

Groton Daily Independent

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Tuesday, Aug. 5

Senior Menu: Chicken alfredo, broccoli, pears, breadstick.

United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.

City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.

Storybook Land Theater, Groton Area High School Gym, 10 a.m.



Wednesday, Aug. 6

Senior Menu: Breaded pork cutlet, mashed potatoes with gravy, carrots, apple sauce, whole wheat bread.

Groton Chamber Meeting, Noon, City Hall.

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

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

Emmanuel Lutheran: Sara Circle, 5 p.m.

Thursday, Aug. 7

Senior Menu: Beef noodle stroganoff, broccoli, apricots, whole wheat bread.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Nigeria Circle, 7 p.m.

Groton Daily Independent
PO Box 34, Groton SD 57445
Paul's Cell/Text: 605-397-7460

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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.

Texas House Standoff

The Texas House yesterday issued civil arrest warrants to force the return of Democratic lawmakers who left the state and blocked a vote on a Republican-led redistricting plan. Texas Gov. Greg Abbott (R) said the absent lawmakers had forfeited their seats and warned he would begin efforts to remove them from office if they didn't return. The warrants can only be enforced within Texas.

Most of the 62-member House Democrats left Texas Sunday to block a quorum and stall voting on a map that would create five additional Republican congressional districts ahead of the 2026 elections. Texas' constitution requires two-thirds of the 150-member Texas House to be present to advance legislation.

Democratic lawmakers, who traveled to states like Illinois and New York, argue the redrawn map dilutes the voting power of minority communities and displays characteristics of partisan gerrymandering. Republicans currently hold 25 of Texas' 38 US House seats.

Starfish Syndrome Breakthrough

A study published yesterday identified *Vibrio pectenica* bacteria as the cause of an ongoing and the largest-ever marine epidemic that has killed over 5 billion Pacific Ocean starfish over the past decade.

Sea star wasting syndrome, first seen in 2013 along North America's Pacific coast, causes starfish to develop lesions, decay, and die. The disease has ravaged more than 20 species, wiping out over 90% of sunflower sea stars in under a decade. Their decline fueled a 10,000% rise in sea urchins along California's North Coast between 2014 and 2023. Roughly 96% of the region's kelp forest vanished during that period as unchecked sea urchin populations devoured kelp forests—key ecosystems that support biodiversity, capture carbon, and filter pollution.

Researchers exposed lab-raised sunflower sea stars to the disease under various conditions to confirm *Vibrio pectenica* as the culprit. The team now aims to understand how the bacterium—which belongs to a genus that thrives in warming waters—triggers sea star wasting syndrome in hopes of preventing future outbreaks.

Moscow Trial Begins

A military trial began yesterday over the March 2024 Moscow concert hall shooting rampage that killed 149 people and wounded over 600 others. The attack, claimed by a regional ISIS affiliate, was the deadliest massacre in Russia's capital in 20 years.

Nineteen people are on trial over the attack at Crocus City Hall concert venue, where attendees waited to see the popular rock band Picnic. After gunning down concertgoers, four assailants set the venue ablaze. Authorities identified the suspects as citizens of Tajikistan, where an ISIS affiliate has recruited thousands of people. The US said it warned Russia of intelligence suggesting an imminent attack, but Moscow dismissed the warning amid its war with Ukraine.

Roughly 30 survivors were present at yesterday's hearing, which is not open to the public. Defendants include the four alleged gunmen and 15 accomplices, held in Russia's defendant cages. Human rights groups have criticized the treatment of the suspects over signs of torture.

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Sports, Entertainment, & Culture

President Donald Trump to sign executive order today creating an intergovernmental task force related to 2028 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles.

The New York Post is set to launch new daily newspaper, The California Post, in early 2026.

Sean "Diddy" Combs denied release on bail, will remain in jail ahead of Oct. 3 sentencing.

South Korean star Son Heung-Min to join Los Angeles FC from the English Premier League's Tottenham Hotspur for an MLS record transfer fee of \$26M.

Texas and Ohio State top preseason college football coaches poll.

Science & Technology

AI startup Perplexity accused of using techniques similar to those of malicious hackers to evade instructions not to crawl and scrape webpages.

OpenAI's ChatGPT nears 700 million weekly users, up 400% from March.

Paleontologists discover new species of long-necked plesiosaur dating to roughly 180 million years ago; creature lived during a mass extinction known as the Toarcian Oceanic Anoxic Event.

Researchers discover RNA virus responsible for a mass die-off of British Columbia oysters in 2020; strain is a "mega" virus, with one of the largest viral genomes on record.

Business & Markets

US stock markets close up (S&P 500 +1.5%, Dow +1.3%, Nasdaq +2.0%) after losses Friday.

European Union delays countermeasures against US tariffs for six months as trade talks continue.

American Eagle shares surge 23.7% after President Donald Trump praises Sydney Sweeney ad campaign.

Elon Musk conditionally awarded roughly \$30B in Tesla shares by the company's board to keep him as CEO through 2030 as litigation continues over his 2018 compensation package.

AI company Palantir tops \$1B in second quarter earnings for first time and raises full-year revenue forecast after striking \$10B, 10-year US Army deal last week.

About 3,200 Boeing defense workers in Missouri and Illinois strike after rejecting a contract offer; it's the aerospace company's second strike in less than a year.

Politics & World Affairs

Justice Department to launch grand jury probe into how Obama administration officials handled intelligence about Russian interference in 2016 election.

Rep. Nancy Mace (R, SC-1) launches campaign for South Carolina governor.

New Hampshire becomes first state in the Northeast to ban medical interventions for transgender minors; joins 27 other states.

Israeli government votes to fire attorney general amid ongoing corruption trial against Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu; country's Supreme Court freezes the decision to consider legality.

Canada wildfires prompt air quality alerts throughout the US Midwest and Northeast; see map of affected areas.

Name Released in 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: Anthony Michalicki, 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, July 31, near Deadwood, South Dakota.

Preliminary crash information indicates Anthony Michalicki, 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 deceased on the scene.

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

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



BROWN COUNTY COMMISSION AGENDA GENERAL MEETING

TUESDAY, AUGUST 5, 2025, 8:45 A.M.

COMMISSIONER'S CHAMBERS

COURTHOUSE ANNEX - 25 MARKET STREET, ABERDEEN SD

1. Call To Order - Pledge of Allegiance
2. Approval of the Agenda
3. Proclamation for National Emergency Management Awareness Month
4. Opportunity for Public Comment
 - ❖ *Public comment will be limited to 10 minutes or at Boards Discretion. Presentations will be limited to 3 minutes.*
5. Dave Lunzman, Sheriff
 - a. Jail Update
6. Approve the updated Fair Promo List
7. Consent Calendar
 - a. Approval of General Meeting Minutes for July 29, 2025
 - b. Claims
 - c. HR Report
 - d. Claim Assignments
8. Other Business
9. Executive Session (if requested per SDCL 1-25-2)
10. Adjourn

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

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

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

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

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Groton City Council Meeting Agenda

August 5, 2025 – 7:00pm
City Hall – 120 N Main Street

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

1. Approval of Agenda
2. Public Comments - pursuant to SDCL 1-25-1
(Public Comments will offer the opportunity for anyone not listed on the agenda to speak to the council. Speaking time will be limited to 3 minutes. No action will be taken on questions or items not on the agenda.)
3. Department Reports
4. Approval of Proposal from Wright & Sudlow for Replacement of Concrete to Correct Drainage Issues
5. Open Sealed Bids for 2017 Ford Interceptor SUV
6. Open Sealed Bids for 1982 International S1900 Truck
7. Airport Discussion/Concession Stand Relocation
8. Stop Sign at 1st Street and 2nd Avenue
9. Permanent Radar Speed Signs on Highway 12
10. Corn Stalks and Residue Blowing into City
11. Review Bids for Baseball Concessions and Bathrooms Building Project and Award
12. Transfer of Property at 105 N 3rd Street to Groton Development Corporation
13. Second Reading of Ordinance No. 790 – Supplemental Appropriations
14. Main Street to be Blocked from Railroad Avenue to 2nd Avenue for Family Fun Fest on August 7th from
5:30pm to 7:30pm
15. Minutes
16. Bills
17. Executive session personnel & legal 1-25-2 (1) & (3)
18. Adjournment

Judiciary Warns of Missed Jury Duty, Unpaid Traffic Ticket Scams

PIERRE, S.D.—The South Dakota Unified Judicial System (UJS) is warning the public to be aware of scams involving missed jury duty, unpaid traffic tickets and fake arrest warrants.

UJS and South Dakota law enforcement agencies have received reports of the public getting these scams via text messages and phone calls. The scammers falsely claim that the recipient owes money for missing jury duty or failing to pay traffic tickets. The scammers demand the recipient pay immediately or face a warrant for arrest.

South Dakota courts and law enforcement will never:

Threaten a person or demand money over the phone or in a text message for failing to appear for jury duty or for not paying a traffic ticket.

Require immediate payment via cryptocurrency, like Bitcoin, or apps such as PayPal or Venmo.

Ask someone to provide sensitive information over the phone or in a text or email.

How to Protect Yourself

If you get a phone call or text message that demands information or money:

Do not provide the information or payment they ask for.

Do not reply directly to the text or email, click on any links, or open any attachments. Scammers often make the messages look like they are coming from a real court or law enforcement agency.

Hang up the phone and do not engage with the caller.

Reach out directly to your local clerk of courts office or law enforcement agency to see if the call was real.

Report a Scam:

Contact your local law enforcement.

Report the scam to the South Dakota Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division at 1-800-300-1986 or <https://consumer.sd.gov>.

Report identity theft and learn what to do if your identity is stolen on the Federal Trade Commission's website at <https://www.identitytheft.gov>.

Learn more on South Dakota UJS' court scams webpage at <https://uj.s.sd.gov/court-scams>.

2025 Sturgis Motorcycle Rally Vehicle Count – Through Day Three

STURGIS, S.D. – The South Dakota Department of Transportation (SDDOT) will provide daily traffic counts at nine locations for vehicles entering Sturgis for the 85th Annual Sturgis Motorcycle Rally which runs from Aug. 1-10, 2025. The traffic counts to date for the nine locations entering Sturgis for the 2025 Rally are as follows:

Friday, Aug. 1, 2025: 56,000 vehicles entered
Up 8.2% from the previous five-year average

Saturday, Aug. 2, 2025: 62,500 vehicles entered
Up 12.5% from the previous five-year average

Sunday, Aug. 3, 2025: 60,495 vehicles entered
Up 2.4% from the previous five-year average

2025 Total to Date (3-days): 178,995 Vehicles (Up 7.6%)
Previous Five-Year Average (2020-2024) 3-day total to date: 166,393 Vehicles

Once compiled, a full report (including traffic counts across the greater Black Hills area) will be available on the SDDOT website at <https://dot.sd.gov/transportation/highways/traffic-data/> during the week of Aug. 18, 2025.

To find additional information related to the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally such as reduced speed limit areas, temporary traffic signal locations, frequently asked questions, and more, please visit: <https://dot.sd.gov/travelers/travelers/sturgis-rally-travel-information-faq>.

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Highway Patrol Sturgis Rally Daily Information **Compiled from 6 a.m. Sat., August 2, 2025, to 6 a.m. Mon. August 4, 2025**

Item	Sturgis	Rapid City District	District Total	Last Year to Date
DUI Arrests	31	7	38	50
Misd Drug Arrests	50	15	65	86
Felony Drug Arrests	32	1	33	52
Total Citations	256	228	478	471
Total Warnings	858	428	1,286	1,174
Cash Seized	0.00	0.00	0.00	\$11,094.00
Vehicles Seized	0	0	0	0
For Drug Poss.	0	0	0	0
For Serial No.	0	0	0	0
Non-Injury Accidents	4	3	7	8
Injury Accidents	9	11	20	14
Fatal Accidents	0	1	1	0
# of Fatalities	0	1	1	0

Fatal Crashes:

None

Injury Crashes:

At 11:30am, Sunday, I-90, mile marker 40: A 2013 Harley Davidson (Unit 2) motorcycle was traveling eastbound with a 2007 Harley Davidson (Unit 1) motorcycle. Traffic ahead of both units had slowed in the passing lane of I-90. A vehicle in front of Unit 2 cut off the motorcycle. Unit 2 applied the brakes causing Unit 1 to collide with Unit 2. Unit 1 (2007 Harley) overturned in the roadway. Unit 2 came to rest in the median. The male driver and female passenger of Unit 1 (2013 Harley) were separated from motorcycle. Unit 2 came to rest in the median of I-90. The male driver and female passenger of Unit 2 were not injured. The driver of Unit 1 sustained serious non-life-threatening injuries and the passenger had minor injuries. Both were taken to the hospital in Sturgis. Neither driver was wearing a helmet. The passenger of Unit 1 was wearing a helmet.

At 01:00pm, Sunday, US Highway 14A, mile marker 49: A 2023 Harley Davidson motorcycle was navigating a curve in the roadway when the steering failed. The male driver laid the bike down to avoiding hitting the guardrail. The male driver and female passenger separated from the motorcycle as it began to slide. Both occupants were wearing helmets. Both individuals sustained minor injuries. The passenger was transported to the Sturgis Hospital.

At 02:01pm, Sunday, US Highway 385, mile marker 109: A 2007 Jeep Wrangler (Unit 2) was traveling north on US Highway 385, attempting to make a left turn onto Roubaix Lake Rd. A 2013 Yamaha motorcycle (Unit 1) was traveling south on US 385. The driver of unit 2 attempted to make the left-hand turn

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in front of Unit 1. The driver of Unit 1 was unable to avoid collision with Unit 2. The male driver of Unit 1 was wearing a helmet and was transported to Monument Health in Deadwood for minor injuries. The driver of unit 2 was wearing a seatbelt.

At 03:23pm, Sunday, US Highway 14A, mile marker 24: A 2022 Harley Davidson motorcycle was traveling eastbound. A deer entered the roadway and Unit 1 struck the deer, causing the operator to lose control. The driver was not wearing a helmet and sustained minor injuries. The female passenger was wearing a helmet, received serious-non-life-threatening-injuries, and was air lifted via LifeFlight to Monument Health in Rapid City.

At 04:44pm, Sunday, Wildlife Loop Road, mile marker 1: A 2009 Harley Davidson motorcycle was traveling west on Wildlife Loop Road. The driver failed to negotiate a curve in the roadway and ran off the road to the left. The motorcycle struck a tree. The driver sustained serious-non-life-threatening injuries and was taken to Monument Health in Rapid City via Life Flight. He was not wearing a helmet.

At 05:22pm, Sunday, South Dakota Highway 40, mile marker 37: A 2008 Harley Davidson motorcycle was traveling east on SD Hwy. 40 around a curve. The motorcycle began to slide when it drove over gravel in the roadway. The driver ran off the road to the right striking a guard rail. The driver became separated from the motorcycle and came to rest against a barbed wire fence. The driver was transported to Monument Health in Rapid City via ambulance with serious non-life-threatening injuries. He was wearing a helmet.

At 09:33pm, Sunday, Spring Creek Road near Arena Drive: A 2005 Honda motorcycle was traveling west on Spring Creek Road near its intersection with Arena Drive. The driver of the motorcycle failed to negotiate a curve in the roadway and entered the north ditch. The driver became separated from the motorcycle. The driver was not wearing a helmet and received minor injuries.

All information released so far is only preliminary.

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



**Help Lead a Cause that
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.

Positions Available:



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

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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.

Groton Legion Post 39 Falls To Parkston Sr. Legion Post 194

By GameChanger Media

Groton Legion Post 39 was eliminated from the State Tournament on Monday with an 11-6 loss to Parkston Sr. Legion Post 194.

Parkston Sr. Legion Post 194 got on the board in the top of the first inning after Carter Sommer doubled down the left field line, Kash Neugebauer singled down the left field line, and Groton Legion Post 39 committed an error, each scoring one run.

Groton Legion Post 39 made the score 4-3 in the bottom of the third after Carter Simon homered to left field, scoring three runs, and Braxton Imrie singled, scoring one run.

Groton Legion Post 39 committed an error, which helped Parkston Sr. Legion Post 194 tie the game at four in the top of the fourth.

In the bottom of the fourth inning, Groton Legion Post 39 went back into the lead after Brevin Fliehs singled to center field, and Taite Klumb barked, each scoring one run.

Mason Jervik grounded out, which helped Parkston Sr. Legion Post 194 tie the game at six in the top of the fifth.

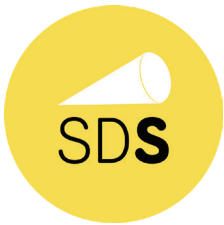
Groton had the bases loaded and one out in the bottom of the sixth inning, but was unable to capitalize on the opportunity.

Then Parkston Sr. Legion Post 194 flipped the game on its head in the top of the seventh, scoring five runs on two hits to take the lead, 11-6. The biggest blow in the inning was a single by Neugebauer on an 0-2 count that drove in two.

TC Schuster began the game for Groton Legion Post 39. The hurler gave up seven hits and six runs (five earned) over five and one-third innings, striking out five and walking five. Carson Bueber started on the mound for Parkston Sr. Legion Post 194. The pitcher gave up five hits and four runs (three earned) over two and one-third innings, striking out two and walking three.

Groton Legion Post 39 piled up nine hits in the game. Simon provided pop in the middle of the lineup, and led Groton Legion Post 39 with three runs batted in. The infielder went 2-for-4 on the day. Teylor Diegel led Groton Legion Post 39 with three hits in four at bats from the leadoff position. Gavin Englund collected two hits for Groton Legion Post 39 in two at bats. Fliehs led Groton Legion Post 39 with two walks. Overall, the team had a strong eye at the plate, collecting seven walks for the game.

Parkston Sr. Legion Post 194 amassed 10 hits in the game. Sommer led Parkston Sr. Legion Post 194 with three runs batted in. The infielder went 3-for-5 on the day. Neugebauer collected two hits for Parkston Sr. Legion Post 194 in three at bats. Neugebauer led Parkston Sr. Legion Post 194 with two walks. Overall, the team had a strong eye at the plate, piling up eight walks for the game. Parkston Sr. Legion Post 194 ran wild on the base paths, amassing six stolen bases for the game.



SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

Results of SD's special measles clinics: 14 vaccinations, including zero in seven of 11 locations

BY: JOSHUA HAIAR AND SETH TUPPER - AUGUST 4, 2025 9:55 AM

The South Dakota Department of Health administered no immunizations at seven of the 11 special measles vaccine clinics it publicly announced recently, and a total of 14 vaccinations were administered at the other four clinics.

The department announced the locations, dates and times of the special clinics in a news release on June 18, and announced an amended schedule in another news release on June 20.

Of the 11 cities where clinics were scheduled, nine clinics were single days and two were multiple days.

The news releases did not say whether the vaccinations were free. The department has since told South Dakota Searchlight via email, "Vaccines are provided at no cost when insurance isn't an option, with eligibility assessed to ensure everyone can get vaccinated without barriers."

When the department announced the schedule for the special clinics, the state had detected four measles cases since the beginning of the year. That number has since risen to 12, including one hospitalization. Ten of the cases are unvaccinated people. The vaccination status of the other two is unknown.

Prior to last year, the state hadn't experienced a confirmed measles case since 2015. Measles vaccination rates among South Dakota schoolchildren have fallen since then from 96% to 90%.

Similar trends in some other states have contributed to the worst measles year in the United States since 1990. This year's nationwide numbers now stand at 1,333 cases and three deaths, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

It took South Dakota Searchlight three weeks to obtain the results of the special vaccination clinics from the state Department of Health. The department, which declined multiple requests for an interview and communicated only by email, initially refused to provide the numbers.

"In certain locations, the number of clients served is small enough that confidentiality laws prevent us from releasing those specific vaccine counts," the department wrote.

The department did not respond to Searchlight's request for a specific law citation supporting its position.

After Searchlight submitted another request for the information, this time through a state records request portal instead of by email, the department responded with data.

"We've discussed this request in detail internally and with our legal counsel," the department wrote. "We believe we can share these numbers as long as they are provided simply as counts of people vaccinated, with no additional patient information."

Searchlight had never asked for additional patient information.

The data provided by the department included additional cities and days beyond those announced in the June news releases. Searchlight had to perform its own analysis of the data to determine the results of only the announced clinics.

The department sent a written response when asked to explain the inclusion of the extra data, and pointed to a webpage containing information on measles vaccination clinics.

"First, some clinics took place before the release was distributed," the department wrote. "Second, clinic schedules and locations continued to shift after the release was issued. While our team worked diligently to keep the website as current as possible, the details were changing daily."

The department also said it offers immunizations daily at its public health nursing offices around the state. There have been 6,092 measles vaccinations so far this year in South Dakota, the department said, compared to 4,868 at the same time last year.

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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.

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

Thune files bipartisan bill to strengthen federal conservation program

BY: JOSHUA HAIAR - AUGUST 4, 2025 5:16 PM

A bipartisan group of U.S. senators, including Majority Leader John Thune of South Dakota, introduced legislation recently to improve a federal conservation program with changes including a higher maximum annual payment for landowners.

The Conservation Reserve Program pays farmers and ranchers to remove environmentally sensitive land from agricultural production and maintain grass, trees and other plant species on enrolled acres, which helps prevent soil erosion, filters runoff that enters waterways, and establishes habitat for wildlife. Landowners may be allowed to conduct livestock grazing, haying and seed-harvesting on the land.

"I'm proud to lead this commonsense legislation that would help advance the multiple-use benefits of this conservation program, including wildlife habitat and livestock forage potential," said Thune, a Republican, in a news release.

The Conservation Reserve Program Improvement and Flexibility Act was introduced by Thune, Sen. Amy Klobuchar, D-Minnesota, Sen. Jerry Moran, R-Kansas, and Sen. Tina Smith, D-Minnesota.

The bill would increase the annual payment limitation from \$50,000, which was established in 1985, to \$125,000 to account for inflation and rising land values. It would also provide cost-share funds for the establishment of grazing infrastructure, like fencing and water tanks, on all contracts where grazing is included in the approved conservation plan; expand a program that helps landowners plant trees and create wetlands on enrolled acres; and more easily allow enrolled acres to be hayed in drought conditions.

"When land sits idle, it doesn't just go unused, it declines, and so do the small towns and rural communities that depend on active land management," said Warren Symens, president of the South Dakota Cattlemen's Association, in the news release.

Wildlife conservation groups praised the bill as well, anticipating the changes would result in more acres enrolled in the program. Andrew Schmidt, director of government affairs for Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever, said in the news release that the bill "will make this critical program work better for farmers, ranchers, rural communities, and wildlife."

As of last year, Conservation Reserve Program contracts encompassed nearly 2.4 million acres in South Dakota. Annual program payments in South Dakota totaled \$137 million, with an average payment per acre of \$57.40.

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.

Trump administration moves to end veterans' abortion access in cases of rape, incest and health

BY: KELCIE MOSELEY-MORRIS - AUGUST 4, 2025 4:02 PM

The Trump administration has taken its first step toward restricting access to abortions for veterans who are covered by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' medical benefits, reversing a 2022 rule.

Former Democratic President Joe Biden's administration enacted the rule following the U.S. Supreme Court's Dobbs decision, which ended federally protected access to abortion. More than a dozen states implemented abortion bans after that decision, and the policy was meant to preserve access to abortion for veterans in certain circumstances, regardless of where they lived. Veterans Affairs medical centers were allowed to provide abortions in cases of rape or incest, and when the life or health of the pregnant person was in jeopardy. Counseling about abortion was also permitted.

Under the proposal, nearly all abortions, except those to save a patient's life, would be banned at U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs hospitals and would no longer be covered by VA medical benefits.

In eight states with abortion bans, there are no rape or incest exceptions, including Texas, Alabama and Oklahoma, according to the Guttmacher Institute. Five states with bans also don't have an exception in cases where the pregnant person's health is at risk, only to save their life.

The rule also applies to recipients of the Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs (CHAMPVA), which provides coverage to veterans' families, including children, along with caregivers of veterans.

Officials wrote in the proposal that the 2022 policy was enacted because the administration expected increased "demand" for abortion services, but the rule cited abortion bans in several states that created an environment of uncertainty for veterans who might need care.

The Department of Veterans Affairs provided 88 abortions in the first year after the rule went into place, 64 of which were performed because of a threat to the pregnant person's health, according to VA data reported by Military.com.

Rescinding the rule was a directive in Project 2025, the blueprint document published by the conservative Heritage Foundation and co-authored by anti-abortion organizations such as Susan B. Anthony Pro-Life America. The first of what the document calls "needed reforms" calls for rescinding all department clinical policy directives that are "contrary to principles of conservative governance, starting with abortion services and gender reassignment surgery."

"Neither aligns with service-connected conditions that would warrant VA's providing this type of clinical care," the Project 2025 document reads.

U.S. law already mandates that federal funding cannot be used for abortions except in cases of rape, incest and in certain medical circumstances. The administration argues the 2022 rule violated the "bright line between elective abortion and health care services" and should return to a policy that only allows abortion care to save the pregnant person's life. Counseling about abortion options would no longer be permitted.

"Taken together, claims in the prior administrations rule that abortions throughout pregnancy are needed to save the lives of pregnant women are incorrect," officials wrote in the proposed rule description. "Prior to September 9, 2022, abortions and abortion counseling were excluded from the medical benefits package, with no exceptions."

According to estimates from nonprofit National Partnership for Women and Families, more than 400,000 women veterans lived in states that already had an abortion ban in place or were likely to ban it in 2023. That figure represents more than half of the women veterans in the country.

Public comment on the proposed rule will be accepted until Sept. 3.

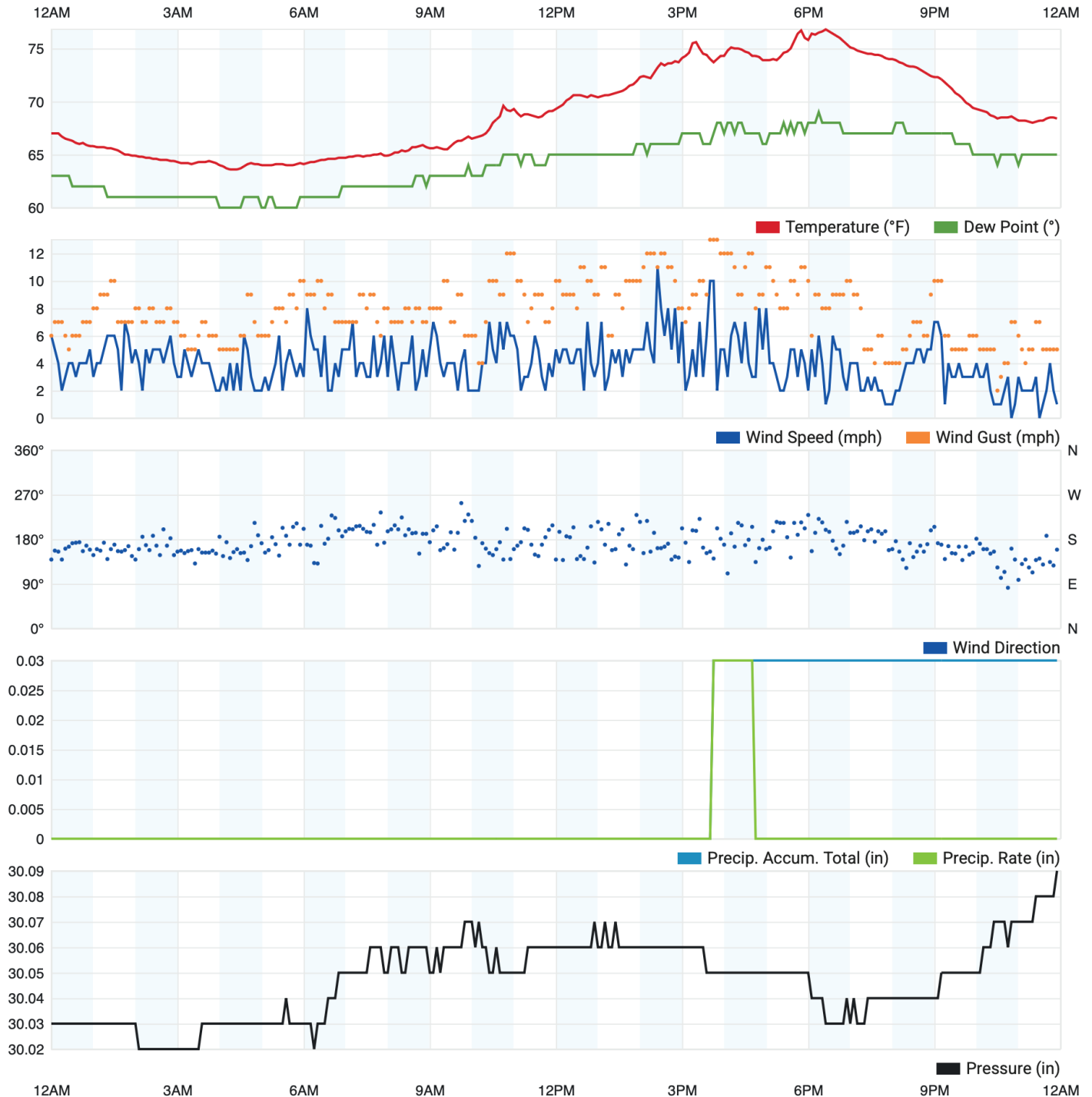
Kelcie Moseley-Morris is an award-winning journalist who has covered many topics across Idaho since 2011, including education, crime and courts, and campaign finance. She covered the implementation of Idaho's near-total abortion ban in 2022 and its effects, and her work has been cited in many court briefs, including the U.S. Supreme Court. She started covering reproductive health issues nationwide for States Newsroom in 2023. She has a bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Idaho and a master's degree in public administration from Boise State University.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs

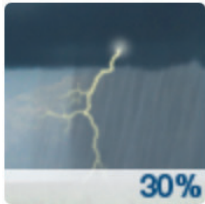
August 4, 2025



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Tuesday



High: 81 °F

Chance
T-storms and
Breezy

Tuesday Night



Low: 66 °F

T-storms
Likely

Wednesday



High: 86 °F

Mostly Sunny

Wednesday
Night



Low: 67 °F

Mostly Clear

Thursday



High: 90 °F

Hot

THREAT ASSESSMENT

HIGHEST LOCAL RISK

2

WHAT THIS MEANS:
Scattered Severe Storms
Possible

**This Evening &
Overnight**

PRIMARY THREATS



DAMAGING
WIND GUSTS
of 60 mph



LARGE HAIL
of 1" in diameter

SECONDARY THREATS

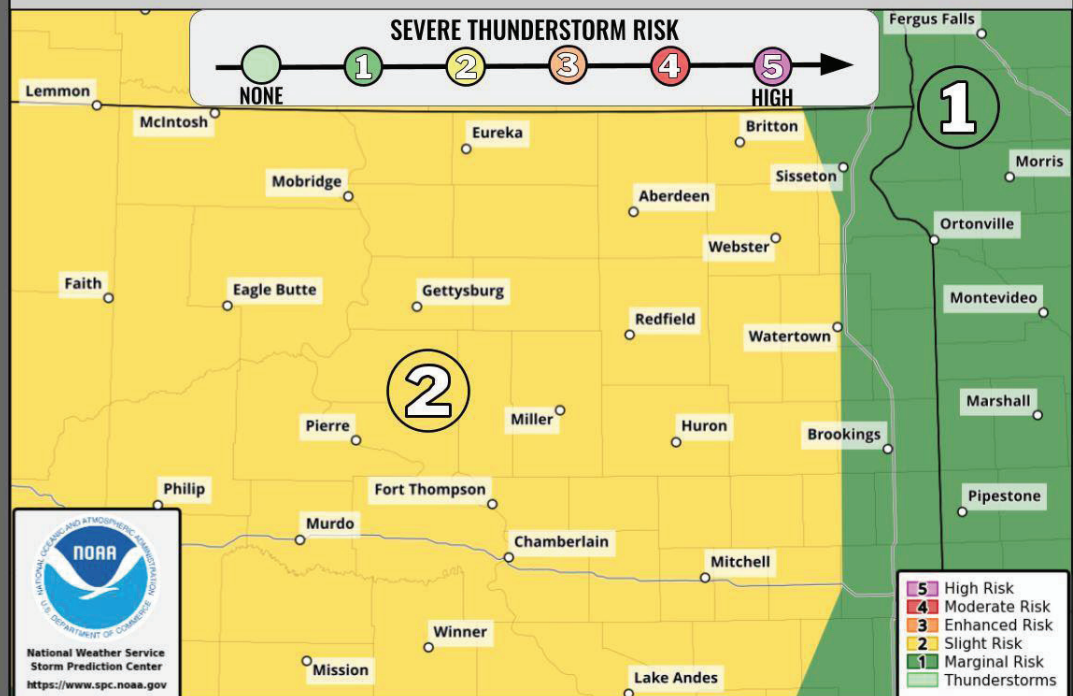


HEAVY
RAINFALL



ISOLATED
TORNADO(ES)
POSSIBLE

Marginal to Slight Risk For Severe Storms Tonight



An active and stormy weather pattern persists today and tonight. The greatest risk for the most organized severe storms will arrive tonight into the overnight hours. A slight risk (level 2 of 5) has been issued for most of the area west of the Prairie Coteau. All modes of severe threats will be possible with damaging wind gusts and large hail the primary concern but we'll also have to watch for a tornado or two and locally heavy rainfall.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 77 °F at 5:45 PM

Heat Index: 79 °F at 6:00 PM

Low Temp: 64 °F at 4:18 AM

Wind: 13 mph at 3:35 PM

Precip: : 0.03

Day length: 14 hours, 36 minutes

Today's Info

Record High: 107 in 1941

Record Low: 41 in 1994

Average High: 85

Average Low: 59

Average Precip in August.: 0.37

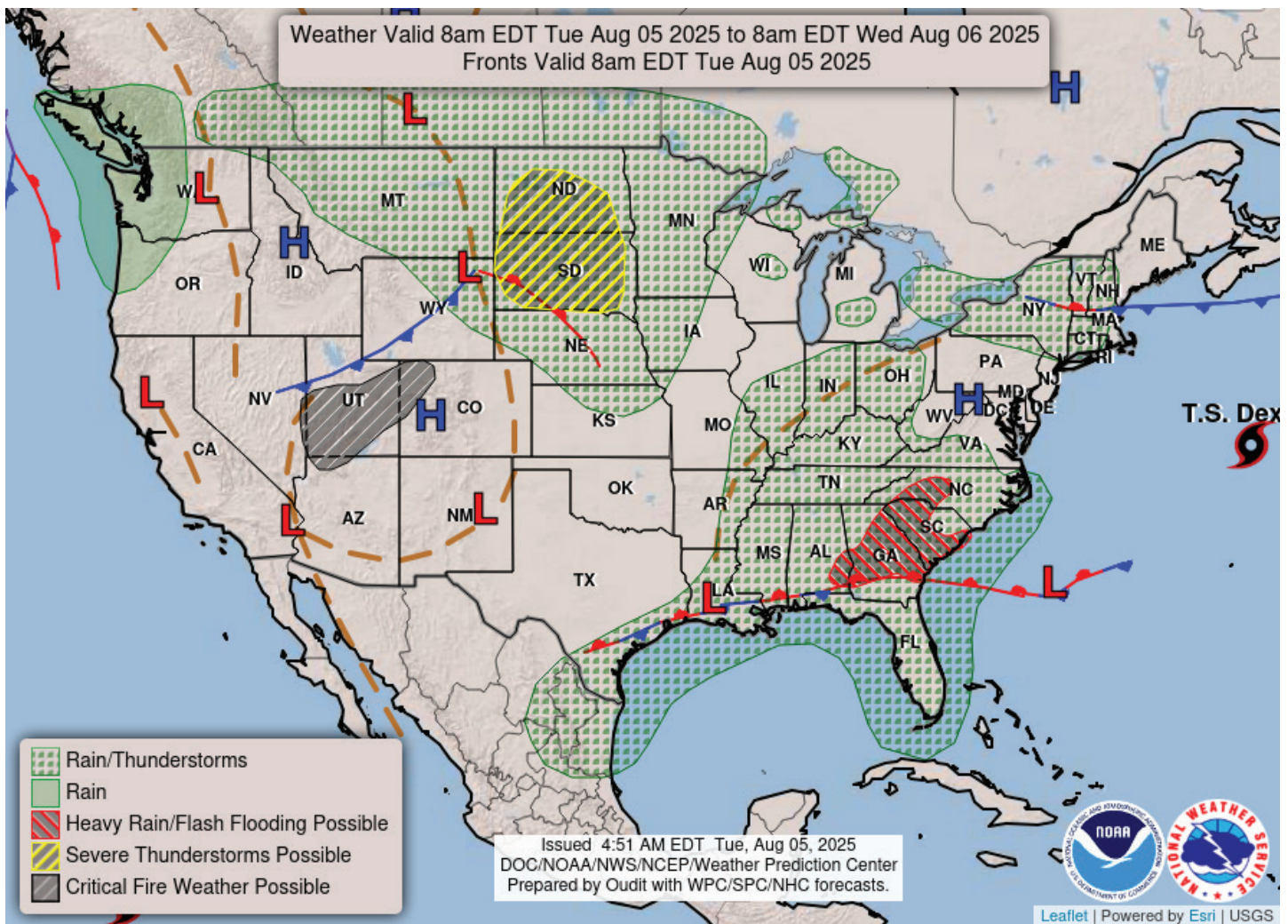
Precip to date in August: 0.04

Average Precip to date: 14.47

Precip Year to Date: 15.10

Sunset Tonight: 8:56:24 pm

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:21:30 am



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Today in Weather History

August 5, 1987: Six tornadoes touched down in central South Dakota. Five of these tornadoes touched down in Lyman County, including three which did damage near Kennebec within 25 minutes of each other. One of the tornadoes destroyed three farms, downing outbuildings, power lines, granaries, and killing cattle.

August 5, 2000: A wet microburst with winds estimated at 120 mph caused substantial damage in and around Mitchell. Apartments and several mobile homes were destroyed, vehicles were overturned, and other damage occurred to buildings and vehicles. Widespread tree and power line damage also occurred. Ten people were injured, although the majority of the injuries were minor. The damage path was approximately a mile and a half long and a mile wide, extending over the southwest part of Mitchell.

1843 - A spectacular cloudburst near Philadelphia turned the small creeks and streams entering the Delaware River into raging torrents. As much as sixteen inches of rain fell in just three hours. Flooding destroyed thirty-two county bridges, and caused nineteen deaths. It is believed that several small tornadoes accompanied the torrential rains, one of which upset and sank more than thirty barges on the Schuylkill River. (David Ludlum)

1875: Several tornadoes moved across northern and central Illinois. One of the stronger tornadoes touched down in Warren and Knox County where it destroyed 25 homes and killed two people. Another in a series of tornadoes touched down near Knoxville and moved east into northern Peoria County. This estimated F4 tornado injured 40 people and was described by eyewitnesses as looking like a "monstrous haystack."

1961 - The temperature at Ice Harbor Dam, WA, soared to 118 degrees to equal the state record established at Wahluke on the 24th of July in 1928. The afternoon high of 111 degrees at Havre, MT, was an all-time record for that location. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Severe thunderstorms raked eastern South Dakota. The thunderstorms spawned half a dozen tornadoes, produced softball size hail at Bowdle, and produced wind gusts to 90 mph south of Watertown. Hot weather continued in eastern Texas. Afternoon highs of 100 degrees at Houston and 106 degrees at Waco equalled records for the date. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather from Indiana and Lower Michigan to Pennsylvania and New York State during the day. Thunderstorms in Michigan produced wind gusts to 80 mph at Ashley, Hastings and Lennon. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather in Oklahoma, and from Iowa to the Upper Ohio Valley, with 216 reports of large hail or damaging winds between early Saturday morning and early Sunday morning. Thunderstorms moving across Iowa around sunrise produced extremely high winds which caused ten million dollars damage to crops in Carroll and Greene Counties. Thunderstorm winds at Jefferson IA reached 102 mph. Afternoon thunderstorms produced tennis ball size hail at Bay Mills, WI. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

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Everyone needs attention and recognition. It's part of how God made us.

However, we must always be conscious of one important fact.
Whatever we do must ultimately be done to glorify God.

Have you ever asked someone to do something for you, and they either did it poorly or forgot? Maybe they said, "That's on the top of my list. I can't believe I haven't done it yet. Please forgive me," or "I wish you'd have reminded me sooner. You know I want to help you!" Maybe they were waiting for you to do something for them first.

Had there been something very special or unique in it for them, the task probably would have been done. Most people want some kind of recognition or reward for helping others. It's usually a "what's in it for me?" attitude that paralyzes many from being helpful. When requests are for ordinary, everyday, boring things that

have little glamour or glory, they get easily set aside for things that bring rewards or recognition. Few willingly get involved with others' problems when the rewards seem small or insignificant.

Everyone needs attention and recognition—it's part of how God made us. However, we must always remember: whatever we do must ultimately glorify God. If we do the right thing for the wrong reason—to bring recognition to ourselves—we should not expect God's blessings at all.

"All a man's ways seem innocent to him, but motives are weighed by the Lord," wrote Solomon. We rarely stop to think about being accountable to God for everything we do, but we are. God knows our motives and weighs them against His Word. Our motives matter!

Today's Prayer: We ask, Father, to be alert to all that we say and do. May our motives come from hearts centered on You and Your Word, honoring You always. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Today's Scripture: All a man's ways seem innocent to him, but motives are weighed by the Lord. Proverbs 16:2

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

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WINNING NUMBERS

MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS: 08.01.25

18 27 29 33 70 22

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$150,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 17 Hrs 24 Mins 20 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS: 08.04.25

1 8 18 22 42 8

All Star Bonus: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$3,990,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 16 Hrs 39 Mins 20 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS: 08.04.25

25 26 30 37 45 16

TOP PRIZE:

\$7,000/week

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 54 Mins 19 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS: 08.02.25

10 14 15 16 21

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$79,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 16 Hrs 54 Mins 20 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS: 08.04.25

7 18 41 42 62 3

TOP PRIZE:

\$10,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 17 Hrs 23 Mins 19 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS: 08.04.25

8 9 19 31 38 21

Power Play: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$449,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 17 Hrs 23 Mins 20 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

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Upcoming Groton Events

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

How nonprofits are teaming up to fight hunger in South Dakota

Forty South Dakota organizations have formed a collaborative to help people who don't have enough to eat at a time of reduced government support and increased demand.

A "meeting place" is how Jennifer Folliard characterizes the South Dakota Healthy Nutrition Collaborative. She's a steering committee member and coordinator for the SDHNC, which launched in September.

It's the first organization of its kind in the state dedicated to helping the 113,500 South Dakotans who were food insecure in 2023, meaning they had limited or inconsistent access to enough food, according to the most recent data from Feeding America.

The goal is to improve their health through education, sharing resources and aligning actions across the state, Folliard said.

"We've sort of been a place to come together and try to figure out solutions as the crises hit," she said.

"We are people coming together that want to make systems change and want to do better on programming," Folliard added. "So it's a space for people to come together to say, 'Hey, these are our priorities. We are a bunch of organizations throughout the state. We recognize food insecurity's an issue, and how do we make changes that are going to be systemic?'"

Food programs expanding statewide

Feeding South Dakota is one of the SDHNC partners and plays a big role because it's the state's largest food relief network.

The nonprofit operates out of three distribution centers in Rapid City, Pierre and Sioux Falls. Through its programs and partnerships, it distributes food to pantries in all 66 counties, said Feeding South Dakota representative Stacey Andernacht.

In the 2024 fiscal year, Feeding South Dakota distributed 11.7 million meals and served 12,772 families through its 263 community partners, according to data from its website.

Feeding South Dakota asked the South Dakota Legislature for \$3 million on July 23 to help fill the gap made from the U.S. Department of Agriculture cancelling 1.5 million pounds of food normally allocated to Feeding South Dakota.

Bread Break is another member of the collaborative. It is a growing Sioux Falls nonprofit that collects usable, extra food from restaurants, gas stations, grocery stores and other businesses and delivers it to more than 30 receiving partners like food banks and churches.

Executive director Pam Cole said she's seen an increase in people using community solutions during the past few years, and recently, the need has increased more rapidly.

"The rate is definitely increasing exponentially at this point. It was already hard for people, and now it's just untenable for people," Cole said. "I don't know how they're making it through the day, and it's getting to a critical point."

Last year, Bread Break recovered more than 300,000 pounds of food and is on track to recover at least 400,000 pounds this year, Cole said.

Bread Break's goal is to help the growing need by expanding out from Sioux Falls to other towns throughout the state. Cole is in talks with people in Rapid City to try and get the program started there.

"We are exclusively in Sioux Falls right now, but we have a lot of interest in taking our model to other cities," Cole said. "I've had at least three different people reach out to me in the last two months about Rapid City needing something like this."

According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency, 40% of food in the U.S. is lost or wasted annually. That equates to around \$218 billion, or 1.3% of the country's gross domestic product.

"I fully believe that our food system in the United States is broken and needs great repair. We should be studying this at the federal level. We should be making a concerted effort to really look at what's going wrong," Cole said. "That is an enormous amount of waste. Yes, I know it's a drop in the bucket. But if we

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can't take care of this, I'm not sure what we really can take care of."

The insecure state of food insecurity

Sioux Falls resident Traci Praul uses community solutions to combat her own food insecurity.

She relies on Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, formerly called food stamps, and attends Church on the Street, which also provides food and laundry services.

When she first moved back to Sioux Falls from Arizona, she lived at the Union Gospel Mission homeless shelter.

Praul feels covered by her SNAP benefits. However, she said rising costs of food because of inflation in recent years have made it harder on everyone.

"It's not knowing from one moment to the next what DSS (the Department of Social Services) or the federal government is going to do," Praul said. "I've heard a lot of people complaining, 'Wait a minute, we need this (SNAP), 'cause we're living paycheck to paycheck.'"

Folliard said that despite the uncertainty of federal and state government funding, organization leaders who try to ease the food insecurity problem continue to push for solutions.

"I didn't grow up in South Dakota, but I have lived here for eight years now, and people in South Dakota are very resourceful," she said. "I've seen this level of resilience that's pretty inspiring."

—
This story was originally published by South Dakota News Watch and distributed through a partnership with The Associated Press.

Brazil's Supreme Court orders house arrest for former President Bolsonaro, a Trump ally

SAO PAULO (AP) — Brazil's Supreme Court on Monday ordered the house arrest for former President Jair Bolsonaro, on trial for allegedly masterminding a coup plot to remain in office despite his defeat in the 2022 election — a case that has gripped the South American country as it faces a trade war with the Trump administration.

Justice Alexandre de Moraes, who oversees the case against Bolsonaro before the top court, said in his decision that the 70-year-old former president had violated precautionary measures imposed on him by spreading content through his three lawmaker sons.

Bolsonaro's lawyers said in a statement that he will appeal the decision. They said his words "good afternoon, Copacabana, good afternoon my Brazil, a hug to everyone, this is for our freedom" — broadcast from a cell phone of one of his sons during a Sunday protest in Rio de Janeiro — cannot "be regarded as ignoring precautionary measures or as a criminal act."

The trial of the far-right leader is receiving renewed attention after U.S. President Donald Trump directly tied a 50% tariff on imported Brazilian goods to his ally's judicial situation. Trump has called the proceedings a "witch hunt," triggering nationalist reactions from leaders of all branches of power in Brazil, including President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva.

Hours after the decision, the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs said on X that the Trump administration "condemns (de) Moraes' order imposing house arrest on Bolsonaro and will hold accountable all those aiding and abetting sanctioned conduct."

"Putting even more restrictions on Jair Bolsonaro's ability to defend himself in public is not a public service. Let Bolsonaro speak!" the U.S. State Department body said.

Brazil's government has not commented on the case.

The case against Bolsonaro

Brazil's prosecutors accuse Bolsonaro of heading a criminal organization that plotted to overturn the election, including plans to kill Lula and Justice de Moraes after the far-right leader narrowly lost his re-election bid in 2022.

Monday's order followed one from the top court last month that ordered Bolsonaro to wear an electronic ankle monitor and imposed a curfew on his activities while the proceedings are underway.

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Following news of the arrest order, a staffer with Brazil's federal police told The Associated Press that federal agents had seized cell phones at Bolsonaro's residence in the capital of Brasilia, as ordered by de Moraes in his decision. The staffer spoke on condition of anonymity due to their lack of authorization to speak about the matter publicly.

Bolsonaro is expected to remain in Brasilia for his house arrest as he is not allowed to travel. He also has a house in Rio de Janeiro, where he held his electoral base as a lawmaker for three decades. The former army captain is the fourth former president of Brazil to be arrested since the end of the country's military rule from 1964 to 1985, which Bolsonaro supported.

'Flagrant disrespect'

The move from the Brazilian justice comes a day after tens of thousands of Bolsonaro supporters took the streets in the cities of Sao Paulo and Rio, pleading for Brazil's congress to pardon him and hundreds of others who are either under trial or jailed for their roles in the destruction of government buildings in Brasilia on Jan. 8, 2023.

On Sunday, Bolsonaro addressed supporters in Rio through the phone of one of his sons, which de Moraes' described as illegal.

"The flagrant disrespect to the precautionary measures was so obvious that the defendant's son, Sen. Flávio Bolsonaro, decided to remove the posting in his Instagram profile, with the objective of hiding the legal transgression," de Moraes wrote.

Flávio Bolsonaro claimed on X that Brazil "is officially in a dictatorship" after his father's house arrest. "The persecution of de Moraes against Bolsonaro has no limits!" the senator wrote.

De Moraes added in his ruling that Jair Bolsonaro, who governed Brazil between 2019 and 2022, has spread messages with "a clear content of encouragement and instigation to attacks against the Supreme Court and a blatant support for foreign intervention in the Brazilian Judiciary" — likely a veiled reference to Trump's support for Bolsonaro.

De Moraes also said that Bolsonaro "addressed protesters gathered in Copacabana, in Rio" on Sunday so his supporters could "try to coerce the Supreme Court."

Last week, the U.S. Treasury Department announced sanctions on de Moraes over alleged suppression of freedom of expression regarding Bolsonaro's trial. On Monday, the Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs called the Brazilian justice "a U.S.-sanctioned human rights abuser" and accused him of using "institutions to silence opposition and threaten democracy."

De Moraes said in his decision that "(Brazil's) judiciary will not allow a defendant to make a fool out of it." "Justice is the same for all. A defendant who willingly ignores precautionary measures — for the second time — must suffer legal consequences," he said.

Possible trouble ahead

Creomar de Souza, a political analyst of Dharma Political Risk and Strategy, a political consultancy firm based in Brasilia, said Bolsonaro's house arrest opens a new moment for the country's opposition, which will could gather steam in fighting against Lula's reelection bid next year.

Now, de Souza said, "the 2026 election looks like turmoil" and the political debate in Brazil will likely be split between two key struggles.

"One is the effort of Bolsonaro supporters to keep strong on the right, no matter if it is pushing for amnesty in congress or putting themselves physically out there," the analyst said. "The second is how the Lula administration will try to show that the country has a government."

"This is just the start," he concluded.

The latest decision from the top court keeps Bolsonaro under ankle monitoring, allows only family members and lawyers to visit him and seizes all mobile phones from his home.

Lula was imprisoned for 580 days between 2018 and 2019 in a corruption conviction that was later tossed out by the Supreme Court, citing the bias of the judge in the case.

Michel Temer, who became president after Dilma Rousseff was impeached in 2016, was arrested for 10 days in 2019 in connection with a graft investigation, which later ended without a conviction.

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Earlier this year, de Moraes ordered the detention of President Fernando Collor, who was in office from 1990 to 1992 until he was impeached. The 75-year-old former president was convicted for money laundering and corruption in 2023 and is now serving his more than eight-year sentence.

Hours after the order, right-wing lawmakers criticized de Moraes' decision and compared Bolsonaro's situation to that of his predecessors.

"House arrest for Jair Bolsonaro by de Moraes. Reason: corruption?" asked lawmaker Nikolas Ferreira. "No. His kids posted his content on social media. Pathetic."

The far-right leader is already barred from next year's election due to an abuse of power conviction by the country's top electoral court.

Leftist lawmaker Duda Salabert said Bolsonaro's house arrest boosts Brazil's democracy.

"And those who attacked it are about to pay," Salabert said.

Modi and Trump once called each other good friends.

Now the US-India relationship is getting bumpy

NEW DELHI (AP) — The men shared bear hugs, showered praise on each other and made appearances side by side at stadium rallies — a big optics boost for two populist leaders with ideological similarities. Each called the other a good friend.

In India, the bonhomie between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and U.S. President Donald Trump was seen as a relationship like no other. That is, until a series of events gummed up the works.

From Trump's tariffs and India's purchase of oil from Russia to a U.S. tilt toward Pakistan, friction between New Delhi and Washington has been hard to miss. And much of it has happened far from the corridors of power and, unsurprisingly, through Trump's posts on social media.

It has left policy experts wondering whether the camaraderie the two leaders shared may be a thing of the past, even though Trump has stopped short of referring to Modi directly on social media. The dip in rapport, some say, puts a strategic bilateral relationship built over decades at risk.

"This is a testing time for the relationship," said Ashok Malik, a former policy adviser in India's Foreign Ministry.

The White House did not immediately respond to a message seeking comment.

Simmering tensions over trade and tariffs

The latest hiccup between India and the U.S. emerged last week when Trump announced that he was slapping 25% tariffs on India as well as an unspecified penalty because of India's purchasing of Russian oil. For New Delhi, such a move from its largest trading partner is expected to be felt across sectors, but it also led to a sense of unease in India — even more so when Trump, on social media, called India's economy "dead."

Trump's recent statements reflect his frustration with the pace of trade talks with India, according to a White House official who was not authorized to speak publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity to describe internal administration thinking. The Republican president has not been pursuing any strategic realignment with Pakistan, according to the official, but is instead trying to play hardball in negotiations.

Trump doubled down on the pressure Monday with a fresh post on Truth Social, in which he accused India of buying "massive amounts" of oil from Russia and then "selling it on the Open Market for big profits."

"They don't care how many people in Ukraine are being killed by the Russian War Machine. Because of this, I will be substantially raising the Tariff paid by India to the USA," he said.

The messaging appears to have stung Modi's administration, which has been hard-selling negotiations with Trump's team over a trade deal by balancing between India's protectionist system while also opening up the country's market to more American goods.

"Strenuous, uninterrupted and bipartisan efforts in both capitals over the past 25 years are being put at risk by not just the tariffs but by fast and loose statements and social media posts," said Malik, who now heads the India chapter of The Asia Group, a U.S. advisory firm.

Malik also said the trade deal the Indian side has offered to the U.S. is the "most expansive in this coun-

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try's history," referring to reports that India was willing to open up to some American agricultural products. That is a politically sensitive issue for Modi, who faced a yearlong farmers' protest a few years ago.

Trump appears to be tilting toward Pakistan

The unraveling may have gained momentum over tariffs, but the tensions have been palpable for a while. Much of it has to do with Trump growing closer to Pakistan, India's nuclear rival in the neighborhood.

In May, India and Pakistan traded a series of military strikes over a gun massacre in disputed Kashmir that New Delhi blamed Islamabad for. Pakistan denied the accusations. The four-day conflict made the possibility of a nuclear conflagration between the two sides seem real and the fighting only stopped when global powers intervened.

But it was Trump's claims of mediation and an offer to work to provide a "solution" regarding the dispute over Kashmir that made Modi's administration uneasy. Since then, Trump has repeated nearly two dozen times that he brokered peace between India and Pakistan.

For Modi, that is a risky — even nervy — territory. Domestically, he has positioned himself as a leader who is tough on Pakistan. Internationally, he has made huge diplomatic efforts to isolate the country. So Trump's claims cut a deep wound, prompting a sense in India that the U.S. may no longer be its strategic partner.

India insists that Kashmir is India's internal issue and had opposed any third-party intervention. Last week Modi appeared to dismiss Trump's claims after India's Opposition began demanding answers from him. Modi said that "no country in the world stopped" the fighting between India and Pakistan, but he did not name Trump.

Trump has also appeared to be warming up to Pakistan, even praising its counterterrorism efforts. Hours after levying tariffs on India, Trump announced a "massive" oil exploration deal with Pakistan, saying that some day, India might have to buy oil from Islamabad. Earlier, he also hosted one of Pakistan's top military officials at a private lunch.

Sreeram Sundar Chaulia, an expert at New Delhi's Jindal School of International Affairs, said Trump's sudden admiration for Pakistan as a great partner in counterterrorism has "definitely soured" the mood in India.

Chaulia said "the best-case scenario is that this is just a passing Trump whim," but he also warned that "if financial and energy deals are indeed being struck between the U.S. and Pakistan, it will dent the U.S.-India strategic partnership and lead to loss of confidence in the U.S. in Indian eyes."

India's oil purchases from Russia are an irritant

The strain in relations has also to do with oil.

India had faced strong pressure from the Biden administration to cut back its oil purchases from Moscow during the early months of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Instead, India bought more, making it the second-biggest buyer of Russian oil after China. That pressure sputtered over time and the U.S. focused more on building strategic ties with India, which is seen as a bulwark against a rising China.

Trump's threat to penalize India over oil, however, brought back those issues.

On Sunday, the Trump administration made its frustrations over ties between India and Russia ever more public. Stephen Miller, deputy chief of staff at the White House, accused India of financing Russia's war in Ukraine by purchasing oil from Moscow, saying it was "not acceptable."

Miller's remarks were followed by another Trump social media post on Monday in which he again threatened to raise tariffs on goods from India over its Russian oil purchases.

"India is not only buying massive amounts of Russian Oil, they are then, for much of the Oil purchased, selling it on the Open Market for big profits. They don't care how many people in Ukraine are being killed by the Russian War Machine," Trump wrote.

Some experts, though, suspect Trump's remarks are mere pressure tactics. "Given the wild fluctuations in Trump's policies," Chaulia said, "it may return to high fives and hugs again."

India says it will safeguard its interests

Many expected India to react strongly over Trump's tariff threats considering Modi's carefully crafted

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reputation of strength. Instead, the announcement prompted a rather careful response from India's commerce minister, Piyush Goyal, who said the two countries are working toward a "fair, balanced and mutually beneficial bilateral trade agreement."

Initially, India's Foreign Ministry also played down suggestions of any strain. But in a statement late Monday, it called Trump's criticism "unjustified and unreasonable" and said it will take "all necessary measures to safeguard its national interests and economic security."

It said India began importing oil from Russia because traditional supplies were diverted to Europe after the outbreak of the Ukraine conflict, calling it a "necessity compelled by global market situation."

The statement also noted U.S. trade with Russia.

"It is revealing that the very nations criticizing India are themselves indulging in trade with Russia," the statement said.

Texas Democrats who left state prevent vote, for now, on Trump's efforts to add GOP House seats

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Texas Democrats on Monday prevented their state's House of Representatives from moving forward, at least for now, with a redrawn congressional map sought by President Donald Trump to shore up Republicans' 2026 midterm prospects as his political standing falters.

After dozens of Democrats left the state, the Republican-dominated House was unable to establish the quorum of lawmakers required to do business. Texas Gov. Greg Abbott has made threats about removing members who are absent from their seats. Democrats counter that Abbott is using "smoke and mirrors" to assert legal authority he does not have.

The Republican-dominated House quickly issued civil arrest warrants for absent Democrats and Abbott ordered state troopers to help find and arrest them, but lawmakers physically outside Texas are beyond the jurisdiction of state authorities.

"If you continue to go down this road, there will be consequences," House Speaker Rep. Dustin Burrows said from the chamber floor, later telling reporters that includes fines.

Democrats' revolt and Abbott's threats intensified a fight over congressional maps that began in Texas but now includes Democratic governors who have pitched redrawing their district maps in retaliation — even if their options are limited. The dispute also reflects Trump's aggressive view of presidential power and his grip on the Republican Party nationally, while testing the long-standing balance of powers between the federal government and individual states.

California Democrats are considering new political maps that could slash five Republican-held House seats in the liberal-leaning state while bolstering Democratic incumbents in other battleground districts.

The impasse centers on Trump's effort to get five more GOP-leaning congressional seats in Texas, at Democrats' expense, before the midterms. That would bolster his party's chances of preserving its U.S. House majority, something Republicans were unable to do in the 2018 midterms during Trump's first presidency. Republicans currently hold 25 of Texas' 38 seats. That's nearly a 2-to-1 advantage and already a wider partisan gap than the 2024 presidential results: Trump won 56.1% of Texas ballots, while Democrat Kamala Harris received 42.5%.

Speaking Monday on the Fox News show "America's Newsroom," Abbott essentially admitted to the partisan power play, noting the U.S. Supreme Court has determined "there is nothing illegal" about shaping districts to a majority party's advantage. He even acknowledged it as "gerrymandering" before correcting himself to say Texas is "drawing lines."

More than 1,800 miles (2,900 km) away from Austin, New York Gov. Kathy Hochul appeared with Texas Democrats and argued their cause is national.

"We're not going to tolerate our democracy being stolen in a modern-day stagecoach heist by a bunch of law breaking cowboys," Hochul said Monday, flanked by several of the lawmakers who left Texas. "If Republicans are willing to rewrite rules to give themselves an advantage, then they're leaving us with no choice: We must do the same. You have to fight fire with fire."

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A debate over who is abusing power

Abbott insisted lawmakers have “absconded” in violation of their sworn duties.

“I believe they have forfeited their seats in the state Legislature because they are not doing the job they were elected to do,” he said in the Fox News interview, invoking his state’s hallmark machismo to call the Democrats “un-Texan.”

“Texans don’t run from a fight,” he said.

Hours after Monday’s halted House session, a gaggle of Democrats — state lawmakers who left and members of Congress whose lines would be redrawn — mocked Abbott as the weak figure in this battle.

“I never thought as a Texan ... that I would see the governor of the proud state of Texas bend a knee to a felon from New York,” said U.S. Rep. Julie Johnson, a state legislator before voters sent her to Washington.

Legislators themselves showed no plans to heed Abbott’s demands.

“He has no legal mechanism,” said state Rep. Jolanda Jones, one of the lawmakers who was in New York on Monday. “Subpoenas from Texas don’t work in New York, so he can’t come and get us. Subpoenas in Texas don’t work in Chicago. ... He’s putting up smoke and mirrors.”

A refusal by Texas lawmakers to show up is a civil violation of legislative rules. As for his threat to remove the lawmakers, Abbott cited a nonbinding legal opinion issued by Republican Attorney General Ken Paxton amid an partisan quorum dispute in 2021. Paxton suggested a court could determine that a legislator had forfeited their office.

University of Houston law professor David Froomkin cast doubt on that interpretation. He said it’s “baseless” to claim lawmakers abandoned their seats when their absence is clearly tied to current legislative debate.

Still, the Republican response is accelerated compared with the 2021 dispute, when weeks passed before the GOP majority opted for civil arrest warrants. Froomkin said Abbott could be using the mere possibility of legal wrangling over their jobs to intimidate lawmakers into returning.

Status of the vote

Legislators who left the state declined to say how long they’ll hold out.

“We recognized when we got on the plane that we’re in this for the long haul,” said Rep. Trey Martinez Fischer, who has served in the Legislature since 2001.

Texas House Democratic Caucus leader Gene Wu said members “will do whatever it takes” but added, “What that looks like, we don’t know.”

Legislative walkouts often only delay passage of a bill, including in 2021, when many Democrats left Texas for 38 days to protest proposed voting restrictions. Once they returned, Republicans passed that measure.

Lawmakers cannot pass bills in the 150-member House without two-thirds of members present. Democrats hold 62 seats in the majority-Republican chamber, and at least 51 left the state, according to a Democratic aide.

The Texas Supreme Court held in 2021 that House leaders could “physically compel the attendance” of missing members, but no Democrats were forcibly brought back to the state after warrants were served. Republicans answered by adopting \$500 daily fines for lawmakers who don’t show.

Abbott, meanwhile, continues to make unsubstantiated claims that some lawmakers have committed felonies by soliciting money to pay for potential fines for leaving Texas during the session.

Disaster response and 2028 presidential politics

The lack of a quorum will delay votes on disaster assistance and new warning systems after last month’s catastrophic Texas floods that killed at least 136 people. Democrats had called for votes on the flooding response before taking up redistricting and have criticized Republicans for not doing so.

On Fox, Abbott attempted to turn that issue back on Democrats, suggesting their absences would become the reason for a delayed flood response.

Beyond Texas, some Democrats want to leverage the fight.

Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker, a potential 2028 presidential contender and outspoken Trump critic, welcomed Texas Democrats to Chicago on Sunday after having been in quiet talks with them for weeks. Pritzker

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and California Gov. Gavin Newsom, another potential 2028 contender, held public events about the Texas fight before the quorum break.

"This is not just rigging the system in Texas," Pritzker said Sunday. "It's about rigging the system against the rights of all Americans for years to come."

U.S. Rep. Marc Veasey of Texas urged other Democratic governors to join Pritzker, Newsom and Hochul. Democrats, Veasey said, have too often "shown up to a gunfight with good intentions, no knives." But "that era is over," Veasey declared Monday from Illinois. "We are not going to unilaterally disarm."

The Texas House is scheduled to convene again Tuesday afternoon.

Texas dispute highlights nation's long history of partisan gerrymandering. Is it legal?

When Democratic lawmakers left Texas to try to prevent the Republican-led Legislature from redrawing the state's congressional districts, it marked the latest episode in a long national history of gerrymandering.

The word "gerrymander" was coined in America more than 200 years ago as an unflattering means of describing political manipulation in legislative map-making.

The word has stood the test of time, in part, because American politics has remained fiercely competitive.

Who is responsible for gerrymandering?

In many states, like Texas, the state legislature is responsible for drawing congressional districts, subject to the approval or veto of the governor. District maps must be redrawn every 10 years, after each census, to balance the population in districts.

But in some states, nothing prevents legislatures from conducting redistricting more often.

In an effort to limit gerrymandering, some states have entrusted redistricting to special commissions composed of citizens or bipartisan panels of politicians. Democratic officials in some states with commissions are now talking of trying to sidestep them to counter Republican redistricting in Texas.

How does a gerrymander work?

If a political party controls both the legislature and governor's office — or has such a large legislative majority that it can override vetoes — it can effectively draw districts to its advantage.

One common method of gerrymandering is for a majority party to draw maps that pack voters who support the opposing party into a few districts, thus allowing the majority party to win a greater number of surrounding districts.

Another common method is for the majority party to dilute the power of an opposing party's voters by spreading them among multiple districts.

Why is it called gerrymandering?

The term dates to 1812, when Massachusetts Gov. Elbridge Gerry signed a bill redrawing state Senate districts to benefit the Democratic-Republican Party. Some thought an oddly shaped district looked like a salamander. A newspaper illustration dubbed it "The Gerry-mander" — a term that later came to describe any district drawn for political advantage. Gerry lost re-election as governor in 1812 but won election that same year as vice president with President James Madison.

Is political gerrymandering illegal?

Not under the U.S. Constitution. The Supreme Court, in a 2019 case originating from North Carolina, ruled that federal courts have no authority to decide whether partisan gerrymandering goes too far. Chief Justice John Roberts wrote: "The Constitution supplies no objective measure for assessing whether a districting map treats a political party fairly."

The Supreme Court noted that partisan gerrymandering claims could continue to be decided in state courts under their own constitutions and laws. But some state courts, including North Carolina's highest court, have ruled that they also have no authority to decide partisan gerrymandering claims.

Are there any limits on redistricting?

Yes. Though it's difficult to challenge legislative districts on political grounds, the Supreme Court has upheld challenges on racial grounds. In a 2023 case from Alabama, the high court said the congressional

districts drawn by the state's Republican-led Legislature likely violated the Voting Rights Act by diluting the voting strength of Black residents. The court let a similar claim proceed in Louisiana. Both states subsequently redrew their districts.

What does data show about gerrymandering?

Statisticians and political scientists have developed a variety of ways to try to quantify the partisan advantage that may be attributable to gerrymandering.

Republicans, who control redistricting in more states than Democrats, used the 2010 census data to create a strong gerrymander. An Associated Press analysis of that decade's redistricting found that Republicans enjoyed a greater political advantage in more states than either party had in the past 50 years.

But Democrats responded to match Republican gerrymandering after the 2020 census. The adoption of redistricting commissions also limited gerrymandering in some states. An AP analysis of the 2022 elections — the first under new maps — found that Republicans won just one more U.S. House seat than would have been expected based on the average share of the vote they received nationwide. That was one of the most politically balanced outcomes in years.

Dozens killed as Palestinians in Gaza scramble for aid from air and land

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip (AP) — Dozens of Palestinians were killed or wounded on Monday as desperate crowds headed toward food distribution points and airdropped parcels in the Gaza Strip, according to witnesses and local health officials.

Israel's blockade and military offensive have made it nearly impossible to safely deliver aid, contributing to the territory's slide toward famine nearly 22 months into the war with Hamas. Aid groups say Israel's week-old measures to allow more aid in are far from sufficient. Families of hostages in Gaza fear starvation affects them too, but blame Hamas.

Several hundred Palestinians have been killed by Israeli fire since May while heading toward food distribution sites and aid convoys, according to witnesses, local health officials and the United Nations human rights office. The military says it has only fired warning shots and disputes the toll.

As international alarm has mounted, several countries have airdropped aid over Gaza. The U.N. and aid groups call such drops costly and dangerous for residents, and say they deliver far less aid than trucks.

AP video shows scramble for airdropped aid

Many food parcels dropped by air have splashed into the Mediterranean Sea or landed in so-called red zones from which Israel's military has ordered people to evacuate. In either case, Palestinians risk their lives to get flour and other basic goods.

On Monday, Palestinians cheered as pallets of aid were parachuted over Zuweida in central Gaza. Associated Press footage showed a desperate scramble when the parcels hit the ground, with hundreds of people racing toward them. Fistfights broke out and some men wielded batons.

"I wish they would deliver it through the (land) crossings," Rabah Rabah said earlier as he waited for the airdrop. "This is inhuman."

At least one parcel fell on a tent where displaced people had been sheltering, injuring a man who was taken to a hospital. His condition was not immediately known.

Dozens killed seeking aid

At least 16 people were killed late Sunday near the Israeli-controlled Zikim Crossing, the main entry point for aid to northern Gaza, according to records at Shifa Hospital in Gaza City, which showed that more than 130 people were wounded.

The circumstances were not immediately clear, but the crossing has seen several shootings in recent days that witnesses and health officials blamed on Israeli forces. There was no immediate comment from the military.

At least 10 people were killed as thousands waited for aid trucks in the Morag Corridor, which the Israeli

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military carved out between the southern cities of Khan Younis and Rafah.

Mohammed al-Masri, who was among the crowds, said Israeli forces opened fire when a group of young men tried to make their way to the front. "The occupation forces shot many people in the head and in the back," he said, adding that he saw four wounded people, one motionless on the ground.

Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis said it received 10 bodies from Morag and another five who were killed near an aid site in southern Gaza run by the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation, an Israeli-backed American contractor.

GHF said there were no violent incidents at or near its sites. It said a new U.N. route runs near two of its sites in the south and has drawn large crowds of people who unload the convoys. GHF says its contractors have only used pepper spray or fired warning shots on a few occasions to prevent deadly crowding since it opened four sites in May.

'It's a death trap'

Al-Awda Hospital in central Gaza said it received the bodies of eight people killed near a GHF site in the Israeli-controlled Netzarim Corridor, and that another 50 people were wounded. Witnesses and health officials said Israeli forces had fired toward the crowds.

An Associated Press photo showed a man carrying a body away from the site, as others hauled bags of food.

"It's like yesterday, and the day before," said Ayman Ruqab, a young Palestinian who said he had tried unsuccessfully to reach the site for the past three days. "It's a death trap."

The Israeli military said it fired warning shots at people who approached "in a manner that posed a threat to the troops," without elaborating. It said it was not aware of any casualties.

Hamas-led militants killed around 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and abducted 251 in the Oct. 7, 2023, attack that ignited the war. They still hold 50 hostages, around 20 of them believed to be alive, after most of the rest were released in ceasefires or other deals.

Israel's retaliatory military offensive has killed more than 60,900 Palestinians, according to Gaza's Health Ministry. The ministry, which doesn't distinguish between civilians and combatants in its count but says around half the dead have been women and children, is staffed by medical professionals. The U.N. and other independent experts view its figures as the most reliable casualty count.

Israel has disputed the figures but hasn't provided its own.

California could slash 5 GOP US House seats to counter Texas' move to pad Republican margin

LOS ANGELES (AP) — California Democrats are considering new political maps that could slash five Republican-held House seats in the liberal-leaning state while bolstering Democratic incumbents in other battleground districts.

The move comes in direct response to efforts by Texas Republicans to redraw House districts in order to strengthen the GOP hold on the chamber in 2026.

A draft plan that's circulating aims to boost the Democratic margin to 48 of California's 52 congressional seats, according to a source familiar with the plan who was not authorized to discuss it publicly. That's up from the 43 seats the party now holds. It would need approval from lawmakers and voters, who may be skeptical to give it after handing redistricting power to an independent commission years ago.

In addition, the proposal would generously pad Democratic margins in districts for competitive seats anchored in Orange County, San Diego County and the Central Valley farm belt, giving Democrats a potential advantage as Texas Republicans try to sway the tissue-thin balance of the House.

According to the proposal, districts now held by Republican Reps. Ken Calvert, Darrell Issa, Kevin Kiley, David Valadao and Doug LaMalfa would see right-leaning voters shaved and Democratic voters boosted in a shift that would make it likely a left-leaning candidate would prevail in each race.

In districts held by Democratic Reps. Dave Min, Mike Levin and Derek Tran, the party's edge would be boosted to strengthen their hold on the seats, the source said.

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Democratic members of California's congressional delegation were briefed on the new map on Monday, according to a person familiar with the meeting who requested anonymity to discuss private conversations.

The proposal is being circulated at the same time that Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom has said he wants to advance partisan redistricting. He says he won't move ahead if Texas pauses its efforts.

Newsom said he'd call a special election for the first week of November. Voters would weigh a new congressional map drawn by the Democratic-controlled Legislature.

"California will not sit by idly and watch this democracy waste away," Newsom said Monday.

Trump says he doesn't trust the jobs data, but Wall Street and economists do

WASHINGTON (AP) — The monthly jobs report is already closely-watched on Wall Street and in Washington but has taken on a new importance after President Donald Trump on Friday fired the official who oversees it.

Trump claimed that June's employment figures were "RIGGED" to make him and other Republicans "look bad." Yet he provided no evidence and even the official Trump had appointed in his first term to oversee the report, William Beach, condemned the firing of Erika McEntarfer, the director of the Bureau of Labor Statistics appointed by former President Joe Biden. The firing followed Friday's jobs report that showed hiring was weak in July and had come to nearly a standstill in May and June, right after Trump rolled out sweeping tariffs.

Economists and Wall Street investors have long considered the job figures reliable, with share prices and bond yields often reacting sharply when they are released. Yet Friday's revisions were unusually large — the largest, outside of a recession, in five decades. And the surveys used to compile the report are facing challenges from declining response rates, particularly since COVID, as fewer companies complete the surveys.

Nonetheless, that hasn't led most economists to doubt them.

"The bottom line for me is, I wouldn't take the low collection rate as any evidence that the numbers are less reliable," Omair Sharif, founder and chief economist at Inflation Insights, a consulting firm, said.

Many academics, statisticians and economists have warned for some time that declining budgets were straining the government's ability to gather economic data. There were several government commissions studying ways to improve things like survey response rates, but the Trump administration disbanded them earlier this year.

Heather Boushey, a top economic adviser in the Biden White House, noted that without Trump's firing of McEntarfer, there would be more focus on last week's data, which points to a slowing economy.

"We're having this conversation about made-up issues to distract us from what the data is showing," Boushey said. "Revisions of this magnitude in a negative direction may indicate bad things to come for the labor market."

Here are some things to know about the jobs report:

Economists and Wall Street trust the data

Most economists say that the Bureau of Labor Statistics is a nonpolitical agency staffed by people obsessed with getting the numbers right. The only political appointee is the commissioner, who doesn't see the data until it's finalized, two days before it is issued to the public.

Erica Groshen, the BLS commissioner from 2013 to 2017, said she suggested different language in the report to "liven it up", but was shot down. She was told that if asked to describe a cup as half-empty or half-full, BLS says "it is an eight ounce cup with four ounces of liquid."

The revised jobs data that has attracted Trump's ire is actually more in line with other figures than before the revision. For example, payroll processor ADP uses data from its millions of clients to calculate its own jobs report, and it showed a sharp hiring slowdown in May and June that is closer to the revised BLS data.

Trump and his White House have a long track record of celebrating the jobs numbers — when they are good.

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These are the figures Trump is attacking

Trump has focused on the revisions to the May and June data, which on Friday were revised lower, with job gains in May reduced to 19,000 from 144,000, and for June to just 14,000 from 147,000. Every month's jobs data is revised in the following two months.

Trump also repeated a largely inaccurate attack from the campaign about an annual revision last August, which reduced total employment in the United States by 818,000, or about 0.5%. The government also revises employment figures every year.

Trump charged the annual revision was released before the 2024 presidential election to "boost" Vice President Kamala Harris's "chances of Victory," yet it was two months before the election and widely reported at the time that the revision lowered hiring during the Biden-Harris administration and pointed to a weaker economy.

Here's why the government revises the data

The monthly revisions occur because many companies that respond to the government's surveys send their data in late, or correct the figures they've already submitted. The proportion of companies sending in their data later has risen in the past decade.

Every year, the BLS does an additional revision based on actual job counts that are derived from state unemployment insurance records. Those figures cover 95% of U.S. businesses and aren't derived from a survey but are not available in real time.

These are the factors that cause revisions

Figuring out how many new jobs have been added or lost each month is more complicated than it may sound. For example, if one person takes a second job, should you focus on the number of jobs, which has increased, or the number of employed people, which hasn't? (The government measures both: The unemployment rate is based on how many people either have or don't have jobs, while the number of jobs added or lost is counted separately).

Each month, the government surveys about 121,000 businesses and government agencies at over 630,000 locations — including multiple locations for the same business — covering about one-third of all workers.

Still, the government also has to make estimates: What if a company goes out of business? It likely won't fill out any forms showing the jobs lost. And what about new businesses? They can take a while to get on the government's radar.

The BLS seeks to capture these trends by estimating their impact on employment. Those estimates can be wrong, of course, until they are fixed by the annual revisions.

The revisions are often larger around turning points in the economy. For example, when the economy is growing, there may be more startups than the government expects, so revisions will be higher. If the economy is slowing or slipping into a recession, the revisions may be larger on the downside.

Here's why the May and June revisions may have been so large

Ernie Tedeschi, an economic adviser to the Biden administration, points to the current dynamics of the labor market: Both hiring and firing have sharply declined, and fewer Americans are quitting their jobs to take other work. As a result, most of the job gains or losses each month are probably occurring at new companies, or those going out of business.

And those are the ones the government uses models to estimate, which can make them more volatile.

Groshen also points out that since the pandemic there has been a surge of new start-up companies, after many Americans lost their jobs or sought more independence. Yet they may not have created as many jobs as startups did pre-COVID, which throws off the government's models.

Revisions seem to be getting bigger

The revisions to May and June's job totals, which reduced hiring by a total of 258,000, were the largest — outside recessions — since 1967, according to economists at Goldman Sachs.

Kevin Hassett, Trump's top economic adviser, went on NBC's "Meet the Press" on Sunday and said, "What we've seen over the last few years is massive revisions to the jobs numbers."

Hassett blamed a sharp drop in response rates to the government's surveys during and after the pandemic: "When COVID happened, because response rates went down a lot, then revision rates skyrocketed."

Yet calculations by Tedeschi show that while revisions spiked after the pandemic, they have since declined and are much smaller than in the 1960s and 1970s.

Other concerns about the government's data

Many economists and statisticians have sounded the alarm about things like declining response rates for years. A decade ago, about 60% of companies surveyed by BLS responded. Now, only about 40% do.

The decline has been an international phenomenon, particularly since COVID. The United Kingdom has even suspended publication of an official unemployment rate because of falling responses.

And earlier this year the BLS said that it was cutting back on its collection of inflation data because of the Trump administration's hiring freeze, raising concerns about the robustness of price data just as economists are trying to gauge the impact of tariffs on inflation.

U.S. government statistical agencies have seen an inflation-adjusted 16% drop in funding since 2009, according to a July report from the American Statistical Association.

"We are at an inflection point," the report said. "To meet current and future challenges requires thoughtful, well-planned investment ... In contrast, what we have observed is uncoordinated and unplanned reductions with no visible plan for the future."

Judge says Sean 'Diddy' Combs must stay in jail until he is sentenced

NEW YORK (AP) — Sean "Diddy" Combs can't go home from jail to await sentencing on his prostitution-related conviction, a judge said Monday, denying the rap and style mogul's latest bid for bail.

Combs has been behind bars since his September arrest. He faced federal charges of coercing girlfriends into having drug-fueled sex marathons with male sex workers while he watched and filmed them.

He was acquitted last month of the top charges — racketeering and sex trafficking — while being convicted of two counts of a prostitution-related offense.

In denying Combs' \$50 million bond proposal, Judge Arun Subramanian said the hip hop impresario hadn't proven that he did not pose a flight risk or danger, nor shown an "exceptional circumstance" that would justify his release after a conviction that otherwise requires detention.

Combs' arguments "might have traction in a case that didn't involve evidence of violence, coercion or subjugation in connection with the acts of prostitution at issue, but the record here contains evidence of all three," the judge wrote.

Prosecutors declined to comment on the ruling. Messages seeking comment were sent to Combs' lawyers.

The conviction carries the potential for up to 10 years in prison. But there are complicated federal guidelines for calculating sentences in any given case, and prosecutors and Combs' lawyers disagree substantially on how the guidelines come out for his case.

The guidelines aren't mandatory, and Subramanian will have wide latitude in deciding Combs' punishment.

The Bad Boy Records founder, now 55, was for decades a protean figure in pop culture. A Grammy-winning hip hop artist and entrepreneur with a flair for finding and launching big talents, he presided over a business empire that ranged from fashion to reality TV.

Prosecutors claimed he used his fame, wealth and violence to force and manipulate two now-ex-girlfriends into days-long, drugged-up sexual performances he called "freak-offs" or "hotel nights."

During the trial, four women testified that Combs had beaten or sexually assaulted them. Jurors also watched video of Combs hurling one of his former girlfriends, R&B singer Cassie, to the floor, repeatedly kicking her and then dragging her down a hotel hallway.

His lawyers argued that the government tried to criminalize consensual, if unconventional, sexual tastes that played out in complicated relationships. The defense acknowledged that Combs had violent outbursts but said nothing he did came amounted to the crimes with which he was charged.

Since the verdict, his lawyers have repeatedly renewed their efforts to get him out on bail until his sentencing, set for October. They have argued that the acquittals undercut the rationale for holding him, and

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they have pointed to other people who were released before sentencing on similar convictions.

Defense lawyer Marc Agnifilo suggested in a court filing that Combs was the United States' "only person in jail for hiring adult male escorts for him and his girlfriend."

Agnifilo also raised concerns about squalor and danger at the Metropolitan Detention Center, the notorious federal lockup where Combs is being held. The judge wrote Monday that those conditions were a "serious" consideration, but he said Combs hadn't shown that unique circumstances — such as advanced age or medical issues — would warrant his release.

The defense's most recent proposal included the \$50 million bond, plus travel restrictions, and expressed openness to adding on house arrest at his Miami home, electronic monitoring, private security guards and other requirements.

Prosecutors opposed releasing Combs. They wrote that his "extensive history of violence — and his continued attempt to minimize his recent violent conduct — demonstrates his dangerousness."

Dow leaps 585 points as US stocks win back most of Friday's wipeout

NEW YORK (AP) — U.S. stocks rallied on Monday and won back most of their sharp loss from last week, when worries about how President Donald Trump's tariffs may be punishing the economy sent a shudder through Wall Street.

The S&P 500 jumped 1.5% to follow up its worst day since May with its best since May. The Dow Jones Industrial Average climbed 585 points, or 1.3%, and the Nasdaq composite leaped 2%.

Idexx Laboratories helped lead the way and soared 27.5% after the seller of veterinary instruments and other health care products reported a stronger profit for the spring than analysts expected. It also raised its forecast for profit over the full year.

Tyson Foods likewise delivered a bigger-than-expected profit for the latest quarter, and the company behind the Jimmy Dean and Hillshire Farms brands rose 2.4%.

They helped make up for a nearly 3% loss for Berkshire Hathaway after Warren Buffett's company reported a drop in profit for its latest quarter from a year earlier. The drop-off was due in part to the falling value of its investment in Kraft Heinz.

The pressure is on U.S. companies to deliver bigger profits after their stock prices shot to record after record recently. The jump in stock prices from a low point in April raised criticism that the broad market had become too expensive.

Stocks are coming off their worst week since May not so much because of that criticism but because of worries that Trump's tariffs may be hitting the U.S. economy following a longer wait than some economists had expected. Job growth slowed sharply last month, and the unemployment rate worsened to 4.2%.

Trump reacted to Friday's disappointing jobs numbers by firing the person in charge of compiling them. He also continued his criticism of the Federal Reserve, which could lower interest rates in order to pump adrenaline into the economy.

The Fed has instead been keeping rates steady this year, in part because lower rates can send inflation higher, and Trump's tariffs may be set to increase prices for U.S. households.

Friday's stunningly weak jobs report did raise expectations on Wall Street that the Fed will cut interest rates at its next meeting in September. That caused Treasury yields to slump in the bond market, and they eased a bit more on Monday.

The yield on the 10-year Treasury slipped to 4.19% from 4.23% late Friday.

"In our view, if the Fed starts to cut rates at its September meeting, we believe this would be supportive for markets," according to David Lefkowitz, head of US equities at UBS Global Wealth Management.

Such hopes, combined with profit reports from big U.S. companies that have largely come in better than expected, could help steady a U.S. stock market that may have been due for some turbulence. Before Friday, the S&P 500 had gone more than a month without a daily swing of 1%, either up or down.

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This upcoming week may feature fewer fireworks following last week's jobs report and profit updates from some of Wall Street's most influential companies. This week's highlights will likely include earnings reports from The Walt Disney Co., McDonald's and Caterpillar, along with updates on U.S. business activity.

On Wall Street, American Eagle Outfitters jumped 23.6% after Trump weighed in on the debate surrounding the retailer's advertisements, which highlight actor Sydney Sweeney's great jeans. Some critics thought the reference to the blonde-haired and blue-eyed actor's "great genes" may be extolling a narrow set of beauty standards. "Go get 'em Sydney!" Trump said on his social media network.

Wayfair climbed 12.7% after the retailer of furniture and home decor said accelerating growth helped it make more in profit and revenue during the spring than analysts expected.

Tesla rose 2.2% after awarding CEO Elon Musk 96 million shares of restricted stock valued at approximately \$29 billion. The move could remove potential worries that Musk may leave the company.

CommScope soared 86.3% after reaching a deal to sell its connectivity and cable business to Amphenol for \$10.5 billion in cash, while Amphenol rose 4.1%.

They helped offset a 15.6% loss for On Semiconductor, which only matched analysts' expectations for profit in the latest quarter. The company, which sells to the auto and industrial industries, said it's beginning to see "signs of stabilization" across its customers.

All told, the S&P 500 rose 91.93 points to 6,329.94. The Dow Jones Industrial Average climbed 585.06 to 44,173.64, and the Nasdaq composite leaped 403.45 to 21,053.58.

In stock markets abroad, indexes rose across much of Europe and Asia.

South Korea's Kospi rose 0.9%, and France's CAC 40 climbed 1.1%, while Japan's Nikkei 225 was an outlier with a drop of 1.2%.

Scientists say they have solved the mystery of what killed more than 5 billion sea stars

WASHINGTON (AP) — Scientists say they have at last solved the mystery of what killed more than 5 billion sea stars off the Pacific coast of North America in a decade-long epidemic.

Sea stars – often known as starfish – typically have five arms and some species sport up to 24 arms. They range in color from solid orange to tapestries of orange, purple, brown and green.

Starting in 2013, a mysterious sea star wasting disease sparked a mass die-off from Mexico to Alaska. The epidemic has devastated more than 20 species and continues today. Worst hit was a species called the sunflower sea star, which lost around 90% of its population in the outbreak's first five years.

"It's really quite gruesome," said marine disease ecologist Alyssa Gehman at the Hakai Institute in British Columbia, Canada, who helped pinpoint the cause.

Healthy sea stars have "puffy arms sticking straight out," she said. But the wasting disease causes them to grow lesions and "then their arms actually fall off."

The culprit? Bacteria that has also infected shellfish, according to a study published Monday in the journal *Nature Ecology and Evolution*.

The findings "solve a long-standing question about a very serious disease in the ocean," said Rebecca Vega Thurber, a marine microbiologist at University of California, Santa Barbara, who was not involved in the study.

It took more than a decade for researchers to identify the cause of the disease, with many false leads and twists and turns along the way.

Early research hinted the cause might be a virus, but it turned out the densovirus that scientists initially focused on was actually a normal resident inside healthy sea stars and not associated with disease, said Melanie Prentice of the Hakai Institute, co-author of the new study.

Other efforts missed the real killer because researchers studied tissue samples of dead sea stars that no longer contained the bodily fluid that surrounds the organs.

But the latest study includes detailed analysis of this fluid, called coelomic fluid, where the bacteria *Vibrio pectenicida* were found.

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"It's incredibly difficult to trace the source of so many environmental diseases, especially underwater," said microbiologist Blake Ushijima of the University of North Carolina, Wilmington, who was not involved in the research. He said the detective work by this team was "really smart and significant."

Now that scientists know the cause, they have a better shot at intervening to help sea stars.

Prentice said that scientists could potentially now test which of the remaining sea stars are still healthy — and consider whether to relocate them, or breed them in captivity to later transplant them to areas that have lost almost all their sunflower sea stars.

Scientists may also test if some populations have natural immunity, and if treatments like probiotics may help boost immunity to the disease.

Such recovery work is not only important for sea stars, but for entire Pacific ecosystems because healthy starfish gobble up excess sea urchins, researchers say.

Sunflower sea stars "look sort of innocent when you see them, but they eat almost everything that lives on the bottom of the ocean," said Gehman. "They're voracious eaters."

With many fewer sea stars, the sea urchins that they usually munch on exploded in population — and in turn gobbled up around 95% of the kelp forests in Northern California within a decade. These kelp forests provide food and habitat for a wide variety of animals including fish, sea otters and seals.

Researchers hope the new findings will allow them to restore sea star populations -- and regrow the kelp forests that Thurber compares to "the rainforests of the ocean."

August recess can't hide tensions ahead for Congress on spending and Trump nominations

WASHINGTON (AP) — Lawmakers have left Washington for the annual August recess, but a few weeks of relative quiet on the U.S. Capitol grounds can't mask the partisan tensions that are brewing on government funding and President Donald Trump's nominees. It could make for a momentous September.

Here's a look at what's ahead when lawmakers return following the Labor Day holiday.

A bitter spending battle ahead

Lawmakers will use much of September to work on spending bills for the coming budget year, which begins Oct. 1. They likely will need to pass a short-term spending measure to keep the government funded for a few weeks while they work on a longer-term measure that covers the full year.

It's not unusual for leaders from both parties to blame the other party for a potential shutdown, but the rhetoric began extra early this year, signaling the threat of a stoppage is more serious than usual.

On Monday, Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer and House Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries sent their Republican counterparts a sharply-worded letter calling for a meeting to discuss "the government funding deadline and the health care crisis you have visited upon the American people."

They said it will take bipartisanship to avert a "painful, unnecessary shutdown."

"Yet it is clear that the Trump Administration and many in your party are preparing to go it alone and continue to legislate on a solely Republican basis," said the letter sent to Senate Majority Leader John Thune and House Speaker Mike Johnson.

Republicans have taken note of the warnings and are portraying the Democrats as itching for a shutdown they hope to blame on the GOP.

"It was disturbing to hear the Democrat leader threaten to shut down the government in his July 8 Dear Colleague letter," Thune said on Saturday. "... I really hope that Democrats will not embrace that position but will continue to work with Republicans to fund the government."

Different approaches from the House and Senate

So far, the House has approved two of the 12 annual spending bills, mostly along party lines. The Senate has passed three on a strongly bipartisan basis. The House is pursuing steep, non-defense spending cuts. The Senate is rejecting many of those cuts. One side will have to give. And any final bill will need some Democratic support to generate the 60 votes necessary to get a spending measure to the finish line.

Some Democratic senators are also wanting assurances from Republicans that there won't be more ef-

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forts in the coming weeks to claw back or cancel funding already approved by Congress.

"If Republicans want to make a deal, then let's make a deal, but only if Republicans include an agreement they won't take back that deal a few weeks later," said Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass.

Rep. Chuck Fleischmann, R-Tenn., a veteran member of the House Appropriations committee, said the Democratic minority in both chambers has suffered so many legislative losses this year, "that they are stuck between a rock and their voting base." Democrats may want to demonstrate more resistance to Trump, but they would rue a shutdown, he warned.

"The reality would be, if the government were shut down, the administration, Donald Trump, would have the ability to decide where to spend and not spend," Fleischmann said. "Schumer knows that, Jeffries knows that. We know that. I think it would be much more productive if we start talking about a short-term (continuing resolution.)"

Republican angry about pace of nominations

Republicans are considering changes to Senate rules to get more of Trump's nominees confirmed.

Thune said last week that during the same point in Joe Biden's presidency, 49 of his 121 civilians nominees had been confirmed on an expedited basis through a voice vote or a unanimous consent request. Trump has had none of his civilian nominees confirmed on an expedited basis. Democrats have insisted on roll call votes for all of them, a lengthy process than can take days.

"I think they're desperately in need of change," Thune said of Senate rules for considering nominees. "I think that the last six months have demonstrated that this process, nominations is broken. And so I expect there will be some good robust conversations about that."

Schumer said a rules change would be a "huge mistake," especially as Senate Republicans will need Democratic votes to pass spending bills and other legislation moving forward.

The Senate held a rare weekend session as Republicans worked to get more of Trump's nominees confirmed. Negotiations focused on advancing dozens of additional Trump nominees in exchange for some concessions on releasing some already approved spending.

At times, lawmakers spoke of progress on a potential deal. But it was clear that there would be no agreement when Trump attacked Schumer on social media Saturday evening and told Republicans to pack it up and go home.

"Tell Schumer, who is under tremendous political pressure from within his own party, the Radical Left Lunatics, to GO TO HELL!" Trump posted on Truth Social.

Tesla awards CEO Musk millions of shares valued at about \$29 billion

Tesla gave Elon Musk a stock grant of \$29 billion on Monday as a reward for years of "transformative and unprecedented" growth despite a recent foray into right-wing politics that has hurt its sales, profits and its stock price.

In giving its billionaire CEO 96 million in restricted shares, the electric car company noted that Musk hasn't been paid in years because his 2018 compensation package has been rejected by a Delaware court. The award comes eight months after a judge revoked the 2018 pay package a second time. Tesla has appealed the ruling.

Tesla on Monday called the grant a "first step, good faith" way of retaining Musk and keeping him focused, citing his leadership of SpaceX, xAI and other companies. Musk said recently that he needed more shares and control so he couldn't be ousted by shareholder activists.

"Rewarding Elon for what he has done and continues to do for Tesla is the right thing to do," the company said in a regulatory filing, citing an increase of \$735 billion in Tesla's value on the stock market since 2018.

Tesla shares have plunged 25% this year largely due to blowback over Musk's affiliation with President Donald Trump. But Tesla also faces intensifying competition from both the big Detroit automakers, and from China.

In its most recent quarter, Tesla reported that quarterly profits plunged from \$1.39 billion to \$409 million.

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Revenue also fell and the company fell short of even the lowered expectations on Wall Street.

Investors have grown increasingly worried about the trajectory of the company after Musk had spent so much time in Washington this year, becoming one of the most prominent officials in the Trump administration in its bid to slash the size of the U.S. government.

The electric vehicle maker said in the regulatory filing that Musk must first pay Tesla \$23.34 per share of restricted stock that vests, which is equal to the exercise price per share of the 2018 pay package.

In December Delaware Chancellor Kathleen St. Jude McCormick reaffirmed her earlier ruling that Tesla must revoke Musk's multibillion-dollar pay package. She found that Musk engineered the landmark pay package in sham negotiations with directors who were not independent.

The rulings came in a lawsuit filed by a Tesla stockholder who challenged Musk's 2018 compensation package.

That pay package carried a potential maximum value of about \$56 billion, but that sum has fluctuated over the years based on Tesla's stock price.

Musk appealed the order in March. A month later Tesla said in a regulatory filing that it was creating a special committee to look at Musk's compensation as CEO.

Musk has been one of the richest people in the world for several years.

Wedbush analyst Dan Ives feels Musk's stock award may alleviate some Tesla shareholder concerns.

"We believe this grant will now keep Musk as CEO of Tesla at least until 2030 and removes an overhang on the stock," Ives wrote in a client note. "Musk remains Tesla's big asset and this comp issue has been a constant concern of shareholders once the Delaware soap opera began."

Under pressure from shareholders last month, Tesla scheduled an annual shareholders meeting for November to comply with Texas state law.

A group of more than 20 Tesla shareholders, which have watched Tesla shares plummet, said in a letter to the company that it needed to at least provide public notice of the annual meeting.

Tesla's stock rose nearly 2% in midday trading.

State Department may require visa applicants to post bond of up to \$15,000 to enter the US

WASHINGTON (AP) — The State Department is proposing requiring applicants for business and tourist visas to post a bond of up to \$15,000 to enter the United States, a move that may make the process unaffordable for many.

In a notice to be published in the Federal Register on Tuesday, the department said it would start a 12-month pilot program under which people from countries deemed to have high overstay rates and deficient internal document security controls could be required to post bonds of \$5,000, \$10,000 or \$15,000 when they apply for a visa.

The proposal comes as the Trump administration is tightening requirements for visa applicants. Last week, the State Department announced that many visa renewal applicants would have to submit to an additional in-person interview, something that was not required in the past. In addition, the department is proposing that applicants for the Visa Diversity Lottery program have valid passports from their country of citizenship.

A preview of the bond notice, which was posted on the Federal Register website on Monday, said the pilot program would take effect within 15 days of its formal publication and is necessary to ensure that the U.S. government is not financially liable if a visitor does not comply with the terms of his or her visa.

"Aliens applying for visas as temporary visitors for business or pleasure and who are nationals of countries identified by the department as having high visa overstay rates, where screening and vetting information is deemed deficient, or offering citizenship by investment, if the alien obtained citizenship with no residency requirement, may be subject to the pilot program," the notice said.

The countries affected will be listed once the program takes effect, it said. The bond could be waived depending on an applicant's individual circumstances.

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The bond would not apply to citizens of countries enrolled in the Visa Waiver Program, which enables travel for business or tourism for up to 90 days. The majority of the 42 countries enrolled in the program are in Europe, with others in Asia, the Middle East and elsewhere.

Visa bonds have been proposed in the past but have not been implemented. The State Department has traditionally discouraged the requirement because of the cumbersome process of posting and discharging a bond and because of a possible misperceptions by the public.

However, the department said that previous view "is not supported by any recent examples or evidence, as visa bonds have not generally been required in any recent period."

Storm Floris batters Scotland with 90 mph winds, disrupts travel and festivals

LONDON (AP) — Authorities in Scotland canceled trains, closed parks and warned people to tie down backyard trampolines as an unusually strong summer storm toppled trees, felled power lines and disrupted travel across northern Britain.

The U.K.'s Meteorological Office on Monday issued an "amber" wind warning in Scotland for Storm Floris, meaning there is potential risk to lives and property, especially from large waves in coastal areas.

Network Rail Scotland said wind gusts of up to 90 mph (145kph) had brought down trees across lines and damaged overhead wires. More than 22,000 properties were without electricity, operator Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks said.

After reports of mobile homes being blown over on the Isle of Skye off Scotland's northwest coast, police Scotland said that "anyone with campervans should remain parked in sheltered areas until the wind speed reduces."

The wind and heavy rain hit at the busiest time of year for tourism, with hundreds of thousands of people flocking to the Edinburgh Fringe and other arts festivals. The Edinburgh Military Tattoo, one of the city's biggest tourist draws, cancelled Monday's scheduled outdoor performance by massed ranks of bagpipers and drummers at Edinburgh Castle.

Train companies canceled services across much of Scotland and some ferry crossings were also scrapped. Floris, named by weather authorities, also hit parts of Northern Ireland, Wales and northern England, the Met Office said.

Scottish government minister Angela Constance urged people to be careful if traveling and "consider this a winter journey as opposed to a summer journey."

"Please make sure you've got warm clothes, food, water, plenty of fuel and that your mobile phone is charged up," she said.

Train operator ScotRail urged "anyone with garden equipment, such as tents, trampolines or furniture, to secure items so that they don't blow onto the tracks and interfere with lineside equipment."

Thousands of Boeing workers who build fighter jets and weapons go on strike

NEW YORK (AP) — Several thousand workers at three Midwest manufacturing plants where Boeing develops military aircraft and weapons went on strike early Monday, potentially complicating the aerospace company's progress in regaining its financial footing.

The strike started at Boeing facilities in St. Louis; St. Charles, Missouri; and Mascoutah, Illinois, after about 3,200 local members of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers voted Sunday to reject a modified four-year labor agreement, the union said.

"IAM District 837 members build the aircraft and defense systems that keep our country safe," Sam Cicinelli, the general vice president of the union's Midwest division, said in a statement. "They deserve nothing less than a contract that keeps their families secure and recognizes their unmatched expertise."

The vote followed a weeklong cooling-off period after the machinists rejected an earlier proposed con-

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tract, which included a 20% wage increase over four years and \$5,000 ratification bonuses.

Boeing warned over the weekend that it anticipated the strike after workers rejected its latest offer, which did not further boost the proposed wage hike. However, the proposal removed a scheduling provision that would have affected workers' ability to earn overtime pay.

"We're disappointed our employees rejected an offer that featured 40% average wage growth and resolved their primary issue on alternative work schedules," said Dan Gillian, Boeing Air Dominance vice president and general manager, and senior St. Louis site executive. "We are prepared for a strike and have fully implemented our contingency plan to ensure our non-striking workforce can continue supporting our customers."

Boeing's Defense, Space & Security business accounts for more than one-third of the company's revenue. But Boeing CEO Kelly Ortberg told analysts last week that the impact from a strike by the machinists who build fighter jets, weapons systems and the U.S. Navy's first carrier-based unmanned aircraft would be much less than a walkout last year by 33,000 workers who assemble the company's commercial jetliners.

"The order of magnitude of this is much, much less than what we saw last fall," Ortberg said. "So we'll manage through this. I wouldn't worry too much about the implications of the strike."

The 2024 strike that shut down Boeing's factories in Washington state for more than seven weeks at a bleak time for the company. Boeing came under several federal investigations last year after a door plug blew off a 737 Max plane during an Alaska Airlines flight in January.

The Federal Aviation Administration put limits on Boeing airplane production that it said would last until the agency felt confident about manufacturing quality safeguards at the company. The door-plug incident renewed concerns about the safety of the 737 Max. Two of the planes crashed less than five months apart in 2018 and 2019, killing 346 people.

Ortberg told analysts that the company has slowly worked its way up to an FAA-set 737 Max production cap of 38 per month and expects to ask regulators later this year for permission to go beyond it.

Last week, Boeing reported that its second-quarter revenue had improved and its losses had narrowed. The company lost \$611 million in the second quarter, compared to a loss of \$1.44 billion during the same period last year.

Shares of Boeing Co. slipped less than 1% before the opening bell Monday.

Trump's deadline for the Kremlin looms but Putin shows no sign of making concessions

The coming week could mark a pivotal moment in the war between Russia and Ukraine, as U.S. President Donald Trump's deadline for the Kremlin to reach a peace deal approaches — or it could quietly pass without consequence.

Trump's special envoy Steve Witkoff was expected in Moscow midweek, just before Trump's Friday deadline for the Kremlin to stop the killing or face potentially severe economic penalties from Washington.

So far Trump's promises, threats and cajoling have failed to shift the Kremlin's position, and the stubborn diplomatic stalemate remains in place. Meanwhile, Ukraine is losing more territory on the front line, although there is no sign of a looming collapse of its defenses.

Trump's envoy is expected in Moscow

Witkoff is expected to land in the Russian capital on Wednesday or Thursday, according to Trump, following his trip to Israel and Gaza.

"They would like to see (Witkoff)," Trump said Sunday of the Russians. "They've asked that he meet so we'll see what happens."

Trump, exasperated that Russian President Vladimir Putin hasn't heeded his calls to stop bombing Ukrainian cities, a week ago moved up his ultimatum to impose additional sanctions on Russia as well as introduce secondary tariffs targeting countries that buy Russian oil, including China and India.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Monday that officials are happy to meet with Trump's envoy.

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"We are always glad to see Mr. Witkoff in Moscow," he said. "We consider (talks with Witkoff) important, substantive and very useful."

Trump is not sure sanctions will work

Trump said Sunday that Russia has proven to be "pretty good at avoiding sanctions."

"They're wily characters," he said of the Russians.

The Kremlin has insisted that international sanctions imposed since its February 2022 invasion of its neighbor have had a limited impact.

Ukraine insists the sanctions are taking their toll on Moscow's war machine and wants Western allies to ramp them up. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Monday urged the United States, Europe and other nations to impose stronger secondary sanctions on Moscow's energy, trade and banking sectors.

Trump's comments appeared to signal he doesn't have much hope that sanctions will force Putin's hand.

The secondary sanctions also complicate Washington's relations with China and India, who stand accused of helping finance Russia's war effort by buying its oil.

Since returning to office in January, Trump has found that stopping the war is harder than he perhaps imagined.

Senior American officials have warned that the U.S. could walk away from the conflict if peace efforts make no progress.

Putin shows no signs of making concessions

The diplomatic atmosphere has become more heated as Trump's deadline approaches.

Putin announced last Friday that Russia's new hypersonic missile, the Oreshnik, has entered service.

The Russian leader has hailed its capabilities, saying its multiple warheads that plunge to a target at speeds of up to Mach 10 cannot be intercepted. He claimed that they are so powerful that the use of several of them in one conventional strike could be as devastating as a nuclear attack.

Separately, one of Putin's top lieutenants warned that the Ukraine war could nudge Russia and the U.S. into armed conflict.

Trump responded to what he called the "highly provocative statements" by former Russian president Dmitry Medvedev by ordering the repositioning of two U.S. nuclear submarines.

Putin has repeated the same message throughout the war: He will only accept a settlement on his terms and will keep fighting until they're met.

The war is killing thousands of troops and civilians

Russia's relentless pounding of urban areas behind the front line have killed more than 12,000 Ukrainian civilians, according to the United Nations. It has pushed on with that tactic despite Trump's public calls for it to stop over the past three months.

On the 1,000-kilometer (620-mile) front line, Russia's bigger army has made slow and costly progress. It is carrying out a sustained operation to take the eastern city of Pokrovsk, a key logistical hub whose fall could open the way for a deeper drive into Ukraine.

Ukraine has developed technology that has allowed it to launch long-range drone attacks deep inside Russia. In its latest strike it hit an oil depot near Russia's Black Sea resort of Sochi, starting a major fire.

The UN says 68 African migrants were killed when a boat capsized off Yemen

CAIRO (AP) — A boat capsized Sunday in waters off Yemen's coast leaving 68 African migrants dead and 74 others missing, the U.N.'s migration agency said.

The tragedy was the latest in a series of shipwrecks off Yemen that have killed hundreds of African migrants fleeing conflict and poverty in hopes of reaching the wealthy Gulf Arab countries.

The vessel, with 154 Ethiopian migrants on board, sank in the Gulf of Aden off the southern Yemeni province of Abyan early Sunday, Abdusattor Esoev, head of the International Organization for Migration in Yemen told The Associated Press.

He said the bodies of 54 migrants washed ashore in the district of Khanfar, and 14 others were found

dead and taken to a hospital morgue in Zinjibar, the provincial capital of Abyan on Yemen's southern coast.

Only 12 migrants survived the shipwreck, and the rest were missing and presumed dead, Esoev said.

In a statement, the Abyan security directorate described a massive search-and-rescue operation given the large number of dead and missing migrants. It said many dead bodies were found scattered across a wide area of the shore.

Despite more than a decade of civil war, Yemen is a major route for migrants from East Africa and the Horn of Africa trying to reach the Gulf Arab countries for work. Migrants are taken by smugglers on often dangerous, overcrowded boats across the Red Sea or Gulf of Aden.

Hundreds of migrants have died or gone missing in shipwrecks off Yemen in recent months, including in March when two migrants died and 186 others were missing after four boats capsized off Yemen and Djibouti, according to the IOM.

More than 60,000 migrants arrived in Yemen in 2024, down from 97,200 in 2023, probably because of greater patrolling of the waters, according to an IOM report in March.

In Ecuador, environmentalists worry Noboa is unwinding nation's green reputation

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — When Ecuadorians voted two years ago to block oil drilling in Yasuni National Park, it was a triumph for environmentalists seeking to protect one of the most biodiverse places on Earth. And it was in character for a country that was first to enshrine the "rights of nature" in its constitution and is home to parts of the Amazon rain forest and the Galápagos Islands.

But recent moves by President Daniel Noboa have alarmed environmentalists and Indigenous leaders who say the country's green reputation — and its protections for civil society — are unraveling.

Noboa's administration has moved to scrap the country's independent Environment Ministry. It's pushing legislation ostensibly aimed at choking off illegal mining, but which critics fear will devastate nonprofits. The National Assembly — pressed by Noboa — approved a law last month allowing private and foreign entities to co-manage conservation zones that critics say weakens protections and threatens Indigenous land rights. And Ecuador just signed a new oil deal with Peru that could accelerate drilling in sensitive areas.

Natalia Greene, an environmental advocate with the Global Alliance for the Rights of Nature, said Noboa's decision to fold the Environment Ministry into the Ministry of Energy and Mines will speed up mining just as Ecuador is grappling with a surge in illegal gold mining tied to organized crime. She called it "like putting the wolf in charge of the sheep."

"The government's intention is very clear — to be a machine gun of extractivism," she said.

Noboa has defended the ministry moves and other changes as necessary to cut costs, reduce bureaucracy and address Ecuador's financial crisis. Officials argue that consolidating ministries will make decision-making more efficient.

Neither the Ministry of Energy and Mines nor Noboa's office responded to questions from The Associated Press.

Indigenous rights at risk

In July, Peru and Ecuador signed a deal for Ecuador's state oil company to sell crude directly to Petroperu and link its southern Amazon reserves to Peru's Norperuano pipeline, with drilling eyed for January 2026. Environmental groups say it could fast-track drilling in sensitive areas while skirting safeguards and Indigenous consultation.

Peru's Achuar, Wampis and Chapra nations denounced the plan in a public letter, saying it would gut long-standing protections that require communities be consulted before projects move forward on their lands. They warned the pipeline already averages 146 spills a year and that expanding it would be "a grave threat to the Amazon and to Indigenous livelihoods."

"They are going to violate all our rights to enter our territories and extract the resources they want," said Nemo Guiquita, a Waorani leader with the Confederation of Indigenous Nationalities of the Ecuadorian Amazon. She said Indigenous communities fear a surge of oil and mining projects across ancestral lands,

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threatening both ecosystems and livelihoods.

"There will be a weakening of environmental protection," she said. "There will be a lot of deforestation, contamination of rivers and destruction of the ecosystem, which is vital for our existence as Indigenous peoples."

Ricardo Buitrón, president of the Quito-based environmental group Accion Ecologica, noted that the changes come just months after Ecuadorians voted to keep oil in the ground in Yasuni, a decision the government has yet to fully enforce.

"We have gone back decades," he said. "A development model is being prioritized that does not care about protecting ecosystems, but about extracting natural resources to the maximum."

Fears that proposed law will harm non-governmental organizations

The proposed law that has alarmed nonprofits is formally called the Organic Law for the Control of Irregular Capital Flows. But activists call it the "anti-NGO" law, saying it could impose heavy burdens on nonprofits and force many to close.

The measure applies to more than 71,000 organizations nationwide, giving them six months to re-register with the government, submit detailed financial records and disclose foreign funding sources. The government says the law is needed to prevent money laundering and political destabilization. Critics warn it could instead silence dissent by placing organizations under sweeping controls.

Noboa submitted the bill to the National Assembly on July 29, giving lawmakers until Aug. 28 to act before it automatically becomes law.

"This has been hard for us," Guiquita said. "Practically, Indigenous organizations live mostly from donations and NGOs. The government is weakening us in every space."

"It represents a threat because they could dissolve us under any pretext," Buitrón said. "This reminds us of what we already lived through a decade ago, when they tried to shut down some organizations in the country."

Regional and global stakes

Kevin Koenig of Amazon Watch, a U.S.-based nonprofit that advocates for Indigenous rights and environmental protection in the Amazon, said the country's changes are part of a wider rollback.

"We are seeing a sweeping package of regressive reforms that are rolling back environmental protections, Indigenous rights guarantees, and threatening basic civil liberties like the freedom of speech and assembly," he said. "What it suggests is the massive expansion of oil and mining, particularly in the Amazon region."

Koenig said the changes send troubling signals ahead of COP30, the United Nations climate summit set for Brazil later this year.

Similar trends are unfolding in Peru and El Salvador, where governments have limited environmental oversight, and in Brazil, where licensing for Amazon projects has been weakened.

Mobilizing resistance

Civil society groups are mobilizing against the changes. Greene said organizations have reactivated the Asamblea Nacional Socioambiental, a national coalition of environmental and social movements, and are planning legal challenges, demonstrations and appeals to international bodies.

Many fear Ecuador's role as a global green pioneer is unraveling.

"Our only crime here has been protecting our territory, protecting our traditions, protecting our way of life," Guiquita said.

Trial begins for suspects in 2024 Moscow concert hall attack that killed 149 people

MOSCOW (AP) — A trial began Monday under tight security for 19 defendants accused of involvement in last year's shooting rampage in a Moscow concert hall that killed 149 people and wounded over 600 in one of the deadliest attacks in the capital in years.

A faction of the Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the March 22, 2024, massacre at the Crocus City Hall concert venue in which four gunmen shot people who were waiting for a show by a popular

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rock band and then set the building on fire.

President Vladimir Putin and other Russian officials have claimed, without presenting evidence, that Ukraine had a role in the attack. Kyiv has strongly denied any involvement.

The Investigative Committee, Russia's top criminal investigation agency, said in June that it concluded that the attack had been "planned and carried out in the interests of the current leadership of Ukraine in order to destabilize political situation in our country." It also noted the four suspected gunmen tried to flee to Ukraine afterward.

The four, all identified as citizens of Tajikistan, were arrested hours after the attack and later appeared in a Moscow court with signs of being severely beaten.

The defendants appearing in court on Monday kept their heads bowed as they sat in the defendants' cage.

The committee said earlier this year that six other suspects were charged in absentia and placed on Russia's wanted list for allegedly recruiting and organizing the training of the four. Other defendants in the trial were accused of helping them.

US tariffs put 30,000 South African jobs at risk, officials say

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — United States reciprocal tariffs have put an estimated 30,000 jobs at risk, South African authorities said Monday, four days before a 30% U.S. tariff on most imports from South Africa kicks in.

South Africa was slapped with one of the highest tariff rates by its third-largest trading partner — after the European Union and China — creating uncertainty for the future of some export industries and catapulting a scramble for new markets outside the U.S. The tariff rates come into effect on Aug. 8.

In an update on mitigation measures, a senior government official warned that an estimated 30,000 jobs were in jeopardy if the response to the higher tariffs was "mismanaged."

"We base this on the ongoing consultations that we have with all the sectors of the economy from automotive, agriculture and all the other sectors that are going to be impacted," said Simphiwe Hamilton, director-general of the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition.

South Africa is already grappling with stubbornly high unemployment rates. The official rate was 32.9% in the first quarter of 2025 according to StatsSA, the national statistical agency, while the youth unemployment rate increased from 44.6% in the fourth quarter of 2024 to 46.1% in the first quarter of 2025.

In his weekly online letter to the nation on Monday, President Cyril Ramaphosa said that South Africa must adapt swiftly to the tariffs since they could have a big impact on the economy, the industries that rely heavily on exports to the U.S., and the workers they employ.

"As government, we have been engaging the United States to enhance mutually beneficial trade and investment relations. All channels of communication remain open to engage with the US," he said.

"Our foremost priority is protecting our export industries. We will continue to engage the US in an attempt to preserve market access for our products."

President Donald Trump has been highly critical of the country's Black-led government over a new land law he claims discriminates against white people.

Negotiations have been complicated and unprecedented, according to South Africa's ministers, who denied reports that the lack of an ambassador in the U.S. affected the result of the talks. The Trump administration expelled Ebrahim Rasool, South Africa's ambassador to Washington, in mid-March, accusing him of being a "race-baiting politician" who hates Trump.

International Relations Minister Ronald Lamola highlighted that even countries with ambassadors in the U.S. and allies of Washington had been hard hit with tariffs. However, Lamola confirmed that the process of appointing a replacement for Rasool was "at an advanced stage".

The U.S. accounts for 7.5% of South Africa's global exports. However, several sectors, accounting for 35% of exports to the U.S., remain exempt from the tariffs. These include copper, pharmaceuticals, semi-conductors, lumber products, certain critical minerals, stainless steel scrap and energy products.

The government has been scrambling to diversify South Africa's export markets, particularly by deep-

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ening intra-African trade. Countries across Asia and the Middle East, including the United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Saudi Arabia, have been touted as opportunities for high-growth markets. The government said it had made significant progress in opening vast new markets like China and Thailand, securing vital protocols for products like citrus.

The government has set up an Export Support Desk to aid manufacturers and exporters in South Africa search for alternate markets.

While welcoming the establishment of the Export Support Desk, an independent association representing some of South Africa's biggest and most well-known businesses called for a trade crisis committee to be established that brings together business leaders and government officials, including from the finance ministry.

Business Leadership South Africa said such a committee would ensure fast, coordinated action to open new markets, provide financial support, and maintain employment.

"U.S. tariffs pose a severe threat to South Africa's manufacturing and farming sectors. ... While businesses can eventually adapt, urgent temporary support is essential," said BLSA in a statement.

Today in History: August 5, Nelson Mandela arrested

Today is Tuesday, Aug. 5, the 217th day of 2025. There are 148 days left in the year.

On Aug. 5, 1962, South African anti-apartheid activist Nelson Mandela was arrested on charges of leaving the country without a valid passport and inciting workers to strike; it was the beginning of 27 years of imprisonment.

In 1861, Abraham Lincoln signed the Revenue Act of 1861, which levied the first income tax on Americans (a flat tax of 3% on those making over \$800/year) to help fund the Union's Civil War effort.

In 1864, during the Civil War, Union Adm. David G. Farragut led his fleet to victory in the Battle of Mobile Bay, Alabama.

In 1884, the cornerstone for the Statue of Liberty's pedestal was laid on Bedloe's Island in New York Harbor.

In 1914, what's believed to be the first electric traffic light system was installed in Cleveland, Ohio, at the intersection of East 105th Street and Euclid Avenue.

In 1936, Jesse Owens of the United States won the 200-meter dash at the Berlin Olympics, collecting the third of his four gold medals.

In 1953, Operation Big Switch began as remaining prisoners taken during the Korean War were exchanged at Panmunjom.

In 1957, the music and dance show "American Bandstand," hosted by Dick Clark, made its national network debut, beginning a 30-year run on ABC-TV.

In 1962, Marilyn Monroe, 36, was found dead in her Los Angeles home; her death was ruled a probable suicide from "acute barbiturate poisoning."

In 1964, U.S. Navy pilot Everett Alvarez Jr. became the first American flier to be shot down and captured by North Vietnam; he was held prisoner until February 1973.

In 1974, the White House released transcripts of subpoenaed tape recordings showing that President Richard Nixon and his chief of staff, H.R. Haldeman, had discussed a plan in June 1972 to use the CIA to thwart the FBI's Watergate investigation; revelation of the tape sparked Nixon's resignation.

In 2010, thirty-three workers were trapped in a copper mine in northern Chile after a tunnel caved in (all were rescued after being entombed for 69 days).

In 2011, the sun-powered robotic explorer Juno rocketed toward Jupiter on a five-year quest to discover the secret recipe for making planets. (Juno reached Jupiter on July 4, 2016.)

Today's Birthdays: Country music songwriter Bobby Braddock is 85. Actor Loni Anderson is 80. Pop singer Samantha Sang is 74. Actor-singer Maureen McCormick is 69. Rock musician Pat Smear is 66. Author David Baldacci is 65. Actor Janet McTeer is 64. Basketball Hall of Famer Patrick Ewing is 63. Actor Mark Strong is 62. Director-screenwriter James Gunn is 59. Actor Jonathan Silverman is 59. Actor Jesse Williams is 44. Actor/singer Olivia Holt is 28. NBA guard Anthony Edwards is 24. Actor Albert Tsai is 21.