

Groton Daily Independent

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Tuesday, Sept. 2

School Breakfast: Muffins.
School Lunch: Tater tot hot dish, corn.
St. John's Lutheran: Ladies LWML, 1 p.m.
United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.
City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
Boys Golf at Hub City Invitational (Lee Park), 10 a.m.
JV/JH Football hosts Ellendale/Edgeley/Kulm, JH at 4 p.m., JV at 5 p.m.
Volleyball at Ipswich: 7th at 5 p.m.; C at 5 p.m., 8th at 6 p.m., JV at 6 p.m., Varsity to follow.

Wednesday, Sept 3

School Breakfast: Oatmeal
School Lunch: Pasta Primavera, cooked broccoli.
Emmanuel Lutheran: Sarah Circle, 5 p.m.
United Methodist: Community Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.; Confirmation, 5:30 p.m.
Groton C&MA: Kid's Club, Youth Group, Adult Bible Study, 7 p.m.
Groton Chamber Meeting, noon City Hall

Thursday, Sept 4

School Breakfast: Maple French Toast Bake.
School Lunch: Sloppy Joe, potato wedges

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PO Box 34, Groton SD 57445

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



Emmanuel Lutheran: Nigeria Circle, 2 p.m.
Volleyball: Sisseton at Groton: (Gym: 7th-5, 8th-6; Arena: C-5, JV-6, V-7:15)
Cross Country at Redfield, 10 a.m.

Friday, Sept. 5

School Breakfast: Breakfast boats.
School Lunch: Hot dogs, baked beans.
Homecoming Parade, 1 p.m.
Football hosts Winner, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Sept 6

Groton Fly-In/Drive-in at Groton Municipal Airport
Fall City Wide Rummage Sale, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Junior High Volleyball Tournament at Northwestern, 9 a.m.
Soccer hosts West Central (Girls at noon, Boys at 2 p.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.

Afghanistan Earthquake

At least 800 people have been killed and thousands injured after a 6.0 magnitude earthquake struck eastern Afghanistan Sunday. The epicenter was about 17 miles from Jalalabad near the Pakistan border, at a shallow depth of 5 miles, resulting in stronger ground shaking. Officials expect the death toll to increase as search and rescue efforts proceed in the remote mountainous region.

The worst damage occurred in rural areas, where mud brick and wooden houses are highly vulnerable. The region's steep terrain is also prone to landslides, further obstructing rescue operations. Taliban authorities have appealed for international humanitarian aid, citing severe shortages of supplies following cuts to foreign assistance as well as strains from refugee inflows.

The event is Afghanistan's third major earthquake since 2021. Situated on the Alpide belt—the world's second-most seismically active region, where the Indian and Eurasian plates meet—the country is located atop several fault lines.

Tariffs Interrupted

President Donald Trump said he plans to appeal a federal appeals court decision that voided most of his so-called reciprocal tariffs against countries late Friday. Levies imposed on over 60 countries will remain in effect until Oct. 14, per the court's ruling, barring a superseding decision from the Supreme Court.

The court ruled 7-4 that the decision to impose taxes, including tariffs, rests exclusively with Congress. Trump had cited the 1977 International Emergency Economic Powers Act in his decision to impose tariffs in recent months, characterizing the US deficit (currently \$1.6T) as a national emergency. The court rejected that claim. The court's decision does not affect levies on sector-specific goods (including copper, aluminum, and steel) as those were brought under a separate national security authority.

If the court's ruling stays, an estimated 16% of goods entering the US will be subject to Trump's recent spate of tariffs, down from 69%.

Titanic Discovery Anniversary

Forty years ago yesterday, oceanographers discovered the Titanic wreckage during a covert Cold War Navy mission. The luxury liner sank in 1912 after striking an iceberg on its maiden voyage from England to New York City, killing more than 1,500 people.

Limited deep-sea mapping technology left the Titanic's location nearly 13,000 feet underwater a mystery for 73 years. American oceanographer Robert Ballard led one of several unsuccessful expeditions to find the shipwreck before approaching the US Navy in 1982 about financing a new ocean floor research vehicle, Argo.

The Navy agreed, but only if the underwater camera and sonar system were first used to find two missing US nuclear submarines. The debris tracking techniques Ballard refined on that quest guided his discovery of the Titanic's final resting place on Sept. 1, 1985.

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Sports, Entertainment, & Culture

Novak Djokovic advances to US Open quarterfinals, extending his record of reaching 64 Grand Slam quarters.

No. 23 Naomi Osaka upsets No. 3 Coco Gauff to advance to the quarterfinals; see latest women's bracket.
Mark Knoller, longtime White House correspondent for CBS, dies at age 73.

Lee Roy Jordan, five-time NFL Pro Bowler, dies at age 84.

Randy Boone, actor best known for starring role on "The Virginian," dies at age 83.

College football week one wraps, highlighted by No. 3 Ohio State topping No. 1 Texas and No. 8 Alabama falling to unranked Florida State.

Science & Technology

Chinese law requiring clearly identified labels on all AI-generated online content goes into effect; government says effort is meant to combat misinformation.

Newly discovered tectonic activity may be responsible for historic but unexplained earthquakes in Portugal in recent centuries.

An 8.5 magnitude quake in 1755 is considered Europe's first modern natural disaster (More, w/video)

Mars study reveals planet's interior contains mile-wide structures left over from massive collisions around 4.5 billion years ago.

Business & Markets

US stock markets close lower Friday (S&P 500 -0.6%, Dow -0.2%, Nasdaq -1.2%).

Core personal consumption expenditures price index rose 2.9% year over year in July as expected; figure is highest annual rate since February.

World's largest food company Nestlé dismisses CEO Laurent Freixe after one year in the role over undisclosed romantic relationship with direct subordinate.

Spirit Airlines files for Chapter 11 bankruptcy for second time in one year.

Politics & World Affairs

Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit kicks off in China's port city of Tianjin, with leaders from Russia, China, India, Iran, and six other nations in attendance.

Federal judge temporarily blocks Trump administration from returning unaccompanied migrant children to Guatemala without deportation orders; Guatemala says it can accept 150 migrant children per week from the US.

Antigovernment protests in Indonesia leave at least eight people dead; latest demonstrations focus on lawmakers' \$3K monthly housing allowance, death of a motorcyclist during protests last week (More)

Nybergs are Parade Marshals

by Dorene Nelson

Tyke and Chris Nyberg have been selected to serve as parade marshals for the annual Groton Area School's homecoming events. They have lived in Groton since 1975.

Chris, originally from Pierre, SD, attended college at Northern State University. "I started teaching in Burke, SD, followed by two years in South Shore," she listed. "The next fourteen years were in Conde SD, before I became an English teacher in Groton in 1990."

"In addition to the classroom work, I also controlled the library and helped train the teaching staff in technology," she said. "The teacher's technological training was mainly in using the online grade book as well as how to use the State Library online."

"My extracurricular work included being the advisor for the yearbook and the senior class," Nyberg listed. "I retired in 2012 and continued subbing until 2020. I had been in education for forty years including the English classroom and the library/media center.

"In addition to my work at school, I also taught Sunday School and served on several committees at the United Methodist Church," she added.

Tyke (Sherwin) graduated from Barnard High School and was on active duty in the United States Navy for four years. In 1975 he and Chris moved to Groton and have lived there ever since.

"I've have worked at several places including the Groton Truck Center, Darrel's Sinclair, and Trail Chevrolet," he listed. "In 2010 I retired after twenty-two years at Trail Chevrolet."

"During that same period, I was on the Groton City Council where I worked on the new pool committee, Groton Planning and Zoning, several committees for the United Methodist Church, and drove the Groton City Transit bus for several years," Tyke stated.

"Today I'm the maintenance person for the Rix Apartments as well as helping when needed at Olive Grove Golf Course," he added. "I like being busy doing different kinds of work!"

The Nybergs have two sons, Aaron and Wade. Aaron and his wife Elli and their four children live in Sioux Falls. The oldest is Ben who is currently a senior at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. Their oldest daughter Moriah is a sophomore at SDSU. The two youngest are students at Lincoln High School where Melanie is a senior and Caden is a freshman.

Their youngest son Wade and his wife Nena live on an acreage near Box Elder, SD. They have three children who all attend school in the Douglas School District. Trey is a junior; Laynie is a freshman; and Josie is a fifth grader.



Chris and Tyke Nyberg are the 2025 Parade Marshals. (Photo by Dorene Nelson)

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Groton Girls Fall in Heartbreaker to Mitchell; Boys Drop Road Match

The Groton Area Tigers soccer teams traveled to take on Double-A opponent Mitchell on Friday, and both squads came away with hard-fought losses.

Girls Recap

The Groton girls battled evenly with the Kernels (3-4) for nearly the entire contest before falling 1-0 in heartbreaking fashion. With just 49 seconds left, a throw-in by Mitchell was deflected into the penalty area and caught a Groton hand. Mitchell's Taryn Thomas converted the penalty kick for the game's only goal.

Despite the result, Groton head coach Matt Baumgartner praised his team's effort.

"We played very good today and adapted to the conditions against us," Baumgartner said. "We defended a Mitchell team to a 0-0 tie up until the very end. I'm proud of the speed we played at today and the effort given against a physical side."

Goalkeeper Jaedyn Penning recorded six saves, several of them spectacular, to keep the Tigers in the match. With the loss, Groton drops to 4-2 on the season.

Boys Recap

In the boys' matchup, Groton (4-1-1) fell 6-0 to a Mitchell team that improved to 1-4 with the victory. The Tigers found themselves under constant pressure, but goalkeeper Gage Sippel turned aside 11 shots to keep the score from growing larger.

Looking Ahead

Groton returns home Saturday to host West Central in a girls and boys doubleheader. The West Central girls come in with a 4-1 record, while the Trojans' boys are 1-3. Action begins with the girls' game at 12:00 noon, followed by the boys' match at 2:00 p.m.

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Locke-Tracy are Homecoming Royalty

The GHS Homecoming Royalty are Jerica Locke, pictured with here parents Matt and Tammy Locke, and Keegen Tracy, pictured with his parents, Carla and Ryan Tracy. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



King Keegen Tracy is flanked on his right by scroll carrier Briggs Eichler, and Queen Jerica Locke is flanked on her left by scroll carrier Harper Boerger. The rest of the royalty court pictured in back, left to right, are Becker Bosma, Gage Sippel, Ryder Johnson, Gavin England, Carly Gilbert, Talli Wright, Rylee Dunker and Hannah Sandness. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

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The GHS Football Cheerleaders did a cheer for the crowd. (Photo lifted from GDILIVE Video)



Jordan Carson was the master of ceremony. (Photo lifted from GDILIVE Video)



Coach Shaun Wanner talked about football. (Photo lifted from GDILIVE Video)



Coach Ryan Olson talked about boys soccer. (Photo lifted from GDILIVE Video)



Coach Matt Baumgartner talked about girls soccer. (Photo lifted from GDILIVE Video)

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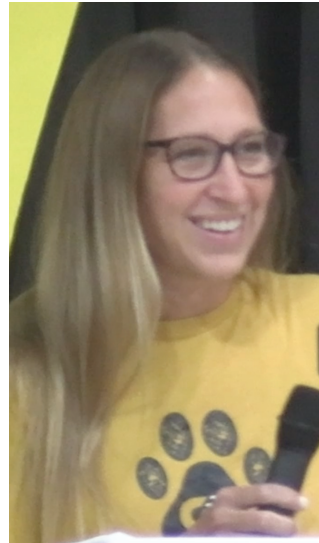
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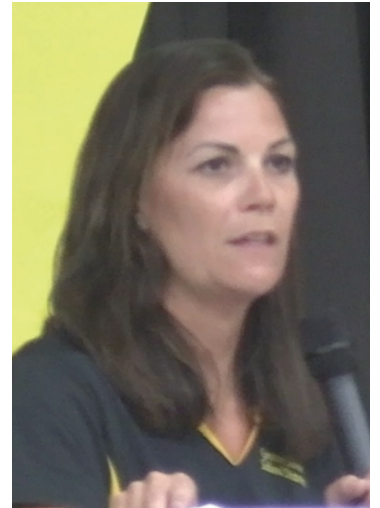
Coach Joel Guth-miller talked about boys golf. (Photo lifted from GDILIVE Video)



Band Director Joshua Friez talked about band. (Photo lifted from GDILIVE Video)



Coach Chelsea Hanson talked about volleyball. (Photo lifted from GDILIVE Video)



Coach Becky Hubsch talked about cross country. (Photo lifted from GDILIVE Video)



The junior skit was about the football draft for Groton Area and Winner. (Photo lifted from GDILIVE Video)



Coach Aubray Miller talked about the cheerleaders. (Photo lifted from GDILIVE Video)



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**SOUTH DAKOTA
NEWS WATCH**

Inform. Enlighten. Illuminate.

Slow year for South Dakota tourism industry so far in 2025

Bart Pfankuch, South Dakota News Watch

RAPID CITY, S.D. – The owners of the Fort Hays Old West Town, a tourism destination just south of Rapid City, have about 150 days each year to turn a profit, relying on robust visitor spending from Mother's Day to mid-October.

For more than 50 years, the family-run operation has made it work and was able to expand offerings to include a Wild West musical dinner show, a bus tour operation and a roller coaster where riders can shoot replica guns at buffalo statues.

While second-generation operators Clint and Krystal Jones have seen some ups and downs over the years, they have rarely experienced such a poor season of tourism spending as they have in the summer of 2025.

"It's been brutal," Clint Jones said of the business on U.S. 16 that is famous for its 99 cent all-you-can-eat pancakes and collection of historical buildings and artifacts. "It's been absolutely brutal this year."

Krystal Jones, Clint's wife and business co-owner, told News Watch that Fort Hays has seen revenues at its five separate businesses fall by 20% to 40% this year. The Mount Rushmore Tours guided bus operation had the greatest decline.

Fort Hays has endured the same headwinds that slowed revenues at many tourism businesses across the state and nation – reduced spending by tourists, shorter durations of vacations and a dramatic drop in international visitors, especially from Canada.

"You take the Canadians away, and all the families who usually might have taken a two-week vacation this summer — we're just not seeing them," said Teri Schmidt, CEO of Experience Sioux Falls, a leading East River tourism promotion agency.

At one point this summer, visitor spending in Sioux Falls was down 9% compared to 2024, Schmidt said. "I feel so bad for the small businesses who live by what happens in the tourism season because they're hurting," she said.

Causes: Inflation, economic unease and politics

South Dakota Secretary of Tourism Jim Hagen and other experts in the field said many Americans have been reluctant to plan trips and spend money due to nagging inflation and uncertainty over the future of the national economy.

He's aware that some South Dakota tourism operators have suffered during what he called "an unusual summer season."

Hagen said state data is incomplete in regard to visitor and revenue outcomes for the summer months, but he is hopeful a slow summer can be boosted by a busier fall.

"When push came to shove, consumers were a little bit more cautious on travel this summer," Hagen told News Watch. "Inflation, unrest about the economy, we saw that nationally and in this state as well, so everyone is seeing the same sort of funk."

While tourists have still visited the state, many spent less while here, Hagen said. That can be bad news for tourism operators but also for the state general fund, about 60% of which is annual sales and use taxes.

South Dakota, like other states near the Canadian border, saw a reduction in tourists from the north this summer. Hagen said early estimates show about a 20% drop in Canadian visits to South Dakota so far in 2025.

The U.S. economy could see a \$12.5 billion loss in revenues in 2025 due to reduced international travel to the states, according to the World Travel & Tourism Council. Some traditional destinations such as Las Vegas have seen major declines in visitors and spending.

Schmidt said tariffs and President Donald Trump's stated desire to make Canada the 51st U.S. state have

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put a chill on Canadian tourism in South Dakota.

"They're mad at America," she said. "They're not happy with what the president is doing. And some of them, when they canceled, have said point blank, 'We're not coming because we don't like what your country is doing to ours,'" she said.

Not all doom and gloom in 2025

There have been some bright spots for tourism in South Dakota this year.

The state has seen high national park attendance and strong numbers from the annual Sturgis Motorcycle Rally, Hagen said.

The 2025 rally, the 85th version of the event, saw an 11% increase in vehicles counted, according to the city of Sturgis. Overall tax revenues jumped to \$1.6 million, a 13% increase over 2024, according to the state Department of Revenue.

"It wasn't the summer we hoped for, but it wasn't terrible by any means," Hagen said.

Michelle Thomson, CEO of the Black Hills & Badlands Tourism Association, said her membership has reported both wins and losses so far in 2025.

"It's been a mixed picture for the region," she said. "Some businesses are seeing softer numbers, some are even and some are up."

While hotel occupancy has fallen, higher room rates have made up for any decreases, Thomson said. And even though reservation windows have shortened as people wait longer to make travel decisions, some tourism operators are benefiting from last-minute bookings, she said.

The region around Badlands National Park saw strong tourism activity this summer, with spending there rising by 7.5% so far this year compared to 2024, Thomson said.

Rick Husted, president of Wall Drug in Wall, said revenues at the world-famous tourist site were up 2.5% in July and 3.5% in August compared to last year.

"It seems like people in the United States are getting out and traveling, they're taking vacations and shopping and eating," he said. "We're having a good season. It's not the best year ever, but our numbers are hanging in there very solidly."

Optimism for fall 2025 and 2026

Hagen is confident of a strong fall "shoulder season" that includes the 60th anniversary of the Custer State Park Buffalo Roundup and the upcoming pheasant hunting season, which Hagen said could set records.

He's also buoyed by recent national survey data showing that 92% of U.S. travelers said they are planning domestic trips in the coming year. As a state with a strong dose of "Americana," South Dakota will benefit in 2026 from the nation's 250th anniversary celebration, which also includes fireworks at Mount Rushmore National Memorial on July 3, Hagen said.

"One thing we have to keep in mind is that value is king, and people are looking for deals and destinations that are affordable and easier on the checkbook," he said. "They're seeking a ton of outdoor, family-friendly options, and South Dakota has those in spades."

Schmidt, the Experience Sioux Falls CEO, spent several days in late August courting a large national association that is considering holding a convention in the city next year. So far, she said, "they're loving what they're seeing" during their first-ever tour of eastern South Dakota.

"All we can do is keep our chins up and keep believing in the product we're selling, knowing that we're good people and when people choose to travel, they will choose us," Schmidt said.

Maintaining such an optimistic outlook is critical to survival for those in the tourism industry, including for Clint Jones, the co-owner at Fort Hays.

"We'll be here next year, and we'll live to fight another day," he said. "After a bad year, all you can do is pick up the pieces and move on."

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.



SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

Q&A: Award-winning SDSU researcher calls his lab a 'security checkpoint' for animal diseases

Team leader at veterinary diagnostics lab named 'New Investigator of the Year'

BY:JOHN HULT

Airborne diseases have not been kind to the poultry industry in recent years.

Highly pathogenic avian influenza, which spreads through the air to the lungs of wild and captive birds, has devastated chicken and turkey flocks in waves. The price of eggs has ballooned, then fallen, as the outbreaks have flared up. Last year, the virus jumped from birds to cattle, causing trouble in the dairy industry by way of decreased milk production.

Dr. Sunil Mor of South Dakota State University thinks a lot about respiratory diseases in animals. Mor leads the virology section of the school's Animal Disease Research and Diagnostic Laboratory, and has a keen interest in respiratory viruses — especially those with the potential to mutate and infect humans, known as zoonotic diseases.

Mor was recently named the winner of the Bayer-Snoeyenbos New Investigator Award by the American Association of Avian Pathologists, a win based on the work his lab did last year to confirm the presence of a new respiratory poultry disease in the U.S.

Earlier this year, Mor's team got a \$150,000 grant from the Foundation for Food and Agricultural Research to develop a diagnostic tool for that disease, an emerging threat known as avian metapneumovirus. Last year, the disease cost turkey producers in Minnesota well over \$100 million — a figure greater than that year's losses from avian influenza.

Mor spoke to South Dakota Searchlight on his work, why he does it, and how SDSU's lab can serve as a sort of airport checkpoint for disease.

EDITOR'S NOTE: This conversation has been edited for length and clarity.

What can you tell us about your background, and why you chose to focus on this particular area of study?

My family was raised on a farm in India, so my interest from an early age was to work with animal diseases. When I started my master's in veterinary epidemiology and preventive medicine (in India), our department was responsible to attend to any disease outbreak in the state. I was with my supervisors, doing the investigation, the testing, and collecting more samples.

From that point, I realized that disease investigation is the key if we want to know the exact cause of a disease. Then we can implement the prevention and control measures, and we can help the industry minimize the losses.

How did you decide to zero in on the study of respiratory viruses in poultry?

In poultry, especially with the outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza viruses, the economic losses are huge. And not only the losses due to the dead birds, but also the mental and the emotional stress and other factors. So it's the huge impact, plus it has the genetic importance. Some of the highly pathogenic avian influenza viruses can also infect humans, so that drew me to be more interested in the poultry viruses, with a focus on poultry respiratory viruses.

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So it was realizing that if you were doing the diagnostics, you could catch the problem at the beginning and have the biggest impact?

Yes, that's right. I like to be in a race with the viruses, or any emerging zoonotic viruses (viruses that can transmit from animals to humans), see how early I can catch them, and develop the tools to detect them as early as possible.

There's a security checkpoint at the airport. In the diagnostic lab, we are like a TSA PreCheck security. It's us seeing how early we can detect these kinds of deadly pathogens that may have a huge economic impact on the agricultural sector, as well as may have the potential to jump to humans. Our job is to keep an eye on any emerging threat.

What kinds of things are you most worried about coming through that checkpoint?

We've focused on the avian influenza virus, but now we're doing research on this avian metapneumovirus that was detected for the first time in my lab.

Later on, USDA also confirmed our finding and declared it an emerging disease. That was a big achievement, to prove that we are a good security checkpoint for incoming or new problems for the country, not just for the state. That put us on the stage at the national level.

We also just completed a project on SARS-CoV-2 in wild animals, zoo animals and food animals, to design tools to detect any variant in the future that may have the potential to cause a pandemic.

We also have a project right now on high-path avian influenza in cattle. As we all know, this virus jumped to cattle last year, which was big news, and also had a huge impact on the cattle industry. So we are doing surveillance to ask, 'How widespread is this virus in the cattle?' And then, 'Is the virus changing over time or not?'

Then I'm also working on the turkey reovirus. This is considered an enteric virus, not a respiratory virus, so infections mainly go through the oral-fecal route.

How did you come to confirm the presence of a new virus in the U.S.?

We received a phone call from North Carolina saying, 'We have a problem going on, and we are not able to figure out the cause.' So I received the samples, and then within three days, I confirmed that this is a new virus (for the U.S.). Within three to four months, from North Carolina, this virus had spread to almost all turkey producing states. We were receiving samples from 11 states.

How is metapneumovirus virus different from avian influenza?

Highly pathogenic avian influenza has a huge impact and kills the birds right away. If it's positive in the flock, we just depopulate. But metapneumovirus is more like a slow poison. It reduces the immunity of the birds, so other bacteria and other viruses also start dominating. We have to manage these secondary bacterial infections, as well as the loss of the birds. We are now working on developing diagnostic tools for the rapid and specific detection of this virus, as well as vaccine development.

Do you know why North Carolina called you specifically?

When I was at the University of Minnesota and working on avian reovirus, we used to work with veterinarians all across the country. I was leading the disease investigation section. When they were not able to get any answer from other labs within three months — three months is a long time — I think they decided finally that they would reach out to me and see if I could figure out what's going on with this new problem.

How have these emerging diseases changed the way poultry farmers do business?

Before 2023, we had very random outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza virus. Depopulation and biosecurity was enough, and there was some support from the government on the indemnity.

But now we have more, fairly regular outbreaks. That's what happened last year. It was devastating, and it was big news with the egg prices, because so many layer farms or layer operations were infected.

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We're at the point where we need to be thinking, should we just continue with these standard methods of depopulation and biosecurity measures? Or is there any need for alternative options like vaccines or some other therapeutics? Like in Europe and Asia, some countries started doing some vaccination.

I'm not sure what the future will be here to control these outbreaks, whether that's vaccination or some novel therapeutic measures. But when it's jumping from poultry, like to cattle last year, and then also jumping to other wild animals, zoo animals, it looks like it's getting more localized and increasing its impact, its reach, to the different species, mammalian species, which is concerning for the human population.

Recently, there was an announcement for \$100 million in funding named the High Path Poultry Innovation Grand Challenge. The focus was to look for the research applications on novel ideas to control this virus, especially to the egg layer industry, in terms of reducing the egg prices. The submission process was completed in May 2025, so we are still waiting on the decision for our proposal, but I think this funding could help us design better control measures in the future.

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

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Upcoming Events on GDILIVE.COM

 **PAETZNIK-GARNESS FUNERAL CHAPEL**

Funeral Service
Joan Fahrenwald
10:30 a.m., Tues., Sept. 2
UMC, Conde



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YouTube

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For more info: GDILIVE.COM

 **PAETZNIK-GARNESS FUNERAL CHAPEL**

Funeral Service
Arletta Peterson
3 p.m., Tues., Sept. 2
Emmanuel Lutheran, Groton



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Groton City Council Meeting
Tuesday, Sept. 2, 2025, 7 p.m.



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 on

Volleyball C Match
Groton at Ipswich
Tues., Sept. 2, 5 p.m.



Groton
Area
Tigers
Groton, SD

GDILIVE
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 on

Volleyball JV Match
Groton at Ipswich
Tues., Sept. 2, 6 p.m.
Sponsored by Sue Fjeldheim
with Tastefully Simple



Groton
Area
Tigers
Groton, SD

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 on

Varsity Volleyball
7:15 p.m., Sept. 2, 2026
Groton at Ipswich



Groton
Area
Tigers
Groton, SD

GDILIVE
YouTube

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 on

Varsity Volleyball
7:15 p.m., Sept. 4, 2026
Sisseton at Groton



Groton
Area
Tigers
Groton, SD

GDILIVE
YouTube

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 on

Homecoming Parade
Fri., Sept. 5, 2026
1 p.m.



Groton
Area
Tigers
Groton, SD

GDILIVE
YouTube

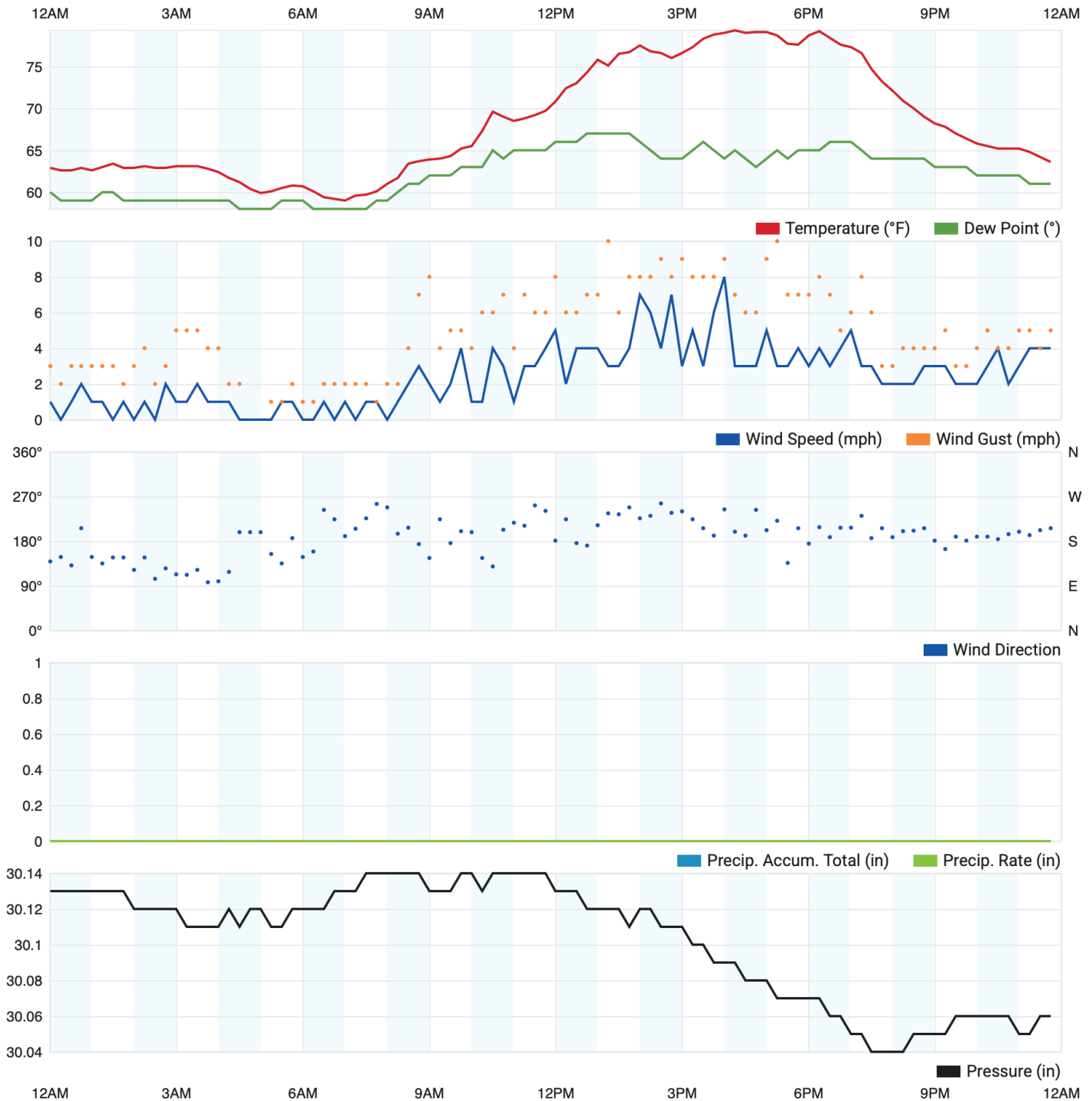
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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs

September 1, 2025



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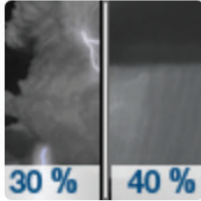
Today



High: 82 °F

Mostly Sunny
then Slight
Chance
T-storms

Tonight



Low: 53 °F

Chance
T-storms then
Chance
Showers

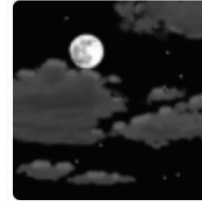
Wednesday



High: 62 °F

Patchy Smoke
then Mostly
Sunny

Wednesday
Night



Low: 40 °F

Partly Cloudy

Thursday



High: 72 °F

Mostly Sunny

THREAT ASSESSMENT

HIGHEST LOCAL RISK

1

WHAT THIS MEANS:
Isolated Severe Storms
Possible

TIMING

Late afternoon to
Evening

PRIMARY THREAT



LARGE HAIL
(QUARTER SIZE)

SECONDARY THREATS

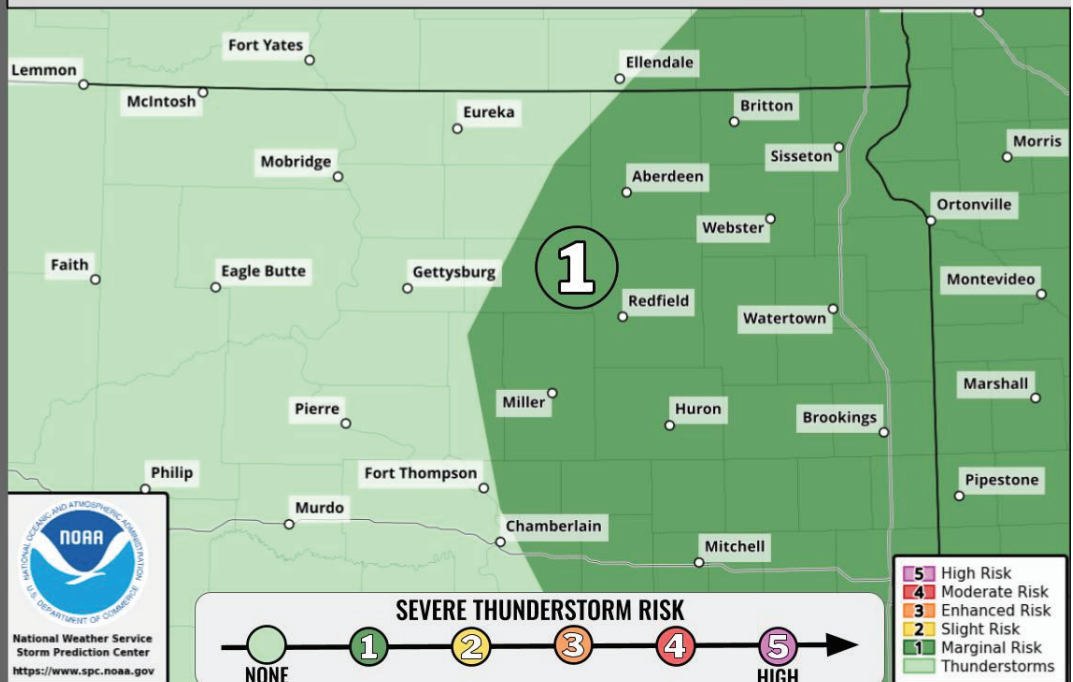


DAMAGING
WIND GUSTS OF
60+ MPH



HEAVY
RAIN

Severe Storms Possible Tuesday Afternoon And Evening



A Marginal Risk, level 1 of 5, is in place for storms developing along a cold front this afternoon into evening. Storms will be scattered in coverage, but the strongest storms could produce quarter size hail and wind gusts of 60 miles per hour.

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Smoky Skies To Come

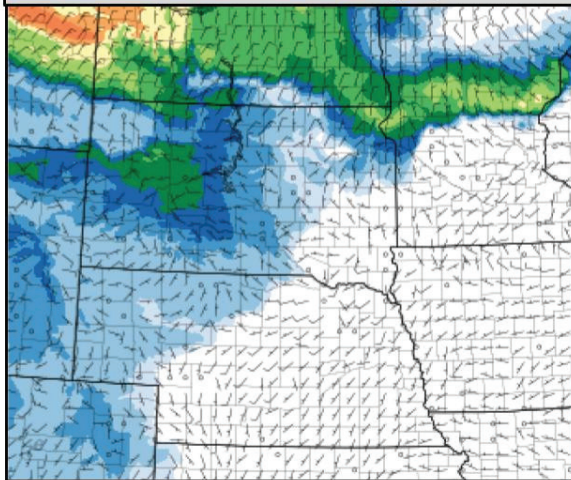
September 2, 2025

4:06 AM

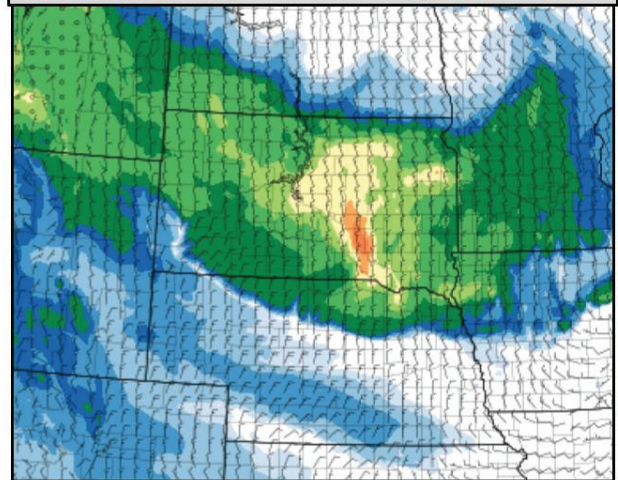
Near surface smoke will move into South Dakota tonight and linger through tomorrow.

- Behind the incoming cold front, smoke from Canadian Wildfires will move into South Dakota.
- Smoke is expected to reach the surface, and concentrations may reach unhealthy levels.

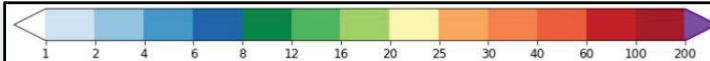
Near Surface Smoke 12AM Wednesday, September 3rd



Near Surface Smoke 12PM Wednesday, September 3rd



National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce



National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

Behind the approaching front, smoke from Canadian wildfires is expected to move over the forecast area. Smoke will reach the surface, and concentrations may reach unhealthy levels. Members of the general public and those sensitive to smoke may experience health impacts.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 80 °F at 5:09 PM

Low Temp: 59 °F at 6:54 AM

Wind: 12 mph at 2:49 PM

Precip: : 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 104 in 1913

Record Low: 35 in 1896

Average High: 80

Average Low: 52

Average Precip in Sept.: 0.14

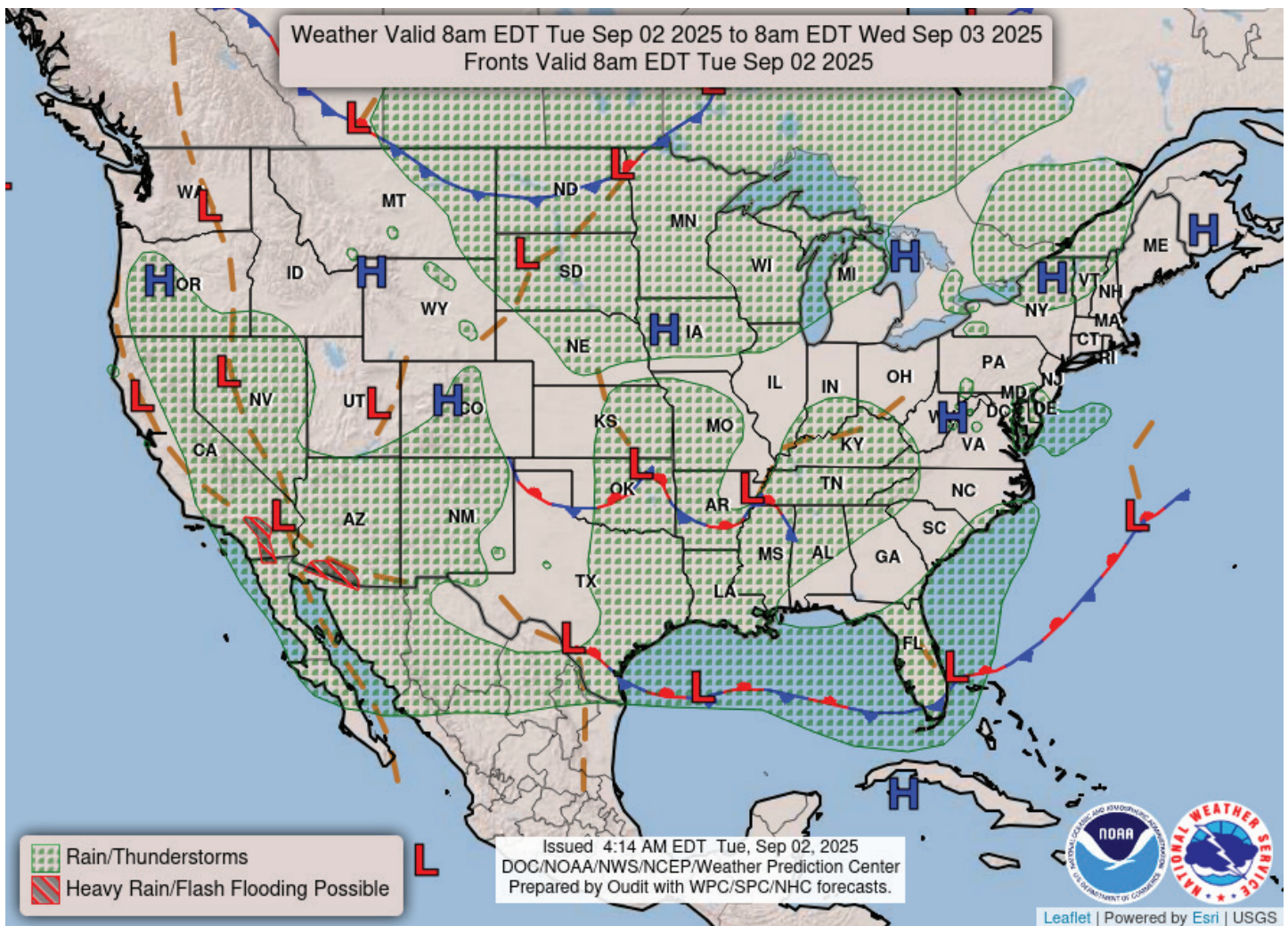
Precip to date in Sept.: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 16.48

Precip Year to Date: 20.30

Sunset Tonight: 8:08 pm

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:56 am



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Today in Weather History

September 2, 1962: From 315 to 445 pm, hail fell in and around the Mobridge area. The hail ranged from 1 1/2 to 4 inches in diameter. The ground was covered up to 3 inches deep with drifts of 2-3 feet. At this time, the storm was one of the worst in recent history for damage.

September 2, 1983: A tornado touched down in the late afternoon 3 miles west and 1 mile south of Polo in Hand County damaging buildings, machinery, and trees. The roof of a hog house was torn off, and the north side of the building was destroyed. A barn was pulled several inches off of its foundation, and numerous trees were destroyed. At a nearby farm, two outbuildings were damaged, with two cows injured along with two calves killed.

September 2, 1985: Intense thunderstorms moved from south-central South Dakota to northeast South Dakota during the evening. Winds gusted to 60 to 70 mph over the area. Southwest of Presho, three small buildings were destroyed, and barns were damaged. Power lines and other property were damaged near Vayland, Miller, Wessington, Wolsey, Kimball, White Lake, Armour, and Castlewood. Large hail caused considerable damage to crops.

1775: The 1775 Newfoundland hurricane, also known as the Independence Hurricane, was a storm that hit the Colony of Newfoundland. It is believed to have killed at least 4,000 people, making it one of the deadliest Atlantic hurricanes of all time. The death toll in Virginia and North Carolina was 163 lives.

1882: Possibly the first photograph of a lightning strike was taken on this day by William Jennings in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

1887: The U.S. Army Signal Service station in Greenville, SC reported a minimum temperature of 50°F. This observation at Greenville still stands as the record low for the day. Additional stations across the state recorded low temps in the low 50's.

1935 - Perhaps the most intense hurricane ever to hit the U.S. struck the Florida Keys with 200 mph winds. The hurricane produced a fifteen foot tide and waves thirty feet high. 400 persons perished in the storm on that Labor Day. The barometric pressure at Matecumbe Bay FL hits a record low for the U.S. of 26.35 inches. (David Ludlum)

1950 - The temperature at Mecca, CA, soared to 126 degrees to establish a U.S. record for the month of September. The low that morning was 89 degrees. (The Weather Channel)

1985 - After teasing residents along the Gulf of Mexico for two days, Hurricane Elena finally came ashore at Biloxi MS. The hurricane, packing winds of 127 mph, caused more than a billion dollars damage. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Late evening thunderstorms in the Northern Plains Region produced wind gusts to 75 mph at Jordan MT, and a ""hot flash"" at Redig SD. The temperature at Redig rose from 66 degrees at 10 PM to 86 degrees at 11 PM as thunderstorm winds gusted to 36 mph. Nine cities in the Upper Ohio Valley, the Tennessee Valley and the Central Gulf Coast States reported record low temperatures for the date, including Elkins WV with a reading of 38 degrees. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Unseasonably hot weather prevailed in the northwestern U.S. Afternoon highs of 98 degrees at Olympia WA, 98 degrees at Seattle WA, 105 degrees at Portland OR, and 110 degrees at Medford OR, established records for the month of September. Quillayute WA equalled their September record with an afternoon high of 97 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Eight cities in the Gulf Coast Region reported record high temperatures for the date as readings soared into the upper 90s. Houston TX and Port Arthur TX hit 99 degrees. Late evening thunderstorms, developing ahead of a cold front, produced wind gusts to 63 mph at Dickinson ND, and golf ball size hail in North Dakota and Nebraska. Winds along the cold front itself gusted to 62 mph at Buffalo SD. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

2002: An F3 tornado destroyed much of the downtown area of Ladysmith, Wisconsin. Overall damage was estimated at \$20 million, but there were no fatalities.

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WILLING

One morning Michael Faraday was walking past a high fence with a large iron gate. Puzzled, he looked through the gate wondering what the fence was hiding. Not being able to see very much he struggled hard and was able to get his head, shoulders, and arms through the gate. When he tried to extract himself, he realized that he was stuck! Laughing at himself he said, "My head and arms are on one side, and my body is on the other."

He tried desperately to free himself but had no success. Finally, a stranger came to his rescue and was able to pull him from the gate and set him free.

Later in life, after becoming one of the world's most respected scientists in the field of electromagnetism, he said, "That experience taught me a precious lesson. My head and heart and hands should always be together."

Another famous person, King David, said the same thing in different words: "Your troops should be willing on your day of battle." The word "willing" literally means "willing offerings" or "a freewill offering." So, we can interpret the verse to read, "Your troops are to be a free-will offering." Could there be a more descriptive way to explain the true meaning of consecration?

Consecration is the voluntary surrender of our heads, hearts, and hands to the Lord. It is to say, "Lord, let your Word make its way from my head to my heart and from my heart to my hands as I willingly use them to do your work!"

Imagine what God could do with us if we are willing!

Prayer: Lord, in Your infinite love, infinite wisdom and infinite power do what You will with my life. I am willing, and I am Yours! In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: -But You, O Sovereign Lord, deal well with me for Your name's sake; out of the goodness of Your love, deliver me. Psalm 109:21

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: 08.29.25

13 31 32 44 45 21

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$302,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 17 Mins 2 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS: 09.01.25

4 10 11 23 32 3

All Star Bonus: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$2,550,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 15 Hrs 32 Mins 2 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS: 09.01.25

15 18 39 46 47 2

TOP PRIZE:

\$7,000/week

NEXT DRAW: 15 Hrs 47 Mins 2 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS: 08.30.25

1 6 15 25 26

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$20,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 15 Hrs 47 Mins 2 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS: 09.01.25

1 15 26 48 67 19

TOP PRIZE:

\$10,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 16 Hrs 16 Mins 2 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS: 09.01.25

8 23 25 40 53 5

Power Play: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$1,300,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 16 Hrs 16 Mins 2 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

North Korea's Kim Jong Un travels to Beijing to watch military parade alongside Putin and Xi Jinping

By HYUNG-JIN KIM and KIM TONG-HYUNG Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korean leader Kim Jong Un traveled to China by train Tuesday to attend a military parade with his Chinese and Russian counterparts, North Korea's state media reported. The event could potentially demonstrate three-way unity against the United States.

Kim and Russian President Vladimir Putin are among the 26 world leaders who will join Chinese President Xi Jinping to watch Wednesday's massive military parade in Beijing that commemorates the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II and China's fight against Japan's wartime aggressions.

It's set to be Kim's first time attending a major multilateral event during his 14-year rule, and the first time Kim, Xi and Putin, all key challengers of the U.S., have gathered at the same venue. None of the three countries have confirmed a private trilateral leaders' meeting.

South Korean intelligence predicts Kim could be treated on par with Putin

The North's official Korean Central News Agency reported early Tuesday that Kim left Pyongyang for Beijing by his special train on Monday to participate in the celebrations. KCNA, citing Foreign Ministry official Kim Chon Il, said that Kim Jong Un was traveling with top officials including Foreign Minister Choe Son Hui.

In a closed-door briefing to lawmakers, South Korea's National Intelligence Service said Kim's train entered China early Tuesday and was expected to reach Beijing later in the afternoon. The intelligence service said Kim will likely receive special protocol and security measures on par with those given to Putin, according to Lee Seong Kweun, a lawmaker who attended the meeting.

The spy agency said Kim may stand alongside Xi and Putin on the rostrum at Tiananmen Square during Wednesday's parade, and anticipated that he will hold bilateral meetings with the Chinese and Russian leaders and interact with other heads of state at a reception and cultural performance as he seeks to further break out of isolation and expand his diplomatic footing, Lee said.

Kim's travel marks his first visit to China since 2019 and the fifth visit in total since he inherited power upon his father's death in late 2011.

Putin arrived in China on Sunday to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, a regional summit, as well as the Beijing parade. Kremlin aide Yuri Ushakov told Russia's TASS news agency on Sunday that a meeting between Putin and Kim on the sidelines was "under consideration."

North Korea observers are paying keen attention to Kim possibly meeting Xi bilaterally as well and holding even a trilateral meeting with Xi and Putin. The three leaders have met bilaterally previously but have yet to hold a trilateral meeting.

Kim seeks to expand his diplomatic footing

North Korea's foreign policy priority has been Russia in recent years as it has been supplying troops and ammunition to support Russia's war against Ukraine in exchange for economic and military assistance.

According to South Korean assessments, North Korea has sent around 15,000 troops to Russia since last fall. In its latest briefing to lawmakers, the South Korean spy agency said it believes roughly 2,000 of them have so far died in combat, Lee said. Kim has also agreed to additionally send thousands of military construction workers and deminers to Russia's Kursk region, and the agency assesses that the first 1,000 are already in Russia, Lee said.

North Korea's relations with China have reportedly turned sour in recent years, but experts say Kim likely hopes to restore ties as China is North Korea's biggest trading partner and aid benefactor and he would want to brace for the end of the Russia-Ukraine war.

Since aligning with Russia, North Korea has become more vocal in international affairs beyond the Korean Peninsula, issuing diplomatic statements on conflicts in the Middle East and in the Taiwan Strait, while portraying itself as a part of a united front against Washington. Some experts say Kim's presence at the

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multilateral event in Beijing is part of efforts to develop partnerships with other nations close to China and Russia.

Kim's trip comes as President Donald Trump and new liberal South Korean President Lee Jae Myung have repeatedly expressed their hopes to restart talks with North Korea. North Korea has been shunning talks with the U.S. and South Korea and pushing to expand its nuclear and missile arsenals since Kim's earlier round of diplomacy with Trump collapsed in 2019.

Before departing for China on Monday, Kim visited a North Korean missile research institute to review progress on developing a new engine for a "next-generation" intercontinental ballistic missile, KCNA reported. The North in recent years has tested various versions of ICBMs capable of reaching the U.S. mainland, and analysts say the next-generation ICBM likely refers to a long-range weapon with multiple nuclear warheads that can defeat U.S. missile defense systems.

Afghanistan earthquake death toll passes 1,400, says Taliban government spokesman

JALALABAD, Afghanistan (AP) — The death toll from a major earthquake in eastern Afghanistan passed 1,400 on Tuesday, with more than 3,000 people injured, Zabihullah Mujahid, a Taliban government spokesman, said on social platform X.

Rescuers are scrambling in a "race against time" to reach the mountainous and remote area devastated by Sunday's powerful 6.0 magnitude earthquake, a U.N. official said, warning of an exponential rise in the number of casualties.

The quake struck in several provinces, causing extensive damage. It flattened villages and trapped people under the rubble of homes that were constructed mostly of mud bricks and wood and were unable to withstand the shock. Rough terrain is hampering rescue and relief efforts.

"We cannot afford to forget the people of Afghanistan who are facing multiple crises, multiple shocks, and the resilience of the communities has been saturated," said Indrika Ratwatte, the U.N.'s resident coordinator for Afghanistan.

He urged the international community to step forward. "These are life and death decisions while we race against time to reach people."

It is the third major earthquake since the Taliban seized power in 2021, and the latest crisis to beset Afghanistan, which is reeling from deep cuts to aid funding, a weak economy, and millions of people forcibly returned from Iran and Pakistan.

Ratwatte said that when the walls of wooden and mud homes collapse, the roof falls on to the occupants, causing injury or death. While the area was low-density, the earthquake struck when everybody was asleep.

"If you were to model it based on what has happened before, clearly there's no question that the casualty rate is going to be rather exponential," he said.

The Taliban government, which is only recognized by Russia, has appealed for assistance from foreign governments and the humanitarian sector.

However, help for Afghanistan is in short supply due to competing global crises and reduced aid budgets in donor countries.

There is also opposition toward the Taliban government's restrictive policies on Afghan girls and women, including a ban on them working for nongovernmental organizations. Earlier this year, the U.S. gutted aid money to Afghanistan, partly due to concerns that money was going to the Taliban government.

Kate Carey, who is the deputy head of the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in Afghanistan, said more than 420 health facilities had closed or were suspended due to the "massive reduction" in funding, with 80 of them in the eastern region, the heart of Sunday's quake.

"The consequence is that the remaining facilities are overwhelmed, have insufficient supplies and personnel, and are not as close to the affected populations as the more local facilities at a time when providing emergency trauma care is needed in the first 24 to 72 hours of the earthquake response," said Carey.

Israel starts calling up reservists as it pushes into initial stages of Gaza City offensive

By WAFAA SHURAF and SAM METZ Associated Press

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip (AP) — Israel began mobilizing tens of thousands of reservists on Tuesday as part of its plan to widen its offensive in Gaza City, which has sparked opposition domestically and condemnation abroad.

The beginning of September call-up, announced last month, comes as ground and air forces press forward and pursue more targets in northern and central Gaza, striking parts of Zeitoun and Shijaiyah — two western Gaza City neighborhoods that Israeli forces have repeatedly invaded during the 23-month war against Hamas militants.

Zeitoun, once Gaza City's largest neighborhood with markets, schools and clinics, has been transformed over the past month, with streets being emptied and buildings reduced to rubble as it becomes what Israel's military last week called a "dangerous combat zone."

Gaza City is Hamas' political and military stronghold and, according to Israel, still home to a vast tunnel network despite multiple incursions throughout the war. It is also one of the last refuges in the northern strip, where hundreds of thousands of civilians are sheltering, facing twin threats of combat and famine.

At least 60,000 reservists will be gradually called up, Israel's military said last month. It will also extend the service of an additional 20,000 reservists already serving.

In Israel, a nation of under 10 million, most Jewish men complete compulsory military service and remain in the reserves for at least a decade. But criticism over the war in Gaza is growing. A number of movements are organizing to encourage reservists not to serve, though it's unclear how many will refuse the latest call-up.

Since the world's leading authority on food crises declared last month that Gaza City was experiencing famine, malnutrition-related deaths have mounted. Gaza's Health Ministry said on Tuesday that a total of 185 people died of malnutrition in August — marking the highest count in months.

A total of 63,557 Palestinians have been killed in the war, according to the ministry, which says another 160,660 people have been wounded. The ministry doesn't differentiate between civilians and combatants in its count, but says women and children make up around half the dead.

The ministry is part of the Hamas-run government but staffed by medical professionals. U.N. agencies and many independent experts consider its figures to be the most reliable estimate of war casualties. Israel disputes them, but hasn't provided its own toll.

The war started with an attack on Oct. 7, 2023, on southern Israel in which Hamas-led militants killed 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and took 251 people hostage. Forty-eight hostages are still inside Gaza, around 20 of them believed by Israel to be alive, after most of the rest were released in ceasefires or other deals.

14,000 US-bound migrants have returned south since Trump border changes, UN says

By MEGAN JANETSKY Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — More than 14,000 mainly Venezuelan migrants who hoped to reach the United States have reversed course and turned south since U.S. President Donald Trump's immigration crackdown began, according to a report published Friday by the governments of Colombia, Panama and Costa Rica.

The phenomenon, known as "reverse flow" migration, is largely made up of Venezuelan migrants who fled their country's long-running economic, social and political crises only to encounter U.S. immigration policy no longer open to asylum-seekers.

Migration through the treacherous Darien Gap on the border of Colombia and Panama peaked in 2023 when more than half a million migrants crossed. That flow slowed somewhat in 2024, but dried up almost completely early this year.

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Friday's report, published with support of the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights, said that northward migration had dropped 97% this year.

Migrants traveling south interviewed in Costa Rica, Panama and Colombia by those countries' ombudsmen offices were almost all Venezuelans (97%) and about half of them said they planned to return to Venezuela, according to the report. Nearly all said they were returning because they could no longer legally reach the U.S.

Since 2017, around 8 million people have fled the crisis in Venezuela. For years, those migrants flocked to other South American nations, including Colombia, Peru, Ecuador, Chile and more.

That changed in 2021, when hundreds of thousands of people set out for the U.S., braving the Darien Gap along the way.

A U.S. government smartphone app became the main way for asylum-seekers to enter the U.S. under the Biden administration. Then thousands of migrants became stranded in Mexico when Trump ended the use of the app on his first day in office.

Now, those migrants who were still trying to reach the U.S. when Trump entered and changed border policies have reversed course, traveling back to South America. Around a quarter of those interviewed planned to go to neighboring Colombia, previously the epicenter of the mass migration from Venezuela. Others said they didn't know where they were going.

Colombia and other South American nations spent years pleading for aid from the international community to cope with the brunt of Venezuela's migratory crisis, before many of those same migrants began moving toward the United States. Today, Venezuela's political and economic turmoil rages on.

Migrants, most of whom trekked days across the Darien Gap on their way north, are even more vulnerable as they make their way back. They have fewer funds to finance their journey and few prospects for work when they get back. Migrants are dropped into regions with a heavy presence of criminal groups that increasingly prey upon them, the report said.

"Most of these people are already victims of human rights abuses," Scott Campbell, a U.N. human rights representative in Colombia, said in a statement. "We urge authorities to aid people in this reverse migration to prevent them from being exploited or falling into trafficking networks run by illegal armed groups."

The shift marks a radical reversal in one of the biggest mass migrations in the world.

Migrants bus south through Mexico and other Central American nations until they arrive in the center of Panama. From there, migrants pay between \$260 and \$280 to ride on precarious boats packed with people back to Colombia.

They take two different routes. Most island hop north of Panama through the Caribbean Sea, landing in the small town of Necocli, Colombia, where many started their journeys through the Darien.

Others travel south by sea along a jungled swath of Panama and Colombia through the Pacific Ocean, where they are dropped off in remote towns or the Colombian city of Buenaventura. Colombia's Ombudsman's Office estimates around 450 people have taken the perilous route, and the U.N. documented migrants getting scammed and stranded, facing boat accidents and arriving beaten down and vulnerable from their journey.

The region is one of the most violent in Colombia, and lack of state presence is filled by warring armed groups.

Sudan landslide kills more than 1,000 people after wiping out village in Darfur

By SAMY MAGDY Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — A landslide wiped out an entire village in Sudan's western region of Darfur, killing an estimated 1,000 people in one of the deadliest natural disasters in the African country's recent history, a rebel group controlling the area said late Monday.

The village was "completely leveled to the ground," the Sudan Liberation Movement-Army said as it appealed to the U.N. and international aid groups for help to recover the bodies.

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The tragedy happened Sunday in the village of Tarasin in Central Darfur's Marrah Mountains after days of heavy rainfall.

"Initial information indicates the death of all village residents, estimated to be more than 1,000 people," the rebel group said in a statement. "Only one person survived," it added.

Abdel-Wahid Nour, the group's leader, made an appeal on Tuesday for international help. "The scale and magnitude of the disaster are immense and defy description," he said.

The ruling Sovereign Council in Khartoum said it mourned "the death of hundreds of innocent residents" in the Marrah Mountains' landslide. In a statement, it said "all possible capabilities" have been mobilized to support the area.

Footage shared by the Marrah Mountains news outlet showed a flattened area between mountain ranges with a group of people searching the area.

'Unprecedented tragedy'

Al-Amin Abdallah Abbas, a farmer from Ammo — a cluster of villages that includes Tarasin — said the area has seen weeks of heavy rainfall, with Tarasin among the worst hit. He said tribal and community leaders in nearby areas have mobilized efforts to recover and bury the victims.

"The village and its people disappeared," he said. "It's an unprecedented tragedy."

Mohamed Abdel-Rahman al-Nair, a spokesman for the Sudan Liberation Movement-Army, told The Associated Press that the village where the landslide took place is remote and accessible only by foot or donkeys.

Tarasin is located in the central Marrah Mountains, a volcanic area with a height of more than 3,000 meters (9,840 feet) at its summit. A world heritage site, the mountain chain is known for its lower temperature and higher rainfall than surrounding areas, according to UNICEF. It's located more than 900 kilometers (560 miles) west of the capital city, Khartoum.

Sunday's landslide was one of the deadliest natural disasters in Sudan's recent history. Hundreds of people die every year in seasonal rains that run from July to October. Last year's heavy rainfall caused the collapse of a dam in the eastern Red Sea Province, killing at least 30 people, according to the U.N.

The tragedy came as a devastating civil war has engulfed Sudan after tensions between the country's military and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces exploded into open fighting in April 2023 in the capital, Khartoum, and elsewhere in the country.

'Deprived of adequate assistance'

Most of the conflict-stricken Darfur region has become mostly inaccessible for the U.N. and aid groups, given crippling restrictions and fighting between Sudan's military and the RSF.

Aid group Doctors Without Borders has warned that multiple communities in Darfur, including the Marrah Mountains, have been cut off after more than two years of war and isolation, describing these areas as "a black hole" in Sudan's humanitarian response.

It said in a July report that people in these communities have been "deprived of adequate assistance and neglected by aid actors for over two years."

The Sudan Liberation Movement-Army, centered in the Marrah Mountains area, is one of multiple rebel groups active in the Darfur and Kordofan regions. It hasn't taken sides in the war.

The Marrah Mountains are a rugged volcanic chain extending for 160 kilometers (100 miles) southwest of el-Fasher, an epicenter of fighting between the military and the RSF. The area has turned into a hub for displaced families fleeing fighting in and around el-Fasher.

Alleged war crimes

The conflict in Sudan has killed more than 40,000 people, forced more than 14 million to flee their homes and left some families eating grass in a desperate attempt to survive as famine swept parts of the country.

It has been marked by gross atrocities including ethnically motivated killing and rape, according to the United Nations and rights groups. The International Criminal Court said it was investigating alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity.

The conflict created the world's largest humanitarian crisis, with more than 30 million of the country's 50 million population needing assistance. Of those, over 630,000 live in famine-stricken areas in Darfur

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and Kordofan regions, according to the international hunger experts.

Xi and Putin reaffirm 'old friend' ties in the face of US challenges

By KEN MORITSUGU Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — Chinese leader Xi Jinping welcomed Russian President Vladimir Putin as an “old friend” as the two held a series of meetings Tuesday at a time when their countries face both overlapping and differing challenges from the United States.

Relations between China and Russia have deepened in recent years, particularly following the Russian invasion of Ukraine in early 2022. U.S. President Donald Trump’s unorthodox approach to the war has added a twist to the relationship but doesn’t appear to have fundamentally changed it.

Putin addressed Xi as “dear friend” and said that Moscow’s ties with Beijing are “at an unprecedentedly high level.”

In a sign of the importance China places on the relationship, their formal meeting was followed by tea with top aides at Zhongnanhai, the walled complex that is the center of power in China with residences and offices for its top leaders.

China announced after the talks that it would begin offering 30-day visa-free access to Russian travelers starting later this month.

The talks come the day after both attended a summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization in the nearby Chinese city of Tianjin, and the day before a grand Chinese military parade in Beijing to mark the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II.

The Soviet Union was neutral for much of the war in Asia, but provided assistance to China in earlier fighting against invading Japanese forces in the 1930s. It also declared war on Japan in the waning days of World War II and sent troops over the border into Japanese-occupied northeastern China.

“We were always together then, we remain together now,” Putin said.

China says it is neutral in the Ukraine war but has provided an economic lifeline to Russia by continuing trade despite Western sanctions.

A memorandum was signed to build another natural gas pipeline to China, Gazprom CEO Alexei Miller said in Beijing, according to Russia’s Interfax news agency.

The Russian state gas company also signed agreements with a Chinese state energy company to increase deliveries via existing routes, the news agency said.

The U.S. and the European Union have also put sanctions on Chinese companies that they say have abetted Russia’s military industry.

“China and Russia face the same problem and must work together to jointly cope with the pressure from the U.S.,” said Li Xin, the director of the Institute of European and Asian Studies at Shanghai University of Political Science and Law.

China is also one of the main targets of Trump’s taxes on imports, though he has backed down from what was an escalating tariff war and his administration has begun negotiations with Beijing on a trade deal.

The summit of the 10-member Shanghai Cooperation Organization brought Xi and Putin together with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who held separate talks with both leaders on the sidelines of the Tianjin meeting.

U.S. President Donald Trump’s steep tariffs on India and the tone coming from the White House have pushed New Delhi closer to China and Russia, though Modi will not attend China’s military parade.

Xi has tried to position China as a leader of countries that feel disadvantaged by the U.S.-dominated, post-World War II order.

At the Shanghai Cooperation summit and again in his meetings with Putin, he proposed an initiative to build “a more just and equitable global governance system.”

China doesn’t want to overturn the global order but change it so it better serves its interests, Li said.

“China and Russia do not yet have the power to change the world order but they are constantly pushing for reforms that benefit them,” he said.

Putin and Xi held a three-way meeting with Mongolian President Khurelsukh Ukhnaa ahead of their talks. His landlocked country of grasslands and mineral resources is sandwiched between the two giants.

Putin said in opening remarks that the three countries are good neighbors, with a shared interest in developing ties.

In 2024, Putin made an official visit to Mongolia, where the government ignored calls to arrest him on an International Criminal Court warrant for alleged war crimes stemming from the invasion of Ukraine.

Nonprofits face a tough funding landscape. They hope better storytelling will bring more donations

By GLENN GAMBOA AP Business Writer

MIAMI (AP) — Cindy Eggleton has always believed in the power of a story.

But the CEO and co-founder of Brilliant Cities, a Detroit-based early childhood development nonprofit that supports learning in underserved communities, never expected someone to tell hers. And definitely not in a sleek documentary with a slick soundtrack and plenty of images of other Detroit institutions, such as General Motors, Diana Ross, and the historic Fox Theatre.

"It's never been about me," said Eggleton, adding that participating in the "Nevertheless: The Women Changing the World" documentary series on YouTube was her way of honoring her late mother, Geraldine, who inspired her to speak out and help others in their community.

However, as they face an increasingly uncertain funding landscape, nonprofits are focusing more on storytelling in outreach to donors — both big and small — and raising production values for videos and podcasts.

"Storytelling is how we're able to draw people in and get them to connect to a deeper truth about themselves or about the world or a problem that needs to be solved," said Elevate Prize Foundation CEO Carolina Jayaram Garcia. "It's connecting those issues back to you as a human and not saying, 'Well, that's their problem. That's all the way over there.' The story allows it to be human."

Elevate Prize Foundation launches its own documentary studio

The foundation launched the production house Elevate Studios earlier this year to tell more of those stories, Jayaram Garcia said. "Nevertheless: The Women Changing the World," Elevate Studios' first series, has already generated more than 3 million views on YouTube and will debut its second season in the summer of 2026.

"It's been incredible to see the growth we've had on YouTube and how it's resonated so quickly with so many people," Jayaram Garcia said. "We know we're on to something here."

Philanthropic support of storytelling has been ongoing for decades, mostly through donors funding documentary projects. Open Society Foundations created the Soros Documentary Fund in 1996 before the Sundance Institute took it over in 2002, with the George Soros-backed nonprofit's continued monetary support. The Ford Foundation formalized its funding plans in 2011, creating its JustFilms program that still supports 25-30 documentary films annually. Earlier this month, Firelight Media, a New York-based nonprofit supporting documentary filmmakers of color, launched the Firelight Fund, which will offer directors \$50,000 grants for their projects.

But Lance Gould, founder and CEO of media strategy firm Brooklyn Story Lab, says what Elevate Prize Foundation and others are doing is different. He says it reflects both technological improvements that have lowered the cost of documentary storytelling and the rise of social media, which allows nonprofits to interact with donors directly.

"Being able to tell your story well is paramount," said Gould, whose firm works with nonprofits to help them produce their own story-driven content. "But storytelling is not only about reaching viewers, it's also about having the right message for the right viewers."

He suggests that nonprofits connect their work to larger initiatives like the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals — an ambitious list of 17 efforts from eliminating extreme poverty and hunger to guaranteeing every child a quality secondary education by 2030 — to attract more attention and support.

How storytelling can strengthen connection

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Gould, who was previously executive editor of The Huffington Post and editor in chief of The Boston Phoenix, said "everyone can be their own media company at this point."

That's a point Nicole Bronzan, vice president of communications and content for the Council on Foundations, hopes is not lost in the push for more storytelling.

"We don't want people to feel that they have to make big technological investments in order to tell better stories," Bronzan said. "We wouldn't want anyone to feel like they have to have a big fancy studio, but certainly the news that folks are investing in storytelling is great for us and for the whole sector."

In a Council on Foundations report released last year, "A New Voice for Philanthropy: How Deeper Stories and Clearer Language Can Build Trust," researchers, including Bronzan, reported that people had positive attitudes toward foundations, but most didn't really understand how foundations worked. Bronzan said stories that provide more transparency about how donations are used and how those decisions are made help connect people to a nonprofit and its work.

"If you're telling those stories," she said, "I can only imagine that people will be more inclined to open up their pocketbooks and say, 'Oh, OK, these are causes that need my support.'"

Documentary sparks donations

So far, that has been the case for Brilliant Cities, which saw an increase in donations after Eggleton's episode debuted on YouTube.

"We have a funder who wants to increase his gift from \$7,000 to \$100,000," said Eggleton, whose nonprofit turns a neighborhood's vacant homes into community centers with family services ranging from tutoring to mental health support groups. She said new donors have also reached out. "It's kind of incredible."

Though Brilliant Cities doesn't rely on federal funding for its services, Eggleton said government aid cuts have made a tough funding environment even tougher because the competition for non-governmental donations becomes even tougher.

"Everybody's being told what's being taken away," she said. "People are pulling at grant officers and individuals with stock market gains. I think it's more than the funding, though. I think it's about really recognizing how the world already feels so disconnected and now feels even more so."

Storytelling, Eggleton said, helps reduce that. By focusing on female changemakers, Elevate Studios makes an even stronger point, she said, adding she's been quoting Spanish poet Antonio Machado — "There is no path/We make the path by walking" — as she explains the power of the series.

"This is the time that we really do need to figure out how we build empathy through stories and not necessarily saying, 'You're wrong or you're right,'" she said. "You just show the world what can be and what should be."

Strikes across Gaza kill at least 31 as international scholars accuse Israel of genocide

By WAFAA SHURAF, SAMY MAGDY and SAM METZ Associated Press

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip (AP) — Israel launched strikes across the Gaza Strip on Monday, killing at least 31 people as it presses ahead with a major offensive in the territory's largest city, according to health officials. Leading genocide scholars, meanwhile, accused Israel of genocide, allegations the government vehemently rejects.

Airstrikes and artillery shelling have echoed through Gaza City since Israel declared it a combat zone last week. On the city's outskirts and in the Jabaliya refugee camp, residents have observed explosive-laden robots demolishing buildings.

"Another merciless night in Gaza City," said Saeed Abu Elaish, a Jabaliya-born medic sheltering in the northwestern side of the city.

Hospitals in Gaza said at least 31 people were killed by Israeli fire Monday, more than half of them women and children. At least 13 people were killed in Gaza City, where Israel has carried out several previous large-scale raids since Hamas-led militants attacked southern Israel to ignite the war on Oct. 7, 2023.

Israel says it only targets militants and blames Hamas for civilian casualties because the militant group

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— now largely reduced to a guerrilla organization — operates in densely-populated areas.

Double threat of war and starvation

Gaza City residents, many displaced by war multiple times, now face the twin threats of combat and hunger. The world's leading authority on food crises said last month that it was in the throes of famine — a crisis driven by ongoing fighting and Israel's blockade, magnified by repeated mass displacement and the collapse of food production.

A total of 63,557 Palestinians have been killed in the war, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which says another 160,660 people have been wounded. The ministry doesn't differentiate between civilians and combatants in its count, but says women and children make up around half the dead.

The ministry is part of the Hamas-run government but staffed by medical professionals. U.N. agencies and many independent experts consider its figures to be the most reliable estimate of war casualties. Israel disputes them, but hasn't provided its own toll.

Hamas-led militants killed 1,200 people, mostly civilians, in the Oct. 7 attack and took 251 people hostage. Forty-eight hostages are still inside Gaza, around 20 of them believed by Israel to be alive, after most of the rest were released in ceasefires or other deals.

Scholars accuse Israel of genocide

The largest professional organization of scholars studying genocide said Monday that Israel is committing genocide in Gaza.

Israel, which was established in the wake of the Holocaust, in which 6 million European Jews and others were killed, vehemently rejects the allegation. It says it takes every measure to avoid harming civilians and is fighting a war of self-defense after Hamas' Oct. 7 attack, which Israel says was itself a genocidal act.

A resolution from the International Association of Genocide Scholars — which has around 500 members worldwide, including a number of Holocaust experts — said that "Israel's policies and actions in Gaza meet the legal definition of genocide," as well as crimes against humanity and war crimes.

The resolution was supported by 86% of those who voted. The organization didn't release the specifics of the voting.

"People who are experts in the study of genocide can see this situation for what it is," Melanie O'Brien, the organization's president and a professor of international law at the University of Western Australia, told The Associated Press.

The Israeli Foreign Ministry called it "an embarrassment to the legal profession and to any academic standard." It said the determination was "entirely based on Hamas' campaign of lies."

In July, two prominent Israeli rights groups — B'Tselem and Physicians for Human Rights-Israel — said that their country is committing genocide in Gaza. The organizations don't reflect mainstream thinking in Israel, but it marked the first time that local Jewish-led organizations have made such accusations.

International human rights groups have also leveled the allegation.

Mourners vent anger at hostage funeral

Thousands of Israelis gathered for the funeral of Idan Shtivi, one of two hostages whose remains were recovered in a military operation last week. A private funeral was held for Ilan Weiss, the other captive.

Some mourners expressed anger at the government for not reaching a deal with Hamas to end the fighting and return the remaining captives.

"It is very, very infuriating that no one, no one from this government stands up and says enough," said Ami Dagan, a mourner from Rishon Letzion.

"It's a horror, it's profound sadness and grief beyond words to describe the anger, the insult to the hostages, the insult to the fallen, the insult to the soldiers sent once again to Gaza," said Ruti Taro, another mourner. "No one knows why, except for the power-hungry ruler."

Many Israelis accuse Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of prolonging the war for political purposes, and mass protests calling for a ceasefire and hostage release have swelled in recent weeks.

Flotilla leaves Barcelona after storm delay

An activist flotilla bound for Gaza left Barcelona hours after a last-minute delay caused by stormy weather.

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The Global Sumud Flotilla, consisting of around 20 boats with participants from 44 countries, had earlier set sail and then turned back, with organizers citing safety concerns. The expedition includes climate campaigner Greta Thunberg, who took part in a previous flotilla that was intercepted in July.

The flotilla is the largest attempt yet to symbolically break Israel's blockade of Gaza. All previous ones have been intercepted at sea by Israeli forces. Israel says the blockade is needed to prevent Hamas from importing arms and that there are multiple other channels for sending aid to Gaza.

Israel has taken steps to further restrict the delivery of food to northern Gaza as it presses ahead with its latest offensive in Gaza City.

What to know about Guatemalan migrant children and efforts to send them home

By REBECCA SANTANA and SONIA PEREZ D. Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Over Labor Day weekend, the Trump administration attempted to remove Guatemalan children who had come to the U.S. alone and were living in shelters or with foster care families in the U.S.

Advocates who represent migrant children in court filed lawsuits across the country seeking to stop the government from removing the children, and on Sunday a federal judge stepped in to order that the kids at least temporarily stay in the U.S.

The Trump administration has argued in court and on social media that they're doing this to reunite the children with their families back home at the behest of the Guatemalan government and blamed advocates and the judge for stepping in.

Advocates who sued said the children they represent have said they fear going home, and that the government, by operating in the dead of night and by bypassing immigration courts, is not following laws designed to protect migrant children.

Here's a look at where things stand now:

The legal proceedings across the country

There are at least three legal cases going on around the country: Arizona, Washington, D.C., and Illinois. Representatives for unaccompanied migrant children are trying to stop the government from removing Guatemalan children who don't have final orders of removal from the country. Those children are living in a network of shelters or foster care arrangements overseen by the Office of Refugee Resettlement, which falls under the Department of Health and Human Services.

In Illinois, lawyers representing four minor children, who were identified only by their initials, said they had received notice on Aug. 29 that U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement intended to take the children from the shelters where they were being held under U.S. government care sometime on Aug. 30 or Sept. 1 and remove them from the U.S.

A judge blocked them from being taken out of the country at least until Wednesday afternoon. A hearing in the case is set for Wednesday morning.

In Arizona, the Florence Immigrant & Refugee Rights Project, which provides legal services for unaccompanied migrant children, filed a lawsuit on behalf of 53 children from Guatemala. The children were between the ages of three and 17 and living in shelters in the Phoenix and Tucson areas that care for unaccompanied migrant children. U.S. District Judge Rosemary Marquez on Sunday blocked the Trump administration from removing those children for at least two weeks. She said some children may have been in the process of being removed at the time, and ordered the government to return them to the U.S. immediately.

In Washington, D.C., Judge Sparkle L. Sooknanan ordered a 14-day temporary restraining order preventing the government from removing Guatemalan children in Office of Refugee Resettlement custody and sending them back to Guatemala.

What is Guatemala saying about this?

In July, the head of Guatemala's immigration service said the government was looking to repatriate 341

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unaccompanied minors who were being held in U.S. facilities.

During a news conference on Monday, Guatemalan President Bernardo Arévalo shed more light on the issue.

Arévalo said the country's foreign affairs minister and ambassador to the United States toured detention facilities for minors and adults in the United States in March and were "very concerned," especially about minors who were going to turn 18. The government decided it had to act in the best interest of the children to prevent them from being moved to adult detention centers. He said Guatemala told the U.S. that the government was willing to receive "all unaccompanied minors, who wanted to return to Guatemala voluntarily."

Arévalo explained that his administration began working to identify the minors, their families and make arrangements for those willing to return, those who wanted to wait out their legal process in the U.S. and those who judges allowed to remain in the U.S. with a relative.

Guatemala is capable of receiving about 150 minors per week, he said. "It depends on our capacity to identify relatives to facilitate a safe return," he said. The goal is that none of the children end up being institutionalized.

The president did not answer when asked if the number to be sent on Sunday surprised Guatemala's government, or whether he thought the U.S. government carried out due process before putting the minors on planes.

He said his administration has told the U.S. government that once a judge decides an unaccompanied Guatemalan child cannot remain in the U.S., Guatemala will take them and reintegrate them.

"We have been in coordination with the United States about this, but the decision of the sending, the number that they are going to send and the rhythm at which they are going to send is a U.S. government decision," Arévalo said.

How many children could be sent home?

One of the biggest questions outstanding is how many Guatemalan children will be sent back to Guatemala.

The head of Guatemala's immigration service put the number at 341 in July. Then on Friday, Democratic Sen. Ron Wyden of Oregon wrote a letter to the Office of Refugee Resettlement saying that, according to whistleblower accounts, the office was intending to remove nearly 700 Guatemalan children.

Also on Friday, Guatemalan Foreign Affairs Minister Carlos Martínez said the exact number was in flux, but said they were currently discussing a little over 600.

The U.S. government indicated in a status report filed Sunday in the Washington, D.C., case that 76 children had been on planes to go to Guatemala and that those children were being returned to Office of Refugee Resettlement custody after the judge's ruling.

There were believed to be two planes in Harlingen, Texas, and possibly another one in El Paso on Sunday, said the National Immigration Law Center. That is the group that filed a lawsuit Sunday in Washington, D.C., to stop the removals.

But it's not clear if there were other children who had been removed from shelters and were en route to the planes before the judge entered the temporary restraining order.

Migrant kids have special protections

Migrant children traveling alone are usually entrusted to U.S. government care, and there are various legal protections designed to protect them once they're in the U.S. and navigating the immigration system.

The Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 is one of the key pieces of legislation designed to protect unaccompanied migrant children. With some limited exceptions, it generally requires that children be placed in the "least restrictive setting possible," which generally means that they can be released to a sponsor such as a relative in the U.S. while their immigration proceedings play out.

The children can apply for a specially protected status if they can't return to their home country because of abuse or neglect and they can also apply for asylum.

In court filings, advocates for Guatemalan children noted that only an immigration judge can decide whether an unaccompanied minor can voluntarily depart the U.S.

From Trump to social programs: Mexico's first female president takes stock after a year in office

By MEGAN JANETSKY Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum celebrated her government's handling of its tumultuous relations with the Trump administration, progressive gains and controversial judicial reforms in her first state of the nation address Monday.

Sheinbaum, who is nearing the end of her first year in office, notably left out some of the major problems still simmering in Mexico, including ongoing cartel violence plaguing much of the country and democratic concerns over wider concentration of executive power.

Mexico's first female president took office in October and has led the Latin American nation of 131 million at a time of radical global shifts. Despite that, the 63-year-old progressive leader has enjoyed soaring approval rates between 70% and 80% in Mexican polls.

"Things are going well, and they're only going to get better," she promised.

Here are some of the top takeaways from Sheinbaum's State of the Nation address.

Navigating the Trump era

Chief among Sheinbaum's challenges has been navigating Mexico's inextricable political and economic relationship with the United States as President Donald Trump has doled out tariffs globally and pressured allies into making concessions.

Sheinbaum has been able to dodge the brunt of Trump's tariffs by going after Mexican cartels and their fentanyl production more aggressively than her predecessor. In recent months, the government has delivered dozens of cartel figures long wanted by U.S. authorities to the Trump administration.

At the same time, her administration has insisted that the Trump administration respect Mexican sovereignty, and has rejected talk of potential American military action against cartels in Mexican territory.

"Under no circumstance will we accept interventions, interference, or any other act from abroad that is detrimental to the integrity, independence, and sovereignty of the country," she said.

On Monday, a day before Secretary of State Marco Rubio was set to visit to discuss security issues, Sheinbaum said the governments share a relationship of "mutual trust, respect for sovereignty and territoriality, and cooperation without subordination."

Just weeks earlier, however, Trump told press: "Mexico does what we tell them to do."

Drop in poverty and social programs

The president also highlighted major progressive gains made by her government and by her predecessor and ally, ex-President Andrés Manuel López Obrador.

Government data released last month showed that more than 8.3 million people in Mexico were pulled out of poverty between 2022 and 2024, something experts said was due in large part to social programs and the government raising the minimum wage.

Direct money transfers ranging from scholarships to payments to Mexico's elderly have also gone to around 32 million families, about a quarter of the country's population, Sheinbaum said.

"This is the most ambitious social plan in Mexico's history," she said.

Carrying the legacy of 'AMLO'

Sheinbaum spent much of the speech explaining how she was carrying the legacy of her predecessor, a promise that got Sheinbaum elected last year, and underscoring the country's strong economy.

The president listed a slew of construction projects in the works, including the continuation of López Obrador's crown jewel project, the Maya Train.

Despite wider global economic uncertainty, she highlighted a strong economy in Mexico, including growing investment and a strong peso.

She also nodded to a newly elected Supreme Court set to take office later Monday after Sheinbaum and López Obrador's Morena party overhauled the judicial system last year. She called it a "profoundly democratic event." The judicial reform, which has judges elected, fueled concerns of democratic decay.

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Avoiding cartels and democratic concerns

The problems Mexico continues to wrestle with were notably absent from Sheinbaum's speech.

While she mentioned dipping homicide rates, she largely didn't comment on what most Mexicans see as their country's main problem: cartel violence.

Despite promises from López Obrador that his social programs would dip conflict in the Latin American nation, violence in much of Mexico has only continued to rage on. Cartel warfare has fueled bloodshed in Sinaloa, as dead bodies pop up on the streets every morning and nearly 130,000 Mexicans remain missing.

Sheinbaum also made little mention of wider democratic concerns attached to Mexico's judicial reform, which was jammed through by Morena last year, and set the stage for judicial elections in June. Critics warned that by popularly electing judges, the party was dealing a blow to checks and balances, by making it easier to get allies on top courts.

The majority of those slated to take control of Mexico's Supreme Court on Monday are members or former members of the Morena party.

"The era of nepotism, corruption and privilege is over, and a new era of legality and justice for all is beginning," Sheinbaum said.

Later Monday, Mexico introduced the new court. Hugo Aguilar, a lawyer who spent much of his career defending Indigenous rights, said during a ceremony that as the court's president he will work "to give justice to those who have been excluded from the judicial apparatus."

China's Xi seeks expanded role for Shanghai Cooperation Organization at Tianjin summit

By HUIZHONG WU Associated Press

TIANJIN, China (AP) — China plans to accelerate the creation of a development bank and set up an international platform for energy cooperation, Chinese President Xi Jinping announced Monday at a summit that represents an emerging challenge to U.S. global leadership with the participation of Russia and India.

Russian President Vladimir Putin and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi were among the leaders meeting in Tianjin, in northern China, for the annual summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. The security forum was originally seen as a foil to U.S. influence in Central Asia and has grown in size and influence over the years.

Xi is attempting to expand the scope of the SCO. He announced initial plans for a development bank run by the organization, introduced a cooperation platform for green and energy industries and pledged \$1.4 billion in loans over the next three years to the organization's members.

Xi also said he was opening the way for SCO member states to use China's BeiDou satellite system, an alternative to the GPS system controlled by the U.S.

Putin expressed support for Xi's initiatives, saying he believes the SCO "could take on the leading role in efforts to form a more just and equal system of global governance in the world."

Laos joined the SCO as a partner, a designation short of full membership, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi told reporters. The combined group of members and partners has reached 27, representing countries in Central and Southeast Asia, along with China, India, Russia, Iran and others.

China on message

Xi stressed countries should reject Cold War thinking, rival power blocs and bullying and instead protect the U.N.-centered international system. He called for a world order with multiple power centers and a more just and balanced global governance system.

"The shadows of Cold War mentality, bullying, are not dissipating, and there are new challenges that are increasing, not diminishing," said Xi, who has consistently spoken against what he calls a Cold War mentality, which is his way of referring to the tough approach to China by the U.S.

"The world has entered a new period of tumultuous change and global governance has arrived at a new crossroads," he said.

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Alfred Wu, a professor at the National University of Singapore's Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, explained that Xi is seeking "to provide an alternate world order, because the U.S.-led world order is very much in decline."

Putin echoed those themes in his own address and expressed support for Xi's proposal "to create a new, more effective and functional system of global governance."

Founded in 2001, the SCO now includes Russia, Belarus, China, India, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. Afghanistan and Mongolia are observer states, and 14 other countries, including several from the Middle East, serve as "dialogue partners."

The summit comes days ahead of a military parade in Beijing marking the 80th anniversary of Japan's World War II surrender.

Regional relationships

On Sunday, Xi met with Modi and the two leaders vowed to resolve differences surrounding a border dispute, which led to a freeze in relations in 2020.

Putin arrived for the summit Sunday and will attend the parade Wednesday. Modi will not stay for the parade.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, who did not attend the SCO summit, will be present for the military parade, along with the leader of Myanmar's military government, Senior Gen. Min Aung Hlaing.

Putin spoke to Xi on Sunday, ahead of the bilateral talks the two were scheduled to hold Tuesday. He updated the Chinese leader on the Russia-U.S. talks on the Ukraine war which were held in Alaska last month.

Development policy has been a large part of the messaging in recent days. Putin, in an interview released Saturday by China's news agency Xinhua, said Russia and China were jointly "against discriminatory sanctions" that hurt the socioeconomic development of the world at large.

Russia, alongside its Chinese partners, supports the reform of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, he said.

"It is essential to end the use of finance as an instrument of neocolonialism, which runs counter to the interests of the global majority," Putin said.

Security is still key

While China is eager for the SCO to take a larger role on the global stage, it remains to be seen how effective the organization can be. Its focus in the past has been on propping up the security initiatives of its member states. China said it is effective in combating terrorism, separatism and extremism.

Those threats are what Beijing cited after it swept more than 1 million Uyghurs, Kazakhs and members of other largely Muslim minorities into camps, prisons, and other detention facilities in 2018.

"Their anti-terrorism exercises are more about countering threats to authoritarian regimes rather than countering terrorism in its own right," said Derek Grossman, a professor of international relations at the University of Southern California.

Even if the SCO summit's reach and influence is ultimately limited, one thing is clear, he said: "China is on a diplomatic uptick and the U.S. is self destructing."

Yemenis mourn killed Houthi prime minister as rebel group targets ship in Red Sea

By AHMED AL-HAJ, JON GAMBRELL, SAMY MAGDY and FATMA KHALED Associated Press

ADEN, Yemen (AP) — Hundreds of Yemenis mourned Monday the death of Houthi Prime Minister Ahmed al-Rahawi, killed last week along with several officials by an Israeli strike, as the group targeted an oil tanker in the Red Sea, renewing their attacks in the crucial global waterway.

The Israeli attack came three days after the Houthis launched a ballistic missile toward Israel that its military described as the first cluster bomb the Iranian-backed rebels had launched at it since 2023.

The funeral

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In the capital city of Sanaa, mourners attended the funeral, held at Shaab Mosque and broadcast by Al-Masirah TV, a Houthi-controlled satellite news channel.

Crowds inside the mosque chanted against Israel and the United States as they grieved the deaths of the officials, including the foreign affairs, media and culture, and industrial ministers.

Funeral attendees Ahmed Khaled and Fathy Mahmoud told The Associated Press the families of the slain officials arrived in ambulances for the funeral, where the bodies were placed in caskets inside the mosque.

Footage showed 11 coffins with individual photos of the killed officials on each and wrapped in Yemeni flags.

"We're participating in this funeral because Israel killed those officials and that's enough reason to attend their funeral," Ahmed Azam, another attendee, told the AP.

Al-Rahawi was the most senior Houthi official to be killed since an Israeli-U.S. campaign against the rebel group started earlier this year. Other ministers and officials were wounded, confirmed a Houthi statement on Thursday, following the Israeli attack.

"We entered a huge and influential war and clashed with the U.S. This war was not only military-focused but also economic as Israel targeted everything," Acting Houthi Prime Minister Mohamed Muftah said in his address at the funeral on Monday.

He confirmed that despite Israeli attacks, Yemeni ports controlled by the group are still functioning and that there is no food or fuel crisis.

A Houthi attack on an oil tanker

The Yemeni rebels said Monday they launched a missile at an oil tanker off the coast of Saudi Arabia in the Red Sea.

Houthi military spokesman Brig. Gen. Yahya Saree claimed responsibility in a prerecorded message aired on Al-Masirah. He alleged the vessel, the Liberian-flagged Scarlet Ray, owned by Eastern Pacific, had ties to Israel.

The maritime security firm Ambrey described the ship as fitting the Houthis' "target profile, as the vessel is publicly Israeli owned."

Eastern Pacific is a company that is ultimately controlled by Israeli billionaire Idan Ofer and had been previously targeted in suspected Iranian attacks.

In a statement, the company said "the vessel has not sustained any damage and continues to operate under the command of its Master. All crew members onboard the Scarlet Ray are safe and accounted for."

The Houthi rebels have been launching missile and drone attacks on Israel and on ships in the Red Sea in response to the war in Gaza, saying they were acting in solidarity with Palestinians. Their attacks over the past two years have upended shipping in the Red Sea, through which about \$1 trillion of goods pass each year.

The Iranian-backed Houthis stopped their attacks during a brief ceasefire in the war. They later became the target of an intense weeklong campaign of airstrikes ordered by U.S. President Donald Trump before he declared a ceasefire had been reached with the rebels. The Houthis sank two vessels in July, killing at least four on board, with others believed to be held by the rebels.

The Houthis' fresh attacks come as a new, possible ceasefire in the Israel-Hamas war remains in the balance. Meanwhile, the future of talks between the U.S. and Iran over Tehran's battered nuclear program is in question after Israel launched a 12-day war against the Islamic Republic in which the Americans bombed three Iranian atomic sites.

Houthis raid UN offices and arrest staff

A U.N. official said the world body was unable to contact many of its staff in Houthi-held areas as of Monday morning.

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss the matter, said 11 U.N. staffers, who were detained on Sunday during a Houthi raid on their offices, include international and local workers, and a senior international official. The rebel group also seized documents and other materials from the U.N. offices, according to the official.

World Food Program executive director Cindy McCain said Monday afternoon on X that Houthis forcibly

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entered WFP offices, confiscated and destroyed property, and detained nine of its team members — part of the 11 already arrested. McCain wrote the rebel group's actions were "unacceptable."

NYC's West Indian parade celebrates Caribbean culture with music, merriment and mayoral candidates
NEW YORK (AP) — New York City's West Indian American Day Parade, one of the world's largest celebrations of Caribbean culture, kicked off Monday with vibrant costumes, colorful flags and the sounds of soca and reggae music.

Along with crowds of hundreds of thousands of people, the parade has long been a magnet for local politicians, many of whom have West Indian heritage or represent members of the city's large Caribbean community. With a mayoral election looming in November, the political overlap was particularly evident this year as rival candidates jockeyed for attention and support.

Mayor Eric Adams, who is running for reelection as an independent this fall; and Democratic Gov. Kathy Hochul cut a ceremonial ribbon at the start of the parade as the civil rights leader the Rev. Al Sharpton looked on.

Several of Adams' reelection challengers were also there, including State Assemblyman and Democratic nominee Zohran Mamdani, who swiveled his hips in a traditional Caribbean dance. Former Gov. Andrew Cuomo, who is running for mayor as an independent, flashed a thumbs up as he made his way along the route. Republican mayoral hopeful Curtis Sliwa waved to the crowd while wearing his trademark red Guardian Angels beret.

The parade also saw increased security after a fatal shooting at last year's event.

The police department sent thousands of officers, plus helicopters and drones and set up barricades to create a "moat" between marchers and the many spectators lining the nearly 2-mile (3.2-kilometer) Brooklyn parade route, NYPD Commissioner Jessica Tisch said.

It is the department's largest deployment of the year, Tisch said, with more officers assigned to safeguard the event than were deployed to New Year's Eve in Times Square or the July Fourth fireworks on the East River.

"We are not going to allow one or two individuals to spoil the festivities," Adams said at a Friday press briefing, noting that there were no specific or credible threats against the parade.

The annual Labor Day event fills Eastern Parkway from Crown Heights to the Brooklyn Museum. It's the culmination of days of carnival events in the city, which include steel pan band performances and J'Ouvert, a separate street party earlier in the day that commemorates freedom from slavery.

Last year, one person was killed and four others were wounded in the shooting along the parade route. Tisch said Friday that police are still looking for the shooter.

President Donald Trump's policies spark protests in multiple US cities on Labor Day

By MELINA WALLING and JOSH FUNK Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — Protesters took to the streets in multiple U.S. cities on Labor Day to criticize President Donald Trump and demand a living wage for workers.

Demonstrations in Chicago and New York were organized by One Fair Wage to draw attention to the struggles laborers face in the U.S., where the federal minimum wage is \$7.25 an hour. Chants of "Trump must go now!" echoed outside the president's former home in New York, while protesters gathered outside a different Trump Tower in Chicago, yelling "No National Guard" and "Lock him up!" Large crowds also gathered in Washington D.C. and San Francisco.

In New York, people gathered outside Trump Tower, which has become a magnet for protests and remains a prominent symbol of the president's wealth, even though the president hasn't lived in the Manhattan skyscraper for years. Demonstrators waved signs and banners calling for an end to what they said is a fascist regime.

In Washington, a large crowd gathered with signs saying "Stop the ICE invasion" and an umbrella painted with "Free D.C. No masked thugs." Hundreds more gathered at protests along the West Coast to fight for

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the rights of immigrants and workers.

Multiple groups joined together at the protests in Chicago to listen to speeches and lend their voices to the chants.

"We're here because we're under attack. We're here because our core values and our democracy is under attack. We are here because they are threatening to send the military into our streets," Daniel Biss, the mayor of Evanston, Illinois, told the crowd in Chicago as he urged them to stand up for workers.

At one point, a woman got out of a vehicle with Iowa plates in Chicago to shout "Long live Donald Trump" over and over again, resulting in a brief confrontation as the protesters responded with shouts of their own until the woman left a few minutes later.

In the crowd, Ziri Marquez said she came out because she's concerned about overlapping issues in the U.S. and around the world, decrying anti-migrant attitudes in the U.S. and the deaths of Palestinians in Gaza.

"I think especially, you know, when we're dealing with low wages and we're dealing with a stagnant economy, immigrants are largely used as a scapegoat," said Marquez, 25.

Along the West Coast from San Diego up to Seattle, hundreds gathered at rallies to call for a stop to the "billionaire takeover."

Groups supporting federal workers and unions marched in Los Angeles; San Francisco; and Portland, Oregon, in support of workers rights. Rally organizer May Day Strong said on its website that "billionaires are stealing from working families, destroying our democracy and building private armies to attack our towns and cities."

They called on people to take collective action to stop the takeover.

Portland protester Lynda Oakley of Beaverton told Oregolive.com that her frustrations with health care, immigration and Social Security inspired her to join the march.

"I am done with what's happening in our country," she said.

King County Councilmember Teresa Mosqueda, who took part in a demonstration at Seattle's Cascade Playground, told KOMO News that they wanted to send a message of workers above billionaires.

"Workers should be more powerful than the small billionaire class," she said.

Trump says he's awarding former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani the Presidential Medal of Freedom

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump said Monday he will award former New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor, two days after his longtime political ally was seriously injured in a car crash.

The decision places the award on a man once lauded for leading New York after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks and later sanctioned by courts and disbarred for amplifying false claims about the 2020 election. Giuliani was also criminally charged in two states; he has denied wrongdoing.

Trump in a statement on social media called Giuliani the "greatest Mayor in the history of New York City, and an equally great American Patriot."

For much of the past two decades, Giuliani's public life has been defined by a striking rise and fall. After leading New York through the aftermath of Sept. 11, he mounted a brief campaign for the Republican presidential nomination and became one of the most recognizable political figures in the country. But as Trump's personal lawyer, he became a central figure in efforts to overturn the 2020 election. Courts repeatedly rejected the fraud claims he advanced, and two former Georgia election workers won a \$148 million defamation judgment against him.

The election workers, Ruby Freeman and Wandrea "Shaye" Moss, said Giuliani's efforts to promote Trump's lies about the election being stolen led to death threats that made them fear for their lives.

Giuliani was disbarred in New York and Washington for repeatedly making false statements about the election, and he was criminally charged in Georgia and Arizona in connection with efforts to undo Trump's loss to Democrat Joe Biden.

Giuliani, 81, was hospitalized after the Saturday night collision in New Hampshire. State police said he

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was a passenger in a rented Ford Bronco driven by his spokesperson, Ted Goodman, when the vehicle was struck from behind by a Honda HR-V. Giuliani suffered a fractured thoracic vertebra along with multiple lacerations, contusions and injuries to his left arm and leg, according to his security chief, Michael Ragusa. On Monday, Ragusa said Giuliani remained in the hospital but was expected to be released "soon."

The Medal of Freedom, established in 1963, is awarded to individuals who have made especially meritorious contributions to the security or national interests of the United States, world peace, or cultural or other significant public endeavors.

Naomi Osaka defeats Coco Gauff at the US Open to reach her first major quarterfinal since 2021

By HOWARD FENDRICH AP Tennis Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Naomi Osaka smiled before her U.S. Open showdown against Coco Gauff began Monday — and after it ended. Between points, Osaka patted her left thigh and quietly told herself, almost in a whisper: "Come on. Come on."

Once the ball was in play, Osaka's strokes were loud and on-target, producing the sort of confident, consistent and power-swinging tennis that carried her to four Grand Slam titles and the No. 1 ranking.

In the biggest statement yet that she is back at the height of her game, and again a serious contender for the sport's highest honors, Osaka eliminated Gauff 6-3, 6-2 in Arthur Ashe Stadium to reach her first major quarterfinal in more than 4 1/2 years.

Osaka hasn't been to a Slam quarterfinal since the 2021 Australian Open

"This is kind of uncharted territory at this point of my career," said Osaka, a 27-year-old who was born in Japan and moved to the U.S. with her family at age 3. "I'm just enjoying it. I'm having fun. I'm being able to play against the best players in the world."

The No. 23-seeded Osaka was better throughout than No. 3 Gauff, whose repeated mistakes during a tournament that's been a near-constant struggle for her really made the difference. And Gauff's body language was quite a contrast to Osaka's. Gauff repeatedly would put her palms up or cover her face with a hand or gesture toward her team in the stands, looking confused or upset.

Still, Gauff vowed afterward: "I am not going to let this crush me."

Osaka now plays Karolina Muchova, who beat her last year at the US Open

On Wednesday, Osaka will face No. 11 Karolina Muchova of the Czech Republic for a berth in the semifinals. Muchova, the 2023 French Open runner-up and a semifinalist in New York the past two years, advanced with a 6-3, 6-7 (0), 6-3 victory No. 27 Marta Kostyuk of Ukraine.

It was Muchova who got past 45-year-old Venus Williams in three sets in the first round of this U.S. Open. Muchova also beat Osaka in the second round at Flushing Meadows in 2024.

Against Gauff, Osaka displayed the demeanor — and, importantly, the booming serve and other strokes — that carried her to hard-court Slam championships at the U.S. Open in 2018 and 2020, and at the Australian Open in 2019 and 2021.

Naomi Osaka sparked a conversation about mental health 4 years ago

It was at the French Open later in 2021 that Osaka helped spark a global conversation about mental health by revealing she felt anxiety and depression. She then took a series of breaks from the tour.

That most recent trophy at Melbourne Park was the last time Osaka had even made it as far as the fourth round at any major until this match against Gauff, a 21-year-old from Florida who owns two major trophies. The first came at Flushing Meadows in 2023 and the second at the French Open this June.

Osaka returned to the tour last season after a 17-month maternity leave. Her child, Shai, was born in July 2023.

Naomi Osaka became a mother in July 2023

"I'm a little sensitive, and I don't want to cry, but, honestly, I just had so much fun out here," said Osaka, who first played Gauff back at the 2019 U.S. Open, also in Ashe, and won that one, too.

"I was in the stands like two months after I gave birth to my daughter, watching Coco. I just really wanted

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an opportunity to come out here and play," Osaka told the crowd. "This is my favorite court in the world, and it means so much for me to be back here."

Gauff came out jittery at the start. Her problematic serve was fine; other strokes were the problem. She finished with 33 unforced errors — way more than Osaka's 12.

Plus, Osaka's serving and returning were terrific. She won 32 of the 38 points she served — 15 of 16 when first serves landed in — and never faced a single break point. She also converted all four break chances she earned.

"She forced me to earn every point out there today," Gauff acknowledged.

A key: Osaka used her forehand, her best stroke, to go after Gauff's forehand, her worst.

By the end of the first set, Gauff had made 16 unforced errors and Osaka only five. By the end of the match, 20 of Gauff's unforced errors were off the forehand side.

"After the match, I was really disappointed. Kind of broke down to my team," Gauff said. "Then, hearing their perspectives and everything, it definitely is a lot of positive things."

A House committee investigating the Jeffrey Epstein case has withdrawn a subpoena to Robert Mueller

Associated Press undefined

WASHINGTON (AP) — A House committee investigating the Justice Department's handling of the Jeffrey Epstein sex trafficking case has withdrawn a subpoena to former FBI Director Robert Mueller, citing the state of his health.

The House Oversight Committee last month scheduled Mueller to appear Tuesday for a deposition, but the subpoena was withdrawn after the panel learned of unspecified health issues that precluded him from being able to testify, according to a committee statement.

The New York Times, citing a statement from Mueller's family and people close to him, reported Sunday night that Mueller had been diagnosed with Parkinson's disease in the summer of 2021 and has had difficulty speaking.

Mueller was appointed FBI director in 2001 by then-President George W. Bush and shepherded the bureau's evolution into a national security and intelligence-gathering agency. He held the job for more than a decade, resigning in 2013.

In 2017, he was tapped by the Justice Department to serve as special counsel in charge of the investigation into potential coordination between Trump's 2016 presidential campaign and Russia.

His team over the course of the next two years revealed efforts by Russian operatives to interfere in the election on Trump's behalf, and secured criminal charges and convictions against multiple Trump associates. But it did not find sufficient evidence to prove an illegal conspiracy between Moscow and the campaign to sway the election.

Mueller has rarely spoken about the investigation since its conclusion but did testify before Congress in July 2019, an appearance that drew attention because of the sometimes stilted and halting manner of his testimony.

Last month, Rep. James Comer of Kentucky, the chairman of the House Oversight Committee, issued subpoenas to Mueller and more than a half dozen other former law enforcement and government officials for testimony about the years-long investigation into Epstein, whose August 2019 death following his arrest on sex trafficking charges was determined to have been a suicide.

Mueller was FBI director during an earlier Justice Department investigation of Epstein that resulted in a non-prosecution agreement that allowed the wealthy financier to plead guilty to state charges in Florida. It was not clear whether Mueller would have any knowledge or details about how that agreement came to be.

Parkinson's is a neurologic disease that robs people of control over their movements. It typically starts with tremors and is characterized by slow movement, a shuffling gait, stiff limbs, balance problems and slurred speech. Though there is no cure, there are treatments.

Nestlé dismisses CEO after an investigation into a relationship with a subordinate

By The Associated Press undefined

Swiss food giant Nestlé said Monday it dismissed its CEO Laurent Freixe after an investigation into an undisclosed relationship with a direct subordinate.

The maker of Nescafé drinks and Purina pet food said in a statement the dismissal was effective immediately. An investigation found the undisclosed romantic relationship with a direct subordinate violated Nestlé's code of conduct.

Freixe, who had been CEO for a year, will be replaced by Philipp Navratil, a longtime Nestlé executive. "This was a necessary decision," said Chairman Paul Bulcke. "Nestlé's values and governance are strong foundations of our company."

The company didn't give any other details about the investigation.

Freixe had been with Nestlé since 1986, holding roles around the world. When Nestlé revamped its geographic structure in January 2022, Freixe became CEO of Zone Latin America. In August 2024, he was tapped to replace then-CEO Mark Schneider in the top role, and started Sept. 1, 2024.

Navratil started his career with Nestlé in 2001 as an internal auditor and served in a variety of roles in Central America. In 2020, he joined Nestlé's Coffee Strategic Business Unit, and in 2024, he became CEO of Nestlé's Nespresso division.

It's the latest in a string of personnel changes for the company. In June, Bulcke, a former CEO who has been chairman of the board since 2017, said he wouldn't stand for reelection in 2026. And in April, Steve Presley, an executive vice president and CEO of Zone Americas, said he was retiring after almost 30 years of service.

Based in Vevey, Switzerland, Nestlé has been facing headwinds like other food makers, including rising commodity costs and the negative impact of tariffs. It said in July it offset higher coffee and cocoa-related costs with price increases.

1.2 million immigrants are gone from the US labor force under Trump, preliminary data shows

By COREY WILLIAMS Associated Press

It's tomato season and Lidia is harvesting on farms in California's Central Valley.

She is also anxious. Attention from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement could upend her life more than 23 years after she illegally crossed the U.S.-Mexico border as a teenager.

"The worry is they'll pull you over when you're driving and ask for your papers," said Lidia, who spoke to The Associated Press on condition that only her first name be used because of her fears of deportation. "We need to work. We need to feed our families and pay our rent."

As parades and other events celebrating the contributions of workers in the U.S. are held Monday for the Labor Day holiday, experts say President Donald Trump's stepped-up immigration policies are impacting the nation's labor force.

More than 1.2 million immigrants disappeared from the labor force from January through the end of July, according to preliminary Census Bureau data analyzed by the Pew Research Center. That includes people who are in the country illegally as well as legal residents.

Immigrants make up almost 20% of the U.S. workforce and that data shows 45% of workers in farming, fishing and forestry are immigrants, according to Pew senior researcher Stephanie Kramer. About 30% of all construction workers are immigrants and 24% of service workers are immigrants, she added.

The loss in immigrant workers comes as the nation is seeing the first decline in the overall immigrant population after the number of people in the U.S. illegally reached an all-time high of 14 million in 2023.

"It's unclear how much of the decline we've seen since January is due to voluntary departures to pursue other opportunities or avoid deportation, removals, underreporting or other technical issues," Kramer said.

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"However, we don't believe that the preliminary numbers indicating net-negative migration are so far off that the decline isn't real."

Trump campaigned on a promise to deport millions of immigrants working in the U.S. illegally. He has said he is focusing deportation efforts on "dangerous criminals," but most people detained by ICE have no criminal convictions. At the same time, the number of illegal border crossings has plunged under his policies.

Pia Orrenius, a labor economist at the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, said immigrants normally contribute at least 50% of job growth in the U.S.

"The influx across the border from what we can tell is essentially stopped, and that's where we were getting millions and millions of migrants over the last four years," she said. "That has had a huge impact on the ability to create jobs."

'Crops did go to waste'

Just across the border from Mexico in McAllen, Texas, corn and cotton fields are about ready for harvesting. Elizabeth Rodriguez worries there won't be enough workers available for the gins and other machinery once the fields are cleared.

Immigration enforcement actions at farms, businesses and construction sites brought everything to a standstill, said Rodriguez, director of farmworker advocacy for the National Farmworker Ministry.

"In May, during the peak of our watermelon and cantaloupe season, it delayed it. A lot of crops did go to waste," she said.

In Ventura County, California, northwest of Los Angeles, Lisa Tate manages her family business that grows citrus fruits, avocados and coffee on eight ranches and 800 acres (323 hectares).

Most of the men and women who work their farms are contractor-provided day laborers. There were days earlier this year when crews would be smaller. Tate is hesitant to place that blame on immigration policies. But the fear of ICE raids spread quickly.

Dozens of area farmworkers were arrested late this spring.

"People were being taken out of laundromats, off the side of the road," Tate said.

Lidia, the farmworker who spoke to the AP through an interpreter, said her biggest fear is being sent back to Mexico. Now 36, she is married with three school-age children who were born here.

"I don't know if I'll be able to bring my kids," said Lidia. "I'm also very concerned I'd have to start from zero. My whole life has been in the United States."

From construction to health care

Construction sites in and around McAllen also "are completely dead," Rodriguez said.

"We have a large labor force that is undocumented," she said. "We've seen ICE particularly targeting construction sites and attempting to target mechanic and repair shops."

The number of construction jobs are down in about half of U.S. metropolitan areas, according to an Associated General Contractors of America analysis of government employment data. The largest loss of 7,200 jobs was in the Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario, California, area. The Los Angeles-Long Beach-Glendale area lost 6,200 jobs.

"Construction employment has stalled or retreated in many areas for a variety of reasons," said Ken Simonson, the association's chief economist. "But contractors report they would hire more people if only they could find more qualified and willing workers and tougher immigration enforcement wasn't disrupting labor supplies."

Kramer, with Pew, also warns about the potential impact on health care. She says immigrants make up about 43% of home health care aides.

The Service Employees International Union represents about 2 million workers in health care, the public sector and property services. An estimated half of long-term care workers who are members of SEIU 2015 in California are immigrants, said Arnulfo De La Cruz, the local's president.

"What's going to happen when millions of Americans can no longer find a home care provider?" De La Cruz said. "What happens when immigrants aren't in the field to pick our crops? Who's going to staff our

hospitals and nursing homes?" ____ An earlier version of this story incorrectly referred to the name of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency. The name is not Immigration Control and Enforcement.

Pope Leo meets LGBTQ+ Catholic advocate and vows continuity with Pope Francis' legacy of welcome

By NICOLE WINFIELD Associated Press

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope Leo XIV met Monday with one of the most prominent advocates for greater LGBTQ+ inclusion in the Catholic Church and encouraged his ministry, sending a strong signal of welcome in the early months of his pontificate.

The Rev. James Martin, a New York-based Jesuit author and editor, said Leo told him he intended to continue Pope Francis' policy of LGBTQ+ acceptance in the church and encouraged him to keep up his advocacy.

"I heard the same message from Pope Leo that I heard from Pope Francis, which is the desire to welcome all people, including LGBTQ people," Martin told The Associated Press after the audience. "It was wonderful. It was very consoling and very encouraging and frankly a lot of fun."

The meeting, which lasted about half an hour, was officially announced by the Vatican in a sign that Leo wanted it made public. It came just days before LGBTQ+ Catholics participate in a Holy Year pilgrimage to the Vatican in another sign of welcome.

The audience was significant because it showed a strong sign of continuity with Francis, who more than any of Leo's predecessors worked to make the Catholic Church a more welcoming place for LGBTQ+ Catholics. From his 2013 quip, "Who am I to judge?" about a purportedly gay priest, to his decision to allow priests to bless same-sex couples, Francis distinguished himself with his message of welcome.

During his 12-year papacy from 2013 to 2025, Francis met on several occasions with Martin and named him an adviser in the Vatican's communications department and a member of his big multiyear meeting on the future of the church. Still, Francis never changed church teaching saying homosexual acts are "intrinsically disordered."

Leo's position on LGBTQ+ Catholics had been something of a question. Soon after he was elected in May, remarks surfaced from 2012 in which the future pope, then known as the Rev. Robert Prevost, criticized the "homosexual lifestyle" and the role of mass media in promoting acceptance of same-sex relationships that conflicted with Catholic doctrine.

When he became a cardinal in 2023, Catholic News Service asked Prevost if his views had changed. He acknowledged Francis' call for a more inclusive church, saying Francis "made it very clear that he doesn't want people to be excluded simply on the basis of choices that they make, whether it be lifestyle, work, way to dress, or whatever."

Prevost then underlined that doctrine had not changed. "But we are looking to be more welcoming and more open and to say all people are welcome in the church," he said.

News of the audience was met with consternation among some conservatives who had criticized Francis' outreach and had hoped Leo would be less accepting. Taylor Marshall, a podcaster active on Catholic social media, merely posted the official Vatican photo of the encounter on X. John-Henry Weston, co-founder of the LifeSite news site, called the audience a "nightmare scenario."

Francis DeBernardo, executive director of New Ways Ministry which advocates for LGBTQ+ Catholics, said the audience was a great first step. In a statement he called it "a strong indication that Leo affirms Pope Francis' welcoming model and that previous repressive approaches are now just history."

Martin, who knew Prevost from their time working together in the synod on the church's future, said he wasn't worried about Leo's views given Martin always had found him to be "a very open, welcoming, inclusive person."

"But it's wonderful to hear this continuation," Martin said, adding that Leo told him his priorities are to work for peace and unity, citing in particular the conflicts in Ukraine, Gaza and Myanmar.

"But he also wanted to remind people that this is a church for 'todos, todos, todos,'" Martin said, quoting

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Francis' famous line in Spanish about how the church is open to everyone, todos.

Martin helped found Outreach, a ministry promoting LGBTQ+ acceptance, which will participate in a big Holy Year pilgrimage Friday and Saturday sponsored by Italian LGBTQ+ Catholic group "Jonathan's Tent." Significantly, the pilgrimage of about 1,200 people includes a Mass at the Jesuit church in Rome celebrated by the second-highest member of the Italian bishop's conference.

The pilgrimage is not officially sponsored by the Vatican, but is listed on the Vatican's calendar of Holy Year events. Vatican officials say such a listing doesn't signify endorsement, but is merely a logistical help to those groups that wish to organize pilgrimages and walk through the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica.

What to know about Indonesia's nationwide unrest over lawmakers' perks

By NINIEK KARMINI Associated Press

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — The wave of violent protests that have swept across Indonesia and left seven people dead is being seen as a major test for President Prabowo Subianto.

Clashes between riot police and rock-throwing protesters that began in the capital last week quickly spread beyond Jakarta.

Angry protesters in several cities set fire to regional parliament buildings, police headquarters and damaged infrastructures in the unrest that included looting and the burning of vehicles.

Subianto on Sunday ordered the security forces to take firm action against the protests.

"There are signs of unlawful acts, even leading to treason and terrorism," he said. "To the police and the military, I have ordered them to take action as firm as possible against the destruction of public facilities, looting at homes of individuals and economic centers, according to the laws."

Subianto canceled a high-profile trip to China to attend the Victory Day Parade in Beijing this coming Wednesday, citing escalating nationwide protests.

Here's what to know about the protests:

Cause of the unrest

Public outrage emerged across the world's third-largest democracy after reports that all 580 members of the House of Representatives receive a monthly housing allowance of 50 million rupiah (\$3,075), in addition to their salaries.

The allowance, which was introduced last year, is nearly 10 times the minimum wage in Jakarta.

Critics argue that the perk isn't only excessive, but also insensitive at a time when most people are grappling with a soaring cost of living, taxes and rising unemployment.

Death toll

The protests grew wider and more violent following the death of 21-year-old ride-hailing driver Affan Kurniawan.

A video on social media, apparently showing his death during a rally in Jakarta on Thursday, shocked the nation and spurred an outcry against the security forces.

Kurniawan was reportedly completing a food delivery order when he was caught up in the clash.

Witnesses told local television that an armored car from the Mobile Brigade unit of the National Police suddenly sped through the crowd of demonstrators and hit Kurniawan, causing him to fall. Instead of stopping, the car ran over him.

An angry mob late Friday set fire to a local parliament building in Makassar on Sulawesi island causing several people to be trapped in the blaze. Three people died and five others were hospitalized. In a separate riot in the city, a man who was thought to be a police intelligence agent disguised as a delivery rider was beaten to death by a mob.

The death toll rose to seven after authorities in Yogyakarta said a university student was killed in Friday's clashes between demonstrators and riot police. Health officials in Central Java's Solo city confirmed that a 60-year-old pedicab driver suffering from acute asthma was found unconscious after being exposed to tear gas and died on Sunday while being treated at a hospital.

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Rioters mingle with protesters

Jakarta's health office said that 469 people were injured in violent protests, including 97 who were hospitalized.

Among them, 43 victims have been treated at the Bhayangkara police hospital since the clashes began. The president on Monday visited 14 officers and three civilians still receiving treatment for serious injuries at the hospital, including a woman who was on her way to a market who suffered a broken thigh after rioters seized her motorcycle.

Speaking after visiting victims, Subianto said that the violence was fueled by "rioters, not protesters," and accused the groups of trying to destabilize the nation.

"Their intention is not to voice aspirations, but to cause chaos, disrupt people's lives, and sabotage national development," Subianto said. He vowed that he "will not retreat even a step" in confronting rioters responsible for violent unrest across the archipelago country of more than 280 million people.

Costly protests

Authorities detained 1,240 rioters after five days of protests in Jakarta. The unrest had caused losses of up to 55 billion rupiah (\$3.3 million) as rioters burned buses and subway stations and damaged other infrastructure, Jakarta Gov. Pramono Anung said.

Escalating violence in Indonesia prompting TikTok to voluntarily suspend its LIVE feature, citing measures to keep the platform a safe and civil space.

Foreign embassies and consulates, including the U.S., Australia, France, Canada and Southeast Asian countries, issued a travel warning and have advised their citizens in Indonesia to avoid demonstration areas or large public gatherings.

Government concessions

Flanked by leaders of eight Indonesian political parties, Subianto told a televised news conference in Jakarta that the government would cut lawmakers' perks and privileges, including the contentious housing allowance, and suspend overseas trips for members of parliament. It was a rare concession in response to mounting public anger.

Subianto also said that police were investigating seven officers linked to the incident in which Kurniawan died, and has instructed a quick and transparent investigation in a way that the public can monitor. He also would ensure his administration to financially support Kurniawan's family.

The former general further called on the public to express their aspirations in a peaceful and constructive manner, and promised their voices will be heard.

Economic reality

Analysts see the violent rallies as a culmination of public anger over economic hardship, as well as public officials' insensitivity and political frustration.

In his campaign for president, Subianto promised to take economic growth to 8% within five years and make Southeast Asia's largest economy attractive for investments. But observers have dismissed his pledge as too ambitious, with the Trump administration's 19% tariffs on Indonesian goods adding to the uncertainty.

The World Bank estimates that Indonesia's economy will grow at 4.8% up to 2027, far below Subianto's pledge.

AP Top 25 poll preview: Defending national champion Buckeyes are poised to return to No. 1

By ERIC OLSON AP College Football Writer

As pro wrestling great and noted philosopher Ric Flair famously said, to be the man, you gotta beat the man.

Defending national champion Ohio State is still the man in college football.

The purveyors of preseason rankings had anointed Texas largely because of what in retrospect was an overabundance of hype surrounding Arch Manning. Reality hit at the Horseshoe on Saturday, and now the

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Buckeyes are in position to jump Penn State and return to No. 1 when The Associated Press' first Top 25 of the regular season drops Tuesday.

Look for No. 9 LSU to garner support for No. 1, as well, after its 17-10 victory over No. 4 Clemson. An eight-rung promotion to the top spot would be the second-biggest jump of all time. In 1984, Miami went from No. 10 to No. 1 in the first regular-season poll.

Given the Week 1 results, Penn State might even drop a spot or two. A 46-11 win over lowly Nevada doesn't necessarily move the needle upward with voters.

Texas fans surely are let down but can take solace in the fact that Manning has a high ceiling and won't be playing Ohio State every week.

Alabama fans, on the other hand, are gutted and rightly worried. Kalen DeBoer has lost to four unranked opponents in his first 14 games following a 31-17 defeat at Florida State. His predecessor, Nick Saban, lost to four unranked teams in his 235 games over 17 years leading the Crimson Tide.

Look for them to move up

— No. 3 Ohio State beat No. 1 Texas 14-7 not because new quarterback Julian Sayin outplayed Manning — he did — but because of a dominant defense that made stops on four of five fourth downs. New defensive coordinator Matt Patricia made all the right calls and flummoxed Manning with a mix of pre-snap looks.

— No. 9 LSU won its first opener in six seasons, leaning on an upgraded defense in what was expected to be a battle of quarterbacks. LSU never let Cade Klubnik get comfortable and held Clemson to a paltry 4.5 yards per play. Garrett Nussmeier was solid and probably is the leading candidate for the Heisman Trophy by default.

— No. 10 Miami's 27-24 win over No. 6 Notre Dame, after some anxious moments, turned out to be a great launch for the Hurricanes' new and improved defense under first-year coordinator Corey Hetherman.

Look for them to drop

— Texas became the first preseason No. 1 to lose its opener since BYU knocked off Miami in 1990. Manning will continue to be in the spotlight — he plays for Texas and he's a Manning, after all — but it won't be as intense with San Jose State, UTEP and Sam Houston the next three opponents.

— The good news for Clemson is the Klubnik-led offense won't see a defense as good as LSU's again.

— It wasn't long after No. 8 Alabama's loss that DeBoer's contract buyout price of \$70 million was banned on social media.

They are who we thought they were

— No. 2 Penn State got points on its first nine possessions against Nevada.

— No. 5 Georgia had a drama-free 45-7 win over Marshall, with Gunnar Stockton throwing for two TDs and running for two TDs and the defense forcing seven three-and-outs and one four-and-out.

Some good, some bad

— Bryce Underwood gave himself a grade of C-plus, but he was better than any of the three other true freshman quarterbacks who previously started for No. 14 Michigan. He was 21 of 31 for 251 yards and a touchdown in a 34-17 win over New Mexico.

— No. 17 Kansas State was less than a minute away from being the highest-ranked team since 2016 to lose to an FCS opponent. The Wildcats' touchdown with 42 seconds left let them escape with a 38-35 win over North Dakota.

— No. 24 Tennessee's 45-26 win over Syracuse showed that the Volunteers might have gotten the better end of the Nico Iamaleava-Joey Aguilar switcheroo with UCLA. Aguilar threw for 247 yards and three touchdowns. Iamaleava struggled and was sacked four times in a 43-10 home loss to Utah.

— No. 25 Boise State obviously was going to miss Ashton Jeanty. The Broncos' 34-7 loss at ascending South Florida suggests they miss him terribly.

Knocking on the door

— BYU received the most points of unranked teams in the preseason poll. A 69-0 win over FCS Portland State is no big deal — the Vikings have been outscored 111-0 in two games — but there's a spot available after Boise State's loss.

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— Utah was 14 of 17 on third downs and scored on all six trips into the red zone against UCLA. Utes QB Devon Dampier, who led the Mountain West Conference in total offense at New Mexico last year, is the real deal.

Earthquake in eastern Afghanistan destroys villages and kills 800 people, with 2,500 injured
KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — Desperate Afghans clawed through rubble in search of missing loved ones after a strong earthquake killed some 800 people and injured more than 2,500 in eastern Afghanistan, according to figures provided Monday by the Taliban government.

The 6.0 magnitude quake late Sunday hit towns in the province of Kunar, near the city of Jalalabad in neighboring Nangarhar province, causing extensive damage.

One resident in Nurgal district, one of the worst-affected areas in Kunar, said nearly the entire village was destroyed.

"Children are under the rubble. The elderly are under the rubble. Young people are under the rubble," said the villager, who did not give his name.

"We need help here," he pleaded. "We need people to come here and join us. Let us pull out the people who are buried. There is no one who can come and remove dead bodies from under the rubble."

The quake hit just before midnight and was centered 27 kilometers (17 miles) east-northeast of Jalalabad at a depth of 8 kilometers (5 miles), the U.S. Geological Survey said. Shallower quakes tend to cause more damage. Several aftershocks followed.

Footage showed rescuers taking injured people on stretchers from collapsed buildings and into helicopters as people frantically dug through rubble with their hands.

The Taliban government's chief spokesman, Zabihullah Mujahid, told a press conference on Monday that the death toll had risen to at least 800 with more than 2,500 injured. He said most of the casualties were in Kunar.

The quake was felt in parts of Pakistan, including the capital Islamabad. There were no reports of casualties or damage.

Homes collapsed and people screamed for help

Eastern Afghanistan is mountainous, with remote areas and the quake has worsened communications. Blocked roads are forcing aid workers to walk four or five hours to reach survivors. Dozens of flights have operated in and out of Nangarhar Airport, transporting the injured to hospitals.

Buildings in Afghanistan tend to be low-rise constructions, mostly of concrete and brick, with homes in rural and outlying areas made from mud bricks and wood. Many are poorly built.

One survivor described seeing homes collapse before his eyes and people screaming for help.

Sadiqullah, who lives in the Maza Dara area of Nurgal, said he was woken by a deep boom that sounded like a storm approaching. Like many Afghans, he uses only one name.

He ran to where his children were sleeping and rescued three of them. He was about to return to grab the rest of his family when the room fell on top of him.

"I was half-buried and unable to get out," he told The Associated Press by phone from Nangarhar Hospital. "My wife and two sons are dead, and my father is injured and in hospital with me. We were trapped for three to four hours until people from other areas arrived and pulled me out."

It felt like the whole mountain was shaking, he said.

'Numbers may increase'

Rescue operations were underway and medical teams from Kunar, Nangarhar and the capital, Kabul, have arrived in the area, said Sharafat Zaman, a health ministry spokesman.

Zaman said many areas had not been able to report casualty figures and that "the numbers were expected to change" as deaths and injuries are reported.

The chief spokesman, Mujahid, said helicopters had reached some areas but road travel was difficult. "There are some villages where the injured and dead haven't been recovered from the rubble, so that's why the numbers may increase," he told journalists.

Filippo Grandi, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, said the earthquake intensified existing humanitarian challenges in Afghanistan and urged international donors to support relief efforts.

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"This adds death and destruction to other challenges including drought and the forced return of millions of Afghans from neighbouring countries," Grandi wrote on X. "Hopefully the donor community will not hesitate to support relief efforts."

Search and rescue support

Entire roads and communities have been cut off from accessing nearby towns or hospitals and 2,000 casualties were reported within the first 12 hours, said Sherine Ibrahim, the country director for the aid agency.

"Although we have been able to act fast, we are profoundly fearful for the additional strain this will have on the overall humanitarian response in Afghanistan," said Ibrahim. "Global funding cuts have dramatically hampered our ability to respond to the ongoing humanitarian crisis."

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies said in a statement that immediate needs include search and rescue support, emergency healthcare and medical supplies, food, clean water, and restoring road access to reach isolated communities.

Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said he was deeply saddened by events in Afghanistan. "Our hearts go out to the victims and their families. We are ready to extend all possible support in this regard," he said on X.

Pakistan has expelled tens of thousands of Afghans in the past year, many of them living in the country for decades as refugees. At least 1.2 million Afghans have been forced to return from Iran and Pakistan so far this year, according to a June report by UNHCR.

A magnitude 6.3 earthquake struck Afghanistan on Oct. 7, 2023, followed by strong aftershocks. The Taliban government estimated at least 4,000 people perished in that quake.

The U.N. gave a lower death toll of about 1,500. It was the deadliest natural disaster to strike Afghanistan in recent memory.

Sunday's latest earthquake was likely to "dwarf the scale of the humanitarian needs" caused by the disaster of 2023, according to the International Rescue Committee.

Russia is suspected of jamming navigation on EU leader's plane above Bulgaria, official says

By SAM McNEIL and VALENTINA PETROVA Associated Press

SOFIA, Bulgaria (AP) — A plane carrying European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen was hit by GPS jamming over Bulgaria in a suspected Russian operation, a spokesperson said Monday.

The plane landed safely at Plovdiv airport in central Bulgaria and von der Leyen will continue her planned tour of the European Union's eastern frontline nations, said commission spokesperson Arianna Podesta.

"We can indeed confirm that there was GPS jamming," said Podesta. "We have received information from the Bulgarian authority that they suspect that this was due to blatant interference by Russia."

The incident with von der Leyen's plane is the latest in a series involving suspected Russian electronic interference with GPS satellite navigation. For months, countries bordering Russia — including Finland, Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia — have warned of increased electronic activity interfering with flights, ships and drones. Russian authorities did not immediately reply to requests for comment.

Von der Leyen, a fierce critic of Russian President Vladimir Putin and Moscow's war in Ukraine, is on a four-day tour of much of the EU's eastern flank, with stops in Lithuania, Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Poland, Romania, and Bulgaria.

"This incident actually underlines the urgency of the mission that the president is carrying out in the front-line member states," Podesta said.

She said that von der Leyen has seen "firsthand the everyday challenges of threats coming from Russia and its proxies."

"And, of course, the EU will continue to invest into defense spending and in Europe's readiness even more after this incident," she said.

Bulgaria issued a statement saying that "the satellite signal used for the aircraft's GPS navigation was

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disrupted” during von der Leyen’s flight. She was traveling from Warsaw, Poland, to Plovdiv, Bulgaria’s second-largest city, on a private jet chartered by the European Commission. “As the aircraft approached Plovdiv Airport, the GPS signal was lost,” the statement said. It said that Bulgaria’s Civil Aviation Authority instructed the pilots to use backup navigation aids to land the plane.

The Associated Press has plotted almost 80 incidents on a map tracking a campaign of disruption across Europe blamed on Russia, which the head of Britain’s foreign intelligence service has described as staggeringly “reckless.” Since Moscow’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022, Western officials have accused Russia and its proxies of staging dozens of attacks and other incidents, ranging from vandalism to arson and attempted assassination.

The interference from Russia includes jamming and spoofing. Jamming means a strong radio signal overwhelms communications, whereas spoofing misleads a receiver into thinking it is in a different location or in a past or future time period.

In August, Latvia’s Electronic Communications Office said it had identified at least three hot spots for jamming along borders with Russia. In April 2024, a Finnish airline temporarily suspended flights to the Estonian city of Tartu following jamming, while in March that year, a plane carrying the British defense secretary had its satellite signal jammed as it flew near Russian territory.

The office said that although Russia maintains the jamming is defensive, the frequency has increased as interference extends further from Russia’s borders.

Pilots and air traffic controllers from Sweden to Bulgaria are “are reinventing the old-school methods of navigating because they cannot rely on GPS anymore,” said Eric Schouten, an intelligence analyst and CEO of Dyami Security Intelligence based in Utrecht, the Netherlands.

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A downturn in international travel to the U.S. may last beyond summer, experts warn

By RIO YAMAT Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — For a few hopeful weeks this summer, a bright billboard on the major highway linking Toronto to New York greeted Canadian drivers with a simple message: "Buffalo Loves Canada."

The marketing campaign, which included a \$500 gift card giveaway, was meant to show Buffalo's northern neighbors they were welcome, wanted and missed.

At first, it seemed like it might work, said Patrick Kaler, CEO of the local tourism organization Visit Buffalo Niagara. More than 1,000 people entered the giveaway. But by the end of July, it was clear the city's reliable summer wave of Canadian visitors would not arrive this year.

Buffalo's struggle reflects a broader downturn in international tourism to the U.S. that travel analysts warn could persist well into the future. From northern border towns to major hot spots like Las Vegas and Los Angeles, popular travel destinations reported hosting fewer foreign visitors this summer.

Experts and some local officials attribute the trend that first emerged in February to President Donald Trump's return to the White House. They say his tariffs, immigration crackdown and repeated jabs about the U.S. acquiring Canada and Greenland alienated travelers from other parts of the world.

"To see the traffic drop off so significantly, especially because of rhetoric that can be changed, is so disheartening," Kaler said.

Forecasts show US losing foreign travelers

The World Travel & Tourism Council projected ahead of Memorial Day that the U.S. would be the only country among the 184 it studied where foreign visitor spending would fall in 2025. The finding was "a clear indicator that the global appeal of the U.S. is slipping," the global industry association said.

"The world's biggest travel and tourism economy is heading in the wrong direction," Julia Simpson, the council's president and CEO, said. "While other nations are rolling out the welcome mat, the U.S. government is putting up the 'closed' sign."

Travel research firm Tourism Economics, meanwhile, predicted this month that the U.S. would see 8.2% fewer international arrivals in 2025, an improvement from its earlier forecast of a 9.4% decline but well below the numbers of foreign visitors to the country before the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The sentiment drag has proven to be severe," the firm said, noting that airline bookings indicate "the sharp inbound travel slowdown" of May, June and July would likely persist in the months ahead.

Deborah Friedland, managing director at the financial services firm Eisner Advisory Group, said he U.S.

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travel industry faced multiple headwinds — rising travel costs, political uncertainty and ongoing geopolitical tensions.

Since returning to office, Trump has doubled down on some of the hard-line policies that defined his first term, reviving a travel ban targeting mainly African and Middle Eastern countries, tightening rules around visa approvals and ramping up mass immigration raids. At the same time, the push for tariffs on foreign goods that quickly became a defining feature of his second term gave some citizens elsewhere a sense they were unwanted.

“Perception is reality,” Friedland said.

International arrivals down from Western Europe, Asia and Africa

Organizers of an international swing dancing said an impression of America’s hostility to foreigners led them to postpone the event, which had been scheduled to take place this month in the Harlem area of New York City.

About three months into Trump’s second term, international competitors began pulling out of the world finals of the International Lindy Hop Championships, saying they felt unwelcome, event co-producer Tena Morales said. About half of attendees each year come from outside the U.S., primarily from Canada and France, she said.

Contest organizers are considering whether to host the annual competition in another country until Trump’s presidency ends, Morales said.

“The climate is still the same and what we’re hearing is still the same, that (dancers) don’t want to come here,” she said.

The nation’s capital, where the Trump administration in recent weeks deployed National Guard members and took over management of Union Station, also has noticed an impact.

Local tourism officials have projected a 5.1% dip in international visitors for the year. Marketing organization Destination DC said last week it planned to “counter negative rhetoric” about the city with a campaign that would feature residents and highlight the “more personal side” of Washington.

U.S. government data confirms an overall drop-off in international arrivals during the first seven months of the year. The number of overseas visitors, a category that doesn’t include travelers from Mexico or Canada, declined by more than 3 million, or 1.6%, compared to the same period a year earlier, according to preliminary figures from the National Travel and Tourism Office.

As a tourist generator, Western Europe was down 2.3%, with visitors from Denmark dropping by 19%, from Germany by 10%, and from France by 6.6%. A similar pattern surfaced in Asia, where the U.S. data showed double-digit decreases in arrivals from Hong Kong, Indonesia and the Philippines. Fewer residents of countries throughout Africa also had traveled to the U.S. as of July.

However, visitors from some countries, among them Argentina, Brazil, Italy and Japan, have arrived in greater numbers.

Filling a void left by Canadian tourists

Neither did all U.S. destinations report sluggish summers for tourism.

On eastern Wisconsin’s Door Peninsula, which straddles Lake Michigan and Green Bay, a steady stream of loyal Midwest visitors helped deliver a strong summer for local businesses, according to Jon Jarosh, a spokesperson for Destination Door County.

Many business owners reported a noticeable uptick in foot traffic after a quieter start to the season, Jarosh said, and sidewalks were bustling and restaurants were packed by midsummer.

Executives from the major U.S. airlines said last month that American passengers booking premium airfares helped fill their international flights and that demand for domestic flights was picking up after a weaker than expected showing in the first half of 2025.

The Federal Aviation Administration said it was gearing up for what is expected to be the busiest Labor Day weekend in 15 years. Bookings for U.S. airlines were up about 2% compared to 2024 for the long holiday weekend that started Thursday, aviation analytics firm Cirium said.

As the summer winds down, though, the absence of foreign visitors in Buffalo was still visible, according to Kaler, the head of Visit Buffalo Niagara.

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Canada sent over 20.2 million visitors to the U.S. last year, more than any other country, U.S. government data showed. But this year, residents of Canada have been among the most reluctant to visit.

In a major U-turn, more U.S. residents drove into Canada in June and July than Canadians making the reverse trip, according to Canada's national statistical agency. Statistics Canada said it was the first time that happened in nearly two decades with the exception of two months during the pandemic.

In July alone, the number of Canadian residents returning from the U.S. by car was down 37% from the year before, and return trips by plane fell 26%, the agency said.

As a result, Visit Buffalo Niagara shifted its marketing efforts this summer to cities like Boston, Philadelphia and Chicago. Amateur children's sporting events also helped fill the void left by Canadian tourists.

"We will always welcome Canadians back when the time is right," Kaler said. "I don't want Canadians to feel like we see them as just dollar signs or a transaction at our cash registers. They mean more to us than that."

Today in History:

September 2, Japan surrenders to end World War II

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, Sept. 2, the 245th day of 2025. There are 120 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On Sept. 2, 1945, Japan formally surrendered in ceremonies aboard the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay, ending World War II.

Also on this date:

In 1666, the Great Fire of London began, which would destroy more than 13,000 homes and hundreds of additional structures, including St Paul's Cathedral, over the ensuing three days.

In 1789, the United States Treasury Department was established.

In 1864, during the Civil War, Union Gen. William T. Sherman's forces occupied Atlanta.

In 1935, a Category 5 hurricane slammed into the Florida Keys on Labor Day, claiming more than 400 lives.

In 1958, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the National Defense Education Act, which provided aid to public and private education to promote learning in such fields as math and science.

In 1963, Alabama Gov. George C. Wallace prevented the integration of Tuskegee High School by encircling the building with state troopers.

In 1969, in what some regard as the birth of the Internet, two connected computers at the University of California, Los Angeles, passed test data through a 15-foot cable.

In 1998, a Swissair MD-11 jetliner crashed off Nova Scotia, killing all 229 people aboard.

In 2005, a National Guard convoy packed with food, water and medicine rolled into New Orleans four days after Hurricane Katrina.

In 2013, on her fifth attempt, U.S. endurance swimmer Diana Nyad became the first person to swim from Cuba to Florida without the help of a shark cage.

In 2018, a huge fire engulfed Brazil's 200-year-old National Museum in Rio de Janeiro, as firefighters and museum workers raced to save historical relics.

In 2019, a fire swept a vessel carrying recreational scuba divers that was anchored near an island off the Southern California coast; the captain and four other crew members were able to escape the flames, but 34 people who were trapped below died.

Today's Birthdays: Former United States Olympic Committee Chairman and former Major League Baseball commissioner Peter Ueberroth is 88. Football Hall of Famer Terry Bradshaw is 77. Basketball Hall of Famer Nate Archibald is 77. Actor Mark Harmon is 74. Tennis Hall of Famer Jimmy Connors is 73. Football Hall of Famer Eric Dickerson is 65. British Prime Minister Keir Starmer is 63. Actor Keanu Reeves is 61. Boxing Hall of Famer Lennox Lewis is 60. Actor Salma Hayek is 59. R&B singer K-Ci is 56. Electronic music DJ/producer Zedd is 36.