

Groton Daily Independent

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Tuesday, Aug. 26

Senior Menu: Chicken and rice casserole, peas and carrots, peaches, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Breakfast slider.

School Lunch: Chicken breast, tiny whole potatoes.

NEC Boys Golf at Lee Park, Aberdeen, 10 a.m.

Volleyball hosts Hamlin (Arena: C-5, JV-6, V-7:15)

United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.

Wednesday, Aug. 27

Senior Menu: Ham, mashed potatoes with gravy, California blend, 5 cup salad, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Omelets.

School Lunch: Cheese quesadilla, refried beans.

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

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

Thursday, Aug. 28

Senior Menu: Spaghetti with meat sauce, corn, cherry fluff, garlic bread.

School Breakfast: Biscuits.

School Lunch: Lasagna bake, corn.

Soccer in Groton: Boys vs. Freeman Academy at 4 p.m.; Girls vs. Garretson, 6 p.m.

Groton Daily Independent

PO Box 34, Groton SD 57445

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



Friday, Aug. 29

NO SCHOOL

Senior Menu: Sloppy Joe, cucumber salad, green beans, fruit.

Football at Mobridge, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Aug. 30

C Volleyball Tournament at Matchbox Sport Recreation Center, Aberdeen, 8 a.m.

Sunday, Aug. 31

United Methodist: Worship at Conde, 8:15 a.m.; at Groton, 9:30 a.m.; at Britton, 11:15 a.m.; Coffee Hour, 10:30 a.m.

St. John's Lutheran: Worship at St. John's, 9 a.m.; at Zion 11 a.m.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship, 9 a.m.

Catholic: SEAS Confession, 7:45-8:15 a.m.; SEAS Mass, 8:30 a.m.; Turton Confession, 10:30-10:45 a.m.; Turton Mass, 11 a.m.

First Presbyterian Church: Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.; Worship, 11 a.m.

Groton CM&A: Sunday School, 9:15 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m.

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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.

Pig Lung Transplant

Chinese scientists have successfully transplanted a pig lung into a human being for the first time, with the organ partially functioning before it was removed.

Researchers used CRISPR technology to make six gene edits to the left lung of a pig whose organs are roughly human-sized. They then transferred the lung into a brain-dead 39-year-old man. At first, the lung succeeded in delivering oxygen to his blood and removing carbon dioxide. Within 24 hours, however, there were signs of damage, and indications that the body was rejecting the organ on days three and nine. Scientists ended the experiment following fluid buildup. The patient was removed from life support per his family's wishes.

Researchers believe further experimentation could help improve retention of the lung, since even human-to-human lung transplants often fail sooner, within hours. Researchers hope pig-to-human transplants will help eliminate long wait times for organs, including lungs, kidneys, hearts, and livers.

Caffeine Market Shake-Up

American beverage conglomerate Keurig Dr Pepper announced plans yesterday to acquire Dutch coffee giant JDE Peet's for roughly \$18B. The all-cash transaction would consolidate their coffee businesses into a new company. Keurig Dr Pepper's remaining portfolio—including Snapple and 7UP—would become a separate entity, effectively undoing an \$18.7B acquisition from 2018. Keurig Dr Pepper shares fell 11.5% on the news.

Keurig Dr Pepper reported coffee sales down nearly 2% from January to June, while refreshment beverage sales rose 10.7%. Meanwhile, JDE Peet's reported a 19.8% sales increase over the same period. Executives framed the acquisition as a maneuver to enhance both companies' access to the \$400B global coffee market. This comes as US coffee prices rose 14.5% year over year in July, compared to a 2.9% increase in food prices. Droughts in Brazil and Vietnam, plus US tariffs, have contributed to rising coffee costs.

The move mirrors strategies by food manufacturers like Kellogg's, which split its well-performing snacks and struggling cereal divisions.

Commercial Carbon Storage

The world's first commercial offshore carbon storage facility began operating yesterday off Norway's western coast. The Northern Lights project—led by oil giants Equinor, Shell, and TotalEnergies—aims to cut industrial carbon dioxide emissions by capturing carbon from smokestacks and injecting it beneath the North Sea seabed for permanent storage.

Captured CO2 is liquefied, shipped to a terminal, and pushed through a 68-mile pipeline into the seabed's geological reservoirs about 1.6 miles below the ocean floor. The first CO2 injection came from a cement plant in southeast Norway. Norway's state-backed project currently has a storage capacity of 1.7 million tons of CO2 per year and targets an increase to 5.5 million tons by 2030.

Although endorsed as a climate tool by the UN, carbon capture and storage is expensive, complex, and viewed as controversial. Critics argue that the method potentially extends the use of fossil fuels and redirects resources from renewable energy.

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Sports, Entertainment, & Culture

"KPop Demon Hunters" charts four songs in the top 10 of the Billboard Hot 100, the first time four songs from the same film soundtrack have simultaneously been in the top 10 of the chart.

NFL rosters must be trimmed from 90 players to the active roster max of 53 by 4 pm ET today; see tracker of roster cuts for all 32 teams.

Rapper Lil Nas X charged with four felonies, including battery against a police officer, following his arrest and hospitalization Thursday; he pleaded not guilty to the charges.

Science & Technology

SpaceX scrubs second attempt at the 10th test launch of its massive Starship space vehicle, citing unfavorable weather; next launch window yet to be announced.

Heat wave exposure can accelerate biological aging, new study reveals; each four-day exposure to prolonged heat was roughly correlated with nine days of accelerated aging.

First human US case of a New World screwworm parasite following travel reported in Maryland; eradicated in the US in 1966, larvae of the insect devastate livestock and have been reappearing in Central America and Mexico.

Business & Markets

US stock markets close lower (S&P 500 -0.4%, Dow -0.8%, Nasdaq -0.2%) as investors await Nvidia's earnings report tomorrow and digest federal government's 10% stake in Intel, announced Friday.

President Donald Trump fires Federal Reserve Governor Lisa Cook amid mortgage fraud accusations.

Elon Musk's xAI sues Apple and OpenAI for an alleged anticompetitive scheme favoring OpenAI's ChatGPT in Apple's App Store; company says they're colluding to maintain their respective monopolies in the smartphone and generative AI markets.

US consumers with the highest credit scores are falling behind on debt repayments, with 90+ day delinquencies up 109% year over year; signals possible budget strains among historically financially secure shoppers.

Politics & World Affairs

President Donald Trump signs executive order seeking to penalize people for burning American flags, characterizing the practice as incitement to rioting, violence.

Trump also signs executive order eliminating cashless bail across the country amid crackdown on Washington, DC, crime.

Israeli strikes on Gaza hospital kill at least 20 people, including five journalists, per local health workers; Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu calls the attack a mishap, says military will investigate.

President Donald Trump meets with South Korean President Lee Jae Myung, discusses trade and possible collaboration on shipbuilding (More)

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This Week on GDILIVE.COM

GT on

Groton Area Tigers
Groton, SD

GDILIVE

YouTube

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For more info: GDILIVE.COM

Funeral Service
Joan Fahrenwald
10:30, Tuesday, Aug. 26th
UMC, Conde



GT on

Groton Area Tigers
Groton, SD

GDILIVE

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Volleyball C Match
5 p.m., Aug. 26, 2026
Hamlin at Groton



GT on

Groton Area Tigers
Groton, SD

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Volleyball JV Match
6 p.m., Aug. 26, 2026
Hamlin at Groton



GT on

Groton Area Tigers
Groton, SD

GDILIVE

YouTube

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Volleyball
Hamlin at Groton
Tues., Aug. 26th
Varsity around 7:15 p.m.



GT on

Groton Area Tigers
Groton, SD

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Boys Soccer
Freeman Academy at Groton
Thurs., Aug. 28th
4:00



GT on

Groton Area Tigers
Groton, SD

GDILIVE

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Girls Soccer
Garretson at Groton
Thurs., Aug. 28th
6:00



GT on

Groton Area Tigers
Groton, SD

GDILIVE

YouTube

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For more info: GDILIVE.COM

Football
Groton at Mobridge-Pollock
Friday, Aug. 29th
7:00



The Life of Keith Lowary



Keith Farrell Lowary, a lifelong resident of Aberdeen, SD, passed away peacefully at the age of 97 on June 13, 2025. Born on September 27, 1927, in Groton, SD, Keith lived a life filled with family, friends, hard work, and a good dose of dry humor.

Keith's life was marked by dedication to his family and a strong work ethic. He was a man of many trades, from owning a hog business to driving an over the road semi-truck for 30 years, and finally, returning to his roots as an agriculture and livestock farmer until the age of 90-ish. He often said, "Your children are really the only thing in the world that you can truly call your own," a testament to his deep love for his family.

He was married twice and is survived by his ex-wife, Virginia. Keith had seven children: Gary, Kim, and Todd from his marriage to Joyce; and Stacey, Sherry, Shanell, and Summer from his marriage to Virginia. He is also survived by 13 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren. He shared a special 40+ year relationship with Donna Tichi, whose family considered him a father figure and grandfather. Keith was preceded in death by his first wife, Joyce; his oldest sister, Lucille Sauck; his second oldest sister, Nina Vaughn; his younger brother, Loy Lowary; and his granddaughter, Christine Lowary.

Keith absolutely loved fishing, home cooking, playing cards often with a bit of playful trash talk like "I've got a horse from every stable" and "Give me a card I can use for once", and enjoying coffee with friends at the StarLite (now Marlins). He had a dry wit and enjoyed old spaghetti westerns and the Blues Brothers. He was a man of the salt of the earth, who always wanted to help his neighbors and fellow farmers. He was beloved by all who knew him.

He will be cremated and laid to rest with his parents, Bessie and William, and brother, Loy, at Groton Union Cemetery.

The family extends their deepest gratitude to Hospice care, the compassionate staff at Bethesda Nursing Home, and Richard (Dick) Fry for their exceptional care and unwavering dedication to Keith in his final years. Their kindness made a profound difference.

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The Life of Alexander Donley



Alexander Matthew Donley, 32, passed away unexpectedly at his home in Idaho Falls, Idaho, on July 26, 2025.

Alexander Matthew Donley was born in Lawrence, Massachusetts, on October 17, 1992, to Sonda Kay Donley. They lived in Salem, New Hampshire, and then moved back to the Groton/Aberdeen, South Dakota area in 1994. Alex attended K-6th grade at Groton Elementary School. Middle School was an adventure, attended in Southern Utah and Colorado. In 2011, he was a proud recipient of a diploma from Greely West High School in Greely, Colorado. Good grades came easily, especially in Math classes, but woodworking and playing soccer were his favorites. Quite the feat, he made the varsity soccer team as a freshman at Greely West. Alex met Alyssa in high school through their mutual love and involvement in soccer. They were blessed with two beautiful children, Landyn and Scarlett. Alex and Alyssa were fully committed to their children even when they parted ways as companions. Being a father was the most important title Alex held;

encouragement in sports was further supported by coaching Landyn's baseball team and Scarlett's soccer team. He was their biggest fan on & off the field/court.

After High School, Alex moved to Utah and was able to attend some college courses, of which welding and art classes were his favorite. The majority of his adult life, other than the adventurous year that he spent living out of his camper trailer in Tennessee, was spent in Utah. Most recently, he resided in Idaho Falls while working towards his dream of moving to Minnesota and living on the piece of land that he recently purchased. Tragically, he passed away before he could fully achieve his goal of living out of a 5th wheel camper trailer on his own property and eventually building a home there.

Alex was very creative and loved drawing, woodworking, and welding. Another passion of his was working on, fixing, and customizing vehicles, especially his 2004 Acura RSX. Frequent visits to junk yards, parts stores, online research, phone calls, and a lot of time wrenching were involved.

Having never liked the name Alexander or Alex, a few years ago, he started going by Xander. Problem solved, albeit a little confusing among family and friends.

Xander's spiritual journey brought him back to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints a few years ago, and he shared that with Landyn and Scarlett. His drive, thirst for knowledge, and growth in the church enabled him to perform Landyn's and Scarlett's baptisms. Church meetings, family prayers, scripture reading, time with the missionaries, service projects, and church activities, it was a special time in their lives as a family. He enjoyed participating in Landyn's young men's activities, always up for a camping trip or temple outing. Xander played on an adult softball team, an occasional football game, and spent a lot of time with the children at the Clearfield Rec Center.

Xander had several jobs between 2011-2016, experiences that were put to good use when he started his own business in 2016. An enterprising ability allowed him to successfully sustain this business. He enjoyed being a business owner and the flexibility it provided for him to be able to spend more time with his children while working from home. Xander was never afraid to take a chance, expand his product line, or figure out better ways to run the business.

Some favorite activities were soccer, snowboarding, snowmobiling, skateboarding, four-wheeling, camping, and golfing. He loved being able to incorporate his passions to include Landyn and Scarlett, teaching them and participating with them. Xander had a love of singing, music in general, and dabbled in playing the guitar.

A unique way of making people feel seen was one of his many gifts. His energetic smile and bright eyes drew people to him. When talking with Xander, he always had a funny or lighthearted comment ready.

Xander has left a deep void in the lives of all those who loved and knew him. His best traits, qualities, and passions will live on through his children.

Xander is survived by his two children: Landyn and Scarlett Donley; his mother, Sonda Donley; his grandparents: Donald (Joann) Donley of Groton, SD & Donna Prescott of Billings, MT; as well as numerous aunts, uncles, and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his uncle, Jacob Donley (2024); his great-grandparents, Grandma and Papa Donley, Orville (1988), Edith (2016); Abby (2020).

A Memorial Service will be held at 1:00 p.m., Friday, August 8, 2025, at the LDS Church, 2375 E. 3225 N., Layton, Utah. Cremation is under the care of Coltrin Mortuary, 2100 First Street, Idaho Falls. Condolences are welcome at www.coltrinmortuary.com.



Lawmaker considers limiting new Black Hills water usage

Bart Pfankuch

South Dakota News Watch

A West River lawmaker said he might file a bill in the 2026 legislative session that could slow or even stop some new development across the Black Hills by limiting the ability to take more water from underground aquifers.

Rep. Scott Odenbach, a Republican from Spearfish who's majority leader in the House of Representatives, said he began to think about water conservation in western South Dakota after seeing a U.S. Geological Survey study released in late July.

It indicated that even in non-drought periods, some sections of aquifers that supply fresh water to the Black Hills were not sufficiently recharging through rainwater and runoff.

Odenbach said the study raised concerns that perhaps too much water is being removed from the Madison, Minnelusa and Inyan Kara aquifers and that eventually, a water shortage could result.

The study, as reported by News Watch, found that overall the Black Hills aquifers remain sufficiently filled but that some areas, referred to as "sub-aquifers," are not recharging enough to meet the planned or current actual use of water. The portions of aquifers not sufficiently recharging tended to be in higher-growth areas, roughly from Box Elder on the east to Sturgis on the west.

"We've got to have a conversation ... to ensure that we don't just heedlessly rush into water scarcity here," Odenbach told News Watch. "I think we've always got to make sure that we look out first for residential customers and the people that live here now, and then those who want to do other types of uses."

May try to 'tweak' obscure 1978 state law

Odenbach suggested the USGS study could prompt the need to amend SDCL 46-6-6.1, a statute passed in 1978 that prohibits so-called water mining, or the taking of water from aquifers that science shows are not refilling adequately. The law was passed during a period of drought and increased demand for water in southeast South Dakota.

While the law bans removal of water from aquifers above the Greenhorn Formation, which includes those east of the Missouri River, it allows an exception for deeper bedrock aquifers like those beneath the Black Hills.

Odenbach told News Watch he might seek to "tweak" that law in order to remove the Black Hills exception, thereby preventing removal of water from any state aquifer that is not recharging as fast or as much as needed.

"That (statute) essentially says you can't sink new wells into an aquifer, unless you can show that you're not taking out more than is naturally recharged," he said. "In light of that report by the U.S. Geological Survey, I think we need to ask the question of whether we need to make sure that the statute also applies to our aquifers West River."

Odenbach added that he is concerned that some individuals and entities in the Black Hills, such as the development agency Elevate Rapid City, are promoting "growth for the sake of growth" that could negatively affect the existing high quality of life in the Black Hills.

"Groups like Elevate Rapid City, they just want to have untrammelled development as fast as they possibly can. And then when we wake up and it's like Denver and we're out of water, they can move on to somewhere else," Odenbach said. "The people that live here and care about the Black Hills want us to be more careful."

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Elevate leader denies characterization

Tom Johnson, CEO of Elevate Rapid City, took umbrage at Odenbach's characterization of his group's efforts to bring new business, jobs and residents to the region. He also said the lawmaker's references to uncontrolled growth as seen in some areas of Colorado are not comparable to what is taking place in the Black Hills.

Johnson said Rapid City has seen an average growth rate of 0.3% to 1.7% annually over the past 15 years, which planning experts refer to as a healthy pace of growth.

"We're not Denver and we're not going to become Denver," Johnson said. "We're not growing at some crazy rate."

The USGS report noted that the population of the Black Hills grew about 39% from 2000 to 2022 but surprisingly that "no increased well withdrawal patterns corresponding to population increases were observed." State wells that monitor aquifer levels also have not shown an overall water deficiency, according to the state.

Johnson said enacting legislative barriers to growth could backfire by creating "artificial markets" that interfere with the free market and unwittingly block the arrival of people who aren't already wealthy. That, he said, can drive up the cost of housing and necessary goods and services and make it harder for locals to remain.

"It's easy to pick on a group like Elevate because we try to work toward wealth and prosperity, not unfettered growth," Johnson said. "We try to allow kids to stay here, for the next generation of kids to have jobs."

Johnson said Odenbach is taking an "anti-growth" stance that will prevent the Black Hills and its current and future residents from reaching their highest potential.

"The problem with folks like Odenbach is they've got their piece of the pie, right? They've got the Black Hills that they want and they don't want your kids or your kids' kids to have a piece of that," Johnson said. "I think the real thing that the voters in Spearfish should do is try to find someone who wants to have a nuanced discussion and vote candidates out that are anti-growth and who want to hand our prosperity over to East River."

Missouri River pipeline project in play

Momentum has been growing behind a \$2 billion proposal to build a 161-mile, 6-foot-diameter water pipeline from the Missouri River north of Pierre to locations across western South Dakota, including the Black Hills.

Backers of the project, such as Republican state Sen. Helene Duhamel of Rapid City, have said the pipeline would provide a reliable, long-term source of water for the region.

Duhamel and others saw the USGS report as further evidence of the need for the pipeline.

"I think we really demonstrated we have current water needs, and as legislators, we want to be forward thinking enough to make sure our children and grandchildren have the opportunity to make western South Dakota their home," she said.

In an email to News Watch, Odenbach said he foresees the pipeline as a possible "boondoggle" and is skeptical if it should be built. He also suspects the ultimate cost will exceed \$2 billion. Odenbach said he wants to begin conversations to seek alternatives that will preserve access to water but not encourage unfettered growth.

Odenbach said he wants to gather information so the public and policymakers can understand the science behind Black Hills water supplies in order to find possible solutions without relying solely on a proposed pipeline from the Missouri River.

"We're at the fact-gathering stage of this," Odenbach said. "If we are worried that the water is being mined and that we're taking it out faster than we're putting it back, and we're 20 years out from that pipeline possibly being built, then we've got to plan for the next 20 years and be thinking about smart use of these water resources."

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Water part of economic development

Duhamel said banning further drilling of wells into western South Dakota aquifers is a "shortsighted" way of addressing rising water needs.

"Planning for our current and future water needs is a critical piece of that puzzle to make this a great place to live and work because a lot of our best and brightest leave the state because they don't have job opportunities," Duhamel said. "To cut off this idea of smart growth is shortsighted because a lot of people need good-paying jobs that don't exist right now."

Duhamel also said South Dakota needs to act expediently to build the pipeline before other states on the Missouri River begin to withdraw more water.

"I think we would rue the day and look back and wonder why we didn't make this critical investment as we watch our Missouri River water go to downstream states," she said. "We're a thirsty nation and everybody is looking at every water source, so we have to secure clean, reliable water for the future of our state."

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

Service Notice: Arletta Peterson

Services for Arletta Peterson, 93, of Webster and formerly of Groton will be 3:00 p.m., Tuesday, September 2nd at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Groton. Rev. Michael DeKraai will officiate. Burial will follow in Union Cemetery under the direction of Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton.

Visitation will be held for one hour prior to services at the church.

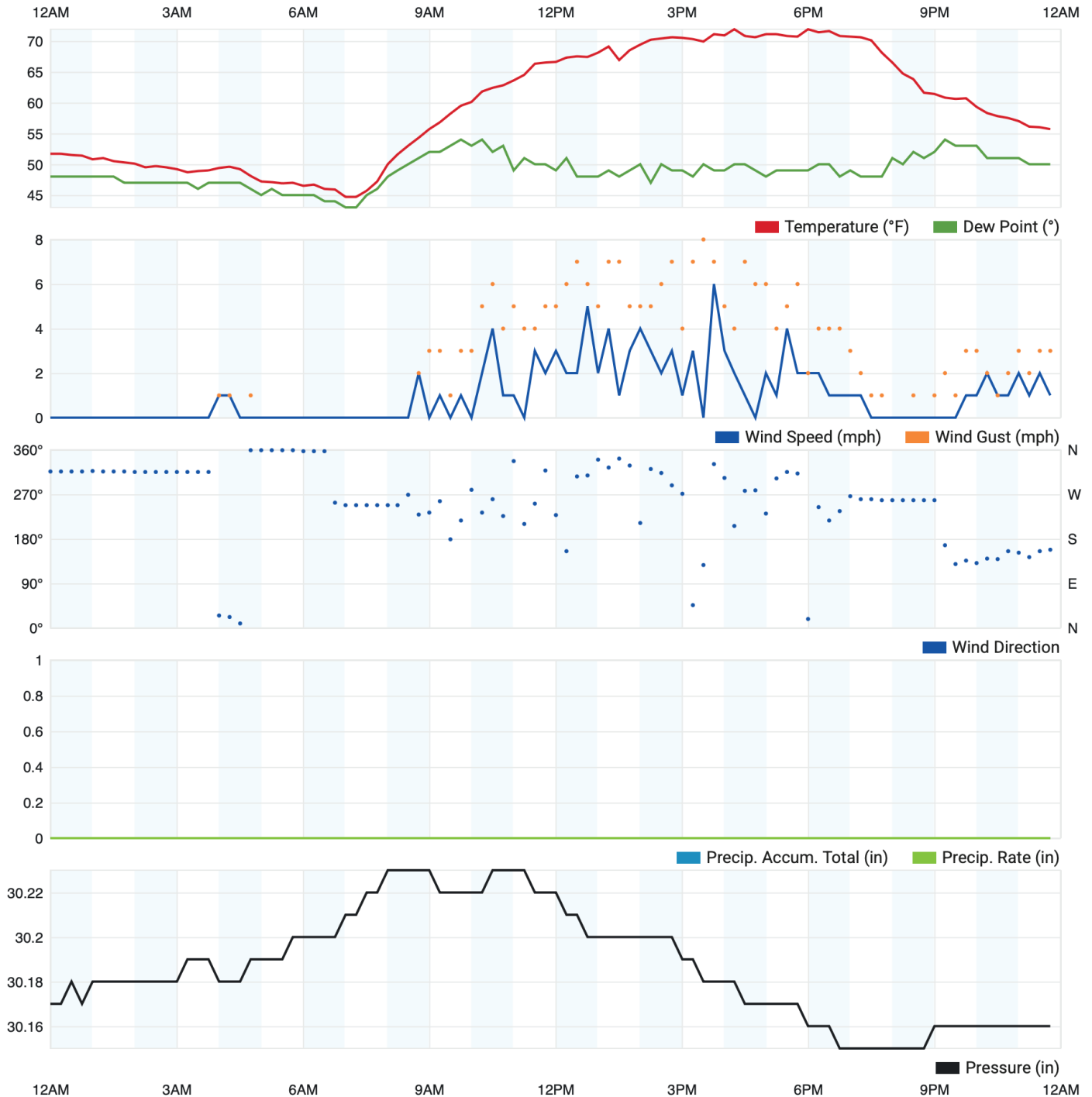
Arletta passed away August 24, 2025 at Sanford Hospital in Webster.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs

August 25, 2025



Broton Daily Independent

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Today

Tonight

Wednesday

Wednesday
Night

Thursday



High: 77 °F

Low: 53 °F

High: 81 °F

Low: 54 °F

High: 80 °F

Sunny

Mostly Clear

Sunny

Mostly Clear

Sunny



Warming Temperatures, Continued Dry

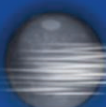
August 26, 2025
4:38 AM

Today



- Mostly sunny & dry.
- Warmer temps in the 70s to low 80s.
- Light south-southeast winds up to 10 mph.

Tonight



- Scattered/broken high clouds.
- Not as chilly - lows in the 50s.
- Light wind.
- *Patchy fog??*

Wednesday

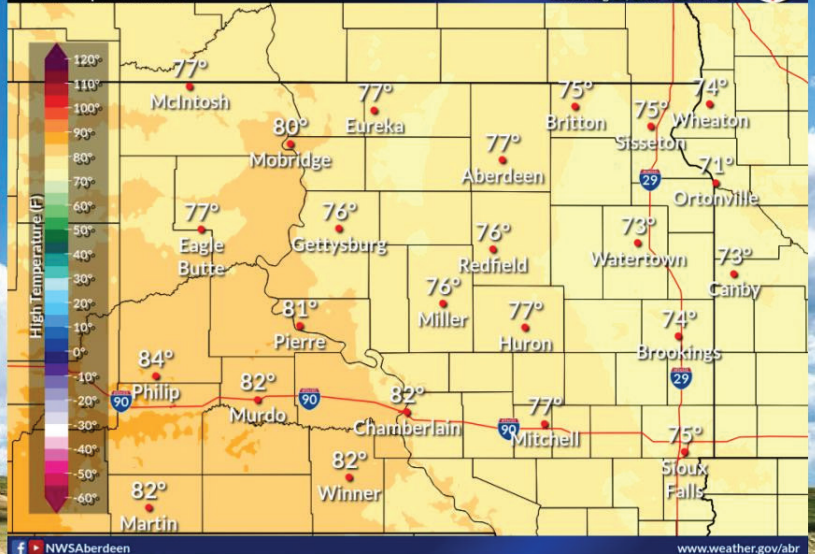


- Mostly sunny/partly cloudy.
- Highs in the upper 70s to upper 80s.
- Light east to northeast wind.

Today's High Temperature Forecast

Warmer temperatures arrive

Weather Forecast Office
Aberdeen, SD
Issued Aug 26, 2025 4:25 AM CDT



National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration

National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

Warmer air will begin moving into the region today as the cool surface high pressure gradually departs. Most areas will rise into the 70s, with some lower 80s across central/south central SD.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 72 °F at 4:12 PM

Low Temp: 44 °F at 7:07 AM

Wind: 8 mph at 3:27 PM

Precip: : 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 104 in 1991

Record Low: 34 in 1914

Average High: 81

Average Low: 54

Average Precip in August.: 1.89

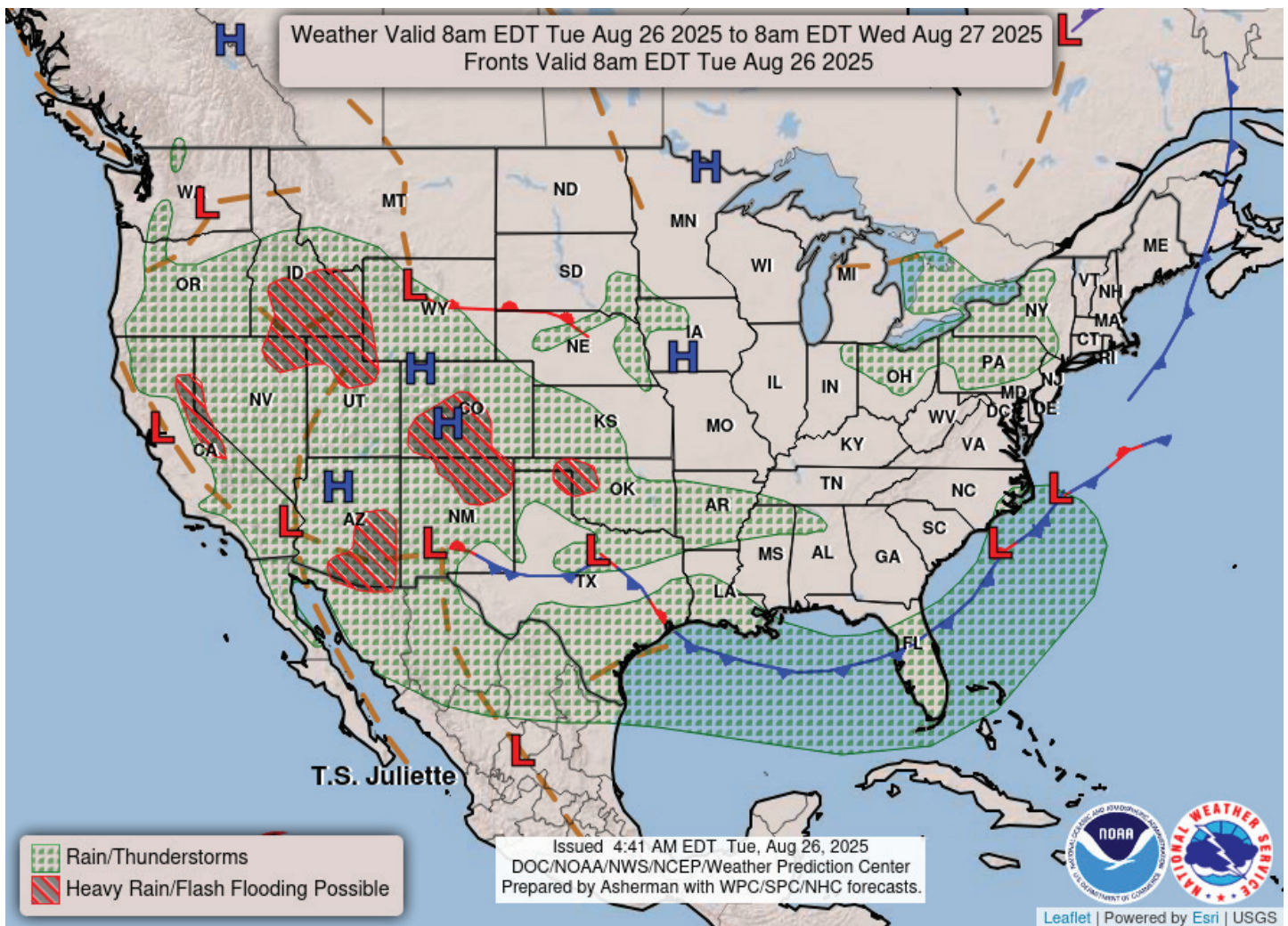
Precip to date in August: 4.42

Average Precip to date: 15.99

Precip Year to Date: 20.30

Sunset Tonight: 8:21 pm

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:48 am



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Today in Weather History

August 26, 1983: Heavy rainfall up to four and a half inches fell in the town of Mahto, Corson County, flooding basements. Hail, up to three inches in diameter, caused significant damage to roofs and broke numerous windows.

August 26, 1998: Massive rainfall of 3 to over 6 inches fell across far eastern Corson, most of Campbell and Walworth counties during the evening hours of the 26th. The heavy rain caused flooding on many roads along with some highways through the night and into the morning hours on the 27th. Near Selby, high winds, heavy rain, and some hail caused damage to sunflowers and moved a barn three feet off the foundation. In Selby, wind-driven rain pushed water through some ceilings and into basements. An old barn near Glenham was also blown down by the strong winds. Some rainfall amounts include 3.50 inches at Herried, 3.80 inches at Java, 4.20 inches at Selby, 4.50 inches 3N of Selby and just southeast of McLaughlin, 5 inches at Glenham, 5.75 inches 8N of Mobridge, and 6.35 inches 1.5 miles southeast of Glenham.

1864: A train running from Cincinnati to Chicago was derailed by a tornado in Dearborn County, Indiana, or 75 miles southeast of Indianapolis. Two passenger cars were lifted from the tracks and dropped in a ravine which injured 30 people.

1883 - Krakatoa Volcano exploded in the East Indies. The explosion was heard more than 2500 miles away, and every barograph around the world recorded the passage of the air wave, up to seven times. Giant waves, 125 feet high and traveling 300 mph, devastated everything in their path, hurling ashore coral blocks weighing up to 900 tons, and killing more than 36,000 persons. Volcanic ash was carried around the globe in thirteen days producing blue and green suns in the tropics, and then vivid red sunsets in higher latitudes. The temperature of the earth was lowered one degree for the next two years, finally recovering to normal by 1888. (David Ludlum)

1949 - A hurricane made landfall at Delray Beach. Winds reached 153 mph at the Jupiter Lighthouse before the anemometer failed. The hurricane caused 45 million dollars damage to crops, and also caught the Georgia and South Carolina coast resulting in another two million dollars damage. (David Ludlum)

1965 - Late night severe thunderstorms associated with an unusually strong late summer cold front produced 100 mph winds straight line winds in the Chicago area and northwest Indiana. In Lake County IND, high winds derailed a train near Crown Point, and left a canoe suspended among telephone lines. Two nights later the temperature at Midway Airport in Chicago dipped to 43 degrees, establishing a record for the month of August. (Storm Data) (Hugh Crowther)

1976 - A weak tornado touched down briefly in the Hockley Hills near Kiana, AK, about 29 miles north of the Arctic Circle. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Showers and thunderstorms drenched northern Illinois during the morning and afternoon hours pushing August rainfall totals for Chicago, Moline and Peoria to new all-time highs for any month of the year. By the end of August, Chicago had received 17.10 inches of rain, which easily surpassed the previous record of 14.17 inches established in September 1961. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - A dozen cities in Texas, Colorado and California reported record high temperatures for the date, including readings of 100 degrees at Pueblo CO, 106 degrees at Wichita Falls TX, and 109 degrees at Redding CA. Afternoon thunderstorms in Utah deluged the town of Beaver with more than an inch of rain in twenty minutes. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Anchorage, AK, was soaked with a steady rain, and the 24 hour total of 4.12 inches smashed their previous 24 hour precipitation total of 2.10 inches. It also pushed their rainfall total for the month past their previous record for August. (The National Weather Summary)

1992 - Hurricane Andrew made a second landfall near Burns Point, LA as a Category 3 hurricane. Morgan City, LA recorded sustained winds of 92 mph with a peak gust of 108 mph. Hammond, LA was deluged with 11.92 inches of rain. As Andrew moved inland and weakened, it spawned 47 tornadoes from this date through the 28th from the South to the Mid-Atlantic States.

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*THERE IS NOTHING
WRONG WITH CARING
FOR OUR BODIES.*

*THEY ARE THE TEMPLE
OF THE HOLY SPIRIT...*

Hair care products have become a major industry in most developed countries in the world. In fact, men spend more money on hair care products than on shaving products. It's not that beards are becoming more popular—it's simply the fact that manscaping or anti-aging products for male hair care have increased very dramatically.

Evidently, hair care was not important to Solomon. But gray hair was. "Gray hair is a crown of splendor, it is attained by a righteous life," he once wrote. He also wrote that "gray hair is a crown of glory."

Looking for Solomon in a men's hair care salon, no doubt, would be a waste of time. He would probably be found at his desk pouring over the law and prophets looking for wisdom

and insight. And for good reason.

Throughout the book of Proverbs, there is an important theme: the righteous are rewarded with a long life! How times have changed. Today, bodybuilding and flat abs are much more important than understanding the word of God. Mirror-lined walls in health clubs are everywhere—filled night and day with individuals who want to tone-up their muscles by weight training and other forms of bodybuilding.

There is nothing wrong with caring for our bodies. They are the temple of the Holy Spirit. But if we neglect the importance of soul-building, what good would the most perfect body be if it was not dedicated to the glory of God to bring men and women into His Kingdom?

Today's Prayer: Father, help us to care for our bodies and use them to bring honor and glory to Your name! May we be more concerned with what's inside than the outside! In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Today's Scripture: "Gray hair is a crown of splendor, it is attained by a righteous life." Proverbs 16:31

You never know who's carrying a heavy load. If this brought peace to your heart, take a moment to pass it on to someone who might need a little light and love today.

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: 08.22.25

18 30 44 48 50 12

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$253,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 35 Mins 24 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS: 08.25.25

1 4 5 10 28 8

All Star Bonus: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$2,400,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 15 Hrs 50 Mins 24 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS: 08.25.25

1 4 12 17 20 6

TOP PRIZE:

\$7,000/week

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 5 Mins 25 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS: 08.23.25

3 7 14 27 31

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$20,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 16 Hrs 5 Mins 24 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS: 08.25.25

15 16 23 52 66 25

TOP PRIZE:

\$10,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 16 Hrs 34 Mins 24 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS: 08.25.25

16 19 34 37 64 22

Power Play: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$815,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 16 Hrs 34 Mins 24 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

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Upcoming Groton Events

08/09/2025 Groton Legion 30th Anniversary Celebration
08/07/2025 Groton Firemen Summer Splash in the GHS Parking Lot 7:30-8:30pm
08/11/2025 Vitalant Blood Drive at the Community Center 3:30-6pm
08/23/2025 Glacial Golf Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course
09/05/2025 Homecoming Parade 1pm
09/06/2025 Lion's Club Fall Citywide Rummage Sale 8am-3pm
09/06-07/25 Groton Airport Fly-In/Drive-In, Groton Municipal Airport
09/07/2025 Couples Sunflower Golf Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course 10am
09/07/2025 9th Annual Doggie Day at the Swimming Pool 3-5pm
10/10/2025 Lake Region Marching Band Festival 10am
10/11/2025 Pumpkin Fest at the City Park 10am-3pm
10/31/2025 Downtown Trick or Treat 4-6pm
10/31/2025 United Methodist Church Trunk or Treat 5:30-7pm
11/15/2025 Legion Post #39 Turkey Party 6:30pm
11/27/2025 Community Thanksgiving 11:30am-1:30pm Community Center (Thanksgiving)
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

What to know about Trump deportation policies that could send Kilmar Abrego Garcia to Uganda

By JUAN A. LOZANO Associated Press

HOUSTON (AP) — Efforts by U.S. immigration officials to deport Kilmar Abrego Garcia to Uganda, a country to which the Salvadoran national has no ties, has again focused attention on efforts by the Trump administration to send people to countries other than their own.

The administration's agreements with so-called third countries have been contested in court by advocacy groups, who have argued that due process rights are being violated and that immigrants are being sent to countries with long histories of human rights violations.

But in June, a divided Supreme Court allowed the administration to allow the swift removal of immigrants to countries other than their homelands and with minimal notice.

Here's what to know about these third-country agreements.

What are third-country agreements?

The agreements are part of a sweeping immigration crackdown by the administration, which has pledged to deport millions of people who are living in the United States illegally.

Federal law allows immigrants to be sent to countries where they are not from, with immigration authorities having occasionally done this in the past, according to immigrant and civil rights groups. But these kinds of deportations have greatly increased under the Republican administration.

The Department of Homeland Security said in a March memo that as part of such third-country deportations, it will deport immigrants only after getting diplomatic assurances that they will not be persecuted or tortured, as guaranteed under international law.

If the U.S. hasn't received those assurances, immigration officials can still send the person there but first has tell them where they're going in a language they understand. Time between notice and deportation is generally 24 hours, but can be as little as six hours.

Trump officials have said these immigrants often come from countries that often do not take back all their deported citizens. They have called these immigrants "true national security threats," claiming they have been convicted of such violent crimes as rape, murder and armed robbery.

What countries have agreed to accept immigrants?

The Trump administration has reached agreements with multiple countries, many in Latin America and Africa, to take in immigrants.

The U.S. has sent hundreds of Venezuelans to a notorious prison in El Salvador. Abrego Garcia's case became a flash point in Trump's immigration crackdown after he was mistakenly deported to El Salvador in March.

Venezuelans and immigrants from Afghanistan, Russia, Iran, China and other countries have also been sent to Costa Rica and Panama.

Earlier this month, Paraguay signed a third-country agreement with the Trump administration.

Mexico has not signed such an agreement, but has accepted deportees from Central America and other Western hemisphere countries, including Cuba, Haiti and Venezuela.

In July, South Sudan accepted eight deportees from the U.S.

South Sudan, one of the world's poorest countries, has endured repeated waves of violence since gaining independence from Sudan in 2011.

Last week, Uganda, a landlocked country in East Africa, agreed to a deal with the U.S. to take deported immigrants as long as they don't have criminal records and are not unaccompanied minors.

In May 2024, the U.S. imposed sanctions on Uganda's parliamentary speaker, her husband and several other officials over corruption and serious abuses of human rights.

In July, the U.S. deported five men with criminal backgrounds to the southern African kingdom of Eswatini.

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The men are from Cuba, Jamaica, Laos, Yemen and Vietnam and are being held in solitary confinement until they can be deported to their home countries. That process could take up to a year.

During a meeting in July at the White House, Trump met with five West African leaders and discussed whether they would accept immigrants through third-country agreements.

Experts say some African countries may seek to facilitate U.S. deportation programs in order to earn good will in negotiations over tariffs, cuts in U.S. aid or visa restrictions, which have hit several African countries in recent months.

Trump has also pressured countries across Latin America to help facilitate deportations, at times under the threat of steep tariffs or sanctions.

Criticism of third-country agreements

These agreements have drawn strong criticism from human rights advocates, who have cited international protections for asylum seekers and questioned whether immigrants will be appropriately screened before being deported.

United Nations human rights experts have said such agreements have left people stranded in faraway places, arbitrarily detained for years on end, and at risk of torture and other inhuman treatment.

"We urge the United States' Government to refrain from any further removals to third countries, to ensure effective access to legal assistance for those facing deportation, and all such procedures to be subject to independent judicial oversight," the U.N. experts said in July.

Other countries' efforts

The European Union has been trying to increase deportations and has opened itself to the idea of "return hubs", which would be set up in third countries for rejected asylum-seekers to be detained and ultimately deported to their home countries.

Italy has been sending rejected asylum-seekers to detention and deportation centers it runs in Albania, a non-EU country. However, it has faced many legal challenges and has been opaque about the process and effectiveness of the centers, with many immigrants sent there ultimately returning to Italy.

In a separate costly and controversial plan, the United Kingdom's previous government had tried and ultimately failed to send asylum seekers to Rwanda.

House committee subpoenas Epstein's estate for documents, including birthday book and contacts

By STEPHEN GROVES Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House Oversight Committee subpoenaed the estate of the late Jeffrey Epstein on Monday as congressional lawmakers try to determine who was connected to the disgraced financier and whether prosecutors mishandled his case.

The committee's subpoena is the latest effort by both Republicans and Democrats to respond to public clamor for more disclosure in the investigation into Epstein, who was found dead in his New York jail cell in 2019. Lawmakers are trying to guide an investigation into who among Epstein's high-powered social circle may have been aware of his sexual abuse of teenage girls, delving into a criminal case that has spurred conspiracy theories and roiled top officials in President Donald Trump's administration.

The subpoena, signed by Rep. James Comer, the Republican chair of the oversight committee, and dated Monday, demands that Epstein's estate provide Congress with documents including a book that was compiled with notes from friends for his 50th birthday, his last will and testament, agreements he signed with prosecutors, his contact books, and his financial transactions and holdings.

Comer wrote to the executors of Epstein's estate that the committee "is reviewing the possible mismanagement of the federal government's investigation of Mr. Jeffrey Epstein and Ms. Ghislaine Maxwell, the circumstances and subsequent investigations of Mr. Epstein's death, the operation of sex-trafficking rings and ways for the federal government to effectively combat them, and potential violations of ethics rules related to elected officials."

The Justice Department, trying to distance Trump and Epstein, last week began handing over to lawmak-

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ers documentation of the federal investigation into Epstein. It has also released transcripts of interviews conducted with Ghislaine Maxwell, his former girlfriend. But Democrats on the committee have not been satisfied with those efforts, saying that the some 33,000 pages of documents they've received are mostly already public.

"DOJ's limited disclosure raises more questions than answers and makes clear that the White House is not interested in justice for the victims or the truth," Rep. Robert Garcia, the top Democrat on the House Oversight Committee, said in a statement.

Pressure from lawmakers to release more information is likely to only grow when Congress returns to Washington next week.

A bipartisan group of House members is attempting to maneuver around Republican leadership to hold a vote to pass legislation meant to require the Justice Department to release a full accounting of the sex trafficking investigation into Epstein.

What to know about cashless bail after Trump's executive order

By MELISSA GOLDIN Associated Press

President Donald Trump signed an executive order on Monday threatening to withhold or revoke federal funding to local and state governments that offer cashless bail, arguing that it is a threat to public safety.

"No cash. Come back in a couple of months, we'll give you a trial. You never see the person again," he said, moments before signing the order.

Attorney General Pam Bondi must submit a list of jurisdictions that have "substantially eliminated cash bail as a potential condition of pretrial release from custody for crimes that pose a clear threat to public safety and order" within 30 days, as stipulated in the order.

Proponents of eliminating cash bail describe it as a penalty on poverty, suggesting that the wealthy can pay their way out of jail to await trial while those with fewer financial resources have to sit it out behind bars. Critics of the cashless route have argued that bail is a time-honored way to ensure defendants released from jail show up for court proceedings. They warn that violent criminals will be released pending trial, giving them license to commit other crimes.

Here's what to know:

What it is

Cashless bail refers to policies that allow people to be released from jail without paying any money while they await trial. It is an alternative to the traditional cash bail system in which which people pay money to be released and get their money back if they return to court when they are supposed to. The Eighth Amendment of the Constitution prohibits excessive bail.

Where it's offered

In 2023, Illinois became the first state to eliminate cash bail when the state Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of the law abolishing it. The move was part of an expansive criminal justice overhaul adopted in 2021 known as the SAFE-T Act. Under the change, a judge decides whether to release the defendant prior to their trial, weighing factors such as their criminal charges, if they could pose any danger to others and if they are considered a flight risk.

A number of other jurisdictions, including New Jersey, New Mexico and Washington, D.C., have nearly eliminated cash bail or limited its use. Some have used practices such as court date reminders, transportation vouchers, flexible scheduling and on-site child care to increase court attendance for people who have been released without bail.

When it's offered

Policies vary by jurisdiction, but many exclude the use of cashless bail for more serious crimes such as murder and other violent offenses. Cashless bail might also be denied if there is concern an individual might flee before trial. In some cases, it is granted automatically for misdemeanors and nonviolent felonies.

The impact on crime

Studies have shown mixed results regarding the impact of cashless bail on crime. Many focus on the

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recidivism of individual defendants rather than overall crime rates.

Loyola University of Chicago's Center for Criminal Justice published a 2024 report on Illinois' new cashless bail policy, one year after it went into effect. It acknowledges that there is not yet enough data to know what impact the law has had on crime, but that crime in Illinois did not increase after its implementation. Violent and property crime declined in some counties.

A 2024 report published by the Brennan Center for Justice saw "no statistically significant relationship" between bail reform and crime rates. It looked at crime rate data from 2015 through 2021 for 33 cities across the U.S., 22 of which had instituted some type of bail reform. Researchers used a statistical method to determine if crime rates had diverged in those with reforms and those without. The report found that "put simply" there was no "significant difference in crime rates between cities that reformed their bail policies and those that did not."

Asked last month what data Trump was using to support his claim that cashless bail leads to increase in crime, the White House pointed to a 2022 report from the district attorney's office in Yolo County, California, that looked at how a temporary cashless bail system implemented across the state to prevent COVID-19 outbreaks in courts and jails impacted recidivism. It found that out of 595 individuals released between April 2020 and May 2021 under this system, 70.6% were arrested again after they were released. A little more than half were rearrested more than once.

Ukrainian war veterans swim the Bosphorus strait in a triumph over their war injuries

By EVGENIY MALOLETKA and HANNA ARHIROVA Associated Press

ISTANBUL (AP) — During a pool training session months ago, Ukrainian war veteran Oleh Tserkovnyi was struck by an idea: What if a group of veterans swam across the strait of Bosphorus, between Turkey's European and Asian shores? And if they did it on Aug. 24, Ukraine's Independence Day?

The symbolism of the day would draw attention to the toll and devastation inflicted by Russia's full-out war on Ukraine, now in its fourth year.

When the 34-year-old pitched the idea to fellow veterans in their One for Another support group, none raised injuries, particularly their amputations, as a barrier. Two joined him right away.

They trained for months, with the support of Superhumans Center, a veterans' rehabilitation clinic in Ukraine, and coached by CapitalTRI, an amateur triathlon team in Kyiv. They agreed their race would have another goal — to raise money for prosthetics, which remain costly and urgently needed by many of Ukraine's wounded.

"We're not asking for pity," Tserkovnyi told The Associated Press shortly before the competition. "We're asking for support."

A race that links continents

After months of rigorous training, discipline and physical challenges, the three Ukrainian veterans on Sunday joined more than 2,800 swimmers from 81 countries in the 6.5-kilometer (4-mile) crossing from Asia to Europe.

The Bosphorus Intercontinental Swimming Race is an open-water event held each year in Istanbul, organized by the Turkish Olympic Committee since 1989.

All three Ukrainians completed the crossing, each swimming for more than an hour. The two veterans with amputations faced setbacks even before the start — the organizers initially barred them from competing, insisting they have to be in a separate category for people with disabilities.

But they persevered and swam the race, alongside the others.

For the Ukrainians, it wasn't just about endurance but about reclaiming control over bodies transformed by war — and sharing their recovery with a world that often seems indifferent to the injuries they carry.

Seeking balance in the water

Sports had always been a part of Tserkovnyi's life, but war and injury pushed him to use it as a survival tool after two severe, life-changing concussions — a bridge back to life for war veterans with disabilities.

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"Sport itself heals — we've seen that firsthand," he said. "And the community, it pulls you through. It pushes you, it disciplines you."

When he speaks, he's quick to point out the changes he sees in himself — the stutter, the involuntary twitch in his eye.

"It's what's left over. It used to be much worse," he said.

Both of his concussions were the result of prolonged exposure to artillery fire while serving on the front line. He was a sniper when the second one hit. Afterward, he said, it felt like he had lost his sense of balance entirely.

"There were times I could walk, but then suddenly I'd just tip over like a pencil," Tserkovnyi said. "I have third-degree hearing loss on one side, no peripheral vision."

The sense of being "a sick person," he said, felt so foreign to him that he threw himself into recovery with everything he had. For a long time, he also had PTSD symptoms, including dramatic flashbacks to the war.

But it was in the pool that he found a way to recognize the warning signs. "I began to understand what triggers them, when they come, and how to stay ahead of them," he said.

A path back to oneself

Engineer Pavlo Tovstyk signed up as a volunteer in the early days after Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. Serving as a driver in an intelligence unit, he stepped on a landmine in June 2023.

The blast took his foot and subsequent surgeries led to a partial amputation of his left leg.

The 47-year-old, who used to be an active swimmer as a child, never thought swimming would become a lifeline. He was still recovering from his injury when he began sneaking into the swimming pool, keeping it a secret from the doctors.

"Water became a kind of savior for me," he said. "At the time, everything felt disoriented. But in the water, my thoughts, my strength, my body — it all came together again. I became myself again. Just ... different."

The idea to swim the strait in Turkey started almost as a dare, then became a plan.

"To cross the Bosphorus, you need not just physical strength, but a certain mindset — a state of determination that all of us managed to find within ourselves," he said.

Calm found in purpose

Oleksandr Dashko discovered swimming only after losing his left leg.

The 28-year-old had joined the military at the start of the Russian invasion and served in the infantry in various front-line areas.

In June 2023, a mine exploded near him and shrapnel tore into his knee.

"I didn't take it very graciously, let's say," he said as he recounted the conflicted feelings that tormented him for so long. Adjustment to life with an amputation has been slow and mentally taxing.

It was only over the past year that he was able to focus on physical rehabilitation — and swimming, he said, has become the activity that brings him a sense of calm.

The challenge of swimming the Bosphorus became a purpose for Dashko.

"When I do nothing, I slip back to that state right after the injury — depression, apathy, the feeling that the amputation is winning," he said. "But when something like this shows up on my path, it gives me a jolt — to live, to move forward, to motivate others."

Physical goals, he said, help anchor him. He hopes for more such challenges, not just for himself, but for other veterans.

"Honestly, if it weren't for this, I'd probably be drunk and lying under a fence somewhere," he said.

'Stay out of our city': Chicago officials slam Trump's threat to target the city

By CHRISTINE FERNANDO, JOHN O'CONNOR and MICHELLE L. PRICE Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — President Donald Trump on Friday said Chicago will likely be the next target of his ef-

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forts to crack down on crime, homelessness and illegal immigration.

Trump indicated that the Midwestern city could receive similar treatment to what he's done in Washington, D.C., where he's deployed 2,000 troops on the streets.

"I think Chicago will be our next," Trump told reporters at the White House, later adding, "And then we'll help with New York."

The comments came as the Pentagon on Friday began ordering troops in Washington to carry firearms, though there have been no overt indications they have faced threats that would require them to carry weapons.

Trump has repeatedly described some of the nation's largest cities — run by Democrats, with Black mayors and majority-minority populations — as dangerous and filthy.

He singled out Chicago on Friday, calling it a "mess" and saying residents there are "screaming for us to come" despite significant decreases in crimes of violence.

Trump's suggestion that Chicago might be the next target for a crackdown on crime didn't sit well with Illinois officeholders.

Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson said his office has not received formal communication from the Trump administration about military or federal law enforcement deployments in Chicago but said "we have grave concerns about the impact of any unlawful deployment of National Guard troops."

Johnson called Trump's approach "uncoordinated, uncalled for, and unsound," arguing it "has the potential to inflame tensions between residents and law enforcement."

It is unclear how Trump would pursue an effort in Chicago that is similar to his approach to D.C., where home rule laws give the federal government greater authority.

However, the president's eldest son said it might be time to look at a whole host of cities in the Pacific Northwest. In an interview Thursday with Newsmax, Donald Trump Jr. blamed Democrats for "through-the-roof" murder rates.

"Maybe we should roll out the tour to Portland, Seattle, the other craphole cities of the country," Trump Jr. said.

In a post on X entitled "Things People are Begging For," Gov. JB Pritzker, a Democrat, included cheaper groceries, no cuts to Medicaid or food aid for low-income families, and the release of federally held files on Jeffrey Epstein, the convicted sex trafficker and former Trump friend.

What they are not begging for, Pritzker continued, is "an authoritarian power grab of major cities."

U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin of Illinois, the Senate's No. 2 Democrat, called Trump's Washington, D.C. strategy "political theater." He said Chicago is "a beautiful, vibrant city with people from all walks of life" and suggested pursuing "proven bipartisan solutions" toward further crime reduction.

"These unprecedented threats from President Trump are nothing more than a power grab to distract from his disastrous policies," Durbin said in a statement.

Democratic Sen. Tammy Duckworth, an Army National Guard combat veteran, criticized what she called Trump's misuse of the military to "intimidate Americans in our own communities."

Lisa Hernandez, chair of the Democratic Party of Illinois, called Trump's comments "offensive and false" and argued his rhetoric echoes a history of racist narratives about urban crime.

"Chicagoans are not begging for him," she told The Associated Press.

Trump has taken aim at Chicago for over a decade, including on the 2024 and 2016 presidential campaign trails. He has repeatedly compared the city to Afghanistan and, in 2017, threatened to "send in the feds" due to gun violence in the city, despite historic declines in violent crime in recent years.

Violent crime in Chicago dropped significantly in the first half of the year, representing the steepest decline in over a decade, according to city data. Shootings and homicides were down more than 30% in the first half of 2025 compared to the same time last year, and total violence crime dropped by over 22%.

Johnson touted the city's approach to violent crime, asserting in a statement to The Associated Press that "our communities are safest when we fully invest in housing, community safety, and education." While Trump turns to the military, he said Chicago has invested in mental health services, community-based interventions, raising minimum wages and improving affordable housing.

If he wants to make the city safer, Johnson said, Trump should restore \$158 million he cut in violence-prevention programs for cities such as Chicago.

"There are many things the federal government could do to help us reduce crime and violence in Chicago, but sending in the military is not one of them," he said.

Pastor Donovan Price, a local advocate for gun crime victims, emphasized that community-based anti-violence programs, rather than militarism, is key to reducing gun violence in Chicago.

"Stay out of our city," he said. "This is not a federal issue. We live this every day. We know what our community needs."

To get that perfect ear of corn, weather has to cooperate. But climate change is making it dicier

By MELINA WALLING and JOSHUA A. BICKEL Associated Press

PAW PAW, Mich. (AP) — Robb Rynd and his brother grew up farming and wanted to do more of it outside their day jobs, so they went in together on what's now a little over 200 acres of corn, soybeans, wheat and sorghum. Last year was a good year, and Rynd said he enjoyed walking the fields with his kids to see how the corn was doing.

This year is a different story.

All summer he's been scouting for brown and wilting leaves or ears of corn with kernels missing, and now it's becoming clear that every kernel will count this harvest. "It's almost kind of depressing to go out there and look at it and say, 'oh yep, it does look bad,'" he said.

Across major corn-growing states, climate change is fueling conditions that make watching the corn grow a nail-biter for farmers. Factors like consistently high summer overnight temperatures, droughts and heavier-than-usual rains at the wrong time can all disrupt the plants' pollination — making each full ear of corn less of a guarantee and more of a gamble.

Overall, corn growers got lucky this year with late-season weather that contributed to what is now predicted to be a record bumper crop. But experts say bouts of extreme weather are intensifying the waiting game during a critical time of year between planting and harvest.

Human-caused climate change has worsened multiple U.S. extreme heat events this year and has steadily increased the likelihood of hotter overnight temperatures since 1970, according to Climate Central, an independent group of scientists who communicate climate science and data to the public.

"The hot nights too, like the corn's never getting a break. It's just hot all the time," Rynd said. "I know it's wearing on me."

How excessive heat and rainfall can impact corn pollination

As a corn plant grows, the leaves unroll to reveal the tassel, the part that sheds pollen, explained Mark Licht, an associate professor of agronomy and an extension cropping systems specialist at Iowa State University. If the plant grows too fast, which can happen when it's consistently very hot, the tassel may be wrapped too tightly by the leaf, meaning less pollen gets released.

That can lead to patchy ears of corn. Tight tassel wrap was reported in pockets across parts of the Midwest and the Plains, according to some agricultural trade publication reports during the growing season. Licht said he'd only seen tassel wrapping issues once before in his 20 years as an agronomist.

High temperatures can stress corn in other ways, lowering pollen production, reducing pollen's viability or drying out other parts of the plants, reducing fertility. "I think any of the pollination issues that we might be having are more because the nights have been so exceedingly warm," said Larry Walton, who farms near Rynd in southwestern Michigan, where many farmers irrigate because it's a drier area.

"We tend to see pollination issues being more problematic when we have high temperatures and drought conditions or lack of rainfall," Licht said. Yet Iowa had plenty of rain and still saw some pollination issues. Excessive moisture can cause corn smut, a type of fungus that grows on the ears.

He said farmers are having to pay more attention to this because "there's just more variable weather."

Overall 'monster' yield expected despite tricky weather conditions

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This winter, the U.S. drought monitor reported drought in nearly 60% of corn production areas in the Midwest. But near or above normal rainfall nearly everywhere east of the Rockies this summer brought that down to just 3% as of the beginning of August, said Brad Rippey, a meteorologist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

That, combined with consistent heat, means that “we are expecting a monster U.S. corn crop in 2025,” Rippey said.

But it wasn’t easy for everyone. “This has probably been one of the most difficult growing seasons that I’ve experienced in my career,” said Philip Good, a farmer in Macon, Mississippi and chair of the United Soybean Board. He planted his corn and soybeans 60 days behind schedule because it rained nearly every day for two months.

They lost some fertilizer and some plants died in standing water, Good said, but they made up for it with some lucky weather later in the season.

“The rain does fall in heavier bursts,” Rippey said. He said that can be an issue for farmers because even when it doesn’t cause flash floods, the moisture doesn’t necessarily percolate into the soil. It runs off and carries fertilizer with it, which is a problem for rivers’ health and farmers’ pocketbooks.

The trend toward higher humidity levels and warmer ocean temperatures, contributing to hotter nights, could be a bigger issue going forward, putting stress on crops like corn and soybeans, Rippey added.

Climate variability adds stress to a critical time for farmers

Late summer is a make-or-break time for farmers: They’re trying to gauge how much they’ll make from the year’s crop and planning their next steps, and patchy pollination doesn’t help.

“We’d like to upgrade a tractor ... or we’d maybe try to pick up some more ground,” Rynd said. “It’s hard to want to go do those things when you have a bad year like this.”

When the uncertain pollination is at its worst, if 15% to 25% of every ear of corn doesn’t have kernels, that could mean a significant yield loss over a large field, said Nicolle Ritchie, a Michigan State University extension agent who helps Walton and Rynd survey their crops.

Jason Cope co-founded a farm tech company called PowerPollen whose equipment can mechanically collect pollen and then pollinate future crops. He said that due to extreme weather events, the number of “rescue” pollination jobs they’ve done for customers — to save fields that didn’t naturally pollinate very well — has nearly doubled since they started in 2018.

Walton said he can manage as long as the pollination issues don’t get too bad.

“You learn to roll with the stress part of it because most of that you can’t control anyway,” he added. ____

Follow Melina Walling on X @MelinaWalling and Bluesky @melinawalling.bsky.social. Follow Joshua A. Bickel on Instagram, Bluesky and X @joshuabickel. ____

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Vietnam evacuates hundreds of thousands as typhoon Kajiki nears landfall

By ANIRUDDHA GHOSAL Associated Press

HANOI, Vietnam (AP) — Vietnam has evacuated hundreds of thousands of people and closed schools and airports as it braces for Typhoon Kajiki, its strongest storm of the year so far.

Forecasters said the typhoon had winds of up to 166 kilometers (103 miles) per hour at 10 a.m. Monday but is expected to weaken slightly before making landfall between central Vietnam’s Thanh Hoa and Ha Tinh provinces later in the afternoon.

The typhoon started as a weak tropical depression on Aug. 22 but grew into a powerful storm in less than two days, matching last year’s Typhoon Yagi as one of the region’s fastest-growing, according to state media. Its rapid strengthening forced Vietnamese authorities to rush emergency measures as strong winds and heavy rain hit the region.

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Last year, Typhoon Yagi killed about 300 people and caused \$3.3 billion in damage.

Kajiki has already caused devastation in China, with strong winds and heavy rain whipping Hainan Island and nearby parts of Guangdong province on Sunday. About 20,000 people were evacuated from high-risk areas, China's official Xinhua News Agency reported.

One man in Nghe An province died Friday after being electrocuted while trying to secure his roof ahead of the storm, state media reported.

The storm is expected to move inland into Laos and northern Thailand.

Vietnamese state media reported plans to evacuate nearly 600,000 people in the provinces of Thanh Hoa, Quang Tri, Hue and Danang, where more than 152,000 homes are in high-risk areas.

The government said over 16,500 soldiers and 107,000 paramilitary personnel have been deployed to assist with evacuations and remain on standby for search and rescue.

Vietnam halted flights at two airports in Thanh Hoa and Quang Binh provinces on Monday, the Civil Aviation Authority of Vietnam said while dozens of flights have been cancelled.

Scientists published a study last year warning that seas warmed by climate change will result in South-east Asia's cyclones forming closer to land, strengthening faster and lasting longer, raising risks for cities.

"It's frightening to see our projections from just last year already materializing," said Benjamin Horton, Dean of the School of Energy and Environment and a professor of earth science at City University of Hong Kong.

He said that the speed at which these changes were unfolding was a "clear signal" that the climate crisis is moving faster than expected. "We are no longer predicting the future — we are living it," he said.

Australia accuses Iran of organizing antisemitic attacks and expels ambassador

By ROD McGUIRK Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese accused Iran of organizing two antisemitic attacks in Australia and said the country was cutting off diplomatic relations with Tehran in response on Tuesday.

The Australian Security Intelligence Organization concluded the Iranian government had directed arson attacks on the Lewis Continental Kitchen, a kosher food company, in Sydney in October last year and on the Adass Israel Synagogue in Melbourne in December last year, Albanese said.

Iran's government denied the allegations.

Australian intelligence says Iran was behind arson attacks

There has been a steep rise in antisemitic incidents in Sydney and Melbourne since the Israel-Hamas war began in 2023.

Australian authorities have previously said they suspect that foreign actors are paying local criminals-for-hire to carry out attacks in the country.

Police have already arrested at least one suspect in the Sydney cafe fire investigation and two suspects directly accused of torching the Melbourne synagogue.

Police have already arrested at least one suspect in the Sydney cafe fire investigation and two suspects directly accused of torching the Melbourne synagogue.

Sayed Mohammed Moosawi, a 32-year-old Sydney-based former chapter president of the Nomads biker gang, has been charged with directing the fire bombings of the Sydney café as well as the nearby Curly Lewis Brewery. The brewery was apparently confused for the café and mistakenly targeted three days earlier for an antisemitic attack.

Giovanna Lulu, a 21-year-old man from Melbourne, was charged last month with being one of three masked arsonists who caused extensive damage to the synagogue in December.

A second alleged arsonist, a 20-year-old man also from Melbourne, is expected to appear in court Wednesday, a police statement said. He has not been publicly named.

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"ASIO has now gathered enough credible intelligence to reach a deeply disturbing conclusion," Albanese told reporters. "The Iranian government directed at least two of these attacks. Iran has sought to disguise its involvement but ASIO assesses it was behind the attacks.

"These were extraordinary and dangerous acts of aggression orchestrated by a foreign nation on Australian soil," he said. "They were attempts to undermine social cohesion and sow discord in our community. It is totally unacceptable."

Australia breaks off diplomatic relations and warns citizens in Iran

Shortly before the announcement, the Australian government told Iran's Ambassador to Australia Ahmad Sadeghi that he will be expelled. It also withdrew Australian diplomats posted in Iran to a third country, Albanese said.

An alert to Australians in Iran noted the embassy's closure and urged them to "strongly consider leaving as soon as possible, if it is safe to do so."

"Foreigners in Iran, including Australians and dual Australian-Iranian nationals, are at a high risk of arbitrary detention or arrest," the warning read.

Australia updated its warning to travelers to its highest level: "Do not travel" to Iran.

Iran has a long history of detaining Westerners or those with ties abroad to use as bargaining chips in negotiations.

Foreign Minister Penny Wong said that Canberra would keep some diplomatic lines open to Tehran to advance Australia's interests. She added that it was the first time Australia has expelled an ambassador since World War II.

Albanese aims to declare Iran's Revolutionary Guard a terrorist organization

Albanese said that Australia will legislate to list Iran's Revolutionary Guard as a terrorist organization.

Australia's law makes providing support to a listed terrorist organization a crime.

The government has previously rejected calls to list the Revolutionary Guard under existing terrorism laws because it is a government entity.

Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard has been accused of carrying out attacks abroad over the decades of its existence, though it broadly denies any involvement. The Guard's Quds, or Jerusalem, Force is its expeditionary arm and is accused by Western nations of using local militants and criminals in the past to target dissidents and Israelis abroad.

A spokesperson for the Executive Council of Australian Jewry welcomed the terrorist designation for the Revolutionary Guard, adding in a statement that the group was "outraged" that a foreign actor was behind the crimes.

"Foremost, these were attacks that deliberately targeted Jewish Australians, destroyed a sacred house of worship, caused millions of dollars of damage, and terrified our community," the statement said.

Since the outbreak of the Israel-Hamas war, Israel has arrested several people on charges they had been paid or encouraged by Iran to carry out vandalism and monitor potential targets there.

Iran denies the allegations

Iran denied Australia's allegations through its Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei, who tried to link it to the challenges Australia faced with Israel after announcing it would recognize a Palestinian state.

"It looks like that the action, which is against Iran, diplomacy and the relations between the two nations, is a compensation for the criticism that the Australians had against the Zionist regime," Baghaei claimed.

The move against Iran came a week after Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu branded Albanese a "weak politician who had betrayed Israel" by recognizing a Palestinian state.

Netanyahu's extraordinary public rebuke on social media came after an Aug. 11 announcement by Albanese that his government's recognition of a Palestinian state will be formalized at the United Nations General Assembly in September. That announcement was followed by tit-for-tat cancellations of visas for Australian and Israeli officials.

Albanese previously resisted calls to expel Iran's envoy to Canberra before, analysts said, including in 2024 when Sadeghi was summoned for meetings with foreign ministry officials over his social media posts.

Michael Shoebridge, a former Australian defense and security official and director of the think tank Stra-

tegic Analysis Australia, said he didn't believe the move was prompted by Israel's complaints.

"I don't think that's a matter of Australia-Israel relations, but a matter of community cohesion here in Australia," he said.

Australia says Iran helped escalate antisemitic incidents

Neither ASIO director-general Mike Burgess nor Albanese explained what evidence there was of Iranian involvement.

Burgess said no Iranian diplomats in Australia were involved.

"This was directed by the IRGC through a series of overseas cut-out facilitators to coordinators that found their way to tasking Australians," Burgess said.

While antisemitic incidents increased in Australia after the Israel-Hamas war began on Oct. 7 2023, Iran was responsible for a transition in October last year when the violence more directly targeted people, businesses and places of worship, Burgess said.

"Iran started the first of those," Burgess said.

Ugandan opposition figures question deal to receive deportees from the US

By RODNEY MUHUMUZA Associated Press

KAMPALA, Uganda (AP) — Opposition figures and others in Uganda on Tuesday criticized an agreement with the United States to receive deported migrants, questioning the lack of parliamentary approval and charging that the deal eases political pressure on the country's authoritarian president.

After facing U.S. sanctions that have targeted many government officials, including the parliamentary speaker, Ugandan President Yoweri "Museveni will be happy" to transact with Washington, said Ibrahim Ssemujju, a lawmaker who is a prominent opposition figure. "He will be asking, 'When are you bringing them?'"

Ugandan officials have released few details about the agreement, although said they preferred to receive deportees of African origin and didn't want individuals with criminal records. However, the country is being put forward as a possible location for high-profile detainee Kilmar Abrego Garcia, an El Salvador native who has been charged with human smuggling.

Abrego Garcia, the subject of a protracted immigration saga, was detained on Monday by immigration officials in Baltimore, and the Department of Homeland Security said in a statement that Abrego Garcia "is being processed for removal to Uganda."

Without parliamentary oversight, "the whole scheme stinks," said Mathias Mpuuga, until recently the leader of the opposition in Uganda's national assembly.

He said the agreement with the U.S. left him "a little perplexed" because Uganda is struggling to look after refugees fleeing violence in neighboring countries. He suggested the agreement makes sense only as a matter of "economic expediency" for the Ugandan government.

It remains unclear precisely what Ugandan authorities are getting in return for accepting deportees.

Uganda's attorney-general, as well as the government ministers in charge of refugees and internal affairs, were not immediately available for comment. Okello Oryem, the deputy minister in charge of international relations, told the AP that such a deal was "complete rubbish" — the day before his permanent secretary confirmed an agreement was in place to accept individuals who are "reluctant to or may have concerns about returning to their countries of origin."

Negotiators for the Ugandan side are believed to have been reporting directly to Museveni, an authoritarian leader who has been in power in the east African country since 1986.

For much of his time in power, Museveni was widely seen as a strong U.S. ally, especially for his support of counter-terrorism operations in Somalia when he deployed troops there to fight the al-Qaida-linked rebels of al-Shabab.

But his cachet in Washington declined in recent years. The Biden administration piled pressure over

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corruption, LGBTQ rights concerns and other rights abuses, with a growing list of Ugandan officials facing sanctions. In addition to Speaker Anita Among, a key ally of Museveni's, Ugandan officials sanctioned by the U.S. include the current prisons chief, a former police chief, a former deputy army commander, and some former government ministers.

In 2023, reacting to U.S. sanctions against Ugandan officials that followed the enactment of a law against homosexuality, Museveni told a gathering of government officials that he had no wish to visit the U.S.

For Museveni, the deal with the U.S. to accept deportees is desirable "for political and perhaps economic reasons," said Marlon Agaba, the head of a leading anti-corruption group in Uganda.

The deal eases pressure on Museveni and may come with trade opportunities, said Agaba, executive director of Anti-Corruption Coalition Uganda.

"The Trump administration is about deals, about deal-making, and any strongman would welcome that," he said.

Ssemujju, the opposition lawmaker, said he believed "the matter should be handled by Parliament" and that the agreement is flawed without parliamentary authorization.

In July, the U.S. deported five men with criminal backgrounds to the southern African kingdom of Eswatini and sent eight more to South Sudan. Rwanda has also said it will receive up to 250 migrants deported from the U.S.

World shares sink after Trump escalates feud with the Federal Reserve

By YURI KAGEYAMA AP Business Writer

TOKYO (AP) — Shares sank Tuesday in Europe and Asia after President Donald Trump announced he was firing Federal Reserve Governor Lisa Cook.

The announcement came after trading closed Monday on Wall Street, where benchmarks reversed some of their big gains from notched last week on hopes for interest rate cuts from the Fed. Trump said in a letter posted Monday on his Truth Social platform that he was removing Cook because of allegations that she committed mortgage fraud.

It's an unprecedented move that marks a sharp escalation in Trump's battle to exert greater control over what has long been considered an institution independent from day-to-day politics. Apart from rattling financial markets, it is likely to touch off an extensive legal battle that will probably go to the Supreme Court.

"Trump's decision to remove a sitting Fed governor has shaken confidence in the institution that underpins the world's financial system," Nigel Green of the financial advisory deVere Group, said in a commentary.

"Investors are reacting because the independence of the central bank is critical to market stability, and any sign of political capture raises alarm bells everywhere."

In early European trading, Germany's DAX lost 0.5% to 24,148.16, while the CAC 40 in Paris slumped 1.6% to 7,716.55. Britain's FTSE 100 gave up 0.6% to 9,269.40.

The futures for the S&P 500 and the Dow Jones Industrial Average were 0.1% lower.

In Asian trading, most benchmarks declined.

Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 dove nearly 1.0% to finish at 42,394.40. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 declined 0.4% to 8,935.60.

South Korea's Kospi lost 1.0% to 3,179.36 after data showed improved consumer sentiment, strengthening expectations that the central bank won't lower interest rates.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng shed 1.2% to 25,524.92, while the Shanghai Composite slipped 0.4% to 3,868.38.

On Monday, the Wall Street, the S&P 500 fell 0.4%. The Dow industrials closed 0.8% lower and the Nasdaq composite shed 0.2%.

Trump has repeatedly attacked the Fed's chair, Jerome Powell, for not cutting its short-term interest rate, and even threatened to fire him.

Wall Street is still overwhelmingly betting that the Fed will cut interest rates at its next meeting in September. Traders see an 84% chance that the central bank will trim its benchmark rate by a quarter of a

percentage point, according to data from CME Group.

In other trading early Tuesday, benchmark U.S. crude lost \$1.09 to \$63.71 a barrel. Brent crude, the international standard, declined \$1.02 to \$67.20 a barrel.

The U.S. dollar edged down to 147.62 Japanese yen from 147.77 yen. The euro rose to \$1.1637 from \$1.1620.

Mass evacuations in eastern Pakistan as India releases water from swollen rivers

By BABAR DOGAR and MUNIR AHMED Associated Press

LAHORE, Pakistan (AP) — Pakistan has evacuated tens of thousands of people to safer areas after neighboring India released water from overflowing dams and swollen rivers into low-lying border regions, officials said Tuesday.

The move came a day after New Delhi alerted Islamabad about possible cross-border flooding, marking the first public diplomatic contact between the two nuclear-armed rivals in months.

Pakistan's National Disaster Management Authority said it had issued an advance alert to its Punjabi counterparts about a surge in the Sutlej River and the risk of flooding, and that evacuations from various districts in the eastern Punjab province were underway.

In a statement, it said rescuers evacuated more than 14,000 people from Kasur, a district in Punjab province, while over 89,000 were moved to safer ground from the city of Bahawalnagar, near the Indian border.

The NDMA said authorities have urged residents to stay away from rivers, streams and low-lying areas, avoid unnecessary travel, and follow alerts issued through the media, mobile phones and the NDMA's disaster alert app.

The latest flood alert and evacuation drive by Pakistan comes as heavy monsoon rains continue to batter both South Asian countries.

In Pakistan's northwest, many residents complained this month that they had received no warning before flash floods struck Buner district, killing more than 300 people. Officials have said the devastation was caused by a sudden cloudburst, which could not have been predicted, and that many of the victims were living along natural water pathways.

Nationwide, floods triggered by seasonal rains have killed more than 800 people in Pakistan since June 26.

In Kashmir, which is split between the two sides and claimed by both in its entirety, at least 65 have also died and hundreds have been displaced in the Indian-administered Jammu area.

Many of the region's rivers and tributaries eventually flow into Pakistan and the part of Kashmir it controls. On Tuesday, Indian officials said most rivers and streams were overflowing, with muddy waters inundating homes in several places and damaging roads and bridges. Water levels in multiple rivers continued to rise in the region.

According to the Indian Meteorological Department, rains should persist until late Tuesday.

In 2014, Kashmir saw its worst monsoon flooding in a century, leaving 500 people dead across the region.

This week's flood alert was conveyed to Pakistan through diplomatic channels rather than the Indus Waters Commission, the permanent mechanism created under the 1960 World Bank-brokered Indus Waters Treaty, which was suspended by New Delhi after the April killing of 26 tourists in Indian-controlled Kashmir.

Pakistan says India cannot scrap the treaty unilaterally. The treaty had earlier survived two wars between the countries, in 1965 and 1971, and a major border skirmish in 1999. The suspension of treaty and scaling down of diplomatic ties by India over the killing of tourists eventually set off tit-for-tat missile strikes by the both sides in May.

The exchange ended only after U.S. President Donald Trump announced that he had brokered a ceasefire. Since then, the two sides have not taken steps to normalize ties.

Pakistan in recent months has witnessed multiple cloudburst floods and more than normal rainfall. Pakistan's annual monsoon season runs from July through September.

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Scientists and weather forecasters have blamed climate change for heavier rains in recent years in the region. This year's heavy rains have raised fears of a repeat of the 2022 downpour, also blamed on climate change, that inundated a third of the country and killed 1,739 people.

Tropical Storms Juliette and Fernand churn over open waters in 2 oceans

MIAMI (AP) — Tropical Storms Juliette and Fernand are churning over open waters, one in the Pacific and one in the Atlantic, the Miami-based U.S. National Hurricane Center said.

No coastal watches or warnings were in effect for either storm.

Juliette posed no immediate threat to land, forecasters said. The storm was about 520 miles (840 kilometers) southwest of the southern tip of the Baja California peninsula. It had maximum sustained winds of 65 mph (100 kph) after strengthening during the day.

It was moving west-northwest at 13 mph (20 kph). Forecasters said Juliette could strengthen further in the coming hours before weakening again on Wednesday.

In the Atlantic basin, Tropical Storm Fernand also was far from land and forecast to remain over open ocean waters. On Tuesday morning, it was about 635 miles (1,020 kilometers) east-northeast of Bermuda with maximum sustained winds of 45 mph (75 kph) and heading northeast at 14 mph (22 kph).

The storm was expected to turn more to the northeast as it moves away from Bermuda. Forecasters said it would begin weakening and could become a post-tropical cyclone later Tuesday or on Wednesday before dissipating.

Trump says he's firing Fed Governor Lisa Cook, opening new front in fight for central bank control

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER and WILL WEISSERT Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump said Monday night that he's firing Federal Reserve Governor Lisa Cook, an unprecedented move that would constitute a sharp escalation in his battle to exert greater control over what has long been considered an institution independent from day-to-day politics.

Trump said in a letter posted on his Truth Social platform that he is removing Cook effective immediately because of allegations that she committed mortgage fraud.

Cook said Monday night that she would not step down. "President Trump purported to fire me 'for cause' when no cause exists under the law, and he has no authority to do so," she said in an emailed statement. "I will not resign."

Bill Pulte, a Trump appointee to the agency that regulates mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, made the accusations last week. Pulte alleged that Cook had claimed two primary residences -- in Ann Arbor, Michigan, and Atlanta -- in 2021 to get better mortgage terms. Mortgage rates are often higher on second homes or those purchased to rent.

Trump's move is likely to touch off an extensive legal battle that will probably go to the Supreme Court and could disrupt financial markets. Stock futures declined slightly late Monday, as did the dollar against other major currencies.

If Trump succeeds in removing Cook from the board, it could erode the Fed's political independence, which is considered critical to its ability to fight inflation because it enables it to take unpopular steps like raising interest rates. If bond investors start to lose faith that the Fed will be able to control inflation, they will demand higher rates to own bonds, pushing up borrowing costs for mortgages, car loans and business loans.

Cook has retained Abbe Lowell, a prominent Washington attorney. Lowell said Trump's "reflex to bully is flawed and his demands lack any proper process, basis or legal authority," adding, "We will take whatever actions are needed to prevent his attempted illegal action."

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Cook was appointed to the Fed's board by then-President Joe Biden in 2022 and is the first Black woman to serve as a governor. She was a Marshall Scholar and received degrees from Oxford University and Spelman College, and she has taught at Michigan State University and Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government.

Her nomination was opposed by most Senate Republicans, and she was approved on a 50-50 vote with the tie broken by then-Vice President Kamala Harris.

Questions about 'for cause' firing

The law allows a president to fire a Fed governor "for cause," which typically means for some kind of wrongdoing or dereliction of duty. The president cannot fire a governor simply because of differences over interest rate policy.

Establishing a for-cause removal typically requires some type of proceeding that would allow Cook to answer the charges and present evidence, legal experts say, which hasn't happened in this case.

"This is a procedurally invalid removal under the statute," said Lev Menand, a law professor at Columbia law school and author of "The Fed Unbound," a book about the Fed's actions during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Menand also said for-cause firings are typically related to misconduct while in office, rather than based on private misconduct from before an official's appointment.

"This is not someone convicted of a crime," Menand said. "This is not someone who is not carrying out their duties."

Fed governors vote on the central bank's interest rate decisions and on issues of financial regulation. While they are appointed by the president and confirmed by the Senate, they are not like cabinet secretaries, who serve at the pleasure of the president. They serve 14-year terms that are staggered in an effort to insulate the Fed from political influence.

No presidential precedent

While presidents have clashed with Fed chairs before, no president has sought to fire a Fed governor. In recent decades, presidents of both parties have largely respected Fed independence, though Richard Nixon and Lyndon Johnson put heavy pressure on the Fed during their presidencies — mostly behind closed doors. Still, that behind-the-scenes pressure to keep interest rates low, the same goal sought by Trump, has widely been blamed for touching off rampant inflation in the late 1960s and '70s.

President Harry Truman pushed Thomas McCabe to step down from his position as Fed chair in 1951, though that occurred behind the scenes.

The Supreme Court signaled in a recent decision that Fed officials have greater legal protections from firing than other independent agencies, but it's not clear if that extends to this case.

Menand noted that the Court's conservative majority has taken a very expansive view of presidential power, saying, "We're in uncharted waters in a sense that it's very difficult to predict that if Lisa Cook goes to court what will happen."

Sarah Binder, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, said the president's use of the "for cause" provision is likely an effort to mask his true intent. "It seems like a fig leaf to get what we want, which is muscling someone on the board to lower rates," she said.

A fight over interest rates

Trump has said he would only appoint Fed officials who would support lower borrowing costs. He recently named Stephen Miran, a top White House economic adviser, to replace another governor, Adriana Kugler, who stepped down about five months before her term officially ended Aug. 1.

Trump appointed two governors in his first term, Christopher Waller and Michelle Bowman, so replacing Cook would give Trump appointees a 4-3 majority on the Fed's board.

"The American people must have the full confidence in the honesty of the members entrusted with setting policy and overseeing the Federal Reserve," Trump wrote in a letter addressed to Cook, a copy of which he posted online. "In light of your deceitful and potentially criminal conduct in a financial matter, they cannot and I do not have such confidence in your integrity."

Trump argued that firing Cook was constitutional. "I have determined that faithfully enacting the law requires your immediate removal from office," the president wrote.

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Cook will have to fight the legal battle herself, as the injured party, rather than the Fed.

Trump's announcement drew swift rebuke from advocates and former Fed officials.

Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., called Trump's attempt to fire Cook illegal, "the latest example of a desperate President searching for a scapegoat to cover for his own failure to lower costs for Americans. It's an authoritarian power grab that blatantly violates the Federal Reserve Act, and must be overturned in court."

Trump has repeatedly attacked the Fed's chair, Jerome Powell, for not cutting its short-term interest rate, and even threatened to fire him.

Forcing Cook off the Fed's governing board would provide Trump an opportunity to appoint a loyalist. Trump has said he would only appoint officials who would support cutting rates.

Powell signaled last week that the Fed may cut rates soon even as inflation risks remain moderate. Meanwhile, Trump will be able to replace Powell in May 2026, when Powell's term expires. However, 12 members of the Fed's interest-rate setting committee have a vote on whether to raise or lower interest rates, so even replacing the chair might not guarantee that Fed policy will shift the way Trump wants.

Trump envoy says officials working 'very, very hard' on ending Russia-Ukraine war

By ILLIA NOVIKOV Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — U.S. President Donald Trump's special envoy Keith Kellogg said in Kyiv on Monday that officials are "working very, very hard" on efforts to end the three-year war between Russia and Ukraine, as a lack of progress fuels doubts about whether a peace settlement could be on the horizon.

Officials are "hoping to get to a position where, in the near term, we have, with a lack of a better term, security guarantees" that address Ukraine's fears of another invasion by Russia in the future, Kellogg said.

"That's a work in progress," Kellogg said of the potential security guarantees after attending Ukraine's annual National Prayer Breakfast along with politicians, business leaders and diplomats.

A week ago, Trump said he had set in motion arrangements for direct peace talks between Russian President Vladimir Putin and Zelenskyy. But Russian officials have signaled that such a summit won't happen any time soon.

Trump said Friday he expects to decide on next steps in two weeks if direct talks aren't scheduled.

A stream of high-ranking visitors to Kyiv in recent days reflects concerns around the U.S.-led peace drive.

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney visited Kyiv on Sunday for meetings with Zelenskyy, pledging 2 billion Canadian dollars in aid, and NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte was in the Ukrainian capital on Friday. Germany's vice chancellor and finance minister, Lars Klingbeil, arrived in Kyiv on Monday to discuss "how Germany can best support Ukraine in a possible peace process."

Putin spoke on the phone with Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian on Monday, the Kremlin said. Russia and Iran have close relations, and Putin has also deepened ties with China, India and North Korea as Western countries have sided with Ukraine in the war.

Putin and Pezeshkian are expected to meet next week when China hosts the Shanghai Cooperation Organization's annual summit, in Tianjin.

Germany, Norway vow more help for Ukraine

Klingbeil, the German vice chancellor, told Zelenskyy that Ukraine's allies have to "talk about what happens if President Putin does not relent, if he wants to continue the war."

Germany will continue to stand by Ukraine, he said, echoing sentiments by Norwegian Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Store earlier in the day.

Norway's multibillion-dollar military and civilian support for Ukraine's fight to defeat Russia's invasion will stretch into next year, Store said in Kyiv. He said he will propose to the Norwegian Parliament spending \$8.45 billion on Ukraine next year.

Store, whose country borders Russia, told a news conference with Zelenskyy that Ukraine is "defending a critical principle on the European level" by refusing to accept Russia's seizure of territory.

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Analysts say Putin thinks he can outlast Western governments' commitment to Ukraine and use his bigger army to capture more Ukrainian land while peace efforts are under discussion.

Norway on Sunday pledged about 7 billion kroner (\$695 million) toward air defense systems for Ukraine. Norway and Germany are jointly funding two U.S.-made Patriot anti-missile systems, including missiles, with Norway also helping procure air defense radar, Store said.

Drone strikes continue

Ukraine's Air Force said Russia launched 104 strike and decoy drones overnight, targeting the country's north and east. There were no immediate reports of damage or casualties.

Ukraine has continued long-range drone attacks on Russia, hitting oil refineries, armories and transport hubs and causing commercial flight disruption during the summer vacation period.

On Sunday, an Egyptian plane carrying Russian tourists from Sharm El Sheikh to St. Petersburg diverted to Tallinn because the Russian city's international airport had temporarily closed due to a drone attack, the Estonian daily Postimees reported.

Meanwhile, the Russian Defense Ministry reported intercepting 23 Ukrainian drones overnight and Monday morning over seven Russian regions, both on or near the border with Ukraine and deeper inside Russia.

Australian Open champion Madison Keys loses in the US Open's first round to Renata Zarazua of Mexico

By HOWARD FENDRICH AP Tennis Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Pretty much from the get-go at the U.S. Open on Monday, Madison Keys could tell she wasn't hitting the ball well or feeling very much at all like the self-confident player who claimed her first Grand Slam title at the Australian Open in January.

After 89 unforced errors, including 14 double-faults, the No. 6-seeded Keys was gone from Flushing Meadows in the first round with a 6-7 (10), 7-6 (3), 7-5 loss to 82nd-ranked Renata Zarazua of Mexico.

"For the first time in a while ... my nerves really got the better of me, and it kind of became a little bit paralyzing," said Keys, the runner-up in New York to good friend Sloane Stephens in 2017 and a semifinalist in 2018 and 2023. "I felt like I was just slow. I wasn't seeing things the way that I wanted to, which I feel like resulted in a lot of bad decisions and lazy footwork."

Her first U.S. Open with the status of major champion — thanks to defeating No. 1 Aryna Sabalenka in the final at Melbourne Park — was over just as it began.

"You always kind of feel first-round jitters and, as the day is getting closer, feeling a little bit more and more nervous," said Keys, who played with her left thigh heavily taped. "But I feel like, for whatever reason, today I just couldn't separate myself from ... feeling like winning matters just way too much."

She made so many mistakes off the spin-laden shots coming her way that Zarazua needed to produce just eight winners to earn the biggest victory of her career. Zarazua lost in the first or second round of all eight of her previous Slam appearances.

Yet somehow, it was Zarazua who managed to deal with any nervousness better, even though she was competing in cavernous Arthur Ashe Stadium for the first time and had only had a chance to hit there once a couple of days prior.

The 5-foot-3 Zarazua came into the day with a 0-6 record against opponents ranked in the top 10.

"I'm a little bit small in height, so coming in here, it was like: 'Oh, my God. This is huge,'" Zarazua said about the largest stadium in tennis, which holds nearly 24,000 spectators.

When the match ended with Keys missing a forehand, Zarazua smiled as wide as possible, held her racket atop her head, then placed a hand over her face.

This one certainly was memorable, in part because it did not come easily and lasted 3 hours, 10 minutes. Zarazua trailed by a set — after frittering away five chances to take the opener — and 3-0 in the second. Quite a daunting deficit. But she never went away.

"Kudos to her for making me play a lot of balls today," Keys said. "I mean, she's a tricky player."

While Keys was one of 25 American players in the women's singles draw, the 27-year-old Zarazua is

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Mexico's lone entrant in the bracket. She moved to San Antonio as a teen, and is now based in Florida. "In Mexico, yeah, it's probably not the most famous sport," Zarazua said about tennis, which she picked up after starting out in gymnastics and diving.

"I got into tennis," she explained, "just because my brother was playing, and he was like, 'I think this is a bit safer sport.'"

What else happened at the US Open on Monday?

Brazilian teenager João Fonseca, who turned 19 on Thursday, won his U.S. Open debut, defeating Miomir Kecmanovic 7-6 (3), 7-6 (5), 6-3 in front of a raucous crowd of his countrymen. Another precocious player, 18-year-old Canadian Vicky Mboko, who was seeded 22nd, was eliminated by two-time major champion Barbora Krejčíková 6-3, 6-2. Two-time Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitová, who is 35, played her last match before retirement, losing to Diane Parry 6-1, 6-0, and 2022 U.S. Open semifinalist Caroline Garcia, 31, also exited the final tournament of her career, eliminated 6-4, 4-6, 6-3 by Kamilla Rakhimova. Frances Tiafoe, a two-time semifinalist in New York, beat Yoshihito Nishioka in straight sets. At night, Venus Williams lost her first Grand Slam match in two years, before Carlos Alcaraz showed up with a new buzz cut and beat Reilly Opelka 6-4, 7-5, 6-4.

Who is on Tuesday's schedule at the US Open?

A packed program for Day 3 of the first round includes Grand Slam champions Coco Gauff, Iga Świątek and Jannik Sinner. Gauff's opponent is Ajla Tomljanovic, who beat Serena Williams at the U.S. Open in the last match of 23-time major title winner's career. This is Gauff's first match since she began working with biomechanics coach Gavin MacMillan in a bid to improve her serve.

Venus Williams' pain-free return to Grand Slam tennis means more to her than a US Open loss

By HOWARD FENDRICH AP Tennis Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — That Venus Williams lost her first Grand Slam match in two years — and what she says will be her last match of 2025 — didn't really matter Monday night.

Certainly not to the thousands of supportive spectators in the Arthur Ashe Stadium seats who roared for her best shots and, in a way, for everything her career means to them, before sending her off the court with a standing ovation after a 6-3, 2-6, 6-1 defeat against 11th-seeded Karolína Muchová at the U.S. Open.

The result also sure seemed beside the point to Williams herself, at 45 the oldest singles player at Flushing Meadows since 1981. She smiled and laughed and joked through her postmatch news conference — until, that is, a reporter asked something that made her think back to all of the injury and illness issues she dealt with for years.

"Oh, what did I prove to myself?" Williams began, repeating part of the question. "I think for me, getting back on the court was about giving myself a chance to play more healthy. When you play unhealthy, it's in your mind. It's not just how you feel. You get stuck in your mind too. So it was nice to be freer."

As she spoke those last few words, Williams bowed her head and closed her eyes, which welled with tears. After several seconds of silence, the tournament moderator ended the Q-and-A session and Williams rose from her seat at the front of the room.

This was just the fourth singles match of a comeback that began in July after 16 months off the tennis tour, time marked by pain from uterine fibroids she had surgery for last year.

"My team and I, we worked as hard and as fast as we could. We literally took no days off. I haven't gone to dinner. I haven't seen friends. I haven't done anything except train for three months as hard as I could," Williams said. "From each match that I didn't win, then I tried to go back and learn from that and then get better."

She hasn't won a match at the U.S. Open in singles since 2019, when she got to the second round. Since then, Williams exited in the first round in 2020, 2022 and 2023, and missed the tournament in 2021 and 2024.

Being back in the arena meant so much to her — and to those watching.

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"I don't think I've ever had a crowd that much on my side," said Williams, who appreciated the backing and yells of "Let's go, Venus!" that came from the stands even as she dropped 11 of the night's first 13 points. "I knew going into this match that people in this stadium, people in the United States, people around the world, were really rooting for me, and that felt great."

This event holds a special place in her career. Her first Grand Slam final came at the 1997 U.S. Open, when she was 17. She won two of her seven major championships there, in 2000 and 2001.

And it was at the U.S. Open more than a decade ago that Williams withdrew before she was supposed to play in the second round, revealing she had been diagnosed with Sjögren's syndrome, an energy-sapping auto-immune disease that can cause joint pain.

Some thought she might leave tennis because of that, but she remained a leading figure — on and off the court.

"She's such a legend of our sport," 2023 French Open runner-up Muchova said, calling it an honor "to share a court with her."

Muchova, a 29-year-old from the Czech Republic, made it to the semifinals in New York in both 2023 — when she lost to eventual champion Coco Gauff in a match interrupted by a climate protest — and 2024.

So perhaps it wasn't surprising that Williams started slowly. But with her fiancé, Andrea Preti, leaping out of his seat after many points, Williams got back into the match, smacking vintage serves at up to 114 mph and finishing with just one fewer winner than Muchova.

In the third set, though, as the contest reached two hours, Muchova was simply too good.

Since making her professional debut in 1994, Williams has accomplished pretty much everything one can in tennis. There are the 14 Grand Slam trophies in women's doubles alongside her younger sister, Serena, plus two in mixed doubles. The record five Olympic tennis medals. The time at No. 1 in the WTA rankings.

Both siblings transcended their sport and became much more than successful athletes. Serena, who won 23 Grand Slam singles titles, played her last match at the 2022 U.S. Open.

"She's Venus Williams. She's so iconic in so many different ways," said Frances Tiafoe, an American player who won his first-round match in Ashe earlier Monday. "She's won so much. And to see how much she loves game still at her age is amazing. It's amazing to still see her out here."

It's unclear what the future holds. Williams said she doesn't want to travel to tournaments outside the country; after the U.S. Open, the tour heads to Asia.

When she was asked at the Washington tournament why she was still competing, she offered a simple reply: "Why not?"

Lil Nas X pleads not guilty to attacking police officers as he walked naked on LA street

By ANDREW DALTON AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Lil Nas X was charged Monday with four felonies after police say he charged at them when they confronted him for walking naked down a Los Angeles street last week.

The musician, whose legal name is Montero Lamar Hill, pleaded not guilty in a court appearance to three counts of battery with injury on a police officer and one count of resisting an executive officer, the district attorney's office said.

The charges were far more serious than initial reports that he was being investigated for a misdemeanor, and, with convictions, the counts could collectively bring a sentence of more than 10 years in prison for the singer and rapper whose "Old Town Road" was one of the biggest hit singles in history.

Police said officers found the 26-year-old walking naked on Ventura Boulevard, a major thoroughfare in the Studio City neighborhood, shortly before 6 a.m. Friday. They say he charged at the officers when confronted and was arrested.

The criminal complaint filed in court Monday includes few details, but says that for each of the three officers he "did unlawfully use force and violence and inflict an injury" on a person he "reasonably should have known" was a peace officer "engaged in the performance of a duty."

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Police, suspecting a possible overdose, took him to a hospital where he spent several hours before being taken to jail, where he has remained since.

After spending three days in jail, he was released on \$75,000 bail, conditional on attending drug treatment.

A message to his attorneys was not immediately answered.

But one of them, Christy O'Connor, told a judge Lil Nas X has led a "remarkable" life that has included winning two Grammy awards.

"Assuming the allegations here are true, this is an absolute aberration in this person's life," O'Connor said in court, according to NBC. "Nothing like this has ever happened to him."

The charges were first reported by TMZ.

Lil Nas X is set to return to court on Sept. 15 for his next pre-trial hearing.

The rapper and singer from Atlanta is best known for 2018's country and hip-hop merging "Old Town Road," which spent a record 19 weeks at No. 1 on the Billboard Hot 100 and won him his Grammys.

Known for his genre-bending, innovating sounds and style, his first full studio album, 2021's "Montero," went to No. 2 on the Billboard album chart and was nominated for a Grammy for album of the year.

Israel strikes a Gaza hospital twice, killing at least 20, including journalists and rescuers

By WAFAA SHURAF, SAMY MAGDY and SAM METZ Associated Press

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip (AP) — Israel struck one of the main hospitals in the Gaza Strip on Monday and then hit the facility again as journalists and rescue workers rushed to the scene, killing at least 20 people and wounding scores more, local health workers said.

It was among the deadliest of multiple Israeli strikes that have hit both hospitals and journalists over the course of the 22-month war. The assault came as Israel plans to widen its offensive to heavily populated areas, vowing to destroy Hamas after its Oct. 7, 2023, attack.

Among the dead were five journalists, including 33-year-old Mariam Dagga, a visual journalist who worked for The Associated Press.

The Reuters news agency said one of its reporters was killed in the initial strike as he operated a live television shot on an upper floor of Khan Younis' Nasser Hospital. Other journalists, including Dagga, and rescue workers wearing orange emergency vests then raced up an external stairwell to reach the site, only to be hit by the second strike.

Video shot from below by pan-Arab channel Al Ghad showed their last moments as they climbed the stairs past damaged walls, followed by a boom and a huge plume of smoke from the strike.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office called the strike a "tragic mishap" and said the military was investigating. He did not elaborate on the nature of the mistake.

Israeli media reported that troops fired two artillery shells, targeting what they suspected was a Hamas surveillance camera on the roof. Reporters from different outlets had regularly set up live TV shots at that location.

AP freelancer among 5 journalists killed

The five journalists killed included journalists working for Al Jazeera, Reuters and Middle East Eye, a U.K.-based media outlet, most on a contractor or freelance basis.

Dagga regularly reported for multiple outlets from the hospital, including a recent story for the AP on doctors struggling to save children from starvation.

The AP and Reuters demanded an explanation in a joint letter to Israeli authorities.

"We are outraged that independent journalists were among the victims of this strike on the hospital, a location that is protected under international law," it said. "These journalists were present in their professional capacity, doing critical work bearing witness."

They also noted that Israel has barred international journalists from entering Gaza since the start of the war, outside of visits organized by the military.

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Zaher al-Waheidi, head of the records department at the Gaza Health Ministry, said the initial strike hit an upper floor housing operating rooms and doctors' residences, killing at least two people. The second strike, hitting the stairwell, killed another 18. Around 80 people were wounded, including many in the hospital's courtyard, al-Waheidi said.

Israel says it is investigating

Brig. Gen. Effie Defrin, an Israeli military spokesman, said the army does not target civilians and had launched an internal investigation into the strikes. He accused Hamas of hiding among civilians but did not say whether Israel believed any militants were present during the strikes on the hospital.

Netanyahu's statement said: "Israel deeply regrets the tragic mishap that occurred today at the Nasser Hospital in Gaza. Israel values the work of journalists, medical staff, and all civilians."

Israel has killed 189 Palestinian journalists during its campaign in Gaza, including some who were directly targeted and others who were killed among other strike casualties, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists. More than 1,500 health workers have been killed, according to the U.N.

Israel's "killing of journalists in Gaza continues while the world watches and fails to act firmly on the most horrific attacks the press has ever faced in recent history," said Sara Qudah, CPJ regional director.

The Foreign Press Association, which represents international media in Israel and the Palestinian territories, called on Israel "to halt its abhorrent practice of targeting journalists."

The U.N. secretary-general, along with Britain, France and others, condemned the attack. When asked about the strike, U.S. President Donald Trump initially said he was not aware of it before offering: "I'm not happy about it. I don't want to see it."

Trump later said he thought there might be a "conclusive ending" in Gaza in the coming weeks, without elaborating. It was not clear if he was referring to Israel's coming offensive or to long-running ceasefire talks.

A doctor describes 'chaos, disbelief and fear'

Israel has attacked hospitals multiple times throughout the war, asserting that Hamas embeds itself in and around the facilities, though Israeli officials rarely provide evidence. Hamas security personnel have been seen inside such facilities during the war, and parts of those sites have been off limits to the public.

The hospitals that remain open have been overwhelmed by the dead, wounded and now by increasing numbers of malnourished as parts of Gaza are experiencing famine.

A British doctor working on the floor that was hit said the second strike came before people could start evacuating from the first.

"Just absolute scenes of chaos, disbelief and fear," the doctor said, describing people leaving trails of blood as they entered the ward. The hospital was already overwhelmed, with patients with IV drips lying on the floor in the corridors in stifling heat.

The doctor spoke on condition of anonymity in line with regulations from their organization to avoid reprisals from Israeli authorities.

"It leaves me in another state of shock that hospitals can be a target," the doctor said.

Nasser Hospital has withstood raids and bombardment during the war, with officials repeatedly noting critical shortages of supplies and staff.

A June strike on the hospital killed three people, according to the Health Ministry. The military said at the time that it targeted a Hamas command and control center. A March strike on its surgical unit days after Israel ended a ceasefire killed a Hamas official and a 16-year-old boy.

More Palestinians killed while seeking aid

Al-Awda Hospital said Israeli gunfire killed six aid-seekers trying to reach a distribution point in central Gaza and wounded another 15.

The shootings were the latest in the Netzarim Corridor, a military zone where U.N. convoys have been overrun by looters and desperate crowds, and where people have been shot and killed while heading to sites run by the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation, an Israeli-backed American contractor.

The GHF denied that any shootings had occurred near its site. The Israeli military said it was not aware

of any casualties from Israeli fire in that area.

Al-Awda said two Israeli strikes in central Gaza killed six Palestinians, including a child. Shifa Hospital in Gaza City said three Palestinians, including a child, were killed in a strike there.

The Health Ministry said Sunday that at least 62,686 Palestinians have been killed in the war. It does not distinguish between fighters and civilians but says around half have been women and children. The ministry is part of the Hamas-run government and staffed by medical professionals. The U.N. and independent experts consider it the most reliable source on war casualties. Israel disputes its figures but has not provided its own.

The war began when Hamas-led militants abducted 251 people and killed around 1,200 people, mostly civilians, in the 2023 attack. Most of the hostages have been released in ceasefires or other deals, but 50 remain in Gaza, with around 20 believed to be alive.

Long-elusive Mexican drug lord Ismael 'El Mayo' Zambada pleads guilty in US

By MICHAEL R. SISAK and JENNIFER PELTZ Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Former Mexican cartel kingpin Ismael "El Mayo" Zambada will spend the rest of his life in prison after pleading guilty Monday to U.S. drug trafficking charges and saying he was sorry for helping flood the U.S. with cocaine, heroin and other illicit substances and for fueling deadly violence in Mexico.

"I recognize the great harm illegal drugs have done to the people of the United States, of Mexico, and elsewhere," Zambada, 75, said through a Spanish-language interpreter. "I take responsibility for my role in all of it and I apologize to everyone who has suffered or been affected by my actions."

Under Zambada's leadership and that of Joaquín "El Chapo" Guzmán, the Sinaloa cartel evolved from a regional player into the largest drug trafficking organization in the world, prosecutors say.

"Culpable," Zambada said, using the Spanish word for "guilty," as he entered his plea in a Brooklyn courtroom, about 2,200 miles (3,500 kilometers) from Mexico's Sinaloa state.

He acknowledged the extent of the Sinaloa operation, including underlings who built relationships with cocaine producers in Colombia, oversaw importing cocaine to Mexico by boat and plane and smuggling the drug across the U.S.-Mexico border. He said the cartel raked in hundreds of millions of dollars a year and admitted that people working for him paid bribes to Mexican police and military commanders "so they could operate freely."

U.S. Attorney General Pam Bondi flew to New York to herald Zambada's guilty plea as a "landmark victory," telling reporters at a news conference that he "will die in a U.S. federal prison, where he belongs."

"This guy, 'El Mayo,' was living like a king," Bondi said. "Now he's living like a criminal for the rest of his life."

Bondi's visit to Brooklyn underscored President Donald Trump's anti-cartel crusade. His administration has declared drug cartels to be terrorist organizations, positioned military assets off Venezuela and compelled the Mexican government to hand over several dozen high-ranking cartel officials for prosecution.

The kingpin's legacy

Sought by U.S. law enforcement for more than two decades, Zambada was arrested in Texas last year, at the end of the Biden administration, when the drug lord arrived in a private plane with one of Guzmán's sons, Joaquín Guzmán López. Zambada says he was kidnapped in Mexico and taken against his will to the U.S.

His arrest, along with that of Guzmán López, touched off deadly fighting in his home state of Sinaloa between rival cartel factions, pitting his loyalists against backers of Guzmán's sons, dubbed the Chapitos, or "little Chapos."

Considered a good negotiator, Zambada was seen as the cartel's strategist and dealmaker who was more involved in its day-to-day doings than the flamboyant Guzmán. Prosecutors have said Zambada was enmeshed in the group's violence, at one point ordering the murder of his own nephew.

In the Sinaloan capital of Culiacan, dead bodies lie in streets or sometimes appear hanging from highway

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underpasses. Businesses shutter early because people don't want to be out after dark. Schools grind to a halt during sudden bursts of conflict. People ranging from social media influencers to animal caregivers have been touched by the bloodshed.

Prosecutors promised not to seek the death penalty

Zambada's plea came two weeks after prosecutors said they wouldn't seek the death penalty.

His lawyer, Frank Perez, stressed after court that the plea agreement doesn't obligate Zambada to cooperate with government investigators. The attorney said his client never really wanted to go to trial, and that once the death penalty was off the table, his "focus shifted to accepting responsibility and moving forward."

Bondi noted Mexico's opposition to the death penalty, which is a factor in its willingness to extradite suspects to the U.S. Although Zambada wasn't extradited, she alluded to the nations' understanding that "we cannot seek the death penalty" for those who are.

Zambada is due to be sentenced Jan. 13 to life in prison. He also faces billions of dollars in financial penalties.

Zambada describes his drug trade

Zambada appeared momentarily unsteady as he arrived in court; a marshal grabbed his arm to direct him to his seat.

As Judge Brian M. Cogan described the plea agreement, the bearded ex-Sinaloa boss sat attentively, at times brushing his right hand through his white hair.

Then, in an eight-minute speech, Zambada traced his involvement with illegal drugs to his teenage years, when — after leaving school with a sixth-grade education — he first planted marijuana in 1969. He said he went on to sell heroin and other drugs, but especially cocaine. From 1980 until last year, he and his cartel were responsible for transporting at least 1.5 million kilograms of cocaine, "most of which went to the United States," he said.

Prosecutors said in his indictment that he and the cartel also trafficked in fentanyl and methamphetamine.

Zambada pleaded guilty to charges of engaging in a continuing criminal enterprise between 1989 and 2024 and racketeering conspiracy, which encompasses involvement in a number of crimes from 2000 to 2012.

Guzmán was sentenced to life behind bars following his conviction in the same federal court in Brooklyn in 2019.

Trump's initial warning to South Korea's Lee turns into warm welcome after flattery

By SEUNG MIN KIM Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump took to social media before meeting with South Korean President Lee Jae Myung on Monday to threaten not to do business with Seoul because of a "Purge or Revolution" that he claimed was taking place in the country.

But any prospect of a hostile Oval Office meeting evaporated after Lee heaped praise onto the U.S. president — lauding the decor, beseeching Trump to continue to help with Korean peace efforts and even suggesting a Trump Tower in North Korea.

"We've known each other and gotten along very well," Trump said, before adding: "It's a great honor to be with you and congratulations on your election. That was a big one, and we're with you 100%."

The cordial display showed how world leaders are taking notes from previous meetings between Trump and heads of state, who've largely chosen the route of praise and adulation rather than confrontation as they seek favorable trade terms and continued military aid from Washington.

It was one of the first big foreign policy tests for Lee, who took over a country in a state of political turmoil since its former leader, Yoon Suk Yeol, was ousted from office after imposing martial law.

Lee, elected in June, began by praising one of Trump's pet projects: presidential interior design.

"I heard that you recently redecorated the Oval Office, and I would like to say that it looks very bright and beautiful," Lee said through an interpreter. "It has the dignity of America, and it symbolizes the new

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future and prosperity of America.”

He noted that the Dow Jones index has reached record highs (although Lee made sure to add the caveat that “it went down a bit”) and asked Trump, who has been on a mission to receive the Nobel Peace Prize, to reunify the two Koreas and even perhaps see the construction of a Trump Tower in North Korea accompanied by a round of golf. Lee also agreed with Trump’s assertion that North Korean leader Kim Jong Un would not have continued to enhance his nuclear capabilities the last few years had Trump remained in office.

Noting a “renaissance” that is taking place, Lee said, “I believe you are the only leader who has made such accomplishments.”

What happened in South Korea

The tone was a far cry from Trump’s confrontational social media post earlier Monday. He later elaborated that he was referring to raids on churches and on a U.S. military base by the new South Korean government, which they “probably shouldn’t have done.”

“I heard bad things,” Trump told reporters in the Oval Office on Monday morning. “I don’t know if it’s true or not. I’ll be finding out.”

Trump did not identify specific raids. But earlier this month, South Korean police raided a church led by a conservative activist pastor who authorities allege is connected to a riot by Yoon’s supporters at a Seoul court in January, after it issued an arrest warrant for him.

A special prosecutor’s team that is investigating corruption allegations against Yoon’s arrested wife, former first lady Kim Keon Hee, also raided the facilities of the Unification Church over allegations that one of its officials gave her luxury goods.

Meanwhile, Osan Air Base, which is jointly operated by the United States and South Korea, was also the target of a raid last month by investigators looking into how Yoon’s activation of martial law transpired. South Korean investigators stressed the search was limited to areas controlled by Seoul and did not involve U.S. military operations.

Asked about his assertions by a reporter in front of Lee, Trump declined to confront the South Korean president and instead said the two will discuss it later.

“It didn’t sound to me like South Korea,” Trump said.

Lee explained that the special prosecutor was tapped by the country’s National Assembly to investigate the actions of Yoon, who Lee said staged a “self-coup.”

At that point, Trump interjected, “Is his name Deranged Jack Smith, by any chance?” He was referring to the special prosecutor who led two criminal cases against Trump before the Republican president was reelected to a second term.

Yoon, who was elected to a five-year term in 2022, was considered more ideologically aligned with Trump and had even taken up golfing again after the U.S. president was reelected last November to try to forge a bond with him. Lee led the South Korean parliament’s efforts to overturn Yoon’s martial law decree while impeaching him. The nation’s Constitutional Court formally dismissed Yoon in April.

The new president

Elected in June, Lee was a former child laborer with an arm deformity who rose his way through South Korea’s political ranks to lead the liberal Democratic Party and win the presidency after multiple attempts.

At a subsequent remarks in Washington on Monday night, Lee suggested that Trump’s post had been “threatening” and said it had him worried he might face a “Zelenksyy moment” — similar to when Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy was hounded out of the Oval Office by Trump and Vice President JD Vance following a contentious meeting in February.

But Lee also said the South Korean-U.S. relationship was strong enough that he was confident Trump wouldn’t work to undermine it. Instead, he said the pair had “very good conversations” that went “beyond my expectations” and took longer than originally scheduled.

“Everybody gave me the advice to have patience,” Lee said of his meeting with Trump.

He said he also told Trump that South Korea would increase its defense spending, even as it works to

ease tensions between his country and North Korea.

"We will increase our defense budget, which will be used to transform the Korean military into a smart military that will prevail in future," Lee said.

Lee said he and Trump also discussed modernizing their countries' trade relations, which follows a July deal that has Seoul investing hundreds of billions of dollars in the U.S. That agreement set tariffs on South Korean goods at 15% after Trump threatened rates as high as 25%.

Seoul has one of the largest trade surpluses among Washington's NATO and Indo-Pacific allies, and countries where the U.S. holds a trade deficit has drawn particular ire from Trump, who wants to eliminate such trade imbalances.

Trump also said Monday that he'd like to scrap the U.S. lease with South Korea that covers Osan Air Base and instead get ownership of the land.

'Leave our kids alone': Schools reopen in DC with parents on edge over Trump's armed patrols

By MARK SHERMAN, ASHRAF KHALIL and SOPHIA TAREEN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Public schools reopened Monday in the nation's tense capital with parents on edge over the presence in their midst of thousands of National Guard troops — some now armed — and large scatterings of federal law enforcement officers carrying out President Donald Trump's orders to make the District of Columbia a safer place.

Even as Trump started talking about other cities — "Do not come to Chicago," was the Democratic Illinois governor's clipped response — the president again touted a drop in crime that he attributed to his extraordinary effort to take over policing in Washington, D.C. The district's mayor, meanwhile, was lamenting the effect of Trump's actions on children in her city.

"Parents are anxious. We've heard from a lot of them," Mayor Muriel Bowser said at a news conference, noting that some might keep their children out of school because of immigration concerns.

"Any attempt to target children is heartless, is mean, is uncalled for and it only hurts us," she said. "I would just call for everybody to leave our kids alone."

Rumors of police activity abound

As schools opened across the capital city, parental social media groups and listservs were buzzing with reports and rumors of checkpoints and arrests.

The week began with some patrolling National Guard units now carrying firearms. The change stemmed from a directive issued late last week by his Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth.

Armed National Guard troops from Ohio, South Carolina and Tennessee were seen around the city Monday. But not every patrol appears to be carrying weapons. An Associated Press photographer said the roughly 30 troops he saw on the National Mall on Monday morning were unarmed.

Armed Guard members in Washington will be operating under long-standing rules for the use of military force inside the U.S., the military task force overseeing all the troops deployed to D.C. said Monday. Those rules, broadly, say that while troops can use force, they should do so only "in response to an imminent threat of death or serious bodily harm" and "only as a last resort."

The task force has directed questions on why the change was necessary to Hegseth's office. Those officials have declined to answer those questions. Speaking in the Oval Office on Monday, Hegseth said that it was common sense to arm them because it meant they were "capable of defending themselves and others."

Among their duties is picking up trash, the task force said, though it's unclear how much time they will spend doing that.

Bowser reiterated her opposition to the National Guard's presence. "I don't believe that troops should be policing American cities," she said.

Trump is considering expanding the deployments to other Democratic-led cities, including Baltimore, Chicago and New York, saying the situations in those cities require federal action. In Washington, his

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administration says more than 1,000 people have been arrested since Aug. 7, including 86 on Sunday.

"We took hundreds of guns away from young kids, who were throwing them around like it was candy. We apprehended scores of illegal aliens. We seized dozens of illegal firearms. There have been zero murders," Trump said Monday.

Some other cities bristle at the possibility of military on the streets

The possibility of the military patrolling streets of Chicago, the nation's third-largest city, prompted immediate backlash, confusion and a trail of sarcastic social media posts.

Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson, a first-term Democrat, has called it unconstitutional and threatened legal action. Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker deemed it a distraction and unnecessary as crime rates in Chicago are down, as they are nationwide.

Trump suggested multiple times earlier Monday that he might dispatch the National Guard to Chicago regardless of Pritzker's opinion, calling the city a "killing field."

Pritzker and other Illinois officials said the Trump administration has not reached out to Chicago leaders about any federal initiative to deploy military personnel to the city to combat crime. They cited statistics showing drops in violent crime in Chicago and cast Trump's move as performative, partisan and racist.

"Mr. President, do not come to Chicago," Pritzker said, standing in a park about a mile from the Chicago skyscraper that features Trump's name in large lettering. The governor said he would fight the "petty whims of an arrogant little man" who "wants to use the military to occupy a U.S. city, punish his dissidents and score political points."

Others raised questions about where patrols might go and what role they might play. By square mileage, Chicago is more than three times the size of Washington, and neighborhoods with historically high crime are spread far apart.

Former Chicago Police Superintendent Garry McCarthy, who also worked for the New York Police Department, wondered what the National Guard would do in terms of fighting street violence. He said if there was clear communication, they could help with certain tasks, like perimeter patrol in high-crime neighborhoods, but only as part of a wider plan and in partnership with police.

National Guard troops were used in Chicago to help with the Democratic National Convention last summer and during the 2012 NATO Summit.

Overall, violent crime in Chicago dropped significantly in the first half of 2025, representing the steepest decline in over a decade, according to police data. Shootings and homicides were down more than 30% in the first half of the year compared with the same time last year, and total violent crime dropped by over 22%.

Still, some neighborhoods, including Austin on the city's West Side, where the Rev. Ira Acree is a pastor, experience persistent high crime.

Acree said he's received numerous calls from congregants upset about the possible deployment. He said if Trump was serious about crime prevention, he would boost funding for anti-violence initiatives.

"This is a joke," Acree said. "This move is not about reducing violence. This is reckless leadership and political grandstanding. It's no secret that our city is on the president's hit list."

In June, roughly 4,000 National Guard troops and 700 Marines were sent to Los Angeles to deal with protests over the administration's immigration crackdown. California's Democratic governor, Gavin Newsom, and other local elected officials objected.

Kilmar Abrego Garcia faces new deportation efforts after ICE detains him in Baltimore

By BRIAN WITTE, TRAVIS LOLLER, MICHAEL KUNZELMAN and BEN FINLEY Associated Press

BALTIMORE (AP) — Kilmar Abrego Garcia, whose case has become a flashpoint in President Donald Trump's aggressive effort to remove noncitizens from the U.S., was detained by immigration authorities in Baltimore on Monday to face renewed efforts to deport him after a brief period of freedom.

Abrego Garcia's attorneys quickly filed a lawsuit to fight his deportation until a court has heard his claim

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for protection, stating that the U.S. could place him in a country where "his safety cannot be assured."

The lawsuit triggered a blanket court order that automatically pauses deportation efforts for two days. The order applies to immigrants in Maryland who are challenging their detention.

Within hours of Abrego Garcia's detention, his lawyers spoke with Department of Justice attorneys and a federal judge in Maryland, who warned Abrego Garcia cannot be removed from the U.S. "at this juncture" because he must be allowed to exercise his constitutional right to contest deportation.

U.S. District Judge Paula Xinis said overlapping court orders temporarily prohibit the government from removing Abrego Garcia, and that she would extend her own temporary restraining order barring his deportation.

Drew Ensign, a Justice Department attorney, told the judge that Abrego Garcia's "removal is not imminent" and that the process often takes time.

Crowd yells 'shame!'

Abrego Garcia, a 30-year-old Maryland construction worker and Salvadoran national, spoke at a rally before he turned himself in.

"This administration has hit us hard, but I want to tell you guys something: God is with us, and God will never leave us," Abrego Garcia said, speaking through a translator. "God will bring justice to all the injustice we are suffering."

Roughly 200 people gathered, prayed and crowded around Abrego Garcia while he walked into the offices for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement in Baltimore, where he was detained. When his lawyer and wife walked out without him, the crowd yelled "Shame!"

Department of Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem posted on X that Abrego Garcia was being processed for deportation. U.S. Attorney General Pam Bondi told Trump during a meeting in the Oval Office that Abrego Garcia "will no longer terrorize our country."

Brief reunion with family

Abrego Garcia lived in Maryland for years with his American wife and children, and worked in construction. He was wrongfully deported in March to a notorious prison in his native El Salvador because the Trump administration believed he was a member of the MS-13 gang, an allegation that Abrego Garcia denies.

His removal violated an immigration judge's 2019 ruling that shielded him from deportation to his native country because he had "well-founded fear" of threats by a gang there.

Abrego Garcia's wife sued to bring him back. Facing a U.S. Supreme Court order, the Trump administration returned him in June. He was subsequently charged in Tennessee with human smuggling. He has pleaded not guilty and asked a judge to dismiss the case on ground of vindictive prosecution.

The allegations stem from a 2022 traffic stop in Tennessee for speeding. Abrego Garcia was driving with nine passengers in the car, and officers discussed among themselves their suspicions of smuggling. He was allowed to continue driving with a warning.

The Trump administration has said it wants to deport Abrego Garcia before his trial, alleging he is a danger to the community and an MS-13 gang member.

A federal judge in Tennessee determined that Abrego Garcia was not a flight risk or a danger. He was released from jail Friday afternoon and returned to his family in Maryland.

Video released by advocates of the reunion showed a room decorated with streamers, flowers and signs. He embraced loved ones and thanked them "for everything."

Uganda or Costa Rica

Federal officials argue Abrego Garcia can be deported because he came to the U.S. illegally and that the immigration judge's 2019 ruling deemed him eligible for expulsion, just not to his native El Salvador.

Simon Sandoval-Moshenberg, Abrego Garcia's lead immigration attorney, told reporters Monday that Abrego Garcia is being held in a detention facility in Virginia.

Trump administration officials have said Abrego Garcia could be sent to the East African nation of Uganda, which recently agreed to take deportees from the U.S., provided they do not have criminal records and are not unaccompanied minors.

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Abrego Garcia's attorneys have raised concerns about human-rights abuses in Uganda, and say they don't know when he'll have a reasonable fear interview, when he can express fears of persecution or torture in the country where the U.S. wants to send him.

There are also unanswered questions about whether he could be imprisoned or sent on to El Salvador, which is prohibited by the 2019 order.

"We don't know whether Uganda will even let him walk around freely in Kampala or whether he'll be inside of a Ugandan jail cell, much less whether they are going to let him stay," Sandoval-Moshenberg said.

If immigration officials determine that Abrego Garcia lacks a reasonable fear of being sent to Uganda, he should be able to ask a U.S. immigration judge to review that decision, his lawyer said. And if the immigration judge upholds the determination, Abrego Garcia should be able to bring it to the U.S. Court of Appeals.

Sandoval-Moshenberg said that's the process when someone is slated for deportation to their native country. And he said it should be the same for third-country deportations as well.

"This is all so very new and unprecedented. ... We will see what the government's position on that is," he said.

Abrego Garcia informed ICE over the weekend that Costa Rica was an acceptable country of removal because he had "received assurances from Costa Rica that they would give him refugee status, that he would be at liberty in that country, and that he will not be re-deported onto El Salvador," his lawyer said.

"Costa Rica is not justice," Sandoval-Moshenberg said. "It is an acceptably less-bad option."

The notice to ICE about Costa Rica was separate from an offer made by federal prosecutors in Tennessee to send Abrego Garcia to the Central American nation in exchange for pleading guilty to human smuggling charges. Abrego Garcia declined the proposal.

Trump moves to ban flag burning despite Supreme Court ruling that Constitution allows it

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump on Monday signed an executive order requiring the Justice Department to investigate and prosecute people for burning the American flag, an activity that the U.S. Supreme Court has ruled is legitimate political expression protected by the U.S. Constitution.

The order the Republican president signed in the Oval Office acknowledged the court's 5-4 ruling in a case from Texas in 1989, but said there is still room to prosecute flag burning if it "is likely to incite imminent lawless action" or amounts to "fighting words."

"You burn a flag, you get one year in jail. You don't get 10 years, you don't get one month," Trump said. "You get one year in jail, and it goes on your record, and you will see flag burning stopping immediately."

The order also called for Attorney General Pam Bondi to pursue litigation to challenge the 1989 ruling, an attempt by Trump to get the issue back in front of the Supreme Court. Today's Supreme Court is much more conservative than the makeup of the court in 1989 and includes three judges Trump appointed in his first term.

Civil liberties advocates and constitutional scholars questioned both the legality and the merit of Trump's action. A lawyer working for a free speech group said Trump does not have the power to rewrite the First Amendment.

"While people can be prosecuted for burning anything in a place they aren't allowed to set fires, the government can't prosecute protected expressive activity — even if many Americans, including the president, find it 'uniquely offensive and provocative,'" added Bob Corn-Revere, chief counsel of the Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression.

In the 1989 case, the justices ruled 5-4 that the First Amendment protects flag burning as legitimate political expression. The late Justice Antonin Scalia, the conservative icon whom Trump has repeatedly praised, was in the majority.

On Monday, Trump described the 1989 court behind the ruling as a "very sad court."

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Trump said burning the U.S. flag “incites riots at levels we’ve never seen before,” with some people “going crazy” over the act of setting it afire and others expressing anger at people for burning it. He did not offer examples.

A White House fact sheet referenced recent protests, including in Los Angeles in June, where the flag was burned “alongside violent acts and other conduct threatening public safety.”

“All over the country they’re burning flags. All over the world, they burn the American flag,” Trump said, as Vice President JD Vance, Bondi, Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth and other administration officials stood behind him as he sat at his desk.

G.S. Hans, a law professor at Cornell University who focuses on the First Amendment, said the country has not suffered from an “endemic of flag burning.”

“I don’t think this is something that has been a big problem,” Hans said in an interview. “It’s a solution in search of a problem.”

The executive order states that desecrating the American flag is “uniquely offensive and provocative. It is a statement of contempt, hostility, and violence against our Nation — the clearest possible expression of opposition to the political union that preserves our rights, liberty, and security. Burning this representation of America may incite violence and riot.”

The order calls on the attorney general to prioritize enforcement “to the fullest extent possible” of criminal and civil laws against flag burning that cause harm unrelated to the First Amendment’s free speech guarantee.

“Thank you for protecting the American flag, and we’ll do that without running afoul of the First Amendment as well,” Bondi told the president.

Foreign nationals could face having their visas, residency permits, naturalization proceedings and other immigration benefits revoked, according to the order. They could also be deported.

Flag-burning has been on Trump’s mind for years.

After he was elected president in November 2016, Trump said “there must be consequences” for anyone who burns an American flag, such as jail or loss of citizenship.

“Nobody should be allowed to burn the American flag — if they do, there must be consequences — perhaps loss of citizenship or year in jail!” Trump wrote on what then was Twitter.

The Constitution forbids the government from stripping citizenship from natural-born Americans.

Stocks slip on Wall Street after last week’s rally

By DAMIAN J. TROISE and ALEX VEIGA AP Business Writers

Stocks on Wall Street closed broadly lower Monday, giving back some of the big gains the market notched last week on hopes for interest rate cuts from the Federal Reserve.

The S&P 500 fell 0.4% and remains near its all-time high. The Dow Jones Industrial Average closed 0.8% lower after setting a record high on Friday. The Nasdaq composite closed 0.2% lower.

The selling was widespread, with health care stocks among the biggest drags on the market. Pfizer fell 2.9% and Eli Lilly and Co. slid 2.3%.

Gains for several big technology stocks helped temper the market’s losses. Alphabet, Google’s parent company, rose 1.2%. Technology heavyweight Nvidia rose 1%.

Treasury yields rose in the bond market following their big drop on Friday amid expectations that the Fed will cut its benchmark interest rate in September.

The yield on the 10-year Treasury rose to 4.28% from 4.25% late Friday. The two-year Treasury yield rose to 3.73% from 3.70% late Friday.

“Markets are just digesting Friday’s news and kind of the increasing odds that we’re going to see a September rate cut from the Fed,” said Anthony Saglimbene, chief market strategist at Ameriprise.

Wall Street is still overwhelmingly betting that the Fed will cut interest rates at its next meeting in September. Traders see an 84% chance that the central bank will trim its benchmark rate by a quarter of a percentage point, according to data from CME Group.

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The Fed has been maintaining rates at their current level since the end of 2024 amid worries about inflation heating up as tariffs work their way through the economy to businesses and households.

The central bank has grown increasingly concerned about the state of the job market in the U.S. Its two main focuses are keeping inflation low and supporting conditions for strong employment.

Recent signals have shown that the job market is seemingly stagnating and could possibly weaken, which could prompt the central bank to cut rates. Lower interest rates make borrowing easier, helping to spur more investment and spending, but that could also potentially fuel inflation.

So far, consumer confidence remains mostly solid, though concerns about inflation linger. Wall Street and the Fed will get an update on consumer confidence in the U.S. when business group The Conference Board releases its monthly survey for August on Tuesday. Economists expect overall confidence to remain mostly unchanged from July.

The bigger update will come on Friday, when the government releases an inflation report that is closely monitored by the Fed. An update on inflation earlier in August showed that consumer prices remained modestly higher in July, compared with a year ago. The government's report on Friday, the personal consumption expenditures price index, is expected to show a similar result.

Economists expect the PCE to show that prices rose 2.6% in July, compared with a year ago. That's unchanged from the rate in June and hovering just above the Fed's preferred target of 2%.

Among other big movers on Wall Street Monday: Keurig Dr Pepper, which sank 11.5% after saying it will buy Peet's Coffee owner JDE Peet's in a deal worth about \$18 billion.

Railroad stocks also fell following a report that Warren Buffett informed CSX management that he is not looking to buy the railroad. Shares in CSX fell 5.1%. Union Pacific dropped 2% and Norfolk Southern gave up 2.5%.

All told, the S&P 500 fell 27.59 points to 6,439.32. The Dow lost 349.27 points to close at 45,282.47. The Nasdaq slid 47.24 points to 21,449.29.

European markets mostly closed lower after Asian markets finished lower overnight.

Wall Street has a few more corporate earnings updates this week, essentially wrapping up the latest round of profit reports and forecasts from U.S. companies.

Nvidia will report its latest results on Wednesday. The company's role as a key supplier of chips for artificial intelligence and its heavy weighting give it outsized influence as a bellwether for the broader market. It has been a driving force for much of the market's gains, along with several other tech giants with pricey stock values.

"There's more doubt around the AI theme building," Saglimbene said. "So I think what NVIDIA has to say is going to be very impactful for not only the whole AI space, but the broader markets in general, because it's such a large holding in the major indexes like the S&P 500 and Nasdaq."

On Thursday, Wall Street will get earnings updates from electronics retailer Best Buy and discount retailer Dollar General. Retailers are being closely watched as Wall Street tries to gauge the current and potential future impact on costs and prices from tariffs.

Some FEMA staff call out Trump cuts in public letter of dissent

By GABRIELA AOUN ANGUEIRA Associated Press

More than 180 current and former employees of the Federal Emergency Management Agency published a letter Monday warning that debilitating cuts to the agency charged with handling federal disaster response risks a catastrophe like the one seen after Hurricane Katrina.

"Our shared commitment to our country, our oaths of office, and our mission of helping people before, during, and after disasters compel us to warn Congress and the American people of the cascading effects of decisions made by the current administration," the letter states.

The statement in it is noteworthy not only for its content but for its overall existence; a fierce approach toward critics by the Trump administration has caused many in the federal government to hesitate before locking heads with the White House.

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The letter coincides with the 20th anniversary week of Hurricane Katrina, when more than 1,800 people died and profound failures in the federal response prompted Congress to pass the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006.

The letter warns that poor management and eroded capacity at FEMA could undo progress made to improve the agency through that law.

"Two decades later, FEMA is enacting processes and leadership structures that echo the conditions PKEMRA was designed to prevent," it states.

It comes amid uncertainty for FEMA

The letter is addressed to the FEMA Review Council, a 12-person group of elected officials, emergency managers and other leaders from mostly Republican states that President Donald Trump appointed to suggest reforms to an agency he has repeatedly threatened to eliminate.

It comes after months of upheaval at FEMA. One-third of the agency's full-time workforce has left or been fired, including many high-level staff. The agency's acting chief, Cameron Hamilton, was fired in May and replaced by another acting head, David Richardson. Neither has prior emergency management experience.

FEMA's response to the July Texas floods that killed at least 136 people came under criticism after reports that survivor calls to FEMA went unanswered and Urban Search and Rescue teams deployed late because of a policy by which Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem must personally approve expenditures above \$100,000.

The letter contains six "statements of opposition" to current policies at FEMA, including the expenditure approval policy, which the signatories say reduces FEMA's ability to perform its missions.

It also critiques the DHS decision to reassign some FEMA employees to Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the failure to appoint a qualified FEMA administrator as stipulated by law, and cuts to mitigation programs, preparedness training and FEMA workforce.

In an email Monday, FEMA spokesperson Daniel Llargues said that the Trump Administration "has made accountability and reform a priority so that taxpayer dollars actually reach the people and communities they are meant to help."

"It is not surprising that some of the same bureaucrats who presided over decades of inefficiency are now objecting to reform," Llargues said. "Change is always hard."

Letter seeks to establish FEMA as a Cabinet-level agency

The letter was also sent to multiple Congressional committees and calls on lawmakers to establish FEMA as a Cabinet-level independent agency in the executive branch. The bipartisan Fixing Emergency Management for Americans, or FEMA Act, introduced in the House last month, proposes the same.

Thirty five signatories included their names. The 141 anonymous signatories "choose not to identify themselves due to the culture of fear and suppression cultivated by this administration," according to the letter.

Employees at other agencies including the National Institutes of Health and Environmental Protection Agency have issued similar statements. About 140 EPA staff members at the were placed on administrative leave for signing an opposition letter.

The FEMA Review Council will meet for the third time this week on Thursday.

Dr Pepper will unwind its merger with Keurig 7 years ago after buying Peet's for \$18 billion

By DEE-ANN DURBIN AP Business Writer

Less than a decade after their merger, Keurig and Dr Pepper plan to become separate companies again. Keurig Dr Pepper said Monday it is buying the owner of Peet's Coffee for \$18 billion (15.7 billion euro). Then it will break itself in two, with one company selling coffee and the other selling cold beverages like Snapple, Dr Pepper, 7UP and energy drinks.

The agreement unwinds the 2018 merger of Keurig and Dr Pepper. Shares of Keurig Dr Pepper fell 11% in afternoon trading Monday.

Investors were concerned about the company's plan to finance the acquisition with a mix of cash and

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debt. S&P Global placed Keurig Dr Pepper on a credit watch with negative implications Monday, saying it was concerned about the increase in debt and the complexity of the two-step transaction.

Keurig Dr Pepper CEO Timothy Cofer said the separate coffee and beverage businesses would be more nimble and better able to focus on growth opportunities in their own markets.

"Following the separation, each stand-alone entity will lead its industry with a sharp strategic focus and with operating models that are finely calibrated to their unique categories and markets," Cofer said Monday during a conference call with investors.

The combination with Peet's parent JDE Peet's, which is based in Amsterdam, significantly expands Keurig's presence beyond North America, where it's known for its single-serve coffee machines. JDE Peet's owns the brands L'OR, Jacobs, Douwe Egberts, Kenco, Pilao, OldTown, Super and Moccona.

Cofer said the combined coffee business will generate \$16 billion in annual net sales. The combined buying power will help Keurig and Peet's compete with other large coffee players like Nestle and Starbucks, especially as rising demand and poor weather conditions push coffee prices near record highs.

Cofer said the coffee company will also be able to focus on meeting demand, especially in developing markets. Around 40% of the company's sales will come from North America, 40% from Europe and 20% from emerging markets.

"We like, and I like, the coffee category. Why? It's huge. It's ubiquitous," Cofer said. "Obviously, we've up to this point focused on North America. But the global data shows coffee is consistently growing on a volume basis above population."

The merger could also help the company cushion the impact of U.S. tariffs. President Donald Trump imposed a 50% tariff this summer on most imports from Brazil — the world's leading coffee producer — for an investigation of its former president, Jair Bolsonaro, a Trump ally.

In a conference call with investors in July, Cofer said the impact of tariffs would be "more prominent" in the second half of this year.

Meanwhile, sales of Dr Pepper's traditional soft drinks have been slowing as health-conscious consumers look for new alternatives. The newly formed beverage company, with \$11 billion in annual sales in the U.S. and Mexico, can continue to pivot to its faster-growing beverages, like the energy drinks Ghost and C4 and the hydration drink Electrolit.

The companies said they expect to save around \$400 million over three years because of the merger, which is expected to close in the first half of 2026.

Once the two companies are separated, Cofer will become CEO of the cold beverage business, which will be based in Frisco, Texas. Keurig Dr Pepper's chief financial officer, Sudhanshu Priyadarshi, will lead the coffee business, which will be located in Burlington, Mass. Its international headquarters will be in Amsterdam.

The deal is the latest big maneuver in the food and beverage industry, which has been trying to keep up with changing consumer tastes.

In 2023, Kellogg Co. split into two companies. Mars bought Kellanova, the owner of snack brands like Pringles, last year. Italian confectioner Ferrero announced in July that it planned to buy WK Kellogg, the cereal company.

Struggling Kraft Heinz has also been considering a split.

Companies have also been snapping up fast-growing brands. Keurig Dr Pepper's rival PepsiCo acquired the prebiotic soda brand Poppi in March to gain a foothold in the fast-growing functional beverage space. And in July, Keurig Dr Pepper acquired Dyla, a maker of powdered drink mixes and water enhancers.

Smells of weed. Roars of airplanes. Loud crowds. It's all part of the US Open's chaos

By HOWARD FENDRICH AP Tennis Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — There are some tennis players, such as Frances Tiafoe or Madison Keys or Ben

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Shelton, who can't wait for the U.S. Open to come around each year, with its boisterous crowds, its bold-faced names in the stands, its music at changeovers, its buzz. To them, the louder, the better. Start the show and bring the noise.

"I operate well in chaos," said Tiafoe, twice a semifinalist at Flushing Meadows.

Sometimes, it all can get out of control, as happened during a match that ended early Monday. There was a delay of more than five minutes while spectators booed and shouted — egged on by 2021 champion Daniil Medvedev, who was angered by chair umpire Greg Allensworth's ruling after a photographer interrupted play by going on court, of all things.

"They didn't want to stop," Medvedev said about the fans. "So, whatever."

US Open chaos is always there, even if it doesn't reach Medvedev levels

Not everyone is able to shrug off that sort of mayhem at a Grand Slam tournament famous — some would say infamous — for the over-served fans, airplanes roaring overhead, the Manhattan-Queens commute and the odors of everything from marijuana to food being grilled.

"It's something you really can't train the brain to kind of deal with," 1991-92 champion Monica Seles said. "You just adjust to it."

There also are those, such as 2024 champion Aryna Sabalenka or 2014 champion Marin Cilic or Petra Kvitova, who didn't start out with an affinity for the anarchy — "Really confusing," was Sabalenka's initial impression — but grew to be OK with it.

Some tennis players go from loving the US Open madness to hating it

And there are even some whose opinion shifted the other way, from embracing to despising.

"In my 20s, I loved coming here. There was so much to do. But the older I get, the less I enjoy being here. It's a little bit chaotic. There's always a lot of noise. A lot of smells everywhere. I've visited most of the places in New York; I don't need to go to Central Park for the 1,003rd time," said Adrian Mannarino, 37, a Frenchman who began his 15th U.S. Open on Sunday by upsetting 29th-seeded Tallon Griekspoor.

"It used to be fun," Mannarino said about the tournament, "but sometimes I'm like, 'Gosh, I wish I could concentrate a little bit more.'"

The types of scenes at the US Open do not show up at Wimbledon

The hushes that envelope Wimbledon's Centre Court or the French Open's Court Philippe-Chatrier — which hold nearly 10,000 fewer spectators than 23,859-seat Arthur Ashe Stadium — are harder to come by in New York.

"Wimbledon, for example — it's proper, it's elegant, it's elevated. People are definitely more quiet and respectful, I guess you could say," said Emma Navarro, an American who reached the semifinals at Flushing Meadows last year. "U.S. Open, it feels a bit more casual. Casually rowdy, I guess I would call it."

There is a constant hum at Ashe and other arenas.

That's just fine with Shelton, whose first of two major semifinals came at the 2023 U.S. Open.

"I guess I find peace in the chaos," he said, "because I feel more uncomfortable at the quiet tournaments."

For the retired Agnieszka Radwanska, the runner-up at Wimbledon in 2012, nothing ever came as easily at the U.S. Open, where she went 0-5 in fourth-round matches.

"Everything takes so much energy from you and just sucks it up. Everything is loud. All the smells around, like the hamburgers. Everything is really noisy. The traffic," Radwanska said. "I respect the players that don't see the difference and don't feel that and can play like nothing is happening."

US Open runner-up Casper Ruud dislikes New York's smell of marijuana

Some find the Big Apple itself as problematic as the tournament site.

Elisabetta Cocciaretto, the Italian who stunned 2024 U.S. Open finalist Jessica Pegula in Wimbledon's first round last month, never felt at ease until she stopped staying at an official tournament hotel and switched to a more off-the-beaten-path spot.

"I like to separate myself a bit," Cocciaretto said. "Because otherwise, you're amid the madness. And if there's too much of that, your head explodes."

Casper Ruud, the 2022 U.S. Open runner-up, felt "overwhelmed" the first time he came to the event as

a junior.

While he's come to enjoy New York, particularly the restaurants, there's one thing that bothers him about the city: "I'm not a big fan of the smell of weed when you walk around. ... Every corner of every street, you smell it."

What to know about the delisting of property developer China Evergrande's shares in Hong Kong

By ELAINE KURTENBACH AP Business Writer

BANGKOK (AP) — Shares in China Evergrande were removed from the Hong Kong Stock Exchange on Monday, marking another step in the retreat of the giant real estate developer whose downfall contributed to a prolonged crisis in China's property market.

Evergrande's creditors are still working to wind up debts that amounted to more than \$340 billion. Once China's second-largest developer, it ran into trouble when Chinese regulators cracked down several years ago on what they deemed to be excess borrowing by developers.

That caused dozens of property companies to default on their debts, triggering a downturn in the property market that is still dragging on the world's second-largest economy.

Here's what to know about Evergrande:

The delisting of a one-time leader in China's property market

The Hong Kong Exchange said Monday that Evergrande's shares were delisted as of Monday morning, as expected. The shares were last traded on January 29, 2024, and then suspended after a court in Hong Kong ordered liquidation of the company when it failed to provide a viable debt restructuring plan.

Rules of the exchange stipulate that a company's share listing may be canceled if trading in its securities is suspended for 18 straight months.

Evergrande's role in China's property crisis

After years of warnings that led to global rating agencies cutting the Chinese government's credit rating in 2017, the ruling communist party cracked down on real estate debt in 2020. It imposed controls known as "three red lines" that prohibited heavily indebted developers like Evergrande from borrowing more to pay off bonds and bank loans as they matured.

Fears of a possible Evergrande default in 2021 rattled global markets, but they eased after the Chinese central bank said its problems were contained and Beijing would keep credit markets functioning. Evergrande was one of the biggest of many developers that failed to repay their creditors.

Chinese home buyers often pay up front for apartments before they're even built. The credit crunch for Evergrande and other developers led them to suspend construction, leaving many projects in limbo. The slowing of home purchases and building rippled throughout the economy, hitting demand for construction materials, appliances and even vehicles at a time when China was also contending with disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Since most Chinese families have their wealth tied up in property, the anemic housing market has been a major factor crimping consumer spending.

The property downturn grinds on

There has been some recovery in the housing sector, but home prices and investment have continued to fall.

Before the crackdown on borrowing, real estate accounted for some 20% of China's economy. When spending on steel and copper for construction, furniture and other related purchases was added in, estimates of its share of the economy rose to about a third.

China's leaders have sought to get developers to finish projects and deliver apartments that already were paid for, providing billions in lending and subsidies. They've encouraged local governments to buy up excess apartments to serve as affordable housing, and relaxed down payment and mortgage requirements.

They've also lifted many restrictions on purchases of homes for investment purposes in major cities, a move that analysts at HSBC Global Investment Research described as "surprising" as they came earlier

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than expected.

Sales and home prices were expected to fall further in August, they said in a recent report.

"We think it's a positive change showing government's enhanced proactiveness in rolling out measures, which will help strengthen market confidence and address the concern on stimulus being too late," it said.

Evergrande's status

Evergrande, headquartered in southern China's Shenzhen, near Hong Kong, was founded by entrepreneur Hui Ka Yan, who is also known as Xu Jiayin, in 1996. Its ascent and decline have mirrored the boom and bust in China's property market after housing reforms allotted apartments built by state-owned industries to employees, creating a nation of home owners.

The company's shares were listed in Hong Kong in 2009.

Evergrande filed for Chapter 15 bankruptcy protection in New York City in 2023, but that case was later withdrawn. Although a Hong Kong court ordered a winding up of the company's debts, more than 90 percent of its assets are on the Chinese mainland, making it difficult to enforce repayment to its creditors.

Its liquidators said in a recent progress report that they had received debt claims totaling \$45 billion as of Jul. 31, much higher than the some \$27.5 billion of liabilities disclosed in December 2022, and that the new figure was not final. They also had taken control of more than 100 companies within the group with collective assets valued at \$3.5 billion as of Jan. 29, 2024.

So far, about \$255 million worth of assets have been sold, the liquidators said, calling the realization "modest."

Today in History: September 9, Attica prison uprising begins

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, Sept. 9, the 252nd day of 2025. There are 113 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On Sept. 9, 1971, prisoners seized control of the maximum-security Attica Correctional Facility near Buffalo, New York, taking 42 staff members hostage and demanding improvements to inmate treatment and living conditions.

Also on this date:

In 1776, the second Continental Congress formally adopted the name "United States of America," replacing the "United Colonies of North America."

In 1850, California was admitted as the 31st U.S. state.

In 1919, about 1,100 members of Boston's 1,500-member police force went on strike. The strike was broken by Massachusetts Gov. Calvin Coolidge with replacement officers.

In 1948, the People's Democratic Republic of Korea (North Korea) was declared.

In 1957, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the first civil rights bill to pass Congress since Reconstruction, a measure primarily concerned with protecting voting rights. It also established a Civil Rights Division in the U.S. Department of Justice.

In 2022, King Charles III gave his first speech to Britain as its new monarch, vowing to carry on the "lifelong service" of his mother Queen Elizabeth II, who died a day earlier.

Today's Birthdays: Singer Dee Dee Sharp is 80. Former NFL quarterback Joe Theismann is 76. Actor Angela Cartwright is 73. Musician-producer Dave Stewart (Eurythmics) is 73. Actor Hugh Grant is 65. Sen. Chris Coons, D-Del., is 62. Actor Constance Marie is 60. Actor Adam Sandler is 59. Actor Julia Sawalha (suh-WAHL'-hah) is 57. Model Rachel Hunter is 56. Actor Eric Stonestreet is 54. Actor Henry Thomas is 54. Actor Goran Visnjic (VEEZ'-nihch) is 53. Pop-jazz singer Michael Bublé (boo-BLAY') is 50. Actor Michelle Williams is 45. Actor Zoe Kazan is 42. Soccer player Luka Modrić is 40. Country singer-songwriter Hunter Hayes is 34.