

# Groton Daily Independent

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## 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 Northwest-  
ern, 9 a.m.

Soccer hosts West Central (Girls at noon, Boys at  
2 p.m.)

## Sunday, Sept. 7

Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship, 9 a.m.; Sunday  
School 10:15 a.m.; Choir 6 p.m.

St. John's Lutheran: Worship with communion at  
St. John's, 9 a.m., and Zion, 11 a.m.; Sunday School,  
9:45 a.m.

**Groton Daily Independent**

**PO Box 34, Groton SD 57445**

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



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

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

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

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

Groton Fly-In/Drive-in at Groton Municipal Airport  
Olive Grove Sunflower Couples Golf Tourney  
Doggie Day at the Pool, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

## Monday., Sept. 8

School Breakfast: Eggs.

School Lunch: Chef salad at elementary, build your  
own salad at MS/HS.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.

Groton Senior Citizens meet at the Groton Com-  
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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.**

## **RFK Jr. Testifies**

Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. appeared yesterday before the Senate Finance Committee to discuss recent turnover at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Much of the testimony centered on vaccine policy, following Kennedy's decision last week to fire CDC Director Susan Monarez. (Several senior CDC officials subsequently resigned in protest.) Monarez contends she was pressured to preapprove recommendations from an advisory panel considering vaccine recommendations for COVID-19, RSV, and measles, among others. That panel—recently reconstituted to include vaccine skeptics—is due to meet Sept. 18-19, with expected implications for insurance coverage. Kennedy yesterday disputed Monarez's version of events, saying she was fired for answering "no" when asked whether she is trustworthy.

Kennedy also addressed his agency's decision to pull funding for mRNA vaccine research and restrict approval for the updated COVID-19 vaccine, among other decisions. He separately criticized lawmakers on the committee for accepting donations from pharmaceutical companies.

## **Giorgio Armani Dies**

Italian fashion designer Giorgio Armani has died at age 91. The company did not disclose a cause of death, though he had missed a Milan fashion show this summer—marking the first time he missed a runway show in his career—while recovering from undisclosed health issues.

Born in Piacenza in 1934, Armani started as a window decorator before designing for stylist Nino Cerruti. In 1975, he founded his namesake label alongside partner Sergio Galeotti, softening menswear with supple fabrics and unlined jackets while pioneering women's power suits. By the mid-1980s, his clean tailoring defined corporate style. He later expanded into fragrances, cosmetics, accessories, and sportswear—outfitting athletes and designing Olympic uniforms—evolving into a global brand valued at more than \$10B.

His clothes became a red-carpet staple, with Armani earning wardrobe credits in over 200 films. He was honored with Italy's Order of Merit, France's Legion of Honor, and a UN goodwill ambassadorship.

## **NFL Kicks Off**

The reigning Super Bowl champion Philadelphia Eagles beat the Dallas Cowboys 24-20 last night to kick off the 2025-26 NFL season. Tonight, the Kansas City Chiefs face the Los Angeles Chargers in São Paulo, Brazil (8 pm ET, YouTube), the first of seven international games, before Sunday's 13-game lineup.

QB Aaron Rodgers begins his first season with the Pittsburgh Steelers—and possibly his final NFL season—against his former team, the New York Jets. Meanwhile, Washington QB Jayden Daniels looks to build on a standout rookie year that ended with the Commanders' first conference championship game in 33 years. In Monday night's only game, the Chicago Bears take on the Minnesota Vikings, with Chicago QB Caleb Williams aiming for redemption after the Bears' rocky 5-12 season.

This year also brings rule changes, from tweaked kickoffs to banned celebrations.

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## Sports, Entertainment, & Culture

The 2025 US Open wraps this weekend; see latest updates and schedules for both the women's and men's tournaments.

College Sports Commission approves 8,300 name, image, and likeness deals for college athletes worth nearly \$80M; the commission is tasked with approving contracts between athletes and third-party entities. "Bluey" animated feature film, based on the popular children's TV show, sets August 2027 release date. Justin Bieber's second surprise album of the year, "Swag II," released this morning.

## Science & Technology

New study suggests thumbnails instead of claws provided certain rodent species an evolutionary advantage, allowing the animals to better manipulate food (More, w/photos)

Spaceflight accelerates aging of stem cells, lowering their production of healthy new cells; findings suggest health risks of long-duration space flights.

Fine particle air pollution linked to Lewy body dementia; particles can trigger formation of protein clumps in the brain, a hallmark of the disease.

## Business & Markets

US stock markets close higher (S&P 500 +0.8%, Dow +0.8%, Nasdaq +1.0%) ahead of today's jobs report release—the first since President Donald Trump's firing of Labor Department official who oversaw the monthly reports.

Justice Department opens criminal probe into Federal Reserve Governor Lisa Cook over mortgage fraud allegations.

Stephen Miran, Trump's pick for Fed board, faces Senate confirmation hearing.

Software giant Atlassian to acquire The Browser Co., a startup offering AI-enhanced web browsers, for \$610M.

## Politics & World Affairs

President Donald Trump will sign an executive order today rebranding the Defense Department as the Department of War, a title last used in 1947; Dept. of War will be the agency's secondary title until Congress approves the change.

DC Attorney General Brian Schwalb (D) sues the Trump administration in effort to end deployment of National Guard; decision follows federal judge's ruling this week that the Guard's deployment in California was unlawful.

Third earthquake hits Afghanistan as the death toll from Sunday's earthquake exceeds 2,200 people, with over 3,600 others injured.



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## Winner Pulls Away Late to Defeat Groton in Homecoming Thriller



**Tristin McGannon.**

(Photo by Paul Kosel)

The Groton Area Tigers hosted the defending Class 11B champion Winner Warriors Friday night for their annual Homecoming game. The matchup featured multiple lead changes as Groton looked to knock off one of South Dakota's premier football programs.

From the opening kickoff, Winner showed why they have been a powerhouse for decades. The Warriors returned the opening kick 50 yards, but a penalty pushed them back to their own 16-yard line. Unfazed, Winner steadily moved downfield, collecting six first downs before Zac Olson scored on a nine-yard run with 2:12 left in the opening quarter. The PAT run failed, giving Winner an early 6-0 lead.

Groton's first possession showed promise, highlighted by an 18-yard catch by Keegen Tracy to cross midfield. However, a costly penalty stalled the drive and the first quarter ended with Groton facing third-and-11.

### Winner's First-Half Control

Early in the second quarter, the Tigers were forced to punt, giving Winner the ball at its own 23-yard line. Winner's methodical run game was on full display, even overcoming a first-and-25 situation caused by back-to-back penalties. Camdyn Anderson capped the lengthy drive with a five-yard touchdown run at the 4:10 mark, and Olson added the two-point conversion to put Winner up 14-0.

Groton needed a spark — and they got one.

After a nine-yard kickoff return by Tristin McGannon, a botched snap set up a second-and-17. On third-and-five, Asher Johnson connected with Tracy, who turned on the jets and outran the Winner defense for a 66-yard touchdown reception.

"Lincoln Krause found Tracy for the two-point conversion," said Groton statistician Tom Woods during the halftime broadcast, "and just like that, we were right back in it." That play cut the Winner lead to 14-8 with 2:28 left before halftime.

Winner threatened to score again with a strong return into Groton territory, but the Tigers' defense came up with a huge stop. On fourth-and-14, the Warriors went for it, but Groton batted down the pass to take over on downs with just 46 seconds remaining. The score held at 14-8 heading into halftime.

### Woods Highlights Winner's Strength

At halftime, Woods reflected on the challenge of facing Winner.

"Winner has won 10 state championships," Woods noted. "The only team in South Dakota that's won more is West Central with 12. They've been to just as many runner-up finishes, and they know how to win."

He added that playing such a disciplined and physical team helps Groton improve.

"Quite honestly, to be a better team, we need to play teams like that," Woods said. "They run a double-wing offense and pound the ball between the tackles. Just when you think you've got them stopped, they'll hit you with a pass."

Woods praised Groton's defensive stand to close the half.



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**Asher Johnson**

(Photo by Paul Kosel)

"Our boys stepped up and made a stop," he said. "That's going to give us momentum. To beat a team like Winner, you've got to play mistake-free football and capitalize on their mistakes."

## **Tigers Take the Lead in Third Quarter**

Groton came out strong in the second half. Just two plays in, the Tigers moved the ball deep into Winner territory. On third-and-six from the 12-yard line, Johnson found Tracy again for a seven-yard touchdown strike. Karson Zak's PAT was good, giving Groton its first lead of the night at 15-14 with 10:10 left in the third quarter.

The Tiger defense roared to life on Winner's next drive. On fourth-and-six deep in their own territory, the Warriors went for it, but Groton swarmed the ball carrier who botched the punt attempt for a turnover on downs at the Winner seven-yard line. Moments later, facing a fourth-and-two, Ryder Johnson caught a two-yard touchdown pass from Asher Johnson. Zak's kick made it 22-14 Groton, electrifying the home crowd.

## **Winner Responds and Pulls Away**

Winner answered quickly, showing their championship pedigree. Starting at their own 31-yard line, they powered through the Groton defense with five first downs, culminating in Olson's 25-yard touch-

down run. Olson added the two-point conversion to tie the game at 22-22 with 2:12 remaining in the third quarter.

Groton's next possession ended in a costly interception. Although Winner's return for 50 yards was negated by a penalty, the Warriors still took over at the Groton 42-yard line as the third quarter ended.

To open the fourth quarter, Winner capitalized on its field position. Carter McKenzie scored on a four-yard run, and Olson caught a pass from Quincy Phillips for the PAT, putting Winner back in front 30-22 with 10:05 remaining.

Groton's offense couldn't sustain a drive on its next possession and was forced to punt. Winner then delivered the final blow — a clock-chewing drive capped by Olson's six-yard touchdown run with just 40 seconds left. The PAT pass was no good, but the Warriors had sealed a 36-22 victory.

## **Coach Wanner's Reflections**

After the game, Groton head coach Shaun Wanner praised his young team for battling one of the state's top programs.

"We went toe-to-toe with one of the perennial powerhouses in the state," Wanner said. "They don't do anything fancy — they just keep coming at you. I think they only threw three passes all night. We just got worn down late in the third quarter and into the fourth."

Wanner emphasized that playing Winner was about growth, not just the scoreboard.

"This is why we wanted this game," he said. "We wanted to get our eighth game in and face a tough opponent. We got better tonight. We were a lot better than we were last week, and that's the goal — to keep improving as the season goes on."

With many young and inexperienced players stepping into key roles, Wanner has preached patience.

"When you graduate your entire backfield, your quarterback, and your running backs, it takes time to develop," he said. "By the time we get into that fourth, fifth, and sixth game, I think we'll be okay."

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Looking ahead to next week's game against Milbank, Wanner kept the focus simple.

"It still comes down to making a few tackles and making some blocks," he said. "If we keep improving like we did this week, good things will happen."

## Game Stats

### Groton Tigers (1-2)

First Downs: 5

Rushing (12 carries, 79 yards)

Ryder Johnson – 3 carries, 55 yards

Ryder Shelley – 4 carries, 18 yards

Asher Johnson – 2 carries, 9 yards

Keegan Tracy – 3 carries, -3 yards

Passing: Asher Johnson – 9 of 12, 114 yards,  
3 TD, 1 INT

Keegan Tracy – 5 catches, 106 yards, 2 TD

Ryder Johnson – 4 catches, 8 yards, 1 TD

Penalties: 3 for 20 yards

Defensive Leaders:

Asher Johnson – 12 tackles

Tucker Hardy – 12 tackles

Ben Hoeft – 11 tackles

Ryder Johnson – 10 tackles

Logan Warrington – 9 tackles

Karter Moody – 8 tackles

### Winner Warriors (2-1)

First Downs: 24

Rushing (64 carries, 297 yards)

Zach Olson – 20 carries, 157 yards

Camdyn Anderson – 14 carries, 57 yards

Carter McKenzie – 8 carries, 48 yards

Riker Oriel – 18 carries, 41 yards

Seth Heath – 3 carries, 19 yards

Tayden Pechota – 1 carry, -25 yards

Passing: Quincy Phillips – 1 of 3, 17 yards

Zach Olson – 1 catch, 17 yards

Fumbles: 5 (none lost)

Penalties: 6 for 45 yards

Defensive Leaders:

Seth Heath – 5 tackles

Camdyn Anderson – 4 tackles

Riker Oriel – 4 tackles



**Keegan Tracy.**

(Photo by Paul Kosel)

## Looking Ahead

Groton now sits at 1-2 on the season and will host Milbank next week. Winner improves to 2-1 and will travel to face Elk Point-Jefferson.

Coach Wanner summed up the night by praising his players:

"Our kids played hard tonight, and that's all we expect," he said. "We'll keep working to get better each week and see where that takes us by playoff time."



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**Karson Zak doing the kickoff flanked by Braeden Fliehs, Julian Rodriguez, Asher Johnson, TC Schuster and Lincoln Krause.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



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**The GHS Pep Band played at the football game.** (Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)



**Flag Football was played at halftime.** (Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)

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**Tom Woods being interviewed at halftime by Paper Paul.** (Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)



**Neat picture of the moon during the football game Friday night.** (Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)



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Groton Area High School marching band members L-R Blake Lord, Lincoln Krause, Brody Lord, Nathan Unzen, JD Schwan, Kason Oswald, Gavin Kroll, and Logan Clockscene.



L-R Libby Cole, Addison Hoeft, Makenna Krause, and Rylie Rose.



The homecoming royalty court back row L-R Ryder Johnson, Gavin Englund, Becker Bosma, and Gage Sippel. Front row L-R Carly Gilbert, Talli Wright, Hannah Sandness, and Rylee Dunker.

**Photos courtesy of Bruce Babcock**



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## Groton Area Marching Band!



Groton Area Homecoming Queen Jerrica Locke and King Keegen Tracy pose prior to the beginning the parade.

Photos courtesy of Bruce Babcock



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Groton and Stratford American Legion post members ride the Legion homecoming float.



Groton American Legion Post Commander Bruce Babcock drives the Humvee pulling this year's homecoming Legion float.



Groton Legion Doug Hamilton with his grandson lead the Groton Area Homecoming parade.

**Photos courtesy of Bruce Babcock**



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Group of Groton Area Junior High boys watching the parade.



Groton Area Junior class float with Taryn Traphagen and McKenna Tietz.



Queen Rylie Dunker of the Carnival of Silver Skates waves to the crowd.

**Photos courtesy of Bruce Babcock**





## SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

### Three of five SD governor hopefuls endorse statewide approach to cellphones in classrooms

**Republican candidate Dusty Johnson brings issue into campaign with announcement in support of a 'broad-stroke policy'**

**BY: MAKENZIE HUBER-SEPTEMBER 6, 2025 7:00 AM**

Three candidates hoping to be South Dakota's next governor support a statewide policy or law banning cellphones from school classrooms. Another said the decision should be left to local school districts, while a potential candidate is seeking local input on the issue.

Most school districts in South Dakota already have a policy in place that doesn't allow cellphones in classrooms. About one-third of school districts take the further step of removing or locking away cellphones during class or school hours, based on a South Dakota Searchlight survey of superintendents and analysis of published school policies.

South Dakota's lone U.S. Rep. Dusty Johnson, a Republican, announced three days after the publication of Searchlight's story that, if elected governor next year, he would seek a statewide prohibition on student cellphone access during class time.

"The state constitution makes it clear that kids should have quality education," Johnson told Searchlight. "The state government setting a broad-stroke policy and then having the execution of that strategy and management done at the local level will give us the best of both worlds."

South Dakota is one of 24 states to not implement a statewide policy or law to ban or limit cellphone use in classrooms. State lawmakers considered a statewide effort last legislative session, but held off after school administrators said they'd prefer to determine policies at the local level. The Legislature instead passed a resolution encouraging school boards to implement such policies.

According to a 2024 Pew Research Center survey, 72% of U.S. high school teachers say cellphone distraction is a major problem in the classroom. Some research suggests student performance improves after schools ban cellphones.

Other candidates weigh in

Two other announced candidates for governor said they support efforts to establish a statewide law or policy removing cellphones from classrooms.

South Dakota House Speaker Jon Hansen, R-Dell Rapids, would support a statewide policy to ensure students focus "on learning, not on distractions" and foster healthier social interactions.

Democrat Robert Arnold, a 20-year-old college student who said he plans to run for governor, said a statewide policy or law would benefit students, but added that other efforts would be more impactful on student wellbeing, including providing universal free lunch and ensuring the federal Department of Education remains intact. Arnold said Johnson should support those efforts.

"Not a peep from him about policies that will have a real impact on our people, but he'll of course propose legislation that at least makes it look like he cares about our children's education," Arnold said in an emailed statement.

Aberdeen businessman and Republican Toby Doeden said phones in classrooms are "roadblocks" to education and a "breeding ground" for negative influences and distractions. But he said school boards should address the issue.

"Allowing state leaders to mandate individual policy changes at the local level would set a terrible precedent and is an obvious constitutional overreach," Doeden said in a text message. "As governor, I would

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absolutely lean on our local school boards to ban cellphones from the classrooms.”

Current Republican Gov. Larry Rhoden has not announced his intention to run, but is expected to enter the race. The Rhoden administration is asking school leaders if they prefer cellphone policies that come from the local or state level, spokesperson Josie Harms said in an emailed statement.

First Lady Sandy Rhoden spent the first few months of the Rhoden administration visiting schools to talk about the consequences of using cellphones during school hours.

Students at Platte-Geddes School District, the first in the state to lock away student cellphones during the school day three years ago, said the restriction improved relationships and academics, the first lady said in a statement. The students started to spend less time on their phones outside of school, too, leading to better self-discipline.

“Our students have so much to gain, and the constant distraction impedes their ability to learn,” she said.

School administrator representative encourages local control

Rob Monson, executive director of School Administrators of South Dakota, said school administrators prefer to handle the issue themselves. He surveyed members of his organization last year, when legislators considered introducing a bill.

“I think most school districts are doing what they feel they should and what’s best for their school districts and patrons,” Monson said.

Monson added that if a bill is introduced this legislative session, his organization will likely oppose it.

Johnson hopes the Legislature passes a bill this winter setting a statewide standard, saying it’s a “no-brainer.”

“Once you identify an approach that clearly increases educational outcomes,” Johnson said, “that’s when it’s time to come together as a state and make sure every student is able to benefit from that policy.”

*Makenzie Huber is a lifelong South Dakotan who regularly reports on the intersection of politics and policy with health, education, social services and Indigenous affairs. Her work with South Dakota Searchlight earned her the title of South Dakota’s Outstanding Young Journalist in 2024, and she was a 2024 finalist for the national Livingston Awards.*

## Technical colleges plan to request \$11 million in one-time state funding for building projects

BY: MAKENZIE HUBER-SEPTEMBER 5, 2025

Leaders of the state’s technical college system plan to ask legislators for \$11 million in one-time funds for renovation and building projects at two eastern South Dakota campuses.

Presidents from Lake Area Tech in Watertown and Southeast Tech in Sioux Falls shared their visions with the Board of Technical Education on Thursday during an online meeting. Executive Director Nick Wendell said the “timing feels appropriate” to pursue one-time state funding for the projects.

“I THINK, IN BOTH CASES, THEY CHECK SOME IMPORTANT BOXES AS WE THINK ABOUT OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES AND GROWING GRADUATE CAPACITY IN THE SYSTEM BETWEEN NOW AND THE MIDDLE PART OF THE NEXT DECADE,” WENDELL SAID. WENDELL WILL MEET WITH GOV. LARRY RHODEN AND THE BUREAU OF FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT NEXT WEEK TO DISCUSS THE ONE-TIME REQUESTS AND BOARD-APPROVED \$49 MILLION ASK IN ONGOING FUNDING.

The board did not formally endorse or approve the one-time request, but Wendell said at the end of the meeting he sensed a “spirit of support” from members.

While state revenue projections for ongoing funding are tight, Wendell told South Dakota Searchlight after the meeting that his organization typically enters legislative sessions “assuming there would be some one-time funding for targeted projects.”

“We’re following the same ongoing revenue projections everyone else is, including the funding that might be challenging to come by,” Wendell said. “But if there are opportunities for one-time funds, we wanted to identify some of those targeted projects we think would be great priorities to invest in.”

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## Lake Area Tech student center renovation

Lake Area Tech plans to renovate 14,000 square feet of its student center to centralize its services, including counseling, testing and adult education learning centers. The adult learning center is currently in a building that is "beyond its useful life," President Tiffany Sanderson told board members, and is expected to be replaced by a new public safety training center in the coming years.

The student center renovation would cost \$4 million. Lake Area Tech would cover \$1 million and ask the state for \$3 million.

Sanderson said state funding for the project will spur industry partners to invest in academic changes and other parts of the college's master plan.

"The total plan over the next 10 years is about \$100 million in investment, so this is just 4% of that total project," Sanderson said. "But it's a really critical 4% to build early momentum."

Wendell told board members that to increase graduate numbers in the technical education system, colleges such as Lake Area will have to recruit more non-traditional students.

"In many cases, those are students that will need access to student services to find success on our campuses," Wendell said. "And as a board, we've sort of been committed to this notion that we don't just want to recruit and enroll a broader swath of students, but we want to ensure that they have access to the tools they need to be successful."

## Southeast Tech plans new building and expansion

Southeast Tech plans to build a new center for advanced manufacturing, which would rehouse its advanced manufacturing programs in maintenance technology and mechanical engineering and add 34,000 square feet of lab and classroom space. President Cory Clasemann said the school also plans to expand and renovate its welding space, adding 12,000 square feet for a welding lab and shared fabrication space with the advanced manufacturing programs.

The college's construction, HVAC, mechanical engineering, plumbing and welding programs are all at capacity with a waiting list for enrollment. Advanced manufacturing, Clasemann said, is a priority because it accounts for one out of 10 jobs in South Dakota and is expected to grow its workforce by 6% through 2032 in the state.

**"THIS IS REALLY THE LINCHPIN OF SEVERAL OTHER PIECES," CLASEMANN SAID.**

The project will cost \$24 million overall. About \$16 million will be spent on the advanced manufacturing building and \$7 million on the welding lab expansion, with about \$1 million in design fees.

The school has raised \$1.5 million in private funding with plans to fundraise another \$8 million. The Board of Technical Education plans to request \$8 million from the state. The school secured \$6.5 million through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for the project, which are funds that must be spent by 2031.

"We're mindful of federal spending at the moment, so we'd rather spend them sooner rather than later," Clasemann said. "We are aware that, just with recissions going on, that they could go away."

The project will double enrollment capacity for the school's mechanical engineering program and increase its maintenance technology capacity by 50%. The increase in capacity will free up space for other program expansions.

**CLASEMANN SAID THE TECHNICAL COLLEGE NEEDS "A COUPLE MORE MILLION DOLLARS" TO MOVE FORWARD WITH THE ADVANCED MANUFACTURING BUILDING, WHICH CAN BEGIN WITHOUT FUNDING FOR THE WELDING EXPANSION AND RENOVATION.**

*Makenzie Huber is a lifelong South Dakotan who regularly reports on the intersection of politics and policy with health, education, social services and Indigenous affairs. Her work with South Dakota Searchlight earned her the title of South Dakota's Outstanding Young Journalist in 2024, and she was a 2024 finalist for the national Livingston Awards.*



## Car, furniture and other debris pulled from McCook Lake as state completes \$1 million flood cleanup

BY: JOSHUA HAIAR-

Dirk Lohry said McCook Lake was inundated with all kinds of debris during severe flooding last year. "We had a car, table saw, boats, boat lifts, a lot of furniture," said Lohry, the president of the McCook Lake Association.

All of those items and most of the sediment that washed into the lake have been removed, he said, now that the state's \$1 million cleanup is complete.

Following the June 2024 flood, surveys by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Federal Emergency Management Agency and state officials estimated there was more than 20,000 cubic yards of sediment and debris in the lake.

The state awarded a contract to Three Oaks Construction of North Sioux City after a competitive bidding process. Work began on May 15 and concluded on the Aug. 1 deadline. That's according to Game, Fish and Parks fisheries staffer Kip Rounds, who gave the department's oversight commission a status update during a meeting Thursday in Rapid City.

Crews used both land-based and barge-mounted excavators. The project was funded by the South Dakota Department of Public Safety's emergency and disaster budget.

The McCook Lake Association plans to pump water from the Missouri River next spring to return the lake to recreational levels. At that time, North Sioux City will reopen its public boat ramp at the lake, and the Department of Game, Fish and Parks will lift the no-wake restriction that has been in place since the flood.

What happened?

Three days of rain June 20-22, 2024, in southeast South Dakota surpassed 17 inches in some locations. Local and state authorities implemented a half-century-old diversion plan to handle record-high water that was flowing down the Big Sioux River toward Sioux City. They built a temporary levee across Interstate 29 that tied in with permanent levees to divert water into McCook Lake.

The water was supposed to flow through the 270-acre oxbow lake and drain toward the nearby Missouri River. Instead, it overwhelmed the lake and inundated many of the homes around it.

More than 100 homes near the lake were damaged, and 20 were destroyed. Many residents said the flood surge came suddenly, after they'd received little to no warning.

McCook Lake's north shore neighborhood is still working to return the area to its pre-flood look, with some damaged homes, property and infrastructure remaining unrepaired.

*Joshua Haiar is a reporter based in Sioux Falls. Born and raised in Mitchell, he joined the Navy as a public affairs specialist after high school and then earned a degree from the University of South Dakota. Prior to joining South Dakota Searchlight, Joshua worked for five years as a multimedia specialist and journalist with South Dakota Public Broadcasting.*

## Trump signs order to change name of Department of Defense to Department of War

BY: JACOB FISCHLER

President Donald Trump signed an executive order Friday to rename the Department of Defense as the Department of War.

Just before Trump signed the order in the Oval Office late Friday afternoon, he and Pete Hegseth, the secretary in charge of the department, who stood next to Trump during the signing, said the renaming reflected their intention to return to a more aggressive mindset for the military.

"It's restoring, as you've guided us to, Mr. President, restoring the warrior ethos," Hegseth said. "The War Department is going to fight decisively, not endless conflicts. It's going to fight to win, not not to lose."

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We're going to go on offense, not just on defense. Maximum lethality, not tepid legality. Violent effect, not politically correct. We're going to raise up warriors, not just defenders."

The text of the order calls "Secretary of War" a "secondary" title for Hegseth. "The Secretary of Defense is authorized the use of this additional secondary title — the Secretary of War — and may be recognized by that title in official correspondence, public communications, ceremonial contexts, and non-statutory documents within the executive branch," reads the order.

Defense Department history

The Department of War and the Department of the Navy were Cabinet departments from the nation's founding until 1947, when Congress combined them, along with the Department of the Air Force, into a new National Military Establishment. Congress changed that name to the Defense Department two years later.

Trump said Friday that renaming 76 years ago revealed a "political correctness" in the military that contributed to poorer results on the battlefield. The U.S. has not won a major war since the reorganization, he said.

"We could have won every war, but we really chose to be very politically correct or wokey, and we just fight forever and then, we wouldn't lose, really, we just fight to sort of tie," he said. "We never wanted to win wars that every one of them we would have won easily with just a couple of little changes or a couple of little edicts."

Congress to be asked to act

Because the department's name came from an act of Congress, it's unclear if Trump has the power to rename it with an executive order.

The president said Friday he didn't know if it would be necessary for Congress to be involved, but that he would ask lawmakers to approve the change.

"I don't know, but we're going to find out," he said when asked if Congress would codify the renaming. "But I'm not sure they have to ... There's a question as to whether or not they have to, but we'll put it before Congress."

Trump added that the cost of replacing signage and other materials associated with the department would be minimal.

The order says: "Within 60 days of the date of this order, the Secretary of War shall submit to the President, through the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs, a recommendation on the actions required to permanently change the name of the Department of Defense to the Department of War. This recommendation shall include the proposed legislative and executive actions necessary to accomplish this renaming."

Sen. Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, the chair of the Appropriations subcommittee with jurisdiction over the department who has often clashed with Trump, including on defense spending, said on social media that the name change was not meaningful without greater financial investment.

"If we call it the Dept. of War, we'd better equip the military to actually prevent and win wars," the former Senate Republican leader wrote. "Can't preserve American primacy if we're unwilling to spend substantially more on our military than Carter or Biden. 'Peace through strength' requires investment, not just rebranding."

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



## Federal judge blocks Noem from ending temporary protections for Venezuelans, Haitians

BY: ARIANA FIGUEROA

WASHINGTON — A San Francisco federal court Friday blocked the Trump administration from ending temporary protections for hundreds of thousands of nationals from Venezuela and Haiti.

The decision from U.S. District Judge Edward Chen of the Northern District of California comes as the Department of Homeland Security Friday filed a notice ending Temporary Protected Status by Nov. 7 for a group of 250,000 Venezuelans who were granted deportation protections in 2021 by President Donald Trump.

Chen found that DHS Secretary Kristi Noem's decision to undo extended protections for Venezuelans was baseless and preordained for the "purpose of expediting termination of Venezuela's TPS."

"DHS began drafting the decision to vacate within days after President Trump began his second administration," Chen said. "There is no indication that the Secretary or DHS consulted any other government agencies or conducted an internal evaluation as part of this process."

Chen said Noem's decision to end TPS for Haiti "was not materially different from that carried out for Venezuela."

DHS to appeal

In a statement to States Newsroom, a DHS spokesperson said the agency will appeal the decision.

"While this order delays justice, Secretary Noem will use every legal option at the Department's disposal to end this chaos and prioritize the safety of Americans," the spokesperson said.

Former President Joe Biden granted TPS holders from Venezuela protections until October 2026 and protections until February 2026 for holders from Haiti.

In Friday's decision, the judge said decisions on TPS have been carefully considered in the past.

"For 35 years, the TPS statute has been faithfully executed by presidential administrations from both parties, affording relief based on the best available information obtained by the Department of Homeland Security ("DHS") in consultation with the State Department and other agencies, a process that involves careful study and analysis. Until now," Chen said.

TPS is granted when a national's home country is deemed too dangerous to return to, for reasons such as violence, political instability or extreme natural disasters.

The Trump administration has moved to end that status, which protects immigrants from deportation and grants work permits, as it aims to limit legal pathways in its immigration crackdown. Trump tried to end TPS for Haiti during his first term, but was blocked by the courts.

"This case arose from action taken post haste by the current DHS Secretary, Kristi Noem, to revoke the legal status of Venezuelan and Haitian TPS holders, sending them back to conditions that are so dangerous that even the State Department advises against travel to their home countries," said Chen, who was appointed by former President Barack Obama.

900,000 people with legal protections

More than 600,000 Venezuelans have TPS after arriving in the United States in 2021 and 2023. More than 300,000 Haitians have TPS, which was granted after a catastrophic earthquake in 2010.

Chen said that while the Supreme Court in May allowed the Trump administration to continue with removing protections for hundreds of thousands of Venezuelans, he argued the justices did not make a decision on the merits of the case.

"The Supreme Court's order did not bar this Court from adjudicating the case on the merits and entering a final judgement issuing relief under... the (Administrative Procedure Act)," Chen wrote.

An appeals court last week ruled in a separate but related case regarding TPS for Venezuelans that deemed the Trump administration likely acted unlawfully in ending the protected status for those immigrants.

*Ariana covers the nation's capital for States Newsroom. Her areas of coverage include politics and policy, lobbying, elections and campaign finance.*

## FEMA would be a Cabinet-level agency under bipartisan bill approved by US House panel

BY: JENNIFER SHUTT-SEPTEMBER 5, 2025 3:42 PMUPDATED 4:13 PM

WASHINGTON — A broadly bipartisan bill to overhaul and elevate the Federal Emergency Management Agency is heading toward the U.S. House floor after a key committee approved the legislation.

The Transportation and Infrastructure panel voted 57-3 Sept. 3 to advance the measure, which would make dozens of changes to how the federal government prepares for and responds to natural disasters.

"FEMA is where Americans look for help after what is the worst day in their lives, so it is critical that the agency be postured to respond at all times," said Arizona Democratic Rep. Greg Stanton, one of the co-sponsors. "This bill gives FEMA independence and tools it needs to respond to disaster."

Republican Reps. Tim Burchett of Tennessee, Eric Burlison of Missouri and Scott Perry of Pennsylvania voted against reporting the bill to the House floor. Their offices didn't respond to requests for comment asking why they opposed the legislation.

The 207-page measure, formally called the Fixing Emergency Management for Americans (FEMA) Act of 2025, would remove FEMA from the Department of Homeland Security and make it a Cabinet-level agency.

The legislation would create one application for federal natural disaster assistance from FEMA, the Department of Agriculture, Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Small Business Administration.

It would also give local and state governments more flexibility in deciding which types of emergency housing best meet the needs of their residents following different natural disasters.

Republicans and Democrats on the committee praised the various changes the measure would make during a two-hour markup that offered an increasingly rare example of bipartisanship on Capitol Hill.

Donations from charities and FEMA

North Carolina Republican Rep. David Rouzer and California Democratic Rep. Laura Friedman both spoke in support of a provision reversing a policy that they said penalized people who received assistance from charities following a natural disaster.

That led her to introduce the Don't Penalize Victims Act with Mississippi Republican Rep. Mike Ezell, which was rolled into the FEMA overhaul bill.

"I want to thank all the members of this committee, and particularly Chair (Sam) Graves and ranking member (Rick) Larsen, for their understanding of the importance of this measure to victims, who were seeing the charity that their churches, that their friends are raising for them be counted as income and deducted from the amount they were getting from FEMA," Friedman said.

Oregon Democratic Rep. Val Hoyle spoke in support of making FEMA a Cabinet-level department, saying that it's been bogged down in the Department of Homeland Security since just after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

"After being folded into the Department of Homeland Security, it became buried in layers of bureaucracy," Hoyle said. "DHS's sprawling mission — cybersecurity, counterterrorism, immigration enforcement, transportation security and more — has left FEMA less able to act with the speed and agility disaster-stricken communities need."

Hoyle said the legislation restoring FEMA's "independence will help insulate disaster relief from" the types of "political pressures" that exist throughout the Homeland Security Department.

Permitting reform

Despite the broadly bipartisan support for the legislation within the committee, it will likely undergo some changes in the weeks and months ahead.

House Natural Resources Chairman Bruce Westerman, R-Ark., and ranking member Jared Huffman, D-Calif., who both sit on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, raised concerns with elements in the FEMA overhaul bill during the markup.

Westerman said he voted for the bill but expected the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee's leadership to work with him to address concerns over "permitting reform issues" that fall under his panel's



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jurisdiction.

"There is one provision on the Endangered Species Act that we have concerns with actually being executable the way it's written," Westerman said. "Again, that's something that's fixable, and we look forward to working with you as we move forward on the bill."

Huffman said he had concerns about how the FEMA overhaul bill addresses "environmental review statutes," which fall under the Natural Resources Committee's purview.

"I, of course, share the goal of cutting red tape. We want disaster-stricken families to be able to rebuild faster. There are ways to do that that also ensure that recovery is durable, resilient and sustainable. That we rebuild once. These are things that (the National Environmental Policy Act) helps to ensure. So I look forward to continuing to work with the committee on this as the bill advances. This is a problem that can be fixed, and I hope it will," Huffman said.

Potomac River water Transportation and Infrastructure Committee members offered just two amendments to the bill — one adopted by voice vote and one withdrawn.

Indiana Democratic Rep. André Carson received broad support for his amendment to require FEMA to inform members of Congress about grants within their districts, a practice he said has changed during the Trump administration.

"We should not need to mandate transparency and accountability, but if FEMA fails to provide this information, my amendment codifies the traditional notifications to Congress," Carson said.

Democratic Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton, who represents the District of Columbia, offered and then withdrew an amendment that would have required FEMA "to submit to Congress a plan to supply emergency drinking water to the nation's capital region during any period the Potomac River becomes unusable."

Offering and then withdrawing an amendment is a common way for members to highlight issues without forcing a vote.

Norton said the Army Corps of Engineers, which is responsible for the city's water supply, only has sufficient reserves for one day should something happen.

"If the Potomac River becomes unusable, which could happen at any moment whether through manmade or natural events, it would pose a significant risk to the residents of the nation's capital, the operations of the federal government, national security and the region's economy," Norton said.

Congress has partially funded a study to identify a backup drinking water supply and additional water storage facilities. But, Norton said, "any solution is years away."

*Jennifer covers the nation's capital as a senior reporter for States Newsroom. Her coverage areas include congressional policy, politics and legal challenges with a focus on health care, unemployment, housing and aid to families.*

## Trump campaigned on closing the Education Department. Reality is more difficult.

**South Dakota Republican Sen. Mike Rounds reintroduced a measure in April to abolish the agency**

**BY: SHAUNEEN MIRANDA**

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump's aim to shutter the Education Department faces steep hurdles in Congress, where Republicans' legislative efforts to abolish the agency remain stalled and appropriators have rejected many of his proposed cuts to education spending.

After campaigning last year on a pledge to shut down the department, Trump came into office promising to follow through, and made some preliminary moves.

He said he wanted Education Secretary Linda McMahon to "put herself out of a job" and signed a sweeping executive order in March calling on her to facilitate the closure of the Education Department to the extent she is permitted to by law.

He won a key victory in the U.S. Supreme Court in July that temporarily cleared the way for the administration to move ahead with mass layoffs at the agency, a plan to dramatically downsize the department

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outlined in that March executive order and his directive to transfer certain services to other agencies.

Court documents show that the department is planning to bring back more than 260 Office for Civil Rights staff affected by those sweeping layoffs stemming from a separate legal challenge against the administration's actions earlier this year.

But after a dizzying array of cuts and changes in the months since Trump took office looking to dismantle the agency, the GOP-controlled Congress — the only body that can abolish the 45-year-old department it created — is throwing up roadblocks to elimination.

## Bills stalled

For starters, the handful of GOP bills in Congress to close down the department face a difficult path in the Senate, which requires at least 60 senators to advance most legislation.

Republicans hold just 53 Senate seats.

In the House, at least four Republicans — Thomas Massie of Kentucky, David Rouzer of North Carolina, Barry Moore of Alabama and Nathaniel Moran of Texas — have introduced bills this year to eliminate the department. Those bills were referred to the House Committee on Education and Workforce, which has not voted on any of them.

In a brief interview at the Capitol on Sept. 3, the committee's chair, Michigan Republican Tim Walberg, said he still intended to eventually dismantle the agency, but had not committed to any particular bill.

"Our intentions are to ultimately dissolve the Department of Education — we know we have to do that in a way that makes sense and so, we'll take a look at all bills," Walberg told States Newsroom.

"I can't say whether they will all come up or not, but we know that, working with the secretary of Education, we're going to right-size it, and some things we'll eliminate, other things we'll shift, as we've done already, over to the Department of Labor to take on some workforce areas," the Michigan Republican said.

The chair acknowledged that there would not be enough votes in the Senate to abolish the agency.

"So what we can do that seems right for our students, for our parents and for our teachers, we'll do," Walberg said.

GOP efforts to dismantle the department are also underway in the Senate.

Sen. Mike Rounds of South Dakota, alongside Sens. Jim Banks of Indiana and Tim Sheehy of Montana, reintroduced a measure in April to abolish the agency.

Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul also reintroduced a bill in March with Sens. Mike Lee of Utah and Bernie Moreno of Ohio to shutter the department. The measure is a companion bill to Massie's legislation.

A spokesperson for Sen. Bill Cassidy, who chairs the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions, said the Louisiana Republican is "working with the administration and colleagues on how Congress can best codify the President's reforms into law," in a statement to States Newsroom.

The spokesperson noted that "President Trump and Republicans are committed to returning education authority to local communities best equipped to meet the needs of students and families."

## Senate rebuffs Trump spending cuts

The administration's attempts to dramatically scale back funding for the department in fiscal 2026 have not been met with much enthusiasm by appropriators in the Senate.

The House and Senate Appropriations committees share jurisdiction over the bill to fund the department for the coming fiscal year.

The Senate committee advanced a bipartisan bill in July, which largely rejects Trump's proposed cuts to education spending and his attempt to dismantle the department.

The bill tightens requirements for the department to have the necessary staffing levels to fulfill its statutory responsibilities and prevents the agency from transferring certain programs to other federal agencies.

The legislation also allocates \$79 billion in discretionary funding for the coming fiscal year, roughly the same as the current level, which could be seen as a slap in the face to the administration's budget request that called for \$12 billion in spending cuts at the agency.

## House includes deep cuts but keeps Pell spending

Meanwhile, the House Appropriations subcommittee dealing with education spending advanced its spending proposal for the agency on Sept. 2, sending the bill to the broader panel.



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The bill aligns much more with the administration's spending cut priorities and education agenda, calling for \$67 billion in discretionary funding at the department.

Part of the bill also reduces funding for Title I grants — which support school districts with high percentages of students who come from low-income families — by \$5.2 billion, according to a summary from committee Republicans.

The majority notes that "despite outsized investment, America's public schools continue to fail children and families."

But spending proposals in both the House and Senate reject the administration's request to significantly reduce the maximum award for the Pell Grant, a government subsidy that helps low-income students pay for college.

Instead, each proposal maintains the maximum award at \$7,395.

House and Senate appropriators have several steps to go before they can even reach the negotiating phase on the bill — which also includes spending on other agencies like the Department of Health and Human Services — and get it closer to becoming law.

It's possible there might not even be a final agreement for months as lawmakers struggle to come to an overall agreement on how much to spend in the coming fiscal year, but the Senate's bipartisan plan might give that chamber more of an advantage if those negotiations take place.

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

## Upcoming Events on GDILIVE.COM



Girls Soccer  
Noon, Sat., Sept. 6, 2026  
West Central at Groton



Groton  
Area  
Tigers  
Groton, SD

**GDILIVE**

 YouTube

A production of the  
**Groton Daily Independent**

For more info: [GDILIVE.COM](https://GDILIVE.COM)



Boys Soccer  
2 p.m., Sat., Sept. 6, 2026  
West Central at Groton



Groton  
Area  
Tigers  
Groton, SD

**GDILIVE**

 YouTube

A production of the  
**Groton Daily Independent**

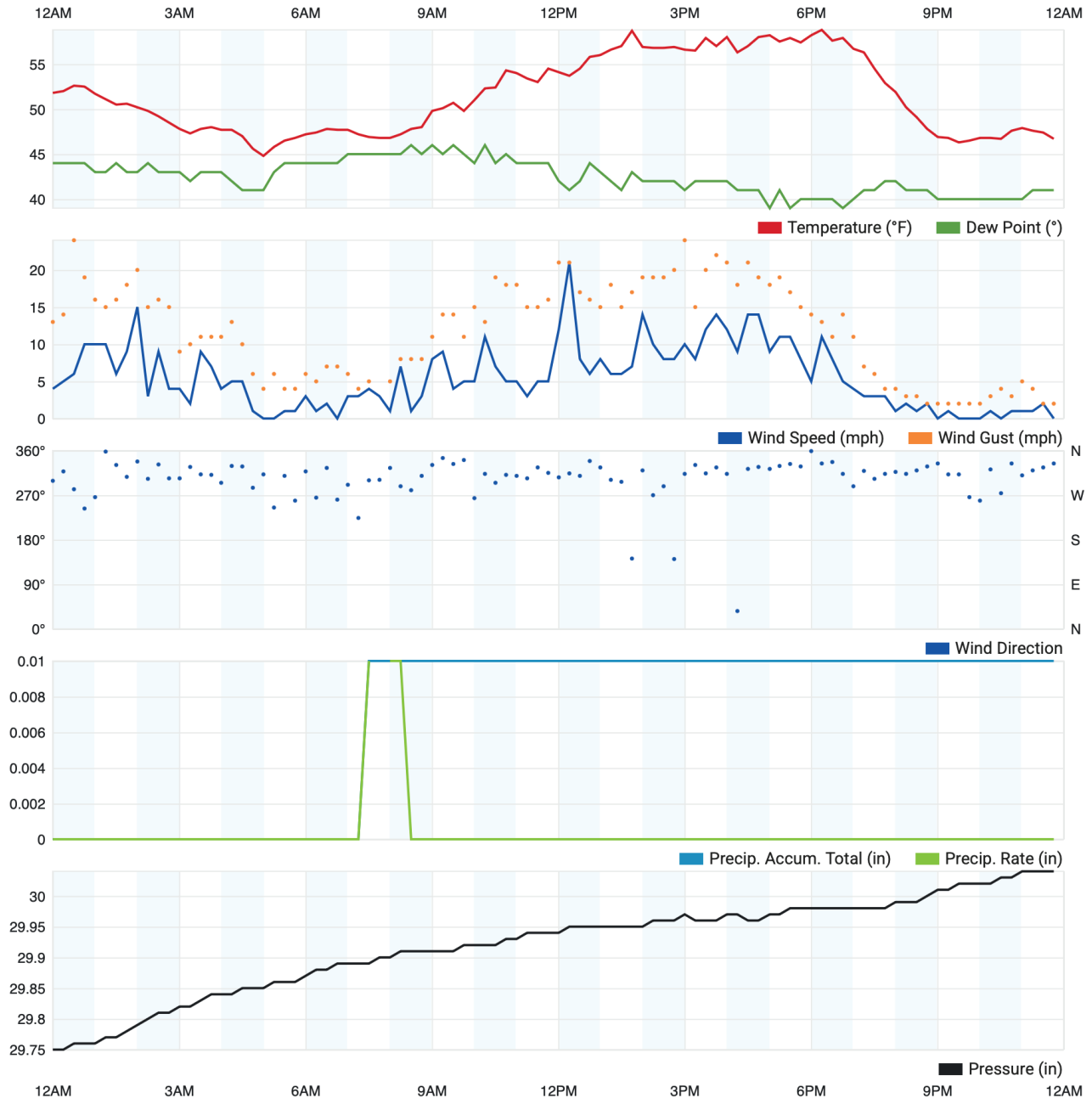
For more info: [GDILIVE.COM](https://GDILIVE.COM)

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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs

September 5, 2025





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Today



High: 64 °F

Sunny

Tonight



Low: 35 °F

Mostly Clear  
then Patchy  
Frost and  
Patchy Fog

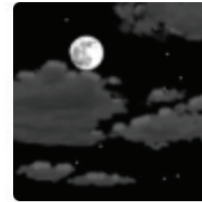
Sunday



High: 70 °F

Patchy Frost  
and Areas Fog  
then Sunny

Sunday Night



Low: 52 °F

Increasing  
Clouds

Monday



High: 82 °F

Mostly Sunny



## Frost Advisory

September 6, 2025  
3:10 AM

### Key Messages:

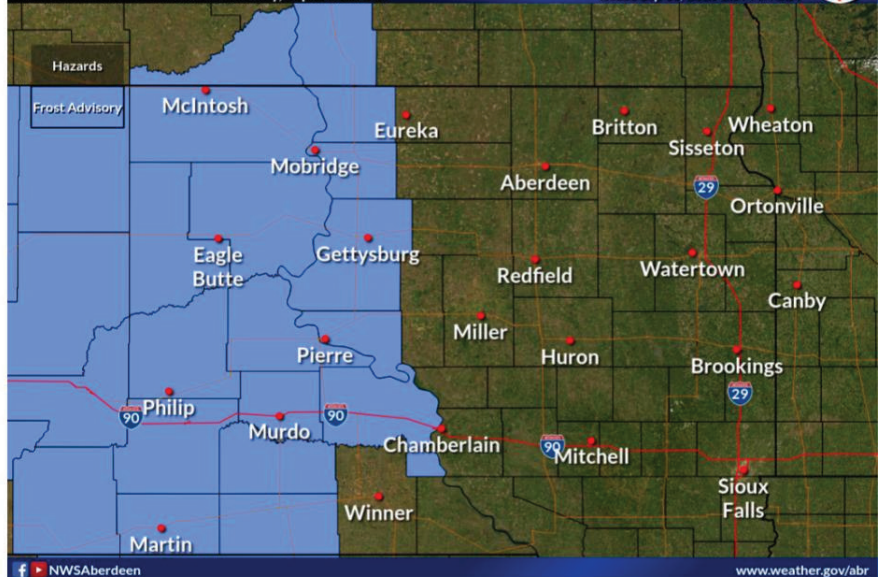
- A Frost Advisory is in effect for central SD from 2 to 8 AM MDT (3 to 9 AM CDT).
- Temperatures could drop below 35 degrees and cause frost to form in portions of central SD.
- Impacts- Frost could harm sensitive outdoor vegetation. Sensitive outdoor plants may be killed if left uncovered.

### Frost Advisory

valid from 2 AM to 8 AM MDT Saturday, September 6th

Weather Forecast Office  
Aberdeen, SD

Issued Sep 06, 2025 2:57 AM CDT



National Weather Service  
Aberdeen, SD

A Frost Advisory is in effect for central SD from 2 AM to 8 AM MDT (3 AM to 9 AM CDT) as temperatures could drop below 35 degrees. Frost could harm or kill sensitive outdoor vegetation if left uncovered.

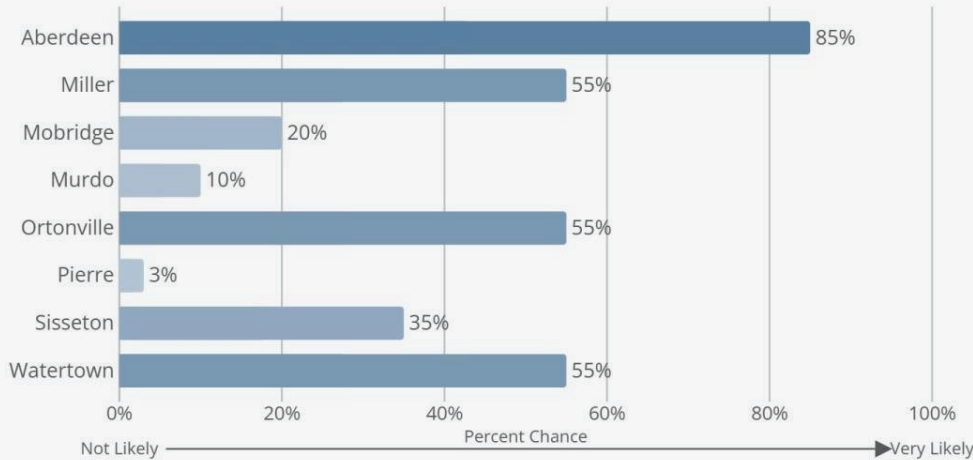
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## Chance of Temperatures Less Than 40°F

Sunday Morning, Sep 7



### Information:

The bar plot shows the percent chance of a weather event occurring based on model predictions from the National Blend of Models. A higher number means greater certainty.

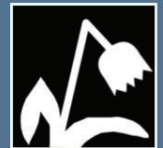
### Additional Details

#### ⚠️ Potential Impacts:

- Patchy frost is possible over portions of north central and northeastern SD into west central MN early Sunday morning

#### 💡 What To Do:

- Cover sensitive plants or bring them inside



Valid: Sun 07 am CDT

Issued: Sat, Sep 6, 2025, 2 am CDT



Frost will be possible again Sunday morning as overnight temperatures dip into the 30s. Northeastern SD and west central MN look to have the coldest temperatures. Make sure to cover sensitive plants or bring them inside.



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## Yesterday's Groton Weather

**High Temp: 59 °F at 6:11 PM**

**Low Temp: 45 °F at 4:56 AM**

**Wind: 24 mph at 12:18 AM**

**Precip: : 0.01**

## Today's Info

Record High: 103 in 1970

Record Low: 32 in 1956

Average High: 79

Average Low: 51

Average Precip in Sept.: 0.41

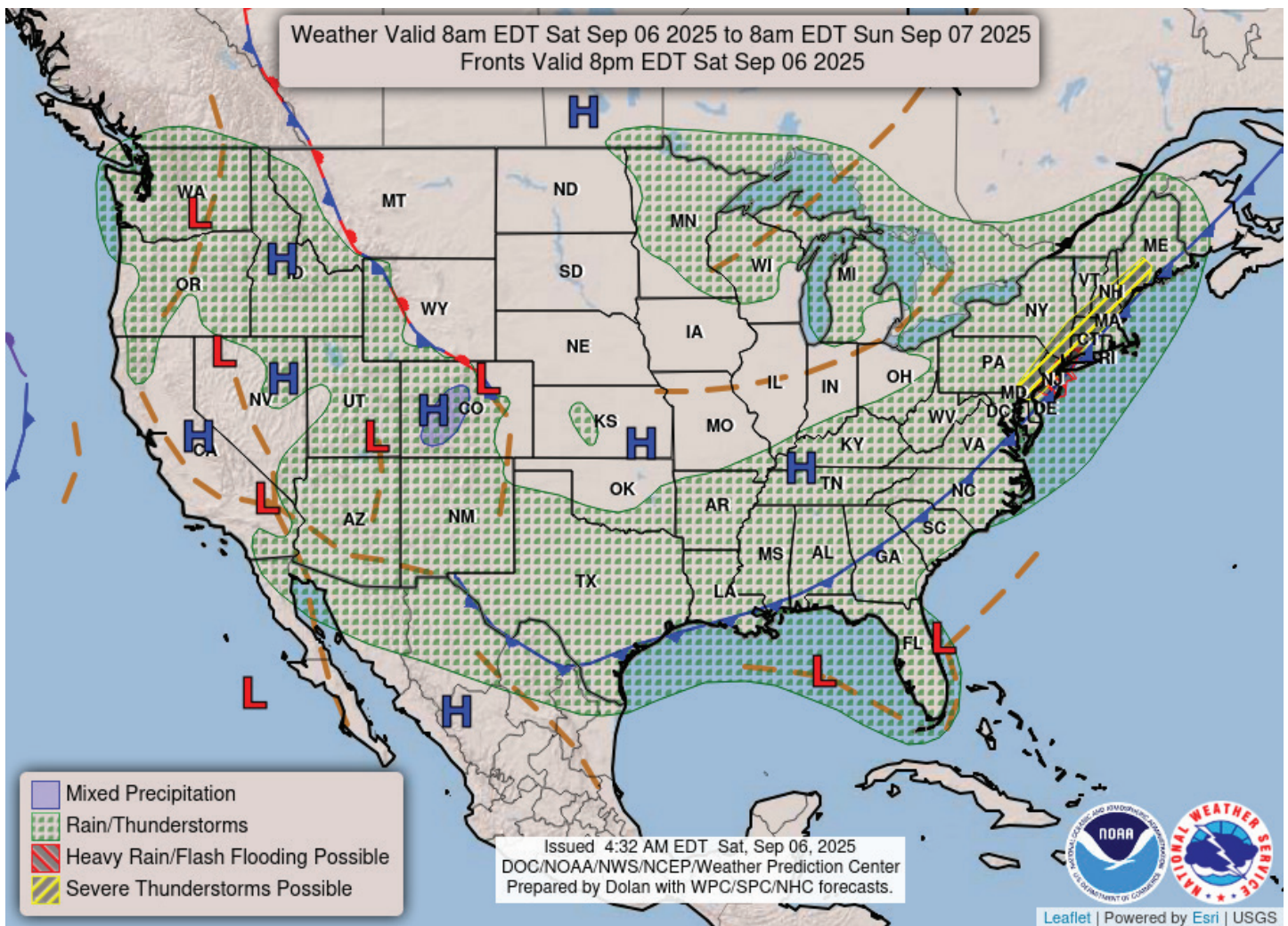
Precip to date in Sept.: 0.02

Average Precip to date: 16.75

Precip Year to Date: 20.32

Sunset Tonight: 8:01 pm

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:01 am



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## **Today in Weather History**

September 6, 2000: Eight miles southwest of Miller, ninety mph winds destroyed three barns and a small garage along with severely damaging a creeper feeder and an enclosed trailer. Another building was moved from its foundation and damaged. An empty school bus was rolled several times before it came to rest atop a fence. Also, a window was broken out of the house.

1667: The "dreadful hurricane of 1667" is considered one of the most severe hurricanes ever to strike Virginia. On the first, this same storm was reported in the Lesser Antilles. The hurricane devastated St. Christopher as no other storm had done before. The "great storm" went on to strike the northern Outer Banks of North Carolina and southeastern Virginia. Area crops (including corn and tobacco) were beaten into the ground.

1881 - Forest fires in Michigan and Ontario resulted in 'Yellow Day' in the northeastern U.S. Twenty villages in Michigan burned, and a total of 500 persons were killed. Fires caused 2.3 million dollars in losses near Lake Huron. Candles were needed at the noon hour. (David Ludlum)

1929 - Iowa's earliest snow of record occurred as a few flakes were noted at 9 AM at Alton. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Thunderstorms produced more than seven inches of rain in Georgia. Four persons drowned, and two others suffered injury, as three couples attempted to cross Mills Stone Creek at Echols Mill in their automobile. Smoke from forest fires in California and Oregon spread across Utah into western Colorado. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Unseasonably cool weather prevailed across the north central and northeastern U.S. Thirty cities reported record low temperatures for the date, including Saint Joseph MO with a reading of 38 degrees. A low of 44 degrees at Indianapolis IN was their coolest reading of record for so early in the season. The mercury dipped to 31 degrees at Hibbing MN and Philips WI. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - An early afternoon thunderstorm produced wind gusts to 104 mph at Winterhaven, FL, flipping over four airplanes, and damaging five others. The high winds also damaged a hangar and three other buildings. A cold front produced strong winds and blowing dust in the Northern High Plains, with gusts to 54 mph reported at Buffalo SD. Powerful Hurricane Gabrielle and strong easterly winds combined to create waves up to ten feet high along the southern half of the Atlantic coast. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)



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A mother of seven once said,

"Before I had children, I read every parenting book I could find. Now, after raising seven kids, I live by just two rules:

Love them even when they least deserve it.

And hold them accountable for everything they do—even when it hurts."

That's not just parenting wisdom. That's divine wisdom.

It sounds a lot like the way God loves and raises us—His children.

God's love isn't conditional. It's not based on performance or perfection. It is steady, sacrificial, and completely undeserved. And He gives it fully—even when we mess up.

But His love doesn't ignore truth. God also holds us accountable. He calls us to take responsibility for our choices—not out of punishment, but so we can grow in character, grace, and spiritual maturity.

Real love says:

"I forgive you."

But it also says,

"I expect more from you—because I know who you are in Christ."

So whether you're raising a child, walking alongside a friend, or simply trying to follow Jesus more faithfully... remember:

Show grace.

Speak truth.

Love unconditionally.

Live accountably.

Because that's what our Heavenly Father does for us—day in and day out.

*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: 09.05.25

6 14 36 58 62 24

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

**\$358,000,000**

NEXT DRAW:

PREVIOUS RESULTS

### LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS: 09.03.25

15 31 34 51 52 5

All Star Bonus: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

**\$2,600,000**

NEXT DRAW: 10 Hrs 19 Mins 57  
Secs

PREVIOUS RESULTS

### LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS: 09.05.25

18 25 35 47 48 2

TOP PRIZE:

**\$7,000/week**

NEXT DRAW: 10 Hrs 34 Mins 57  
Secs

PREVIOUS RESULTS

### DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS: 09.03.25

8 13 21 27 32

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

**\$20,000**

NEXT DRAW: 10 Hrs 34 Mins 57  
Secs

PREVIOUS RESULTS

### POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS: 09.03.25

7 32 39 50 61 4

TOP PRIZE:

**\$10,000,000**

NEXT DRAW: 11 Hrs 3 Mins 57  
Secs

PREVIOUS RESULTS

### POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS: 09.03.25

3 16 29 61 69 22

Power Play: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

**\$1,800,000,000**

NEXT DRAW: 11 Hrs 3 Mins 57  
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

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## News from the **AP** Associated Press

### **PREP VOLLEYBALL=**

Cheyenne-Eagle Butte def. Crow Creek Tribal School, 23-25, 25-23, 25-21, 20-25, 15-11  
Edgemont def. Little Wound, 25-6, 25-6, 25-16  
Mobridge-Pollock def. Belle Fourche, 25-12, 25-16, 25-15  
Sunshine Bible Academy def. Tiospaye Topa, 25-8, 25-20, 25-7  
Gillette Invitational Tournament=  
Cody, Wyo. def. St Thomas More, 25-16, 24-26, 15-4  
Douglas def. Spearfish, 25-15, 25-22  
Rapid City Central def. Sundance, Wyo., 25-21, 25-22  
Rapid City Christian def. Burns, Wyo., 25-9, 25-9  
Rapid City Stevens def. Wright, Wyo., 25-9, 25-10  
Tongue River, Wyo. def. Rapid City Central, 25-18, 25-22  
Southwest Minn. Challenge Tournament=  
Canby, Minn. def. Sioux Falls Roosevelt, 25-23, 25-13  
Chaska, Minn. def. Sioux Falls Roosevelt, 25-10, 25-22

Some high school volleyball scores provided by Scorestream.com, <https://scorestream.com/>

### **PREP FOOTBALL=**

Alcester-Hudson 41, Irene-Wakonda 8  
Deuel 48, Aberdeen Roncalli 26  
Lemmon High School 22, Gettysburg 0  
Madison 21, Dell Rapids 20  
Sunshine Bible Academy 52, Colome 0  
Tea 25, Aberdeen Central 7  
Viborg-Hurley 60, Gayville-Volin High School 14  
Warner 36, Ipswich 30  
Winner 36, Groton 22

Some high school football scores provided by Scorestream.com, <https://scorestream.com/>

## **Davey Johnson, who won World Series twice with Baltimore as player, managed Mets to title, dies**

By STEPHEN WHYNO AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Davey Johnson, an All-Star second baseman who won the World Series twice with the Baltimore Orioles as a player and managed the New York Mets to the title in 1986, has died. He was 82.

Longtime Mets public relations representative Jay Horwitz said Johnson's wife, Susan, informed him of his death after a long illness. Johnson was at a hospital in Sarasota, Florida, when he died Friday, Horwitz said.

Johnson played 13 major league seasons with Baltimore, the Atlanta Braves, Philadelphia Phillies and Chicago Cubs from 1965-78 and won the Gold Glove three times while being voted an All-Star four times. He managed the Mets, Cincinnati Reds, Los Angeles Dodgers and the Washington Nationals during a span from 1984-2013.

Former Nationals general manager Mike Rizzo called it a tough day.

"Davey was a good man, close friend and a mentor," Rizzo said in a text message. "A Hall of Fame caliber manager with a baseball mind ahead of his time."



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Darryl Strawberry, a member of the '86 Mets, on social media called Johnson a remarkable leader who transformed the franchise into a winning organization.

"His ability to empower players to express themselves while maintaining a strong commitment to excellence was truly inspiring," Strawberry posted on Instagram with a photo of him, Johnson and Dwight "Doc" Gooden. "Davey's legacy will forever be etched in the hearts of fans and players alike. My heartfelt condolences go out to Susan Johnson and the entire Johnson family during this difficult time. He will be missed but remembered for his incredible impact on the game and the lives he touched."

Ryan Zimmerman, who played for Johnson with Washington from 2011-13, said Johnson was an even better human than he was a baseball man.

"He knew how to get the best out of everyone — on and off the field," Zimmerman said in a text message. "I learned so much from him, and my career would not have been the same without my years with him. He will be deeply missed by so many people."

Johnson was AL manager of the year in 1997 when Baltimore won the division. He was NL manager of the year in 2012 when the Nationals made the playoffs for the first time since the move from Montreal.

"Davey was a world-class manager," owner Mark Lerner said in a statement. "I'll always cherish the memories we made together with the Nationals, and I know his legacy will live on in the heads and minds of our fans and those across baseball."

AP National Writer Howard Fendrich contributed to this report.

AP MLB: <https://apnews.com/hub/mlb>

## **What to know about a large-scale immigration raid at a Georgia manufacturing plant**

By HALLIE GOLDEN Associated Press

Hundreds of federal agents descended on a sprawling site where Hyundai manufactures electric vehicles in Georgia and detained 475 people, most of them South Korean nationals.

This is the latest in a long line of workplace raids conducted as part of the Trump administration's mass deportation agenda. But the one on Thursday is especially distinct because of its large size and the fact that it targeted a manufacturing site state officials have long called Georgia's largest economic development project.

The detainment of South Korean nationals also sets it apart, as they are rarely caught up in immigration enforcement compared to other nationalities.

Here are some things to know about the raid and the people impacted:

The workers detained

South Korea's Foreign Minister Cho Hyun said Saturday that more than 300 South Koreans were among the 475 people detained.

Some of them worked for the battery plant operated by HL-GA Battery Co., a joint venture by Hyundai and LG Energy Solution that is slated to open next year, while others were employed by contractors and subcontractors at the construction site, according to Steven Schrank, the lead Georgia agent of Homeland Security Investigations.

He said that some of the detained workers had illegally crossed the U.S. border, while others had entered the country legally but had expired visas or had entered on a visa waiver that prohibited them from working.

But an immigration attorney representing two of the detained workers said his clients arrived from South Korea under a visa waiver program that enables them to travel for tourism or business for stays of 90 days or less without obtaining a visa.

Attorney Charles Kuck said one of his clients has been in the U.S. for a couple of weeks, while the other has been in the country for about 45 days, adding that they had been planning to return home soon.

The detainees also included a lawful permanent resident who was kept in custody for having a prior

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record involving firearm and drug offenses, since committing a crime of "moral turpitude" can put their status in jeopardy, Lindsay Williams, a public affairs officer for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, said Saturday.

Williams denied reports that U.S. citizens had been detained at the site since "once citizens have identified themselves, we have no authority."

Hyundai Motor Company said in a statement Friday that none of its employees had been detained as far as it knew and that it is reviewing its practices to make sure suppliers and subcontractors follow U.S. employment laws. LG told The Associated Press that it couldn't immediately confirm how many of its employees or Hyundai workers had been detained.

The South Korean government expressed "concern and regret" over the operation targeting its citizens and is sending diplomats to the site.

"The business activities of our investors and the rights of our nationals must not be unjustly infringed in the process of U.S. law enforcement," South Korean Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lee Jaewoong said in a televised statement from Seoul.

Most of the people detained have been taken to an immigration detention center in Folkston, Georgia, near the Florida state line. None of them have been charged with any crimes yet, Schrank said, but the investigation is ongoing.

Raid is the result of a monthslong investigation

The raid was the result of a monthslong investigation into allegations of illegal hiring at the site, Schrank said.

In a search warrant and related affidavits, agents sought everything from employment records for current and former workers and timecards to video and photos of workers.

Court records filed this week indicated that prosecutors do not know who hired what it called "hundreds of illegal aliens." The identity of the "actual company or contractor hiring the illegal aliens is currently unknown," the U.S. Attorney's Office wrote in a Thursday court filing.

The sprawling manufacturing site

The raid targeted a manufacturing site widely considered one of Georgia's largest and most high profile.

Hyundai Motor Group started manufacturing EVs at the \$7.6 billion plant a year ago. Today, the site employs about 1,200 people in a largely rural area about 25 miles (40 kilometers) west of Savannah.

Agents specifically honed in on an adjacent plant that is still under construction at which Hyundai has partnered with LG Energy Solution to produce batteries that power EVs.

The Hyundai site is in Bryan County, which saw its population increase by more than a quarter in the early 2020s and stood at almost 47,000 residents in 2023, the most recent year data is available. The county's Asian population went from 1.5% in 2018 to 2.2% in 2023, and the growth was primarily among people of Indian descent, according to Census Bureau figures.

Raid was the 'largest single site enforcement operation'

From farms and construction sites to restaurants and auto repair shops, there have been a wide array of workplace raids undertaken in this administration. But most have been smaller, including a raid the same day as the Georgia one in which federal officers took away dozens of workers from a snack-bar manufacturer in Cato, New York.

Other recent high-profile raids have included one in July targeting a legal marijuana farm northwest of Los Angeles. More than 360 people were arrested in one of the largest raids since Trump took office in January. Another one took place at an Omaha, Nebraska, meat production plant and involved dozens of workers being taken away.

Schrank described the one in Georgia as the "largest single site enforcement operation" in the agency's two-decade history.

The majority of the people detained are Koreans. During the 12-month period that ended Sept. 30, 2024, only 46 Koreans were deported during out of more than 270,000 removals for all nationalities, according to Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

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Community members and advocates have mixed reactions

Kemp and other Georgia Republican officials, who had courted Hyundai and celebrated the EV plant's opening, issued statements Friday saying all employers in the state were expected to follow the law.

The nonprofit legal advocacy organization Asian Americans Advancing Justice-Atlanta described the raid in a joint statement as "unacceptable."

"Our communities know the workers targeted at Hyundai are everyday people who are trying to feed their families, build stronger communities, and work toward a better future," the statement said.

Sammie Rentz opened the Viet Huong Supermarket less than 3 miles (4.8 kilometers) from the Hyundai site six months ago and said he worries business may not bounce back after falling off sharply since the raid.

"I'm concerned. Koreans are very proud people, and I bet they're not appreciating what just happened. I'm worried about them cutting and running, or starting an exit strategy," he said.

Ellabell resident Tanya Cox, who lives less than a mile from the Hyundai site, said she had no ill feelings toward Korean nationals or other immigrant workers at the site. But few neighbors were employed there, and she felt like more construction jobs at the battery plant should have gone to local residents.

"I don't see how it's brought a lot of jobs to our community or nearby communities," Cox said.

AP reporter Mike Schneider in Orlando, Florida contributed to this report.

## **Israel calls on famine-stricken residents to flee and targets more high-rises in Gaza City**

By WAFAA SHURAF and BASSEM MROUE Associated Press

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip (AP) — The Israeli army issued evacuation orders and targeted high-rise buildings in famine-stricken Gaza City on Saturday, calling on Palestinians to move to the territory's south as it escalates operations ahead of a new offensive to seize the city of nearly 1 million.

Aid groups warn that a large-scale evacuation would exacerbate the humanitarian crisis in Gaza City, which the world's leading hunger watchdog says is suffering from famine as a result of Israel's restrictions on food into the territory.

Most families have already been displaced several times over the nearly two-year-long Israel-Hamas war and say they have nowhere left to go, as the Israeli military has repeatedly bombed tent encampments that it had designated as humanitarian zones.

Some Palestinians — who at times have nothing to eat for days in a row — say they are too weak to uproot themselves again.

Israeli army urges Palestinians to move to a 'humanitarian zone'

Israeli military spokesperson Avichay Adraee urged Palestinians on Saturday to flee to the south of the Gaza Strip, saying on social media platform X that the army had declared the makeshift tent encampment of Muwasi and parts of the southern town of Khan Younis to be a humanitarian zone.

It shared a map of Khan Younis neighborhoods within the redrawn borders of the humanitarian zone, which covered the district home to Nasser Hospital. Israel hit the hospital last week in a strike that killed 22 people, including five journalists — among them Mariam Dagga, who worked for The Associated Press and other media outlets.

Palestinians would be able to drive from Gaza City to Khan Younis, and the overcrowded coastal community of Muwasi to the town's west, via a designated road without being searched, Adraee said.

Aid groups have raised alarm about woefully inadequate shelter, sanitation, water and food in Muwasi. Months of bombardment have decimated civilian infrastructure in Khan Younis.

The military said in a statement that it would work to provide field hospitals, water pipelines and food supplies within its newly designated humanitarian zone.

The United Nations on Saturday said its staff would remain in Gaza City to provide badly needed aid to Palestinians caught up in Israel's renewed assault on the city. It said Palestinians who heed Israeli evacuation orders must be able to return voluntarily when the situation allows.



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Exhausted and despairing, many Palestinians said they won't pack up and leave again.

"Nowhere is safe across the strip," said Gaza City resident Ayman Abo Saif, adding that the surge of displaced people in the overcrowded south had sent rents soaring to over \$7 a day for just 25 square meters (270 square feet).

Israel targets high-rises in Gaza City

Israel on Saturday issued evacuation warnings for two high-rises in Gaza City and surrounding tents, with Adraee, the military spokesperson, saying that the buildings were targets because Hamas had infrastructure inside or near them. Hamas didn't comment on the allegations.

Soon after, Adraee said that the military had struck one of the buildings. There was no immediate information on casualties.

Israel Katz, Israel's defense minister, posted a video of the tower collapsing in an enormous cloud of smoke along with the words: "We continue."

The strike comes a day after Israel hit another high-rise building in Gaza City, saying Hamas militants used it for surveillance, without providing evidence. Hamas denied those claims.

The leveling of high-rises comes as Israel ramps up its offensive after announcing last month it planned to take control of Gaza's largest northern city, where many families are crammed into tents in the ruins of bombed-out buildings, in an effort to dislodge Hamas.

Earlier this week, the Israeli military said it had already seized control of 40% of the city.

At Shifa Hospital in Gaza City on Saturday, officials were counting the dead and tending to the wounded from Israeli bombardment the day before.

They said 15 people had been killed, including a family of five whose apartment was destroyed in an Israeli airstrike on the city's Shati refugee camp and civilians killed by Israeli gunfire while seeking aid near the Zikim crossing between the Gaza Strip and Israel.

More than 2,000 Palestinians have been killed while seeking aid at distribution points or along U.N. convoy routes, the Gaza Health Ministry reports, many of them by Israeli fire.

The Israeli military did not immediately respond to a request for comment on those killed Friday.

Israeli hostage families appeal to Trump

Israelis have staged widespread protests over the military's renewed assault on Gaza City, fearing it will further endanger the remaining hostages held in the strip, 20 of whom Israel believes to still be alive.

Those fears intensified on Friday when Hamas released a propaganda video showing two hostages, Guy Gilboa-Dalal and Alon Ohel, being held in Gaza City.

Families of the hostages have accused Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of failing to prioritize the safety of their loved ones and called on U.S. President Donald Trump to help accelerate the release of Israelis in Hamas captivity.

The Hostages and Missing Families Forum, a group representing many families of the hostages, thanked Trump and his envoy Steve Witkoff on Saturday for their work advancing Israel-Hamas ceasefire negotiations. The statement praised them for "unwavering determination, courage and compassion."

Yet for all their appeals, a lasting truce has proven elusive. Hamas said it had accepted a ceasefire proposal from Arab mediators last month. Israel has not yet responded to the latest offer, vowing the war will continue until Hamas disarms and releases all Israeli hostages.

It also has insisted on retaining open-ended security control of the territory of some 2 million Palestinians — a condition unacceptable to Hamas.

The war erupted when Hamas-led militants invaded southern Israel and killed around 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and abducted 251 others on Oct. 7, 2023. Most have since been released in ceasefires or other agreements.

Israel's retaliatory offensive has killed more than 64,000 Palestinians, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which does not distinguish between civilians and combatants beyond saying that women and children make up around half the dead.

Mroue reported from Beirut.

Follow AP coverage at <https://apnews.com/hub/israel-hamas-war>

## How Donald Trump is weaponizing the government in his second term to settle personal scores

By JONATHAN J. COOPER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump, once a casino owner and always a man in search of his next deal, is fond of a poker analogy when sizing up partners and adversaries.

"We have much bigger and better cards than they do," he said of China last month. Compared with Canada, he said in June, "we have all the cards. We have every single one." And most famously, he told Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in their Oval Office confrontation earlier this year: "You don't have the cards."

The phrase offers a window into the world view of Trump, who has spent his second stint in the White House amassing cards to deploy in pursuit of his interests.

Seven months into his second term, he's accumulated presidential power that he's used against universities, media companies, law firms and individuals he dislikes. A man who ran for president as an angry victim of a weaponized "deep state" is, in some ways, supercharging government power and training it on his opponents.

And the supporters who responded to his complaints about overzealous Democrats aren't recoiling. They're egging him on.

"Weaponizing the state to win the culture war has been essential to their agenda," said David N. Smith, a University of Kansas sociologist who has extensively researched the motivations of Trump voters. "They didn't like it when the state was mobilized to restrain Trump, but they're happy to see the state acting to fight the culture war on their behalf."

How Trump has weaponized the government

Trump began putting the federal government to work for him within hours of taking office in January, and he's been collecting and using power in novel ways ever since. It's a high-velocity push to carry out his political agendas and grudges.

This past month, hundreds of federal agents and National Guard troops fanned out across Washington after Trump drew on a never-used law that allows him to take control of law enforcement in the nation's capital. He's threatened similar deployments in other cities run by Democrats, including Baltimore, Chicago, New York and New Orleans. He also fired a Federal Reserve governor, pointing to unproven claims of mortgage fraud.

Trump, his aides and allies throughout the executive branch have trained the government, or threatened to, on a dizzying array of targets:

—He threatened to block a stadium plan for the Washington Commanders football team unless it re-adopted the racial slur it used as a moniker until 2020.

—He revoked security clearances and tried to block access to government facilities for attorneys at law firms he disfavors.

—He revoked billions of dollars in federal research funds and sought to block international students from elite universities. Under pressure, Columbia University agreed to a \$220 million settlement, the University of Pennsylvania revoked records set by transgender swimmer Lia Thomas and presidents resigned from the University of Virginia and Northwestern University.

—He has fired or reassigned federal employees targeted for their work, including prosecutors who worked on cases involving him.

—He dropped corruption charges against New York Mayor Eric Adams to gain cooperation in his crack-down on immigrants living in the country illegally.

—He secured multimillion-dollar settlements against media organizations in lawsuits that were widely

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regarded as weak cases.

—Attorney General Pam Bondi is pursuing a grand jury review of the origins of the Trump-Russia investigation and appointed a special prosecutor to scrutinize New York Attorney General Letitia James and U.S. Sen. Adam Schiff.

That's not weaponizing government, says White House spokesperson Harrison Fields; it's wielding power.

"What the nation is witnessing today is the execution of the most consequential administration in American history," Fields said, "one that is embracing common sense, putting America first, and fulfilling the mandate of the American people."

Trump has a sixth sense for power

There's a push and a pull to power. It is both given and taken. And through executive orders, personnel moves, the bully pulpit and sheer brazenness, Trump has claimed powers that none of his modern predecessors came close to claiming.

He has also been handed power by many around him. By a fiercely loyal base that rides with him through thick and thin. By a Congress and Supreme Court that so far have ceded power to the executive branch. By universities, law firms, media organizations and other institutions that have negotiated or settled with him.

The U.S. government is powerful, but it's not inherently omnipotent. As Trump learned to his frustration in his first term, the president is penned in by the Constitution, laws, court rulings, bureaucracy, traditions and norms. Yet in his second term, Trump has managed to eliminate, steamroll, ignore or otherwise neutralize many of those guardrails.

Leaders can exert their wills through fear and intimidation, by determining the topics that are getting discussed and by shaping people's preferences, Steven Lukes argued in a seminal 1974 book, "Power: A Radical View." Lukes, a professor emeritus at New York University, said Trump exemplifies all three dimensions of power. Trump's innovation, Lukes said, is "epistemic liberation" — a willingness to make up facts without evidence.

"This idea that you can just say things that aren't true, and then it doesn't matter to your followers and to a lot of other people ... that seems to me a new thing," at least in liberal democracies, Lukes said. Trump uses memes and jokes more than argument and advocacy to signal his preferences, he said.

Trump ran against government weaponization

Central to Trump's 2024 campaign was his contention that he was the victim of a "vicious persecution" perpetrated by "the Biden administration's weaponized Department of Injustice."

Facing four criminal cases in New York, Washington and Florida, Trump said in 2023 that he yearned not to end the government weaponization, but to harness it. "IF YOU GO AFTER ME, I'M COMING AFTER YOU!" Trump wrote on Truth Social on Aug. 4, 2023.

"If I happen to be president and I see somebody who's doing well and beating me very badly, I say, 'Go down and indict them,'" he said in a Univision interview on Nov. 9, 2023. And given a chance by a friendly Fox News interviewer to assure Americans that he would use power responsibly, he responded in December that year that he would not be a dictator "except on day one."

He largely backed off those threats as the election got closer, even as he continued to campaign against government weaponization. When he won, he declared an end to it.

"Never again will the immense power of the state be weaponized to persecute political opponents — something I know something about," Trump said in his second inaugural address.

A month later: "I ended Joe Biden's weaponization soon as I got in," Trump said in a Feb. 22 speech at the Conservative Political Action Conference outside Washington. And 10 days after that: "We've ended weaponized government, where, as an example, a sitting president is allowed to viciously prosecute his political opponent, like me."

Two days later, on March 6, Trump signed a sweeping order targeting a prominent law firm that represents Democrats. And on April 9, he issued presidential memoranda directing the Justice Department to investigate two officials from his first administration, Chris Krebs and Miles Taylor.

With that, the weaponization has come full circle. Trump is no longer surrounded by tradition-bound



lawyers and government officials, and his instinct to play his hand aggressively faces few restraints.

## **What to know about the trial of the man accused of trying to assassinate Trump in Florida**

By DAVID FISCHER Associated Press

FORT PIERCE, Fla. (AP) — A federal trial is scheduled to begin Monday for a man charged with trying to assassinate Donald Trump as he played golf in Florida in September 2024.

Jury selection is expected to take three days, with attorneys questioning three sets of 60 prospective jurors. They're trying to find 12 jurors and four alternates. Opening statements are scheduled to begin Thursday, and prosecutors will begin their case immediately after that. The court has blocked off four weeks for the trial, but attorneys are expecting they'll need less time.

Here's what to know about the case.

The judge lets Routh represent himself

U.S. District Judge Aileen Cannon signed off in July on Ryan Routh's request to represent himself during his trial, but said court-appointed attorneys need to remain as standby counsel.

The judge told Routh she believes it's a bad idea for Routh to represent himself, but he wouldn't be dissuaded. Routh, who has described the extent of his education as two years of college after earning his GED certificate, told Cannon that he understood the potential challenges and would be ready.

Cannon confirmed during a hearing earlier this week that Routh would be dressed in professional business attire for the trial. She also explained to Routh that he would be allowed to use a podium while speaking to the jury or questioning witnesses, but he would not have free rein of the courtroom.

"If you make any sudden movements, marshals will take decisive and quick action to respond," Cannon said.

Routh is a self-styled mercenary leader

The 59-year-old Routh was a North Carolina construction worker who in recent years had moved to Hawaii. A self-styled mercenary leader, Routh spoke out to anyone who would listen about his dangerous, sometimes violent plans to insert himself into conflicts around the world, witnesses have told The Associated Press.

In the early days of the war in Ukraine, Routh tried to recruit soldiers from Afghanistan, Moldova and Taiwan to fight the Russians. In his native Greensboro, North Carolina, he had a 2002 arrest for eluding a traffic stop and barricading himself from officers with a fully automatic machine gun and a "weapon of mass destruction," which turned out to be an explosive with a 10-inch-long fuse.

In 2010, police searched a warehouse Routh owned and found more than 100 stolen items, from power tools and building supplies to kayaks and spa tubs. In both felony cases, judges gave Routh either probation or a suspended sentence.

Routh is charged with attempted assassination

Authorities said Routh tried to assassinate Trump, the Republican nominee for presidential, while he played golf at his golf club in West Palm Beach.

Routh is facing five felony counts in federal court in Fort Pierce. They include attempted assassination of a major presidential candidate; possessing a firearm to carry out a violent crime; assaulting a federal officer; felon in possession of a firearm and ammunition; and possession of a firearm with an obliterated serial number.

In addition to the federal charges, Routh also has pleaded not guilty to state charges of terrorism and attempted murder.

Same judge presided over Trump case

Cannon is the same judge who presided over another high-profile case involving Trump — the classified documents case.

Last year, Cannon sided with Trump's lawyers who said the special counsel who filed the charges was illegally appointed by the U.S. Justice Department. Cannon's ruling halted a criminal case that at the time

it was filed was widely regarded as the most perilous of all the legal threats the president faced before he returned to office last January.

Cannon was a former federal prosecutor who was nominated to the bench by Trump in 2020.

Trump was not hurt by Routh

Trump was uninjured, and there's no evidence that Routh fired his weapon at the golf course. U.S. Secret Service agents stationed a few holes up from where Trump was playing golf noticed the muzzle of an AK-style rifle sticking through the shrubbery that lines the course, roughly 400 yards away. An agent fired, and the gunman dropped the rifle and fled in an SUV, leaving the firearm behind along with two backpacks, a scope used for aiming and a GoPro camera. He was later stopped by law enforcement in a neighboring county.

Last September's alleged assassination attempt took place just nine weeks after Trump survived another attempt on his life in Pennsylvania.

## **Biden chooses Delaware for his presidential library as his team turns to raising money for it**

By AAMER MADHANI Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former President Joe Biden has decided to build his presidential library in Delaware and has tapped a group of former aides, friends and political allies to begin the heavy lift of fundraising and finding a site for the museum and archive.

The Joe and Jill Biden Foundation this past week approved a 13-person governance board that is charged with steering the project. The board includes former Secretary of State Antony Blinken, longtime adviser Steve Ricchetti, prolific Democratic fundraiser Rufus Gifford and others with deep ties to the one-term president and his wife.

Biden's library team has the daunting task of raising money for the 46th president's legacy project at a moment when his party has become fragmented about the way ahead and many big Democratic donors have stopped writing checks.

It also remains to be seen whether corporations and institutional donors that have historically donated to presidential library projects — regardless of the party of the former president — will be more hesitant to contribute, with President Donald Trump maligning Biden on a daily basis and savaging groups he deems left-leaning.

The political climate has changed

"There's certainly folks — folks who may have been not thinking about those kinds of issues who are starting to think about them," Gifford, who was named chairman of the library board, told The Associated Press. "That being said ... we're not going to create a budget, we're not going to set a goal for ourselves that we don't believe we can hit."

The cost of presidential libraries has soared over the decades.

The George H.W. Bush library's construction cost came in at about \$43 million when it opened in 1997. Bill Clinton's cost about \$165 million. George W. Bush's team met its \$500 million fundraising goal before the library was dedicated.

The Obama Foundation has set a whopping \$1.6 billion fundraising goal for construction, sustaining global programming and seeding an endowment for the Chicago presidential center that is slated to open next year.

Biden's library team is still in the early stages of planning, but Gifford predicted that the cost of the project would probably "end up somewhere in the middle" of the Obama Presidential Center and the George H.W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum.

Biden advisers have met with officials operating 12 of the 13 presidential libraries with a bricks and mortar presence that the National Archives and Records Administration manages. (They skipped the Herbert Hoover library in Iowa, which is closed for renovations.) They've also met Obama library officials to

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discuss programming and location considerations and have begun talks with Delaware leaders to assess potential partnerships.

Private money builds them

Construction and support for programming for the libraries are paid for with private funds donated to the nonprofit organizations established by the former president.

The initial vision is for the Biden library to include an immersive museum detailing Biden's four years in office.

The Bidens also want it to be a hub for leadership, service and civic engagement that will include educational and event space to host policy gatherings.

Biden, who ended his bid for a second White House term 107 days before last year's election, has been relatively slow to move on presidential library planning compared with most of his recent predecessors.

Clinton announced Little Rock, Arkansas, would host his library weeks into his second term. Barack Obama selected Jackson Park on Chicago's South Side as the site for his presidential center before he left office, and George W. Bush selected Southern Methodist University in Dallas before finishing his second term.

One-termer George H.W. Bush announced in 1991, more than a year before he would lose his reelection bid, that he would establish his presidential library at Texas A&M University after he left office.

Trump taps legal settlements for his

Trump was mostly quiet about plans for a presidential library after losing to Biden in 2020 and has remained so since his return to the White House this year. But the Republican has won millions of dollars in lawsuits against Paramount Global, ABC News, Meta and X in which parts of those settlements are directed for a future Trump library.

Trump has also accepted a free Air Force One replacement from the Qatar government. He says the \$400 million plane would be donated to his future presidential library, similar to how the Boeing 707 used by President Ronald Reagan was decommissioned and put on display as a museum piece, once he leaves office.

Others named to Biden's library board are former senior White House aides Elizabeth Alexander, Julissa Reynoso Pantaleón and Cedric Richmond; David Cohen, a former ambassador to Canada and telecom executive; Tatiana Brandt Copeland, a Delaware philanthropist; Jeff Peck, Biden Foundation treasurer and former Senate aide; Fred C. Sears II, Biden's longtime friend; former Labor Secretary Marty Walsh; former Office of Management and Budget director Shalanda Young; and former Delaware Gov. Jack Markell.

Biden has deep ties to Pennsylvania but ultimately settled on Delaware, the state that was the launching pad for his political career. He was first elected to the New Castle County Council in 1970 and spent 36 years representing Delaware in the Senate before serving as Obama's vice president.

The president was born in Scranton, Pennsylvania, where he lived until age 10. He left when his father, struggling to make ends meet, moved the family to Delaware after landing a job there selling cars.

Working-class Scranton became a touchstone in Biden's political narrative during his long political career. He also served as a professor at the University of Pennsylvania after his vice presidency, leading a center on diplomacy and global engagement at the school named after him.

Gifford said ultimately the Bidens felt that Delaware was where the library should be because the state has "propelled his entire political career."

Elected officials in Delaware are cheering Biden's move.

"To Delaware, he will always be our favorite son," Gov. Matt Meyer said. "The new presidential library here in Delaware will give future generations the chance to see his story of resilience, family, and never forgetting your roots."

## **Chicago's Mexican Independence Day celebrations shadowed by Trump's threats for the city**

By CHRISTINE FERNANDO and BEN FINLEY Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — President Donald Trump's plan to dispatch National Guard troops and immigration



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agents into Chicago has put many Latino residents on edge, prompting some to carry their U.S. passports while giving others pause about openly celebrating the upcoming Mexican Independence Day.

Though the holiday falls on Sept. 16, celebrations in Chicago span more than a week and draw hundreds of thousands of participants. Festivities will kick off with a Saturday parade through the heavily Mexican Pilsen neighborhood and continue with car caravans and lively street parties.

But this year the typically joyful period coincides with Trump's threats to add Chicago to the list of other Democrat-led cities he has targeted for expanded federal enforcement. His administration has said it will step up immigration enforcement in Chicago, as it did in Los Angeles, and would deploy National Guard troops to help fight crime. In addition to sending troops to Los Angeles in June, Trump deployed them last month in Washington, D.C., as part of his unprecedented law enforcement takeover of the nation's capital.

Although details about the promised Chicago operation have been sparse, local opposition is already widespread and includes suburban communities with their own bases of immigrant communities. State and city leaders have said they plan to sue the Trump administration.

**Mixed feelings about postponing festivities**

The extended Mexican Independence Day celebrations reflect the size and vitality of Chicago's Mexican American community. Mexicans make up more than one-fifth of the city's total population and about 74% of its Latino residents, according to 2022 U.S. Census estimates.

Organizers of the regular community parades and festivals have been divided over whether to move forward with precautions or postpone, in hopes that it will feel safer for many participants to have a true celebration in several months' time. In Pilsen, organizers said this week that community safety should be prioritized. A downtown Mexican Independence Day festival set for next weekend, though, was postponed this week by organizers, who said the decision was made to protect people.

"But also we just refuse to let our festival be a pawn in this political game," said Germán González, an organizer of El Grito Chicago.

In Pilsen and Little Village, two of the city's best-known neighborhoods with restaurants, businesses and cultural ties to Mexican culture, residents expressed disappointment at the fear and anxiety the potential federal intervention was instilling within the community during a time of year usually characterized by joy, togetherness and celebration of Mexican American culture and heritage.

**Some residents plan on celebrating with precautions**

For Galiela Mendez, the decision to postpone El Grito Chicago was both heartbreaking and understandable.

And while the nation's third-largest city has its problems, including persistent gun violence in some areas, Mendez said Trump and his supporters are maligning Chicago for political gain while disrupting festivities for a large cross-section of the population.

"It feels like a slap in the face," the 25-year-old said. "I think we are all on edge because it's the same people that describes our home this way, but they never come here and see it for themselves."

Vianney Alarcon, 42, said she expects people to be targeted by immigration officials regardless of their legal status.

"They're just going to catch and ask questions later," she said.

But in an act of defiance, she'll be taking part in the festivities, while bringing along her passport.

"I'm still going to celebrate my heritage," she said. "And I know for a fact that a lot of the people I know and the people commenting on Facebook are going to show up, too. What are they going to do? We're not being disruptive if we're celebrating properly."

**An air of uncertainty**

Fabio Fernandez, 39, owner of 3W We Will Win, an art and T-shirt company with a residency at a Pilsen streetwear shop, called it "troubling" and "disheartening" that potential federal intervention was impacting Mexican Independence Day celebrations.

"We shouldn't fear or feel like we can't walk the same streets that we usually roam," he said, adding that there was a mood of anxiety and uncertainty in Pilsen.

This anxiety has translated to lower sales and reduced foot traffic for local businesses like his, Fernandez

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said.

"The small businesses here can feel it, and other business owners will say the same thing," he said. Fernandez said supporting local Latino-owned businesses is among the best ways to show support during this time.

"Come back to 18th Street. Support small businesses here. They're still working hard as hell to keep their businesses alive," he said.

Alejandro Vences, 30, became a U.S. citizen this year, "which gives me some comfort during this time," he said while eating pozole verde at 5 Rabanitos, a local Mexican restaurant, on Friday afternoon.

Still, he said the anxiety is palpable.

"For us, our Independence Day has always been a celebration of our culture," he said. "It's always been a celebration of who we are. It feels like we don't get to celebrate our culture in the same way."

Finley reported from Norfolk, Virginia. Associated Press writers Melina Walling in Chicago and Morgan Lee in Santa Fe contributed.

## How romance and a road trip led to the purchase of the world's oldest drive-in theater

By GENE PUSKAR, MINGSON LAU and HOLLY RAMER Associated Press

OREFIELD, Pa. (AP) — In a romance and adventure worthy of the big screen, a Pennsylvania couple is preserving the past and forging a future as the owners of the world's oldest operating drive-in movie theater.

Lauren McChesney got more than admission to a double feature when she handed her ticket to Matt McClanahan at a different drive-in he managed in 2018. They started dating a year later, and, in August, got engaged. In between, they purchased Shankweiler's Drive-In Theatre, which was Pennsylvania's first drive-in and only the nation's second when it opened in 1934.

The couple began brainstorming about drive-ins during a cross-country road trip that included stops at both operational and abandoned theaters. Their original goal was to open a new drive-in, but when they learned Shankweiler's might get sold to developers, "the light bulb went off," McClanahan said.

"Why are we spending so much time trying to build one when there's one literally down the road from our house that's for sale and is like the most important drive-in?" he said.

The drive-in movie theater industry began in Camden, New Jersey, in 1933 and peaked in the late 1950s, with more than 4,000 drive-ins, according to the United Drive-In Theatre Owners Association. The numbers dropped rapidly in the 1970s and 80s as other entertainment options increased, along with land values that made selling for redevelopment attractive. Though popular during the pandemic, by 2024, there were only 283 left, according to the association.

McClanahan, 35, who grew up going to Shankweiler's, had managed another drive-in and started a mobile movie business during the coronavirus pandemic. In contrast, McChesney, 41, had never been to a drive-in before 2018, and she left a stable corporate job in the health care industry to take on this new venture. Buying Shankweiler's was a risk for both of them — they pooled their savings and secured a \$1 million loan to buy the drive-in in 2022 — but one they say has paid off.

"This was an undertaking that was leaps and bounds bigger than anything I'd ever done in my life, in terms of investment, monthly expenses, and debt," McClanahan said. "It still feels surreal when I think about it."

They've built a successful business with the help of strong summer attendance, the occasional big-name film like "Wicked," and special events like Valentine's Day "date night" screenings of "The Notebook." The drive-in is open seven days a week from Memorial Day to Labor Day, and Thursdays through Sundays the rest of the year. Tickets are \$9 for children and \$13 for adults.

Ken Querio, 52, of Kutztown, Pennsylvania, has been going to Shankweiler's since he was a teenager. He made a point to seek out the owners before a recent viewing of "Jaws."

"I actually thanked them," he said. "It's wonderful to have an old-school, an old venue like this still going."

Wilson Shankweiler, a prominent hotel owner and movie buff, opened what was then called Shankweiler's Park-In Theatre on April 15, 1934. McClanahan and McChesney are its fourth owners.

McChesney said the success of the business played a role in the timing of their engagement.

"We knew we'd eventually get married, but we kept doing other things instead, like starting businesses and buying movie theaters," she said.

Ramer contributed from Concord, New Hampshire.

## **LGBTQ+ Catholics make Holy Year pilgrimage to Rome and celebrate a new sense of acceptance**

By NICOLE WINFIELD Associated Press

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Hundreds of LGBTQ+ Catholics and their families participated in a Holy Year pilgrimage to Rome on Saturday, celebrating a new level of acceptance in the Catholic Church after long feeling shunned and crediting Pope Francis with the change.

The vice president of the Italian bishops conference, Bishop Francesco Savino, celebrated Mass for the pilgrims in a packed Chiesa del Gesu, the main Jesuit church in Rome. He received a sustained standing ovation in the middle of his homily when he recalled that Jubilee celebrations historically were meant to restore hope to those on the margins.

"The Jubilee was the time to free the oppressed and restore dignity to those who had been denied it," he said. "Brothers and sisters, I say this with emotion: It is time to restore dignity to everyone, especially to those who have been denied it."

Several LGBTQ+ groups participated in the pilgrimage, which was listed in the Vatican's official calendar of events for the Holy Year, the once-every-quarter century celebration of Catholicism. Vatican organizers stressed that the listing in the calendar didn't signal endorsement or sponsorship.

The main organizer of the pilgrimage was an Italian LGBTQ+ advocacy organization, "Jonathan's Tent," but other groups participated, including DignityUSA and Outreach, another U.S. group.

"I was here 25 years ago at the last Holy Year with a contingent of LGBTQ people from the U.S. and we were actually detained as a threat to the Holy Year programs," said DignityUSA's Marianne Duddy Burke.

To now be invited to walk through the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica "fully recognized as who we are and the gifts we bring to the church, and that we have both our faith and our identities combined, is a day of great celebration and hope," she said.

Pope Leo XIV celebrated a special Jubilee audience Saturday at the Vatican for all pilgrim groups in Rome this weekend, but made no special mention of the LGBTQ+ Catholics.

A legacy of LGBTQ+ acceptance

Many of the pilgrims attributed their feeling of welcome to Francis. More than any of his predecessors, Francis distinguished himself with a message of welcome, 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.

He never changed church teaching saying homosexual acts are "intrinsically disordered." But during his 12-year papacy from 2013 to 2025, Francis met with LGBTQ+ advocates, ministered to a community of trans women and, in a 2023 interview with The Associated Press, declared that "being homosexual is not a crime."

John Capozzi of Washington D.C., who was participating in the pilgrimage with his husband, Justin del Rosario, said Francis' attitude brought him back to the church after he left it in the 1980s, at the height of the AIDS crisis. Then, he said, he felt shunned by his fellow Catholics.

"There was that feeling like I wasn't welcome in the church," he said. "Not because I was doing anything, just because I was who I was," he said. "It was this fear of going back in because of the judgment."

But Francis, who insisted that the Catholic Church was open to everyone, "todos, todos, todos," changed all that, he said.



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"I was a closeted Catholic," Capozzi said. "With Pope Francis, I was able to come out and say, 'Hey, you know, I am Catholic and I'm proud of it and I want to be part of the church.'"

A message of welcome and hope

Capozzi spoke during a standing room-only vigil service for the pilgrims Friday night at the Jesuit church. The service featured testimonies from gay couples, the mother of a trans child and a moving reflection by an Italian priest, the Rev. Fausto Focosi.

"Our eyes have known the tears of rejection, of hiding. They have known the tears of shame. And perhaps sometimes those tears still spring from our eyes," Focosi said. "Today, however, there are other tears, new tears. They wash away the old ones."

"And so today these tears are tears of hope," he said.

Leo's position comes into focus

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."

Leo met Monday with the Rev. James Martin, an American Jesuit who has advocated for greater welcome for LGBTQ+ Catholics. Martin emerged saying 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.

Savino said he too had received Leo's blessing to celebrate the Mass for the LGBTQ+ pilgrims.

Del Rosario, Capozzi's husband, said he now felt welcome after long staying away from the faith he was raised in.

"Pope Francis influenced me to return back to church. Pope Leo only strengthened my faith," he said.

Isaia Montelione and Maria Selene Clemente contributed.

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## Thousands of Ohio students left without a school bus ride as private school transport expands

By JULIE CARR SMYTH Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — A scramble is underway for some Ohio families over a staple of the back-to-school season: rides on the big, yellow school bus.

Public school districts canceled bus transportation for thousands of high schoolers again this year while in some cases still busing students to private and charter schools to avoid steep fines under state requirements. In Dayton, a stopgap effort that gives students public transit passes in lieu of school bus rides was temporarily restored by a judge last week. This came after the district sued, alleging the state illegally restricted the program.

The crunch for rides emerged as a bus driver shortage was compounded by Ohio's school transportation regulations and its expansion to a universal voucher program to help pay for students to attend private schools. Districts have been required for years to transport students with EdChoice vouchers, but disputes over how to do that intensified as the program added nearly 90,000 students over the past four years.

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Public dollars for busing private students

Advocates for public education argue Ohio's transportation mandates are inflexible, vague and expensive. It makes public school districts responsible for transporting K-8 students to their private or charter schools, even on district holidays or when buses break down. It also requires districts to extend whatever transportation service they offer to their own high schoolers to every high schooler at a private or charter school in the same area.

Some large districts responded by canceling bus service to high schools altogether, providing city transit passes where available or leaving public school students to find their own rides. And those districts still might have to bus private students if those students weren't notified within a certain timeframe.

"To know that they are having to take those public dollars to funnel into other entities is not a fair situation, and I don't think that it's right," said Ronnee Tingle, a Dayton mom whose 7th-grader rides the school bus and whose teens in public school have to take a city bus.

Her daughter Suelonnee Tingle, a senior, begins her mornings checking an app for when a public bus will arrive at her stop. Riding it is "not bad," but learning routes, catching connections and getting to school on time can be challenging as arrival times fluctuate, she said.

Dayton Superintendent David Lawrence calls it "madness" that the Republican-led Legislature diverted roughly \$2.5 billion in state education funding to the voucher program over the next two years — and still is still requiring public districts to foot transportation costs for those students. His district runs 54 bus routes for its students and 74 for non-public students, according to data compiled by the Ohio 8 Coalition, representing the eight largest districts.

The Dayton district could easily provide bus rides for all of its public school students if the state ended some of the requirements about transporting voucher students, Lawrence said.

"If we didn't have to transport charter school and parochial students, we could transfer all of our students almost door to door from K through 12," he said. That would also help eliminate ancillary issues that arose with public high schoolers making their own ways to school, including disruptions on city buses and threats to their physical safety, he said.

Footing the bill

Republican state Sen. Andrew Brenner, a school choice advocate who chairs the Senate Education Committee, said he doesn't believe that financial hardship, logistical nightmares and driver recruitment challenges are creating a school transportation crisis in Ohio, as public education advocates contend.

"That's a completely inaccurate description," he said. "What they have done is they're excluding all the kids with school choice in many districts and they're doing everything they can to avoid transporting them."

Brenner said lawmakers provided districts with \$1,500 per student to cover the costs of transporting voucher students, and he accused districts of abusing a provision that lets them deem busing the voucher students "impractical" and make "payment in lieu" of transportation to those families. The amount ranges from roughly \$600 to \$1,200 per student this year to offset the families' costs.

Public school districts argue that transporting both public and private students costs way more than the state provides for it, contributing to budget woes. For Ohio's largest districts, the gap can total millions of dollars.

Transportation burdens for parents

Cleveland paid families for 2,739 students it deemed impractical to transport to private schools this fiscal year, according to state data. Columbus was second on the list, paying for about 2,500. The state has sued Columbus schools, accusing the district of shirking mandates about transporting voucher students.

"Parents are being forced to quit their jobs, rearrange their lives and scramble for transportation, while the school board fails to meet its legal duties," Republican Attorney General Dave Yost said last year. The case is still pending.

Columbus defended the decision, arguing that folding those non-public school students into its operation — a sophisticated, software-driven enterprise whose buses transport more than 16,000 public and 3,400 non-public students along some 450 routes — was unworkable. Spokesperson Mike Brown said the district has \$75 million budgeted this school year for transportation, and another \$15 million budgeted for

transportation-related fines.

Lawrence said Ohio's setup requires public districts to cover overhead for transportation systems. In Dayton, that includes buses that can cost more than \$150,000 each, a stable of \$66,000-a-year mechanics, a \$1.1 million maintenance division, and drivers who make about \$22 an hour with benefits on average. Those wages aim to offset the "Amazon effect" of drivers choosing package delivery over ferrying children for reasons including comfort, schedule flexibility and pay.

Brenner said he'd like to see more public schools explore the benefits of combining operations within counties to share resources.

The state's largest urban and suburban districts — the Ohio 8 — argue lawmakers could help solve the issue by updating "antiquated" laws and regulations to align with current realities.

A study group was created in the last budget but tasked with studying just one issue: how to get non-public students to school on days when public districts are closed. Its recommendations are due in June 2026.

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Associated Press videojournalist Patrick Aftoora-Orsagos contributed to this report.

## **Homeland security official says 475 people were detained during an immigration raid in Georgia**

By RUSS BYNUM and KIM TONG-HYUNG Associated Press

ELLABELL, Ga. (AP) — Immigration authorities said Friday they detained 475 people, most of them South Korean nationals, when hundreds of federal agents raided the sprawling manufacturing site in Georgia where Korean automaker Hyundai makes electric vehicles.

Steven Schrank, the lead Georgia agent of Homeland Security Investigations, said during a news conference Friday that the raid resulted from a monthslong investigation into allegations of illegal hiring at the site and was the "largest single site enforcement operation" in the agency's two-decade history.

The Thursday raid targeted one of Georgia's largest and most high-profile manufacturing sites, where Hyundai Motor Group a year ago began manufacturing electric vehicles at a \$7.6 billion plant. The site employs about 1,200 people in an area about 25 miles (40 kilometers) west of Savannah where bedroom communities bleed into farms. Gov. Brian Kemp and other officials have touted it as the state's largest economic development project.

Agents focused their operation on an adjacent plant that is still under construction at which Hyundai has partnered with LG Energy Solution to produce batteries that power EVs.

Court records filed this week indicated that prosecutors do not know who hired what it called "hundreds of illegal aliens." The identity of the "actual company or contractor hiring the illegal aliens is currently unknown," the U.S. Attorney's Office wrote in a Thursday court filing.

South Korean government expresses 'concern'

The South Korean government expressed "concern and regret" over the operation targeting its citizens. Koreans are rarely caught up in immigration enforcement compared to other nationalities. Only 46 Koreans were deported during the 12-month period that ended Sept. 30, 2024, out of more than 270,000 removals for all nationalities, according to Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

"The business activities of our investors and the rights of our nationals must not be unjustly infringed in the process of U.S. law enforcement," South Korean Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lee Jaewoong said in a televised statement from Seoul.

Lee said the ministry is dispatching diplomats from its embassy in Washington and consulate in Atlanta to the site, and planning to form an on-site response team.

Immigration attorney Charles Kuck said two of his clients who were detained had arrived from South Korea under a visa waiver program that enables them to travel for tourism or business for stays of 90 days or less without obtaining a visa.

One of his clients, he said, has been in the U.S. for a couple of weeks, while the other has been in the



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country for about 45 days. He did not provide details about the kind of work they were doing but said they had been planning to go home soon.

Schrank told reporters in Savannah that while some of the detained workers illegally crossed the U.S. border, others had entered the country legally but had expired visas or had entered on a visa waiver that prohibited them from working. He said some of those detained worked for the battery manufacturer, while others were employed by contractors and subcontractors at the construction site.

Schrank said he didn't know precisely how many of the 475 detained were Korean nationals, but that they made up a majority. No one has yet been charged with any crimes, he said, but the investigation is ongoing. South Korea's Foreign Minister Cho Hyun said Saturday that more than 300 South Koreans were among the 475 people detained.

"This was not an immigration operation where agents went into the premises, rounded up folks, and put them on buses," Schrank said. "This has been a multimonth criminal investigation where we have developed evidence and conducted interviews, gathered documents and presented that evidence to the court in order to obtain a judicial search warrant."

He said most of the detainees were taken to an immigration detention center in Folkston, Georgia, near the Florida state line.

Trump administration has undertaken sweeping ICE operations

President Donald Trump's administration has undertaken sweeping ICE operations as part of a mass deportation agenda. Immigration officers have raided farms, construction sites, restaurants and auto repair shops.

The Pew Research Center, citing preliminary Census Bureau data, says the U.S. labor force lost more than 1.2 million immigrants from January through July. That includes people who are in the country illegally as well as legal residents.

The Democratic Party of Georgia on Friday condemned the raid, with its chair, Charlie Bailey, calling the raids, "politically-motivated fear tactics designed to terrorize people who work hard for a living, power our economy and contribute to the communities across Georgia that they have made their homes."

Kemp and other Georgia Republican officials, who had courted Hyundai and celebrated the EV plant's opening, issued statements Friday saying all employers in the state were expected to follow the law.

The Hyundai site sits on 3,000 acres (1,214 hectares) in a largely rural area of Bryan County, drawing in workers from several surrounding counties and communities including Savannah.

Sammie Rentz opened the Viet Huong Supermarket less than 3 miles (4.8 kilometers) from the Hyundai site six months ago. The store sells both American and Asian products, he said, but he mostly relies on Hyundai workers seeking foods imported from Korea.

"Koreans keep this store running," said Rentz, who worries business may not bounce back after falling off sharply since the raid. "I'm concerned. Koreans are very proud people, and I bet they're not appreciating what just happened. I'm worried about them cutting and running, or starting an exit strategy."

Ellabell resident Tanya Cox, who lives less than a mile from the Hyundai site, said she had no ill feelings toward Korean nationals or other immigrant workers at the site. But few neighbors were employed there, and she felt like more construction jobs at the battery plant should have gone to local residents.

"I don't see how it's brought a lot of jobs to our community or nearby communities," Cox said. "Where we used to hear birds chirping and animal life around here, now we hear the plant when it's fully going at night."

Hyundai began producing electric vehicles at the site last September. A few months later, Hyundai Motor Group Executive Chairman Euisun Chung during a White House appearance with Trump credited the president with the company's decision to create more American jobs by building an EV factory in Georgia.

"Our decision to invest in Savannah, Georgia, creating more than 8,500 American jobs, was initiated during my meeting with President Trump in Seoul in 2019," Chung said at the March event.

Battery plant slated to open next year

The battery plant operated by HL-GA Battery Co., a joint venture by Hyundai and LG Energy Solution,

is slated to open next year.

In a search warrant and related affidavits, agents said they wanted employment records for current and former workers; personnel files; payroll information; bank account information; timecards; video and photos of workers; and immigration documents. Social Security cards, visas, passports and birth certificates also were targeted. The agents also sought records about the ownership and management of multiple construction companies and contractors named in the search warrant materials.

The documents included the names and photos of four people identified as "target persons" to be searched, without further information about them.

In a statement to The Associated Press, LG said it was "closely monitoring the situation and gathering all relevant details." It said it couldn't immediately confirm how many of its employees or Hyundai workers had been detained.

Operations at Hyundai's EV manufacturing plant weren't interrupted by the raid, said plant spokesperson Bianca Johnson.

Hyundai Motor Company said in a statement Friday that none of its employees had been detained as far as it knew. The company said it would review its practices to make sure suppliers and subcontractors follow U.S. employment laws.

"Hyundai has zero tolerance for those who don't follow the law," the company's statement said.

HL-GA Battery Co. did not immediately respond to a request for comment Friday. In a statement Thursday, the company said it's "cooperating fully with the appropriate authorities."

Those arrested Thursday who fight deportation may be detained as their cases wind through immigration court. The number of people in ICE custody topped 60,000 in August, an all-time high.

Kim Tong-Hyung reported from Seoul, South Korea. Associated Press writers Jeff Martin in Marietta, Georgia; Jeff Amy in Atlanta; and Mike Schneider in Orlando, Florida, contributed to this report.

## **Hall of Fame Canadiens goaltender Ken Dryden dies of cancer at age 78**

MONTREAL (AP) — Ken Dryden, the Hall of Fame goaltender who helped the Montreal Canadiens win six Stanley Cup titles in the 1970s, has died after a fight with cancer. He was 78.

The Canadiens announced his death early Saturday, saying Dryden's family asked for privacy. A team spokesperson said a close friend of Dryden's appointed by the family contacted the organization, adding he died peacefully Friday at his home.

"Ken Dryden was an exceptional athlete, but he was also an exceptional man," Canadiens owner Geoff Molson said. "Behind the mask he was larger than life. We mourn today not only the loss of the cornerstone of one of hockey's greatest dynasties but also a family man, a thoughtful citizen and a gentleman who deeply impacted our lives and communities across generations."

Dryden backstopped the NHL's most successful franchise to championships in six of his eight seasons in the league from 1970-71 to '78-79. He won the Calder Trophy as rookie of the year, the Vezina as the best goalie five times and the Conn Smythe as playoff MVP in 1971, while being a six-time All-Star.

"Ken embodied the best of everything the Montreal Canadiens are about," Molson said.

Known for resting his blocker and glove hands on top of his stick in a relaxed manner that became one of hockey's most recognizable poses, the 6-foot-4 Dryden retired at just 31 in 1979.

"From the moment Ken Dryden joined the Montreal Canadiens as a 23-year-old rookie in 1971, he made an immediate and lasting impact on the NHL, the Canadiens franchise and the goaltending position," NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman said. "Ken's love for his country was evident both on and off the ice."

Inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame in 1983, Dryden was 258-57-74 with a .922 save percentage, 2.24 goals-against average and 46 shutouts in just over seven seasons and went 80-32 in the playoffs.

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney posted on social media he was "deeply saddened to learn of the passing of the Hon. Ken Dryden, a Canadian hockey legend and hall of famer, public servant and inspiration."

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"Few Canadians have given more, or stood taller, for our country," Carney said. "Ken Dryden was Big Canada. And he was Best Canada. Rest in peace."

From Hamilton, Ontario, Dryden played three seasons at Cornell University from 1966-69, leading the Big Red to the 1967 NCAA title and finishing with a career record of 76-4-1.

Dryden entered the NHL in 1971 and spent just six games in the crease before making his NHL post-season debut. He and Montreal upset rival Boston in the first round and beat Chicago in the final.

He then was a cornerstone of Canada's 1972 Summit Series team that defeated the Soviet Union, starting in goal in the decisive 6-5 victory in Game 8.

"I feel the history of that tournament, the legacy of that team just as strongly as all Canadian fans do," Dryden told The Canadian Press in a 2022 interview. "It never goes away. It's kind of like a good wine, I guess. Actually, the legacy of it grows."

He also worked at a Toronto law firm while sitting out the 1973-74 NHL season — after previously earning a law degree at Montreal's McGill University.

After retiring as a player, he went into broadcasting and wrote "The Game," one of the best known books about the sport, after publishing "Face-off at the Summit" as part of an accomplished career as an author. He was the color analyst alongside Al Michaels for the "Miracle on Ice" when the U.S. beat the Soviet Union and went on to win the gold medal at the 1980 Winter Olympics.

Dryden served as president of the Toronto Maple Leafs from 1997 through 2004 — a stretch accented by trips to the Eastern Conference final in both 1999 and 2002 — before resigning to enter politics. He ran for the federal Liberals in 2004 and was named minister of social development in Prime Minister Paul Martin's cabinet.

Dryden, who also taught at various universities across Canada, held onto his seat in Toronto's York Centre riding in 2006 when the Liberals were ousted, and again in 2008, but lost in 2011.

Dryden is survived by wife Lynda and their two children.

Brother Dave Dryden was a longtime NHL and WHA goalie. He died in 2022 at the age of 81.

AP NHL: <https://apnews.com/hub/nhl>

## **An earthquake in Afghanistan's east wipes out homes, generations and livelihoods**

JALALABAD, Afghanistan (AP) — Ahmad Khan Safi had a good life in Afghanistan. The farmer raised livestock in the Dewagal Valley of Kunar Province, and people traveled from across the country to visit the area. Tourists marveled at its verdant landscape, winding paths and formidable slopes. The valley appeared untouched.

It was hard to reach, so inaccessible that people had to change cars four times from the city of Jalalabad, in neighboring Nangarhar province, and walk the rest of the way for several hours or ride a mule.

Safi had built a 10-room house from mud and stone because wood and cement were too expensive and impractical to transport. The home collapsed as soon as a major earthquake that killed at least 2,000 people struck on Aug. 31. His shock was quickly replaced by fear and panic.

"I was trapped in the mud and couldn't breathe," he told The Associated Press from a Jalalabad hospital. "I struggled a lot to get out, but was hit by rocks and fell so hard that my leg was injured." He spent the night under the rubble, not knowing if his family was alive or dead.

Help came the following morning, around 10 a.m., when people arrived on foot from other districts.

Region's remoteness complicating rescue efforts

The devastating quake was not the strongest or deadliest in Afghanistan's recent history. But remote and rugged Kunar has defied rescue efforts. The ruling Taliban authorities have deployed helicopters or airdropped army commandos to evacuate survivors.

There is no helicopter landing site in Dewagal Valley and no path for vehicles, let alone heavy machinery. Many of the injured died because there was no way to reach them, said Safi, who was carried to safety



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on people's shoulders. A stream of homemade stretchers trickled down to more hospitable terrain.

"There was not a single household without dead or wounded people, and not a single home was left standing. Some 130 people died in our area. The earthquake killed 22 members of my family — children, nephews, nieces, and my elder brother — and injured 17."

Entire families were wiped out, he added.

The death toll from this disaster exceeds 2,000, although this figure could rise as more bodies are recovered from villages that were razed to the ground and are now piles of dust.

"Now I think about it, whatever wealth and savings we had from our grandfather's time have all gone, and now we have nothing," said Safi. "My family lost about 300 cows, sheep and goats in this earthquake. All the people in the village were farmers and livestock keepers.

"We have no other source of income. I don't know what to do or where to go because our homes collapsed. Not even a wall is left. What are we going to do with this life?"

'We can't spend the night in the mountains anymore'

The U.N. estimates that the quake has affected up to 500,000 people, more than half of them children, and that the communities hit include those where Afghans forcibly returned from neighboring countries had begun rebuilding their lives.

Roads and bridges were damaged. Dozens of water sources have been destroyed, increasing health risks for survivors.

Rain, triggering landslides and floods, has worsened conditions. Schools and health facilities have vanished. With so many buildings destroyed, there is little shelter left. People live and sleep under open skies.

The steep slopes of Kunar resemble a war zone. Houses that took years to build were decimated in an instant. An assessment by the Islamic Relief charity said just 2% of homes in Kunar remain intact.

Ghulam Rahman, from Chawkay District in the central part of Kunar Province, lost his wife and five of his children in the earthquake. He was trapped in the wreckage for half an hour, next to his wife as she took her last breath.

"Dust and small stones were in my mouth so I couldn't speak properly," he said. "I heard her praying."

Some of his family's bodies were recovered on the first day after the quake. The rest remained under the debris for a further 24 hours. Only two of his seven children survived. One was staying at a religious school. The other had been sleeping on the rooftop.

Rocks tumbled onto Rahman's home from houses at a higher altitude and the mountain, even as the ground opened beneath him. He said scores of people in his village died.

Rahman offered a piece of his family's farmland for their burial.

"We had everything, and now it's destroyed. We want the government to give us flat land. We can't spend the night in the mountains anymore. I can't go there because I see dead family members, and life there is difficult. I am afraid of that place."

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Associated Press writer Abdul Qahar Afghan contributed to this report from Jalalabad, Afghanistan.

## Iran paves over mass grave of 1979 revolution victims, turning it into a parking lot

By JON GAMBRELL Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — A desert-like patch of sand and scrawny trees in the largest cemetery in Iran's capital has been the final resting place for decades for some of the thousands killed in the mass executions that followed Iran's 1979 Islamic Revolution.

Now, Lot 41 at the sprawling Behesht-e Zahra cemetery in Tehran is becoming a parking lot, with their remains likely beneath asphalt.

Images from Planet Labs PBC show the parking lot being laid over the site, where opponents of Iran's nascent theocracy and others were rapidly buried following their executions at gunpoint or by hanging.

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The site, long monitored by surveillance cameras searching for any sign of dissent or remembrance at what officials have referred to as the “scorched section,” has seen state-sponsored demolition in the past, with grave markers vandalized and overturned. Iranian officials have acknowledged the recent decision to build the parking, without going into detail about those buried there.

That’s as a United Nations special rapporteur in 2024 described Iran’s destruction of graveyards as an effort to “conceal or erase data that could serve as potential evidence to avoid legal accountability” over its actions.

“Most of the graves and gravestones of dissidents were desecrated, and the trees in the section were deliberately dried out,” said Shahin Nasiri, a lecturer at the University of Amsterdam who has researched Lot 41. “The decision to convert this section into a parking lot fits into this broader pattern and represents the final phase of the destruction process.”

Last week, both a Tehran deputy mayor and the cemetery’s manager acknowledged the plans to create a parking lot on the site.

“In this place, hypocrites of the early days of the revolution were buried and it has remained without change for years,” Tehran’s deputy mayor Davood Goudarzi told journalists in footage aired by state television. “We proposed that the authorities reorganize the space. Since we needed a parking lot, the permission for the preparation of the space was received. The job is ongoing in a precise and smart way.”

Satellite images show construction

The satellite photos show the work began in earnest at the start of August. An Aug. 18 image shows about half of Lot 41 freshly paved over, with construction material still on site. Trucks and piles of asphalt can be seen at the site, suggesting work continued.

The reformist newspaper Shargh quoted Mohammad Javad Tajik, who oversees the Behesht-e Zahra cemetery, as saying the parking lot would help people visit a neighboring lot, where authorities plan to bury those killed in the Iran-Israel war in June.

A major airstrike campaign by Israel killed prominent military generals and others, with government officials putting the death toll at more than 1,060 people killed, with an activist group putting it at over 1,190.

The decision to repurpose the graveyard appears to clash with Iran’s own regulations, which allow for a cemetery to repurpose land where internments took place after more than 30 years — as long as families of the dead agree with the decision.

An outspoken lawyer in Iran, Mohsen Borhani, publicly criticized the decision to pave over the graveyard as neither moral nor legal in an interview with Shargh.

“The piece was not only for executed and political people. Ordinary people were buried there, too,” he reportedly said.

It remains unclear whether human remains sit beneath the layer of asphalt or if Iranian authorities moved the bones of the dead there. However, Iran has destroyed other graveyards in recent years for those killed in its 1988 mass execution that saw thousands put to death, leaving their bones there.

Authorities have also vandalized cemeteries for the Baha’i, a religious minority in the country long targeted, and those home to protesters who have died in recent nationwide protests against Iran’s theocracy from the 2009 Green Movement to the 2022 Mahsa Amini demonstrations.

“Impunity for atrocities and crimes against humanity has been building for decades in the Islamic Republic,” said Hadi Ghaemi, the executive director of the New York-based Center for Human Rights in Iran. “There is a direct line between the massacres of the 1980s, the gunning down of demonstrators in 2009, and the mass killings of protesters in 2019 and 2022.”

Massive cemetery is the final resting place for many

Behesht-e Zahra, or the “Paradise of Zahra,” opened in 1970 on what was then the rural outskirts of Tehran. As hundreds of thousands of Iranians flooded into the capital under the shah as the country’s oil wealth skyrocketed, pressure on Tehran’s cemeteries had grown to a point that the burgeoning metropolis needed a place for all of its dead as well.

The cemetery has long been a resting place for some of the most famous Iranians since — and a point

where history turned for the country.

On his return to Iran in 1979 after years in exile, Grand Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini traveled first to the cemetery, where some of those killed in the uprising against the shah had been buried. Khomeini's cleric courts later issued death sentences for those now interred at Lot 41.

After his death in 1989, Iran built a towering, golden-domed mausoleum for Khomeini connected to the cemetery. As Behesht-e Zahra grew, Lot 41 found itself surrounded by an ever-expanding number of lots for burials.

Nasiri said his research with others suggests there are 5,000 to 7,000 burial sites within Lot 41 of those Iran "considered religious outlaws," whether communists, militants, monarchists or others.

"Many survivors and family members of the victims are still searching for the graves of their loved ones," Nasiri said. "They seek justice and aim to hold the perpetrators accountable. The deliberate destruction of these burial sites adds an additional obstacle to efforts of truth-finding and the pursuit of historical justice."

## **Herbert outduels Mahomes to help the Chargers beat the Chiefs 27-21 in Brazil**

By BETH HARRIS AP Sports Writer

Justin Herbert finished off the Los Angeles Chargers' season-opening victory in style, sliding for a first down that effectively ended the game.

The quarterback earned style points for his scramble and sideline slide that capped a 318-yard, three-touchdown performance in a 27-21 victory over the Patrick Mahomes and the Kansas City Chiefs on Friday night in Sao Paulo. Herbert had 32 yards rushing, too.

Los Angeles' first win over the Chiefs since Sept. 26, 2021, snapped a seven-game skid against the team that has dominated the AFC for nearly a decade.

"It's monumental," Chargers coach Jim Harbaugh said. "September 5th will go down in some Charger lore, in my opinion. It was a big win."

The NFL's second game South America was streamed on YouTube, with Brazilian soccer superstar Neymar in attendance. Newly engaged pop superstar Taylor Swift wasn't there to watch fiancé Travis Kelce and see Colombian singer Karol G perform at halftime.

Herbert became just the third quarterback in Chargers history with 300 yards and three TDs in a season opener. His 19-yard run on third-and-14 dashed any comeback hopes the Chiefs had with 2:21 to play. He finished 25 of 34 and was sacked three times.

"We knew it was going to be a dogfight, so we showed up today with our best effort," Herbert said. "It was fun to see."

Mahomes was 24 of 39 for 258 yards, one touchdown and two sacks.

"This will be a big lesson for us," Mahomes said. "They definitely came out with more energy than we did. We got to get better from the start."

Herbert's 23-yard TD pass to Quentin Johnston extended the lead to 26-18 with 5:02 remaining in the fourth. They hooked up for a 5-yard TD on the Chargers' opening drive of the game.

Chased by Khalil Mack, Mahomes threw incomplete to Marquise Brown on first-and-goal at the LA 9. Two more incomplete passes brought on Harrison Butker, whose 27-yard field goal cut the deficit to 27-21 with 2:34 remaining.

The Chiefs closed to 20-18 on Mahomes' 37-yard TD pass to Kelce early in the fourth. The 2-point conversion failed as Mahomes' pass was incomplete to Noah Gray.

"Multiple times we shot ourselves in the foot," Chiefs defensive tackle Chris Jones said.

### **Injuries**

The Chiefs were already down two receivers to start the game, with Rashee Rice suspended to start the season and rookie Jalen Royals out with a knee injury.

They lost another one three snaps into the game.

Xavier Worthy and teammate Kelce collided on a third-down pass. Worthy had to be helped off the field



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and was later ruled out with a right shoulder injury.

Chargers linebacker Denzel Perryman didn't return after leaving with an ankle injury in the third.

Rookie miscue

Chargers running back Omarion Hampton made a rookie mistake late in the first half.

The first-round draft pick got a handoff on 3rd-and-16 in the final minute when the Chiefs had no timeouts left. Instead of staying in bounds and letting the clock run, Hampton ran out of bounds. That stopped the clock and the Chargers got a 36-yard field goal by Cameron Dicker for a 13-3 lead.

Mahomes then moved the Chiefs within field goal range and their kicking unit rushed on the field. Butker hit a 59-yarder with the 40 seconds to go, leaving the Chiefs trailing 13-6.

Take that

Kelce shoved Chargers defensive tackle Teair Tart, who responded with a blow to Kelce's helmet in the third quarter. Tart was penalized for unnecessary roughness, but wasn't thrown out because he used an open hand.

Up next

Chiefs: Host Philadelphia on Sept. 14 in a Super Bowl rematch.

Chargers: At Las Vegas on Sept. 15.

AP NFL: <https://apnews.com/hub/nfl>

## **Toddler evacuated from Gaza with rare disease recovers from malnutrition in Italian hospital**

By MARIA SELENE CLEMENTE, ANDREA ROSA and COLLEEN BARRY Associated Press

NAPLES, Italy (AP) — Since arriving emaciated in Italy from Gaza, little Shamm Qudeih has celebrated her second birthday and gained weight on a new diet that includes a special porridge — progress welcomed by doctors treating her for severe malnutrition worsened by a genetic metabolic disease.

Just weeks ago, the toddler was all skin and bones as she clung to her mother in a hospital in southern Gaza, after months of being unable to get the food and treatment she needed because of an Israeli blockade aimed at pressuring the Hamas militant group to release hostages. Then she was evacuated to Italy for medical treatment, along with six other Palestinian children.

A striking photo of Shamm wincing in her mother's arms, with her hair matted and ribs protruding from her chest, was taken by Associated Press freelance journalist Mariam Dagga just days before the child left Gaza on Aug. 13. It was one of Dagga's last images. She was among 22 people killed in an Aug. 25 Israeli strike on the same hospital in southern Gaza.

More than half a million people in Gaza, a quarter of the population, are experiencing catastrophic levels of hunger because of the blockade and ongoing military operations, the world's leading authority on hunger crises said last month. Gaza City, in the north, is experiencing famine, it said.

Toddler perks up

By this week, Shamm was sitting up, alert in a hospital crib in Naples, her fine blonde hair pulled into a high ponytail. She wore a T-shirt emblazoned with the word "cute." Her wide eyes gleamed as her older sister and mother called her name from across the room, and she broke into a smile.

Weighing around 4 kilograms (9 pounds) when she arrived in Italy, Shamm was "in a serious and challenging clinical state," said Dr. Daniele de Brasi, a pediatric genetic disease specialist who is treating her at Santobono Pausilipon Children's Hospital in Naples.

She now weighs 5.5 kilograms (just over 12 pounds), which is still no more than half of the median weight for a child of her age, de Brasi said.

The doctor said "a big part" of her undernourishment was due to a genetic metabolic disease called glycogen storage disease, which interferes with the absorption of nutrients, particularly carbohydrates, and can cause muscle weakness and impede growth. The condition is primarily managed through a high-carbohydrate diet.

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So far, "We are very satisfied with her progress," de Brasi said.

## A mother's struggle

Shamm suffered from malnutrition from birth, just weeks before the Oct. 7, 2023, attack in which Hamas-led militants killed around 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and took another 251 hostage. Forty-eight hostages are still in Gaza, around 20 of them believed to be alive, after most of the rest were returned in ceasefires or other deals.

Israel responded with an offensive that Gaza health officials say has killed more than 64,000 Palestinians in nearly two years of fighting. The Gaza Health Ministry, which is part of the Hamas-run government and run by medical professionals, does not say how many were civilians or combatants but that around half of those killed were women and children.

The family was forced to move more than a dozen times, and Shamm's mother, Islam, struggled to get her proper medical care, visiting many hospitals and clinics. Doctors suspected the rare condition but could not test for it, much less treat it properly. They sometimes offered antibiotics.

"It became worse as a result of the lack of food, treatment and possibilities," Islam said in an interview with Shamm resting on her shoulder. "We have been displaced maybe about 15 times, from tent to tent. We walked long distances and, along the way, it was hot, and the sun was hitting us."

For a while, doctors administered a special formula, but Shamm would not take it, having lost the habit of drinking milk after supplies in Gaza became scarce.

The U.N. warned last month that starvation and malnutrition in Gaza are at the highest levels since the war began. Nearly 12,000 children under 5 were found to have acute malnutrition in July — including more than 2,500 with severe malnutrition, the most dangerous level. The World Health Organization says the numbers are likely an undercount.

## A final photograph in Gaza

It was at Nasser Hospital in the southern Gaza city of Khan Younis that Dagga photographed Shamm for the last time on Aug. 9. During the visit, Shamm cried in pain in her hospital bed. Her arms, legs and ribs were skeletal, her belly swollen.

Islam had gone to school with Dagga, who visited the hospital, and remembered her fondly.

"She was always coming to the hospital to check on me and Shamm," right up to the day of their departure for Italy, Islam said. "She stayed until the last step of the stairs to say goodbye to me."

After arriving in Italy, Islam learned that Dagga had died in an attack that killed four other journalists.

"I was upset when I heard and knew that she had died," Islam said.

## Ongoing treatment

Shamm is among 181 Palestinian children being treated in Italy, according to the Italian Foreign Ministry. About one-third of those have arrived since March, when Israel ended a ceasefire with Hamas and imposed the 2 1/2 month blockade on all imports, including food and medicine.

Israel denies there is starvation in Gaza, despite accounts to the contrary from witnesses, U.N. agencies and experts. It says it allowed enough aid to enter before and after the tightened blockade and has allowed increased supplies in recent weeks.

In Naples, Shamm now has a feeding tube in her nose to ensure she gets the right mix of nutrients overnight. Doctors aim to remove the tube in about a month. During the day, she is free to eat solid food, including meat and fish. A cornerstone of her diet is the carbohydrate-rich porridge.

Her current intake is around 500 calories a day, which doctors are gradually increasing.

"In these cases, growing too fast can cause problems," de Brasi said.

Her 10-year-old sister, Judi, was brought to Italy as an accompanying family member, and doctors began treating her after noting that she was at least three or four kilograms underweight, de Brasi said. She has gained two kilograms (nearly 5 pounds) and is in good condition.

With both daughters improving, Shamm's mother is allowing herself to experience relief. But it is too soon to think about going back to Gaza, where Shamm's father is.

"Now there is no way to go back, as long as the war is going on. There are no possibilities for my

daughters," she said.

Barry reported from Milan.

## Trump's job market promises fall flat as hiring collapses and inflation ticks up

By JOSH BOAK Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. job market has gone from healthy to lethargic during President Donald Trump's first seven months back in the White House, as hiring has collapsed and inflation has started to climb once again as his tariffs take hold.

Friday's jobs report showed employers added a mere 22,000 jobs in August, as the unemployment rate ticked up to 4.3%. Factories and construction firms shed workers. Revisions showed the economy lost 13,000 jobs in June, the first monthly losses since December 2020, during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The new data exposed the widening gap between the booming economy Trump promised and the more anemic reality of what he's managed to deliver so far. The White House prides itself on operating at a breakneck speed, but it's now asking the American people for patience, with Trump saying better job numbers might be a year away.

"We're going to win like you've never seen," Trump said Friday. "Wait until these factories start to open up that are being built all over the country, you're going to see things happen in this country that nobody expects."

The plea for patience has done little to comfort Americans, as economic issues that had been a strength for Trump for a decade have evolved into a persistent weakness. Approval of Trump's economic leadership hit 56% in early 2020 during his first term, but that figure was 38% in July of this year, according to polling by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

The situation has left Trump searching for others to blame, while Democrats say the problem begins and ends with him.

Trump maintained Friday that the economy would be adding jobs if Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell had slashed benchmark interest rates, even though doing so to the degree that Trump wants could ignite higher inflation. Investors expect a rate cut by the Fed at its next meeting in September, although that's partially because of weakening job numbers.

Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., said Trump's tariffs and freewheeling policies were breaking the economy and the jobs report proved it.

"This is a blaring red light warning to the entire country that Donald Trump is squeezing the life out of our economy," Schumer said.

By many measures, Trump has dug himself into a hole on the economy as its performance has yet to come anywhere close to his hype.

— Trump in 2024 suggested that deporting immigrants in the country illegally would protect "Black jobs." But the Black unemployment rate has climbed to 7.5%, the highest since October 2021, as the Trump administration has engaged in aggressive crackdowns on immigration.

— At his April tariffs announcement, Trump said, "Jobs and factories will come roaring back into our country and you see it happening already." Since April, manufacturers have cut 42,000 jobs and builders have downsized by 8,000.

— Trump said in his inaugural address that the "liquid gold" of oil would make the nation wealthy as he pivoted the economy to fossil fuels. But the logging and mining sectors — which includes oil and natural gas — have shed 12,000 jobs since January. While gasoline prices are lower, the Energy Information Administration in August estimated that crude oil production, the source of the wealth promised by Trump, would fall next year by an average of 100,000 barrels a day.

— At 2024 rallies, Trump promised to "end" inflation on "day one" and halve electricity prices within 12 months. Consumer prices have climbed from a 2.3% annual increase in April to 2.7% in July. Electricity



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costs are up 4.6% so far this year.

The Trump White House maintains that the economy is on the cusp of breakout growth, with its new import taxes poised to raise hundreds of billions of dollars annually if they can withstand court challenges.

At a Thursday night dinner with executives and founders from companies including Apple, Google, Microsoft, OpenAI and Meta, Trump said the facilities being built to develop artificial intelligence would deliver "jobs numbers like our country has never seen before" at some point "a year from now."

But Michael Strain, director of economic policy studies at the American Enterprise Institute, noted that Trump's promise that strong job growth is ahead contradicts his unsubstantiated claims that recent jobs data was faked to embarrass him. That accusation prompted him to fire the head of the Bureau of Labor Statistics last month after the massive downward revisions in the July jobs report.

Strain said it's rational for the administration to say better times are coming, but doing so seems to undermine Trump's allegations that the numbers are rigged.

"The president clearly stated that the data were not trustworthy and that the weakness in the data was the product of anti-Trump manipulation," Strain said. "And if that's true, what are we being patient about?"

The White House maintained that Friday's jobs report was an outlier in an otherwise good economy.

Kevin Hassett, director of the White House National Economic Council, said the Atlanta Federal Reserve is expecting annualized growth of 3% this quarter, which he said would be more consistent with monthly job gains of 100,000.

Hassett said inflation is low, income growth is "solid" and new investments in assets such as buildings and equipment will ultimately boost hiring.

But Daniel Hornung, who was deputy director of the National Economic Council in the Biden White House, said he didn't see evidence of a coming rebound in the August jobs data.

"Pretty broad based weakening," Hornung said. "The decline over three months in goods producing sectors like construction and manufacturing is particularly notable. There were already headwinds there and tariffs are likely exacerbating challenges."

Stephen Moore, an economics fellow at the conservative Heritage Foundation and supporter of the president, said the labor market is "definitely softening," even as he echoed Trump's claims that the jobs numbers are not reliable.

He said the economy was adjusting to the Trumpian shift of higher tariffs and immigration reductions that could lower the pool of available workers.

"The problem going forward is a shortage of workers, not a shortage of jobs," Moore said. "In some ways, that's a good problem to have."

But political consultant and pollster Frank Luntz took the contrarian view that the jobs report won't ultimately matter for the political fortunes of Trump and his movement because voters care more about inflation and affordability.

"That's what the public is watching, that's what the public cares about," Luntz said. "Everyone who wants a job has a job, for the most part."

From the perspective of elections, Trump still has roughly a year to demonstrate progress on improving affordability, Luntz said. Voters will generally lock in their opinions about the economy by Labor Day before the midterm elections next year.

In other words, Trump still has time.

"It's still up for grabs," he said. "The deciding point will come Labor Day of 2026."

## **States move to protect vaccines in the face of attempts to remove mandates**

Associated Press undefined

Now that Florida is taking steps to be the first state to get rid of school vaccine mandates, some states are looking at following its lead while others are promising to protect vaccines for children and adults.

Florida's announcement Wednesday along with U.S. Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy's attempts to

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advance anti-vaccine policies have widened the debate over vaccine mandates — long a centerpiece of fighting infectious diseases.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has said roughly 4 million deaths are prevented annually worldwide by childhood vaccinations.

While most Americans say kids should be vaccinated to attend school, adults nationwide are now less likely to think those immunizations are important. At the same time, routine childhood vaccine rates are falling.

Here is a rundown of what states are saying about vaccine mandates:

Massachusetts moves to protect access

Democratic Gov. Maura Healey governor issued a bulletin Thursday saying insurance carriers will be required to cover vaccinations recommended by the state's department of public health regardless of whether they are endorsed by the federal government. Healey said she wants to make sure residents can afford the vaccines they want.

Vaccinations that Massachusetts insurers would be required to cover include routine shots for children, like measles, chickenpox and Hepatitis B. Healey said her state is also leading a bipartisan coalition of eight Northeast states that met over the summer to discuss coordinating vaccine recommendations.

West Coast governors band together

The Democratic governors in Washington, Oregon and California announced this week that they have created an alliance to establish their own recommendations for who should receive vaccines. They plan to coordinate their vaccine recommendations and immunization plans based on science-based evidence from respected national medical organizations, according to a joint statement.

Illinois seeks advice from medical experts

The state health department said it plans to issue specific guidance by the end of September that will help health care providers and residents make informed decisions about vaccinations. The health director said the department will consult with medical experts.

New Mexico gives the green light to vaccines

Pharmacists have received the go-ahead to administer COVID-19 shots based on state health department guidelines rather than just the federal government's immunization advisory committee. Health Secretary Gina DeBlassie said Friday in a statement that New Mexico "cannot afford to wait for the federal government to act on this matter."

Drugstore giant CVS responded by saying it will ensure the shots are in its pharmacies across the state as soon as possible.

Pennsylvania, Colorado and Washington protect COVID-19 shots

Pennsylvania's pharmacy board voted this week to protect the availability of COVID-19 vaccines for those most in need and make it accessible across the state, at the urging of Gov. Josh Shapiro.

Colorado Gov. Jared Polis also directed health officials to make sure residents are able to be vaccinated against the virus. A new order that went into effect Friday allows pharmacists to provide the vaccines without individual prescriptions.

Health leaders in Washington state issued a similar order covering COVID-19 shots for most residents.

## For some, a COVID-19 vaccine means jumping through hoops or hitting the road

By TOM MURPHY AP Health Writer

Michelle Newmark has tried — and failed — a couple times to get an updated COVID-19 vaccine.

First, she was told she needed a prescription. Then she learned that her local CVS drugstore won't have shots for a couple more weeks. The Reston, Virginia, resident was considering a drive to Maryland to get vaccinated before a friend told her of a closer CVS that was booking appointments.

What was once a simple process has become "a whole different beast this year," Newmark said.

"It's very frustrating that I can't get a vaccine that I feel should be widely available like it always has been in the past," she said.

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The debut of updated COVID-19 vaccines has gotten off to a clunky start in many states. Limits on who can get the shots and prescription requirements are confusing customers and leaving some people worried about whether they will get protection from the virus this fall.

Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. has insisted that everyone who wants a shot still can get one after consulting with a doctor, but he also told a Senate committee hearing Thursday that this access "depends on the states."

The situation is changing daily and varies by state. And it may take time for vaccine-seekers to understand how the system works now for them.

"We anticipate it will get to be a little bit more of a smooth road in the coming weeks," said Brigid Groves, a vice president with the American Pharmacists Association.

In the meantime, challenges are cropping up, and some patients are hitting the road to get vaccinated. Lee Yarosh made plans to drive about 30 miles from Ossining, New York, to a Fairfield, Connecticut, drugstore to get vaccinated because the 71-year-old retiree couldn't schedule a vaccine closer to home.

On Friday, New York Gov. Kathy Hochul signed an executive order allowing pharmacists to administer the vaccine to patients as young as 3. But Yarosh is keeping his Monday appointment in Connecticut because he needs the vaccination ahead of a trip to Europe.

Chris Stone said he tried about five times to book a COVID-19 shot appointment online at his usual drugstore, but he was only allowed to schedule a flu vaccination. The 69-year-old Richmond, Virginia, resident said he expects to get the shot from his doctor during a checkup next month. But he doesn't want to wait that long.

"If they fiddle around too long ... it's going to be really hard to get the coverage you want during the winter season," Stone said.

Most Americans get their COVID-19 vaccines at drugstores, and many seek shots in the late summer or early fall to get protection against any winter surges in cases.

Pharmacists in most states can administer updated vaccinations without a prescription thanks to approval of the shots from the Food and Drug Administration last week.

But several states are requiring prescriptions — which are normally not needed for vaccines — as they wait for a recommendation on the shots from a committee that advises the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

That committee won't meet until later this month.

Some states, including Pennsylvania and New Mexico, were waiting for that recommendation before allowing pharmacists to give the vaccines. But they have since changed rules to let pharmacists start vaccinating sooner.

Before that, Pennsylvania drugstore owner Marc Ost said his store fielded more than 50 calls from customers asking about the COVID-19 shots. His pharmacists couldn't administer the shots until the state changed the rules on Wednesday.

"There's been a lot of confusion as to what we can and can't do and a lot unclear guidance," said Ost, co-owner of Eric's RX Shoppe in Horsham, outside Philadelphia.

In New Mexico, pharmacists were given the go-ahead to give COVID-19 shots based on state health department guidelines, with Health Secretary Gina DeBlassie saying in a statement that the state "cannot afford to wait for the federal government to act on this matter."

As of Friday morning, CVS Health — the nation's largest drugstore chain — said its pharmacists can provide vaccines without a prescription in 38 states. Prescriptions are required in 11 states plus Washington, D.C., but its pharmacists cannot give the shots in Nevada.

In some states where CVS runs in-store clinics, customers can get vaccinated there even if they can't get a shot at the store pharmacy counter, spokesperson Amy Thibault said. She noted that the pharmacies and clinics are governed by different regulators.

New limits on who can get a vaccine also are raising questions among customers. Previously in the U.S., the vaccines were recommended for people ages 6 months and older.

But the recent FDA approval limits the shots for people age 65 and older and those younger who have



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a health condition that makes them high-risk for a serious case of COVID-19.

Doctors and pharmacists say they still expect many people to qualify for the shots because the list of conditions that would make someone high-risk is long. It includes ex-smokers and people who are physically inactive.

And pharmacists will mostly rely on the patient's word that they have a condition that makes them eligible for a shot.

Even so, the fact that there are now limitations worries Jen Spector.

The 57-year-old Doylestown, Pennsylvania, resident should easily qualify for a shot because she has diabetes, rheumatoid arthritis and some other medical conditions. Still, Spector says she's nervous that someone will turn her down when she tries to get vaccinated.

"If I get sick, it could take my body a year to heal from all this," she said. "My immune system is crap."

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Associated Press reporter Anthony Izaguirre contributed from Albany, New York.

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## **The Latest: DHS says 475 people were detained during an immigration raid in Georgia**

By The Associated Press undefined

Some 475 people were detained during an immigration raid at a sprawling Georgia site where South Korean auto company Hyundai manufactures electric vehicles, according to a Homeland Security official.

Steven Schrank, Special Agent in Charge, Homeland Security Investigations, said at a news briefing Friday that the majority of the people detained were from South Korea. "This operation underscores our commitment to jobs for Georgians and Americans," Schrank said.

South Korean Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lee Jaewoong described the number of detained South Koreans as "large," though he did not provide an exact figure.

Thursday's raid targeted one of Georgia's largest and most high-profile manufacturing sites, touted by the governor and other officials as the largest economic development project in the state's history.

Here's the latest:

US and EU plan to discuss new Russia sanctions

A team of European officials will visit Monday to discuss various forms of economic pressure to exert on Russia, including new sanctions, a person familiar with the meeting told The Associated Press.

The person, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to preview the meeting, said Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent spoke with the head of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, on Friday ahead as a follow-up to Vice President JD Vance's conversation with the top European official a day earlier.

Trump has grown increasingly frustrated by his inability to end the 3 1/2-year war in Ukraine. Trump has tried in vain to get Russian President Vladimir Putin to agree to sit down with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy for direct talks despite holding a summit with the Russian leader last month in Alaska.

A Trump-imposed deadline for Moscow to end its invasion has passed.

Cork won a rare Trump tariff exemption thanks to lobbying on both sides of the Atlantic

U.S. winemakers have something to celebrate: The corks they're popping aren't subject to tariffs.

Cork comes from the spongy bark of the cork oak tree, primarily grown in the Mediterranean basin.

A framework trade agreement between the U.S. and the EU singled it out as an "unavailable natural product." So as of Sept. 1, cork joined a handful of other items including airplanes and generic pharmaceuticals that are exempt from a 15% U.S. tariff on EU products.

The carve-out was vital for Portugal, which accounts for about half of global production, and Portuguese diplomats lobbied for it.

Patrick Spencer, executive director of the U.S.-based Natural Cork Council and self-described "cork dork,"

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traveled to Washington in June to explain cork's origins to trade officials and seek a tariff reprieve. The Wine Institute, which represents California vintners, also pushed for the special dispensation.

☐ Read more about cork's tariff exemption

Capitol Police hold officer training for riots as threats to lawmakers climb toward record high in a post-Jan. 6 era

The U.S. Capitol Police have led a massive training exercise in Maryland to improve coordination among law enforcement agencies.

Six hundred officers from nearly 20 agencies, including the Secret Service, participated in one of the largest drills in the country Friday. The aim was to address security breakdowns like those seen during the Jan. 6 Capitol attack.

Officials emphasized the importance of rapid communication and coordination. They used drones and mobile command posts to enhance real-time response.

With political violence on the rise, authorities are preparing for potential threats against public officials. The drills reflect lessons learned and a commitment to proactive measures.

Maryland leaders tell Trump they don't need the National Guard to curb gun violence

In a pointed show of solidarity, state and local leaders walked through one of Baltimore's most historically underserved neighborhoods Friday evening amid ongoing efforts to curb gun violence.

Those efforts are working, Gov. Wes Moore said. Homicides in Baltimore have reached historic lows with sustained declines starting in 2023. He said the last thing Baltimore needs is the National Guard presence that the presence has threatened.

Moore wrote to Trump last month inviting him to visit Baltimore and see its success firsthand. Officials attribute the progress to their crime-fighting strategies, which include social services meant to address the root causes of violence.

Trump responded to the invitation by calling Baltimore "a horrible, horrible deathbed" and insulting Maryland leaders.

"I'm not walking in Baltimore right now," he said.

His refusal prompted state and local leaders to present a strongly united front.

☐ Read more about the Maryland leaders' response to Trump

Trump hosts dinner for lawmakers in newly paved-over Rose Garden

The president held a microphone Friday night as he told House and Senate Republicans that they were the inaugural meeting of what he called the "Rose Garden Club."

Trump said the club is meant for lawmakers, people in Washington and "people that can bring peace and success" to the country.

He said he intended for the tech executives he dined with the previous night to be the first ones to enjoy the space, but it rained and so instead he brought lawmakers to the dinner Friday.

Two DC teens arrested in congressional intern's fatal shooting

U.S. Attorney Jeanine Pirro announced Friday's arrests. She said both suspects are 17-year-old juveniles but are charged as adults with first-degree murder while armed. Police are searching for a third suspect whose name and age were not immediately released.

Eric Tarpinian-Jachym, of Granby, Massachusetts, was struck by stray bullets the night of June 30. His killing was cited by Trump in announcing a law-enforcement surge in Washington.

Trump seeking ways to take over 9/11 memorial and museum in NYC

Trump's administration said Friday that it is exploring whether the federal government can take control of the 9/11 memorial and museum in New York City.

The site in lower Manhattan, where the World Trade Center's twin towers were destroyed by hijacked jetliners on Sept. 11, 2001, features two memorial pools ringed by waterfalls and parapets with the names of the dead, and an underground museum. Since opening to the public in 2014, the memorial plaza and museum have been run by a public charity, now chaired by former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg, a frequent Trump critic.

The White House confirmed the administration has had "preliminary exploratory discussions" about the

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idea, but declined to elaborate.

But officials at the National September 11 Memorial & Museum say the federal government, under current laws, can't unilaterally take over the site, which is located on land owned by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey.

□ Read more about Trump's interest in the museum and memorial

European countries near Russia puzzled by US plans to cut defense funding

There's confusion over Trump administration plans to halt some security assistance funding to European countries along the border with Russia, with some Baltic defense leaders saying they have not received official notification.

Pentagon funding for programs that provide training and equipment to reinforce security would be cut, according to a person familiar with the discussions and a congressional aide, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the matter. It includes funding that helps finance weapons purchases by countries on NATO's eastern flank as well as ammunition, special forces training and intelligence support.

A White House official, who was not authorized to speak publicly so spoke on condition of anonymity, said the action is part of Trump's plan to ensure "Europe takes more responsibility for its own defense."

— Emma Burrows, Konstantin Toropin and Stephen Groves

Trump endorses Iowa congresswoman running for Senate seat held by Ernst

The president in a post on his social media network Friday night said U.S. Rep. Ashley Hinson "will be an outstanding Senator."

Republican Sen. Joni Ernst said she is not seeking another term in 2026. At least two other Republicans had already entered the primary before Hinson this week announced her campaign.

Pentagon changes over signs to 'Department of War'

The Pentagon has made some immediate updates to its signs and emblems just after Trump signed an executive order to rebrand the Department of Defense as the Department of War.

Employees swapped out the large letters that spelled out "Department of Defense" outside of Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth's office. Employees also replaced Hegseth's biography and office signs to say "Secretary of War."

Deputy Defense Secretary Steve Feinberg's office signs were updated as was the Pentagon's official website from "defense.gov" to "war.gov."

When asked what the changes will cost, a defense official said the cost estimate will "fluctuate" and a "clearer estimate" will be reported at a later time. The official wasn't authorized to comment publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

— Konstantin Toropin

Trump to attend U.S. Open on Sunday as a guest

A spokesperson for the U.S. Tennis Association said Friday that Trump was attending as a guest of someone whose identity wasn't disclosed, and that he will be watching the match from a suite.

The president is planning to attend the men's singles final at the U.S. Open on Sunday, his first appearance at the Grand Slam tournament in New York since 2015.

He frequently attended in the years before that when he lived in New York and before he launched his political career. It's the latest high-profile sporting event for Trump after going to the Super Bowl, Daytona 500, UFC fights and the FIFA Club World Cup since beginning his second White House term.

Trump says 'Take it down' when told about anti-war tent that has held vigil outside White House since 1981

Brian Glenn, a reporter with conservative outlet Real America's Voice, asked Trump about the blue tent and called it "an eyesore."

Trump asked where there tent is and said he hadn't heard of it but said, "Take it down. Today, right now." He then said "We're going to look into it right now."

The tent, which has been up since 1981 calling for peace and world disarmament, was still standing Friday evening.

Trump renews call for convicted Colorado clerk to be freed from prison



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Trump is renewing calls for a former Colorado county clerk convicted of orchestrating an election data-breach scheme to be released from prison.

In response to a question, Trump said former Mesa County Clerk Tina Peters should be set free. "We're going to do something," he said, calling Peters a "real patriot."

The comments came a day after a letter written by Peters was posted on her X account in which she urged Trump to help release her ahead of next year's midterm elections to ensure its integrity. One of her attorneys, Peter Ticktin, confirmed the letter had been written by her and posted by someone else.

Peters is serving a nine-year prison sentence after a jury found her guilty last year of allowing someone to gain unauthorized access to the county election system and deceiving other officials about that person's identity.

Trump says Fed candidate list whittled down to three

Trump is telling reporters that his list of possible Federal Reserve Chair candidates, who would replace current Chair Jerome Powell, has been cut down to three people. Trump made the remarks Friday in the Oval Office.

Trump teased Kevin Hassett, the current director of the National Economic Council, as one of the three candidates.

Hassett spoke in the Oval Office about the latest jobs numbers.

The Labor Department reported that U.S. employers added just 22,000 jobs last month and the unemployment rate ticked up to 4.3% last month. Hassett said that he expects the latest jobs numbers to be revised upward as the Bureau of Labor Statistics installs a new leader.

The BLS' previous leader, Erika McEntarfer, was publicly fired last month after the agency issued numbers that show hiring had slowed in July and was much less in May and June than previously estimated.

Trump denies he offered Adams ambassadorship

"No, I didn't do that," Trump said when asked.

He added that "there's nothing wrong with doing that," but again denied he did. He said Adams is "free to do what he wants" when it comes to staying in the New York City mayoral race.

Trump then said he thought Adams was "a very nice person" and then said "I helped him. He was, he was, got caught up in a scam by the Biden administration, what they did. So I, I helped him out a little bit."

The Trump administration's Justice Department dropped corruption charges against Adams earlier this year.

Trump says next year's G20 will be held at his Doral property

Trump knows well the property where the G20 summit will be held next December in Miami: It will be at the Doral golf property owned by the president's family.

He said of having the summit at his property: "There's no money in it." But Trump added "we want to make sure it's good."

It is another example of Trump blurring the line between domestic and world affairs and his business interests.

NYC Mayor Eric Adams insists he's sticking with his reelection bid

New York City Mayor Eric Adams insisted again Friday that he won't end his reelection campaign, stressing that he will remain in the race as reports swirl that he's been approached about possibly taking a job in the Trump administration.

In a hastily called news conference at the mayor's official residence, Gracie Mansion, Adams told reporters "I am running for reelection"

"I'm running, and I'm going to beat Mamdani," he said, referring to the Democratic nominee, Zohran Mamdani.

The mayor has spent the week fending off news reports that intermediaries for Trump have contacted people in his orbit to talk about whether he would consider abandoning his campaign to take a federal job.

Earlier Friday, Adams, a Democrat, released a statement that said he "will always listen if called to serve our country" but that he had not yet received any "formal offers."

Trump to skip this year's Group of 20 summit

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The president confirmed on Friday what had long been suspected: He will not attend this year's Group of 20 summit in South Africa.

"I won't be going this year," said Trump, who has had a rocky relationship with South Africa's leaders. Vice President JD Vance will go in Trump's place.

This year's summit is scheduled for November in Johannesburg.

Trump warns Venezuela military against further provocative action

"If they do put us in a dangerous position they will be shot down," Trump said.

The Defense Department said late Thursday that two Venezuelan military aircraft flew near a U.S. Navy vessel, calling it "a highly provocative move" and warning Maduro's government against further actions.

The Venezuelan military action came after the U.S. carried out a deadly strike on a boat that U.S. officials say was carrying drugs from Venezuela.

Trump and other administration officials are warning that they will continue to carry out such U.S. military strikes to stem the flow of illicit drugs by Latin American drug cartels.

US set to ease travel restrictions on African leader accused of corruption

The Trump administration is set to allow a West African leader accused of flagrant corruption to travel to the United States for this month's U.N. General Assembly and cities outside New York that he has previously been barred from visiting.

Two officials familiar with the matter said the State Department is processing a temporary sanctions waiver for the vice president of Equatorial Guinea, Teodoro "Teddy" Obiang, following recommendations that it is in the U.S. national interest to blunt growing Chinese influence in the country and boost American business interests there. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss internal administration deliberations.

Obiang has been accused, and in some cases convicted, of pilfering his impoverished country's resources to feed a lifestyle of luxury cars, mansions and superyachts.

— Matthew Lee

## **Trump says US will host next year's G20 summit at his Florida golf club but he won't make money**

By SEUNG MIN KIM and WILL WEISSERT Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump said Friday that the U.S. will host next year's Group of 20 summit at his golf club in Doral, Florida, arguing it was "the best location" for the high-stakes international gathering but insisting his family's business "will not make any money on it."

In his first term, Trump tried to host a separate global summit at the club, but backed down after criticism from his own party about the propriety of doing so. Now, though, Trump rarely travels domestically without golfing at or staying in properties bearing his name and has faced very little political blowback.

Trump's sons have taken over running the Trump Organization while their father is in the White House. But the president has nonetheless prided himself in blurring the line between domestic and global policy and generating profits for the Trump brand.

He's actively promoted his \$TRUMP meme coin and even hosted the top 220 investors in it for a swanky dinner in May at his golf property in Virginia. The president made his first foreign trip to Saudi Arabia, after his sons crisscrossed the region drumming up business for the family's other cryptocurrency ventures. Trump also went to Scotland to inaugurate his new golf course there.

The G20 is made up of some of the world's major economies, the European Union and the African Union. Hosting the G20 at Doral would be an especially striking example of using the presidency to enrich his family, but Trump wasted little time defending it.

"I think everybody wants it there," he said when asked if the global summit would be at his golf club and spa. Trump noted that the conference would be occurring in December 2026, a time of year when hotels in South Florida are often more full, and said that Doral had the space and was ideally suited because of

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its close proximity to the city's airport.

The United States hasn't hosted a G20 since it was held in Pittsburgh in 2009. The president suggested that organizers had requested the summit be at his property, but didn't elaborate. He said each delegation from different countries "will have its own building."

"It's the best location, it's beautiful, beautiful everything," Trump said, while adding, "We will not make any money on it."

"We're doing a deal where it's not going to be money, there's no money in it. I just want it to go well," Trump said. "I think it'll be really a beautiful thing."

He also called Doral "very, very successful, one of the most successful properties in the country."

Miami Mayor Frances Suarez, who attended Friday's G20 site announcement in the Oval Office, said it "puts us on the global map" but also acknowledged that, for the area, "It's a tremendous boom for your economy."

"As the president knows," Suarez added. "He has multiple hospitality assets."

Trump also said Friday that he would not be attending this year's G20 in South Africa, but planned to send Vice President JD Vance in his place.

## **Trump executive order aims to rename the Department of Defense as the Department of War**

By CHRIS MEGERIAN, SEUNG MIN KIM and KONSTANTIN TOROPIN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — After months of campaigning for the Nobel Peace Prize, President Donald Trump sent a sharply different message on Friday when he signed an executive order aimed at rebranding the Department of Defense as the Department of War.

Trump said the switch was intended to signal to the world that the United States was a force to be reckoned with, and he complained that the Department of Defense's name was "woke."

"I think it sends a message of victory. I think it sends, really, a message of strength," Trump said of the change as he authorized the Department of War as a secondary title for the Pentagon.

Congress has to formally authorize a new name, and several of Trump's closest supporters on Capitol Hill proposed legislation earlier Friday to codify the new name into law.

But already there were cosmetic shifts. The Pentagon's website went from "defense.gov" to "war.gov." Signs were swapped around Hegseth's office while more than a dozen employees watched. Trump said there would be new stationery, too.

Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth, whom Trump has begun referring to as the "secretary of war," said during the signing ceremony that "we're going to go on offense, not just on defense," using "maximum lethality" that won't be "politically correct."

The attempted rebranding was another rhetorical salvo in Trump's efforts to reshape the U.S. military and uproot what he has described as progressive ideology. Bases have been renamed, transgender soldiers have been banned and websites have been scrubbed of posts honoring contributions by women and minorities to the armed forces.

He's also favored aggressive — critics say illegal — military action despite his criticism of "endless wars" under other administrations. He frequently boasts about the stealth bomber strike on Iran's nuclear facilities, and he recently ordered the destruction of a boat that the U.S. says was carrying drugs off the coast of Venezuela.

The Republican president insisted that his tough talk didn't contradict his fixation on being recognized for diplomatic efforts, saying peace must be made from a position of strength. Trump has claimed credit for resolving conflicts between India and Pakistan; Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo; and Armenia and Azerbaijan, among others. (He's also expressed frustration that he hasn't brought the war between Russia and Ukraine to a conclusion as fast as he wanted.)

"I think I've gotten peace because of the fact that we're strong," Trump said, echoing the "peace through strength" motto associated with President Ronald Reagan



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When Trump finished his remarks on the military, he dismissed Hegseth and Gen. Dan Caine, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, from the room.

"I'm going to let these people go back to the Department of War and figure out how to maintain peace," Trump said.

Florida Republican Rep. Greg Steube proposed legislation in the House to formally change the name of the department.

"From 1789 until the end of World War II, the United States military fought under the banner of the Department of War," Steube, an Army veteran, said in a statement. "It is only fitting that we pay tribute to their eternal example and renowned commitment to lethality by restoring the name of the 'Department of War' to our Armed Forces."

Sens. Rick Scott, R-Fla., and Mike Lee, R-Utah, are introducing companion legislation in the Senate.

The Department of War was created in 1789, then renamed and reorganized through legislation signed by President Harry Truman in 1947, two years after the end of World War II. The Department of Defense incorporated the Department of War, which oversaw the Army, plus the Department of the Navy and the newly created independent Air Force.

Hegseth complained that "we haven't won a major war since" the name was changed. Trump said, "We never fought to win."

Trump and Hegseth have long talked about restoring the Department of War name.

In August, Trump told reporters that "everybody likes that we had an unbelievable history of victory when it was Department of War. Then we changed it to Department of Defense."

When confronted with the possibility that making the name change would require an act of Congress, Trump told reporters that "we're just going to do it."

"I'm sure Congress will go along," he said, "if we need that."

Trump and Hegseth have been on a name-changing spree at the Pentagon, sometimes by sidestepping legal requirements.

For example, they wanted to restore the names of nine military bases that once honored Confederate leaders, which were changed in 2023 following a congressionally mandated review.

Because the original names were no longer allowed under law, Hegseth ordered the bases to be named after new people with similar names. For example, Fort Bragg now honors Army Pfc. Roland L. Bragg, a World War II paratrooper and Silver Star recipient from Maine, instead of Confederate Gen. Braxton Bragg.

In the case of Fort A.P. Hill, named for Confederate Lt. Gen. Ambrose Powell Hill, the Trump administration was forced to choose three soldiers to make the renaming work.

The base now honors Union soldiers Pvt. Bruce Anderson and 1st Sgt. Robert A. Pinn, who contributes the two initials, and Lt. Col. Edward Hill, whose last name completes the second half of the base name.

The move irked Republicans in Congress who, in July, moved to ban restoring any Confederate names in this year's defense authorization bill.

Rep. Don Bacon of Nebraska, a Republican who co-sponsored the earlier amendment to remove the Confederate names, said that "what this administration is doing, particularly this secretary of defense, is sticking his finger in the eye of Congress by going back and changing the names to the old names."

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Associated Press writer Matt Brown contributed to this report.

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Follow the AP's coverage of the U.S. Department of Defense at <https://apnews.com/hub/us-department-of-defense>.

## **Judge blocks Trump administration's ending of legal protections for 1.1M Venezuelans and Haitians**

By JANIE HAR Associated Press

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SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A federal judge on Friday blocked the Trump administration from ending temporary legal protections that have granted more than 1 million people from Haiti and Venezuela the right to live and work in the United States.

The ruling by U.S. District Judge Edward Chen of San Francisco for the plaintiffs means 600,000 Venezuelans whose temporary protections expired in April or whose protections were about to expire Sept. 10 have status to stay and work in the United States. It also keeps protections for about 500,000 Haitians.

Chen scolded Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem for revoking protections for Venezuelans and Haitians that the judge said would send them “back to conditions that are so dangerous that even the State Department advises against travel to their home countries.”

He said Noem’s actions were arbitrary and capricious, and she exceeded her authority in ending protections that were extended by the Biden administration.

Presidential administrations have executed the law for 35 years based on the best available information and in consultation with other agencies, “a process that involves careful study and analysis. Until now,” Chen wrote.

Plaintiffs and their attorneys welcomed the news Friday, although it’s unclear if it would help people who have already been deported.

“In recent months, people have suffered unspeakable harm — including deportation and family separation — due to the Supreme Court greenlighting Secretary Noem’s discriminatory and harmful agenda,” said Emi Maclean, senior staff attorney with the ACLU Foundation of Northern California. “That must end now.”

A DHS spokesperson said in an email that the program has been “abused, exploited, and politicized as a de facto amnesty program” and that “unelected activist judges” cannot stop the American people’s desire for a secure country.

“While this order delays justice, Secretary Noem will use every legal option at the Department’s disposal to end this chaos and prioritize the safety of Americans,” the email read.

The second Trump administration’s crackdown on immigration has resulted in ramped-up arrests of people in the country illegally, but also an end to programs that offer legal yet temporary authorization to live and work in the U.S. if conditions in immigrants’ homelands are deemed unsafe.

According to court documents, the administration has terminated Temporary Protected Status, or TPS, and Humanitarian Parole designations for about 1.5 million people, prompting lawsuits across the country from immigrant advocates.

Temporary Protected Status is a designation that can be granted by the Homeland Security secretary to people in the United States, if conditions in their homelands are deemed unsafe for return due to a natural disaster, political instability or other dangerous conditions.

Millions of Venezuelans have fled political unrest, mass unemployment and hunger. The country is mired in a prolonged crisis brought on by years of hyperinflation, political corruption, economic mismanagement and an ineffectual government.

Haiti was first designated for TPS in 2010 after a catastrophic magnitude 7.0 earthquake killed and wounded hundreds of thousands of people, and left more than 1 million homeless. Haitians face widespread hunger and gang violence.

Their designations were to expire in September but later extended until February, due to a separate court order out of New York.

Noem said that conditions in both Haiti and Venezuela had improved and that it was not in the national interest to allow migrants from the countries to stay on for what is a temporary program. Attorneys for the government have said the secretary’s clear and broad authority to make determinations related to the TPS program are not subject to judicial review.

Designations are granted for terms of six, twelve or 18 months, and extensions can be granted so long as conditions remain dire. The status prevents holders from being deported and allows them to work.

The secretary’s action in revoking TPS was not only unprecedented in the manner and speed in which it was taken but also violated the law, Chen wrote.

The case has had numerous legal twists, including an appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court.

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In March, Chen temporarily paused the administration's plans to end TPS for people from Venezuela. An estimated 350,000 Venezuelans were set to lose protections the following month.

But the U.S. Supreme Court in May reversed his order while the lawsuit played out. The justices provided no rationale, which is common in emergency appeals, and did not rule on the merits of the case.

Venezuelans with expired protections were fired from jobs, separated from children, detained by officers and even deported, lawyers for TPS holders said.

A court declaration provided by plaintiffs showed the turmoil caused by the Trump administration and the Supreme Court decision.

After appearing for her annual immigration check-in, a restaurant hostess living in Indiana was deported back to Venezuela in July. Her husband, a construction company supervisor, cannot work and care for their baby daughter at the same time.

In June, a FedEx employee appeared in uniform at his required immigration check-in only to be detained, the court declaration states. He slept for about two weeks on a floor, terrified he would be sent to El Salvador's notorious CECOT prison. His wife cannot maintain the household on her earnings.

"I am not a criminal," he said in the declaration, adding that "immigrants like myself come to the United States to work hard and contribute, and instead our families and lives are being torn apart."

The Supreme Court's reversal does not apply to Friday's ruling. The government is expected to appeal.

Last week, a three-judge appeals panel also sided with plaintiffs, saying the Republican administration did not have the authority to vacate protection extensions granted by the previous administration.

## **Pentagon-funded research at colleges has aided the Chinese military, a House GOP report says**

By DIDI TANG and COLLIN BINKLEY Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Over a recent two-year period, the Pentagon funded hundreds of projects done in collaboration with universities in China and institutes linked to that nation's defense industry, including many blacklisted by the U.S. government for working with the Chinese military, a congressional investigation has found.

The report, released Friday by House Republicans on the Select Committee on the Chinese Communist Party, argues the projects have allowed China to exploit U.S. research partnerships for military gains while the two countries are locked in a tech and arms rivalry.

"American taxpayer dollars should be used to defend the nation — not strengthen its foremost strategic competitor," Republicans wrote in the report.

"Failing to safeguard American research from hostile foreign exploitation will continue to erode U.S. technological dominance and place our national defense capabilities at risk," it said.

The Pentagon and didn't immediately respond to an Associated Press request for comment.

The congressional report said some officials at the Defense Department argued research should remain open as long as it is "neither controlled nor classified."

The report makes several recommendations to scale back U.S. research collaboration with China. It also backs new legislation proposed by the committee's chairman, Rep. John Moolenaar, R-Michigan. The bill would prohibit any Defense Department funding from going to projects done in collaboration with researchers affiliated with Chinese entities that the U.S. government identifies as safety risks.

The Chinese Embassy on Friday called the report "groundless." "We oppose it," the embassy said.

Beijing has in the past said science and technological cooperation between the two countries is mutually beneficial and helps them cope with global challenges.

Republicans say the joint research could have military applications

The 80-page report builds on the committee's findings last year that partnerships between U.S. and Chinese universities over the past decade allowed hundreds of millions of dollars in federal funding to help Beijing develop critical technology. Amid pressure from Republicans, several U.S. universities have ended their joint programs with Chinese schools in recent years.



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The new report focuses more narrowly on the Defense Department and its billions of dollars in annual research funding.

The committee's investigation identified 1,400 research papers published between June 2023 and June 2025 that acknowledged support from the Pentagon and were done in collaboration with Chinese partners. The publications were funded by some 700 defense grants worth more than \$2.5 billion. Of the 1,400 publications, more than half involved organizations affiliated with China's defense research and industrial base.

Dozens of those organizations were flagged for potential security concerns on U.S. government lists, though federal law does not prohibit research collaborations with them. The Defense Department money supported research in fields including hypersonic technology, semiconductors, artificial intelligence, advanced materials and next-generation propulsion.

Many of the projects have clear military applications, according to the report.

In one case, a geophysicist at Carnegie Science, a research institution in Washington, worked extensively on Pentagon-backed research while holding appointments at the Chinese Academy of Sciences and the Hefei Institute of Physical Sciences.

The scientist, who has done research on high-energy materials, nitrogen and high-pressure physics — all of which are relevant to nuclear weapons development — has been honored in China for his work to advance the country's national development goals, the report said. It called the case "a deeply troubling example" of how Beijing can leverage U.S. taxpayer-funded research to further its weapons development.

In a statement, Carnegie Science said it complies with all U.S. laws. "The work cited was fundamental research, publicly available, and entirely unclassified. This research focused on basic properties of matter related to planetary science," the institute said.

Carnegie Science also disputed the report's assertion that the work was funded by the Pentagon, saying it came from the National Science Foundation's Major Research Instrumentation program.

In another Pentagon-backed project, Arizona State University and the University of Texas partnered with researchers from Shanghai Jiao Tong University and Beihang University to study high-stakes decision-making in uncertain environments, which has direct applications for electronic warfare and cyber defense, the report said. The money came from the Office of Naval Research, the Army Research Office and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

The Shanghai university is under the supervision of a central Chinese agency tasked with developing defense technology, and Beihang University, in the capital city of Beijing, is linked to the People's Liberation Army and known for its aerospace programs.

**Calls for scaling back research collaborations**

The report takes issue with Defense Department policies that do not explicitly forbid research partnerships with foreign institutions that appear on U.S. government blacklists.

It makes more than a dozen recommendations, including a prohibition on any Pentagon research collaboration with entities that are on U.S. blacklists or "known to be part of China's defense research and industrial base."

Moolenaar's legislation includes a similar provision and proposes a ban on Defense Department funding for U.S. universities that operate joint institutes with Chinese universities.

A senior Education Department official said the report "highlights the vulnerability of federally funded research to foreign infiltration on America's campuses." Under Secretary of Education Nicholas Kent said the findings reinforce the need for more transparency around U.S. universities' international ties, along with a "whole-of-government approach to safeguard against the malign influence of hostile foreign actors."

House investigators said they are not seeking to end all academic and research collaborations with China but those with connections to the Chinese military and its research and industrial base.

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**Giorgio Armani leaves a legacy as 'the master of luxury ready-to-wear'**

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By COLLEEN BARRY AP Fashion Writer

MILAN (AP) — For Giorgio Armani, it was always the clothes. And his clothes all started with the fabrics. While other fashion empires make their money on handbags and footwear, Armani's appeal has always been in the apparel, the core of his \$10 billion empire.

After his death Thursday at the age of 91, Armani has been remembered for softening the 1980s power suit, decades of fruitful Hollywood collaborations and as a defining figure of Italian luxury ready-to-wear.

But he was also a keen business owner who maintained his independence in an era of consolidation, an innovative communicator and a boss who was in charge of every aspect of his business.

"I have to say, King George is the first in everything. The first but not the only," said Mario Boselli, who was president of the Italian fashion chamber from 1999-2015. "He was the master of luxury ready-to-wear."

## The Jacket

The deconstructed, soft-shouldered Armani jacket catapulted Armani to fashion stardom, first with Richard Gere in the 1980 film "American Gigolo," and then as the centerpiece of a women's wardrobe.

"I would say that the famous Armani jacket was a discovery that allowed women to live every day with an Armani garment that could go from work to dates. Armani could dress a woman from morning to evening, I would say with great precision, for every occasion," Boselli said.

Armani himself said in his 2015 memoir he wanted to create "a new kind of femininity that forced men to look at women with new eyes."

"I have great esteem for women. I think they know how to be seductive without resorting to an exhibitionism that easily slips into vulgarity and excess," Armani wrote. He credited American women as "the first to appreciate my work — and my audacity."

Jackets remained the core of his collections through the decades. But with time he introduced more couture elements into his ready-to-wear in part to counter his image as the power suit designer, said Scott Schuman, the Milan-based photographer behind The Sartorialist fashion blog and the creator of the Armani tribute Instagram account @armaniarhive.

## The Textiles

Every collection started with a cascade of textiles on a huge table, which Armani himself would examine after his team made a first selection.

"The collection, and the mood and the vibe started from the fabrics," said Milan-based Austrian designer Arthur Arbesser, who was on the Armani design team for seven years until leaving in 2013 to launch his own brand.

"That was unique, I learned from him what it was to touch the fabrics, then to come in with another fabric and with another shade to form a gradient of colors," Arbesser said.

Boselli first met Armani 45 years ago, arriving at his Borgnonuovo offices with a satchel of jersey knit samples as a sales rep for his family's textile company.

"He saw the entire collection of fabrics, and chose them personally," Boselli recalled. "That is not something everyone does. It takes time, it takes care. He had great respect for the work of others."

Shuman said the fabric choices made going into Armani's stores "a sensory overload."

## Creating Beauty

Armani's main objective: Creating beauty.

Armani's aesthetic of timeless elegance was constant throughout the decades, which at times made fashion critics question its relevance. But Armani always had a following, from Hollywood stars who could count on him for stunning looks without too much risk, to everyday people who sought well-made, tailored looks to project them from morning to evening.

"Armani was a beautiful river of design. You could pop in and out, and there was some kind of continuity," Schuman said.

Kenneth Richard, founder of The Impression, an influential fashion newsletter, called Armani "the original game-changer," for the scale of a fashion empire he built himself, and for extending his brand into areas like home decor and hotels while maintaining his famed attention to detail.

"You can check into an Armani hotel, get fitted downstairs and go to a red carpet event. Where else can

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you do this? You are sleeping on Armani sheets, in an Armani bed, with an Armani couch," Richard said. And all of it is owned by Armani, not licensed as many brands do.

On the runway, Armani "stuck to a singular voice through 50 years."

"His aesthetic was refined, and approachable. You cannot become a \$10 billion brand when you are consistently doing the same thing over and over again, without being approachable. He sells. People want to wear his clothing."

What's Next

Giorgio Armani's final collection will be previewed during Milan Fashion Week later this month during an event marking 50 years of his signature fashion house.

Armani set up a foundation as a succession tool to avoid his businesses being split up. A rarity in the Italian fashion world, he never sold even a part of his company to an outsider.

He also indicated the creative succession would go to longtime collaborator Leo Dell'Orco and his niece Silvana Armani, who have headed the menswear and womenswear collections, respectively, for all Armani collections: Giorgio Armani, Emporio Armani and Armani Exchange.

The question of generational succession has always been a fraught one in Italy's largely family run fashion industry. Armani's attention to every detail in the empire he launched 50 years ago will make him a tough act to follow.

"He was involved in very step of the process from the very beginning to the end. Every photograph, every font, everything," Arbesser said. "That is what makes a difference. These days, there is no boss, no creative director, who has so much control over everything. That is where the magic is. And that is where it is hard to see what is going to happen now."

## US hiring stalls with employers reluctant to expand in an economy grown increasingly erratic

By PAUL WISEMAN, ANNE D'INNOCENZIO and CORA LEWIS AP Business Writers

WASHINGTON (AP) — The American job market, a pillar of U.S. economic strength since the pandemic, is crumbling under the weight of President Donald Trump's erratic economic policies.

Uncertain about where things are headed, companies have grown increasingly reluctant to hire, leaving agonized jobseekers unable to find work and weighing on consumers who account for 70% of all U.S. economic activity. Their spending has been the engine behind the world's biggest economy since the COVID-19 disruptions of 2020.

The Labor Department reported Friday that U.S. employers — companies, government agencies and nonprofits — added just 22,000 jobs last month, down from 79,000 in July and well below the 80,000 that economists had expected.

The unemployment rate ticked up to 4.3% last month, also worse than expected and the highest since 2021.

"U.S. labor market deterioration intensified in August," Scott Anderson, chief U.S. economist at BMO Capital Market, wrote in a commentary, noting that hiring was "slumping dangerously close to stall speed. This raises the risk of a harder landing for consumer spending and the economy in the months ahead."

Alexa Mamoulides, 27, was laid off in the spring from a job at a research publishing company and has been hunting for work ever since. She uses a spreadsheet to track her progress and said she's applied for 111 positions and had 14 interviews — but hasn't landed a job yet.

"There have been a lot of ups and downs," Mamoulides said. "At the beginning I wasn't too stressed, but now that September is here, I've been wondering how much longer it will take. It's validating that the numbers bear out my experience, but also discouraging."

The U.S. job market has lost momentum this year, partly because of the lingering effects of 11 interest rate hikes by the Federal Reserve's inflation fighters in 2022 and 2023.

But the hiring slump also reflects Trump's policies, including his sweeping and ever-changing tariffs on imports from almost every country on earth, a crackdown on illegal immigration and purges of the federal



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workforce.

Also contributing to the job market's doldrums are an aging population and the threat that artificial intelligence poses to young, entry-level workers.

After revisions shaved 21,000 jobs off June and July payrolls, the U.S. economy is creating fewer than 75,000 jobs a month so far this year, less than half the 2024 average of 168,000 and not even a quarter of the 400,000 jobs added monthly in the hiring boom of 2021-2023.

When the Labor Department put out a disappointing jobs report a month ago, an enraged Trump responded by firing the economist in charge of compiling the numbers and nominating a loyalist to replace her.

"The warning bell that rang in the labor market a month ago just got louder," Olu Sonola, head of U.S. economic research at Fitch Rates, wrote in a commentary. "It's hard to argue that tariff uncertainty isn't a key driver of this weakness."

Trump's protectionist policies are meant to help American manufacturers. But factories shed 12,000 workers last month and 38,000 so far this year. Many manufacturers are hurt, not helped, by Trump's tariffs on steel, aluminum and other imported raw materials and components.

Construction companies, which rely on immigrant workers vulnerable to stepped-up ICE raids under Trump, cut 7,000 jobs in August, the third straight drop. The sweeping tax-and-spending bill that Trump signed into law July 4 delivered more money for immigration officers, making threats of a massive deportations more plausible.

The federal government, its workforce targeted by Trump and by billionaire Elon Musk's Department of Government Efficiency, cut 15,000 jobs last month.

And any job gains made last month were remarkably narrow: Healthcare and social assistance companies – a category that spans hospital to daycare centers – added nearly 47,000 jobs in August and now account for 87% of the private-sector jobs created in 2025.

Nekia McNair, a 49-year-old single mother, has been searching for work for more than four months without success. "They're not giving out jobs," she said while sitting with neighbors outside her downtown Indianapolis apartment complex.

Despite 12 years of experience working as home health aide, McNair has had difficulty even securing an interview. "Then some jobs have you get dressed, come all the way out there for an interview, and then they'll say, 'Oh well, we got some more people coming and we'll get back with you,' and you'll never hear from them."

Democrats were quick to pounce on the report as evidence that Trump's policies were damaging the economy and hurting ordinary Americans.

"Americans cannot afford any more of Trump's disastrous economy. Hiring is frozen, jobless claims are rising, and the unemployment rate is now higher than it has been in years," said Rep. Richard Neal of Massachusetts, the top Democrat on the House Ways and Means Committee. "The president is squeezing every wallet as he chases an illegal tariff agenda that is hiking costs, spooking investment, and stunting domestic manufacturing."

Trump's sweeping import taxes — tariffs — are taking a toll on businesses that rely on foreign suppliers.

Trick or Treat Studios in Santa Cruz, California, for instance, gets 50% of its supplies from Mexico, 40% from China and the rest from Thailand. The company, which makes ghoulish masks that are replicas of such horror icons as Michael Myers of the "Halloween" franchise as well as costumes, props, action figures and games, has seen its tariff bill rise to \$389,000 this year, said co-founder Christopher Zephro. He was forced to raise prices across the board by 15%.

In May, Zephro had to cut 15 employees, or 25% of his workforce. That marked the first time he's had to lay off staff since he started the company in 2009. "That's a lot of money that could have been used to hire more people, bring in more product, develop more products," he said. "We had to do layoffs because of tariffs. It was one of the worst days of my life."

Josh Hirt, senior economist at the financial services firm Vanguard, said that the tumbling payroll numbers also reflect a reduced supply of workers – the consequence of an aging U.S. population and a reduction in immigration. "We should get more comfortable seeing numbers below 75,000 and below 50,000" new

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jobs a month, he said. "The likelihood of seeing negative (jobs) numbers is higher," he said.

Economists are also beginning to worry that artificial intelligence is taking jobs that would otherwise have gone young or entry-level workers. In a report last month, researchers at Stanford University found "substantial declines in employment for early-career workers" — ages 22-25 — in fields most exposed to AI. The unemployment rate for those ages 16 to 24 rose last month to 10.5%, the Labor Department reported Friday, the highest since April 2021.

Jobseeker Mamoulides is sure that competition from AI is one of the reasons she's having trouble finding work. "I know at my previous company, they were really embracing AI and trying to integrate it as much as they could into people's workflow," she said. "They were getting lots of (Microsoft) 'Copilot' licenses for people to use. From that experience, I do think companies may be relying on AI more for entry-level roles."

Some relief may be coming.

The weak August numbers make it all but certain that Federal Reserve will cut its benchmark interest rate at its next meeting, Sept. 16-17. Under chair Jerome Powell, the Fed has been reluctant to cut rates until it sees what impact Trump's import taxes have on inflation. Lower borrowing costs could — eventually anyway — encourage consumers and businesses to spend and invest.

Vanguard's Hirt expects the Fed to reduce its benchmark rate — now a range of 4.25% to 4.5% — by a full percentage point over the next year and says it might cut rates at each of its next three meetings.

Trump has repeatedly pressured Powell to lower rates, and has sought to fire one Fed governor, Lisa Cook, over allegations of mortgage fraud in what Cook claims is a pretext to gain control over the central bank. The president blamed Powell again for slowing jobs numbers Friday in a social media post, saying "Jerome 'Too Late' Powell should have lowered rates long ago. As usual, he's 'Too Late!'"

The July 4 budget bill also "included a big wallop of front-loaded spending on defense and border security, as well as tax cuts that will quickly flow through to household and business after-tax incomes," Bill Adams, chief economist at Comerica Bank, wrote in a commentary.

But the damage that has already occurred may be difficult to repair.

James Knightley, an economist at ING, noted that the University of Michigan's consumer surveys show that 62% of Americans expect unemployment to rise over the next year. Only 13% expect it to fall. Only four times in the last 50 years has their employment outlook been so bleak.

"People see and feel changes in the jobs market before they show up in the official data — they know if their company has a hiring freeze or the odd person here or there is being laid off," Knightley wrote. "This suggests the real threat of outright falls in employment later this year."

AP Writer Josh Boak in Washington and video journalist Obed Lamy in Indianapolis contributed to this story.

## **Stocks wobble as Wall Street wrangles with whether the job market is too weak**

By STAN CHOE AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — U.S. stocks wobbled lower on Friday as Wall Street questioned whether the U.S. job market has slowed by just enough to get the Federal Reserve to cut interest rates to help the economy, or by so much that a downturn may be on the way.

After rising to an early gain, the S&P 500 erased it and fell 0.3% below the all-time high it set the day before. The Dow Jones Industrial Average dropped 220 points, or 0.5%, after swinging between an early gain of nearly 150 points and a loss of 400. The Nasdaq composite edged down by less than 0.1%.

The action was more decisive in the bond market, where Treasury yields tumbled after a report from the Labor Department said U.S. employers hired fewer workers in August than economists expected. The government also said that earlier estimates for June and July overstated hiring by 21,000 jobs.

The disappointing numbers follow last month's discouraging jobs update, along with other lackluster reports in intervening weeks, and traders are now betting on a 100% probability that the Fed will cut its

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main interest rate at its next meeting on Sept. 17, according to data from CME Group. Investors love such cuts because they can give a kickstart to the economy, but the Fed has held off on them because they can also give inflation more fuel.

So far this year, the Fed has been more worried about the potential of inflation worsening because of President Donald Trump's tariffs than about the job market. But Friday's job numbers could push the Fed to consider cutting rates in two weeks by a steeper amount than usual, said Brian Jacobsen, chief economist at Annex Wealth Management.

"This week has been a story of a slowing labor market, and today's data was the exclamation point," according to Ellen Zentner, chief economic strategist for Morgan Stanley Wealth Management.

Strong hiring for health care jobs had been helping to support the overall market, "but with it now showing some tangible signs of decline, the foundation underneath the labor market seems to be cracking," said Rick Rieder, chief investment officer of global fixed income at BlackRock.

While the data on the job market is disappointing, it's still not so weak that it's screaming a recession is here, and the U.S. economy is continuing to grow. A big question for investors is whether the job market can remain in a balance where it's not so strong that it prevents cuts to interest rates but also not so weak that the economy falls off.

Uncertainty about that helped lead to Friday's swings in the stock market. Wall Street needs things to go as hoped because it already sent stock prices to records amid expectations for a Goldilocks scenario where interest rates ease, and the economy keeps chugging along.

On Wall Street, Friday's heaviest weight was Nvidia, the chip company that's become the face of the artificial-intelligence boom. It's been contending with criticism that its stock price charged too high, too fast and became too expensive following Wall Street's rush into AI, and it fell 2.7%.

Lululemon dropped 18.6% after the yoga and athletic gear maker's revenue for the latest quarter fell short of analysts' expectations. CEO Calvin McDonald pointed to disappointing results from its U.S. operation, while Chief Financial Officer Meghan Frank said Lululemon is facing "industrywide challenges, including higher tariff rates."

Still, more stocks rose on Wall Street than fell. Leading the way was Broadcom, which climbed 9.4% after reporting better profit and revenue for the latest quarter than analysts expected. CEO Hock Tan said customers are continuing to invest strongly in AI chips.

Tesla rose 3.6% after proposing a payout package that could reach \$1 trillion for its CEO, Elon Musk, if the electric vehicle company meets a series of extremely aggressive targets over the next 10 years.

Smith & Wesson Brands jumped 6.5% after the gun maker delivered better results for the latest quarter than analysts expected. CEO Mark Smith said it saw good demand for new products in what's traditionally a slow season for sales of firearms.

All told, the S&P 500 fell 20.58 points to 6,481.50. The Dow Jones Industrial Average dipped 220.43 to 45,400.86, and the Nasdaq composite slipped 7.31 to 21,700.39.

In stock markets abroad, indexes in Europe lost early gains to turn lower with Wall Street. That followed strength across much of Asia.

The Nikkei 225 rallied 1% in Tokyo after data showed accelerating growth in earnings for Japanese workers. Chinese markets rebounded following three days of decline, with indexes rising more than 1% in both Hong Kong and Shanghai.

In the bond market, the yield on the 10-year Treasury dropped to 4.09% from 4.17% late Thursday and from 4.28% on Tuesday. That's a notable move for the bond market and could mean lower interest rates are coming for mortgages and other loans.

AP Writers Matt Ott and Teresa Cerojano contributed.

**Most of those killed in Lisbon streetcar derailment were foreigners, police say**



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By BARRY HATTON and SUMAN NAISHADHAM Associated Press

LISBON, Portugal (AP) — Police in Portugal said Friday that 11 of the 16 people killed when a streetcar derailed were foreigners, as an initial investigative report examining what caused the popular Lisbon tourist attraction to crash was delayed by a day.

The dead included five Portuguese nationals, three British citizens, two Canadians, two South Koreans, one American, one French, one Swiss and one Ukrainian, police said in a statement.

A German man also thought to have died in Wednesday's crash was found to be in a Lisbon hospital, police said. It didn't provide an explanation for the error.

The list of nationalities was published following forensic identification.

The distinctive yellow-and-white Elevador da Gloria, which is classified as a national monument, was packed with locals and international tourists Wednesday evening when it came off its rails. Sixteen people were killed and 21 others were injured.

Multiple agencies are investigating what Prime Minister Luis Montenegro has described as "one of the biggest tragedies of our recent past."

The government's Office for Air and Rail Accident Investigations said that it has concluded its analysis of the wreckage and would issue a preliminary technical report Friday. But late in the day it informed Portugal's national news agency Lusa that the report would be published only on Saturday due to delays in carrying out procedures in conjunction with other bodies. It wasn't clear how revealing its initial report would be.

Chief police investigator Nelson Oliveira said that a preliminary police report, which has a broader scope, is expected within 45 days.

The streetcar's wreckage was removed from the scene overnight and placed in police custody.

A tragedy beyond Portugal's borders

A woman who was a French-Canadian dual citizen is among the dead, the French Foreign Ministry said Friday.

The transport workers' trade union SITRA said the streetcar's brakeman, André Marques, was among the dead. A national Portuguese charitable organization, Santa Casa da Misericórdia, whose main Lisbon headquarters are at the top of the hill where the streetcar runs, said four of its staff were killed.

Spaniards, Israelis, Portuguese, Brazilians, Italians and French people were injured, the executive director of Portugal's National Health Service, Alvaro Santos, said.

"This tragedy ... goes beyond our borders," Montenegro said in a televised address from his official residence. Lisbon hosted around 8.5 million tourists last year, and long lines of people typically form for the streetcar's short and picturesque trip a few hundred meters up and down a city street. Thursday was a national day of mourning.

Hundreds of people attended a somber Mass Thursday evening at Lisbon's majestic Church of Saint Dominic. Montenegro, President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa and Lisbon Mayor Carlos Moedas were among the attendees, some dressed in black, in the candlelit sanctuary.

Daily inspections

The electric streetcar, also known as a funicular, is harnessed by steel cables and can carry more than 40 people. Officials declined to comment on whether a faulty brake or a snapped cable may have prompted the descending streetcar to careen into a building where the steep downtown road bends.

"The city needs answers," the mayor said, adding that talk of possible causes is "mere speculation."

Aside from investigations by police, public prosecutors and government transport experts, the company that operates Lisbon's streetcars and buses, Carris, said it has opened its own investigation.

The streetcar, which has been in service since 1914, underwent a scheduled full maintenance program last year and the company conducted a 30-minute visual inspection of it every day, Carris CEO Pedro de Brito Bogas said Thursday.

The streetcar was last inspected nine hours before the derailment, he said during a news conference, but he didn't detail the visual inspection or specify when questioned whether all the cables were tested.

Lisbon's City Council halted operations of three other funicular streetcars while immediate inspections were carried out.

Tourists are shaken

Felicity Ferriter, a 70-year-old British tourist, said she was unpacking her suitcase at a nearby hotel when she heard "a horrendous crash."

The couple had seen the streetcar when they arrived and intended to ride on it the next day.

"It was to be one of the highlights of our holiday," she said, adding: "It could have been us."

Francesca di Bello, a 23-year-old Italian tourist on a family vacation, had been on the Elevador da Gloria just hours before the derailment.

They walked by the crash site on Thursday, expressing shock at the wreckage. Asked if she would ride a funicular again in Portugal or elsewhere, Di Bello was emphatic: "Definitely not."

Hernán Muñoz in Lisbon, and Angela Charlton in Paris, contributed to this report.

## AP reporting calls into question why and how Israel attacked a Gaza hospital

By SAM MEDNICK and SAMY MAGDY Associated Press

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) — Associated Press reporting into an Israeli attack on a Gaza Strip hospital that killed 22 people, including five journalists, raises serious questions about Israel's rationale for the strikes and the way they were carried out. Among those killed was Mariam Dagga, who worked for AP and other news organizations.

Israeli forces struck a position well known as a journalists' gathering point, because — a military official said — they believed a camera on the roof was being used by Hamas to observe troops. The official cited "suspicious behavior" and unspecified intelligence, but the only detail given was that there was a towel on the camera and the person with it — which the army interpreted as an effort to avoid identification.

AP has gathered new evidence indicating the camera in question actually belonged to a Reuters video journalist who routinely covered his equipment with a white cloth to protect it from the scorching sun and dust. The journalist, Hussam al-Masri, was killed in the initial strike.

The evidence calls into question why Israeli forces went through with the strike. Witnesses say Israel frequently observed the position by drone, including about 40 minutes before the attack, giving an opportunity to correctly identify al-Masri.

AP's findings also reveal other troubling decisions from the Aug. 25 attack:

— Soon after the first strike, Israeli forces hit the same position again, after medical and emergency workers had reached the scene to treat the injured, and as journalists including Dagga had rushed to cover the news. The strike has raised accusations of a "double tap" — a type of attack intended to kill those responding to casualties and which experts in international law say is a possible war crime.

— Troops used high-explosive tank shells to strike a hospital, instead of more precise guided weapons that might have resulted in fewer casualties.

— In all, Israel struck the hospital four times, the AP found, each time without warning.

The Israeli military refused to comment when asked if it hit the wrong person and has presented no evidence for their claims. It says it is still investigating but in their initial inquiry described "gaps" in how the attack was carried out. Israel has said none of the journalists killed were intended targets, nor were they linked to Hamas.

Israeli fire has killed 189 Palestinian reporters in Gaza, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists. Israel has barred foreign journalists from entering Gaza since the war erupted in October 2023, giving Palestinian journalists a critical role in covering the conflict.

The AP's analysis is based on information from current and former Israeli military officials, other officials and weapons analysts — and accounts from nearly 20 people who were in or near the hospital at the time of the strikes.

The attack has galvanized global anger as Israeli forces push ahead with a major offensive in famine-

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stricken Gaza City, exposing its population to even greater danger from Israeli bombardment and military operations. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called it a "tragic mishap" but stopped short of apologizing.

Covering a camera with a cloth

Before the attack, the Reuters journalist, al-Masri, was positioned with his video camera high up on an external stairwell of Nasser Hospital. A photograph taken by Dagga in mid-August shows al-Masri on the same stairwell next to his camera, with a white cloth draped over it.

In the weeks before the strikes, al-Masri had broadcast live almost daily from the stairwell, according to other journalists who worked there and hospital officials. Five journalists told the AP that he often used the cloth. It is common practice for video journalists around the world, including in Gaza, to use such high positions and to cover their cameras to protect them from the elements.

Nasser Hospital, one of the few functioning hospitals in Gaza, has been a vital location for Palestinian reporters.

It is a central point for reporting on dead and wounded from Israeli strikes, shootings of Palestinians seeking aid and on malnourished people brought in daily. The Wi-Fi signal offered a rare reliable link to transmit news.

Photographers and videographers used the building's external staircase for months to get a bird's-eye view of the city of Khan Younis — and in the case of global news agencies like Reuters and AP, to supply live video footage to newsrooms around the world. The AP had repeatedly informed the army that its journalists were stationed there.

An Israeli military official said that several days before the attack, Israeli forces spotted a camera on the roof and were tracking "suspicious behavior," which he did not specify.

The official said the military believed Hamas was using the camera to monitor its forces and said the camera and the man operating it had what they described as a towel draped over them, suggesting an effort at concealment. The official spoke on condition of anonymity in line with regulations.

A second person was killed in the strike that hit al-Masri. Hospital officials have identified all 22 dead, saying they were a mix of health and rescue workers, journalists, and relatives of patients. But they said they could not be certain which of them was the other person killed in the first strike, since all the bodies were collected at the same time.

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At about the same time as the first stairway was hit, Israel struck another part of the hospital, according to witnesses and video footage showing smoke rising from the location.

Israel has struck hospitals and journalists on repeated occasions throughout the war. Both are supposed to be protected under international law, but hospitals can lose those protections if they are used for military purposes and journalists can, too, if they are armed or take part in hostilities.

Israel has accused Hamas of operating in or around hospitals but has provided limited evidence. During the war, Hamas security men have often been seen inside hospitals, blocking access to some areas of the facilities.

Based on analysis of the footage at the time of the attack, and speaking to multiple eyewitnesses, there is no evidence that anyone killed in the strikes was armed.

Double-tap strikes

The Israeli military has given no explanation why it carried out a second round of strikes.

After the first attack, a crowd of medics, journalists and others made their way up the staircase. Ibrahim Qannan, a correspondent with Cairo-based Al-Ghad TV who was filming from below, said another journalist, Moaz Abu Taha, waved to him and shouted down to him, "Hussam was martyred."

Within 10 minutes, two more loud blasts struck the staircase. Video analysis revealed the flashes of two projectiles and the booms of two explosions. Among those killed was Dagga, who had just snapped her last photos before heading up the stairs, and Abu Taha.

Dagga's brother Sediq had spent the previous night with her and saw her filming from the stairs moments before she was killed. "I rushed upstairs and recovered her body," he said.



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Double-tap strikes, which hit crowds that move into areas to rescue victims from initial strikes, have notoriously been used by al-Qaida and other extremist groups, as well as Russia's military and forces loyal to former Syrian President Bashar Assad. First responders and other civilians are often harmed in such attacks.

Experts in international law say multiple aspects of this attack could point to potential war crimes, including targeting a hospital without warning, and the double-tap strategy that puts civilians in danger.

Israel Ziv, a retired general who once led the Israeli army's operations directorate, said a double-tap strike would violate the army's rules of engagement.

Raed al-Nims, head of the Palestinian Red Crescent's media department in Gaza, said double tap strikes have "happened multiple times" in the war, hitting the group's ambulances and personnel after the arrive at the scene of attacks.

Israel declined to comment, citing the ongoing investigation.

Tank fire was not supposed to have been used

AP analyzed videos of the attack and found that Israel fired tank shells in the strikes — which the Israeli military confirmed following their initial inquiry.

Ziv said less deadly and more precise options than tank fire were available.

"There is no good explanation for that," he said.

An official with knowledge of the attack said the tank wasn't supposed to have been used, but was unable to say what the original plans were. The official spoke to AP on condition of anonymity to discuss the ongoing investigation.

A munitions expert who analyzed photos of shrapnel from the hospital obtained by AP said it came from high-explosive shells fired by a tank.

The remnants show parts of at least three fin-stabilized tank gun projectiles, consistent with those used by Israel, said N.R. Jenzen-Jones, director of Armament Research Services, an Australian consulting firm.

Satellite imagery from the afternoon of the day of the strike shows Israeli tanks and armored vehicles operating about 4.5 kilometers (3 miles) northeast of the hospital.

The same brigade that carried out these strikes, the Golani Brigade, was involved in the March shooting of an ambulance convoy in southern Gaza that killed 15 Palestinian medics. An initial investigation of that attack by Israeli forces found a chain of "professional failures" and a deputy commander was fired.

Discrepancies over Israeli claims of militants

A day after the strikes, Israel gave the names of six men who it said were militants killed in the attack. But this statement also raised troubling discrepancies.

It provided no evidence, and one man on its list, Omar Kamel Shahada Abu Teim, does not appear on the hospital's list of casualties obtained by the AP. Doctors and morgue workers said no one by that name was killed, and unlike with the other five, Israel did not provide a picture.

Another person named, Jumaa al-Najjar, was a health care worker employed by Nasser Hospital, according to the morgue list. Another, Imad al-Shaer, was a driver for Gaza's Civil Defense first responders.

The other three names appear on the casualty list, but no other details about them were immediately available.

Israel also did not say if any of the six were killed in its initial strike on the camera. Most were killed in the second round of strikes, and officials have not said whether they were identified among the crowd on the stairwell before troops struck it.

The Health Ministry and the Civil Defense are part of the Hamas-run government. Israel has in the past claimed that some emergency responders were militants. That was the case in the March attack that killed 15 medics.

A joint letter from the AP and Reuters expressed outrage at the strikes and demanded answers.

"Unfortunately, we have found the (Israeli military's) willingness and ability to investigate itself in past incidents to rarely result in clarity and action, raising serious questions including whether Israel is deliberately targeting live feeds in order to suppress information," they said.

In the past, Israel has acknowledged targeting and killing journalists it accuses of being militants, allegations denied by them and their employers. The military says it tries to avoid harming civilians and blames their deaths on Hamas because it operates in densely populated areas.

Jody Ginsberg, the CEO of the Committee to Protect Journalists, said journalists are civilians and must never be targeted in a war. "To do so is a war crime," she said.

Magdy reported from Cairo. Associated Press reporters Melanie Lidman and Angela Charlton in Jerusalem, and Jon Gambrell in Dubai, contributed.

## AP reporting calls into question why and how Israel attacked a Gaza hospital

By SAM MEDNICK and SAMY MAGDY Associated Press

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) — Associated Press reporting into an Israeli attack on a Gaza Strip hospital that killed 22 people, including five journalists, raises serious questions about Israel's rationale for the strikes and the way they were carried out. Among those killed was Mariam Dagga, who worked for AP and other news organizations.

Israeli forces struck a position well known as a journalists' gathering point, because — a military official said — they believed a camera on the roof was being used by Hamas to observe troops. The official cited "suspicious behavior" and unspecified intelligence, but the only detail given was that there was a towel on the camera and the person with it — which the army interpreted as an effort to avoid identification.

AP has gathered new evidence indicating the camera in question actually belonged to a Reuters video journalist who routinely covered his equipment with a white cloth to protect it from the scorching sun and dust. The journalist, Hussam al-Masri, was killed in the initial strike.

The evidence calls into question why Israeli forces went through with the strike. Witnesses say Israel frequently observed the position by drone, including about 40 minutes before the attack, giving an opportunity to correctly identify al-Masri.

AP's findings also reveal other troubling decisions from the Aug. 25 attack:

- Soon after the first strike, Israeli forces hit the same position again, after medical and emergency workers had reached the scene to treat the injured, and as journalists including Dagga had rushed to cover the news. The strike has raised accusations of a "double tap" — a type of attack intended to kill those responding to casualties and which experts in international law say is a possible war crime.

- Troops used high-explosive tank shells to strike a hospital, instead of more precise guided weapons that might have resulted in fewer casualties.

- In all, Israel struck the hospital four times, the AP found, each time without warning.

The Israeli military refused to comment when asked if it hit the wrong person and has presented no evidence for their claims. It says it is still investigating but in their initial inquiry described "gaps" in how the attack was carried out. Israel has said none of the journalists killed were intended targets, nor were they linked to Hamas.

Israeli fire has killed 189 Palestinian reporters in Gaza, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists. Israel has barred foreign journalists from entering Gaza since the war erupted in October 2023, giving Palestinian journalists a critical role in covering the conflict.

The AP's analysis is based on information from current and former Israeli military officials, other officials and weapons analysts — and accounts from nearly 20 people who were in or near the hospital at the time of the strikes.

The attack has galvanized global anger as Israeli forces push ahead with a major offensive in famine-stricken Gaza City, exposing its population to even greater danger from Israeli bombardment and military operations. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called it a "tragic mishap" but stopped short of apologizing.

Covering a camera with a cloth

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Before the attack, the Reuters journalist, al-Masri, was positioned with his video camera high up on an external stairwell of Nasser Hospital. A photograph taken by Dagga in mid-August shows al-Masri on the same stairwell next to his camera, with a white cloth draped over it.

In the weeks before the strikes, al-Masri had broadcast live almost daily from the stairwell, according to other journalists who worked there and hospital officials. Five journalists told the AP that he often used the cloth. It is common practice for video journalists around the world, including in Gaza, to use such high positions and to cover their cameras to protect them from the elements.

Nasser Hospital, one of the few functioning hospitals in Gaza, has been a vital location for Palestinian reporters.

It is a central point for reporting on dead and wounded from Israeli strikes, shootings of Palestinians seeking aid and on malnourished people brought in daily. The Wi-Fi signal offered a rare reliable link to transmit news.

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## Israel strikes high-rise building and threatens to hit more in Gaza City offensive

By WAFAA SHURAF, JULIA FRANKEL and BASSEM MROUE Associated Press

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip (AP) — Israel struck a high-rise building in Gaza City on Friday after an evacuation warning, as the military stepped up operations aimed at seizing control of the famine-stricken city of some 1 million Palestinians. Strikes elsewhere in Gaza City killed at least 27 people, health officials said.

The military accused Hamas militants of using high-rises in the city for surveillance and planned ambushes, and said it would carry out "precise, targeted strikes" on militant infrastructure in the coming days.

Israel has begun mobilizing tens of thousands of reservists and is repeating evacuation warnings as part of its plan to widen its offensive, which has sparked opposition domestically and condemnation abroad.

Palestinians said Friday's strike targeted the Mushtaha tower in Rimal, an upscale neighborhood before the war. Gaza City resident Ahmed al-Boari said people fleeing Israeli operations elsewhere in the city had sought shelter in and around the building. Satellite imagery showed a large number of tents nearby.

It was not immediately clear if anyone was wounded or killed in the strike.

Israel said it struck the building because it was used by Hamas for surveillance. Photos of the building taken before Friday's strike showed that its roof was already heavily damaged from earlier raids.

Fears grow as Israeli forces advance

Israel has declared Gaza City, in the north of the territory, to be a combat zone. Parts of the city are already considered "red zones" where Palestinians have been ordered to evacuate ahead of expected heavy fighting.

That has left residents on edge, including many who returned after fleeing the city in the initial stages of the war, which has already displaced around 90% of the territory's population.

The city's Shifa Hospital said 27 people were killed in Israeli strikes overnight into Friday, including six members of a single family. The Israeli military says it only targets militants and blames Hamas for civilian deaths because the militants operate in densely-populated areas.

The offensive has also sparked widespread protests among Israelis who fear it will endanger hostages still held in Gaza, some of whom are believed to be in Gaza City. There are 48 such hostages, 20 of them believed by Israel to be alive.

The protesters accuse Netanyahu of prolonging the war in order to satisfy his far-right governing partners instead of reaching a ceasefire with Hamas to bring the hostages home.

"The government of Israel is waging a war of attrition against us, against the citizens of Israel as a whole, and against the families of the hostages in particular," said Lishay Lavi-Miran, the wife of hostage Omri Miran.

Hamas video shows hostages

Hamas released a propaganda video Friday of two hostages in Gaza City. The video shows Guy Gilboa-Dalal in a car, at one point joined by another hostage, Alon Ohel.

Gilboa-Dalal speaks, likely under duress, pleading for an end to the war and the return of hostages. He was last seen in a video more than six months ago with another hostage, Evyatar David, as they watched other hostages being released during a ceasefire.

Hamas-led militants killed around 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and abducted 251 people in their attack on southern Israel that triggered the war on Oct. 7, 2023. Most have since been released in ceasefires or other agreements.

Israel's retaliatory offensive has killed more than 64,000 Palestinians, according to Gaza's Health Min-

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istry, which does not say how many were civilians or combatants but says women and children make up around half the dead.

Israel says the war will continue until all the hostages are returned and Hamas is disarmed, and that it will retain open-ended security control of the territory of some 2 million Palestinians. Hamas has said it will only release the remaining hostages in return for Palestinian prisoners, a lasting ceasefire and a full Israeli withdrawal from Gaza.

Settlers attack Palestinians in the West Bank

Israeli settlers descended on the Palestinian village of Khallet A-Daba in the occupied West Bank overnight, attacking residents with clubs and pepper spray, said Palestinians who arrived at the village in the attack's aftermath.

Video obtained from Palestinian activist Adeeb Huraini, 26, showed an older man with cuts on his head and leg, and a woman whose headscarf was soaked in blood.

Another video shows Basel Adra, a local activist, holding a baby with blood on its head, calling for help and saying there is "a lot of blood." Adra said nine Palestinians were hospitalized after the attack.

Adra helped direct "No Other Land," an Oscar-winning documentary about settler violence in the area. The Israeli military demolished much of the village last month.

The military did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Protests against U.S. sanctions on Palestinian civil society

Israeli and Palestinian human rights groups protested new U.S. sanctions aimed at Palestinian civil society, saying in a joint statement that they would inflict "severe harm on key human rights organizations that have worked for decades to protect Palestinians."

The Trump administration on Thursday announced sanctions on three Palestinian groups — Al Haq, Al Mezan, and the Palestinian Center for Human Rights. The new measures would make it harder for them to receive donations from the United States.

Secretary of State Marco Rubio said the U.S. was targeting the groups over their involvement with the International Criminal Court's efforts to investigate, arrest and prosecute Israelis.

Last year, the ICC issued arrest warrants for Netanyahu and his former defense minister, alleging crimes against humanity in Gaza. The United States and Israel have rejected the allegations and the U.S. has sanctioned a number of ICC judges and prosecutors.

"The U.S. is effectively punishing the very act of addressing human rights violations and abuses," said Ammar Dwaik, head of the Palestinian Independent Commission for Human Rights. "This criminalizes accountability and sets a dangerous precedent worldwide that governments can silence investigators."

Frankel reported from Jerusalem and Mroue from Beirut.

Follow AP coverage at <https://apnews.com/hub/israel-hamas-war>

## **Today in History: September 6, President McKinley fatally shot**

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Saturday, Sept. 6, the 249th day of 2025. There are 116 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On Sept. 6, 1901, President William McKinley was shot and mortally wounded by anarchist Leon Czolgosz (CHAWL'-gawsh) at the Pan-American Exposition in Buffalo, New York. (McKinley died eight days later and was succeeded by his vice president, Theodore Roosevelt.)

Also on this date:

In 1949, Howard Unruh, a resident of Camden, New Jersey, shot and killed 13 of his neighbors. (Unruh, who was diagnosed with paranoid schizophrenia, was incarcerated for 60 years until his death in 2009.)

In 1972, the Summer Olympics resumed in Munich, West Germany, a day after the deadly hostage crisis

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that left eleven Israelis, five Arab abductors and a West German police officer dead.

In 1975, 18-year-old tennis star Martina Navratilova of Czechoslovakia, in New York for the U.S. Open, requested political asylum in the United States.

In 1995, Baltimore Oriole Cal Ripken Jr. played in his 2,131st consecutive game, breaking Lou Gehrig's 56 year-old MLB record; Ripken's streak would ultimately reach a still-record 2,632 games.

In 1997, a public funeral was held for Princess Diana at Westminster Abbey in London, six days after her death in a car crash in Paris.

In 2006, President George W. Bush acknowledged for the first time that the CIA was running secret prisons overseas and said "tough" interrogation techniques had forced terrorist leaders to reveal plots to attack the United States and its allies.

In 2018, the Supreme Court of India decriminalized consensual sex between adults, legalizing homosexuality in the country.

In 2022, Liz Truss began her tenure as U.K. prime minister; she would resign just 49 days later.

Today's Birthdays: Comedian JoAnne Worley is 88. Cartoonist Sergio Aragonés is 88. Country singer-songwriter David Allan Coe is 86. Rock singer-musician Roger Waters (Pink Floyd) is 82. Comedian-actor Jane Curtin is 78. Actor-comedian Jeff Foxworthy is 67. Former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie is 63. Television journalist Elizabeth Vargas is 63. Country singer-songwriter Mark Chesnutt is 62. Actor Rosie Perez is 61. R&B singer Macy Gray is 58. Actor Idris Elba is 53. Actor Justina Machado is 53. Actor Anika Noni Rose is 53. Actor Naomie Harris is 49. Rapper Foxy Brown is 47. Actor/singer Deborah Joy Winans is 42. Actor-comedian Lauren Lapkus is 40. Actor Asher Angel is 23.