hours.

How one Gaza family dedicates each day to finding enough food to survive

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip (AP) — Every morning, Abeer and Fadi Sobh wake up in their tent in the Gaza Strip to the same question: How will they find food for themselves and their six young children?

The couple has three options: Maybe a charity kitchen will be open and they can get a pot of watery lentils. Or they can try jostling through crowds to get some flour from a passing aid truck. The last resort is begging.

If those all fail, they simply don't eat. It happens more and more these days, as hunger saps their en-

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ergy, strength and hope.

The predicament of the Sobhs, who live in a seaside refugee camp west of Gaza City after being displaced multiple times, is the same for families throughout the war-ravaged territory.

Hunger has grown throughout the past 22 months of war because of aid restrictions, humanitarian workers say. But food experts warned earlier this week the “worst-case scenario of famine is currently playing out in Gaza.”

Israel enforced a complete blockade on food and other supplies for 2½ months beginning in March. It said its objective was to increase pressure on Hamas to release dozens of hostages it has held since its attack on Israel on Oct. 7, 2023.

Though the flow of aid resumed in May, the amount is a fraction of what aid organizations say is needed. A breakdown of law and order has also made it nearly impossible to safely deliver food. Much of the aid that does get in is hoarded or sold in markets at exorbitant prices.

Here is a look at a day in the life of the Sobh family:

A morning seawater bath

The family wakes up in their tent, which Fadi Sobh, a 30-year-old street vendor, says is unbearably hot in the summer.

With fresh water hard to come by, his wife Abeer, 29, fetches water from the sea.

One by one, the children stand in a metal basin and scrub themselves as their mother pours the salt-water over their heads. Nine-month-old Hala cries as it stings her eyes. The other children are more stoic.

Abeer then rolls up the bedding and sweeps the dust and sand from the tent floor. With no food left over from the day before, she heads out to beg for something for her family’s breakfast. Sometimes, neighbors or passersby give her lentils. Sometimes she gets nothing.

Abeer gives Hala water from a baby bottle. When she’s lucky, she has lentils that she grinds into powder to mix into the water.

“One day feels like 100 days, because of the summer heat, hunger and the distress,” she said.

A trip to the soup kitchen

Fadi heads to a nearby soup kitchen. Sometimes one of the children goes with him.

“But food is rarely available there,” he said. The kitchen opens roughly once a week and never has enough for the crowds. Most often, he said, he waits all day but returns to his family with nothing “and the kids sleep hungry, without eating.”

Fadi used to go to an area in northern Gaza where aid trucks arrive from Israel. There, giant crowds of equally desperate people swarm over the trucks and strip away the cargo of food. Often, Israeli troops nearby open fire, witnesses say. Israel says it only fires warning shots, and others in the crowd often have knives or pistols to steal boxes.

Fadi, who also has epilepsy, was shot in the leg last month. That has weakened him too much to scramble for the trucks, so he’s left with trying the kitchens.

Meanwhile, Abeer and her three eldest children — 10-year-old Youssef, 9-year-old Mohammed and 7-year-old Malak — head out with plastic jerrycans to fill up from a truck that brings freshwater from central Gaza’s desalination plant.

The kids struggle with the heavy jerrycans. Youssef loads one onto his back, while Mohammed half-drags his, his little body bent sideways as he tries to keep it out of the dust of the street.

A scramble for aid

Abeer sometimes heads to Zikim herself, alone or with Youssef. Most in the crowds are men — faster and stronger than she is. “Sometimes I manage to get food, and in many cases, I return empty-handed,” she said.

If she’s unsuccessful, she appeals to the sense of charity of those who succeeded. “You survived death thanks to God, please give me anything,” she tells them. Many answer her plea, and she gets a small bag of flour to bake for the children, she said.

She and her son have become familiar faces. One man who regularly waits for the trucks, Youssef Abu

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Saleh, said he often sees Abeer struggling to grab food, so he gives her some of his. "They're poor people and her husband is sick," he said. "We're all hungry and we all need to eat."

During the hottest part of the day, the six children stay in or around the tent. Their parents prefer the children sleep during the heat — it stops them from running around, using up energy and getting hungry and thirsty.

Foraging and begging in the afternoon

As the heat eases, the children head out. Sometimes Abeer sends them to beg for food from their neighbors. Otherwise, they scour Gaza's bombed-out streets, foraging through the rubble and trash for anything to fuel the family's makeshift stove.

They've become good at recognizing what might burn. Scraps of paper or wood are best, but hardest to find. The bar is low: plastic bottles, plastic bags, an old shoe — anything will do.

One of the boys came across a pot in the trash one day — it's what Abeer now uses to cook. The family has been displaced so many times, they have few belongings left.

"I have to manage to get by," Abeer said. "What can I do? We are eight people."

If they're lucky, lentil stew for dinner

After a day spent searching for the absolute basics to sustain life — food, water, fuel to cook — the family sometimes has enough of all three for Abeer to make a meal. Usually it's a thin lentil soup.

But often there is nothing, and they all go to bed hungry.

Abeer said she's grown weak and often feels dizzy when she's out searching for food or water.

"I am tired. I am no longer able," she said. "If the war goes on, I am thinking of taking my life. I no longer have any strength or power."

Appeals court keeps order blocking Trump administration from indiscriminate immigration sweeps

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A federal appeals court ruled Friday night to uphold a lower court's temporary order blocking the Trump administration from conducting indiscriminate immigration stops and arrests in Southern California.

A three-judge panel of the Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals held a hearing Monday afternoon at which the federal government asked the court to overturn a temporary restraining order issued July 12 by Judge Maame E. Frimpong, arguing it hindered their enforcement of immigration law.

Immigrant advocacy groups filed suit last month accusing President Donald Trump's administration of systematically targeting brown-skinned people in Southern California during the administration's crackdown on illegal immigration. The lawsuit included three detained immigrants and two U.S. citizens as plaintiffs.

In her order, Frimpong said there was a "mountain of evidence" that federal immigration enforcement tactics were violating the Constitution. She wrote the government cannot use factors such as apparent race or ethnicity, speaking Spanish or English with an accent, presence at a location such as a tow yard or car wash, or someone's occupation as the only basis for reasonable suspicion to detain someone.

The appeals court panel agreed and questioned the government's need to oppose an order preventing them from violating the constitution.

"If, as Defendants suggest, they are not conducting stops that lack reasonable suspicion, they can hardly claim to be irreparably harmed by an injunction aimed at preventing a subset of stops not supported by reasonable suspicion," the judges wrote.

A hearing for a preliminary injunction, which would be a more substantial court order as the lawsuit proceeds, is scheduled for September.

The Los Angeles region has been a battleground with the Trump administration over its aggressive immigration strategy that spurred protests and the deployment of the National Guards and Marines for several weeks. Federal agents have rounded up immigrants without legal status to be in the U.S. from Home Depots, car washes, bus stops, and farms, many who have lived in the country for decades.

Among the plaintiffs is Los Angeles resident Brian Gavidia, who was shown in a video taken by a friend

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June 13 being seized by federal agents as he yells, "I was born here in the states, East LA bro!"

They want to "send us back to a world where a U.S. citizen ... can be grabbed, slammed against a fence and have his phone and ID taken from him just because he was working at a tow yard in a Latino neighborhood," American Civil Liberties Union attorney Mohammad Tajsar told the court Monday.

The federal government argued that it hadn't been given enough time to collect and present evidence in the lawsuit, given that it was filed shortly before the July 4 holiday and a hearing was held the following week.

"It's a very serious thing to say that multiple federal government agencies have a policy of violating the Constitution," attorney Jacob Roth said.

He also argued that the lower court's order was too broad, and that immigrant advocates did not present enough evidence to prove that the government had an official policy of stopping people without reasonable suspicion.

He referred to the four factors of race, language, presence at a location, and occupation that were listed in the temporary restraining order, saying the court should not be able to ban the government from using them at all. He also argued that the order was unclear on what exactly is permissible under law.

"Legally, I think it's appropriate to use the factors for reasonable suspicion," Roth said

The judges sharply questioned the government over their arguments.

"No one has suggested that you cannot consider these factors at all," Judge Jennifer Sung said.

However, those factors alone only form a "broad profile" and don't satisfy the reasonable suspicion standard to stop someone, she said.

Sung, a Biden appointee, said that in an area like Los Angeles, where Latinos make up as much as half the population, those factors "cannot possibly weed out those who have undocumented status and those who have documented legal status."

She also asked: "What is the harm to being told not to do something that you claim you're already not doing?"

Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass called the Friday night decision a "victory for the rule of law" and said the city will protect residents from the "racial profiling and other illegal tactics" used by federal agents.

Jeannie Seely, soulful country singer behind hits like 'Don't Touch Me,' dies at 85

NEW YORK (AP) — Jeannie Seely, the soulful country music singer behind such standards like "Don't Touch Me," has died. She was 85.

Her publicist, Don Murry Grubbs, said she died Friday after succumbing to complications from an intestinal infection.

Known as "Miss Country Soul" for her unique vocal style, Seely was a trailblazer for women in country music, celebrated for her spirited nonconformity and for a string of undeniable hits in the '60s and '70s.

Her second husband, Gene Ward, died in December. In May, Seely revealed that she was in recovery after undergoing multiple back surgeries, two emergency procedures and spending 11 days in the ICU. She also suffered a bout of pneumonia.

"Rehab is pretty tough, but each day is looking brighter and last night, I saw a light at the end of the tunnel. And it was neon, so I knew it was mine!" she said in a statement at the time. "The unsinkable Seely is working her way back."

Dolly Parton was one of several country music luminaries paying her tribute on Friday, saying she met Seely when they were both young and starting out in Nashville.

"She was one of my dearest friends," Parton said on her social media accounts. "I think she was one of the greater singers in Nashville and she had a wonderful sense of humor. We had many wonderful laughs together, cried over certain things together and she will be missed."

Seely was born in July 1940, in Titusville, Pennsylvania, about two hours north of Pittsburgh and raised

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in nearby Townville. Her love of country music was instant; her mother sang, and her father played the banjo. When she was a child, she sang on local radio programs and performed on local television. In her early 20s, she moved to Los Angeles to kick-start a career, taking a job with Liberty and Imperial Records in Hollywood.

She kept writing and recording. Nashville was next: She sang on Porter Wagoner's show; she got a deal with Monument Records. Her greatest hit would arrive soon afterward: "Don't Touch Me," the crossover ballad written by Hank Cochran. The song earned Seely her first and only Grammy Award, for best country & western vocal performance in the female category.

Cochran and Seely were married in 1969 and divorced in 1979.

Seely broke boundaries in her career — at a time when country music expected a kind of subservience from its women performers, Seely was a bit of a rebel, known for wearing a miniskirt on the Grand Ole Opry stage when it was still taboo.

And she had a number of country hits in the '60s and '70s, including three Top 10 hits on what is now known as Billboard's hot country songs chart: "Don't Touch Me," 1967's "I'll Love You More (Than You Need)" and 1973's "Can I Sleep In Your Arms?," adapted from the folk song "Can I Sleep In Your Barn Tonight Mister?"

In the years since, Seely continued to release albums, perform, and host, regularly appearing on country music programming. Her songs are considered classics, and have been recorded by everyone from Merle Haggard, Ray Price and Connie Smith to Ernest Tubb, Grandpa Jones, and Little Jimmy Dickens.

And Seely never stopped working in country music. Since 2018, she's hosted the weekly "Sunday's with Seely" on Willie Nelson's Willie's Roadhouse SiriusXM channel. That same year, she was inducted into the Music City Walk of Fame.

She appeared nearly 5,400 times at the Grand Ole Opry, which she has been a member of since 1967. Grubbs said Saturday's Grand Ole Opry show would be dedicated to Seely.

She released her latest song in July 2024, a cover of Dottie West's "Suffertime," recorded at the world-renowned RCA Studio B. She performed it at the Opry the year before.

Night vision goggles may have hampered helicopter pilots before crash with jet, experts tell NTSB

The pilots of a U.S. Army helicopter that collided with a passenger jet over Washington in January would've had difficulty spotting the plane while wearing night vision goggles, experts told the National Transportation Safety Board on Friday.

The Army goggles would have made it difficult to see the plane's colored lights, which might have helped the Black Hawk determine the plane's direction. The goggles also limited the pilots' peripheral vision as they flew near Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport.

The challenges posed by night-vision goggles were among the topics discussed at the NTSB's third and final day of public testimony over the fatal midair crash, which killed all 67 people aboard both aircrafts.

Experts said another challenge that evening was distinguishing the plane from lights on the ground while the two aircraft were on a collision course. Plus, the helicopter pilots may not have known where to look for a plane that was landing on a secondary runway that most planes didn't use.

"Knowing where to look. That's key," said Stephen Casner, an expert in human factors who used to work at NASA.

Two previous days of testimony underscored a number of factors that likely contributed to the collision, sparking Board Chairwoman Jennifer Homendy to urge the Federal Aviation Administration to "do better" as she pointed to warnings the agency had ignored years earlier.

Some of the major issues that have emerged so far include the Black Hawk helicopter flying above prescribed levels near the airport as well as the warnings to FAA officials for years about the hazards related to the heavy chopper traffic there.

It's too early for the board to identify what exactly caused the crash. A final report from the board won't

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come until next year.

But it became clear this week how small a margin of error there was for helicopters flying the route the Black Hawk took the night of the nation's deadliest plane crash since November 2001.

Army Colonel Andrew DeForest told the NTSB that "flights along the D.C. helicopter routes were considered relatively safe," but some pilots in the 12th Battalion that flew alongside the crew that crashed told investigators they regularly talked about the possibility of a collision because of the congested and complicated airspace.

The American Airlines jet arrived from Wichita, Kansas, carrying, among others, a group of elite young figure skaters, their parents and coaches, and four union steamfitters from the Washington area.

The collision was the first in a string of crashes and near misses this year that have alarmed officials and the traveling public, despite statistics that still show flying remains the safest form of transportation.

'Significant frustration'

NTSB members scolded FAA officials during Friday's hearing, accusing them of saying the right things about safety in public while failing to cooperate in private. They said the FAA has repeatedly refused to provide information requested by investigators.

Board member Todd Inman said there was "significant frustration between what's actually occurring" and "what's being said for public consumption."

Frank McIntosh, the head of the FAA's air traffic control organization, said he would start working immediately to make sure the agency complies with the investigation. McIntosh also acknowledged problems with the culture in the tower at Reagan National, despite past efforts to improve compliance with safety standards.

"I think there were some things that we missed, to be quite honest with you, not intentionally, but I was talking about how certain facilities can drift," McIntosh said.

Homendy told McIntosh she believes agency leaders are sincere about wanting to improve safety, but the solution must be more than just sending a top-down message of safety and also actually listening to controllers in the field.

Questions over lack of alcohol testing

Tim Lilley, an aviation expert whose son Sam was a pilot on the passenger jet, said he's optimistic the tragic accident will ultimately lead to some positive changes.

"But we've got a long way to go," he told The Associated Press.

Lilley said he was particularly struck by the FAA's lack of alcohol testing for air traffic controllers after the crash.

"And they made a bunch of excuses why they didn't do it," Lilley said. "None of them were valid. It goes back to a whole system that was complacent and was normalizing deviation."

Homendy said during Thursday's hearings that alcohol testing is most effective within two hours of a crash and can be administered within eight hours.

Nick Fuller, the FAA's acting deputy chief operating officer of operations, testified that the controllers weren't tested because the agency did not immediately believe the crash was fatal. The FAA then decided to forgo it because the optimum two-hour window had passed.

Controller didn't warn the jet

FAA officials testified this week that an air traffic controller should have warned the passenger jet of the Army helicopter's presence.

The controller had asked the Black Hawk pilots to confirm they had the airplane in sight because an alarm sounded in the tower about their proximity. The controller could see from a window that the helicopter was too close, but the controller did not alert the jetliner.

In a transcript released this week, the unidentified controller said in a post-crash interview they weren't sure that would have changed the outcome.

Additionally, the pilots of the helicopter did not fully hear the controller's instructions before the collision. When the controller told the helicopter's pilots to "pass behind" the jet, the crew didn't hear it because

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the Black Hawk's microphone key was pressed at that moment.

'Layer after layer of deficiencies'

Jeff Guzzetti, a former NTSB and FAA crash investigator, told the AP that a combination of factors produced this tragedy, like "holes that line up in the Swiss cheese."

Any number of things, had they been different, could have prevented the collision, he said. They include the Black Hawks having more accurate altimeters, as well as a key piece of locating equipment, known as ADS-B Out, turned on or working. In turn, air traffic control could have seen the problem earlier.

Just a few feet could have made a difference, Guzzetti said.

"It just goes to show you that an accident isn't caused by one single thing," Guzzetti said. "It isn't caused by 'pilot error' or 'controller staffing.' This accident was caused by layer after layer of deficiencies that piled up at just the right moment."

Ex-official: FAA and Army share blame

Mary Schiavo, a former U.S. Department of Transportation Inspector General, told the AP that both the Army and the FAA appear to share significant blame.

The Black Hawks' altimeters could be off by as much as 100 feet and were still considered acceptable, she said. The crew was flying an outdated model that struggled to maintain altitude, while the helicopter pilots' flying was "loose" and under "loose" supervision.

"It's on the individuals, God rest their souls, but it's also on the military," Schiavo said. "I mean, they just seem to have no urgency of anything."

Schiavo was also struck by the air traffic controllers' lack of maps of the military helicopter routes on their display screens, which forced them to look out the window.

"And so everything about the military helicopter operation was not up to the standards of commercial aviation ... it's a shocking lack of attention to precision all the way around," she said.

Schiavo also faulted the FAA for not coming off as terribly responsive to problems.

"I called the Federal Aviation Administration, the Tombstone Agency, because they would only make change after people die," Schiavo said. "And sadly, 30 years later, that seems to still be the case."

Trump calls on the Federal Reserve board to take full control of the central bank from Powell

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump on Friday called for the Federal Reserve's board of governors to usurp the power of Fed Chair Jerome Powell, criticizing the head of the U.S. central bank for not cutting short-term interest rates.

Posting on his Truth Social platform, Trump called Powell "stubborn." The Fed chair has been subjected to vicious verbal attacks by the Republican president over several months.

The Fed has the responsibility of stabilizing prices and maximizing employment. Powell has held its benchmark rate for overnight loans constant this year, saying that Fed officials needed to see what impact Trump's massive tariffs had on inflation.

If Powell doesn't "substantially" lower rates, Trump posted, "THE BOARD SHOULD ASSUME CONTROL, AND DO WHAT EVERYONE KNOWS HAS TO BE DONE!"

Two of the seven Fed governors, Christopher Waller and Michelle Bowman, issued statements Friday saying they see the tariffs as having a one-time impact on prices and the job market as most likely softening. As a result, the two dissented at the Fed meeting on Wednesday and pushed for slight rate cuts relative to what Trump was seeking.

Even though Trump, who nominated Waller and Bowman, has claimed the U.S. economy is booming, he welcomed their arguments and what he called their strong dissents.

After the Fed announced later Friday that governor Adriana Kugler will step down next week, Trump said Powell should follow her lead and leave, too.

"She knew he was doing the wrong thing on Interest Rates. He should resign, also!" Trump said on social media.

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Friday's jobs report showed a rapidly decelerating economy, as just 73,000 jobs were added in July and downward revisions brought down the June and May totals to 14,000 and 19,000, respectively.

Trump sees the rate cuts as leading to stronger growth and lower debt servicing costs for the federal government and homebuyers. The president argues there is virtually no inflation, even though the Fed's preferred measure is running at an annual rate of 2.6%, slightly higher than the Fed's 2% target.

Trump has called for slashing the Fed's benchmark rate by 3 percentage points, bringing it down dramatically from its current average of 4.33%. The risk is that a rate cut that large could cause more money to come into the economy than can be absorbed, possibly causing inflation to accelerate.

The Supreme Court suggested in a May ruling that Trump could not remove Powell for policy disagreements. This led the White House to investigate whether the Fed chair could be fired for cause because of the cost overruns in the Fed's \$2.5 billion renovation projects.

Powell's term as chair ends in May 2026, at which point Trump can put his Senate-confirmed pick in the seat.

Trump orders US nuclear subs repositioned over statements from ex-Russian leader Medvedev

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a warning to Russia, President Donald Trump said Friday he's ordering the repositioning of two U.S. nuclear submarines "based on the highly provocative statements" of the country's former president, Dmitry Medvedev, who has raised the prospect of war online.

Trump posted on his social media site that, based on the "highly provocative statements" from Medvedev, he had "ordered two Nuclear Submarines to be positioned in the appropriate regions, just in case these foolish and inflammatory statements are more than just that."

The president added, "Words are very important, and can often lead to unintended consequences, I hope this will not be one of those instances."

It wasn't clear what impact Trump's order would have on U.S. nuclear subs, which are routinely on patrol in the world's hotspots, but it comes at a delicate moment in the Trump administration's relations with Moscow.

Trump said later Friday that he was alarmed by Medvedev's attitude.

"He's got a fresh mouth," Trump said in an interview with Newsmax.

Trump has said that special envoy Steve Witkoff is heading to Russia to push Moscow to agree to a ceasefire in its war with Ukraine and has threatened new economic sanctions if progress is not made. He cut his 50-day deadline for action to 10 days, with that window set to expire next week.

The post about the sub repositioning came after Trump, in the wee hours of Thursday morning, had posted that Medvedev was a "failed former President of Russia" and warned him to "watch his words." Medvedev responded hours later by writing, "Russia is right on everything and will continue to go its own way."

And that back-and-forth started earlier this week when Medvedev wrote, "Trump's playing the ultimatum game with Russia: 50 days or 10" and added, "He should remember 2 things: 1. Russia isn't Israel or even Iran. 2. Each new ultimatum is a threat and a step towards war. Not between Russia and Ukraine, but with his own country."

Asked as he was leaving the White House on Friday evening for a weekend at his estate in New Jersey about where he was repositioning the subs, Trump didn't offer any specifics.

"We had to do that. We just have to be careful," he said. "A threat was made, and we didn't think it was appropriate, so I have to be very careful."

Trump also said, "I do that on the basis of safety for our people" and "we're gonna protect our people." He later added of Medvedev, "He was talking about nuclear."

"When you talk about nuclear, we have to be prepared," Trump said. "And we're totally prepared." He told Newsmax that the submarines were being moved "closer to Russia."

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Medvedev was Russia's president from 2008 to 2012, while Vladimir Putin was barred from seeking a third consecutive term, and then stepped aside to let him run again.

Now deputy chairman of Russia's National Security Council, which Putin chairs, Medvedev has been known for his provocative and inflammatory statements since the start of the war in 2022. That's a U-turn from his presidency, when he was seen as liberal and progressive.

Medvedev has frequently wielded nuclear threats and lobbed insults at Western leaders on social media. Some observers have argued that with his extravagant rhetoric, Medvedev is seeking to score political points with Putin and Russian military hawks.

One such example before the latest spat with Trump came on July 15, after Trump announced plans to supply Ukraine with more weapons via its NATO allies and threatened additional tariffs against Moscow. Medvedev posted then, "Trump issued a theatrical ultimatum to the Kremlin. The world shuddered, expecting the consequences. Belligerent Europe was disappointed. Russia didn't care."

Trump removes official overseeing jobs data after dismal employment report

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump on Friday removed the head of the agency that produces the monthly jobs figures after a report showed hiring slowed in July and was much weaker in May and June than previously reported.

Trump, in a post on his social media platform, alleged that the figures were manipulated for political reasons and said that Erika McEntarfer, the director of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, who was appointed by former President Joe Biden, should be fired. He provided no evidence for the charge.

"I have directed my Team to fire this Biden Political Appointee, IMMEDIATELY," Trump said on Truth Social. "She will be replaced with someone much more competent and qualified."

Trump later posted: "In my opinion, today's Jobs Numbers were RIGGED in order to make the Republicans, and ME, look bad."

The charge that the data was faked is an explosive one that threatens to undercut the political legitimacy of the U.S. government's economic data, which has long been seen as the "gold standard" of economic measurement globally. Economists and Wall Street investors have for decades generally accepted the data as free from political bias.

Trump's move to fire McEntarfer represented another extraordinary assertion of presidential power. He has wielded the authority of the White House to try to control the world's international trade system, media companies, America's top universities and Congress' constitutional power of the purse, among other institutions.

McEntarfer's firing was roundly condemned by a group that included two former BLS commissioners, including William Beach, who was appointed by Trump to the position. They particularly objected to the charge that the data was altered for political reasons.

"This rationale for firing Dr. McEntarfer is without merit and undermines the credibility of federal economic statistics that are a cornerstone of intelligent economic decision-making by businesses, families, and policymakers," the statement from the group, the Friends of BLS, said.

In addition to Beach, the statement was signed by Erica Groshen, BLS commissioner under former President Barack Obama.

"Firing the Commissioner ... when the BLS revises jobs numbers down (as it routinely does) threatens to destroy trust in core American institutions, and all government statistics," Arin Dube, an economist at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, said on X. "I can't stress how damaging this is."

After Trump's initial post, Labor Secretary Lori Chavez-DeRemer said on X that McEntarfer was no longer leading the bureau and that William Wiatrowski, the deputy commissioner, would serve as the acting director.

"I support the President's decision to replace Biden's Commissioner and ensure the American People can trust the important and influential data coming from BLS," Chavez-DeRemer said.

Friday's jobs report showed that just 73,000 jobs were added last month and that 258,000 fewer jobs

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were created in May and June than previously estimated. The report suggested that the economy has sharply weakened during Trump's tenure, a pattern consistent with a slowdown in economic growth during the first half of the year and an increase in inflation during June that appeared to reflect the price pressures created by the president's tariffs.

"What does a bad leader do when they get bad news? Shoot the messenger," Democratic Senate Leader Chuck Schumer of New York said in a Friday speech.

McEntarfer was nominated by Biden in 2023 and became the Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor Statistics in January 2024. Commissioners typically serve four-year terms but since they are political appointees can be fired. The commissioner is the only political appointee of the agency, which has hundreds of career civil servants.

The Senate confirmed McEntarfer to her post 86-8, with now Vice President JD Vance among the yeay votes.

Trump focused much of his ire on the revisions the agency made to previous hiring data. Job gains in May were revised down to just 19,000 from a previously revised 125,000, and for June they were cut to 14,000 from 147,000. In July, only 73,000 positions were added. The unemployment rate ticked up to a still-low 4.2% from 4.1%.

"No one can be that wrong? We need accurate Jobs Numbers," Trump wrote. "She will be replaced with someone much more competent and qualified. Important numbers like this must be fair and accurate, they can't be manipulated for political purposes."

Trump has not always been so suspicious of the monthly jobs report and responded enthusiastically after the initial May figures came out on June 6, when it was initially reported that the economy added 139,000 jobs.

"GREAT JOB NUMBERS, STOCK MARKET UP BIG!" Trump posted at the time.

That estimate was later revised down to 125,000 jobs, prior to the most recent revision down to just 19,000.

During the 2016 campaign, Trump was more critical: He often attacked the jobs figures as they showed the unemployment rate steadily declining while Obama was still president, only to immediately switch to praising the data once he was in office, as steady job gains continued.

The monthly employment report is one of the most closely-watched pieces of government economic data and can cause sharp swings in financial markets. The disappointing figure sent U.S. market indexes about 1.5% lower on Friday.

The revisions to the May and June numbers were quite large and surprising to many economists. At the same time, every monthly jobs report includes revisions to the prior two months' figures. Those revisions occur as the government receives more responses from businesses to its survey, which helps provide a more complete picture of employment trends each month.

In the past decade, companies have taken longer to respond, which may have contributed to larger monthly revisions.

The proportion of companies responding to the surveys has also fallen steadily over the past 10 years, but the survey still gets responses from roughly 200,000 business locations, which can be independent companies or franchises of larger chains.

The monthly jobs report has long been closely guarded within the BLS, with early copies held in safes under lock and key to prevent any leaks or early dissemination.

Former US soldier is suspected in Montana bar shooting that killed 4, prompting manhunt

A shooting at a Montana bar left four people dead Friday, prompting a lockdown in a neighborhood several miles away as authorities searched for the suspect in a wooded, mountainous area.

The shooting happened around 10:30 a.m. at The Owl Bar in Anaconda, according to the Montana Divi-

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sion of Criminal Investigation, which is leading the investigation. The agency confirmed four people were pronounced dead at the scene.

The suspect, identified as 45-year-old military veteran Michael Paul Brown, lived next door, according to public records and bar owner David Gwerder.

The bartender and three patrons were killed, said Gwerder, who was not there at the time. He believed the four victims were the only ones present during the shooting, and was not aware of any prior conflicts between them and Brown.

"He knew everybody that was in that bar. I guarantee you that," Gwerder said. "He didn't have any running dispute with any of them. I just think he snapped."

Brown's home was cleared by a SWAT team and he was last seen in the Stump Town area, just west of Anaconda, authorities said.

More than a dozen officers from local and state police converged on that area, locking it down so no one was allowed in or out. A helicopter also hovered over a nearby mountainside as officers moved among the trees, said Randy Clark, a retired police officer who lives there.

Brown was believed to be armed, the Montana Highway Patrol said in a statement.

Brown served in the U.S. Army as an armor crewman from 2001 to 2005 and deployed to Iraq from early 2004 until March 2005, according to Lt. Col. Ruth Castro, an Army spokesperson. Brown was in the Montana National Guard from 2006 to March 2009, Castro said. He left military service in the rank of sergeant.

As reports of the shooting spread through town, business owners locked their doors and sheltered inside with customers. At Caterpillars to Butterflies Childcare, a nursery a few blocks from the shooting scene, owner Sage Huot said she'd kept the children inside all day after someone called to let her know about the violence.

"We're constantly doing practice drills, fire drills and active shooter drills, so we locked down the facility, locked the doors, and we have a quiet spot where we play activities away from all of our windows and doors," Huot said.

Anaconda is about 75 miles (120 kilometers) southeast of Missoula in a valley hemmed in by mountains. A town of about 9,000 people, it was founded by copper barons who profited off nearby mines in the late 1800s. A smelter stack that's no longer operational looms over the valley.

The owner of the Firefly Café in Anaconda said she locked up her business at about 11 a.m. Friday after getting alerted to the shooting by a friend.

"We are Montana, so guns are not new to us," café owner Barbie Nelson said. "For our town to be locked down, everybody's pretty rattled."

Jeffrey Epstein's former girlfriend, Ghislaine Maxwell, is transferred to a prison camp in Texas

WASHINGTON (AP) — Jeffrey Epstein's former girlfriend, Ghislaine Maxwell, has been moved from a federal prison in Florida to a prison camp in Texas as her criminal case generates renewed public attention.

The federal Bureau of Prisons said Friday that Maxwell had been transferred to Bryan, Texas, but did not explain the circumstances. Her attorney, David Oscar Markus, also confirmed the move but declined to discuss the reasons for it.

Maxwell was convicted in 2021 of luring teenage girls to be sexually abused by the disgraced financier, and was sentenced to 20 years in prison. She had been held at a low-security prison in Tallahassee, Florida, until her transfer to the prison camp in Texas, where other inmates include Theranos founder Elizabeth Holmes and Jen Shah of "The Real Housewives of Salt Lake City."

Minimum-security federal prison camps house inmates the Bureau of Prisons considers to be the lowest security risk. Some don't even have fences.

The prison camps were originally designed with low security to make operations easier and to allow inmates tasked with performing work at the prison, like landscaping and maintenance, to avoid repeatedly checking in and out of a main prison facility.

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Prosecutors have said Epstein's sex crimes could not have been done without Maxwell, but her lawyers have maintained that she was wrongly prosecuted and denied a fair trial, and have floated the idea of a pardon from President Donald Trump. They have also asked the U.S. Supreme Court to take up her case.

Trump said Friday night that no one has asked him about a clemency for Maxwell.

"I'm allowed to do it but nobody's asked me to do it," he told Newsmax in an interview broadcast Friday night. "I know nothing about it. I don't know anything about the case, but I know I have the right to do it. I have the right to give pardons, I've given pardons to people before, but nobody's even asked me to do it."

Maxwell's case has been the subject of heightened public focus since an outcry over the Justice Department's statement last month saying that it would not be releasing any additional documents from the Epstein sex trafficking investigation. The decision infuriated online sleuths, conspiracy theorists and elements of Trump's base who had hoped to see proof of a government cover-up.

Since then, administration officials have tried to cast themselves as promoting transparency in the case, including by requesting from courts the unsealing of grand jury transcripts.

Maxwell, meanwhile, was interviewed at a Florida courthouse over two days last week by Deputy Attorney General Todd Blanche and the House Oversight Committee had also said that it wanted to speak with Maxwell. Her lawyers said this week that they would be open to an interview but only if the panel were to ensure immunity from prosecution.

In the Newsmax interview, Trump said he did not know when Blanche would disclose to the public what he and Maxwell discussed during the interviews.

"I think he just wants to make sure that innocent people aren't hurt, but you'd have to speak to him about it," Trump said.

In a letter Friday to Maxwell's lawyers, Rep. James Comer, the committee chair, wrote that the committee was willing to delay the deposition until after the resolution of Maxwell's appeal to the Supreme Court. That appeal is expected to be resolved in late September.

Comer wrote that while Maxwell's testimony was "vital" to the Republican-led investigation into Epstein, the committee would not provide immunity or any questions in advance of her testimony, as was requested by her team.

Jury orders Tesla to pay more than \$240 million in Autopilot crash case

MIAMI (AP) — A Miami jury decided that Elon Musk's car company Tesla was partly responsible for a deadly crash in Florida involving its Autopilot driver assist technology and must pay the victims more than \$240 million in damages.

The federal jury held that Tesla bore significant responsibility because its technology failed and that not all the blame can be put on a reckless driver, even one who admitted he was distracted by his cellphone before hitting a young couple out gazing at the stars. The decision comes as Musk seeks to convince Americans his cars are safe enough to drive on their own as he plans to roll out a driverless taxi service in several cities in the coming months.

The decision ends a four-year long case remarkable not just in its outcome but that it even made it to trial. Many similar cases against Tesla have been dismissed and, when that didn't happen, settled by the company to avoid the spotlight of a trial.

"This will open the floodgates," said Miguel Custodio, a car crash lawyer not involved in the Tesla case. "It will embolden a lot of people to come to court."

The case also included startling charges by lawyers for the family of the deceased, 22-year-old, Naibel Benavides Leon, and for her injured boyfriend, Dillon Angulo. They claimed Tesla either hid or lost key evidence, including data and video recorded seconds before the accident. Tesla said it made a mistake after being shown the evidence and honestly hadn't thought it was there.

"We finally learned what happened that night, that the car was actually defective," said Benavides' sister,

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Neima Benavides. "Justice was achieved."

Tesla has previously faced criticism that it is slow to cough up crucial data by relatives of other victims in Tesla crashes, accusations that the car company has denied. In this case, the plaintiffs showed Tesla had the evidence all along, despite its repeated denials, by hiring a forensic data expert who dug it up.

"Today's verdict is wrong," Tesla said in a statement, "and only works to set back automotive safety and jeopardize Tesla's and the entire industry's efforts to develop and implement lifesaving technology," They said the plaintiffs concocted a story "blaming the car when the driver – from day one – admitted and accepted responsibility."

In addition to a punitive award of \$200 million, the jury said Tesla must also pay \$43 million of a total \$129 million in compensatory damages for the crash, bringing the total borne by the company to \$243 million.

"It's a big number that will send shock waves to others in the industry," said financial analyst Dan Ives of Wedbush Securities. "It's not a good day for Tesla."

Tesla said it will appeal.

Even if that fails, the company says it will end up paying far less than what the jury decided because of a pre-trial agreement that limits punitive damages to three times Tesla's compensatory damages. Translation: \$172 million, not \$243 million. But the plaintiff says their deal was based on a multiple of all compensatory damages, not just Tesla's, and the figure the jury awarded is the one the company will have to pay.

It's not clear how much of a hit to Tesla's reputation for safety the verdict in the Miami case will make. Tesla has vastly improved its technology since the crash on a dark, rural road in Key Largo, Florida, in 2019.

But the issue of trust generally in the company came up several times in the case, including in closing arguments Thursday. The plaintiffs' lead lawyer, Brett Schreiber, said Tesla's decision to even use the term Autopilot showed it was willing to mislead people and take big risks with their lives because the system only helps drivers with lane changes, slowing a car and other tasks, falling far short of driving the car itself.

Schreiber said other automakers use terms like "driver assist" and "copilot" to make sure drivers don't rely too much on the technology.

"Words matter," Schreiber said. "And if someone is playing fast and lose with words, they're playing fast and lose with information and facts."

Schreiber acknowledged that the driver, George McGee, was negligent when he blew through flashing lights, a stop sign and a T-intersection at 62 miles an hour before slamming into a Chevrolet Tahoe that the couple had parked to get a look at the stars.

The Tahoe spun around so hard it was able to launch Benavides 75 feet through the air into nearby woods where her body was later found. It also left Angulo, who walked into the courtroom Friday with a limp and cushion to sit on, with broken bones and a traumatic brain injury.

But Schreiber said Tesla was at fault nonetheless. He said Tesla allowed drivers to act recklessly by not disengaging the Autopilot as soon as they begin to show signs of distraction and by allowing them to use the system on smaller roads that it was not designed for, like the one McGee was driving on.

"I trusted the technology too much," said McGee at one point in his testimony. "I believed that if the car saw something in front of it, it would provide a warning and apply the brakes."

The lead defense lawyer in the Miami case, Joel Smith, countered that Tesla warns drivers that they must keep their eyes on the road and hands on the wheel yet McGee chose not to do that while he looked for a dropped cellphone, adding to the danger by speeding. Noting that McGee had gone through the same intersection 30 or 40 times previously and hadn't crashed during any of those trips, Smith said that isolated the cause to one thing alone: "The cause is that he dropped his cellphone."

The auto industry has been watching the case closely because a finding of Tesla liability despite a driver's admission of reckless behavior would pose significant legal risks for every company as they develop cars that increasingly drive themselves.

Teacher charged in fatal stabbings in Arkansas bounced between schools in 3 states

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) — A 28-year-old teacher who authorities say admitted to fatally stabbing two hikers he didn't know in an Arkansas state park bounced between four school districts in three states in recent years.

Andrew James McGann was placed on administrative leave at an elementary school in the Dallas suburb of Flower Mound, Texas, in spring 2023 after concerns were raised about his classroom management. But he passed background checks in two different Oklahoma school districts and had been expected to start a new job in northwest Arkansas on Aug. 11.

McGann has been charged with two counts of capital murder in the killing Saturday of Clinton David Brink, 43, and Cristen Amanda Brink, 41. He made his first appearance on Friday before an Arkansas judge, who ordered McGann to be held without bond at the Washington County Detention Center, assigned him a public defender and scheduled his arraignment for Aug. 25.

Police say motive unknown

Arkansas State Police Col. Mike Hagar said Thursday that authorities are trying to determine a motive for the attack at Devil's Den, a 2,500-acre (1,000-hectare) state park about 140 miles (220 kilometers) northwest of Little Rock. Its trails have been closed to the public since Saturday.

State Police arrested McGann on Wednesday at a barbershop in Springdale, about 30 miles (50 kilometers) north of the park, said Maj. Stacie Rhoads, commander of the department's criminal investigation division.

Adriana Ruiz, a stylist at Lupita's Beauty Salon and Barber Shop, told Fort Smith television station KFSM that McGann kept his head down, refused to sign in and wanted to keep his hair long to cover his face.

"I was about five minutes into the haircut when a man pulled up and was asking about whose car that was outside," she told the station.

Moments later, she said police swarmed the salon and arrested McGann.

The Associated Press left messages at numbers listed for McGann, who has no criminal record.

Officials said the husband was stabbed first, about half a mile (0.8 kilometers) into the park, then the mother ushered her daughters to safety before returning to help her husband. She was also stabbed to death.

Authorities have not said if the girls — ages 7 and 9 — witnessed both their parents being killed. They were not hurt and are being cared for by family members, authorities said. A third daughter was not hiking with her family when the Brinks were killed.

McGann was cooperative during his arrest and admitted to killing the couple soon after, Rhoads said. Police also matched his DNA to blood found at the crime scene. Rhoads described the killings as random.

Suspect's teaching history

McGann, who graduated in spring 2022 from Oklahoma State University-Tulsa with a bachelor's of science in elementary education, has active teaching licenses in Arkansas, Texas and Oklahoma, according to each respective government certification website. No infractions or suspensions are noted on his public state licensures in any of those states. The Associated Press has reached out to all three state education agencies.

McGann was placed on administrative leave in spring 2023 while he was employed at Donald Elementary School in Flower Mound, Texas, "following concerns related to classroom management, professional judgment, and student favoritism," according to a spokesperson for the Lewisville Independent School District.

Sierra Marcum, whose son was in McGann's fourth grade class, said the teacher came across as "pretty cold" and "disinterested in his students." Marcum said her son came home from school upset about some of McGann's behavior, which she reported to the school's principal.

McGann resigned from the Lewisville posting in May 2023, the district said in a statement.

The following school year he taught fifth grade at an elementary school in the Tulsa suburb of Broken Arrow before leaving to take another job at a separate Tulsa-area district, Sand Springs, from the summer of 2024 until May of this year. Officials with both Oklahoma districts said McGann passed all background

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checks.

"There were no disciplinary actions taken against him during his time at Broken Arrow Public Schools, and nothing in his background or reference checks gave cause for concern during the interview process," Broken Arrow Public Schools spokesperson Tara Thompson wrote in an email to the AP.

Kyle Swanson's son was in McGann's fifth grade class in Oklahoma in 2023 and said he remembers him being "reserved" and "not super friendly."

The first day they met, he was "just off-putting," Swanson said. "He wouldn't look at me really, wouldn't talk to me. He would only really talk to the kids and he would just walk away. I don't know, it was a strange interaction."

Spokespeople from both Oklahoma districts said police have not reached out regarding the investigation. McGann had not yet started his new job in Arkansas at Springdale Public Schools, said Jared Cleveland, the district superintendent. He said the district could not provide more information, citing the investigation.

Police flooded with tips

McGann was arrested after a five-day search and hundreds of tips.

The State Police collected photos and videos from other hikers who had been on the trails but didn't witness the attack. Police also released a composite sketch and a photo that showed a person of interest from behind.

The police then narrowed down the suspect's vehicle, which had tape over the license plate, using surveillance footage from homes and businesses near Devil's Den.

Within an hour of identifying McGann as a suspect, police captured him at the barber shop.

Washington County prosecutor Brandon Carter indicated the jury would have the option to sentence McGann to the death penalty.

The victims had just arrived in Arkansas

The Brinks and their three daughters had recently moved from South Dakota to the small city of Prairie Grove in northwest Arkansas.

Clinton Brink was supposed to start working as a milk delivery driver on Monday, according to Hiland Dairy, his employer. Cristen Brink had been licensed as a nurse in Montana and South Dakota before moving to Arkansas.

The Brink family has said the couple died "heroes protecting their little girls."

US envoy visits aid site in Gaza run by Israeli-backed group that has been heavily criticized

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip (AP) — U.S. President Donald Trump's Mideast envoy on Friday visited a food distribution site in the Gaza Strip operated by an Israeli-backed American contractor whose efforts to deliver food to the hunger-stricken territory have been marred by violence and controversy.

International experts warned this week that a "worst-case scenario of famine" is playing out in Gaza. Israel's nearly 22-month military offensive against Hamas has shattered security in the territory of some 2 million Palestinians and made it nearly impossible to safely deliver food to starving people.

Mideast envoy Steve Witkoff and U.S. Ambassador to Israel Mike Huckabee toured a Gaza Humanitarian Foundation distribution site in Rafah, Gaza's southernmost city, which has been almost completely destroyed and is now a largely depopulated Israeli military zone.

Hundreds of people have been killed by Israeli fire while heading to such aid sites since May, according to witnesses, health officials and the United Nations human rights office. Israel and GHF say they have only fired warning shots and that the toll has been exaggerated.

In a report issued on Friday, the New York-based Human Rights Watch said GHF was at the heart of a "flawed, militarized aid distribution system that has turned aid distributions into regular bloodbaths."

Witkoff says he's working on a new Gaza aid plan

Witkoff posted on X that he had spent over five hours inside Gaza in order to gain "a clear understanding of the humanitarian situation and help craft a plan to deliver food and medical aid to the people of Gaza."

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He did not request any meetings with U.N. officials in Gaza during his visit, U.N. deputy spokesman Farhan Haq told reporters. U.N. agencies have provided aid throughout Gaza since the start of the war, when conditions allow.

Chapin Fay, a spokesperson for GHF, said the visit reflected Trump's understanding of the stakes and that "feeding civilians, not Hamas, must be the priority." The aid group says it has delivered over 100 million meals since it began operations in May.

All four of the group's sites established in May are in zones controlled by the Israeli military and have become flashpoints of desperation, with starving people scrambling for scarce aid.

More than 1,000 people have been killed by Israeli fire since May while seeking aid in the territory, most near the GHF sites but also near United Nations aid convoys, the U.N. human rights office said last month.

The Israeli military says it has only fired warning shots at people who approach its forces, and GHF says its armed contractors have only used pepper spray or fired warning shots to prevent deadly crowding.

Dozens killed near aid sites

Officials at Nasser Hospital in southern Gaza said Friday they received the bodies of 13 people who were killed while trying to get aid, including near the site that U.S. officials visited. GHF denied anyone was killed at their sites on Friday.

The Israeli military said its forces had fired warning shots hundreds of meters (yards) away from the aid site at people it described as suspects and said had ignored orders to distance themselves from its forces. It said it was not aware of any casualties but was still investigating.

Another 23 people were killed and dozens wounded near the Israeli-run Zikim Crossing, the main entry point for aid to northern Gaza, according to Dr. Mohamed Abu Selmiya, the director of Shifa Hospital, which received the bodies. He said the vast majority of injuries were from gunfire.

The Israeli military said it struck several armed militants in northern Gaza but that the strike "was not conducted near the passage of the humanitarian aid trucks and no damage was caused to them."

The Palestinian Red Crescent emergency service said 11 people were killed at another aid distribution point in Gaza City. There was no immediate comment from the military on those deaths.

HRW slams Israeli-backed aid system

Human Rights Watch said in its report that "it would be near impossible for Palestinians to follow the instructions issued by GHF, stay safe, and receive aid, particularly in the context of ongoing military operations." It cited doctors, aid seekers and at least one GHF security contractor.

Building on previous accounts, it described how how thousands of Palestinians gather near the sites at night before they open. As they head to the sites on foot, Israeli forces control their movements by opening fire toward them. Once inside the sites, they race for aid in a frenzied free-for-all, with weaker and more vulnerable people coming away with nothing, HRW said.

Responding to the report, Israel's military accused Hamas of sabotaging the aid distribution system, without providing evidence. It said it was working to make the routes under its control safer for those traveling to aid sites. GHF did not immediately respond to questions about the report.

The group has never allowed journalists to visit their sites and Israel's military has barred reporters from independently entering Gaza throughout the war.

Top German diplomat condemns settler violence in the West Bank

Germany's foreign minister visited Taybeh in the occupied West Bank, a Palestinian Christian village that has seen recent attacks by Israeli settlers. Johann Wadephul said Israel's settlements are an obstacle to peace and condemned settler violence. He also called on Hamas to lay down its arms in Gaza and release the remaining hostages.

Germany has so far declined to join other major Western countries in announcing plans to recognize a Palestinian state.

Palestinians in another nearby town laid to rest 45-year-old Khamis Ayad, who they say suffocated while extinguishing fires set by settlers during an attack the night before. Witnesses said Israeli forces fired live rounds and tear gas toward residents after the settlers attacked.

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Israel's military said police were investigating the incident. They said security forces found Hebrew graffiti and a burnt vehicle at the scene but had not detained any suspects.

There has been a rise in settler attacks, as well as Palestinian militant attacks on Israelis and large-scale Israeli military operations in the occupied West Bank since Hamas' Oct. 7, 2023 attack on Israel out of Gaza that triggered the Israel-Hamas war.

Hamas-led militants killed around 1,200 people, mostly civilians, that day and abducted 251 others. They still hold 50 hostages, including around 20 believed to be alive. Most of the others have been released in ceasefires or other deals.

Israel's retaliatory offensive has killed more than 60,000 Palestinians, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which doesn't distinguish between militants and civilians and operates under the Hamas government. The U.N. and other international organizations see it as the most reliable source of data on casualties.

Wall Street falls the most since May after employers slash hiring and tariffs roll out

The U.S. stock market had its worst day since May on Friday after the government reported a sharp slowdown in hiring and President Donald Trump imposed sweeping tariffs on imports from a number of U.S. trading partners.

The S&P 500 fell 1.6%, its biggest decline since May 21 and its fourth straight loss. The index also posted a 2.4% loss for the week, marking a sharp shift from last week's record-setting streak of gains.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 1.2%, while the Nasdaq composite fell 2.2%.

Worries on Wall Street about a weakening economy were heavily reinforced by the latest report on job growth in the U.S. Employers added just 73,000 jobs in July. That is sharply lower than economists expected. The Labor Department also reported that revisions shaved a stunning 258,000 jobs off May and June payrolls.

Markets also reacted to the latest tariff news. President Donald Trump announced tariff rates on dozens of countries and pushed back the scheduled effective date to Aug. 7, adding more uncertainty to the global trade picture.

"The market has been felled by a one-two punch of additional tariffs, as well as the weaker-than-expected employment data — not only for this month, but for the downward revisions to the prior months," said Sam Stovall, chief investment strategist at CFRA.

Trump's decision to order the immediate firing of the head of the government agency that produces the monthly jobs figures will only fuel the market's uncertainty, Stovall added.

The surprisingly weak hiring numbers led investors to step up their expectations for an interest rate cut in September. The market's odds of a quarter-point cut by the Federal Reserve rose to around 87% from just under 40% a day earlier, according to data from CME FedWatch.

The question now: Will the Fed's policymakers consider a half-point cut next month, or even a quarter-point cut sometime before their next committee meeting, Stovall said.

The yield on the 10-year Treasury fell to 4.21% from 4.39% just before the hiring report was released. That's a big move for the bond market. The yield on the two-year Treasury, which more closely tracks expectations for Fed actions, plunged to 3.68% from 3.94% just prior to the report's release.

The Fed has held rates steady since December. A cut in rates would give the job market and overall economy a boost, but it could also risk fueling inflation, which is hovering stubbornly above the central bank's 2% target.

An update on Thursday for the Fed's preferred measure of inflation showed that prices ticked higher in June, rising to 2.6% from 2.4% in May. The Fed has remained cautious about cutting interest rates because of worries that tariffs will add more fuel to inflation and weigh down economic growth.

The central bank, though, also counts "maximum employment" as one of its two mandates along with keeping prices stable. Issues with either of those goals could prompt a shift in policy.

The Fed held rates steady again at its most recent meeting this week. Fed Chair Jerome Powell has been

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pressured by Trump to cut the benchmark rate, though that decision isn't his to make alone, but belongs to the 12 members of the Federal Open Market Committee.

"What had looked like a Teflon labor market showed some scratches this morning, as tariffs continue to work their way through the economy," said Ellen Zentner, chief economic strategist for Morgan Stanley Wealth Management. "A Fed that still appeared hesitant to lower rates may see a clearer path to a September cut, especially if data over the next month confirms the trend."

Businesses, investors and the Fed are all operating under a cloud of uncertainty from Trump's tariff policy. The latest moves give 66 countries, the European Union, Taiwan and the Falkland Islands another seven days, instead of taking effect on Friday, as Trump stated earlier.

Companies have been warning investors that the policy, with some tariffs already in effect while others change or get extended, has made it difficult to make forecasts. Walmart, Procter & Gamble and many others have warned about import taxes raising costs, eating into profits and raising prices for consumers.

Internet retail giant Amazon fell 8.3%, despite reporting encouraging profit and sales for its most recent quarter. Technology behemoth Apple fell 2.5% after also beating Wall Street's profit and revenue forecasts. Both companies face tougher operating conditions because of tariffs, with Apple forecasting a \$1.1 billion hit from the fees in the current quarter.

Exxon Mobil fell 1.8% after reporting that profit dropped to the lowest level in four years and sales fell as oil prices slumped as OPEC+ ramped up production.

All told, the S&P 500 fell 101.38 points to 6,238.01. The Dow dropped 542.40 points to 43,588.58, and the Nasdaq gave up 472.32 points to finish at 20,650.13.

Stocks fell across the world. Germany's DAX fell 2.7% and France's CAC 40 fell 2.9%. South Korea's Kospi tumbled 3.9%

Kyiv mourns after deadliest attack in a year kills 31 people in Ukraine, including 5 children

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — The Ukrainian capital Kyiv observed an official day of mourning Friday, a day after a Russian drone and missile attack on the city killed 31 people, including five children, and injured more than 150, officials said.

The youngest victim in Thursday's strikes was 2 years old, and 16 of the injured were children, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said.

It was the highest number of children killed and injured in a single attack on Kyiv since aerial attacks on the city began in October 2022, according to official casualty figures reported by The Associated Press. It was also the deadliest attack on the city since July last year, when 33 were killed.

The death toll rose overnight as emergency crews continued to dig through rubble. The Russian barrage demolished a large part of a nine-story residential building in the city, while more than 100 other buildings were damaged, including homes, schools, kindergartens, medical facilities and universities, officials said.

Russia has escalated its attacks on Ukrainian cities in recent months, ignoring calls from Western leaders including U.S. President Donald Trump to stop striking civilian areas after more than three years of war. The Russian tactic aims to spread terror and wear down public appetite for the war.

Russian forces are also pressing on with their grinding war of attrition along the 1,000-kilometer (620-mile) front line, where incremental gains over the past year have come at the cost of thousands of soldiers on both sides.

Ukraine wants more sanctions on Russia

Zelenskyy said that in July, Russia launched over 5,100 glide bombs, more than 3,800 Shahed drones, and nearly 260 missiles of various types, 128 of them ballistic, against Ukraine.

He repeated his appeal for countries to impose heavier economic sanctions on Russia to deter the Kremlin, as U.S.-led peace efforts have failed to gain traction.

"No matter how much the Kremlin denies (sanctions') effectiveness, they are working and must be stronger," Zelenskyy said.

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His comments Friday appeared to be a response to Trump's remarks the previous day, when the Republican president said the U.S. plans to impose sanctions on Russia but added, "I don't know that sanctions bother him," in reference to Russian President Vladimir Putin.

In April, Trump urged the Russian leader to "STOP!" after an aerial attack on Kyiv killed 12 in what was the deadliest assault on the city since July 2024. "Let's get the Peace Deal DONE!" Trump said in a post on his Truth Social platform at the time, but Russia hasn't eased up on its barrages. Earlier this week, Trump gave Putin until Aug. 8 to stop the fighting.

Those demands haven't persuaded the Kremlin to change strategy. Putin said Friday the conditions that Moscow set out last year for a long-term ceasefire agreement still stand. Putin has previously made it clear that he will only accept a settlement on his terms and will keep fighting until they're met.

"Any disappointments arise from excessive expectations," Putin said of negotiations. He did not mention Trump by name.

Putin said that he regards recent direct talks in Istanbul between delegations from Russia and Ukraine as valuable, even though they made no progress beyond exchanges of prisoners of war, and made no reference to next week's deadline imposed by Trump.

In what Ukrainians may see as an ominous note, Putin said that Russia has started production of its newest hypersonic missiles. The Oreshnik's multiple warheads that plunge to a target at speeds up to Mach 10 and cannot be stopped by air defenses, he said.

Ukraine called for an urgent U.N. Security Council meeting to be convened Friday, Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha said, in an effort to push Putin into accepting "a full, immediate and unconditional ceasefire."

Russian forces bear down on a key eastern Ukrainian city

Meanwhile, Ukrainian forces are under heavy pressure in the strategic hilltop city of Chasiv Yar, in the eastern Donetsk region where Russia is making a concerted push to break through defenses after some 18 months of fighting.

Zelenskyy said that Russian claims of capturing Chasiv Yar on Thursday were "disinformation."

"Ukrainian units are holding our positions," Zelenskyy said in his daily video address on Thursday evening. "It is not easy, but it is the defense of Ukrainians' very right to life."

Even so, the Institute for the Study of War said that Ukraine's hold on the key city is weakening.

"Russian forces will likely complete the seizure of Chasiv Yar in the coming days, which will open several possible avenues for Russian forces to attack Ukraine's fortress belt — a series of fortified cities that form the backbone of Ukraine's defensive positions" in the Donetsk region, the Washington-based think tank said.

Ukraine has tried to pressure the Russian army by striking rear areas with long-range drones that target rail networks, oil depots and arsenals.

Russia's Defense Ministry said Friday that air defenses shot down 60 Ukrainian drones overnight. More than half were destroyed over Russia's Belgorod region on the country's border with Ukraine, it said. Belgorod Gov. Vyacheslav Gladkov said that one person was injured.

The Ukrainian air force, meanwhile, said Friday it downed 44 out of 72 Russian drones fired overnight. There were no immediate reports of casualties or damage.

Switzerland, the land of luxury brands, could see prices skyrocket from Trump's 39% tariffs

Prices for the eponymous Swiss watches, Swiss chocolate and Swiss cheese could skyrocket in a week as a result of U.S. President Donald Trump's trade war.

Switzerland, home to some of the world's most recognizable luxury brands, now faces an upcoming 39% tariff from the U.S. Industry groups on Friday warned that both Swiss companies and American consumers could pay the price.

Trump signed an executive order Thursday placing tariffs on many U.S. trade partners — the next step in his trade agenda that will test the global economy and alliances — that's set to take effect next Thursday.

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The order applies to 66 countries, the European Union, Taiwan and the Falkland Islands.

In Switzerland, officials failed to reach a final agreement with the U.S. after Trump initially threatened a 31% tariff in April. Swiss companies will now have one of the steepest export duties — only Laos, Myanmar and Syria had higher figures, at 40-41%. The 27-member EU bloc and Britain, meanwhile, negotiated 15% and 10% tariffs, respectively.

Figure came as a surprise

The Swiss government spent Friday — the country's National Day — reeling from the news. Swiss President Karin Keller-Sutter said that the 39% figure was a surprise, because negotiators had hashed out a deal last month with the Trump administration that apparently wasn't approved by the American leader himself.

"We will now analyze the situation and try to find a solution," Keller-Sutter told reporters. "I can't say what the outcome will be, but it will certainly damage the economy."

The U.S. goods trade deficit with Switzerland was \$38.5 billion last year, a 56.9% increase over 2023, according to the Office of the United States Trade Representative. Keller-Sutter said that she believes Trump ultimately chose the 39% tariff, because the figure rounded up from the \$38.5 billion goods trade deficit.

"It was clear that the president was focused on the trade deficit and only this issue," she said.

Time is ticking for watch companies

For Swiss watch companies, whose products already come with price tags in the tens of thousands — if not the hundreds of thousands — of euros, a timepiece for an arm could cost a leg, too, come next week.

The 39% figure was especially galling to the Federation of the Swiss Watch Industry, because Switzerland in 2024 got rid of import tariffs on all industrial goods.

"As Switzerland has eliminated all custom duties on imported industrial products, there is no problem with reciprocity between Switzerland and the U.S.," the federation said in a statement. "The tariffs constitute a severe problem for our bilateral relations."

Swiss watch exports were already facing a prolonged slowdown, with significant declines in the United States, Japan and Hong Kong, according to the federation's June figures, the most recent available.

Swatch and Rolex declined to comment Friday. Representatives for Patek Philippe, IWC and Breitling didn't respond to requests for comment.

Sour taste for Swiss chocolatiers

Multinational chocolatiers Nestlé and Lindt & Sprüngli said they have production lines in the U.S. for American customers. But small- and medium-sized Swiss companies are predicted to suffer under the tariffs.

Roger Wehrli, chief executive of the Association of Swiss Chocolate Manufacturers, also known as Choco-suisse, said Switzerland exports 7% of its chocolate production to the U.S.

It's not just the 39% tariff that's the issue. Once the manufacturers factor in the exchange rate between U.S. dollars and Swiss francs (\$1 to 1.23 francs on Friday), Wehrli said, it's close to a 50% increase in costs for the Swiss companies. And that's a big number to pass on to American consumers, if the already-slim margins aren't further reduced.

"I expect that our industry will lose customers in the United States, and that sales volumes will decrease heavily," he told The Associated Press.

Wehrli said that he wants Swiss chocolatiers to sell to other markets around the globe to make up the difference. Still, he hopes American customers remember that Swiss quality beats cheaper quantity.

"I think even if prices for Swiss chocolate increase due to the very high tariffs, I think it's worth (it) to buy Swiss chocolate," he said. "It's worth (it) to really eat it consciously and to really enjoy it instead of eating a lot."

Tough pill for Swiss pharmaceuticals

Swiss pharmaceuticals powerhouse Roche says that it's working to ensure its patients and customers worldwide have access to their medications and diagnostics amid the Trump tariff war.

"While we believe pharmaceuticals and diagnostics should be exempt from tariffs to protect patient access, supply chains and ultimately future innovation, we are prepared for potential tariffs being implemented and confident in managing any impacts," the statement said.

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The company in April announced that it plans to invest \$50 billion in the United States over the next five years, creating 12,000 jobs. The company already employs more than 25,000 people in the U.S.

Meanwhile, Novartis, another major Swiss pharmaceutical firm, said in a statement that it was reviewing Trump's executive order.

"We remain committed to finding ways to improve access and affordability for patients," it said.

Astronauts launch to the space station after sidelined by Boeing's troubled Starliner

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — Astronauts sidelined for the past year by Boeing's Starliner trouble blasted off to the International Space Station on Friday, getting a lift from SpaceX.

The U.S.-Japanese-Russian crew of four rocketed from NASA's Kennedy Space Center. They'll replace colleagues who launched to the space station in March as fill-ins for NASA's two stuck astronauts.

Their SpaceX capsule should reach the orbiting lab this weekend and stay for at least six months.

Zena Cardman, a biologist and polar explorer who should have launched last year, was yanked along with another NASA crewmate to make room for Starliner's star-crossed test pilots.

"I have no emotion but joy right now. That was absolutely transcendent. Ride of a lifetime," Cardman, the flight commander, said after reaching orbit.

The botched Starliner demo forced Butch Wilmore and Suni Williams to switch to SpaceX to get back from the space station more than nine months after departing on what should have been a weeklong trip.

"Every astronaut wants to be in space. None of us want to stay on the ground, but it's not about me," Cardman said before her flight.

NASA's Mike Fincke — Cardman's co-pilot — was the backup for Wilmore and Williams on Starliner, making those three still the only ones certified to fly it. Fincke and Japan's Kimiya Yui, former military officers with previous spaceflight experience, were training for Starliner's second astronaut mission. With Starliner grounded until 2026, NASA switched the two to the latest SpaceX flight.

"Boy, it's great to be back in orbit again," Fincke radioed. He last soared on NASA's next-to-last space shuttle flight in 2011.

Rounding out the crew is Russia's Oleg Platonov. The former fighter pilot was pulled a few years ago from the Russian Soyuz flight lineup because of an undisclosed health issue that he said has since been resolved.

On hand for the first launch attempt on Thursday, NASA's new acting administrator, Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy, met with Roscosmos director general Dmitry Bakanov, an invited guest. The two discussed future collaboration, then left town after thick clouds forced a last-minute delay.

"What we learn on these missions is what's going to get us to the moon and then from the moon to Mars, which is I think the direction that NASA has to be," Duffy said in a NASA interview. "There's critical real estate on the moon. We want to claim that real estate for ourselves and our partners."

To save money in light of tight budgets, NASA is looking to increase its space station stays from six months to eight months, a move already adopted by Russia's space agency. SpaceX is close to certifying its Dragon capsules for longer flights, which means the newly launched crew could be up there until April.

NASA is also considering smaller crews — three astronauts launching on SpaceX instead of the typical four — to cut costs.

As for Starliner, NASA is leaning toward launching the next one with cargo before flying another crew.

Engineers are still investigating the thruster failures and helium leaks that bedeviled Starliner following liftoff. Time is running out as NASA looks to abandon the aging space station by 2030. An air leak on the Russian side of the station remains unresolved after years of patching.

Engineering teams already are working on the plan for the space station's last days.

NASA's Ken Bowersox said the U.S. and Russia need to cooperate in order to steer the outpost into the Pacific with minimal risk to the public.

It will take at least two years to get the space station low enough to where a SpaceX vehicle can provide

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the final shove. Thrusters on the Russian side of the station will help with control, but that means more fuel will have to be delivered by 2028.

The latest timeline calls for SpaceX to launch the last mission for NASA — the deorbit vehicle — to the space station in 2029. Astronauts would remain on board until the last four to six months of the station's life to handle any breakdowns, with the empty outpost plunging into the Pacific by late 2030 or early 2031.

What consumers can expect from import taxes as the US sets new tariff rates

It's been almost 100 years since the U.S. had tariffs at the level they could reach next Friday.

Once President Donald Trump's planned tariffs take effect, Americans will see an average tax of 18.3% for imported products, the highest rate since 1934, according to the Budget Lab at Yale, a non-partisan policy research center.

Late Thursday, Trump ordered new tariff rates for 66 countries, the European Union, Taiwan and the Falkland Islands. Among them: a 40% tariff on imports from Laos, a 39% tariff on goods from Switzerland and a 30% tariff on South African products.

Other trade partners, such as Cambodia and Bangladesh, had the tax rates on their exports to the U.S. reduced from levels the president had threatened to impose. Trump postponed the start date for all of the changes from Friday until Aug. 7.

Tariffs are a tax, and U.S. consumers are likely to foot at least part of the bill. The Budget Lab estimated that prices will increase 1.8% in the short term as a result of the trade war the U.S. waged this year. That's the equivalent of a \$2,400 loss of income per U.S. household, the group said.

Companies are dealing with tariffs in various ways. Many automakers appear to be swallowing tariff costs for now. But the world's largest eyewear maker, EssilorLuxottica, said it raised U.S. prices due to tariffs. The maker of Ray-Bans grinds lenses and sunglasses in Mexico, Thailand and China and exports premium frames from Italy.

"Retailers have been able to hold the line on pricing so far, but the new tariffs will impact merchandise in the coming weeks," David French, chief lobbyist for the National Retail Federation, the nation's largest retail trade group, said Friday. "We have heard directly from small retailers who are concerned about their ability to stay in business in the face of these unsustainable tariff rates."

Here's what we know about the tariffs and what their impact will be on U.S. consumers:

How we got here

Trump unveiled sweeping import taxes on goods coming into the U.S. from nearly every country in April. He said the "reciprocal" tariffs were meant to boost domestic manufacturing and restore fairness to global trade.

The president paused the country-specific tariffs a week later but applied a 10% tax to most imports. In early July, he began notifying countries that the higher tariffs would go into effect Aug. 1 unless they reached trade deals.

In announcing the new rates for dozens of countries on Thursday, Trump delayed their implementation until Aug. 7.

In the meantime, he announced a 35% tariff on imports from Canada would take effect Friday. But Trump delayed action on Mexico and China while negotiations continue.

Other duties not specific to countries also remained in place Friday, like a 50% tariff on imported aluminum and steel announced in June.

What tariffs are in place already

The Trump administration reached deals with the European Union, Japan and South Korea that put 15% tariffs in place. A deal with the Philippines puts 19% tariffs in place while a deal with Vietnam imposes a 20% levy. This week, Trump announced a 25% tariff on goods from India and ordered a 50% tariff on goods from Brazil.

Tariffs are being challenged in court

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The U.S. Court of International Trade, a federal court that specializes in trade disputes, ruled in May that Trump exceeded his authority when he invoked an emergency powers law to implement tariffs.

On Thursday, an 11-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals considered the case, and judges expressed skepticism that Trump could impose tariffs without congressional approval. The case is expected to wind up before the U.S. Supreme Court.

Tariffs are already impacting prices

The U.S. Commerce Department said Thursday that prices rose 2.6% in June, up from an annual pace of 2.4% in May and higher than the Federal Reserve's goal of 2%. Furniture, computers and other items that often come from abroad were among the categories with higher average prices.

Wendong Zhang, an associate professor in the Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management at Cornell University, said U.S. consumers could see price increases in the coming months for appliances and other products that contain a large amount of steel and aluminum.

But Zhang said a 15% tariff doesn't mean prices will immediately rise by 15%. Companies were aware of the tariff deadlines, and tried to stockpile goods and take other measures to mitigate the impacts, he said.

Some Americans will see benefits

Zhang noted that Trump's trade deals often contain specific provisions designed to boost U.S. exports. The agreement with the European Union, for example, calls for European companies to purchase \$750 billion worth of natural gas, oil and nuclear fuel from the U.S. over three years.

Some U.S. farmers could also see a potential upside, Zhang said. As part of its trade deal, Vietnam agreed to purchase \$2 billion in U.S. agricultural products over three years, including corn, wheat and soybeans, according to the International Trade Council.

But Zhang cautioned that agricultural agreements tend to be short-lived. Over the longer term, the uncertainty over tariffs could cause countries like China to back away from U.S. agricultural markets, he said.

Food and drink prices will climb

The tariffs will almost certainly result in higher food prices, according to an analysis by the nonpartisan Tax Foundation. The U.S. simply doesn't make enough of some products, like bananas or coffee, to satisfy demand. Fish, beer and liquor are also likely to get more expensive, the foundation said.

Ben Aneff, managing partner at Tribeca Wine Merchants and president of the U.S. Wine Trade Alliance, said shoppers would see prices rise 20% to 25% at his store and others starting Friday because of tariffs and the declining value of the dollar.

"Nobody can afford to eat the tariff. It gets passed on," Aneff said.

Aneff said shoppers haven't felt the impact from higher duties until now because distributors and retailers accelerated shipments from France and other European Union countries earlier in the year. But with the EU's tariff rate set to go up to 15% in a week, Aneff expects European wine prices to jump 30% in September.

Clothing and shoe prices are already creeping up

Ninety-seven percent of clothing and shoes sold in the U.S. are imported, primarily from Asia, according to the American Apparel & Footwear Association said. China leads the pack, but companies have been shifting more of their sourcing to Vietnam, Indonesia and India.

Steve Lamar, the trade group's president and CEO, declined to estimate how much apparel and footwear prices may increase due to tariffs. But companies may offer fewer discounts or drop products starting this fall because they're too expensive to produce, he said.

Matt Priest, president and CEO of the Footwear Distributors and Retailers of America, estimates prices for shoes are starting to go up for the back-to-school shopping season. He estimates price increases in the 5% to 10% range.

Car prices hold steady — so far

Some automakers have already raised prices to counteract tariffs. Luxury sports car maker Ferrari said Thursday it was waiting for more details of Trump's trade deal with the European Union before scaling back a 10% surcharge it put in place in April on most vehicles in the U.S.

But for the most part, automakers haven't raised prices as they waited for details. Kelley Blue Book, which monitors car pricing, said the average U.S. new car cost \$48,907 in June, which was up just \$108 from May.

But that could change. General Motors said last week that the impact of the tariffs could get more pronounced in the third quarter of the year. GM has estimated that the tariffs will cost it \$4 billion to \$5 billion this year.

Musk, a social media powerhouse, boosts fortunes of hard-right figures in Europe

ROME (AP) — Hard-right commentators, politicians and activists in Europe have uncovered a secret to expanding their influence: engaging with Elon Musk.

Take the German politician from a party whose own domestic intelligence agency has designated as extremist. Her daily audience on X surged from 230,000 to 2.2 million on days Musk interacted with her posts. She went on to lead her party to its best-ever electoral showing.

Or the anti-immigration activist in Britain, who was banned from Twitter and sentenced to 18 months in prison for contempt of court. Since Musk let him back on the platform in late 2023, he's mentioned, reposted or replied to the billionaire more than 120 times on X — and gained nearly a million followers.

Even a little-known social-media influencer turned politician from Cyprus has benefited from the Musk effect. Before winning a surprise seat in the European Parliament, where he's advocated for Musk, the influencer seemed to have one ambition: to hug the world's richest man. He got his hug — and political endorsements. On days Musk has interacted with his account on X, the man's audience exploded from just over 300,000 to nearly 10 million views.

Elon Musk may have tumbled from political grace in Washington -- he stepped down as an adviser to President Donald Trump in May and has since traded insults with the president -- but as he works to build his own political party, his power on X remains unchecked.

Musk's influence on the platform he bought for \$44 billion has made him a kingmaker at home and abroad. Among those he has chosen to cultivate are hard-right politicians and insurgent influencers across Europe, according to an Associated Press analysis of public data. His dominance, which has real-world financial and political impacts, is fueling concerns in Europe about foreign meddling -- not from Russia or China this time, but from the United States.

"Every alarm bell needs to ring," said Christel Schaldemose, a vice president of the European Parliament who works on electoral interference and digital regulation. "We need to make sure that power is not unbalanced."

In seeking to quantify Musk's effect on European politics, The Associated Press analyzed more than 20,000 posts over a three-year period from 11 far-right European figures across six countries who frequently promote a hard-right political or social agenda and had significant interactions with Elon Musk since he purchased Twitter. Tens of thousands of posts by Musk on Twitter, now known as X, were also collected.

The AP used the records, obtained from data provider Bright Data, to analyze how Musk's account interacted with the European influencers, and vice versa, and the extent to which Musk's engagement boosted their reach.

These case studies are not meant to be representative of a broad universe; rather, they showcase the ways in which Musk's engagement can have an impact on local influencers who share his views.

Due to limitations on data collection, the dataset is not a complete record of all posts made by these accounts. Even so, it captured at least 920 instances in which one of the European accounts tagged, replied or otherwise attempted to interact with Musk's account, and at nearly 190 instances where Musk's own posts interacted with the Europeans.

The AP also analyzed records of daily follower counts, using data from Social Blade, to measure any growth in the European accounts' audience that occurred in the wake of Musk's online interactions. This kind of analysis is no longer possible. In March, Social Blade removed X from its analytics, saying that X

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had increased its data access fees to prohibitive levels, making the platform harder to research.

Among those included in AP's analysis are several people who have run into legal trouble in their own countries. An anti-immigrant agitator in the U.K., for example, was sentenced in October to 18 months in prison for violating a court order blocking him from making libelous allegations against a Syrian refugee. A German politician was convicted last year of knowingly using a Nazi slogan in a speech. An Italian vice premier was acquitted in December of illegally detaining 100 migrants aboard a humanitarian rescue ship.

Others examined by AP were an influencer known as the "shieldmaiden of the far-right;" a German activist dubbed the "anti-Greta Thunberg" now living in what amounts to political exile in Washington, D.C.; and two politicians who have advocated for the interests of Musk's companies as those firms seek to expand in Europe.

AP's analysis shows how Musk is helping unite nationalists across borders in common cause to halt migration, overturn progressive policies and promote an absolutist vision of free speech. While his efforts have sparked backlash in some countries, Musk's promotion of a growing alliance of hard-right parties and individuals has helped rattle the foundation of a transatlantic bond that has guided U.S. and European relations for over eight decades.

Engagement from Musk does not guarantee a surge in followers or page views. But AP found it can have a huge impact, especially on up-and-coming influencers. One account that began with around 120,000 followers when Musk took over Twitter in October 2022 topped 1.2 million by January of this year. Seven other European accounts saw six-figure increases in their follower counts over the same period.

Most of the 11 accounts examined saw triple-digit percentage increases in their followers. Even some that grew more steadily on their own before Musk interacted with them saw their follower counts rise sharply after he began engaging with their posts. Similarly, on days Musk interacted with a post, its account saw its views soar — in most cases, accruing two to four times as many views, with a few seeing boosts 30 or 40 times their normal daily viewership.

Musk is not the only factor influencing the growth of these accounts, of course, but their rising fortunes are a measure of how the platform has evolved under his leadership. When Musk acquired X, he pledged to turn it into a haven for free speech, declaring himself a "free speech absolutist." AP's analysis adds to growing evidence that instead of serving as a neutral forum for free speech, X amplifies Musk's speech.

This shift has given him sweeping power to direct people's attention.

"There's an extreme asymmetry in the way Musk is able to leverage and shape the platform," said Timothy Graham, an associate professor in digital media at the Queensland University of Technology in Brisbane, Australia, who has studied data anomalies on X. "There's an unequivocal sense when you go onto the site that you're entering Musk's kingdom."

Musk's megaphone: Bigger than Trump and Taylor Swift

Since he acquired Twitter in 2022, Musk has come to dominate the platform. His followers have more than doubled, to more than 220 million — growth so tremendous that it easily outpaced the other Top 10 accounts. Not even Taylor Swift has been able to keep up.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, whose followers grew by 21 million — or 25% — from October 2022 through January, clocked a distant second. Donald Trump's followers grew by 14%, or around 12 million, while Taylor Swift mustered a mere 3% growth, or 3 million new followers.

None of the other Top 10 accounts have shown such consistent follower growth, month after month, AP found. The result is a further concentration of power for the world's richest man, who now commands the most popular account on a social media platform used by hundreds of millions of people around the world.

Given the opacity of the algorithms that power X, it's hard to determine with certainty what array of factors might be driving such unusual — and unusually consistent — growth in Musk's account. But researchers who have analyzed data patterns on X argue that the platform's algorithm has, at times, been altered to amplify Musk's voice.

How X promotes content is a growing point of contention in Europe. In January, the European Union expanded its investigation of X to assess how the platform pushes content to users and why some material goes viral. In February, French prosecutors opened a separate investigation into X over allegations that

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Musk changed the platform's algorithms to promote biased content.

Musk's public attacks on left-leaning politicians, support for hard-right policies and loose handling of facts have prompted rebukes from British Prime Minister Keir Starmer, former German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, French President Emmanuel Macron, Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez, Italian President Sergio Mattarella, and Norwegian Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Støre.

X did not respond to requests for comment.

Musk is X's kingmaker

Musk's dominance creates a strong incentive for people seeking to increase their clout — or their revenues, through the platform's monetization options — to exploit these network effects and try to get Musk to engage with their content.

"People know that he's gearing everything towards him," said Graham, the digital media scholar in Australia. "They're doing everything they can to get close to this person because he is the moneymaker."

Germany's Alternative for Germany (AfD) party, for example, has benefited from the Musk effect. AfD coleader Alice Weidel helped lead the party, which advocates for nationalist and anti-immigrant policies, to second place in German parliamentary elections in February.

When Musk interacted with her account in the run-up to those elections, the average number of daily views she got rose from about 230,000 to 2.2 million.

Germany's domestic intelligence agency in May classified Weidel's party as a right-wing extremist organization, which would subject the AfD to greater surveillance. The party, which maintains that it's a victim of politically motivated defamation, promptly filed a lawsuit against the move, which Musk, along with top U.S. officials blasted as an attack on free speech. The designation has been suspended pending judicial review.

The AfD denies any association with Germany's Nazi past — though, in a chat with Musk livestreamed on X in January, Weidel falsely described Hitler as a "communist, socialist guy."

The chat has gotten 16 million views. Musk also appeared at AfD rallies and endorsed the party in a German newspaper.

AfD officials did not respond to requests for comment.

Naomi Seibt, a German climate skeptic, pinged Musk nearly 600 times between October 2022 and Jan. 2025. Musk finally engaged in June 2024, when he asked her to explain why the AfD is so controversial in Germany.

Since then, Musk has replied to, quoted or tagged Seibt more than 50 times, and her followers have grown by more than 320,000 since Musk took over the platform. On days Musk interacted with Seibt, her posts, on average, got 2.6 times as many views.

"I didn't intentionally 'invade' Elon's algorithm," Seibt told AP. "Obviously Elon has a lot of influence and can help share a message even with those who are usually glued to the legacy media, particularly in Germany."

Seibt said she's now living in the United States because she fears political persecution in Europe. "Washington DC is the political heart of America and thus also the safest place for me to be," she said. "I fear the German state wants me locked up."

Musk has also boosted the influence of political insurgents in the U.K. Days before British national elections last July, Musk took to X to ask Nigel Farage, the leader of the populist Reform U.K. party: "Why does the media keep calling you far-right? What are your policies?"

Farage replied eagerly: "Because we believe in family, country and strong borders. Call me!"

Such interactions from Musk helped Farage more than triple his daily audience. Farage did not reply to requests for comment.

In Spain, Rubén Pulido, a columnist for a newspaper published by the populist Vox party's think tank, hit the jackpot in August, when Musk responded to two posts in which he argued that rescue boats operated by nongovernmental organizations effectively help smugglers move migrants to Europe. Pulido's visibility soared. On days Musk engaged with him, his account got nearly 300,000 views — roughly three times more than usual.

When Musk didn't interact with Pulido's account, the results were just as clear. In January, he again

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inveighed against migrant rescues and sought to get Musk's attention.

"Hi @elonmusk! Speak up," he urged.

Three weeks later, he tweeted: "Perhaps @elonmusk might find this interesting."

That post garnered just 5,128 views.

Pulido did not respond to requests for comment.

While Musk helped boost the accounts of such fringe parties and rising influencers, his interactions did not provide as stark a benefit to more established politicians, AP found. That was true for both Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, whose ruling Brothers of Italy party has neo-fascist roots, and Dutch politician Geert Wilders, an anti-Islamic firebrand who has been called the Dutch Donald Trump.

What happens on X doesn't always stay on X

Musk's interactions online have spilled into political endorsements, policy advocacy -- and money.

X helps users monetize their accounts, through ad revenue sharing and paid subscription programs as well as direct fundraising links. That means a surge in attention on X can bring a surge in revenue.

Tommy Robinson, a British anti-immigration agitator who was released from prison in May, after serving a reduced sentence of seven months for contempt of court, has a link to his fundraising page on his X profile. Interactions from Musk more than doubled Robinson's daily views, from around 380,000 to nearly 850,000. Robinson — whose real name is Stephen Yaxley-Lennon — could not be reached for comment.

Radio Genoa, an account reportedly investigated by Italian authorities last year for allegedly spreading hate speech about migrants, used X to publicize a call for a GoFundMe campaign to raise money for legal defense. Radio Genoa has pinged Musk dozens of times over the last three years, and for good reason: On days Musk engaged with him, the views on his account doubled. Radio Genoa's followers surged from less than 200,000 before Musk's engagement to over 1.2 million. Radio Genoa could not be reached for comment.

Eva Vlaardingerbroek -- a conservative Dutch political commentator dubbed the "shieldmaiden of the far-right" whose account Musk has engaged with three dozen times -- uses X to solicit tips and has creator status, which allows her to charge subscription fees. So does Seibt, the German activist -- though she told AP her earnings from X aren't enough to sustain herself. Vlaardingerbroek did not respond to requests for comment.

Musk has also advocated for Matteo Salvini, vice premier of Italy and the leader of the hard-right, anti-migrant League party. On X, Musk's interactions boosted Salvini's daily visibility more than fourfold. Offline, Salvini has urged Italy to move ahead with controversial contracts for Starlink and pushed back against EU efforts to regulate content on X.

Before Fidias Panayiotou — a 25-year-old social media influencer from Cyprus with no political experience — won a surprise seat as an independent in the European Parliament last year, he spent weeks camped outside Twitter and Space X headquarters in a highly publicized quest to hug the world's richest man. In January 2023, his wish came true. Their embrace went viral.

Soon, Musk was interacting with Panayiotou's posts on a variety of subjects, expanding his typical audience on X by more than 3,000%.

Since taking his seat, Panayiotou -- whose positions often also reflect the views of Cyprus' traditional leftist establishment -- has praised X on the floor of the European Parliament, pushed back against regulations that impact the platform, and credited Musk with sparking his call to fire 80% of EU bureaucrats.

Musk, evidently, was pleased. "Vote for Fidias," he posted on X, an endorsement that was viewed more than 11.5 million times. "He is smart, super high energy and genuinely cares about you!"

In July, after AP asked for comment, Panayiotou posted a video to dispel any impression that he was Musk's puppet. "I don't have any relationship with Elon Musk," he said. "We haven't spoken at all since we hugged, neither through messages, nor by phone, and I've never invited him anywhere."

He said that Musk, unprompted, began reposting his content after he was elected to the European Parliament.

"I don't think it's a danger to democracy honestly that Elon Musk supports me," Panayiotou explained in another video. "I think this is the beauty of democracy."

The Smithsonian removes a Trump impeachment reference from an exhibit but says it's temporary

NEW YORK (AP) — The Smithsonian Institution has removed from an exhibit a reference to President Donald Trump's two impeachments, a decision that comes as the White House exerts pressure to offer a more positive — and selective — view of American history. A spokesperson said the exhibit eventually "will include all impeachments."

A label referring to impeachment had been added in 2021 to the National Museum for American History's exhibit on the American presidency, in a section called "Limits of Presidential Power." Smithsonian spokesperson Phillip Zimmerman said Friday that the section, which includes materials on the impeachment of President Bill Clinton and the Watergate scandal that helped lead to President Richard Nixon's resignation, needed to be overhauled. He said the decision came after the museum was "reviewing our legacy content recently."

"Because the other topics in this section had not been updated since 2008, the decision was made to restore the Impeachment case back to its 2008 appearance," Zimmerman said in an email.

He said that in September 2021, the museum installed a temporary label on content concerning Trump's impeachments. "It was intended to be a short-term measure to address current events at the time," he said. But the label remained in place.

"A large permanent gallery like The American Presidency that opened in 2000 requires a significant amount of time and funding to update and renew," he said. "A future and updated exhibit will include all impeachments."

White House spokesperson Davis Ingle said the Smithsonian has "highlighted divisive DEI exhibits which are out of touch with mainstream America" for too long.

"We are fully supportive of updating displays to highlight American greatness," he said in a statement that did not address the missing reference to Trump's impeachments.

Trump's impeachments were more recent

Trump is only the president to have been impeached twice — in 2019, for pushing Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to investigate Joe Biden, who would defeat Trump in the 2020 election; and in 2021 for "incitement of insurrection," a reference to the Jan. 6 siege of the U.S. Capitol by Trump supporters attempting to halt Congressional certification of Biden's victory.

The Democratic majority in the House voted each time for impeachment. The Republican-led Senate each time acquitted Trump. Soon after Trump's first impeachment, the history museum issued a statement saying that curators "will determine which objects best represent these historic events for inclusion in the national collection."

Since returning to office in January, Trump has cut funding, forced out officials and otherwise demanded changes across a range of Washington cultural institutions, including the Smithsonian, the Library of Congress, the Kennedy Center and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The current administration has targeted interpretations of history

In March, Trump issued an executive order entitled "Restoring Truth and Sanity to American History," in which he alleged that the Smithsonian was beholden to "a divisive, race-centered ideology." He has placed Vice President J.D. Vance in charge of an effort to ensure no funding goes to "exhibits or programs that degrade shared American values, divide Americans based on race, or promote programs or ideologies inconsistent with Federal law and policy."

Congressional Democrats issued a statement in April calling Trump's order a "flagrant attempt to erase Black history."

Last week, artist Amy Sherald canceled a planned exhibit at the National Portrait Gallery after officials raised concerns over her painting "Trans Forming Liberty, 2024," in which she depicts a nonbinary transgender person posing as the Statue of Liberty. Sherald is best known for her painting of then-first lady Michelle Obama, which was commissioned by the Portrait Gallery.

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Founded in the 19th century, the Smithsonian oversees a network of cultural centers that includes the portrait gallery, the history museum, the National Zoo and the Smithsonian Gardens. News of the Trump impeachment label being removed was first reported by The Washington Post.

Trump's new tariffs give some countries a break, while shares and US dollar sink

BANGKOK (AP) — U.S. President Donald Trump's new tariff rates of up to 41% on U.S. imports from dozens of countries drew expressions of relief Friday from some countries that negotiated a deal or managed to whittle them down from rates announced in April. Others expressed disappointment or frustration over running out of time after hitting Trump's Aug. 1 deadline for striking deals with America's trading partners.

The new rates are due to take effect on Aug. 7, but uncertainty over what Trump might do next remains. The way ahead for China, which runs the largest trade surplus with the U.S., is unclear after talks earlier this week in Stockholm produced no deal. Trump has yet to say if he'll extend an Aug. 12 pause on painfully high import duties on Chinese products.

The reaction from financial markets was muted. Benchmarks fell in Asia, with South Korea's Kospi dropping nearly 4% after the tariff rate for the U.S. ally was set at 15%. The U.S. dollar weakened against the Japanese yen, trading at more than 150 yen per dollar.

Regret and disappointment for Canada and Switzerland

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney said his government was disappointed by Trump's move to raise the U.S. tariff on goods from America's northern neighbor to 35% from 25%, effective Friday. Goods transshipped from unspecified other countries face a 40% import duty.

Trump cited what he said was a lack of cooperation in stemming trafficking of illicit drugs across the northern border. He also slammed Canada's plan to recognize a Palestinian state and has expressed frustration with a trade deficit largely fueled by U.S. oil purchases.

"Canada accounts for only 1% of U.S. fentanyl imports and has been working intensively to further reduce these volumes," Carney said in a statement.

Many of Canada's exports to the U.S. are covered by the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement and face no tariff. But steel, lumber, aluminum and autos have been subject to still higher tariffs.

Switzerland was reeling after Trump ordered a 39% tariff rate for the land of luxury watches, pharmaceuticals and financial services. That was up from his original proposal of a 31% duty.

"The Federal Council notes with great regret that, despite the progress made in bilateral talks and Switzerland's very constructive stance from the outset, the U.S. intends to impose unilateral additional tariffs on imports from Switzerland," the government said in a post on X. It said it would continue to seek a negotiated solution.

Still working on it

Just days after it was sealed with a handshake, France is already talking about possibly renegotiating parts of the EU-US deal on tariffs, to make it more favorable for European producers. The deal reached Sunday, which hasn't been published in writing, calls for a 15% tariff on EU goods.

"It's a stage and we won't stop here," French Foreign Minister Jean-Noël Barrot said Friday, speaking to broadcaster France Info. "We want new concessions, guarantees on wine and spirits, a readjustment, a rebalancing on the service sector, in particular digital services."

The minister argued that European negotiators hadn't been feared enough by Trump.

"Europe has to beef up its game. If Europe had been stronger, had it been feared by Donald Trump and the American negotiators, we doubtless could have obtained better results. That's why we have to strengthen ourselves in every domain."

Australian Trade Minister Don Farrell said the 10% overall tariff on Australia's exports to the United States was a vindication of his government's "cool and calm negotiations." But he said even that level was not justified. The U.S. exports twice as much to Australia as it imports from its bilateral free trade partner, and Australia imposes no tariffs on U.S. exports.

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Objecting to a 15% tariff rate, Norwegian Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Støre told the newspaper VG the Scandinavian country should have "zero tariffs." He said talks were continuing.

Japan watches, while Taiwan keeps trying for a deal

Japanese Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshimasa Hayashi was cautious in welcoming Trump's executive order setting Japan's tariff at 15% after the two sides worked out an agreement, much to Tokyo's relief.

"We believe it is necessary to carefully examine the details of the measure," Hayashi said. "The Japanese government will continue to urge the U.S. side to promptly implement measures to carry out the recent agreement, including reducing tariffs on automobiles and auto parts."

Taiwan's President Lai Ching-te said the self-ruled island had yet to engage in final negotiations with the U.S. side owing to scheduling difficulties and that he was hopeful the final tariff rate would be reduced even further after a final round of talks.

The Trump administration lowered its tariff for Taiwan to 20% from the originally proposed 32%. Taiwan is a key supplier of advanced semiconductors needed for many products and technologies.

"20% from the beginning has not been our goal, we hope that in further negotiations we will get a more beneficial and more reasonable tax rate," Lai told reporters in Taipei Friday.

The U.S. is Taiwan's largest ally even though it does not formally recognize the island. "We want to strengthen U.S. Taiwan cooperation in national security, tech, and multiple areas," Lai said.

For some, relief that tariffs are lower than they might be

Cambodia's Deputy Prime Minister Sun Chanthol, who led his nation's trade talks with the United States, thanked Trump for setting the tariff rate on Cambodian goods at 19% and said his country will impose zero tariffs on American goods.

The rate for Cambodia that Trump proposed in April was 49%, one of the highest in the world. He said the U.S. estimated average Cambodian tariffs on U.S. exports at 97%.

Cambodia has agreed to up purchases of U.S. goods. Sun said it would purchase 10 passenger aircraft from Boeing in a deal they hoped to sign later this month. Several other nations had already announced similar aircraft purchase deals as part of their trade packages.

Trump had threatened to withhold trade deals from Cambodia and Thailand if they didn't end an armed conflict over border territory. The two nations agreed on a ceasefire that began Tuesday.

Thailand also is subject to a 19% tariff, a rate that its Finance Minister Pichai Chunhavanjira said "reflects the strong friendship and close partnership between Thailand and the United States." That was down from 36% proposed earlier.

"The outcome of this negotiation signals that Thailand must accelerate its adaptation and move forward in building a stable and resilient economy, ready to face global challenges ahead," he said.

Pakistan welcomed a trade deal that sets a 19% duty on its exports, lower than the initial plan for 29%, saying in a government statement that it was a "balanced and forward-looking approach" that could boost trade and economic growth.

For Bangladesh, a new 20% tariff warded off an earlier threat of a 35% import duty for the South Asian exporter of garments and other light manufactured goods. "That's good news for our apparel sector and the millions who depend on it," said Khalilur Rahman, the country's national security advisor and lead negotiator.

"We've also preserved our global competitiveness and opened up new opportunities to access the world's largest consumer market," Rahman said. "Protecting our apparel industry was a top priority, but we also focused our purchase commitments on U.S. agricultural products. This supports our food security goals and fosters goodwill with U.S. farming states."

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Today in History: August 2, verdict in "Black Sox" trial

Today is Saturday, Aug. 2, the 214th day of 2025. There are 151 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On August 2, 1921, a jury in Chicago acquitted seven former members of the Chicago White Sox baseball team and two others of conspiring to defraud the public in the notorious "Black Sox" scandal (though they would later be banned from Major League Baseball for life by Commissioner Kenesaw Mountain Landis).

Also on this date:

In 1790, the first United States Census began under the supervision of Thomas Jefferson; a total of 3,929,214 people were counted in the census, nearly 700,000 of whom were enslaved.

In 1873, inventor Andrew S. Hallidie successfully tested a cable car he had designed for the city of San Francisco.

In 1876, frontiersman "Wild Bill" Hickok was shot and killed while playing poker at a saloon in Deadwood, Dakota Territory, by Jack McCall, who was later hanged.

In 1923, the 29th president of the United States, Warren G. Harding, died in San Francisco; Vice President Calvin Coolidge became president.

In 1934, German President Paul von Hindenburg died, paving the way for Adolf Hitler's complete takeover.

In 1945, President Harry S. Truman, Soviet leader Josef Stalin and Britain's new prime minister, Clement Attlee, concluded the Potsdam conference.

In 1974, former White House counsel John W. Dean III was sentenced to one to four years in prison for obstruction of justice in the Watergate cover-up. (Dean ended up serving four months.)

In 1985, 137 people were killed when Delta Air Lines Flight 191, a Lockheed L-1011 Tristar, crashed while attempting to land at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport.

In 1990, Iraq invaded Kuwait, seizing control of the oil-rich emirate. (The Iraqis were later driven out by the U.S. in Operation Desert Storm.)

Today's Birthdays: Author Isabel Allende is 83. Actor Butch Patrick (TV: "The Munsters") is 72. Rock music producer/drummer Butch Vig is 70. Actor Mary-Louise Parker is 61. Filmmaker Kevin Smith is 55. Actor Sam Worthington is 49. Actor Edward Furlong is 48. Actor Lily Gladstone is 39. Singer Charli XCX is 33. Olympic swimming gold medalist Simone Manuel is 29.