

Groton Daily Independent

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Tuesday, June 16

Senior Menu: Hot turkey combination, mashed potatoes with gravy, corn, fruit.

United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.

2026 Tiger Skills Workouts, 7:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Arena

City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.

U14 Legion hosts Webster, 5:30 p.m.

U12 Baseball at Sisseton, 5:30 p.m.

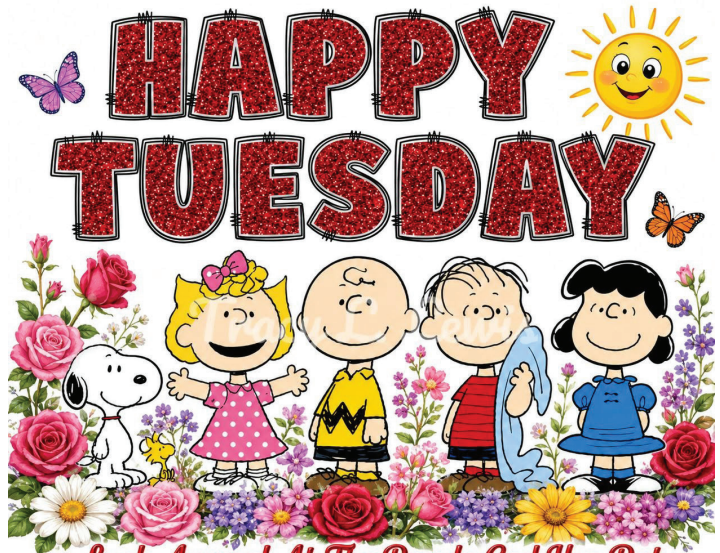
U10 Baseball at Webster, 5:30 p.m. (W&R)

U8 Baseball host Britton, DH, 6 p.m. (Blue)

U14 Softball hosts Redfield, 5:30 p.m.

T-Ball Scrimmage, 5 p.m., Falk Field

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



*Look Around At The People God Has Put
In Your Life And Be Thankful.
They Aren't There By Accident.
Wishing You A Terrific Day Of Love And Blessings*

Wednesday, June 17

Senior Menu: Kielbasa with mac and cheese, California blend, fruit, whole wheat bread.

United Methodist: Community Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.; Groton Ad Council, 7 p.m.

JVT Practice, 6-9 p.m., Gym/Arena

U12 Baseball at Aberdeen, 5:30 p.m., North Complex

U10 Baseball at Aberdeen, 5:30 p.m., North Complex, (R&B)

U8 Baseball at Aberdeen, 5:30 p.m. (Red), North Complex

U14 Softball at Mobridge, 5:30 p.m.

U12 Softball hosts Redfield 2, DH, 5:30 p.m., (B&W)

U10 Softball hosts Redfield 2, DH, 5:30 p.m., (B&W)

U8 Softball hosts Redfield 2, 5:30 p.m., (W&B)

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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.

See You in 2276

The America250 commission yesterday revealed the contents of a 900-pound time capsule due to be buried in Philadelphia on July 4 and dug up 250 years later.

All 50 states, five territories, three branches of government, and Washington, DC, contributed a keepsake commemorating life in 2026. California offered an AI prediction of what the state would be like in 2276, Georgia donated a painting of the Masters logo, and Maine submitted a bone from an endangered whale. Federal scientists and preservationists sealed the contents last week after spending years designing the capsule to survive 10 feet underground for two and a half centuries. Experts say Philadelphia would have to be 6 feet underwater for the contents to get wet.

The National Archives currently holds the Bicentennial time capsule, created in 1976 and set to be opened on the nation's 300th birthday in 2076. It was preceded by the underwhelming 1876 Century Safe.

Kyiv Monastery Ablaze

A fire erupted yesterday at the main cathedral in the Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra, a UNESCO World Heritage site, and one of Ukraine's most well-known cultural and religious destinations.

The fire erupted beneath the main cathedral's towers and golden domes after Ukraine said Russia launched 70 missiles and more than 600 drones into the country, including a drone it says was found in the wreckage. Russia denied responsibility, instead blaming a US-made Patriot air-defense missile for damage at the site.

The complex was founded around 1050 by Saint Anthony, a Christian monk who sought a place for prayer and retreat. It contains a vast underground network of caves that he and other monks once navigated; today, the labyrinth houses tombs of the monks, including Saint Anthony.

Neural Speech Milestone

A 47-year-old father with ALS has used a brain implant to communicate with roughly 92% accuracy for nearly two years, the longest-running demonstration of speech communication through a brain-computer interface.

The at-home system, described in a study released yesterday, converts brain signals into near-instant speech, letting Casey Harrell communicate independently and conversationally. Four implants, each packed with 64 tiny electrodes, record activity from the brain's speech-control region. When Harrell tries to speak, AI decodes the signals into text and a synthetic voice modeled on recordings of his pre-ALS voice. The translation happens at about 56 words per minute.

Harrell had surgery in 2023; the study reports on the first 23 months following the procedure. Over time, the device has evolved into more than a speech tool, allowing Harrell to operate a computer, surf the web, send texts and emails, and enable a profanity filter when talking to his young daughter.

Sports, Entertainment, & Culture

South African jazz pianist Abdullah Ibrahim dies at age 91 following a brief illness.

Ye, formerly Kanye West, announces eight shows in the US and Europe this summer after months of concert cancellations tied to antisemitic comments.

Cape Verde pulls off an upset, drawing four-time European champion Spain 0-0 (More, w/video) | 2018 World Cup champion France faces Senegal at 3 pm ET, while titleholder Argentina takes on Algeria at 9 pm ET.

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Science & Technology

Engineered nanoparticles effectively kill aggressive prostate cancer and strengthen immunity in a pre-clinical trial; five out of 10 mice see complete remission after three treatments.

Blueberry-sized ingestible sensor takes temperature from inside the body, is more accurate than oral or forehead thermometers; possible uses include fertility tracking and monitoring people under anesthesia.

Dying sun-like stars appear to get about 10,000 tiny kicks from escaping mass over their final hundreds of thousands of years, pushing them away from their original locations at roughly the pace of a slow human jog.

Business & Markets

US stock markets close higher (S&P 500 +1.7%, Dow +0.9%, Nasdaq +3.1%), with Dow hitting a fresh record on potential Iran war deal.

Fox Corp. to buy Roku, a streaming service device maker, in deal valued at \$22B; combined company would rank third in US television by viewing share.

SpaceX's initial public offering raises a total of \$85.7B after underwriters exercise "greenshoe" over-allotment—meaning banks running the IPO sold additional shares due to strong investor demand.

Politics & World Affairs

California Gov. Gavin Newsom (D) says the Justice Department is investigating him and his wife over unspecified allegations; he characterizes the probe as politically motivated, citing a potential 2028 presidential run.

Eight people killed after B-52 bomber crashes shortly after takeoff at US Air Force base in Southern California's Mojave Desert; those on board included government contractors and uniformed military personnel.

The United Kingdom proposes social media ban for kids under age 16; the ban could go into effect next year, restricting access to Snapchat, TikTok, YouTube, Instagram, Facebook, and X.

Brown County Mosquito Pool First West Nile Detection of Season

PIERRE, SD – The South Dakota Department of Health has confirmed the first West Nile virus (WNV) mosquito pools of the season have been detected in Brown County. State officials urge the public to take steps to protect themselves and their families against WNV, which can cause fever, headaches, rash, swollen lymph nodes, and muscle and joint aches.

“Protecting yourself against pesky mosquito bites is important for preventing West Nile infection,” said Dr. Joshua Clayton, State Epidemiologist for the Department of Health. “Using bug spray and limiting activities between dusk-to-dawn hours can reduce your risk of infection.”

Prevent mosquito bites and reduce the risk of WNV by taking the following precautions:

Apply mosquito repellents (DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus 2-undecanone, param-menthane-diol, or IR3535) to clothes and exposed skin. Limit exposure by wearing pants and long sleeves in the evening;

Limit time outdoors from dusk to midnight when mosquitoes are most active. *Culex tarsalis* are the primary carrier of WNV in South Dakota;

Remove standing water that gives mosquitoes a place to breed. Regularly change the water in birdbaths, outside pet dishes, and drain water from other flowerpots and garden containers and stay away from areas near standing water; and

Support local mosquito control efforts.

Personal precautions are especially important for those at high risk for severe illness from WNV – people over 60 years of age, pregnant women, transplant patients, individuals with cancer, diabetes, hypertension, and kidney disease. People with symptoms like severe or unusual headaches should see their physicians.

South Dakota has reported more than 2,952 human cases and 58 deaths since WNV was first reported in 2002. Every county has reported cases. There was one human WNV case reported as an early season outlier in South Dakota already this year.

For more information on WNV and other health-related items, visit the DOH website.

At the heart of the Department of Health’s mission is a simple goal: to protect and improve the health of all South Dakotans. The department is entrusted with the vital task of promoting wellness, preventing disease, and ensuring access to quality healthcare for all South Dakotans.

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Groton City Council Meeting Agenda

June 16, 2026 – 7:00pm
City Hall – 120 N Main Street

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

1. Approval of Agenda
2. Public Comments - pursuant to SDCL 1-25-1
(Public Comments will offer the opportunity for anyone not listed on the agenda to speak to the council. Speaking time will be limited to 3 minutes. No action will be taken on questions or items not on the agenda.)
3. Allow Area IV Senior Nutrition to Use Kitchen and Portion of Southwest Room at Community Center
4. Approval of Donated Electricity at Groton Community Historical Society's Jail
5. Airport Discussion and Update on Hangar Leases
6. May Finance Report
7. Building Permit Ordinance Discussion
8. Minutes
9. Bills
10. Announcement: City Offices Closed on June 19, 2026, for Juneteenth
11. Executive session personnel & legal 1-25-2 (1) & (3)
12. Adjournment

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BROWN COUNTY COMMISSION AGENDA GENERAL MEETING

TUESDAY, JUNE 16, 2026, 8:45 A.M.

COMMISSIONER'S CHAMBERS

COURTHOUSE ANNEX - 25 MARKET STREET, ABERDEEN SD

1. Call To Order - Pledge of Allegiance
2. Approval of the Agenda
3. Opportunity for Public Comment
 - ❖ *Public comment will be limited to 10 minutes or at Boards Discretion. Presentations will be limited to 3 minutes*
4. Richmond Dam Update
5. Jordon Menken, SD Game Fish & Parks
 - a. Game, Fish & Parks Update on Richmond Lake
6. Kasie Ingraham, Department of Legislative Audits
 - a. Opening Conference for 2025 Audit
7. Randy Zens, Assistant Building Superintendent
 - a. Quotes for North Parking Lot Renovations
8. Rachel Kippley, Fair/Fairgrounds/Parks Manager
 - a. Approve & Authorize Chairman to sign Aberdeen Security & Investigations Contract for 2026 Fair
 - b. Approve Jr. Fair Board for 2026 Fair
 - c. Approve & Authorize Chairman to sign Express NDAA Certification
 - d. Department Update
9. Dirk Rogers, Highway Superintendent
 - a. R-O-W for Web Water
 - b. Department Update
10. First Reading of the following Ordinances:
 - a. Ord. #325 – Rezone for James Arneson
 - b. Ord. #326 – Rezone for Katherine Osterman/Eric Olson
 - c. Ord. #327 – Rezone for TC Wright Trust
11. Consent Calendar
 - a. Approval of General Meeting Minutes of June 9, 2026
 - b. Approval of Post Election Audit Minutes of June 10, 2026
 - c. Claims/Payroll
 - d. HR Report
 - e. Travel Request
 - f. Lease Agreements
12. Other Business
13. Executive Session (if requested per SDCL 1-25-2)
14. Adjourn

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

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

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

Official Recordings of Commission Meetings along with the Minutes can be found at [Commission Meetings | Brown County](#)



for Ida Hannon's 90th Birthday

Ida will be turning 90 on July 7th! While a party isn't possible this year, we still want to make her day extra memorable. We'd like for her dearest friends and family (that's you!) to send her a card or gift this year. Include a message, old memories, photos, or simply birthday wishes.

Help us make her day one that she won't forget.

We will gather the cards and gifts for her to have on her big day.

please mail your card/gifts to:

Ida hannon (granddaughter
Michelle)

1208 appollo ave
Aberdeen SD, 57401
by July 11th

*thank you
for making this day extra special for my
grandma.*



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**SOUTH DAKOTA
NEWS WATCH**

Inform. Enlighten. Illuminate.

'They just won't listen:' Rural SD nears postal breaking point

By Molly Wetsch, South Dakota News Watch

PHILIP, S.D. – At Petersen's Variety store, there are no less than three signs in the window advertising that residents of Philip can ship, pick up and drop off packages via UPS. The store is just a block away from the town's post office.

Philip residents may be forgiven for choosing the – often more expensive – private shipping company over the nation's postal service: Long delivery times and unreliable service have led to growing distrust and dissatisfaction with the United States Postal Service's operations in rural South Dakota.

In early 2024, USPS downgraded a distribution facility in Huron to a local processing-only facility. The service had also initially planned to downsize its Sioux Falls distribution facility but later said that the plan had been paused.

USPS spokesperson Tara Jarrett offered a few details on the impact of those changes in a statement to News Watch.

"Local mail continues to be processed in our Sioux Falls (570-571 ZIP Codes), Dakota Central (572-575 ZIP Codes), and Rapid City (577 ZIP Codes) plants, and that mail does not leave the state for additional processing if it is staying in that region. Mail in the 576 ZIP Codes continues to be served by our Bismarck, ND plant."

The organization has also recently begun rolling out its reduced service of rural post offices, stopping delivery vehicles at rural sites once a day, rather than twice.

The moves, which are part of USPS's Delivering for America plan, aimed to "modernize the nation's aged and neglected postal network." But for thousands of people across the state, including dozens of local newspaper publishers, that effort has significantly hindered day-to-day life and operations.

West River publisher sees dramatic changes in delivery times

Don Ravellette's family has been publishing papers out of Philip for nearly 50 years through the company Ravellette Publications. The Philip Pioneer Review, the company's primary imprint, now publishes news from Murdo, Wall, Bison, Kadoka and Faith.

The Pioneer Review is a true community paper: Recent stories include the details of a new lighted stop sign in Philip, the results of the Harding County regional high school rodeo and a story about how Murdo residents rallied together to clean up a city planter with new soil and flowers.

Ravellette said that for the past two years, he's been having a harder time making sure that news is delivered to subscribers in a timely manner. He's also chosen to regularly direct employees to drive to Wall to deliver papers. Ravellette said the town's 577 ZIP code – compared to Philip's 575 – means that subscribers receive papers in a timelier manner.

"More and more publishers have had to do that, this exceptional dispatch, where they're literally doing the work of what the post office used to do, in terms of taking these bundles to surrounding post offices. Just to try to get them to expedite the delivery, particularly in the local area," Dave Bordewyk, executive director of the South Dakota NewsMedia Association told News Watch.

Ravellette told News Watch he is experiencing more frustration than ever before with the postal service.

"It's common talk from the coffee shops to the business owners that the post office is still unreliable. It's not even funny," Ravellette said. "And when we send out 1,000 livestock catalogs, it's sad when the out-of-state ones get delivered before the ones you mail out 25 miles from your house, from your post office."

In rural areas, the postal service is a lifeline because it is legally mandated to provide delivery and mail services to every ZIP code in the country. That means that routes cannot be discontinued or disrupted if they aren't used frequently or are not profitable.

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Ravellette said that many of his subscribers do not see the value in having a weekly subscription to the newspaper when they can't expect it will arrive on time.

"They were saying, 'Well, we might just have to quit our subscription, maybe we'll just stop in and buy a paper whenever we can.' So there goes 50 bucks. And if you get 100 of those, you do the math," Ravellette said.

Ravellette said that he feels like decisions are being made at the national level that aren't considering the needs of rural America.

"They just won't listen. They just won't," he said.

Delivery worsened for 65% of papers that responded to survey

Ravellette is not the only publisher frustrated with the postal service.

Bordewyk recently sent a survey to members of the South Dakota NewsMedia Association, which includes 109 newspaper publishers and digital media outlets from across the state.

The organization had 64 publishers respond to the survey, of which about 65% said deliveries of their newspapers had worsened in the past year. Just 7% said deliveries had improved. Common complaints issued through the survey were inconsistencies with delivery times, struggles retaining advertisers and subscribers not receiving papers at all.

On June 4, Bordewyk met with the USPS Inspector General's office to discuss commonly expressed issues with the state's mailing system. He said that he thought the meeting went well and that the office seemed alarmed at publishers' complaints.

But he expressed concern at the organization's ability to fix what has already been broken.

"There's no good news here. It's all bad news when it comes to the future, in terms of what they've done to the system, what it's costing, where they're at. And Congress is reluctant to do anything about it," Bordewyk said.

USPS data shows meandering routes, longer delivery times

USPS' Service Performance Dashboard provides data about on-time delivery rates for four types of mail shipped through the service: First Class Mail, newspapers and periodicals, marketing mail and bound printed matter, media and library mail.

A News Watch analysis of the data found that at the ZIP3 level, which is the first three numbers of a ZIP code, the percentage of on-time inbound delivery for newspapers and periodicals varies greatly across the state.

Inbound delivery times illustrate the average time it takes for papers and periodicals to arrive to addresses in a specific ZIP code. Just 57.81% of papers arriving to 575 ZIP codes arrived on time in the second quarter of 2026, compared to 86.37% in 570 ZIP codes. The ZIP3 code 575, where Philip is located, also sees the slowest average delivery time at 4.3 days this year.

Outbound delivery, though, which measures the timeliness of mail being sent from a specific ZIP code, is a reflection of the on-time rate that local papers can expect when sending their publications to subscribers from their town's post office. In the 575 ZIP3 code, the average delivery time for outbound newspapers this year is 5.3 days.

"All the newspapers mail us copies of their paper to the (SDNA) office here in Brookings," Bordewyk said. "One-hundred newspapers are sending them to us. It used to be by the end of the week, by Friday – because most weeklies would be printing and mailing on a Tuesday or Wednesday – we would see more than 90% of the newspapers. Today, by Friday, less than half of them are showing up."

Newspapers see much lower on-time delivery rates and more days to deliver than other tracked USPS mail types like First-Class Mail or marketing mail.

Ravellette shared a tracking number with News Watch for a package received by a rancher near Quinn, in western South Dakota. The package, which was shipped on July 28, 2025, from Phoenix, was received on Aug. 12, 2025.

The archive tracking statement for the package shows that it made its way through 14 cities on its way to Quinn. It notably ended up in Omaha, Nebraska, and Sioux Falls twice – once after making the 600-mile

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trip out to Billings, Montana.

The roughly 1,300-mile trip from Phoenix, the package's original destination, to Quinn turned into a 3,600-mile odyssey under USPS' care.

USPS maintained in its statement to News Watch that its delivery performance in South Dakota is above average.

"USPS delivery performance in South Dakota is strong. About half of all First-Class Mail is delivered early. In the Sioux Falls area specifically, for the week ending 5/22/26, 92.6% of incoming mail was delivered on time, above our national target of 89%," Jarrett said.

The organization did not address questions about whether it is aware of issues in rural South Dakota and if there are any plans to speed up service in those areas.

South Dakota U.S. Sen. Mike Rounds told News Watch that he was unsatisfied with notions that the service in South Dakota was up to par.

"I know there's information out there suggesting that we have good service in South Dakota. I reject that," Rounds said. "I think the clear evidence is that the mail service is terrible in South Dakota."

Members of Congress looking for action

Rounds has previously been vocal about his dissatisfaction with USPS' performance in the state.

In a press release in December 2025, he said the service has "deteriorated to critical levels" in South Dakota. He also said that the Postmaster General David Steiner had "downplayed such issue existed in South Dakota."

Rounds called for an investigation into the service in the state. The USPS field operations review audit website does not currently display any former or active audits of processing or distribution centers in South Dakota.

Rounds told News Watch, though, that he is aware of ongoing investigations in South Dakota. On June 11, he sent a letter to chairman Sen. Rand Paul and ranking member Sen. Gary Peters of the Senate Homeland Security Committee. In that letter, he said he would reject any nominations to four open postal service positions until a plan was in place to fix issues in South Dakota.

"I would, at this point, remind South Dakotans that your local postal employees are trying to help us," Rounds said to News Watch. "This is a systemic problem, and it has to be fixed with a systemic change."

The impact of slow USPS delivery extends beyond birthday cards and bank statements.

U.S. Rep. Dusty Johnson said in a column in January that he had surveyed 4,000 South Dakotans and held a roundtable in Sioux Falls where constituents shared issues with the postal service.

Many spoke of financial consequences, concerns with delayed medical prescriptions and other problems that have significantly impacted their day-to-day lives, he said.

"I heard from folks like Susan from Faulkton who incurred a \$2,700 late fee because her check took 25 days to get to Sioux Falls. There's a business in Bath whose customers often don't receive their checks or get them two months late. And some people like Mary bought Christmas presents early, only to have them travel to nine different states before being delivered to Huron – 10 days late and after Christmas," Johnson wrote in the column.

Bordewyk said that while conversations with the Inspector General's office were generally reassuring, newspaper publishers across the state will still have to reckon with the fact that the system may never go back to the way it was – and be willing to make changes.

"The question for all of us is, will the postal service decide to walk back these system changes that they made?" Bordewyk said. "I understand your audience, your subscribers want that printed product, and that still serves a predominant need. But the move to a digital delivery is just going to be more and more necessary for even our smallest newspapers going forward. In order to survive, that's what's going to be necessary."

Molly Wetsch is a Report for America corps member who writes about rural and Native American issues for South Dakota News Watch. Your donation to match our RFA grant helps keep her writing stories like this. Contact Molly: 605-531-7382/molly.wetsch@sdnewswatch.org.

EARTHTALK

Dear EarthTalk: Why is real-time or near-time tracking of pollution and other environmental markers important today and who is leading the charge?
-- Barry Jenkins, Erie, PA

Pollution tracking is a way of continuously monitoring the air quality of an environment. Though this technology has been used since the mid-20th century, it has become increasingly more reliable in recent years. Pollutants like carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide and others are detected and monitored by a variety of technological systems, providing key insights for scientists, researchers and the public.

Pollution tracking serves many roles, including providing a means to detect an issue and trigger a quick response to a rise in pollutants. This helps implement protections before the pollutant levels become dangerous. Also, pollution tracking helps educate the general public about the impact of poor air quality.

Recently, there have been various advances in real-time technology, making it more accurate and reactive. These improvements are essential for a speedy and precise response to a rise in pollutants. "Regulators can pinpoint precise interventions, and cities can compete on measurable impacts, not vague promises," says Ingmar Rentzhog, the founder and CEO of We Don't Have Time, the largest global climate action media platform. "Investors, regulators, insurers, and policymakers now have regular insight into exactly who is polluting, how much, and where."

In addition, experts are developing a wider variety of detection systems for different settings. For example, continuous emissions monitoring systems are used by industries subject to regulatory emissions standards. Another form of pollution monitoring is a geographic information system, which creates spatial data that can be used by environmentalists and policymakers. Indoor air quality monitoring systems are useful for businesses and individuals monitoring healthy enclosed environments.

There are many groups leading the charge toward faster, more reliable pollution detection. Climate TRACE is one group that is publishing reports accessed by large audiences. "Worldwide, we're seeing the rapid rise in clean energy jobs overtake dirty energy jobs, and we're seeing people all around the world continue to demand that we respect their future," says Al Gore, one of Climate TRACE's founders. Such tracking can have a profound impact on legislation, too. "This is a tool to show the threat to our own children...and politicians are going to have to yield to this technology," says Jay Inslee, former governor of the State of Washington.

Readers interested in getting involved can stay updated by reading pollution tracking reports from Climate TRACE or other sources and take measures to reduce carbon emissions and air pollutant production.

State Of The Art Pollution Tracking Key To Pollution Reduction by Rachel Berliner



Without state-of-the-art pollution tracking technology and communications infrastructure, we don't stand a chance in reducing pollution.

Credit: Pexels.com.

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Watertown sweeps Groton Legion Post 39 in Monday doubleheader

Watertown Post 17 used timely hitting and patient approaches at the plate to sweep a Monday doubleheader from Groton Legion Post 39, posting 11-1 and 13-3 victories.

In the opener, Watertown struck early and never looked back in an 11-1 win. Jonathan Lake delivered a sacrifice fly in the first inning, while Tripp Jorgenson and Kye Paulson each drew bases-loaded walks to help the Arrows build a 3-0 lead. Watertown added two more runs in the second on a Cain Everson double down the left field line and a Carter Buisker groundout before pulling away the rest of the way.

Jarrett Erdmann took the loss for Groton, allowing seven runs, five earned, on six hits over four innings while striking out four and walking six. Alex Abeln accounted for Groton's lone RBI and finished 1-for-3 at the plate. Abeln and Braeden Fliehs recorded the only hits for Post 39.

Watertown collected nine hits in the contest. Cole Hansen led the Arrows with three hits, while Everson added two hits. Lake drove in three runs, and Watertown's aggressive approach produced 10 walks and four stolen bases.

The nightcap followed a similar script as Watertown rolled to a 13-3 victory.

An error allowed the Arrows to score first in the opening inning before Groton answered in the second when Erdmann drew a walk to force home the tying run. Watertown quickly regained control in the bottom half of the inning, erupting for six runs on three hits. The biggest blow came on Jackson McClemans' three-run triple, giving the Arrows a 7-1 advantage.

Watertown sealed the game with a five-run fifth inning highlighted by RBI hits from Lincoln Schutt, Everson and McClemans, along with a two-run double by Sam Olson.

Karsten Fliehs started on the mound for Groton and worked five innings, surrendering 12 runs, 10 earned, on nine hits while striking out two and walking four.

Abeln and Carter Simon each collected two hits to lead Groton offensively. Erdmann, Gavin Englund and Nick Groeblichhoff each drove in a run. Post 39 showed patience at the plate with seven walks, including two each by Fliehs and Groeblichhoff, and also turned a double play defensively.

Watertown finished with 10 hits in the second game. McClemans drove in four runs, while ninth-place hitter Schutt went a perfect 4-for-4. The Arrows played error-free baseball behind a defense anchored by Maxx Sears.

Groton Legion Post 39 looked to regroup quickly as it returned to action Tuesday against Milbank.



SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

Q&A: Term-limited Sioux Falls mayor reflects on Republican fractures, conflict with legislators

TenHaken says his leadership style 'wouldn't play well' in today's party landscape

BY: MAKENZIE HUBER

Sioux Falls Mayor Paul TenHaken aired some of his frustrations Monday during a public Q&A with the Downtown Sioux Falls Rotary Club.

Asked to share advice for the next mayor of South Dakota's largest city, TenHaken suggested building a competent staff rather than suggesting how to navigate divisive issues like data centers.

"The Legislature did not give a tax break for data centers. They ain't coming here," TenHaken said. "Let's stop talking about them. Sioux Falls is not going to have a data center."

The Sioux Falls City Council, with TenHaken's support, approved rezoning a 164-acre piece of land in northeastern Sioux Falls earlier this year to make way for a data center project, after hours of opposing testimony. State lawmakers then rejected new tax incentives for large data centers during the legislative session.

After a runoff election June 23, Sioux Falls' next mayor will be sworn in on July 17, giving TenHaken about a month left in office after eight years of service. Term limits prevented him from seeking reelection again this year.

TenHaken became emotional Monday while reflecting on positive relationships with city leaders and his staff's accomplishments. He lamented the decline of civil discourse and described how threats against him for his decisions during the COVID-19 pandemic — serious enough that he considered resigning and bought his first handgun — took a personal toll.

The 48-year-old TenHaken, a Republican serving in an office that's officially nonpartisan, spoke to South Dakota Searchlight later Monday about his relationship with the Legislature, his future role in politics and how he views the Sioux Falls mayor's role in statewide issues.

This interview has been edited for length and clarity.

You've shared that your next move is to go back to the private sector. Why not a statewide political run or something else in that vein?

I've always been a firm believer that politics and public service is a chapter and not a career. For the past eight years it's been a chapter for me and I've been honored to do it, but when you run hard and give it your all, you should be kind of tired at the end and ready for a break — that's where I'm at.

In addition, the landscape right now in the Republican Party, of which I am a member, is pretty fractured. Someone like me, someone with my style of leadership, wouldn't play well right now in Republican politics because I'm a collaborator — I'm not an attacker, I'm not a divider. That, unfortunately, is a style that seems to be successful right now. Politics is cyclical and it has different peaks and valleys, and that's where we're at right now.

You have taken a role in politics this year by funding legislative candidates with your South Dakotans for Common Sense political action committee. Is that background role — in funding and influence — more what you're gravitating toward?

I'll always love South Dakota and always love Sioux Falls, and so I'll still be politically adjacent. Just because you're not in elected office doesn't mean you can't use your influence in different ways to make sure the state stays strong and your city stays strong. Whether that's through consulting work or stay-

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ing active through PACs or helping the right candidates get into the right offices, I still want to see South Dakota as a very welcoming, very business-friendly, very accommodating state to new ideas. So I'm not going anywhere.

Sioux Falls has a history of influential mayors who have not climbed the political ladder, so to say. They've either stepped back from politics or they were unsuccessful in their larger political ambitions, though Gary Hanson is a state public utilities commissioner. How might that history influence your decision and next steps?

There certainly is a Sioux Falls versus the rest of the state conflict that seems to always exist. You see it during the legislative session. It's unfortunate, and I hope we could overcome that if there's ever a strong Sioux Falls candidate that would emerge for public office again, since we have John Thune in Sioux Falls who's been a great leader for the past 20 years or so.

I think it would be harder for someone today from Sioux Falls to win a statewide office because of some of that "Sioux Falls splatter" that we have — good, bad or otherwise. I think that's something that everybody who is from Sioux Falls and thinks about public office always has to consider.

There has been plenty of pushback against "Sioux Falls priorities" during recent legislative sessions. Both mayoral candidates have served in the Legislature. What is your advice for them about legislative relationships and accomplishing goals in Pierre?

Trying to be as collaborative as possible with non-Sioux Falls legislators is really important. It's really hard. Quite honestly, I didn't do as good of a job with that as I would have liked. I have really great relationships with our Sioux Falls area legislators, but I didn't go as deep as I wish I would have with lawmakers outside of Sioux Falls.

I think that's going to be important for the next mayor: making sure they keep those good relationships in Pierre — not just lawmakers from the Sioux Falls metropolitan area but with the entire state. It's making sure that lawmakers truly understand that a third of the state's sales tax revenue is generated in this metro. So, when bills come before the House or the Senate that can really bolster this local economy, it really does help Pukwana and Murdo and Buffalo, because we will help generate income and revenue that will help the state as a whole.

Were you expecting those relationships with lawmakers and the decisions they made to impact your time as mayor and Sioux Falls so much when you were first elected?

I think it was less about legislative relationships and more about the fracturing we've seen in the Republican Party that had such an impact. Our primary for governor even showed it was almost a four-way split across the board, which shows you that there are four different philosophies on what it means to be a Republican in this state. We have a supermajority in our Legislature, so you have those four different philosophies play out in the Legislature.

I have a certain philosophy of Republicanism that I bring to the table, which doesn't always mesh with some of the other Republicans in the Legislature. That sometimes comes into conflict when bills are introduced or when I take a position on a bill that a lawmaker disagrees on. Even though this is a nonpartisan office, and we try to keep it nonpartisan, we still have to get involved in those partisan issues.

Given the results of the legislative primary races, with many candidates you financially backed moving on to the general election in November, how do you foresee that potential shift in the Legislature impact Sioux Falls legislative priorities?

I have a lot of optimism. It seems to me that we did see a more pro-business group of legislators that got through the primaries that will also be more friendly to Sioux Falls and maybe see the value that Sioux Falls brings to the state.

What does being Sioux Falls mayor mean from a statewide lens?

This office, outside of the governor, is probably the most visible elected official serving in the state, so it comes with the responsibility to make sure that you're using your bully pulpit well and that you're representing Sioux Falls the way it needs to be represented.

You also have to be cognizant of the fact that the Legislature has a lot of priorities that aren't just Sioux

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Falls-related. They have a lot of counties and school districts and cities that are all hungry for funding and attention. Even though I obviously represent Sioux Falls, I also in some ways want to help sister cities and communities be successful as well. It's a unique balance as the mayor of Sioux Falls.

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.

Board approves higher income limit, higher prices for inmate-built affordable housing

South Dakota's Housing Development Authority will also begin a program to support manufactured housing

BY: MEGHAN O'BRIEN

PIERRE — A governor-appointed board unanimously approved higher prices and a higher income limit Monday for an affordable housing program.

The South Dakota Governor's House program sells two- and three-bedroom homes built by inmates at Mike Durfee State Prison in Springfield that are shipped across the state to eligible buyers.

The program also offers daycare models, which can be owned by daycare providers or nonprofit organizations. For buyers in rural areas with less than 5,000 people, the authority provides DakotaPlex units intended to be used as duplexes, triplexes or quadriplexes.

Buyers are responsible for buying a building permit, finding a lot, laying the foundation and flooring, and hooking up utilities and appliances.

This year's change is the "smallest price increase we've had in many, many years," according to Mike Harsma, who heads the Governor's House program for South Dakota Housing.

On July 1, the start of the new fiscal year, the homes will be priced as follows:

Two bedroom: \$89,000, up from \$86,000, or a 3.49% increase.

Three bedroom: \$99,000, up from \$96,000, or a 3.13% increase.

Dakotaplex two bedroom: \$99,000, up from \$97,000, or a 2.06% increase.

Dakotaplex three bedroom: \$109,000, up from \$106,000, or a 2.83% increase.

Daycare: \$99,000, up from \$96,000, or a 3.13% increase.

Last year, units increased at least 6%. The rise in prices this year is due mostly to increased fuel costs, according to Chas Olson, executive director of the South Dakota Housing Development Authority. The cost of delivery for a home is included in the total price of a Governor's House.

"Whether we're moving a Governor's House from Springfield to Sioux Falls or we're moving it across the state to Buffalo, South Dakota, we get the same amount for that moving fee," Olson said. "The cost of fuel, where it is now and kind of the uncertainty around that, we had to build in a little bit of a cushion just to be sure that we weren't taking too big a loss on the fuel."

Increased income limit

Buyers of Governor's Houses must meet income requirements. The board approved a higher income limit, now at 100% of the state's median income, regardless of household size.

Families that make up to \$103,400 now qualify for the program. In previous years, buyers in one- to two-person households could qualify if they made \$72,380 or less and households of three or more people could qualify if they made \$82,720 or less.

"It's hard to get people qualified at those income levels," Olson said. It had been about 14 years since that limit was adjusted, he said, "and with the cost of everything now, I mean, it was just time."

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Mortgage assistance program

Board members also approved a program that's modeled after a piece of legislation that failed earlier this year in the Legislature. It's a mortgage assistance program for qualifying buyers of manufactured homes.

The authority also provides down payment assistance for traditional homes. Down payments for manufactured homes are often higher than a typical mortgage down payment, according to Amy Eldridge, of the authority.

A manufactured home is a mobile home that's built on a permanent framework. The homes must have all required utilities, including plumbing and climate control.

Eligible buyers can apply for a low-interest loan of up to 50% of their mortgage down payment from the assistance program, with total assistance not exceeding \$10,000. The income limit for the program is \$124,080.

Olson hopes to see the program available to interested buyers within the next month.

"We just need more homes at lower price points," he said, "and we need ways to get that done."

Meghan O'Brien is the audio reporter for South Dakota Searchlight where she covers the state government and its impact on South Dakotans. She's previously reported in Nebraska with a focus on health care and rural communities across the state.

Ceasefire reached with Iran, ending hostilities and opening Strait of Hormuz

BY: JENNIFER SHUTT

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump said Monday he had signed a ceasefire with Iran, moving the two countries one step closer to ending the war that began in February.

Trump, speaking from the G7 conference in Europe, said the memorandum of understanding ensures Iran cannot possess a nuclear weapon and clears the way for ships to move through the Strait of Hormuz without paying a toll.

Trump added he would like the U.S. and Iran to develop a more collegial diplomatic relation in the months and years ahead as additional details of the agreement are worked out.

"Hopefully it's going to be a good relationship and we're going to get along," he said. "And if we don't, we go back to where we started but I don't think that's going to be necessary."

Trump said he expects the memorandum of understanding to pave the way for economic sanctions relief subject to several conditions. That document should be released publicly sometime after Friday, when Vice President JD Vance is scheduled to attend a ceremonial signing.

One potential obstacle to a longer-term deal could be the ongoing Israeli war in Lebanon, which Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif wrote in a social media post is part of the agreement between the U.S. and Iran.

"Both sides have declared the immediate and permanent termination of military operations on all fronts, including in Lebanon," Sharif wrote.

He added that a ceremonial signing event had been scheduled for Friday in Switzerland.

"With the agreement now in place, mediators will facilitate a series of meetings this week," Sharif wrote. "These pre-implementation discussions will lay the foundation for the technical talks and the official signing ceremony."

Trump said from the G7 conference that he would look into ways to end Israel's war in Lebanon, but didn't say that is part of the United States' agreement with Iran.

"We do want to see if we can straighten out the Lebanon thing because it just seems to just never end," Trump said. "And that's a mini version of what we were doing, but it should not be tough. So, Hezbollah we have to have a little talk with them."

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Israel not part of agreement

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said a couple hours after Trump spoke that he didn't plan to withdraw troops from Gaza, Lebanon or Syria.

"I'd like to clarify, we will stay there in the security zone as long as it takes in order to protect our country," he said, according to a translator.

Netanyahu added during his brief remarks that he believed the joint military campaign against Iran prevented that country from developing a nuclear weapon.

"The most important thing is that we saved the state of Israel from clear and present nuclear danger because Iran was running toward it," he said.

But Netanyahu indicated his country's military would not pull back in the days or months ahead, saying "the struggle has not finished yet."

"Today after we achieved all of that, there are those who want to belittle it and cancel these achievements and I'm telling you we are about to achieve many more great things and to eliminate threats," Netanyahu said.

The remarks were somewhat different from those posted earlier in the day by the Israeli minister of national security who appeared to oppose the agreement between the U.S. and Iran.

"Trump's agreement does not bind us," Itamar Ben-Gvir wrote in a social media post. "Israel is not subject to the United States, and we are an independent and sovereign nation!"

Israel and the United States began the war in Iran together, but the Israeli military has also struck targets and taken territory inside Lebanon during the past few months.

Framework for peace

Trump's comments came just after two senior U.S. officials, who did not wish to be identified by name, told reporters on a call organized by the White House that Vance and Iran's parliamentary Speaker Mohammad-Bagher Ghalibaf also signed the MOU.

That document, one official said, creates a framework for how both countries will operate during the next few months as talks over some of the more complicated aspects continue.

"The basic way it works is the more that the Iranians are willing to work with us on their nuclear program, on verifying that they're not building a nuclear weapon, on not funding radicalism and terrorism in the region, the more that they're going to be welcomed into the world economy through a combination of sanctions relief and other economic measures," the official said.

That official said it would take some time for oil tankers and other ships to operate in the Strait of Hormuz the way they did before the war due to the mines Iran placed in those waters during the past few months.

"Some crews are ready to go now, and in fact, have been going over the last couple of weeks," the official said. "Some crews want to see a little bit more stability for the next couple of days, maybe the next couple of weeks. But you will see a significant increase in traffic in the Strait of Hormuz."

The official noted the relationships built between negotiators from both countries could lead to a new phase of diplomatic relations that hasn't occurred since before the Iranian revolution in the late 1970s.

"One of the really cool things and interesting things about this entire process is that we actually have a direct relationship with a number of people at the highest levels of the Iranian government," the official said. "That really hasn't happened in 47 years of our relationship with Iran. And I think it's one of the reasons why we've made significant progress and understood, you know, where they're willing to give and where we still have some wood to chop."

The official said the heightened U.S. military presence will remain in the region as negotiations take place over how exactly inspectors can ensure Iran doesn't try to rebuild its nuclear program.

"The agreement contemplates the reduction of military forces in the region upon the agreement of a final deal, which again is the agreement that we assume we can make, so long as the Iranians make some concessions and give up some of their activities and some of their nuclear program," the official said.

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Sanctions and Iran nuclear program

The United States, so far, has not unfrozen any seized Iranian assets or lifted any sanctions, though that will likely change in the months ahead.

"The way that I think about this is, Iran's nuclear weapons program has been systematically destroyed. In order to rebuild it, they need a lot of money, and this deal really has two pathways," the official said.

"Option one for Iran is they don't get any money, and so they don't have the resources to rebuild their defense industrial base or the nuclear weapons program," the official added. "Option two is they are invited into the world economy with all the prosperity that comes along with it, but only if they provide us the enforcement and verification mechanism to ensure they're not going to rebuild that nuclear weapon."

The second official on the call gave a faster timeline for releasing text of the memorandum of understanding than the president, saying it would be shared publicly within 24 to 48 hours.

"You'll see in the MOU, we discussed the possibility of releasing frozen funds, sanctions relief, you know, a big \$300 billion fund to rebuild their country," the second official said. "And all of these things are going to be tied to performance."

That second official added this is "just the first MOU" and that negotiators from the U.S. and Iran are going to begin "technical discussions later this week."

The second official said that Israel withdrawing its troops from Lebanon "was not a condition" of the current deal between the U.S. and Iran.

"The deal is a ceasefire. And it will not be a one-way ceasefire, meaning that if Iran is not able to control Hezbollah, and if they attack Israeli positions or Israeli towns, Israel will have the right to defend themselves and respond," the second official said.

There is hope within the Trump administration, the official said, that talks between Israel, Lebanon and Secretary of State Marco Rubio would also lead to a ceasefire in that war.

"The first point in the MOU talks about how Iran and its allies and America and its allies seek to have a ceasefire and end hostilities, end the war and hopefully have a final peace that hopefully will include a lot of these proxy groups," the second official said. "And hopefully this will help us get the Israel-Lebanon normalization and peace done properly."

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.

COMMENTARY

Republican voters declare their freedom from the Freedom Caucus by Dana Hess

As someone who is lucky enough to offer commentary about South Dakota politics, I must note that the recent Republican primary has made my job tougher. The state's Republican voters, without any regard for my feelings, kicked out most of the members of the South Dakota Freedom Caucus.

Don't get me wrong, I was usually on the other side of any issue that they proposed. But I was a fan. Never famous for their legislative successes, caucus members were as feisty as they were misguided.

Caucus shenanigans were usually good for two or three columns every legislative session. While other legislators were busy passing bills and debating the budget, Freedom Caucus members, all of them Republicans and most of them in the House, could be counted on for making headlines for all the wrong reasons.

Remember Rep. Logan Manhart of "white boy summer" fame? With only a few ill-chosen words on Instagram he used his freedom of speech to not only raise his political profile but simultaneously anger the state's nine Native American tribes.

The group's lone senator, John Carley, was noted for pushing a bill that would have made the Ten Commandments required reading in South Dakota classrooms. His legislation also mandated that the Ten Commandments be posted in schools.

Ever the joker, Carley played an intense game of "Hide the State Senator" during a critical vote on eco-

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conomic development incentives for data centers. Emerging from seclusion the next day, he said that his absence was due to an eye doctor appointment.

Personal freedom meant so much to Rep. Dylan Jordan that he was willing to risk millions of dollars in South Dakota's federal funding just because he felt too constrained by the state's seat belt law. Now there's a freedom fighter.

Rep. Josephine Garcia rose to be chairwoman of the Medical Marijuana Oversight Committee. Undaunted by voters' 70% approval of medical marijuana in 2020, she loaded a committee hearing with anti-marijuana speakers and then claimed she was just doing her job. She's a guerrilla fighter for freedom.

Rep. Heather Baxter came in third in a three-way race for two House seats in her district. That won't matter to her since she has already announced her intention to challenge Secretary of State Monae Johnson at the Republican convention. It turns out that Johnson was not enough of an election denier to suit Baxter. She said she's aligning herself with President Trump, who is famous for believing that if an election's outcome doesn't suit him, it must be rigged.

The Freedom Caucus website notes that not all Freedom Caucus members are public members. It seems that for some people, their love of freedom must be a private matter. Here's hoping for my sake that some of the extra-secret members of the caucus got reelected.

The one member of the Freedom Caucus who escaped the wrath of voters was their leader, Rep. Phil Jensen. Jensen has a resume of legislative run-ins that's as battle-scarred as it is long. He was stripped of the vice chairmanship of the House Education Committee because of his legislation that sought to deny the Huron School District its state funding because he had heard bad things about the district's bathroom policy.

He got kicked off that committee and reassigned to another when a committee seating arrangement impinged on his freedom. When he disparaged the religious beliefs of his colleagues, he was kicked out of the Republican caucus for two weeks. Maybe that gave him more time to meet with the secret members of the Freedom Caucus.

It's hard to say why so many members of the Freedom Caucus were shown the door in the latest primary. Maybe South Dakota voters just don't like freedom. Or maybe they've grown tired of a group that values political gamesmanship over legislative success.

Whatever the reason, voters have shown a callous disregard for me and what I'm going to be able to write about during the next legislative session.

Dana Hess spent more than 25 years in South Dakota journalism, editing newspapers in Redfield, Milbank and Pierre. He's retired and lives in Brookings, working occasionally as a freelance writer.

Bloody UFC cage match on White House lawn marks Trump's 80th birthday

Senate Majority Leader Thune, R-South Dakota, spotted in attendance

BY: ASHLEY MURRAY

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump celebrated his 80th birthday Sunday cageside at a multimillion-dollar bloody mixed martial arts event staged on the White House South Lawn, punctuated by fighter jet flyovers, a live military band and fireworks to mark the country's 250th anniversary.

It also included the airing of a conspiracy theory about a former first lady, Michelle Obama, during post-fight comments by one of the contestants.

The spectacle promoted by the Las Vegas-based Ultimate Fighting Championship, billed as Freedom 250, was exclusively shown on the paid subscription platform Paramount+. The Trump-organized event was not affiliated with the national nonpartisan organization America 250, a commission created by Congress.

Aside from a blood sport taking place in the backyard of the White House, the night served as a first for several other extraordinary sights. That included live pre-fight sports commentary from inside the White

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House, and fighters warming up in offices-turned-lockerrooms at the neighboring Eisenhower Executive Office Building.

VIPs, including members of Congress and tech giants, sat under the lights in the temporary arena able to hold up to 4,300 guests. Tens of thousands of UFC fans crowded the Ellipse, where the fights were displayed on two mammoth screens.

The event reportedly cost \$60 million, according to a government court filing. VIP sponsorship packages, including a chance to sit cage-side under "the claw" cost up to the widely reported price tag of \$1.5 million.

Between praise for the American military and Jesus Christ, fighters delivered insulting and expletive-laden comments from inside "the Octagon." Two American fighters, Bo Nikal and Josh Hokit, thanked Trump for having "the balls" to host the event at the White House.

Hokit, a former NFL player, during his live post-fight comments to massively popular podcast host Joe Rogan, insulted Brazilian fighter Alex Pereira's mother and then repeated a right-wing conspiracy theory claiming former first lady Michelle Obama is "a man."

Rogan did not challenge the comment. Shortly after his remark, Hokit placed his victory chain around Trump's neck and the two shook hands. The moment was captured and posted on social media by White House special assistant Margo Martin.

The official UFC YouTube clip of the California heavyweight's speech does not include his unfounded insult of Obama.

Bright lights and flyovers

Spotlights from the UFC's 92-foot steel canopy that dwarfed the White House and towered over "the Octagon" cage could be seen in the night sky from neighborhoods around Washington, D.C., and several residents took to social media to complain that a B-1 bomber flyover at 11:30 p.m. Eastern woke them. Fireworks exploded until nearly 1:30 a.m.

Drinks in hand, U.S. service members in short-sleeve dress uniforms celebrated from the seats — several sailors even taking part in the "YMCA" dance during the Marine Corps band's live cover of the Village People's 1978 hit, a staple at Trump's events.

Trump and UFC CEO Dana White entered the arena just before 8:30 p.m. Shortly after, a dozen fighter jets, in a joint "Super Delta" formation performed by the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds and Navy Blue Angels, flew overhead during the national anthem, performed by country music star Zac Brown.

Trump sat just below the fighting cage between first lady Melania Trump and White, an ally who has delivered primetime addresses in support of Trump at the 2016, 2020 and 2024 Republican National Conventions.

Trump was surrounded by family, including his son, Barron, who sat behind him and shook hands with several guests who approached the president, according to pooled dispatches from the White House press corps.

Several winning fighters jumped over the cage rail to shake the president's hand following the individual matches.

Eight US fighters

Of the seven-fight card's 14 competitors, eight were American. The violent bouts were accompanied by cheers of "USA!" and various taunts, including shouts that Canada should be "the 51st state" as American bantamweight fighter Sean O'Malley defeated Canada's Aiemann Zahabi. Trump applauded O'Malley and shook his hand following the individual fight.

The main event featured a title match between lightweights American Justin Gaethje and Spanish-Georgian Ilia Topuria. Officials named Gaethje the winner just after 1 a.m., as the badly battered Topuria, with a bloodied face, was declared incapable of continuing, according to pool reports.

Fighters were paid a \$250,000 performance bonus sponsored by World Liberty Financial, a crypto currency venture owned by the Trump family, according to broadcast announcers.

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Cameras delivering the exclusive Paramount stream showed notable lawmakers and tech moguls in the crowd, including House Speaker Mike Johnson, R-La., former wrestler and college wrestling coach Rep. Jim Jordan, R-Ohio, and Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg. The press corps reported Senate Majority Leader John Thune, R-S.D., was also nearby.

Trump, Zuckerberg and White spoke for several minutes during a break in the fights just before 10 p.m., according to pool reports.

Other notable guests included Kris Marszalek, CEO of Crypto.com, one of the event's two primary sponsors, and Polish President Karol Nawrocki.

Acting Attorney General Todd Blanche, Trump's former personal defense attorney and his attorney general nominee, shook hands as he moved through the crowd, according to press pool reports. Several other presidential Cabinet members were present, including Secretary of State Marco Rubio, who on Thursday signed a "sports diplomacy" agreement with UFC.

Also in attendance was Paramount Skydance CEO David Ellison, whose reportedly \$111 billion corporate takeover of Warner Bros. Discovery, was cleared by the Justice Department Friday, a key last step for the merger.

Paramount+ has a \$7.7 billion multi-year content deal to exclusively carry UFC events.

The event, which was to start at 8 p.m., was delayed for roughly an hour because of the threat of thunderstorms. The fights wrapped up just after 1 a.m.

Weekend festivities included a UFC press conference Friday night in front of the Lincoln Memorial, and a two-day fan festival on the Ellipse that featured motorcycle stunts from the Nitro Circus and a concert from the Georgia-based Zac Brown Band.

The UFC controlled media credentialing for the event on the White House grounds.

'No Kings' protest

The event faced sharp criticism but remained unscathed by an eleventh-hour lawsuit challenging the legality of UFC's use of the White House lawn.

Performers and celebrities staged a counter-concert organized by the Committee for the First Amendment, an activist coalition of artists spearheaded by Jane Fonda.

The No Kings protest organization promoted a livestream from The Town Hall in New York City, and encouraged people to organize remote watch parties for the "Rise Up, Sing Out" concert featuring Patti Smith, Bette Midler and Rufus Wainwright, among others.

C-SPAN also streamed the nearly two-and-a-half hour concert, though some performances were muted because of licensing restrictions.

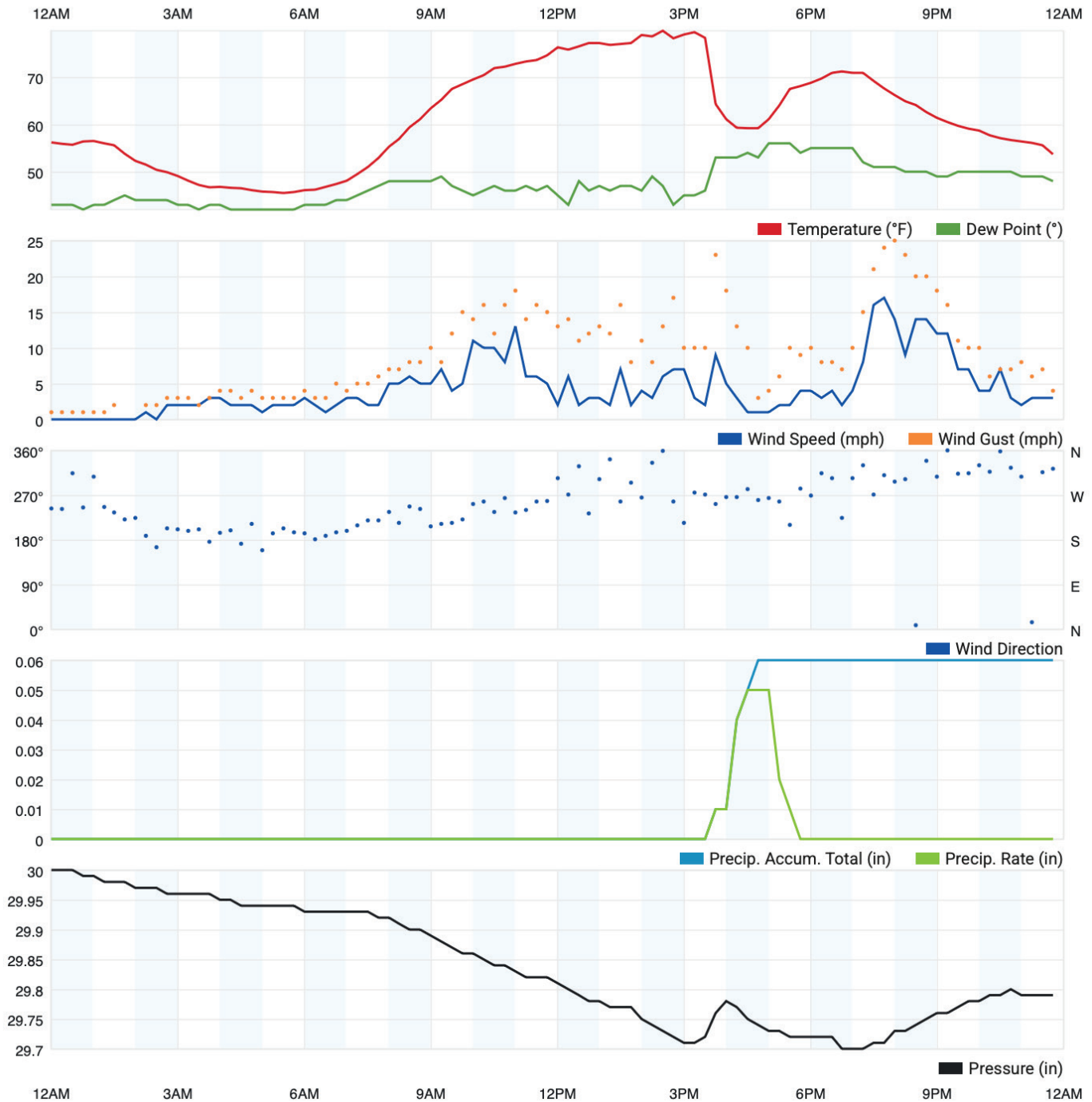
Ashley Murray covers the nation's capital as a senior reporter for States Newsroom. Her coverage areas include domestic policy and appropriations.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs

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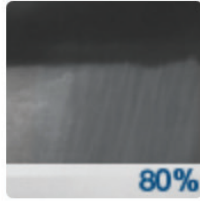
Today



High: 77 °F

Increasing
Clouds

Tonight

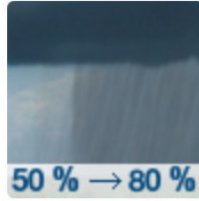


80%

Low: 54 °F

Showers

Wednesday



50 % → 80 %

High: 70 °F

Breezy.
Chance
Showers then
Showers

Wednesday
Night

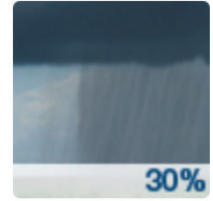


30%

Low: 48 °F

Chance
Showers and
Breezy

Thursday



30%

High: 71 °F

Chance
Showers

THREAT ASSESSMENT

HIGHEST LOCAL RISK

1

WHAT THIS MEANS:
Isolated to Scattered Severe
Storms Possible

**Tuesday Evening &
Overnight**

PRIMARY THREATS



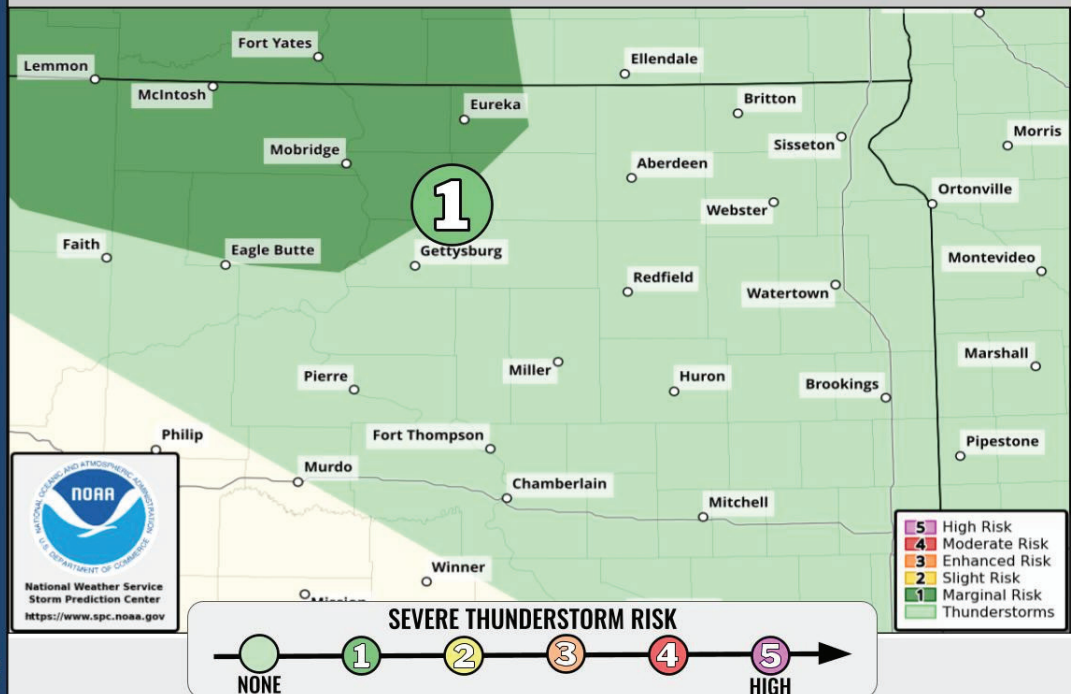
LARGE HAIL
of 1" in
diameter



DAMAGING
WIND
GUSTS
of 60+ mph

NWS
Aberdeen, SD

Marginal Risk For Severe Storms Tonight



Low pressure moves through tonight bringing the chance for strong to severe thunderstorms. The primary threats will be large hail and wind gusts of 60 to 70 mph. While the current marginal risk is limited to north central SD, there is the potential for it to expand east and south.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 80 °F at 2:29 PM

Low Temp: 45 °F at 5:26 AM

Wind: 32 mph at 3:32 PM

Precip: 0.06

Today's Info

Record High: 109 in 1933

Record Low: 34 in 1903

Average High: 81

Average Low: 56

Average Precip in June.: 1.90

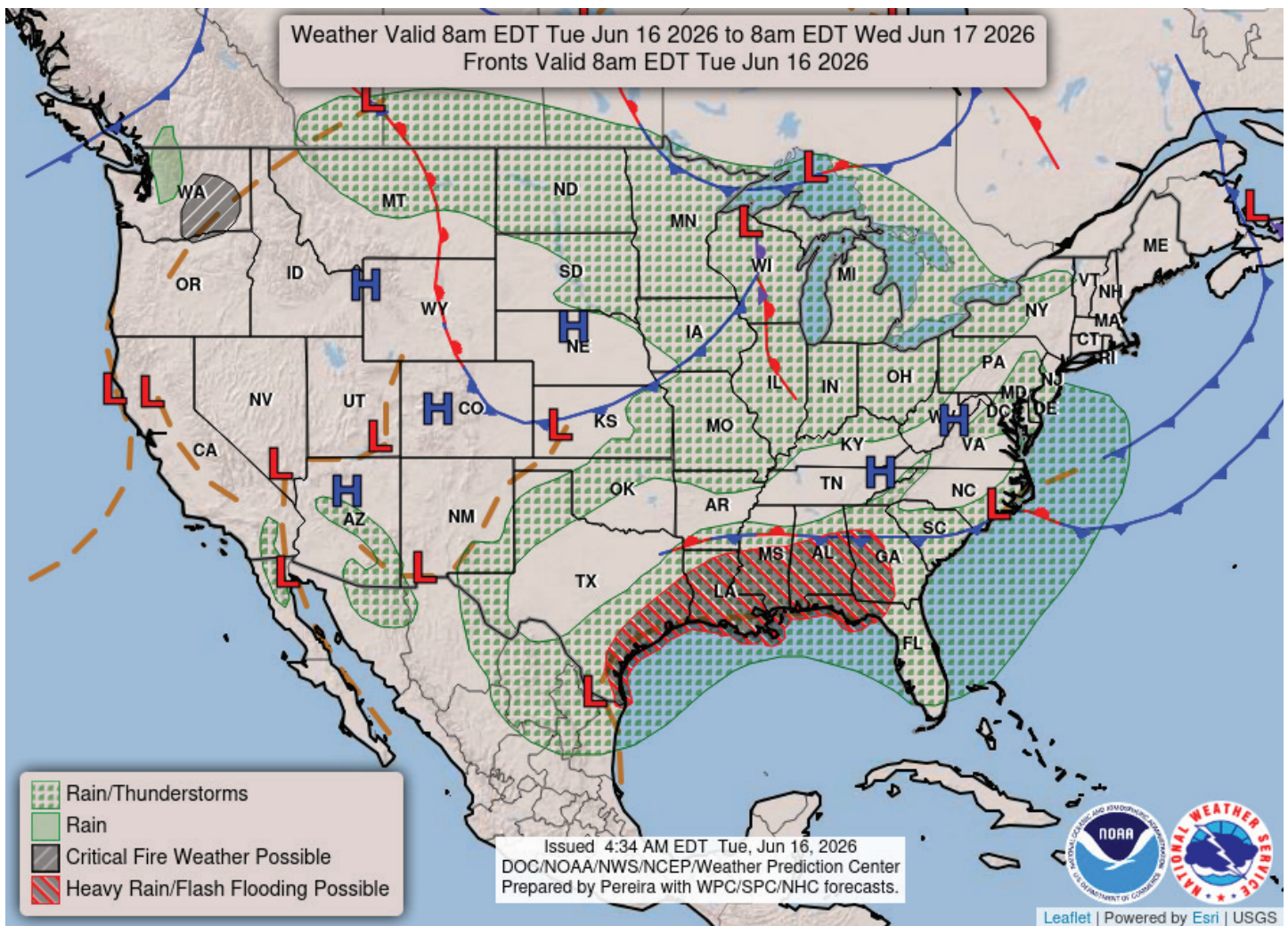
Precip to date in June.: 1.17

Average Precip to date: 9.15

Precip Year to Date: 7.53

Sunset Tonight: 9:22 pm

Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:43 am



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Today in Weather History

June 16th, 1915: A tornado swept over a narrow path in Hughes, Hyde, and Hand counties during the afternoon. This tornado caused several thousands of dollars in property damage and seriously injured many people. Luckily, no fatalities were reported.

June 16th, 1992: An F3 tornado caused significant destruction as it moved northeast across the northwestern side of Ft. Thompson. The tornado virtually destroyed the Lake Sharpe Visitor Center. In Ft. Thompson, the tornado destroyed at least four homes, and 15 mobile homes were damaged, leaving about 55 persons homeless. Eight people were injured, two of them seriously. The storm also destroyed other buildings, six 50,000-bushel grain bins, and four high-voltage towers from Big Bend Dam. At the Shady Bend Campground, 19 campers and several boats were destroyed.

Also, heavy rains fell over three days beginning on the 15th. The hardest-hit area was Clear Lake, where the three-day total was 11.53 inches. As a result, a wall of water up to 15 feet high swept down creeks in the Clear Lake area. The resultant flash flooding went through the first floors of many houses and even filled basements of homes on hills. In addition, all roads into Clear Lake were cut off as the town became surrounded by water. Officials in Deuel County estimated the heavy rainfall destroyed at least 37 bridges and culverts. Other three-day rainfall totals include 6.35 inches in Conde, 5.99 in Castlewood, 4.91 inches 2NW of Big Stone City, 4.90 in Redfield, and 4.65 inches at Artichoke Lake.

June 16th, 2009: Severe thunderstorms produced large hail up to 2 inches in diameter, several tornadoes, and flash flooding. Slow-moving thunderstorms brought heavy rains 2 to 4 inches in and around Aberdeen, causing extensive road flooding. Dozens of basements were flooded and damaged, with some sewer backups. There were also some power outages. A tornado touched down briefly northwest of Lebanon in Potter County, with no damage occurring. A tornado touched down southeast of Polo in Hand County in an open field. No damage occurred. Heavy rains of 3 to over 5 inches caused flash flooding of several roads and crops in north-central and northeast Spink County. Torrential rains from 3 to 6 inches fell across southeast Brown County, bringing flash flooding. Many roads were flooded and damaged, along with many acres of cropland. A tornado touched down in southeastern Hand County and remained on the ground for nearly 15 minutes before lifting. No damage occurred with this tornado as it stayed in the open country.

June 16th, 2010: Powerful winds were observed in Dewey County, South Dakota, during the evening hours. Three weather stations near Lantry observed winds from 101 to 142 mph. One station had recorded a 101 mph wind before it was destroyed. The other two stations recorded 131 mph and 142 mph winds. The winds destroyed an airplane hangar and severely damaged another one. Several semi-trailers were also tipped over and damaged by the very high winds.

1662 — A fast was held at Salem MA with prayers for rain, and the Lord gave a speedy answer. (David Ludlum)

1879 — McKinney ND received 7.7 inches of rain in 24 hours, a state record. (The Weather Channel)

1896 — The temperature at Fort Mojave, CA, soared to 127 degrees, the hottest reading of record for June for the U.S. The low that day was 97 degrees. Morning lows of 100 degrees were reported on the 12th, 14th and 16th of the month. (The Weather Channel)

1953 — Dust devils are usually rather benign weather phenomena, however, two boys were injured by one near Prescott AZ. One of the boys suffered a black eye, and the other boy had two vertebrae fractured by wind-blown debris. (The Weather Channel)

1957 — East Saint Louis was deluged with 16.54 inches of rain in 24 hours, a record for the state of Illinois. (The Weather Channel)

1987 — Thunderstorms developing along a cold front produced severe weather in the northwestern U.S. A tornado damaged five homes and destroyed a barn near Salmon ID. It lifted a metal shed 100 feet into the air, and deposited it 100 yards away. Hail an inch and a half in diameter caused ten million dollars damage to automobiles at Nampa ID. (The National Weather Channel) (Storm Data)

1988 — Severe thunderstorms in the Central High Plains Region spawned five tornadoes around Denver, CO, in just one hour. A strong (F-3) tornado in southern Denver injured seven persons and caused ten million dollars damage. Twenty-six cities in the eastern U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date. The high of 97 degrees at Portland ME was a record for June. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

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Daily Devotion

The Unconditional Love of God

God's love isn't something you can earn or lose.

It flows from His nature, not your performance.

Romans 5:6-8: 6 For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.

7 For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die.

8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

New believers may find it difficult to accept that God loves them just as they are. After all, much of the world operates by conditional love, which offers approval and acceptance on the basis of performance. So when we first come to Christ, there is often a natural tendency to assume we must strive to "earn" blessings.

Divine love can never be gained by human effort. There's nothing we can do to make our Father love us more. Nor can we do anything to make Him stop loving us (Romans 8:38-39).

No matter what has occurred in your past or what you're struggling with right now, God's love is freely given to you. Our heavenly Father pours His love upon us without exception. It's not as if He postponed loving you until the moment you invited Him into your life. In truth, the Lord never began to love you at all; He always has. From the creation of the world, God knew you and loved you (Psalms 139:13-16; Ephesians 1:4-5).

Rejoice in the Father's love. Experience His peace instead of focusing only on what-ifs, and embrace a life characterized by purpose rather than fear. It's available as soon as you prayerfully open your arms to His unconditional love.

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

MILLIONAIRE FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS:
06.15.26

12 14 20 54 58 4

TOP PRIZE:
\$1,000,000/year

NEXT DRAW: 17 Hrs 42 Mins 15 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS:
06.12.26

9 17 24 39 51 3

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$430,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 17 Hrs 27 Mins 15 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS:
06.15.26

1 15 18 30 46 2

All Star Bonus: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$29,890,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 16 Hrs 42 Mins 15 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS:
06.13.26

4 10 18 28 30

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$134,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 16 Hrs 57 Mins 15 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS:
06.15.26

22 23 28 32 68 21

TOP PRIZE:
\$10,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 17 Hrs 26 Mins 15 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS:
06.15.26

25 55 57 60 62 23

Power Play: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$283,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 17 Hrs 26 Mins 15 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

News from the **AP** Associated Press

8 people died in B-52 bomber crash at US Air Force base in Southern California, officials say

By CHRISTOPHER WEBER and KONSTANTIN TOROPIN Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A B-52 bomber crashed shortly after takeoff at a U.S. Air Force base in Southern California's Mojave Desert and burst into flames Monday, killing all eight people aboard, military officials said.

Aerial footage showed virtually nothing left of the aircraft that went down around 11:20 a.m. during a routine test mission at Edwards Air Force Base, which is north of Los Angeles. Black smoke rose from a large swath of charred desert near the runway on the base, with emergency vehicles nearby.

Those on the B-52 included government contractors and uniformed military. Aircraft manufacturer Boeing confirmed Monday evening that two of its employees were on board.

After reviewing footage of the crash, it was determined that no one could have survived, Col. James Hayes, the deputy commander for the 412 test wing at Edwards, said at a news conference.

"We lost eight great Americans," Hayes said, adding that officials were working to notify their families.

It was not immediately clear what caused the crash, and it could take up to six months to complete an investigation, Hayes said, but shared that the B-52 was supporting the "radar modernization program."

The Boeing B-52 Stratofortress is a long-range bomber that entered service in 1955. Designed to carry both conventional and nuclear weapons, it has been used in conflicts involving the U.S. military from Vietnam to Iran.

In 2025, Boeing sent a B-52 to Edwards with a new, modernized radar system. A test team planned to conduct ground and flight test activities on the aircraft throughout 2026 to feed a production decision, the air force said in a 2025 news release. The modern Active Electronically Scanned Array (AESA) radar system replaced the aircraft's antiquated radar for efficacy. It was unclear if that was the same aircraft involved in Monday's crash.

Edwards Air Force Base is home to a large portion of the U.S. Air Force's aircraft test and development efforts and is about 100 miles (161 km) north of Los Angeles. The 412th Test Wing, which runs the base, also conducts developmental testing of all Air Force aircraft, weapons systems, software and components before purchase by the service as well as throughout their lifespan.

The vast desert base is where Air Force test pilot Chuck Yeager reached a speed of Mach 1.05 and broke the sound barrier in 1947.

The airfield was closed most of Monday and all inbound aircraft were being diverted, but it reopened to people coming onto the base by late afternoon. Non-commercial visitor passes for the base were suspended as emergency crews doused the flames.

It's too soon to say what might have happened.

Air Force Secretary Troy Meink said he is deeply saddened by the lives lost.

"We mourn this loss and honor the service of our Airmen, civilians, and contractors who work every day to advance our mission," he said in a post on X.

The way the B-52 crashed so quickly after takeoff without getting very high or going far makes aviation safety expert Jeff Guzzetti suspect some kind of flight control malfunction.

It's possible the controls were rigged wrong after maintenance, he said, or a catastrophic engine problem or a failure of a piece of equipment that was being tested.

"I think it was definitely a controllability issue. Now, whether that was tied to an engine failure, a flight control failure, or some new testing device failure, I'm not sure," said Guzzetti, who used to investigate crashes for both the Federal Aviation Administration and the National Transportation Safety Board.

Although the Air Force has been flying B-52 bombers for more than 70 years, testing out new equipment on a plane can create new challenges.

"A flight test is always riskier than normal operations, so that's why you have specially trained test pilots,

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and you should have other safety protocols," Guzzetti said.

In recent years, fatal Air Force training accidents in the U.S. have included an instructor pilot who was killed in 2024 when the ejection seat activated while the aircraft was still on the ground in Texas and an Air Force ROTC cadet's death in a 2022 accident involving a Humvee during a training exercise in Idaho. Two Air Force pilots were killed when a trainer jet crashed near an Alabama airport in 2021.

Global shares are mostly higher and Japan's Nikkei tops 70,000 before BOJ's rate hike

By YURI KAGEYAMA AP Business Writer

TOKYO (AP) — Global shares mostly advanced and Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 briefly topped 70,000 for the first time Tuesday before trimming early gains after the Bank of Japan raised its key interest rate to 1%.

The quarter percentage point hike took the benchmark rate to its highest level in three decades.

France's CAC 40 jumped 0.7% in early trading to 8,446.06, while the German DAX added 0.8% to 25,102.01. Britain's FTSE 100 surged 0.6% to 10,492.11.

The future for the S&P 500 was nearly unchanged while that for the Dow Jones Industrial Average edged 0.1% higher.

Japan's Nikkei 225 rose 0.1% to finish at 69,404.50, while South Korea's Kospi moved further into record territory, gaining 2.1% to 8,726.60.

In Hong Kong, the Hang Seng slipped 1.4% to 24,493.95, while the Shanghai Composite fell 0.1% to 4,091.89.

Australia's S&P/ASX 200 was little changed, rising less than 0.1% to 8,917.70.

Taiwan's Taiex surged 0.9%, while India's Sensex picked up 0.7%.

On Monday, stock markets rallied worldwide and oil prices eased after the United States and Iran reached a tentative deal to get the global flow of crude going again. The S&P 500 rose 1.7% and the Dow climbed 0.9% to a record. The Nasdaq composite jumped 3.1%.

Brent crude fell 4.8% on expectations that the U.S.-Iran agreement might reopen the Strait of Hormuz, where much of Asia gets its oil supply. But some analysts have urged caution, noting many issues remain uncertain. Negotiations with Iran are expected to continue over the next 60 days. Even after Hormuz reopens on Friday as expected, it will likely take months for the energy industry to get back to full speed.

Oil prices have declined recently on hopes for an extension of the ceasefire in the war, falling from the \$100 plus levels they were at a few weeks ago. Before the war, oil was trading at about \$70 a barrel.

Early Tuesday, benchmark U.S. crude was down \$2.03 at \$78.72 a barrel. Brent crude, the international standard, declined \$1.82 to \$81.35 a barrel.

In currency trading, the U.S. dollar inched down to 160.32 Japanese yen from 160.33 yen. The euro cost \$1.1604, up from \$1.1594.

Higher prices for gas, groceries and flights will likely outlast the Iran war

By MAE ANDERSON AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — A tentative deal to end the Iran war makes it reasonable to ask how soon prices will drop for gasoline, groceries, airline tickets and other items that got more expensive during the conflict.

Not so fast, experts say.

Even after oil starts flowing again from the Middle East, it could take a while for consumers to see a difference at local fuel pumps, supermarkets and other places they shop, according to economists and industry analysts.

Fighting over the Strait of Hormuz disrupted not only supplies of crude and refined fuel but also the supply chains for fertilizer, food and even footwear. Businesses expect higher costs to linger, which means

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their customers might need to prepare for that too.

"It is not clear, despite three months of war, that anything has been achieved that makes the American consumer better off," Brett House, an economist who teaches at Columbia Business School, said. "In fact, by almost any measure, not just the American consumer, but the world, is worse off as a result of this attack."

If the deal between the U.S. and Iran holds, here's how experts see the war's effects receding — or not — in the weeks ahead:

US motorists can expect some gas price relief

Following news of the tentative agreement, oil prices fell Monday to about \$80 for a barrel of U.S. benchmark crude. That compares to \$67 per barrel before the war and the price of over \$120 a barrel reached earlier in the conflict.

Refineries typically pay for crude oil a month or more in advance, so even after oil prices drop, they won't immediately be processing cheaper products.

"The tendency of gasoline prices to fall slowly is partly because the raw material takes weeks to work through the system until it's delivered to consumers," said Michael Lynch, a distinguished fellow at the nonpartisan Energy Policy Research Foundation.

In places without enough refining capacity to meet their needs, such as the West Coast of the U.S., gas prices will take longer to drop, said Mark Barteau, a professor of chemical engineering and chemistry at Texas A&M University.

In some Asian and African countries that rely more on oil from the Middle East, the supply shock led to school and government office closures and instructions to work from home, according to the International Energy Agency.

"The bottom line is that getting back to 'normal' will be a lengthy process involving many parties and countries," Barteau said. "Getting an agreement between the U.S. and Iran to open the strait is just the beginning."

Flights won't get cheaper right away

Industry experts have spent months warning that even if the war ended, travelers should not expect airfares to go down immediately.

Airlines typically buy fuel in advance, adjust their schedules gradually and price tickets based heavily on demand, meaning lower oil and jet fuel prices can take weeks or months to get factored into the cost of commercial flights.

"I think it's unlikely that we're going to see a retreat or reduction in the cost of flying at any point this summer," Columbia's House said.

Fuel surcharges that some airlines outside the U.S. added are one of the first areas where passengers might get a reprieve, said Gordon Ho, a professor at the University of Southern California's business school.

"Consumers are going to say, 'Wait a minute, why are you still charging me a fuel surcharge?'" Ho said.

Pressure on grocery prices will likely continue

Reopening the strait is unlikely to deliver instant relief at the grocery store, according to David Ortega, a professor of food economics and policy at Michigan State University.

Fuel accounts for roughly 15% to 30% of the total cost of food, according to the Independent Grocers Alliance, a grouping of 7,500 global supermarkets.

But it can take months for an energy shock like the one caused by the Iran war to wind through the food supply chain and raise grocery prices. And once prices go up, it takes them a long time to come back down, especially when the future is unpredictable, Ortega said.

"We're likely still looking at inflationary pressure on food in the coming months," Ortega said. "There's still a good deal of uncertainty about how the reopening will unfold, and it will take time for fuel, diesel and retail fertilizer prices to come back down."

Rabobank, which is based in the Netherlands, said it expected war-related food price inflation to peak sometime next year in Europe. In the U.S., grocery prices are expected to rise 3.2% this year, which

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compares to a historical average of 2.6%, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Farmers remain strapped for fertilizer

Reopening the Strait of Hormuz would also be a welcome change for farmers and the production of food globally. Roughly 30% of the world's fertilizer passed through the waterway before the war began. Prices soared as the supply was effectively cut off, and shipments probably will take a long time to return to pre-war levels.

The consequences of the shortage facing farmers now may only intensify down the road, regardless.

Many farmers around the world are going through planting seasons without the fertilizer they need or paying sky-high prices for both fertilizer and fuel needed to produce and transport their products. The World Food Program of the United Nations expects this to have a "devastating impact" on crop yields — and consequently, food prices and the availability of food — for months to come.

Retailers don't anticipate a cost reprieve

U.S. retailers that sell shoes were encouraged to see falling gasoline prices, hoping they would mean Americans have more money to spend on back-to-school shopping, said Andy Polk, senior vice president of the Footwear Distributors and Retailers of America trade group.

However, shoe companies anticipate their own costs staying higher for the foreseeable future, Polk said. The group's members keep a two- to three-month inventory of finished products, but their next orders may include suppliers charging more for materials, he said.

Most of the footwear sold in the U.S. is imported, and Polk said he expects shipping costs to remain higher for the rest of 2026 and 2027.

U.S. tariffs imposed last year have made it more difficult for shoe sellers to absorb higher costs or pass them on customers, he said. In May, footwear prices were 5.2% higher than the same month a year earlier, according to government figures.

Shipping industry expects a slow recovery

Judah Levine, head of research at the freight booking platform Freightos, said the Strait of Hormuz closure has affected about 2% to 3 % of the total volume of container ships that are used for global shipping, but higher oil prices and disruption have impacted the shipping industry more broadly.

Josh Steinitz, chief strategy officer of the business logistics platform ShipStation Global, said consumers might notice higher shipping costs and more out-of-stock items online until the end of the year.

"I think fuel surcharges, which then flow into shipping costs, which then get passed along to consumers, are still going to be with us for quite sometime from many of the major carriers," Steinitz said.

G7 leaders open summit talks on Ukraine and the Middle East as Zelenskyy joins in France

By SYLVIE CORBET, DARLENE SUPERVILLE and AAMER MADHANI Associated Press

EVIAN-LES-BAINS, France (AP) — Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy joined world leaders at the Group of Seven summit of major industrialized nations Tuesday for talks on ending the war in Ukraine after more than four years of conflict sparked by Russia's full-scale invasion.

Zelenskyy was welcomed by French President Emmanuel Macron ahead of a morning working session with G7 leaders to discuss the war.

The Ukraine talks come on the heels of U.S. President Donald Trump's announcement of an agreement to end the 3 1/2-month-old U.S. war against Iran. Trump said he had good conversations on Sunday with both Zelenskyy and Putin.

"Now that this (Iran) is finished, we're going to be focusing on that," he said at the G7 summit.

Five of the seven leaders, representing Britain, Canada, Germany, Italy and Japan, were huddled in conversation with European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen before the start of the first session on Ukraine. Trump was missing. Macron, too, hadn't arrived yet because he was with Zelenskyy.

Meanwhile, Britain announced a new set of sanctions targeting the "shadow fleet" Russia uses to ship oil and gas and the finance networks used by Moscow to evade Western sanctions. The sanctioned ships

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include several vessels recently purchased by Russia to ship liquefied natural gas from its sanctioned Arctic LNG 2 project. Last weekend, U.K. troops seized a Russian shadow fleet vessel in the English Channel for the first time.

In recent weeks, the Iran conflict has overshadowed the war in Ukraine that Russian President Vladimir Putin launched. Macron said he'll seek to persuade Trump to continue supporting Ukraine and increase pressure on Russia to help reach a peace agreement.

Hours before the start of the G7 summit, Russia fired hundreds of drones and dozens of missiles at Ukraine's biggest cities in a barrage that killed 11 people and set fire to a religious landmark.

Trump has been frustrated by a lack of movement toward Ukraine-Russia resolution

The attacks on Ukraine's biggest cities came after Zelenskyy and Putin spoke separately by phone with Trump on Sunday, the U.S. leader's 80th birthday. The exchange suggests Washington hasn't given up on its diplomatic efforts to stop the fighting that followed Moscow's all-out invasion of its neighbor in 2022.

While campaigning for a return to the White House, Trump claimed he could end the Russia-Ukraine war within 24 hours of taking office. He has since acknowledged it has proved much harder than he initially thought it would be.

Ukraine on Monday officially started European Union membership negotiations, launching a process that will require its government to commit to years of political reforms even as it fights a Russian invasion.

Ukraine sees EU membership as a security guarantee for a stable future once the war ends. Its best guarantee would be membership in the NATO military alliance, but the Trump administration insists that cannot happen, and others are wary of it joining while the war continues.

Iran war has been a flashpoint between Trump and European leaders

Tuesday's discussions also include a work session focused on "ending crises and ensuring stability in the Middle East." Leaders of Egypt, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates are to join the talks.

In recent months, Trump has had sharp disagreements with Macron, British Prime Minister Keir Starmer, German Chancellor Friedrich Merz and Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni over his failure to consult them before the decision to go to war in Iran. Trump has threatened reprisals, including drawing down U.S. troops in all four countries, all members of the NATO military alliance, for their lack of support.

Despite those disagreements, the tone in Evian should be rather measured, as U.S. allies seek rapid progress that could ease the economic impact of rising oil prices caused by the blockade of the Strait of Hormuz.

"I think a lot of great things are going to happen in the Middle East right now, and very importantly the oil is plummeting down and the stock market is shooting up like a rocket today," Trump said.

Ahead of their meeting at the G7, the leaders of France, Germany, Italy and the United Kingdom issued a joint statement congratulating the United States, the Iranian government and the mediators on what they called a "diplomatic breakthrough." Canada also signed the statement. The leaders said it was vital for detailed negotiations to take place and for the deal to be quickly implemented so the Strait of Hormuz can be reopened to tanker traffic.

Macron later said France and other Western partners are "ready to take action very quickly" to help reopen the strait peacefully. France and Britain have championed a mission to restore maritime security in the strait as soon as conditions allow.

Trump, however, appeared to downplay the need for a large international military deployment. "I don't think we're gonna need much help," he said during his meeting with Macron. "But I don't think it's a bad idea to have a ship or two up here from a few countries. You'd be a great country to do it."

What's next on the agenda

Trump will participate in meetings that include sit-downs with the emir of Qatar and the president of the UAE before attending a cultural performance and a dinner with the other G7 leaders.

The G7 comprises France, the United States, Canada, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United Kingdom. Other guest nations at this summit, including Brazil, India, Kenya and South Korea, were invited to participate in some discussions.

Iranian official says end of war includes end of Israel's occupation of Lebanon

By JON GAMBRELL, MICHELLE L. PRICE and SAM METZ Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Iran's top diplomat said Tuesday that the deal ending the war with the United States would also require Israel to withdraw from Lebanon, raising questions about the still-unpublished agreement and whether disagreement over its terms could prolong conflict.

Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi told diplomats from other countries that Israel's continued occupation of southern Lebanon would violate the memorandum of understanding reached between the United States and Iran, in comments aired on Iranian state television.

"The end of the war in Lebanon is an inseparable part of complete end of the war," Araghchi said. "Without the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the territories they occupied during this war, the war has not fully come to an end."

Araghchi said further Israeli attacks on Lebanon "will be considered by us a violation of the Memorandum of Understanding."

The United States has not said whether Lebanon was part of the final agreement. But Araghchi's description clashes with statements made by Israeli officials about the deal to end the war that started with joint U.S.-Israeli airstrikes on Feb. 28.

Israel is not party to the agreement. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Monday described it as Trump's decision, noting Israel had its own priorities and would remain in a buffer zone in Lebanon "as long as necessary."

The ambiguity mirrored developments during past negotiations, including the temporary ceasefire brokered in April. That agreement did not pave the way to broader peace or the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz after the United States and Iran announced differing frameworks.

The discrepancy underscored how much of the agreement remains apparently unresolved ahead of a ceremonial signing Friday in Geneva.

The agreement is meant to provide a meaningful truce in a monthslong war that has killed thousands across the Middle East, including the top leaders of Iran's theocracy, and raised the prices of fuel, food and other basic goods far beyond the region.

The unpublished agreement provides for the "immediate" opening of the strait and lifting of the blockade, a senior U.S. official who spoke to reporters on condition of anonymity to discuss outlines of the agreement on Monday.

It includes the possibility of releasing Iran's frozen funds, easing sanctions and creating a \$300 billion fund to rebuild Iran — all of which would be tied to Iran meeting benchmarks, a second senior U.S. official, also speaking on the condition of anonymity to discuss outlines of the agreement, said.

Utah canyon BASE jump kills 2, including daredevil athlete who performed with Madonna

By RUSS BYNUM Associated Press

A weekend BASE jumping accident in a Utah canyon killed two people, one of them a daredevil athlete best known for performing onstage with Madonna at the 2012 Super Bowl, authorities said.

The sheriff's office in Grand County, Utah, confirmed one of the dead was Andy Lewis, an extreme athlete known for feats in BASE jumping, a dangerous sport that involves parachuting to the ground after jumping from a tall fixed object such as a building, a bridge or a desert cliff overlooking a deep canyon.

The victims had been conducting a tandem jump in which two people are harnessed together, according to a social media post by Aerial Arts Moab, an acrobatics company that described Lewis as "co-owner and best friend."

Lewis also owned BASE Jump Moab, a business that offered tandem jumps to inexperienced customers who would be harnessed to a guide wearing the parachute. Promotional videos on the company's

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website show pairs of people stepping off the edges of towering cliffs and briefly plummeting before their parachutes open.

In BASE jumping circles, Lewis had a huge following and a reputation for pushing the envelope — leaping into tighter spaces or deploying his parachute later than his peers would dare, said John McEvoy, a BASE jumping instructor in Twin Falls, Idaho, who has jumped with Lewis.

“He had an incredible level of athleticism and skill that was developed over years of practice,” McEvoy said. “But then he would take an incredible amount of risk.”

Grand County Sheriff Jamison Wiggins confirmed the other person who was killed was Danny Joe Kregle, a 68-year-old father and grandfather who was described by a family member as an accomplished businessman.

“Danny had a wonderful sense of humor and was always looking for ways to make people laugh,” relative Sydney Laverty told The Times-Independent. “One of his greatest joys was performing magic tricks alongside his granddaughter.”

Lewis’ other sport made him an overnight celebrity, thanks to Madonna

Lewis was also a prominent figure in the niche sports of slacklining and tricklining, which combine elements of high-wire walking with aerial acrobatics — sometimes at perilous heights.

He went from obscure athlete to overnight celebrity when he appeared onstage in Madonna’s 2012 Super Bowl halftime show. Dressed in a Roman toga, Lewis bounced and executed tricks on his inch-wide line like it was a trampoline while Madonna sang behind him.

“My phone actually rang itself to death three days in a row,” Lewis said soon afterward in an appearance on Conan O’Brien’s late night show.

Emergency responders were dispatched Sunday to a report of people injured in a BASE jumping attempt at Mineral Bottom, a remote desert area near the Utah-Colorado line, according to the sheriff’s office.

BASE jumping is far more dangerous than skydiving

Though there’s no official tally of BASE jumping deaths, a list compiled by the website BASEaddict.com shows 540 total fatalities worldwide since 1981 — including 30 people killed last year. Prominent deaths include BASE jumper Dean Potter and his climbing partner, Graham Hunt, who were killed in 2015 while attempting a wingsuit flight in California’s Yosemite National Park.

A study focused on BASE jumping in Norway, published in a medical journal in 2007, estimated that BASE jumping carried risks of injury or death five to eight times greater than skydiving.

Lewis openly acknowledged the sport’s inherent danger.

“It’s weird to think about how many people are dead, because it’s like a normal thing,” Lewis told documentary filmmaker Ella Warnick in an interview published last year.

Tandem BASE jumping carries additional risk because it straps together two people, one of whom generally lacks experience, under a single parachute, McEvoy said. But because they involve novices, they also tend to be the most low-risk, basic types of jumps.

“Within BASE, it’s a very controversial topic,” McEvoy said. “There’s a lot of people who say it’s the stupidest thing in the world and others arguing: ‘No, we’re giving people the experience of their lives.’”

No one immediately returned phone, text and Facebook messages left Monday for BASE Jump Moab.

Lewis won four straight world championships in competitive slacklining from 2008 through 2011. Lewis set a Guinness World Record for slackline surfing, swaying his feet side to side in a rocking motion that mimics surfing, while keeping his balance above China’s Diaoshuilou waterfall in 2011.

In 2014, he walked a slackline suspended between two hot air balloons more than 4,000 feet (1,200 meters) above the Nevada desert.

What to know about Edwards Air Force Base in Southern California's Mojave Desert

EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. (AP) — For decades, a U.S. Air Force base in Southern California's Mojave Desert has been a hotbed of some of the most innovative flight research in the U.S.

From a test pilot breaking the sound barrier to a space shuttle touching down, aviation history has often been made at Edwards Air Force Base, about 100 miles (161 km) north of Los Angeles.

There has also been tragedy, like the one that unfolded Monday when a B-52 bomber crashed shortly after takeoff at the base and burst into flames, killing all eight people aboard.

Here's a closer look at Edwards Air Force Base and some of its notable moments:

History made at the base

Within months of officials establishing a permanent base to train combat flight crews at the vast desert site, it made history.

In 1942, test pilot Bob Stanley flew the U.S.'s first jet-powered aircraft. He took off from the base's dry lake bed that served as a naturally long runway, which was vital for the first-generation turbojet engines known for "flaming out," according to the base.

Five years later, the site was where Air Force test pilot Chuck Yeager pushed an orange, bullet-shaped Bell X-1 rocket plane to a speed of Mach 1.05 and broke the sound barrier, achieving a major aviation milestone. His feat was kept secret for about a year when the world thought the British had broken the sound barrier first.

The 1960s brought the fastest manned airplane — reaching Mach 6.72 — and the first airplane to fly above 314,000 feet (95.7 kilometers), earning its pilot astronaut wings, according to the base.

In 1981, astronauts John Young and Robert Crippen landed the Space Shuttle Columbia on that same dry lake bed, making history as the first orbiting space vehicle to leave Earth using rocket power and come back on an aircraft's wings.

Base remains at the cutting edge of flight research

Described as an "irreplaceable national asset," these days Edwards Air Force Base remains at the center of a significant portion of the U.S. Air Force's aircraft test and development efforts.

All Air Force aircraft are tested there, along with some Navy and Army aircraft, according to the base.

"Arguably, more major milestones in flight have occurred at this base than anywhere else in the world," according to the base.

It's run by the 412th Test Wing, which also conducts developmental testing of Air Force weapons systems, software and components before purchase by the service as well as throughout their life span.

In 2025, Boeing sent a B-52 to Edwards with a new, modernized radar system. A test team planned to conduct ground and flight test activities on the aircraft. It was unclear if that was the same aircraft involved in Monday's crash.

Tragedy strikes during test mission

The B-52 bomber crashed during a routine test mission on Monday, according to military officials. The aircraft was supporting the "radar modernization program," Col. James Hayes, the deputy commander for the 412 test wing at Edwards, said at a news conference.

The people on board included government contractors and uniformed military. There were two employees of aircraft manufacturer Boeing, the company confirmed.

It was not immediately clear what caused the crash. An investigation is underway.

What to know about the demining and escort mission that US allies want for the Strait of Hormuz

By JOHN LEICESTER Associated Press

EVIAN-LES-BAINS, France (AP) — The naval mission for the Strait of Hormuz that U.S. allies are proposing as a follow-up to a deal to end the Iran war would aim to reassure crews and shipping insurers that vessels can safely navigate the narrow waterway again, by removing any explosive mines and potentially providing military escorts.

France and Britain have been working on the plans for months. French President Emmanuel Macron floated the idea back in March when the war was raging, saying warships could escort tankers and container ships through the maritime chokepoint when the conflict dies down.

U.S. President Donald Trump told Macron on Monday at the Group of Seven summit that he doesn't see a need for "much help" because the strait is "going to be open" thanks to the tentative deal with Iran.

"But I don't think it's a bad idea to have a ship or two up here from a few countries. You'd be a great country to do it," Trump told the French leader.

Here's a closer look at the envisioned mission that U.S. allies are pitching to speed the return of oil and gas supplies:

US allies float it as a next step to the Iran deal

In a statement welcoming the framework deal that would extend the U.S.-Iran tentative ceasefire and lead to the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz, U.S. allies said they "are committed to playing our part" to urgently reopen the waterway "with unconditional and unrestricted freedom of navigation."

The statement was issued by France, the United Kingdom, Germany, Japan and Italy, later joined by Canada — all members, with the United States, of the G7 club of nations.

They proposed "a strictly defensive and independent mission to reassure commercial shipping and conduct mine clearance operations."

How they say it could work

France's nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, the Charles de Gaulle, is already in the region. Macron dispatched it first to the eastern Mediterranean in early March and then onward through the Suez Canal to the Arabian Sea.

Other nations deployed in the region that could quickly help include the Netherlands, Italy and the U.K., Macron said.

The French leader told Trump that French fighter aircraft could take part in observation missions over the vital waterway as soon as Tuesday, followed "within 48 hours" by frigates "and within two to three days, the aircraft carrier."

"Of course, all this supposes that it is desired and requested," Macron said. "Perhaps it will not be wanted and perhaps it will not be necessary. But in any case, it reflects our willingness to help."

Mine-clearing vessels would aim to rid the waterway of those underwater dangers for shipping that can be rocket-propelled, cabled or sit on the seabed and be triggered by sound, movement or light.

Trump said mines have been found and that efforts to locate others continue but that the strait "is already partially opened."

The U.K.'s Royal Navy has made a point of showing off the specialist expertise it could offer, welcoming reporters aboard a vessel, the RFA Lyme Bay, as it waited off the coast of Gibraltar last month to be deployed.

Allies have escort-mission experience

French, American, British and other naval crews already have experience of escorting civilian ships through hostile fire in the region. They previously defended cargo vessels through attacks in the Red Sea carried out by Iran-backed Houthi rebels in Yemen.

French frigates used machine guns, cannons and sophisticated air-defense missiles to fend off Houthi strikes. The French frigate Alsace downed three ballistic missiles in the Red Sea in 2024 as it was escorting

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a container ship. The ship's commander at the time, Capt. Jérôme Henry, told the AP that being on the receiving end of the potentially deadly strikes was unnerving and exhausting. The sea battles also took a toll on U.S. Navy ships and personnel.

If deployed in the Strait of Hormuz, naval crews would be hoping for fewer dangers if the ceasefire holds. But with Iran still believed to be armed with stocks of missiles, drones and other weaponry, warships' defensive systems could be used to fend off any attacks if the ceasefire breaks down.

"Once there is a ceasefire, the need for a naval mission is significantly reduced," said Max Bergmann, an analyst at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, a Washington, D.C., think tank.

"A U.K.-French naval presence will no doubt have some security benefits. It might raise the stakes for Iran to rekindle the war; it demonstrates European commitment to Gulf states; and it might reassure ship-ping and insurance companies," he said. "But we should not overstate its utility."

Joint French-British planning for the mission has involved nations as far afield as Australia, South Korea and Japan, Bahrain and Qatar in the Gulf, Canada, and more than a dozen in Europe.

A meeting of defense ministers and other representatives that France and Britain convened last month about the plans brought together 38 countries.

Washington, DC, voters cast ballots in crucial primaries as Trump reshapes the capital

By GARY FIELDS Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Voters in the nation's capital head to the polls on Tuesday to select party candidates for mayor and the district's delegate to Congress, an election taking place as Washington undergoes major change under President Donald Trump's administration.

The primary marks the first time in a generation that D.C. residents will vote for a new mayor and delegate in the same election. And in an overwhelmingly Democratic city, that party's winner is expected to come out on top in the general election in November.

The most prominent race is for mayor after Muriel Bowser, who was first elected in 2014, decided not to seek a fourth term. Democratic front-runners Janeese Lewis George and Kenyan McDuffie are hoping to replace her.

The district's long-serving congressional delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton is also stepping down, with top candidates council member Brooke Pinto and at-large council member Robert White Jr. vying for the role. Republican Denise Rosado, an immigration lawyer, is running unopposed.

The primary will include rank choice voting for the first time, which D.C. election officials have warned could delay results for days.

Trump looms large over the vote

Central to all the campaigns has been the city's fraught relationship with the Trump administration and the federal government. The city has limited autonomy and federal leaders retain significant control over local affairs, including the approval of the budget and laws passed by the D.C. Council.

That autonomy has been further squeezed under Trump, who launched a federal law enforcement surge last summer and sent in the National Guard for an ongoing, open-ended deployment. Trump's efforts to downsize the federal government also roiled the capital region, costing thousands of people their jobs. He has also been reshaping the city by removing or renovating storied landmarks and putting his name or image on buildings.

Trump just last week threatened a new federal takeover of Washington, when asked about his response to a potential victory by Lewis George, a democratic socialist.

"Maybe we'd take back Washington, run it on the federal basis," he said.

Bowser found herself walking a fine line between staying in Trump's good graces and responding to the concerns of constituents, many of whom said she didn't push back hard enough on Trump's actions.

Republicans in Congress meanwhile have used their oversight authority to challenge the local government's limited autonomy.

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"We are the capital of the United States, and it's an incredibly symbolic place, this city," said Amanda Huron, a professor at the University of the District of Columbia who teaches courses on D.C. history and politics.

She said it's important to remind the public that what the federal government does to its capital city is a harbinger of "how it's going to treat the rest of the country as well."

Federal intervention, affordability among candidates' top priorities

Lewis George, in responding to questions sent by The Associated Press, said her top priority is addressing "the affordability crisis here in DC, which the Trump administration has only made worse by unjustly firing federal employees en masse and militarizing our streets."

McDuffie said his top priority is public safety. He would add 1,000 police officers over four years and take a public health approach to violence reduction that would include a focus on mental health.

Other candidates for mayor include former council member Vincent Orange and Hope Solomon, a former federal contractor who lost her job because of cuts by the Department of Government Efficiency.

Some residents have expressed concern on how Trump will react to pushback. Pat Wheeler, who lives in Washington, said candidates must be realistic. Trump still has enormous power over the Republican Congress and could easily order members to take steps against the city's home rule authority, she said.

Five people are seeking to replace Norton, who is finishing her 18th term representing D.C. in Congress. Norton, 89, faced heavy pressure to stand down by critics, including her former chief of staff, who said she was diminished and not capable of mounting the defense the moment called for against Trump.

Pinto and White both say their top priority for the city is self-governance along with affordability for middle and working class residents.

Other candidates seeking the Democratic spot on the ticket include Trent Holbrook, a former Norton staffer; Kenney Zalesne, the former Deputy National Finance Chair of the Democratic National Committee; and Gregory Jaczko, former chairman of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Can \$100 million overcome a Trump endorsement? What to watch in Tuesday's elections

By JONATHAN J. COOPER and JESSE BEDAYN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — An endorsement from President Donald Trump is worth a lot in Republican primaries. But is it worth more than \$100 million in Georgia? Can it propel a sitting congressman past an insurgent outsider in Alabama? Can it transform a candidate into a front-runner in Oklahoma?

Trump has been at the center of this year's midterm campaigns, and his influence will be tested in different ways on Tuesday as four states and the District of Columbia hold primaries.

Among Democrats, the primaries will hinge on longstanding divides between progressives and moderates as the party tries to chart the best path forward to November.

Here are a few things to watch as voters go to the polls in Alabama, California, the District of Columbia, Georgia and Oklahoma.

How much is a Trump endorsement worth?

Nothing is certain in politics, but a "complete and total endorsement" from Trump is about the surest path possible to winning a Republican primary.

Rick Jackson is testing that truism in his campaign for Georgia governor. The health care tycoon, who faces Trump-backed Lt. Gov. Burt Jones in a runoff, has given his campaign more than \$100 million to try and convince Republican primary voters to overlook Trump's advice.

Trump endorsed Jones more than a year ago and reiterated his support last week, praising Jones' "Courage and Wisdom" in a social media post on June 8. Rarely has the power of Trump's endorsement been tested against such a lopsided spending disparity.

Jones finished first with 38% and Jackson second with 33% in the May 19 primary. Now the election to lead one of the nation's pre-eminent battleground states will be decided by the voters who didn't back

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either of them.

Meanwhile, Oklahoma's Republican primary for governor will test Trump's endorsement in a different way. There, the president weighed in late, throwing his support two weeks ago to former state Sen. Mike Mazzei among a crowded field without a clear front-runner. The race will go to a runoff if no candidate gets a majority.

Trump is used to getting his way, but earlier this month his choice for governor of Iowa, U.S. Rep. Randy Feenstra, lost to Zach Lahn in the state's primary.

MAGA becomes the insider movement, and faces an outsider

Trump rose to power as an outsider, the head of a "Make America Great Again" movement keen to bulldoze the old political order.

But now the onetime insurgent sits atop a sprawling establishment. What happens when he endorses an insider candidate?

That question is at the heart of the Republican primary runoff for Alabama's open Senate seat.

Trump is backing U.S. Rep. Barry Moore, a three-term congressman who has promised to be "a warrior for President Trump's 'America First' agenda" if elected.

He faces former Navy SEAL Jared Hudson, who is presenting himself as a Washington outsider, trying to harness the same anti-establishment fervor that propelled Trump to power in order to defeat Trump's preferred candidate.

Alabama is a Republican stronghold, so whoever wins the primary will be heavily favored to prevail in November over either candidate in Tuesday's Democratic runoff, business owner Dakarai Larriett and lawyer Everett Wess.

The seat is being vacated by Sen. Tommy Tuberville, the Republican nominee in the race for Alabama governor.

DC mayor's race features a democratic socialist and a new voting system

One of the leading Democratic contenders in the District of Columbia mayor's race, Janeese Lewis George, describes herself as a democratic socialist, a political denomination that became more prominent with Sen. Bernie Sanders' presidential campaigns.

George's bid for the party's nomination is not so far removed from democratic socialist Zohran Mamdani's upset victory for New York City mayor last year. And, as in New York, the race has drawn national attention, including the president's.

Trump indicated days before the mayoral primary election that he might take over the city if George eventually wins, saying "we won't put up with it." George called Trump's threat "an attack on democracy itself."

The city's relationship to the president is a focal point of the campaigns as Trump has exercised broad power over Washington, D.C. That's included an open-ended deployment of National Guard troops in the streets and his culling of the federal workforce, a chunk of the city's jobs.

Some residents were frustrated that the current mayor, Muriel Bowser, didn't push back enough on the administration. Part of George's platform on her website, which heavily focuses on affordability, is to "protect Home Rule" with "leaders that stand up and fight back, not shrink in the face of injustice."

George and another Democrat, Kenyan McDuffie, who's focused on public safety, are two of the seven candidates whose race will be the first decided with D.C.'s new ranked choice voting system.

Like a handful of other places, D.C. voters will rank the candidates on a ballot, and if none cross 50% of the popular vote, then residents' second choices come into play. That happened in Maine, where election officials started counting ranked-choice votes for governor and a key House race three days after election night.

In D.C., election officials have warned the new system could delay results by days.

Election denial looms over race for Georgia secretary of state

Six years ago, Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger resisted Trump's unfounded claims of election fraud and his request to "find 11,800 votes" to overtake Democrat Joe Biden.

Now, in the first open election for the seat since Raffensperger's defiance, the two Republicans in the

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runoff echo Trump's falsehoods to varying degrees.

Candidate Vernon Jones, who was previously elected to the statehouse as a Democrat but switched parties and aligned himself with Trump, has said he believes there were "irregularities" and "violations" and that he stands "with those who believe there was election fraud."

Of four key points on Jones' campaign platform, three have to do with election management, including stronger voter identification rules and requiring voting in person with limited exceptions.

Jones' runoff opponent, State Rep. Tim Fleming, has tiptoed around the topic, saying there were "irregularities" in 2020 but adding that he's "not running on conspiracy theories."

Still, of the seven platform points on his campaign website, four are focused on election management and one says that the state should "make it impossible for the Left to cheat in our elections."

Skepticism of elections flared up recently in California after Trump made a baseless claim that Democrats were somehow cheating to defeat a Republican candidate for governor and another for Los Angeles mayor.

Soon after, the U.S. attorney's office in Los Angeles, led by Trump appointee Bill Essayli, said it was opening fraud investigations related to the elections.

A special election to fill Eric Swalwell's seat after sexual assault allegations

Eric Swalwell resigned from the U.S. House in April after a woman alleged that he had sexually assaulted her twice, saying she was too intoxicated to consent to sex in both cases.

The Democrat has denied the accusations, but he dropped out of the race for California governor and resigned from Congress.

That's what prompted a special primary election Tuesday, where both Republican and Democratic candidates will compete to serve out Swalwell's term until January. If a candidate gets more than 50% of the vote Tuesday they'll win outright, otherwise the top two contenders will go to a runoff election on Aug. 18.

The Democratic candidates, who are favored to win in the blue district covering several East Bay cities, include Aisha Wahab, a state senator, and Melissa Hernandez, a Bay Area Rapid Transit director.

It's a competition between the more progressive Wahab, who is established in California politics, and Hernandez, a local politician who sits closer to the political center. To lower costs, Wahab takes aim at "corporate profiteering" and argues for an expansion to social safety nets; Hernandez focuses on local job growth and supporting small businesses.

Both candidates also ran in the regular primary election for Swalwell's seat and will face off in the general election in November. Whoever wins that race will take over next year.

China Shock 2.0: Surging Chinese exports threaten Europe's economy, raising concern at G7 summit

By PAUL WISEMAN, ELAINE KURTENBACH and DAVID McHUGH AP Business Writers

WASHINGTON (AP) — For eight years, the United States has waged economic war on China, slapping big taxes on Chinese products before they enter America.

But the campaign hasn't dented China's industrial prowess.

The world's second biggest economy is exporting more products than ever. It's just redirecting them away from the U.S. tariff wall and toward more open markets in Europe and elsewhere in Asia.

The shift in Chinese trade risks creating a European sequel to the China Shock that wiped out hundreds of thousands of factory jobs in the American heartland in the 2000s and contributed to the political upheaval that put Donald Trump in the White House twice.

Despite U.S. sanctions, China last year notched a record global trade surplus — an astonishing \$1.2 trillion.

Earlier this year, French President Emmanuel Macron warned that Chinese exports are "literally killing a large part of the European industry" and admitted that Europe was "slow to see that."

The Europeans are clear-eyed now. China's trade practices will be near the top of the agenda this week as leaders of the G7 rich democracies gather in Évian-les-Bains, France. In briefings last week, French officials indicated that they hope to come out of the summit with a plan to tackle the China threat.

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One possibility is that the European Union and others will build a higher tariff wall of their own against Chinese imports. Currently, the EU imposes relatively low tariffs on China under World Trade Organization rules — though it hits specific Chinese products with higher ones (up to 35% on electric vehicles, for example).

"China's export surge, unless its leaders rein it in, will provoke a protectionist wave against Chinese imports worldwide," said Maurice Obstfeld, senior fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics and former chief economist at the International Monetary Fund. "All the more so if the current disruptions around the Iran war persist and cause a sharper global slowdown."

Economist Taylor Wang at HSBC warned this month that a China-EU trade dispute could threaten Chinese exports; Europe accounted for a big share of China's exports of electric vehicles, solar panels and lithium-ion batteries.

The Europeans also hope to persuade Trump to stop targeting U.S. allies like the European Union and Canada with punitive tariffs and to start working with them instead to counter China.

China Shock 2.0 is different — and more disruptive

The first China Shock started around 2001 when the Chinese joined the World Trade Organization and gained low-tariff access to the lucrative markets of the United States and Europe. In the United States, many factories couldn't compete with low-cost Chinese textiles, furniture, electronics and other manufactured goods.

Economists David Autor of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, David Dorn of the University of Zurich and Gordon Hanson, now at Harvard, found that competition from China had led to the loss of 2.4 million American jobs.

China Shock 2.0, as it's come to be known, is playing out differently.

The first time around China was still emerging as a major player in global commerce. Now it dominates world trade and manufacturing.

China accounted for just 4% of global goods exports in 2000. Now its share is 16% — the highest in the world — making Beijing's trade policies far more consequential.

China has also upped its game, exporting sophisticated products like EVs and batteries, advanced machinery, software, scientific instruments and putting it in direct competition with the richest countries in the world. For example, Chinese exports now compete with nearly 58% of the exports from the 21 European countries that share the euro currency, up from 46% in 2000, according to a paper last month by researchers at the Federal Reserve and the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis.

"The second China shock is characterized by its companies running the board on manufacturing exports -- from low-tech, low-wage to high-tech high value-added industries," said economist Eswar Prasad of Cornell University. "This is directly hitting advanced economies where it now hurts the most" — high tech industries such as EVs and high-end robotics that many countries "had been counting on for a manufacturing revival."

Germany has taken a hit from Chinese exports

Germany has been hit hard. German companies once grew fat on exports to China but the situation has reversed: China now sells more goods to Germany than it buys. And German companies are struggling to compete with the Chinese rivals in industrial machinery, construction equipment, cars and chemicals — all mainstays of Germany's export-oriented economy.

Partly because of the competition from China, Germany's economy has stagnated, shrinking in 2023 and 2024 and growing just 0.2% last year.

The United States is less vulnerable than it was in the 2000s. Trump's tariffs have kept out a lot of Chinese products. Exports of Chinese goods to the United States dropped 37% from January through April this year, versus the same period of 2025, the U.S. Commerce Department reports.

The United States is also in a stronger economic position because it produces its own energy — unlike the EU and Japan — and is enjoying a boom in productivity and investment in artificial intelligence.

Despite Trump's tariffs and diminished sales to the United States, China is benefiting from soaring de-

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mand for its low-cost EVs and from AI investment, which generates sales of Chinese electrical components and machinery for data centers.

Exports from China to the 27-nation EU climbed 16.4% in January to May from a year earlier. For France, that meant that its trade deficit with China, according to Beijing's customs statistics, rose to \$5.3 billion from \$3.3 billion a year earlier.

Chinese policies contribute to the problem

Economists say China's policies encourage factories to overproduce and consumers to underspend. For example, state-run Chinese banks pay low interest rates to savers but offer cheap loans to government-owned manufacturers. A flimsy social safety net pressures Chinese families to save, not spend, to build a financial buffer against old age and medical problems.

Obstfeld said the policies are partly meant to keep factories busy and workers employed. "The result is an excess domestic supply of manufactured products, which must be exported abroad," he said. So low-priced Chinese products flood world markets and threaten to put European and other factories out of business.

Beijing also has encouraged companies to compete ruthlessly against each other at home. "The rest of the world is ill prepared to compete with these apex predators," Autor and Hanson wrote in a New York Times column last year.

China has repeatedly promised to rein in overproduction and encourage consumer spending – as the United States and other countries have urged for decades. That would make its economy less reliant on exports and its consumers better off. It would also give U.S. and European an expanding market to sell into. "The leadership has long said this is a goal," Obstfeld said, "but they have been slow to act as if they mean it."

"Beijing has been relying on the rest of the world to address its overcapacity problem," said former U.S. trade negotiator Wendy Cutler, now senior vice president at the Asia Society Policy Institute. "However, this unsustainable situation may soon change if the EU and others take steps to halt Chinese imports, following the U.S. lead."

All eyes turn to Fed chair Kevin Warsh and his first moves on interest rates

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Ever since Kevin Warsh was nominated by President Trump in late January to lead the Federal Reserve, a question has lingered: Will he seek to raise interest rates to tame inflation or cut them as Trump has long demanded?

On Wednesday, Warsh may provide the first hints of an answer when he oversees his first Fed policy meeting as chair and holds a news conference afterward. Bond markets, which can swing sharply on a chair's pronouncements, will be watching particularly closely for any signs of which way he leans.

"We expect the press conference to be pivotal," Jonathan Pingle, an economist at investment bank UBS, wrote in a note. "This will be Kevin Warsh's first public appearance as Chair. ...We do not really know what his policy views are."

Economists say Warsh will likely aim for a neutral approach, largely because he is taking over the Fed at a challenging time. Rising inflation has made it all but impossible for the Fed to cut interest rates anytime soon, which could stimulate growth and further raise prices. Hiring has improved noticeably since the beginning of the year, removing another key rationale for rate cuts. And the other 11 policymakers on the Fed's rate-setting committee — including Warsh's predecessor, former chair Jerome Powell — are split on whether an increase in the Fed's key rate will be needed or if it can stay unchanged.

High inflation puts Fed in tough spot

Oil prices have fallen sharply on news that the U.S. and Iran have reached an initial deal to end their war, which could eventually cool inflation. Yet it's unclear whether a permanent agreement can be reached.

"The right thing to do now is wait and see," said William English, an economist at the Yale School of

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Management and a former top Fed economist.

Inflation has jumped to a three-year high of 4.2%, the government said last week, mostly because of higher gas prices. Even Trump has backed off a bit from his relentless demands for lower rates, and instead has argued that rate hikes — which the Fed undertakes to cool the economy and slow inflation -- aren't necessary.

In an interview earlier this month on NBC's "Meet the Press," Trump said, "Kevin is fantastic and I want him to do whatever he wants," but added, "there's no reason to raise rates."

On Wednesday the Fed is widely expected to keep its key rate at about 3.6%, where it has remained since last December. When the Fed reduces its rate, over time it can lower other borrowing costs for things like mortgages, auto loans, and business loans.

Changes likely to dash hopes for those seeking lower rates

Still, some changes are expected, which will disappoint those hoping for lower borrowing costs: The Fed is likely to drop language that suggests its next move will be a rate cut, and instead adopt wording that is more neutral. Several Fed policymakers in recent weeks have said that the Fed's most likely next move is a hike, rather than a cut.

The central bank is also scheduled to release its quarterly economic projections on Wednesday, which include forecasts for how the Fed's key rate will change over the next three years. In March, those projections suggested the Fed would cut its rate once this year. Yet on Wednesday they will likely show no change in 2026, with maybe one or two cuts next year, economists say.

Warsh has criticized the projections for providing too much "forward guidance" to financial markets and leading Fed officials to stand by their forecasts for too long, even as the economy changes. Fed watchers will look closely to see if Warsh participates in the quarterly projections. If he doesn't submit his own forecasts, it could be a sign he will seek to get rid of them entirely in the coming months.

Warsh to bring a new approach to Fed leadership

Outside of policy, Warsh is expected to bring a different style to the Fed than Powell, people who've worked with him say. He wants Fed policymakers to give fewer speeches, have more debates behind closed doors, and will likely avoid commenting on the daily ups and downs of the economy. Powell was relatively plainspoken and straightforward, while Warsh has suggested he sees the famously oracular Alan Greenspan, the Fed's chair from 1987 to 2005, as a model.

"He's just going to say less, because he doesn't find that stuff very helpful," said Robert Tetlow, a former senior policy advisor at the Fed.

Randall Kroszner, an economist at the University of Chicago who served on the Fed's governing board from 2006 to 2009, when Warsh was also a governor, said the new chair would likely focus on bigger-picture questions, such as how AI will impact the economy. He will avoid thornier issues, such as whether tariffs raise inflation, which Powell was willing to address.

By avoiding such hot-button issues, the Fed could attract less negative attention from the White House, Kroszner said.

"He's going to stay away from those," Kroszner added. "If the Fed is to maintain its independence, it needs to maintain its focus."

While seeking Trump's nomination, Warsh called for "regime change" at the Fed and criticized the central bank for not preventing the 2021-22 inflation surge, when prices jumped 9.1% in a year, the biggest spike in four decades.

Yet Kroszner said that Warsh will likely to seek to build consensus around changing things like the Fed's communications policies, rather than imposing them. So far, former Fed officials say he hasn't sought to fire top staff.

"He's not there to break things," Kroszner said.

During his Senate confirmation hearing in April, Warsh said he would focus on quelling inflation.

"Inflation is a choice, and the Fed must take responsibility for it," he said then.

If he acts on that sentiment by keeping rates unchanged — or even raising them — Trump could end up disappointed in another Fed chair. He often threatened to fire Powell, whom he also appointed, for not

cutting rates deeply enough.

"There's at least a risk here that six months down the road, Trump is fulminating about how he didn't get what he wanted from Warsh, and he'd like to fire Warsh," English said.

Trump's Iran deal greeted with skepticism and scrutiny on Capitol Hill

By MARY CLARE JALONICK, LISA MASCARO and JOEY CAPPELLETTI Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republicans on Capitol Hill said Monday they need more information about the agreement between the United States and Iran announced by President Donald Trump, and some are expressing skepticism as they ask the White House for details.

The agreement announced Sunday to end the war in Iran, set for a ceremonial signing Friday in Geneva, is centered around reopening the Strait of Hormuz and lifting the United States' naval blockade in the region, along with financial incentives for Iran if it meets certain benchmarks. But Senate Republicans and Democrats who returned to Washington on Monday said there were still many unanswered questions about the deal and they need thorough briefings before it is finalized.

"I just don't know enough about it," Senate Majority Leader John Thune, R-S.D., told reporters in the Capitol. "Even the people who follow this stuff closely up here don't know that much about it."

Congressional leaders and intelligence committees generally receive higher-level intelligence briefings before rank-and-file members, and they are notified of major developments before they are announced. But Thune said he had not been personally briefed on the deal.

"I think that my understanding of what it entails — and, again, not having seen anything — it would require, I think the issues are going to be compliance, and how are you going to enforce that," Thune said.

Thune's concerns were echoed by several other GOP senators.

"If it's a secret deal then how can I take it seriously?" asked Republican Sen. Thom Tillis of North Carolina.

Vice President JD Vance told ABC News on Monday that the White House would release the text this week, "and what everybody will see is that Iran doesn't get a dime of money unless they perform their obligations."

Senators have questions about details

Trump has not yet explained how his agreement will address Iran's nuclear program, including who will be in charge of verifying that Iran is in compliance and who will destroy or remove highly enriched uranium believed to be buried under nuclear sites that were badly damaged by U.S. strikes last summer.

A memorandum of understanding also includes the possibility of releasing Iran's frozen funds, sanctions relief and a \$300 billion fund to help rebuild Iran if Tehran meets certain benchmarks, senior U.S. officials told reporters Monday. But the document has not been released.

Thune said he wants to know more about the conditions on the financial incentives for Iran. He said the deal would be a "good one" if the incentives are conditioned upon Iran winding down its nuclear program and getting rid of the enriched uranium, "preventing them from having a nuclear capability in the future."

Sen. John Kennedy, R-La., said he is hopeful but "until you see the final document, it's hard to make an assessment."

"I go into it very skeptical of the government of Iran," Kennedy said. "They learn to lie before they learn to talk. So any agreement we make with them has to have guardrails. It has to have a way to judge through independent inspection if they're doing what they say they're doing."

Senate could have a vote

Under the Iran nuclear agreement review act passed by Congress during the Obama era, any deal the U.S. reaches concerning Iran's nuclear material must be submitted within a certain amount of time to Congress for review. But it is up to Congress whether that happens — it is not required.

President Barack Obama's 2015 nuclear agreement with Iran, known as the JCPOA, was submitted for what's called a vote of disapproval in the Senate. The outcome did not roll back the agreement, but put the senators on record with their support or opposition.

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Sen. Lindsey Graham, a close ally of Trump and a longtime hawk on Iran, has appeared skeptical over the emerging agreement. He said he is "pulling for a deal" but Congress will need to review and vote on it, and he wants to see the memorandum that the two countries have agreed on.

"The way Iran describes it, it's awful. The way we describe it, it makes sense to me," Graham, R-S.C., said. "Let's look at it and see what it actually is."

Graham has said he wants Vance, whom he called "the architect of the deal," to present it to lawmakers.

Vance responded to Graham on Monday, saying in the interview with ABC that he would "caution Lindsey Graham and anybody else not to believe the hard-liner propaganda in Iran, but to believe what's actually in the agreement."

Even though Iran's new supreme leader, Mojtaba Khamenei, is the son of the last supreme leader, and Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard still has significant authority in Iran, Vance told CNN in a separate interview that "fundamentally, it is a much different group of people." He insisted that the conflict had unlocked much more direct communication with high-level Iranian officials and that the relationship was "fundamentally transformed."

Next steps in Congress unclear

Most Senate Republicans said they want to review the deal, but it was still unclear whether they would have a vote, or if Congress could pass it.

Republican Sen. Eric Schmitt of Missouri said he doesn't think an up-or-down vote is necessary.

"You have the camp that wants us to lose and then you have a camp that wants a forever war," Schmitt said. "President Trump's not in either one of those camps, and neither am I."

Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, said he expects the Senate will get the final say. But he praised Trump for making "the single most consequential decision of his presidency" by attacking Iran.

"I think he made America safer," Cruz said. "The president as commander in chief acted decisively to stop that ayatollah from getting nuclear weapons."

Sen. James Lankford, an Oklahoma Republican who serves on the Intelligence Committee, said he expects there are still many more steps to the process before any package would come to Congress for review.

"Seems like early reports are showing that this is kind of the first step," he said. "Once we have a final agreement, we need to take it up and pass it. ... If you want a long-term agreement it's got to be law."

Democrats ask what has changed

Democrats questioned how the deal will improve upon the U.S. position before the war — and how it differs from Obama's 2015 nuclear deal.

"For all his critique of JCPOA, we had international observers, we actually had an alliance there that included the Europeans, and Russia and China were all signatories," Virginia Sen. Mark Warner, the top Democrat on the Intelligence Committee, told CBS' "Face the Nation" on Sunday.

Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., said there are more questions than answers, including what happens to the Iranian nuclear program and sanctions on Iranian oil.

Trump has spent "tens of billions of dollars" and service members and Iranians have died, "and he still cannot explain how one family in Massachusetts is better off," Warren said.

Democratic Sen. Tim Kaine of Virginia said an end to what has been a costly and unpopular war would be a good resolution, but he wants to hear more details.

"An off ramp is good because it was a war that should have never been started," he said.

California Gov. Gavin Newsom says Trump's Justice Department is investigating him and his wife

By SOPHIE AUSTIN and ALANNA DURKIN RICHER Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif (AP) — Democratic California Gov. Gavin Newsom on Monday accused the Justice Department of launching a politically motivated investigation into him and his wife, saying the Trump administration was targeting him as he weighs a presidential bid.

Newsom, a longtime political rival of the Republican president, said in a video posted on X that federal

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agents have knocked on the doors of his friends and former employees, and have asked for records. Newsom didn't provide specifics on the nature of the probe, but his office said the inquiry appears to have recently expanded into "increasingly personal matters involving the Governor's family and professional network."

"Donald Trump isn't just coming after me because of my mean tweets," Newsom said, referencing his use of social media to mock Trump. "He's coming after me because I'm considering running for president, because he hates that I've consistently called him out over and over again for his lies and deceit."

The full details of any Justice Department inquiries related to Newsom were not immediately clear. But the revelations were likely to escalate accusations from critics that the Trump administration is using the law enforcement agency as a weapon to go after the president's political opponents.

A person familiar with the matter denied the existence of an investigation specifically targeting the governor, but said there are multiple federal probes into people around him, including one related to his wife's taxes. That probe began last year, and political leadership in Washington was not involved in the decision to open it, said the person, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to publicly discuss ongoing investigations.

Another probe is related to Newsom's former chief of staff, Dana Williamson, who was indicted on federal charges that she was involved in a scheme to steal campaign money from former federal Health Secretary Xavier Becerra. Williamson in May pleaded guilty to charges including conspiracy to commit bank fraud. That investigation, which was launched by President Joe Biden's Justice Department, has expanded to include other staff, the person familiar with the matter said.

Newsom hasn't been accused of any wrongdoing related to Williamson's case.

The Justice Department declined to comment Monday. Acting Attorney General Todd Blanche declined to answer questions about Newsom during a brief photo opportunity with Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, on Capitol Hill Monday afternoon. Blanche had a scheduled meeting with Grassley to discuss his nomination to become attorney general.

Trump's Justice Department pursues his critics

They are the latest Justice Department investigations surrounding one of Trump's political foes.

The Justice Department has also opened investigations into or brought prosecutions against former FBI Director James Comey, New York Attorney General Letitia James, former CIA director John Brennan and former Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell, among other perceived political enemies of the president.

"One by one, anyone who has challenged Donald Trump has ended up on his hit list, and today I proudly join that list," Newsom said in the video.

Investigators have subpoenaed records, and agents have reached out to organizations and people connected to the governor and his wife, according to Newsom's office. The governor's office accused the Justice Department of "searching for a crime that does not exist."

Newsom's office said it heard last week that federal agents had ramped up their efforts and were asking people tied to the governor and his wife about a range of issues, including their businesses, finances and personal matters. His office said it filed a public records request Monday seeking messages to or from Justice Department leaders mentioning Newsom or his wife during Trump's second term.

Jennifer Siebel Newsom, the governor's wife, said the investigation showed that Trump is unfit for office.

"There are clearly no boundaries to what Donald Trump will do to get his way or to challenge those who get in his way," she said in a statement.

The president has repeatedly gone after the Democrat-dominated state during his second term including by curbing a signature plan to reduce planet-warning emissions from cars, withholding aid for wildfire recovery and suing over state policies supporting transgender student-athletes. The state has pushed back by suing the federal government dozens of times.

Newsom also led a push to counteract a Trump-backed effort in Texas to redraw congressional districts to favor Republicans by championing a successful redistricting measure in California designed to win Democrats five additional House seats.

Some of the 11 skydivers killed in Missouri plane crash were experienced jumpers

By JOHN SEEWER and JOSH FUNK Associated Press

Several of the skydivers killed when their plane crashed moments after taking off from a Missouri airfield were experienced jumpers, including a leader at one of the sport's biggest organizations.

Federal investigators were at the crash site, about an hour south of Kansas City, on Monday, a day after the plane carrying a pilot and 11 skydivers slammed into a field and burst into flames, killing all on board, authorities said.

Some family members of those who died were at the airport to watch the jump and witnessed the crash, said Bates County Sheriff Chad Anderson.

Authorities have not released the victims' names, but friends and colleagues began paying tribute.

The United States Parachute Association, skydiving's governing body, said its technology director, Jen Sharp, was among those killed.

"Jen was a remarkable force whose passion for the skies was matched only by her dedication to the people in our sport," said Albert Berchtold, the organization's executive director.

Sharp taught skydiving instructors, wrote educational materials and made 6,800 jumps since her first one in 1989, according to her website.

She once jumped into Denver's Coors Field ballpark while dressed as the queen of England and was part of the Everest Skydive in the Himalayas, her site said.

Kevin Payne, who had jumped with seven of the skydivers on the plane, said they were all different in nearly every way, except that they were all brought together as a "sky family."

"There is a joy and peace and freedom to what we do. That's what most people never understand," Payne, of Parkville, Missouri, wrote in an email. "It's not about the adrenaline. It's about really flying together with your family in that brief, exquisite instant that people who live their lives on the ground will never understand."

It will be about a month before the National Transportation Safety Board issues a preliminary report, but weather did not appear to be a factor.

Investigators had interviewed some witnesses by Monday afternoon but not the company's owner, NTSB Vice Chairman Michael Graham said. The plane didn't have a "black box" like those that record flight data on commercial planes, but investigators will examine the wreckage for other clues, he said.

Skydiving plane went down soon after taking off

Witnesses say the plane was roughly 100 feet (30 meters) from the ground when it made an abrupt left turn before crashing.

It appeared to be losing power, and the pilot may have been trying to reach a highway to land when the plane stalled and went down nose first, said Dennis Jacobs, acting airport manager of Butler Memorial Airport. On Monday, Graham said investigators are only beginning to interview all those witnesses and gather photos and videos of the crash, so it's too early to say definitively what happened.

The plane was operated by Skydive Kansas City, he said. The crash site in the small town of Butler is roughly 65 miles (105 kilometers) south of Kansas City.

Skydive Kansas City said in a statement that its team and the skydiving community were in shock.

"This is a devastating loss for everyone connected to Skydive Kansas City and for the wider skydiving community," the company said. "Our deepest sympathies are with the families, friends, and loved ones of all who were lost."

Plane made multiple flights over the weekend

The Pacific Aerospace 750XL — a single-engine turboprop plane — is a popular model in skydiving because it's designed for the sport and can quickly take parachutists to jumping altitudes while using short runways.

This particular aircraft, built in 2010, made nine successful flights in the days before the crash, including two on Sunday morning, according to FlightAware, a digital flight tracking company.

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Red flags raised about skydiving oversight

The NTSB has voiced concerns in past crash investigations about whether skydiving operators get enough oversight and inspections to ensure their planes are safe and their pilots are well trained.

The Federal Aviation Administration has yet to adopt the NTSB's recommendations, but said Monday it established a committee in April that will recommend ways to increase skydiving safety and will consider the safety board's proposals.

"It's always frustrating when we see things the FAA hasn't acted on," said Graham, of the NTSB. "And then we continue to see accidents in those arenas."

The FAA said its inspectors are required to examine certain aspects of skydiving businesses every year, including several safety items related to the aircraft and pilots. But the NTSB said previously that those inspections failed to identify a twisted wing on a skydiving plane that later crashed in Hawaii in 2019 and killed 11 people.

Skydiving businesses can operate under the same FAA rules that apply to any small plane owner as long as their flights don't venture more than 25 miles (40 kilometers) away. Those rules also cover tourist helicopters and other local flights because the FAA considers those operations less complicated than a charter company or airline.

But all aircraft owners are expected to follow the manufacturer's maintenance schedule and recommendations.

The United States Parachute Association said in a statement that Skydive Kansas City adheres to the safety standards set by the largest skydiving organization in the world, including all FAA maintenance requirements.

The skydiving industry says it has a strong safety record. The association said that last year nearly 3.5 million jumps were completed and that 16 civilians died, the majority from human error.

Teen accused of killing stepsister on Carnival Cruise taken into custody following adult charges

By DAVID FISCHER Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — A teenager charged with sexually assaulting and killing his 18-year-old stepsister on a Carnival Cruise ship surrendered Monday after a federal judge reversed his decision on pretrial release now that the teen is charged as an adult.

The U.S. Attorney's Office in Miami confirmed that Timothy Hudson is in custody. U.S. Magistrate Judge Edwin Torres filed the order to revoke Hudson's pretrial release last Wednesday, but the order was sealed until Monday afternoon. The order stated that Hudson should surrender to U.S. Marshals at the federal courthouse in Tampa Monday morning.

The judge had ruled in February that the 16-year-old could live with an uncle and be electronically monitored. But after the case was transferred to adult court in April, prosecutors wanted Hudson in custody.

The judge ultimately agreed that the issue of Hudson's pretrial detention should be treated as if he was an adult, though Hudson will be held in an approved juvenile facility.

"The Government has established, by clear and convincing evidence, that no condition or combination of conditions of release will reasonably assure the safety of the community going forward," Torres wrote in his order.

Hudson has pleaded not guilty to charges of first-degree murder and aggravated sexual abuse in the death of Anna Kepner. His federal public defenders have declined to comment on the charges.

Minors are rarely prosecuted in federal court, and this case landed there because Kepner apparently died in international waters, outside any state's jurisdiction.

Kepner had been traveling on the Carnival Horizon ship in November with her family, including Hudson. Before the ship was scheduled to return to Florida, her body was found concealed under a bed in a room she was sharing with Hudson and another teen, a criminal complaint said.

The cause of Kepner's Nov. 6 death was determined to be mechanical asphyxia, which is when an object

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or physical force stops someone from breathing.

Attorneys for the prosecution and the defense made arguments for and against Hudson being jailed until his trial during a May 27 hearing, but Torres said he wanted to speak with the Marshals Service about the logistics of detaining Hudson in central Florida, closer to his family, rather than South Florida, where the trial is taking place. Hudson walked out of the courthouse after that hearing.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Alejandra Lopez argued at the hearing that the crimes Hudson is accused of are so serious that the court shouldn't risk another violent attack. An autopsy determined that Kepner had been pinned down and forcibly raped, the prosecutors said. She also noted that it likely took 3-5 minutes for Hudson to allegedly strangle Kepner until she was dead.

The prosecutor also argued that Hudson was a much greater flight risk because he now faces a possible life sentence if convicted of the adult charges. As a juvenile, he would have been released at age 21, regardless of what counts he was found delinquent on.

Evan Kuhl, with the Federal Public Defender's office, told the judge during the hearing that Hudson has abided by the conditions of his release for months without issue.

Kepner's father, Christopher Kepner, previously released a statement, saying the family was placing "trust in the justice system to pursue the truth with care and integrity."

"The situation is deeply painful and complex for the entire family," Kepner said.

Anna Kepner was a high school cheerleader at Temple Christian School in Titusville, Florida, about 40 miles (65 kilometers) east of Orlando. At her memorial service in November, family members encouraged people to wear bright colors instead of the traditional black "in honor of Anna's bright and beautiful soul."

Alfredo sauce distributed to dozens of states recalled due to potential salmonella contamination

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal health officials have issued a recall for alfredo sauce distributed to dozens of U.S. states by a supplier because of potential salmonella contamination.

The sauce was voluntarily recalled by the supplier because it contained a dry milk powder ingredient that was possibly contaminated with salmonella, according to a U.S. Food and Drug Administration enforcement report. There were 913 cases recalled and each of those cases contained 12 sealed bags of sauce, with each bag weighing over 3 pounds (1.36 kilograms), the FDA said.

The Coffee Connexion Co. Inc., based in Lebanon, Tennessee, voluntarily recalled the sauce, the FDA said. The company didn't immediately return a call to The Associated Press on Monday.

The recall, which was initiated last month, was designated earlier this month by the FDA as its highest risk category: one in which there was a reasonable probability that the product could cause serious adverse health issues or death.

Symptoms of salmonella poisoning usually occur within 12 to 72 hours of eating food contaminated with the bacteria. They include diarrhea, fever and abdominal cramps and typically last four to seven days. Children, people older than 65 and those with weakened immune systems can develop severe infections.

The FDA did not immediately respond Monday to a request for additional information.

Cape Verde holds Spain to a surprising 0-0 draw in the country's World Cup debut

By JAMES ROBSON AP Soccer Writer

ATLANTA (AP) — So much for a supersized World Cup diluting the quality of soccer's biggest tournament.

Tiny Cape Verde, making its debut at the World Cup, pulled off a stunner, holding heavily favored Spain scoreless in a 0-0 draw on Monday.

"This means everything for our country," Cape Verde coach Pedro Leitão Brito said. "We have always said that we wanted everybody to see our country, our team and we have shown organization and braveness and this is proof of what our country is about — resilience and to try to overcome hardships."

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European champion Spain is one of the favorites to win the tournament and was -1200 to beat Cape Verde. But it could not find a way past a 40-year-old goalkeeper and a stubborn defense that had an answer to everything Spain's superstars threw at them.

Not even sensational teenager Lamine Yamal, who came in off the bench in the second half, could turn a game that ended with wild and emotional celebrations inside the stadium.

"A dream" was how Cape Verde defender Steven Moreira described it.

Veteran goalkeeper Vozinha broke down in tears after the final whistle following his impressive performance to keep Spain at bay.

He was the player of the match, pulling off a string of saves at the end of the first half to deny Ferran Torres, Pedri and Aymeric Laporte.

The closest Spain came to finding a breakthrough was when Torres struck the bar shortly before halftime.

"We should have won today's match with everything that happened, with all the favorable situations we created, but we lacked freshness and a clinical edge," said Spain coach Luis de la Fuente, who had warned before the match that Cape Verde could be one of the surprise teams of the World Cup.

Spain could have been the victim of an even bigger upset when Diney Borges had a late chance to score, but saw his header saved by Spain keeper Unai Simon.

Add Cape Verde to Cameroon, Senegal and Saudi Arabia on the list of teams that have pulled off shocking results against soccer's giants in the World Cup.

Cameroon beat defending champion Argentina in 1990 and Senegal beat defending champion France in 2002. Four years ago, Saudi Arabia triumphed against Lionel Messi's Argentina, which went on to win the tournament in Qatar.

Cape Verde didn't win, but its performance rebuked some of the criticisms that the expansion of the World Cup from 32 teams to 48 would weaken the tournament.

The group of islands off Africa's West coast have about 4,000 square meters (about 2.5 miles) of landmass and approximately half a million inhabitants, making Cape Verde the third-smallest nation by population to qualify for the World Cup. And even against a loaded Spain roster, Cape Verde proved its worth on soccer's biggest stage.

Despite the majority of the 67,640 crowd inside Mercedes-Benz Stadium appearing to be Spain fans, it was the Cape Verde supporters who cheered loudest. They continued their celebrations after the final whistle, singing and dancing in the concourses.

"All of us, we are happy because we work a lot to be here. We deserve to be here," Vozinha said.

The 2010 champion Spain is aiming to win the World Cup for a second time and is coming into the tournament after winning the Euros in 2024. But a disappointing start echoes its performances in recent World Cups. Spain has failed to advance beyond the round of 16 in each of the last three editions.

"What doubts do you think my team is going to have? Zero doubts," De la Fuente said. "We know how difficult this competition is. The idea we need to follow is what took us here and what made us European champions."

Spain plays Saudi Arabia on Sunday and Cape Verde faces Uruguay.

Trump arrives at G7 summit looking for momentum after announcing a deal to end the Iran war

By SYLVIE CORBET, AAMER MADHANI and DARLENE SUPERVILLE Associated Press

EVIAN-LES-BAINS, France (AP) — President Donald Trump started his visit to the G7 summit of leading industrialized nations on Monday by declaring his agreement aimed at ending the U.S. war with Iran is a potential breakthrough for global security and a chance for the U.S. to finally turn the page in its relationship with longtime adversary Iran.

The Republican U.S. president sought to make clear that he arrived in Evian-les-Bains with the wind at his back for talks with G7 leaders, including some who have been sharply critical of his managing of the 15-week-old conflict, which has led to a surge in global energy prices — though he did not immediately

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seem willing to lay out the details of what was in the emerging deal.

Some of those details are still to be negotiated in talks over the next 60 days, though Trump said the memorandum of understanding would likely be released after it's signed on Friday.

"I think a lot of great things are going to happen in the Middle East right now, and very importantly the oil (price) is plummeting down and the stock market is shooting up like a rocket today," Trump said at a meeting with the summit's host, French President Emmanuel Macron, before they joined a working dinner with other leaders.

"The Iran deal that we made is going to bring a lot of success to the world," he said.

Deal could change G7 dynamic

Trump has had friction with Macron, British Prime Minister Keir Starmer, German Chancellor Friedrich Merz and Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni over failing to consult them before the decision to go to war. But sealing an agreement before jetting off to the summit might change the dynamic of the three-day gathering.

Macron at the start of Monday's meeting congratulated Trump for finding a way to an agreement.

"It's a very important matter for peace of the whole world," Macron said.

Trump has pushed back on the four European leaders — members of the NATO military alliance — for their lack of support for the U.S. in the conflict.

He's expected to discuss with leaders the demining of the Strait of Hormuz. Britain and France have expressed interest in assisting with the demining once the conflict is paused. Fear of potential mines is among the reasons tanker traffic has come to a halt during the war, and quickly clearing them will be crucial to regaining the confidence of commercial vessels.

Macron on Monday said France was ready to move within days to deploy assets, including mine-clearing vessels, to the region to help.

Senior U.S. officials told reporters that the while the agreement provides for the immediate opening of the strait and lifting of the U.S. naval blockade, it will take weeks for traffic to return to previous levels.

Macron invited the leaders of three nations that aren't part of the G7 — Egypt, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates — to take part in a session on the Middle East on Tuesday, when Iran is expected to be a central focus.

Trump faces questions about financial incentives for Tehran

Trump had fiercely criticized President Barack Obama for the 2015 nuclear agreement, which Trump argued failed to stop Tehran from advancing toward a weapon and funneled billions of dollars into the Islamic Republic's coffers.

In 2018, Trump exited the deal, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action. Britain, China, France, Germany, Russia and the European Union were also signatories to the pact.

Trump in an interview on Sunday with The New York Times pushed back on comparisons to the Obama-era nuclear deal. "We negotiated from strength," Trump said. "He was basically paying them off."

But Trump hasn't explained how his agreement will address some key issues about Iran's nuclear program, including who will be in charge of verifying that Iran is complying with the agreement and who will destroy or remove 972 pounds (441 kilograms) of highly enriched uranium believed to be buried under nuclear sites that were badly damaged by U.S. strikes last summer.

The memorandum of understanding includes the possibility of releasing Iran's frozen funds, sanctions relief and a \$300 billion fund to help rebuild Iran — all of which would be tied to Tehran meeting certain benchmarks aimed at assuaging White House concerns, senior U.S. officials told reporters on Monday.

Some Democrats and hawkish critics say Trump has failed to explain how the financial relief in his agreement will differ from what Obama did in the 2015 nuclear deal.

"For all his critique of JCPOA, we had international observers, we actually had an alliance there that included the Europeans, and Russia and China were all signatories," Sen. Mark Warner, the top Democrat on the Senate Intelligence Committee, told CBS' "Face the Nation" on Sunday.

Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham, a close ally of Trump and an Iran hawk, expressed skepticism, saying

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that Congress will need to review and vote on any nuclear deal with Iran, and said he expects Vance — “the architect of the deal” — to present it.

“I am somewhat concerned that Iran’s view of the agreement seems different than what the American negotiating team is claiming,” Graham said on social media.

Trade irritants and the war in Ukraine are also a focus

Leaders are expected to discuss a range of economic and trade issues. Trump told the New York Post he’s warned Macron the U.S. will “have no choice” but to slap 100% tariffs on French wines unless Paris eliminates its digital tax on American tech companies, renewing a long-running threat from him that dates to his first administration.

Wines and spirits exported to the U.S. from the European Union currently face a 15% tariff.

In an interview with broadcaster TF1, Macron said Monday that it’s not “for the United States to decide what European or French law should be.”

Macron also invited Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy for a working session with G7 leaders on Tuesday to discuss the Russia-Ukraine war.

At the moment, Zelenskyy is not scheduled to hold one-on-one talks with Trump while they’re both in France, but Trump on Sunday held separate phone calls with Zelenskyy and Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Russian presidential aide Yuri Ushakov told reporters that Trump emphasized the need to end hostilities with Ukraine and stated his readiness to influence European allies and Kyiv toward that goal, including at the G7.

Zelenskyy had offered to meet Putin with Trump and European leaders at the G7 gathering, but the Kremlin didn’t reply, a Ukrainian official familiar with the matter told The Associated Press. The official was not authorized to speak publicly about the matter and spoke on the condition of anonymity.

Putin is wanted by the International Criminal Court for alleged war crimes, and France would be obliged as an ICC member to arrest him. The United States and Russia both oppose the court.

Trump suggested that, after an Iran deal, he’ll now have greater bandwidth to focus on the Russia-Ukraine war.

“Now that this is finished, we’re going to be focusing on that,” he said, referring to diplomatic efforts to stop the fighting that followed Moscow’s full-scale invasion of its neighbor in February 2022.

Republican divides and strange alliances emerge ahead of Georgia runoff

By BILL BARROW Associated Press

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (AP) — The final days of Georgia’s Republican primary campaigns have exposed internal party fault lines, produced unusual alliances and will test the party’s ability to consolidate quickly to match Democrats’ head start on the general election campaign.

The melee, including last-minute endorsements from President Donald Trump and outgoing Gov. Brian Kemp, was on full display Monday ahead of Tuesday’s runoff. Rep. Mike Collins and former football coach Derek Dooley are competing for the party’s nomination for U.S. Senate, while Lt. Gov. Burt Jones and billionaire businessman Rick Jackson are running for governor.

Trump and Kemp are aligned behind Jones but split in the Senate race. Top grassroots organizers are divided too. Even Texas Sen. Ted Cruz, a former rival to Trump, stepped into the mix on Jackson’s behalf, putting him at odds with the president and governor.

“There’s a lot of division in the MAGA world and across the Republican Party,” said Debbie Dooley, an original national tea party organizer who is backing Jones for governor but Dooley for Senate. (She’s not related to the candidate.) “We better get it together after Tuesday.”

Kemp insisted there is a common denominator.

“Everything I’m doing is to win in November,” he said Monday after campaigning for Jones and Derek Dooley at separate events in metro Atlanta.

Kemp has backed Derek Dooley for months in the Senate race, arguing it will take an outsider to defeat

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Democratic Sen. Jon Ossoff in November. Yet Kemp campaigned for the first time Monday with Jones, a day after he endorsed the lieutenant governor despite Jackson's outsider campaign. In the governor's race, Kemp reasoned that Jones is the right man to defeat Democratic nominee and former Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms.

Trump, meanwhile, has backed Jones since last August, rewarding him for his loyalty as part of Trump's alternate Electoral College slate in the 2020 scheme to overturn Democrat Joe Biden's presidential victory. But the president waited until the final weekend to choose Collins over Dooley, with a social media post that noted Dooley has backed Trump's falsehoods about his loss to Biden.

Kemp's and Trump's differing courses highlight their complicated relationship — Kemp certified Biden's electors in 2020 over Trump's objections — and the results Tuesday will test both men's internal party influence as their final terms play out.

"I'm not worried about any political equations or keeping score," Kemp said Monday after campaigning alongside Jones and Dooley at separate morning events. "It's making sure we have the right people at the top of the ticket."

He also rejected any notion that he was being inconsistent by pushing the Washington outsider in one race and the Georgia statehouse insider in another. The reason, he said, was that Georgia has been controlled by Republicans for more than two decades and, in Kemp's estimation, is doing well enough that Jones would be "really building off the great legacy" of multiple state administrations. Congress, meanwhile, is a mess of "inaction" with abysmal approval ratings, he said.

Dooley, for his part, embraced Kemp's influence and downplayed Trump's.

"It's very simple," he said. "A vote for Mike Collins is a vote for Jon Ossoff. A vote for me is a vote for the people of Georgia."

Jackson likewise downplayed Kemp's last-minute nod for Jones.

"I respect Gov. Kemp very much, and I think people are ready for an outsider," he said.

Cruz was more animated, with an implicit comparison of Jackson to Trump.

"He's rich," Cruz told Jackson supporters with a smile. And he's a first-time candidate, the senator continued. "I don't know anybody like that in politics," Cruz deadpanned.

Debbie Dooley, the conservative activist, noted that erstwhile tea party leaders in the state aren't on the same page anymore either. While she's campaigning with Derek Dooley, the founder of Tea Party Patriots, Jenny Beth Martin, has appeared with Collins.

"It's just not as simple as blindly following Trump anymore," Debbie Dooley said. "I don't want the most conservative candidate. I want the most conservative candidate who can win."

Stocks leap worldwide, and oil prices drop after the US and Iran reach a tentative deal on their war

By STAN CHOE AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Stock markets rallied worldwide Monday, and oil prices eased after the United States and Iran reached a tentative deal to extend their ceasefire and reopen the Strait of Hormuz to get the global flow of crude going again.

The S&P 500 rose 1.7% on hopes that this time, the announcement of an Iran-U.S. agreement will mean a long-term fix to a conflict that has worsened inflation around the world. The Dow Jones Industrial Average climbed 468 points, or 0.9%, to a record, and the Nasdaq composite jumped 3.1%.

Stocks got a lift after the price for a barrel of Brent crude oil fell 4.8% to \$83.17, back to where it was in early March. While that's still above its price of roughly \$70 from before the war, it's lower than the \$100 plus it cost just a few weeks ago. The hope is that lower oil prices will take pressure off households and businesses, which have had to pay higher prices for everything from food to fuel to fertilizer because of the war with Iran.

Iran confirmed the deal, but it does not include a final agreement on issues like Iran's nuclear program. Negotiations on that are expected to continue over the next 60 days, which leaves opportunity for hiccups.

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that could derail the agreement. And even if the Strait of Hormuz does fully reopen on Friday as expected, it will likely take months for the energy industry to get back to full speed.

For now, though, relief swept through financial markets worldwide.

On Wall Street, stocks of companies with big fuel bills were instant winners. United Airlines flew 3.9% higher, and cruise operator Royal Caribbean Group rose 6.6%.

Stocks of companies enmeshed in the artificial-intelligence industry also jumped. These stocks have yo-yoed in recent weeks, going from roaring to records to suddenly turning lower. The concern is whether such stocks shot too high, too fast because of AI mania, and their careening moves have sometimes reversed direction by the hour.

Micron Technology rallied 10.8%, and Advanced Micro Devices rose 7%. Nvidia's climb of 3.5% was the strongest force pushing the S&P 500 upward because the AI chip company is Wall Street's most valuable company, giving it more weight on the index than any other.

SpaceX, Elon Musk's rocket company that also owns the AI company xAI, rose 19.6% in its second day of trading on Wall Street. Its successful debut on the Nasdaq suggested plenty of demand still exists among investors for AI. The market has given SpaceX a total value of more than \$2.1 trillion, making it bigger than Exxon Mobil, Bank of America and Coca-Cola combined.

In the bond market, Treasury yields eased on hopes that lower oil prices will remove pressure on central banks to raise interest rates.

The yield on the 10-year Treasury slipped to 4.47% from 4.48% late Friday.

Europe's central bank last week became the first major one in the world to raise interest rates because of the war with Iran. High interest rates can keep a lid on inflation, but they also slow economies and undercut prices for all kinds of investments, including stocks and cryptocurrencies. They hit investments seen as the most expensive in particular, and some critics are calling the AI industry a bubble where investment inflated too far.

The Fed will announce its latest decision on interest rates later this week, which will be the first under its new chair, Kevin Warsh. Traders see it as a near certainty that the Fed will leave its main interest rate steady after its two-day meeting ends Wednesday.

Traders had been raising bets that the Fed may have to raise interest rates this year because of how much inflation has accelerated and how solid the U.S. job market remains. But the tentative deal between the United States and Iran means traders are now betting on only a 57% chance of a hike this year, down from 71% a week ago, according to data from CME Group.

Elsewhere on Wall Street, Roku fell 1.9% after the company announced that Fox Corp. is buying the streaming pioneer in a cash-and-stock deal valued at approximately \$22 billion.

Roku's stock had already soared 20% Friday, when media reports emerged about a deal, which will give Fox access to the Roku channel, first-party data and more than 100 million global streaming households. Fox's stock fell 16.8%.

All told, the S&P 500 rose 122.83 points to 7,554.29. The Dow Jones Industrial Average climbed 468.77 to 51,671.03, and the Nasdaq composite jumped 795.10 to 26,683.94.

In stock markets abroad, indexes climbed in Asia and Europe. Japan's Nikkei 225 leaped 5% for one of the world's biggest gains and finished at a record.

"This is great news," said Takashi Hiroki, chief strategist at Monex. "Buying by foreign investors is leading the market with expectations of easing tensions around the situation in the Middle East."

South Korea's Kospi soared even more, 5.2%, thanks in part to continued rallies for AI winners like Samsung Electronics.

London's FTSE 100 was an outlier and slipped 0.4%.

Initial deal to end US-Iran war moves toward formal signing despite lingering questions

By JON GAMBRELL, ELENA BECATOROS and MICHELLE L. PRICE Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — An initial agreement between the United States and Iran to extend their shaky ceasefire inched toward a formal signing despite questions Monday over the fate of Tehran's nuclear program and an offensive by Israel in Lebanon that could prolong the fighting and scuttle the deal.

The agreement signed electronically Sunday is meant to provide a meaningful truce in a monthslong war that has killed thousands across the Middle East, including the top leaders of Iran's theocracy, and raised the prices of fuel, food and other basic goods far beyond the region. But logistical and military challenges underscored the fragile nature of the deal, which was set for a ceremonial signing Friday in Geneva.

At the core of the pact is a planned reopening of the Strait of Hormuz, a crucial waterway whose blockage has choked the supply of the world's oil and natural gas. Yet even a full reopening would not immediately alleviate the global energy crisis its closure created.

Another potential obstacle concerns Israel, which joined the U.S. in launching the war on Feb. 28, but it is not party to the deal. The Israeli military launched airstrikes Sunday in southern Lebanon, where it is fighting the Iranian-backed Hezbollah militant group, and the Israeli defense minister said Monday that the country would not withdraw from land seized in Lebanon, where Israel is fighting the Iranian-backed Hezbollah militant group.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Monday said the agreement between the U.S. and Iran was Trump's decision. Netanyahu said Israel has its own interests, primarily protecting against a potential nuclear threat from Iran. He said Iran wanted Israel to withdraw from Lebanon, but he stood firm, saying Israel would remain in the buffer zone "as long as necessary."

"I tell you, citizens of Israel, the struggle is not over. We will need to continue to be vigilant, to remain strong and determined, to defend ourselves as necessary," he said.

Other uncertainties center on Iran's stockpile of highly enriched uranium, which the U.S. and Israel worry could be used to build an atomic weapon despite Tehran's insistence for years that it has no aspirations to do so. The deal gives Iran just 60 days to decide what to do with its supply. It took years for Iran and world powers to negotiate a 2015 agreement to rein in Tehran's nuclear program.

President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew the U.S. from that accord in his first term, setting the stage for the tensions that culminated in the current war.

The Strait of Hormuz won't open until the deal is signed

Early in the war, Iranian attacks on ships brought traffic in the Strait of Hormuz — through which a fifth of the world's oil and natural gas passed before the conflict — to a near standstill. Trump implemented a blockade in response.

Iran's deputy foreign minister, Kazem Gharibabadi, said Iran would not start implementing the agreement until after the signing ceremony. The U.S. military said the blockade will remain in place "pending execution" of the deal.

"Do not attempt to cross until explicit direction is given," it said Monday in an advisory to merchant ships.

Trump, who faced pressure to end the war ahead of congressional midterm elections in November, said that "a lot of great things are going to happen in the Middle East right now."

"Very importantly, the oil is plummeting down, and the stock market is shooting up like a rocket today," he said Monday at the G7 summit in France.

While the agreement provides for the "immediate" opening of the strait and lifting of the blockade, the process will take time because there are mines in the strait, and ships are unwilling to risk traversing it, according to a senior U.S. official who spoke to reporters on condition of anonymity to discuss outlines of the agreement.

Details remain scant but expected soon

A second senior U.S. official told reporters that details of the agreement would be released within the next two days.

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The memorandum of understanding includes the possibility of releasing Iran's frozen funds, easing sanctions and creating a \$300 billion fund to rebuild Iran — all of which would be tied to Iran meeting benchmarks, the official said.

The officials said technical talks would begin Friday after the signing ceremony and that Vice President JD Vance would lead negotiations for the U.S.

Israel says it won't withdraw from Lebanon

The success of the deal rests at least partially on what happens between Israel and Hezbollah in Lebanon. Israel's bombing of Beirut's southern suburbs on Sunday nearly derailed the negotiations, and a previous attack led Iran to fire on Israel and Israel to fire back.

Defense Minister Israel Katz said Israel plans to stay "indefinitely" in land it holds in Lebanon, Syria and the Gaza Strip. He also threatened that if Iran attacks Israel over its strikes in Lebanon, Israel will strike Iran with "great force."

Asked where Israel stands on the deal, David Mencer, a spokesman in Netanyahu's office, told The Associated Press that Israel and the U.S. remain fully aligned on preventing Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons. But he added that Israel will not tolerate attacks from Hezbollah on its territory.

Israel and the U.S. began the war apparently in lockstep, but the war has created deep fractures in that close relationship, with Trump eager to end a conflict that is deeply unpopular with the American public and Netanyahu intent on destroying Hezbollah. Trump appears to have grown increasingly frustrated with the Israeli leader, even occasionally publicly insulting him, including telling The New York Times on Sunday that he was a "very difficult guy."

Many Lebanese travel to check on homes

In a sign of the deal's fragility, the Lebanese army called on residents not to rush to return to border villages, saying they should follow military instructions because of the danger of "Israeli violations and aggression."

Many Lebanese who had fled following Israeli evacuation orders and intense fighting were heading south, however, to check on their homes. Celine Fayad, driving south, said she will test how far she could go. Her village, Aitaroun, is along the border with Israel. It was among the first to be occupied and lies in ruins.

"We were expecting to return," she said. "Thanks to Iran."

Ali Haidar was among the first to return to Nabatiyeh, the southern city at the heart of the latest Israeli military operations, where many central buildings have been reduced to dust.

"This used to be our home, our childhood home where we have all of our memories. This is where we grew up. Now it's gone," Haidar said. "We will return to rubble and sand. It's better than being displaced."

Hezbollah, meanwhile, credited Iran with a "major achievement" in reaching the agreement, which it said could lead to "the full liberation of our land, the return of our prisoners to their homeland and families," and reconstruction of war-devastated areas.

Along with praising the deal, the militant group said it was committed to resisting Israel "until full withdrawal is achieved."

Owners of Dominican club where 236 died in a collapse to stand trial

By MARTÍN ADAMES Associated Press

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic (AP) — The sibling owners of the Santo Domingo nightclub where a roof collapse killed 236 people and injured more than 100 last year will stand trial for involuntary manslaughter, a judge ruled Monday.

Antonio and Maribel Espailat, the owners of Jet Set nightclub, could face up to 2 years in prison if found guilty.

The April 8, 2025 collapse reverberated across the Dominican Republic, with authorities working frantically for days to reach people under the rubble.

The ruling Monday by Magistrate Reymundo Mejía Zorrilla of the First Court of Instruction of the National

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District in Santo Domingo drew frustration from victims' relatives who were hoping for homicide charges that carry stiffer penalties of up to 20 years in prison.

The ruling said that the case did not warrant a homicide charge because that would indicate the defendants knew that their negligence would cause the deaths of the victims. But if they could have foreseen the roof collapse, "logic and reason" suggest they would not have endangered their own lives in addition to those of the victims, the ruling said.

About 30 relatives of the victims had gathered at the courthouse ahead of the hearing, holding hands and praying.

Prosecutors have previously accused the Espaillats of trying to intimidate or manipulate employees. Antonio Espaillat is considered a powerful business person, owning upscale entertainment centers and dozens of local radio stations. The Public Prosecutor's Office has asserted that it has hundreds of pieces of evidence tying the siblings to the collapse.

Hundreds of people including athletes and politicians were at Jet Set when the roof collapsed, attending a concert by singer Rubby Pérez, who was among the victims. Others included former MLB pitcher Octavio Dotel, who was pulled from the debris but died in a hospital.

The Espaillats will be tried together. No date has been set for the trial.

Fox to buy streaming pioneer Roku in a \$22 billion deal

By MICHELLE CHAPMAN AP Business Writer

Fox Corp. has agreed to buy the streaming pioneer Roku in a cash-and-stock deal valued at approximately \$22 billion, including debt.

Roku will continue to be run as an open, partner-friendly platform, the companies said Monday, and there appears to be no immediate changes that customers will see. Fox and Roku said that the combined company will become the third-largest player in U.S. television by share of viewing.

Media reports had surfaced on Friday that Roku was looking at its strategic options, including a possible sale. Speculation was rampant as to which companies might be interested in an acquisition. Aside from Fox, names being tossed about as potential buyers included Netflix, Amazon, Comcast and Disney.

The deal will give Fox access to more than 100 million global households, along with the Roku channel and its first-party data. Fox oversees a massive sports, news and entertainment network, as well as Tubi, which it acquired in 2020.

Roku founder Anthony Wood had initially worked within Netflix in the early 2000s as that company attempted to make the seismic shift from renting DVDs, to streaming.

Roku was spun off by Netflix, however, and the company released its first set-top box in 2008.

Wood, who is Roku's chairman and CEO, said his motivation in pursuing the technology was his desire to record and play his favorite show, "Star Trek."

Fox Corp. CEO Lachlan Murdoch said in a statement that combining the businesses will bring together Fox's live news and sports content with a streaming platform with large viewership. It will also give Fox more exposure to advertising and streaming subscriptions.

"The combination with FOX is an extraordinary opportunity to accelerate our vision, scale faster and innovate more aggressively for viewers, partners and advertisers," Wood said in prepared remarks.

Mike Proulx, research director at Forrester, said in an emailed statement that advertising revenue is a critical component of the deal.

"The bigger play here is advertising revenue, something all the major streamers are now jockeying for," he said. "This deal accelerates Fox into that shift with built-in audience scale. With 2026 shaping up as a defining year of streaming consolidation, the market shift is that streaming is no longer just about quality content slates. It's about controlling the full stack. If this deal closes, Fox will control more of what viewers watch, how they discover it, and how it gets monetized."

Wood will have an ongoing role at the company and will join the Fox board of directors after the transaction closes.

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Murdoch said during a conference call that the combined company will be better positioned for the next decade of video than either company would've been alone.

"We are confident this is the right transaction, at the right moment, for all the right reasons," he said.

Fox will pay \$96 in cash and 0.9693 shares of its Class A common stock for each Roku Class A and Class B share outstanding. The transaction is valued at \$160 per Roku share.

Existing Fox shareholders are expected to own approximately 73% of the combined company and Roku shareholders will own about 27%, once the deal closes.

The deal is expected to close in the first half of next year. It still needs approval from Fox and Roku shareholders and also regulatory approval.

Fox's shares tumbled 15% on Monday and Roku declined nearly 2%.

Even with a deal to reopen the Strait of Hormuz, it could take weeks or months for oil to fully flow

By DAVID McHUGH and CATHY BUSSEWITZ AP Business Writers

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP) — The tentative agreement to end the war in Iran and reopen the Strait of Hormuz would be good news for the global economy. But even as the price of oil dropped Monday, many questions remained about when and how it would start flowing again through the world's most vital artery for energy shipments.

Before the war, the strait carried a fifth of the world's crude oil. Now, it will take time for hundreds of ships trapped in the Persian Gulf to exit through the narrow strait. And Gulf oil producers that throttled back production will need time to get the oil moving again. Analysts also say ship captains may take their time to decide if passage is safe and that the threat of attack from Iran has truly receded.

All told, oil prices, inflation and energy flows simply won't see an immediate return to what they were before the war — not for weeks or even months. And that's assuming the deal, set to be signed Friday, proves durable. Details hadn't been released.

When will oil start moving again?

Even if the Strait is completely open, it will take time for tankers to enter, load, and make the journey to Asian countries — the chief customers for Gulf oil from Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait and Oman. A trip to Japan and back can take 45 to 50 days.

Captains, insurers and owners may take their time in attempting passage, given the volatile situation.

"Operationally, the sector is not rushing back," wrote Richard Meade, editor-in-chief of shipping data and analysis company Lloyd's List, noting that many warn mine clearance and a return to use of the internationally recognized transit lanes "are prerequisites for safe navigation."

Ships have been trickling out through an Iranian-run vetting lane in the north of the strait, while others have slipped out with lights and location systems turned off under U.S. forces' guidance in a southern passage along the coast of Oman. Iran had threatened to attack ships using the internationally established mid-strait transit lanes that keep inbound and outbound ships out of each other's way.

Some 500 commercial vessels remain in the Persian Gulf, according to maritime and energy intelligence firm Kpler, and they can't all leave through the narrow strait at once.

Amena Bakr, head of Middle East energy and OPEC+ insights at Kpler, estimated that clearing mines would take six months, vessels leaving and returning to reload two to three months, and restarting production in some countries to prewar levels another three months.

What does an 'open' strait mean? It's not clear that the US and Iran have agreed

Iran has demanded the right to collect money from ships using the strait, and in some cases has already exacted payment to let ships leave. Trump said on his social media platform Truth Social that the deal involved a "toll free opening," but there's been no confirmation from Iran.

The period between the deal's announcement and signing "gives both sides scope for issuing conflicting statements on the agreement, especially on the extent to which Iran will manage traffic and demand fees," said Torbjorn Soltvedt, principal Middle East analyst at risk intelligence company Verisk Maplecroft.

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Paying tolls would present a quandary for ship owners, since the U.S. and EU have designated the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps a terrorist organization, and the U.S. Treasury has sanctioned the entity Iran has announced to run its collections. Unless those sanctions are modified, paying exposes shippers and banks to sanctions.

Legal experts say allowing Iran to control passage would violate international law on freedom of navigation as set down in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which requires countries to permit peaceful passage through territorial waters. The strait's waters are shared by Iran to the north and Oman to the south.

Oil producers need time to get operations underway again, too

Some producers in the Middle East paused extracting oil from the ground, known as a shut-in, when they ran out of storage space. Restarting those operations can be a slow process.

Countries such as Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, which were able to export some oil through alternate pipelines or routes besides the Strait of Hormuz, may be among the quickest to resume production, said Alan Gelder, senior vice president of refining, chemicals and oil markets at Wood Mackenzie, an analytics firm.

"Places like Iraq could be much more challenged because they've had a much bigger shut-in, their fields are more difficult ... it may well take about a year before they get back," he said.

Claudio Galimberti, chief economist at Rystad Energy, noted in an emailed comment that "sentiment has clearly improved. But sentiment is not the same as supply."

"It will take time for production to ramp back up, for logistics to normalize, and for the risk premium embedded in crude prices to dissipate," he said.

Countries won't restart until they know there is a durably open strait and that a ceasefire will last more than 30 or 60 days, said Daniel Sternoff, senior fellow at the Center on Global Energy Policy at Columbia University.

Economists at Capital Economics estimate that energy flows would reach 80% of prewar levels by September.

Inflation will not drop immediately

Even if the deal reopens the strait immediately, that will not immediately send inflation lower, economists say.

Inflation is "set to stay above target in most major economies throughout this year and the first half of next, even as growth remains relatively weak," said Neil Shearing, group chief economist at Capital Economics.

Inflation could even rise when government measures aimed at easing the energy shock expire, Joachim Nagel, the head of Germany's Bundesbank central bank said in a speech Monday.

That includes Germany's temporary lowering of fuel taxes by 17 euro cents per liter, which runs through June 30.

"It will take months for the oil supply to return to normal," Nagel said.

Ukraine starts EU membership talks and faces years of reforms while fighting Russia

By LORNE COOK Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — Ukraine on Monday officially started European Union membership negotiations, launching a process that will require its government to commit to years of political reforms even as it fights a Russian invasion.

Ukrainian Deputy Prime Minister Taras Kachka took part in an intergovernmental conference in Luxembourg to open talks that will help Kyiv align with the 27-member bloc's laws, standards and values.

"Aggression against Ukraine and threats against Europe is a permanent policy of Russia, so that's why we need to be united," Kachka told journalists. "That's why we need faster and very comprehensive ac-

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cession to the European Union.”

Ukraine sees EU membership as a security guarantee for a stable future once the war ends. Its best guarantee would be membership in the NATO military alliance, but the Trump administration insists that cannot happen, and others are wary of it joining while the war continues.

Moldova also officially launched its membership talks. Russia has long tried to keep the country within its orbit, and last year Moscow was accused of waging a disinformation campaign driven by artificial intelligence during elections.

EU values and principles are first up

Countries hoping to join the EU must complete negotiations in 35 policy areas, or chapters, from agriculture to taxation and energy to trade, a process which can take years.

Monday’s meeting saw the opening of five key chapters — grouped as “clusters” — that underpin the values and principles on which the bloc was founded, notably the rule of law, fundamental rights and the functioning of democratic institutions.

The chapters are judiciary and fundamental rights, justice, freedom and security, public procurement, and statistics and financial control. The cluster is important for some EU countries that worry about Ukraine’s ability and willingness to fight corruption.

Last month, two national agencies fighting corruption named Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy’s former chief of staff as an official suspect in a major graft investigation, but they said the Ukrainian leader was not under suspicion.

Some countries want Ukraine to join quickly

Some European countries have pushed to get Ukraine in the bloc as quickly as possible. They see Ukraine as vital to Europe’s security and have helped bolster its armed forces.

Last month, German Chancellor Friedrich Merz urged his EU partners to consider offering Ukraine “associate membership” to help breathe new life into talks aimed at ending more than four years of war with Russia.

Other countries — France and the Netherlands among them — have suggested work-arounds to bring Ukraine into the fold more quickly but without the rights of full membership.

But EU officials, and other countries waiting in line to join the bloc, insist that it should be a merits-based process that leads to nothing less than full membership.

Finland’s Foreign Minister Elina Valtonen said that completing the full reform process is vital, and that membership is not simply about securing a “club card for the EU.”

What Ukrainians “truly are after is freedom, democracy and a transparent market economy without any corruption,” she told journalists in Luxembourg.

Hungary had long blocked Ukraine’s prospects

Ukraine’s accession process was long stymied by Hungary under stridently nationalist former Prime Minister Viktor Orbán, who was considered Russia’s strongest ally in Europe and a possible threat to the EU project. He lost an election this year.

Orbán routinely exploited voting rules that require all 27 member countries to agree on certain rules, sanctions and even political statements. Indeed, unanimous agreement is required for each negotiating chapter to be opened, and then again for it to be closed.

The European Commission froze billions of euros in funds for Hungary in response to democratic backsliding led by Orbán, and concern lingers about the damage that can be done when one unhappy government insists on wielding its veto.

“We need to be very cautious in the future and make sure that these are countries that really want to be a part of Europe, and a part of the European Union, and are willing to work with us,” Swedish Foreign Minister Maria Malmer Stenergard said.

“In order for the EU to be really strong, we need to make sure that this doesn’t happen again,” she said.

UK bans under-16s from using social media apps including TikTok and YouTube

By SYLVIA HUI and BRIAN MELLEY Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Britain will ban children aged under 16 from using a range of social media apps, including Snapchat, TikTok and YouTube, to protect them from harmful content and excessive screen time, Prime Minister Keir Starmer said Monday.

The ban, which is expected to take effect early next year, makes the U.K. part of a growing global movement to tighten online safety for children. Australia, Canada, Brazil and Indonesia have introduced legislation or announced age-based restrictions or requirements for children's access to social media. France, Spain, Denmark, Thailand and South Korea are among others studying or developing similar approaches.

"Every parent can see it with their own eyes. Social media is making children unhappy," said Starmer, who has two teenage children. "I've heard first hand from families crying out for change and we will do right by them."

The plan was met with mixed reaction, with some praising Starmer for taking action and others questioning the effectiveness of a blanket ban.

YouTube and Meta — the parent company of Facebook and Instagram — warned Monday that a blanket social media restriction could push kids into unregulated spaces.

"Blanket bans push kids out of such curated, supervised, beneficial experiences and towards anonymous, less-safe services," a YouTube spokesperson said. Meta said a ban could drive teens to online alternatives without any parental controls.

Starmer acknowledged the challenges and said some teens would try to find their way around a ban, but said: "I do believe we can enforce it."

He added: "Teenagers drink before they should, but we do not then say, 'in which case let us abandon any attempt to stop them buying alcohol.'"

The prime minister — who is under pressure to step down from members of his own party over what they see as poor leadership and could face a challenge from within his Labour Party in the coming days or weeks — said he is "not prepared to compromise on the safety and happiness of our children."

Starmer says the UK will go further than Australia

The U.K. plans to follow the same model for a social media ban as Australia, which last year became the first country to bar under-16s from holding social media accounts. Platforms that fail to take reasonable steps to exclude children younger than 16 could be punished with multimillion-dollar fines.

The U.K. said its ban will apply to platforms including Snapchat, TikTok, YouTube, Instagram, Facebook and X, but not YouTube Kids or messaging services like WhatsApp and Signal. Starmer stressed that enforcement action will target tech companies, not children.

He said the move was a "big moment for our country," adding that he will go further than Australia's measures.

The government will also act to prevent strangers from contacting children on gaming and livestreaming platforms, Starmer said. AI chatbots designed to simulate romantic or sexual relationships with users will be restricted to over-18s only, and authorities are also considering additional measures including overnight curfews and breaks in infinite scrolling for those under 18.

More details are expected next month.

Some skepticism over whether a ban will work

The decision follows a public comment period in which the government received 116,000 responses from parents, the tech industry and children. More than 90% of respondents wanted an under-16 ban, the government said.

Ellen Roome, a children's online safety campaigner whose son took his own life at 14 years old, welcomed the move. She believes her son died after an online challenge went wrong and has campaigned for legal reforms to give parents access to children's social media accounts after their death.

"The tech companies, if they wanted to make changes, they could have done that by now. They've

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chosen not to do it," she said. "We need to come down hard on them. If they're not going to do it, we need to be very strict."

But others say research in Australia has shown that age verification is difficult to enforce, and that a blanket ban fails to address a deeper problem — the way social media algorithms push harmful content to young people.

"This is far too easy to work around. It is based on age verification tools that have been shown to be ineffective to date," said Kate Edwards, head of education at the Molly Rose Foundation, which was set up in memory of 14-year-old Molly Russell, who took her own life after being exposed to self-harm content online.

"It does nothing to address the actual problem itself, the harmful algorithms, the harmful content that is existing on those platforms," Edwards added.

A Meta statement said it shares "the goal of keeping teens safe online," and that it now features teen accounts to automatically limit who can contact them and the content they see.

"Like others, we don't think bans will achieve this goal," Meta said, adding that Australia had shown how "bans risk isolating teens from online communities and information."

Jon Crowcroft, a communications systems professor at the University of Cambridge, said people supporting social bans are well-meaning but probably misguided, and changes could prevent children from accessing sites they need.

"There is a real risk this will drive some users to worse sites, and policing devices is close to impossible technically," Crowcroft said.

Other critics including the Open Rights Group have expressed concerns about age verification companies and how users' private data is protected.

U.S. opposes the move

The ban could further inflame tensions with the U.S., which has warned that regulations should be narrow and not violate free speech protections, according to a statement from the U.S. Embassy in London. It said it was also concerned that regulations would place greater burdens on American technology companies.

Starmer said he expected to discuss the issue with U.S. President Donald Trump and other world leaders at a Group of Seven summit in France that starts Monday.

"I honestly think that across world leaders, there has always been a recognition that leaders have to take steps to protect children," he said. "I don't think that's controversial."

How AAPI adults are being affected by Trump's immigration crackdown, according to a new poll

By TERRY TANG and LINLEY SANDERS Associated Press

Many Asian American and Pacific Islander adults have experienced or witnessed some degree of upheaval because of the Trump administration's heightened immigration policies, a new AP-NORC/AAPI Data poll finds, while most say the U.S. is no longer the land of opportunity for immigrants.

A new poll released Monday from AAPI Data and The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research shows about half of AAPI adults say they — or someone they know — have been detained or deported within the last year, started carrying proof of immigration status or U.S. citizenship, upended travel plans or significantly changed their routines because of immigration status.

The findings come after more than a year of immigration crackdowns. The poll indicates that the Trump administration's aggressive approach, which has resulted in multiple clashes between protesters and enforcement officers and led to the shooting deaths of two U.S. citizens in Minneapolis earlier this year, may be changing the way some people in immigrant-heavy communities see the U.S. itself.

AAPI adults are one of the country's fastest-growing demographic, and most AAPI adults in the U.S. were born outside the country. The survey found a majority of AAPI adults — about 6 in 10 — believe the U.S. used to be a great country for immigrants but is not anymore. Only about 3 in 10 AAPI adults say

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America is a great place for immigrants, while a few, 5%, say it was never a great place for immigrants. At the same time, AAPI adults are more likely than Americans overall to see the mixing of culture and values from around the world as central to the country's identity.

"America's success story has depended critically on the role of Asian Americans, but also immigrants in general," said Karthick Ramakrishnan, founder and executive director of AAPI Data. "When you have people who are already in this country, have been here for decades saying, 'I'm not really sure that this is the best country anymore,' that's a warning sign."

'Better safe than sorry' approach

Even some immigrants with legal status have been affected by the Trump administration's policies. One policy that would have hiked fees for certain types of visas was shot down in federal court this month. Another judge struck down a policy that "categorically barred" immigrants from 39 Asian, African, Latin American and Middle Eastern countries from receiving final decisions on asylum, work permit, green card and citizenship applications.

Khoa Tran, 27, of San Antonio, Texas, came to the U.S. from Vietnam in 2015 at age 15. He gained citizenship four years later. In 2023, he sponsored his wife from Vietnam.

Last year, Tran became concerned when his social media feed kept bringing up posts about how essential it was that even legal immigrants carry documentation. It had not occurred to the couple that his wife should have her green card with her at all times.

"It seemed like we needed to do it. It's literally become like a second form of identification in addition to the driver's license," Tran said.

He has also seen how international students in his community have put off trips to visit family in Asia due to concerns about student visas.

"They're just scared. They don't know the law around that," Tran said. "Better safe than sorry."

About half of South Asian adults — compared to about 4 in 10 AAPI adults overall — know someone who started carrying proof of legal status or citizenship over the last year. South Asian adults are much more likely than East Asian or Southeast Asian American adults to have been born outside the U.S., according to the survey. Many of those immigrants may have green cards or be naturalized citizens, Ramakrishnan said, yet feel "like their presence and their status in this country is under question."

Cultural identity matters as much as American identity

AAPI adults are likelier to say their family's ancestry or country of origin is "extremely" or "very" important to their personal identity, compared to being an American.

Just over half of AAPI adults say their family's ancestry or country of origin is important to who they are, while 44% say this about their American identity. That extends to AAPI adults who were born in the U.S. About 6 in 10, 59%, U.S.-born AAPI adults say their family's heritage is important to their personal identity, while 47% say this about being an American.

A separate AP-NORC survey conducted in April found that 55% of U.S. adults say being an American is important to who they are, while only 37% said that about their family's ancestry.

Abigail Jeyaraj, 22, of South Hadley, Massachusetts, was born in Texas. Her Indian parents' decision to build a new life in the U.S. is something she never takes for granted. When she describes her nationality, she identifies herself as not just "American" but South Asian American.

"Especially as a South Asian woman, I'm very sensitive to the fact that I have opportunities that my mother and my grandmother, all the women before that didn't," Jeyaraj said. "I really try to honor that culture. I try to maintain really strong connections to my family in India."

Soonho Kwon, 30, of La Mirada, California, was born in Korea. His family settled in New Jersey when he was 8 years old.

"I think I still feel more Korean. I came right around the age where I had very solid memories from growing up in Korea. My immediate family's back there now," Kwon said. "I'm a naturalized citizen. I'm committed to living here, but identity is a different question."

Ambivalence around America's 250th anniversary

The vast majority, 73%, of AAPI adults say the mixing of cultures and values from around the world is

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"extremely" or "very" important to the U.S.'s identity as a nation, compared to only 55% of U.S. adults in the April AP-NORC poll.

Jeyaraj grew up around Dallas and Houston — cities where she was "able to interact with people of so many different races and different cultures that weren't my own." She credits that experience with making her more empathetic.

Restrictions on immigration and diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives leave her feeling conflicted about celebrating the country's 250th anniversary this year.

"I'm proud we made it this far as a country," Jeyaraj said. "You have recent actors who are trying to undo that progress. They maybe view it as restoring an ideal, but it's removing so much work that powerful and influential people made to bring us toward an ideal of equality and justice."

The anniversary feels arbitrary to Tran, a math teacher.

"I don't think this country is 'founded' at some point in time. It just changes from one form to another," Tran said. "Even the Native Americans (were) a long time here. I'm pretty sure that was more than 250 years."

The poll of 1,075 U.S. adults who are Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders was conducted April 20-28, using a sample drawn from NORC's probability-based Amplify AAPI Panel, designed to be representative of the Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander population. The margin of sampling error for all respondents is plus or minus 4.4 percentage points. This poll is part of an ongoing project exploring the views of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders, which are usually not highlighted in other surveys because of small sample sizes and lack of linguistic representation.

Drone strikes kill over 1,000 civilians in Sudan in the first 5 months of 2026, UN rights chief says

By SAMY MAGDY Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Drone strikes killed more than 1,000 civilians in war-torn Sudan in the first five months of 2026, a senior United Nations official said Monday as the unmanned aerial vehicles turn the conflict deadlier for civilians.

U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Türk said his office has documented a "sharp increase" in drone attacks as well as rape and sexual violence in the Sudan war, now in its fourth year.

He said his office registered the killing of over 1,000 civilians by drone strikes between January and May this year.

"In Sudan, the horrific conflict has expanded and escalated, marked by a sharp increase in the use of drone warfare," Türk told the Human Rights Council in Geneva.

The war in the northeastern African country broke out on April 15, 2023, when a power struggle between the military and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces exploded into open fighting in the capital, Khartoum, and elsewhere in Sudan.

The war killed at least 59,000 people over the course of three years, according to the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project, known as ACLED. The U.S.-based war-tracking group, however, said the actual toll was almost certainly higher, given reporting difficulties.

At least 2,670 people, including combatants and civilians, were killed in 2025, marking a 600% increase in drone-related deaths and an 81% increase in drone attacks compared to 2024, according to ACLED.

The latest drone strike by the paramilitary group last week killed at least 15 people after hitting a cemetery and a gas station in the central city of el-Obeid, health officials said at the time.

"Sudan's warring parties have increased their brutality from the skies, using drones supplied by their backers to target civilians and aid workers. This is deplorable and must stop," U.K. Minister for Africa and International Development Jenny Chapman said in a statement.

She added that the latest update "underscores that this conflict is evolving" and that it was vital for organizations to "document abuses and preserve evidence - essential steps to breaking the cycle of impunity."

Both warring parties have increasingly launched explosive-laden drones that, in multiple cases, targeted civilian infrastructure, including hospitals, dams, schools, markets, and displacement camps. Drone strikes have become the deadliest threat to civilians in a conflict, overshadowed first by wars in Gaza and then in Iran.

The conflict has created the world's largest humanitarian crisis, with about 34 million people — almost two out of every three Sudanese — needing assistance, according to the U.N.

The fighting has wrecked urban areas and has been marked by atrocities, including mass rape and ethnically motivated killings, that amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity, according to the U.N. and international rights groups.

"Rape and sexual violence are rampant," Türk said.

Congo reports large daily jump in Ebola cases a month after outbreak was declared

By JEAN-YVES KAMALE and MARK BANCHEREAU Associated Press

KINSHASA, Congo (AP) — Congolese authorities have reported one of the highest daily increases in Ebola cases in a month-old outbreak as the virus spreads quickly in a remote region whose shifting population challenges efforts to find those exposed.

Congo's Ministry of Health on Sunday said 72 new cases were reported in a 24-hour period, bringing the total number of confirmed cases to 782. Those include 181 confirmed deaths, with 29 new ones.

"One month on, the Ebola disease outbreak is outpacing the response effort," Kate White, emergency medical coordinator for Doctors Without Borders in Congo, said Monday. "No one knows the true scale or exactly where the disease is spreading in Congo."

The medical charity said treatment centers in the epicenter of the outbreak are overwhelmed, many patients arrive in advanced stages of illness and most were not identified as contacts of infected people before seeking care.

Congo's health ministry said that while the numbers show the outbreak is spreading rapidly, it also reflects more active surveillance. "Community members are reporting suspected cases, and response teams are investigating them," it said on X.

The number of cases in what could become history's worst Ebola outbreak is believed to be higher because the outbreak was confirmed on May 15, weeks after it is suspected to have begun.

The outbreak is caused by the rare Bundibugyo virus, which was not tested for in the early days. The more common Zaire virus, which now has a vaccine, was responsible for most of Congo's past 16 outbreaks of the disease.

The outbreak is concentrated in Congo's eastern province of Ituri, which accounts for more than 90% of the cases. Cases have also been recorded in the North Kivu and South Kivu provinces and have spread across the border to Uganda.

Congo said the contact tracing coverage rate is 56%, a sharp decrease from last week, as authorities hurry to find people who may have been exposed.

There was no immediate explanation for the drop. Congolese health authorities previously said contact tracing has been hampered by community resistance in some areas and by the rapid expansion of the outbreak into new health zones, increasing the workload for surveillance teams.

Nearly a million people have been displaced by years of conflict in Ituri, according to the U.N. humanitarian office, making contact tracing difficult as people flee attacks or move frequently in the vast province with dense forests, poor roads and remote villages that can take days to reach.

Tracing is also difficult among the thousands of miners who regularly move among remote sites in the mineral-rich region.

The health ministry said Sunday 40 people have recovered since the start of the outbreak, and the current fatality rate of the outbreak is 23%.

Life goes on, including nightlife, as the population adjusts.

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The World Health Organization said Sunday it is intensifying testing and contact tracing and treatment. Tons of supplies from the WHO have arrived in Congo.

And Africa's top health body said it is deploying technical expertise and supporting laboratory systems, case finding and community engagement efforts to accelerate the response.

"We remain committed to supporting affected countries until transmission is stopped. We call on partners and donors to urgently mobilize resources to strengthen the response and save lives," said the head of the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Jean Kaseya.

UFC brings its trademark mayhem to the White House as President Trump celebrates 80th birthday

By DAN GELSTON AP Sports Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump emerged from the Oval Office first, then fighters from around the globe followed straight into the fight cage, in part for the president's 80th birthday celebration and to bring a sport long on the fringe of mainstream acceptance into a main event on the White House South Lawn.

For a president who revels in winners, Trump had to enjoy crowning two champions on a big fight night staged closer to the Rose Garden than Madison Square Garden in the co-main event of UFC Freedom 250.

American lightweight Justin Gaethje capped his unification championship victory in the main event over Ilia Topuria with a backflip off the top of the cage. He crouched near Trump for a celebratory chat and the betting underdog draped the American flag over one shoulder — and the 155-pound title belt over another. Trump later stepped into the cage to congratulate Gaethje.

"Hey, I'm from America, 250 years ago we were way more than 6-1 underdogs," Gaethje said. "I know that was absolutely legendary because I cannot even believe it."

Topuria and Gaethje made their walkouts from the Oval Office as fireworks exploded overhead during Bruce Buffer's introductions. Gaethje — who appeared to skim the copy of the Declaration of Independence on his way out — mustered some scattered "USA!" chants against the Spanish-Georgian Topuria, though not even the main event could stop the trend of mostly quiet fights.

It took the gory sight of a bloodied Topuria — his back to Trump in a white "USA" hat as he peered through the wire-mesh cage — nearly having the fight waved off to get a "let them fight!" chant going. The fight continued, and the 37-year-old Gaethje won eventually via corner stoppage in the fourth round.

"Hard work, baby," Gaethje said. "I am made for these moments. This sport is made for me."

Earlier, Ciry! Gane hammered Alex Pereira with a series of elbows and fists to the head and won via TKO in 1:27 of the second round to claim the interim heavyweight belt for a second time and set up a rematch with heavyweight champ Tom Aspinall.

Like the bulk of the fighters who had their hands raised in victory, Gane thanked Trump.

The White House was a most improbable all-American setting for a fight promotion that long ago shed the "human cockfighting" tag and decades later became entwined with the emboldened right-wing "manosphere" that soaks up UFC fights and threw its support behind Trump in two elections.

Trump and UFC boss Dana White, the tempestuous tag-team that rallied the fight company to the nation's capital, walked from the Oval Office to the Blue Room Balcony to chants of "USA! USA!" to kick off the fight card jacked up by a dose of high-octane patriotism on a blustery night for cage fighting.

This was no Easter egg roll.

UFC ramped up the patriotism for White House debut

The Marine Band jazzed up the festivities and played fighter entrance music in front of the White House and Zac Brown sang the national anthem — never performed before normal UFC fight cards because of the mix of nationalities fighting inside the Octagon. The Navy's Blue Angels and Air Force Thunderbirds zipped overhead as part of a flyover to celebrate Trump's birthday and the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence's signing.

The 4,000-plus fans — Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg and Paramount Skydance CEO David Ellison among

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them — on the South Lawn who sat under the claw, the flying saucer-like, open-air structure that housed the cage, mostly sat on their hands until the fighters used theirs to deliver punishing blows and a true fighting spirit that got everyone on their feet.

Bo Nickal delivered the red, white and boom when the three-time NCAA Division I wrestling champion at Penn State earned the TKO win over middleweight Kyle Daukaus and immediately bolted the Octagon for a cage-side chat with Trump. Nickal met Trump in 2019 during a ceremony at the White House for collegiate national champions.

The first blight of the night for Trump came when American heavyweight Derrick Lewis lost his fight after he got a personal invitation from the president. Trump proclaimed himself a fan of Lewis and his unconventional celebrations and asked White to add him to the card. Josh Hokin instead improved to 10-0 when he flattened Lewis by TKO.

Sean O'Malley celebrated his walk-off KO win with a salute, and Mauricio Ruffy and Diego Lopes won their fights earlier in the night.

"That was sexy," O'Malley said to cheers. "I felt the energy in here. I truly felt the energy in here."

UFC says it's only running one card at the White House

More than \$60 million and tens of thousands of hours of labor were poured into building the arena, according to a court filing from the National Park Service, which oversees the South Lawn, and the looming threat of rain that threw White into a tizzy each time a miserable forecast was raised never materialized over the early portions of the card.

The constant headaches over the weather, the site and the cost — UFC said it was footing the \$60 million tab — made the Freedom 250 a one-time show.

"It will never happen again," White said. "I can't afford it. I'll never do the Sphere again and we'll never do this again."

White said he and Trump discussed the possibility of holding a "fight for the troops card" at an unspecified site at some point next season.

"He wanted it this year," White said. "I said, 'Sir, I need a year to recover financially for the White House fight, so give me a year.'"

Fight night came hours after the United States and Iran reached an agreement to end the war and open the Strait of Hormuz, offering relief to the global economy more than three months after the war began.

The rare UFC outdoors event marked the pinnacle of the relationship between White and Trump that has yielded personal, political and financial dividends for both parties. White's first card as UFC president came in 2001 at an event held at Trump Taj Mahal.

Trump attended fights throughout the decades from New York to New Jersey to Florida while White introduced Trump at two Republican National Conventions.

Trump got a home game for this one, making the short walk from the Oval Office to the Octagon, much like the fighters who made the walk down West Wing halls covered with presidential portraits and were flanked by first responders and medal of honor recipients, among other individuals who served.

Strickland causes trouble at the fan zone at the Ellipse

Thousands more outside the White House lawn watched the fights on big screens from the nearby Ellipse, though not everyone was able to get tickets.

Even one of UFC's champions.

UFC middleweight champion Sean Strickland was escorted out of the Ellipse event by a group of police officers.

U.S. Park Police said in a statement that Strickland's presence drew enough attention from attendees that it resulted in disorder. He wasn't cited or arrested, they said. Instead, he was taken to his hotel and told not to come back to the venue.

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The Knicks made a championship run that will be remembered in New York and in NBA history

By BRIAN MAHONEY AP Basketball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — By the time Jalen Brunson and the Knicks returned home, it was as easy to find something orange around New York as at Halloween.

The city was caught up in this championship run for nearly two months and the party will last at least a few days more, with the Knicks' first parade through New York — they didn't have one in 1970 or '73 — scheduled for Thursday.

The team will be remembered long after the confetti is picked up off the streets of Broadway — and not only in New York.

The 2025-26 Knicks have a place in NBA history.

Their postseason performance is in the discussion for the best in the 80-year history of the league, a run of routs and then comebacks for their first championship since 1973.

"What a run!" former President Barack Obama wrote in a tweet congratulating coach Mike Brown, Brunson and the rest of the Knicks.

One that was arguably as good even as any of Obama's beloved Bulls.

The Knicks finished 16-3, an .842 winning percentage that matched the 2024 Boston Celtics for the second best since the format switched to best-of-seven series in all rounds beginning in 2003. The 2017 Golden State Warriors finished 16-1.

The Los Angeles Lakers went 15-1 in 2001 and the Philadelphia 76ers finished 12-1 in 1983. Five teams finished a postseason with two losses.

The Knicks won 13 consecutive games at one point, second only to the Warriors' 15 in a row in 2017. They set records by winning nine straight on the road and outscoring their postseason opponents by 283 points.

They were still midway through the NBA Finals when rapper Fat Joe, one of the Knicks' orange-and-blue dressed celebrity fans, came to Brown's news conference and said what the team had spent weeks making clear.

"Let's just wait until it's over, but right now you analyze the numbers, we might be looking at the greatest team ever, like if you analyze the numbers," he said.

And when things stopped coming easily, the Knicks set records for the other ways they won. Their comeback from a 29-point deficit in Game 4 was the biggest rally in an NBA Finals game since detailed play-by-play began in 1997, and the Knicks capped it off by coming from 16 down in the clincher.

Add it up, and the Knicks can make a compelling case for the most dominant postseason ever.

"It's absolutely one of the greatest ever," said Mike Breen, who calls Knicks games on MSG Network during the regular season and has been ABC's lead announcer for the NBA Finals since 2006.

"It's impossible for me to rank it, but when you take into account the point differential, the nine straight road wins, clinching all four series on the road, the two losses by one point, the two record-setting comebacks, it's in the conversation as the best ever."

Two of the Knicks' losses were by one point to Atlanta in the first round. The other was by four points in Game 3 against the Spurs, leaving them six points from a perfect postseason.

On the other side, they won clinching games by 51, 30 and 37 points in the Eastern Conference playoffs.

The Knicks were never going to care about how they won, just that they did. Before the playoffs started, All-Star center Karl-Anthony Towns summed up the pressure the players faced in trying to get back to the NBA Finals for the first time since 1999 by saying: "At the end of the day we'll be judged by what we do in this run."

They will be judged well — historically well.

"We went through a lot this season, a lot of ups and downs, but we just stayed with it," forward OG Anunoby said. "We're resilient, mentally tough and we won."

London court convicts 2 men of plot to torch property linked to UK prime minister

By BRIAN MELLEY and EMMA BURROWS Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Two men were convicted Monday of a plot orchestrated by a mysterious Russian-speaking figure to set fire to property linked to British Prime Minister Keir Starmer.

The fires in May 2025 damaged the home Starmer moved out of when he became prime minister, as well as an apartment building he once owned a share of and destroyed his former Toyota SUV. Nobody was injured in the blazes.

A Russian-speaking ringleader who went by the name "El Money" hatched the scheme and offered Ukrainian national Roman Lavrynovych money through the Telegram messaging app to torch the properties and get video of the evidence that could be posted online to draw attention to the attack.

El Money's identity was never revealed and he was not charged.

There was no evidence proving a hostile state orchestrated the fires because police never discovered El Money's motive or who the figure worked for, said Cmdr. Helen Flanagan, head of the counterterrorism team at the Metropolitan Police.

"Clearly the tasking was to intimidate and create fear for the prime minister and to attack the U.K.," Flanagan said.

Lavrynovych, 22, and Stanislav Carpiuc, a 27-year-old Romanian citizen, were found guilty in London's Central Criminal Court of a conspiracy to damage property by fire. Petro Pochynok, 35, was acquitted of the charge.

Lavrynovych was also convicted of two counts of arson that could have recklessly endangered life.

Lavrynovych said he needed money and admitted he set the fires, saying he wanted the bounty of 3,000 pounds (\$4,000) in cryptocurrency to pay for medical treatment his father needed.

But he said he only followed through because he had been threatened by El Money. He said he had no idea who owned the property until after the fires and said he didn't intend to hurt anyone. He told police he didn't even know who Starmer was.

El Money provided detailed instructions to Lavrynovych on the targets, how to mix flammable substances and steps to avoid being caught.

Messages recovered from Lavrynovych's phone showed he discussed setting the fires as well as other vandalism he conducted for money, such as painting the windshields of cars black and putting up anti-Islam posters in Muslim areas of London.

After the fires, El Money promised Lavrynovych he would pay and told the Ukrainian to send him a secret message with the code word "geranium" if he was detained by police. Shortly after Lavrynovych received that message he was arrested. The court was told he never received any money for setting the three fires.

Carpiuc acted as a middleman, and Pochynok allegedly was recruited to record video of the fires so Lavrynovych could get paid.

The fires were set in the dead of night and occupants sleeping in the homes awoke to smoke billowing in their front doors.

Starmer's sister-in-law, who was living in his home, heard a loud bang and said she struggled to breathe as smoke filled a stairway. Her 9-year-old daughter was terrified.

An occupant of the apartment building retreated to the roof after discovering hallways full of smoke.

The two convicts are scheduled to be sentenced Friday.

Lawmakers fight to stop the Trump administration's dismantling of a \$386M ocean observatory project

By ANNIKA HAMMERSCHLAG Associated Press

SEATTLE (AP) — A group of Democratic senators and one Republican, as well as two Democratic House committees, sent letters Monday to the National Science Foundation asking it to reverse course on its plan to dismantle a sprawling ocean monitoring network, with House lawmakers going further and accusing the agency of acting illegally.

The Ocean Observatories Initiative is a network of more than 900 ocean sensors built at a cost of \$386 million. Over the last decade it has tracked ocean circulation, marine ecosystems, climate change and extreme weather, producing data freely available to the public and informing more than 500 scientific publications. The project was slated to run another 15 to 20 years.

The National Science Foundation had directed the removal of most of the system's instruments from waters off Oregon, Washington, Alaska, North Carolina and Greenland by 2027 — a decision scientists said came with no warning and no scientific review. The independent federal agency, which was established by Congress, described the move not as a cancellation but as a "descoping" aligned with a strategy to prioritize "evolving scientific priorities and emerging technologies." The Trump administration's proposed 2026 budget had included a 55% cut to the agency.

'Supreme stupidity'

"It just seems like this is supreme stupidity and a violation of the fundamental distribution of powers in our Constitution," Democratic Sen. Jeff Merkley of Oregon told The Associated Press. "This program is authorized, it's funded, and for the administration to shut it down without direction from Congress violates that vision in which the people's representatives decide what's done and funded, and the executive branch executes that vision."

Merkley and Republican Sen. Lisa Murkowski of Alaska co-led the letter, which was also signed by Democratic Sens. Edward Markey and Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts, Tammy Baldwin of Wisconsin, Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell of Washington, Sheldon Whitehouse of Rhode Island, Chris Van Hollen of Maryland and Ron Wyden of Oregon. It urged the National Science Foundation, or NSF, to halt the dismantling of the Ocean Observatories Initiative and conduct a thorough review, including consultation with the marine science community, before any further action is taken.

"Eliminating most of this complex ocean monitoring system threatens the safety of our coastal communities while undermining our nation's ability to monitor coastal environments, marine currents, and extreme weather events," the senators wrote.

In a sharper rebuke, Democrats from the House Science, Space and Technology Committee and the House Natural Resources Committee sent a joint letter demanding the agency "cease this expensive, destructive, and — crucially — illegal action at once." The letter was led by Reps. Zoe Lofgren and Jared Huffman of California, the top Democrats on their respective committees, and was signed by 23 Democratic members from each panel.

In a June 3 statement, the NSF said its decision drew in part on a 2025 National Academies report on the future of ocean science. "NSF remains committed to ocean science and will continue working with the scientific community on high-priority research objectives," it wrote.

Cuts seen as sign of broader retreat

The ocean observatory cuts are part of a broader retreat from environmental and climate-related science under President Donald Trump's Republican administration, which has moved to scale back research programs, reduce staffing at agencies including the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Environmental Protection Agency, and ease emissions regulations.

Federal appropriations law requires the NSF to notify the House and Senate Appropriations Committees at least 30 days in advance of any planned decommissioning of agency-owned facilities or assets valued at more than \$2.5 million. The House letter said no such notification had been transmitted.

Merkley said he learned of the dismantling through news reports.

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"It was like the alarm bells just went off," he said. "None of us knew about this, and there didn't appear to have been any consultation or any scientific commission or stakeholders that were leading to this."

Merkley said his office is still confirming whether formal notification was given, but he added: "If there was no notification, this would appear to be illegal."

He and Murkowski planned to file legislation Monday that would prohibit the NSF from spending federal funds to decommission instruments until a thorough review has been completed.

Pulling buoy off Oregon coast

Scientists are scheduled to begin pulling the first buoy off the Oregon coast on Tuesday.

In their letter, the senators cited the approaching El Niño — a periodic Pacific warming that disrupts weather patterns and supercharges marine heat waves — as evidence the cuts are particularly ill timed.

"The loss of this deep-water observation system would threaten our ability to prepare for and monitor future El Niño events," they wrote, warning coastal communities, fishermen and emergency responders would be left without crucial information.

"Instead of paying for the valuable insights that can be gleaned from the 10-years-and-counting continuous monitoring, taxpayers are now paying for research vessels to span the ocean dredging up hundreds of pieces of instrumentation. This is pathetic," the House letter states. "In a time of strained resources, the NSF is wasting time and money to destroy its own scientific infrastructure."

Today in History: June 16

Valentina Tereshkova becomes first woman in space

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Tuesday, June 16, the 167th day of 2026. There are 198 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On June 16, 1963, the world's first female space traveler, Valentina Tereshkova, 26, was launched into orbit by the Soviet Union aboard Vostok 6. Tereshkova spent 71 hours in flight, circling the Earth 48 times before returning safely.

Also on this date:

In 1858, accepting the Illinois Republican Party's nomination for the U.S. Senate, Abraham Lincoln said the issue of slavery in the United States had to be resolved, declaring, "a house divided against itself cannot stand."

In 1884, designer La Marcus Thompson opened the first commercially successful roller coaster, known as the Switchback Railway, in Coney Island, New York.

In 1903, the Ford Motor Company was incorporated in Detroit, Michigan.

In 1933, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Glass-Steagall Act into law, creating the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation to bolster public confidence in the U.S. banking system.

In 1961, Soviet dancer and choreographer Rudolf Nureyev defected to the West, seeking asylum in Paris during a tour by the Kirov Ballet.

In 1976, thousands of Black students in Johannesburg's Soweto township demonstrated against the imposition of the Dutch-based Afrikaans language in schools; police opened fire on the students, killing at least 176 and as many as 700.

In 1978, President Jimmy Carter and Panamanian leader Omar Torrijos signed the instruments of ratification for the Panama Canal treaties during a ceremony in Panama City.

In 2015, real estate mogul Donald Trump launched his successful campaign for the presidency of the United States with a speech at Trump Tower in Manhattan.

In 2016, Walt Disney Co. opened Shanghai Disneyland, its first theme park in mainland China.

In 2023, Daniel Ellsberg, the history-making whistleblower who leaked the Pentagon Papers, died at 92. Ellsberg was a member of the government-military elite who revealed longtime government doubts and deceit about the Vietnam War, inspiring acts of retaliation by President Richard Nixon that helped bring about Nixon's resignation.

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Today's Birthdays: Author Joyce Carol Oates is 88. Country singer Billy "Crash" Craddock is 87. R&B singer Eddie Levert is 84. Boxing Hall of Famer Roberto Durán is 75. Pop singer Gino Vannelli is 74. Actor Laurie Metcalf is 71. Rapper MC Ren is 57. Golfer Phil Mickelson is 56. Actor John Cho is 54. Actor Daniel Brühl is 48. Actor Missy Peregrym is 44. Singer Diana DeGarmo (TV: "American Idol") is 39. NFL wide receiver Justin Jefferson is 27. Tennis player Bianca Andreescu is 26. Actor Anna Cathcart is 23. Actor Charlie Bushnell is 22.