

Groton Daily Independent

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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

Groton Daily Independent

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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)

Thursday, June 18

Senior Menu: Meatloaf, baked potato, green beans, fruit, whole wheat bread.

Story Time at Wage Memorial Library, 10 a.m.

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

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

Sr. Legion at Heritage Tournament, Milbank

U10 Baseball at Sisseton, DH, 5:30 p.m. (B&W)

U8 Baseball at Clark, DH, 5:30 p.m. (Blue)

U8 Baseball host Britton, DH, 6 p.m. (Red), Falk Field

U18 Softball hosts Hub city, 6 p.m.

U12 Softball at Sisseton, DH, 6 p.m. (W&G)

U10 Softball at Sisseton, DH, 6 p.m. (B&W)

T-Ball hosts Columbia, 5 p.m., Falk Field

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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.

Foiled Fight Night Plot

Federal authorities said yesterday they disrupted an alleged plot targeting an Ultimate Fighting Championship event at the White House, arresting five people and identifying 23 individuals in a related online chat.

Officials say the suspects, from multiple states and allegedly in their teens to early 20s, intended to stage a demonstration on the north side of the White House while detonating explosive-laden drones outside the arena. The blasts were meant to force crowds south, where snipers would attack the roughly 4,300 attendees, targeting politicians and other high-profile guests. Investigators say the group mapped entry points and escape routes.

Among those arrested was 19-year-old Tycen Proper of Ohio, whose mother alerted authorities June 10. Proper allegedly admitted to helping plan the attack in hopes of sparking a US revolution after connecting with others through TikTok.

Rideshare Roulette

Consumers requesting the same Uber or Lyft route at roughly the same time receive fare quotes that differ by a median of 50%, according to an investigation published yesterday.

Unlike traditional taxis, which charge metered rates, Uber and Lyft use dynamic pricing to calculate fares up front based on shifting rider demand, traffic, and car availability. But the report suggests the rideshare companies are also analyzing personal data to predict how much a given customer may be willing to pay—a tactic called surveillance pricing. Uber and Lyft deny the allegation, but acknowledge using customer data to offer personalized discounts. The report's authors say that these discounts are sometimes applied to inflated base fares to deceive customers into thinking they're getting a deal. Both companies reject that claim as well.

Another study published last year found that only one in six riders compares prices across Lyft and Uber, with prices differing by an average of 14%.

New Walking Shark

Scientists have discovered a new species of walking shark off the coast of Papua New Guinea. Dudgeon's Walking Shark (*Hemiscyllium dudgeonae*) is a nocturnal species that uses its four fins like legs to move across reef flats at low tide.

There are nine other species of walking sharks, also called epaulette sharks. They have only ever been found in or near Australia, New Guinea, and Indonesia, sparking concerns they could be vulnerable to the changing climate and coastal development. The newest shark is known for the distinctive white and brown pattern on its body. Like other walking sharks, this one eats invertebrates living on the seafloor and is not considered dangerous to humans. Its local name is kadedekedewa, meaning dog shark or lazy shark.

Sports, Entertainment, & Culture

Venus and Serena Williams accept doubles wild card invitation from Wimbledon, which begins June 29; the sisters last played doubles together in 2022.

US sprinter Noah Lyles clocks world's best 150-meter sprint at 14.67 seconds.

Recording Academy reveals five new categories for 2027 Grammy Awards, including best Asian pop music performance.

Thai restaurant in Philadelphia wins James Beard's outstanding restaurant award (More, w/full list)

England replaces injured player ahead of World Cup opening match.

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Cristiano Ronaldo and Portugal to play Democratic Republic of the Congo in Houston at 1 pm ET; Colombia faces Uzbekistan in Mexico City at 10 pm ET.

Science & Technology

Snapchat parent company unveils smart glasses, now available for preorder at \$2,195; glasses use AI to answer questions about objects in focus, play multiplayer games, watch videos, and more.

Tropical butterfly tribe shows little to no age-related decline and lives three times longer than its closest relatives, offering clues to slowing aging.

Astronomers discover third galaxy lacking dark matter, challenging the assumption that dark matter is an invisible glue needed to hold galaxies together.

Business & Markets

US stock markets close mixed (S&P 500 -0.1%, Dow +0.6%, Nasdaq -1.2%) ahead of Fed's interest rate decision today.

Bank of Japan raises rates to 31-year high at 1%, up from 0.75%, as energy costs amid Iran war fuel inflation.

Yum Brands sells Pizza Hut chain for \$1.5B to private equity firm LongRange Capital; Yum China to acquire Chinese locations for \$1.2B.

SpaceX to acquire AI coding startup Cursor for \$60B worth of stock, marks largest-ever acquisition of a VC-backed startup.

SpaceX overtakes Amazon as world's fifth-largest company.

Politics & World Affairs

Iran says Israel has to withdraw from Lebanon under the terms of its tentative deal with the US; the Trump administration hasn't commented as of this writing.

Education Department transfers certain responsibilities—including oversight of civil rights, special education—to the Justice Department and Department of Health and Human Services, respectively.

Infant mortality in the US falls to an all-time low of fewer than 5.4 infant deaths per 1,000 live births but remains higher than other high-income countries.

San Marino tops list of countries with lowest infant mortality.



LIVE MUSIC
AT THE LEGION!

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HOFER

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FRIDAY
JUNE 26

9 P.M. TO 1 A.M.
GROTON
AMERICAN LEGION

GREAT MUSIC ★ COLD DRINKS ★ GOOD TIMES
≡ **EVERYONE WELCOME!** ≡

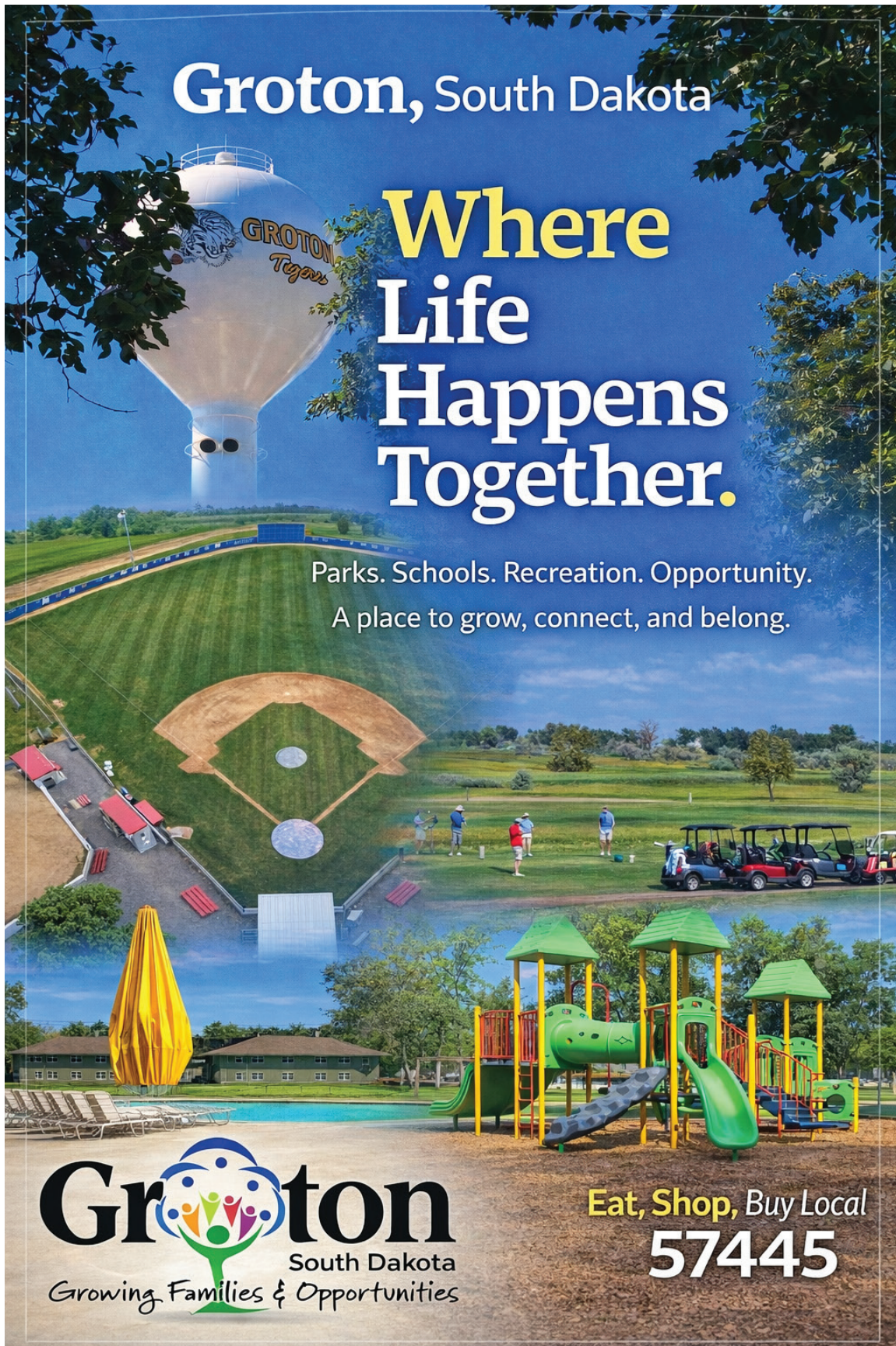
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Groton, South Dakota

Where
Life
Happens
Together.

Parks. Schools. Recreation. Opportunity.
A place to grow, connect, and belong.



Groton
South Dakota
Growing Families & Opportunities

Eat, Shop, Buy Local
57445

S&P Reaffirms South Dakota's AAA Credit Rating

PIERRE, S.D. – Today, S&P Global Rating reaffirmed South Dakota's AAA credit rating, and Governor Larry Rhoden celebrated this great news.

"South Dakota remains a leader among the nation – and our AAA credit rating is yet another sign of our strong, thriving economy," said Governor Larry Rhoden. "My Administration will continue to manage taxpayer dollars wisely and preserve our state's financial strength, so we leave a solid foundation for future generations."

S&P highlighted South Dakota's consistently balanced budgets and stable financial performance as key factors in our state's success.

"S&P Global Ratings affirmed its 'AAA' issuer credit rating (ICR) on the State of South Dakota," wrote S&P Global Ratings. "The stable outlook reflects our view of the state's focus on structural budgetary alignment, as evident in consistent operating surpluses and enactment of balanced budgets."

South Dakota's rating outlook remains stable. Our fiscal conservatism, commonsense regulatory policies, and record low unemployment rates will ensure South Dakota's economic success continues for generations to come.

Council continues discussion of senior meals program, permit ordinance changes

By Elizabeth Varin

A final decision on whether a senior meals program will be allowed to operate from the Groton Community Center remains on hold as city officials work to finalize a lease agreement outlining the use of the facility. The City Council continued to discuss letting Area IV Senior Nutrition use the kitchen after questions were brought up at the council's meeting last week.

Marla Kiesz, executive director of Area IV Senior Nutrition, went over some of the concerns she's addressed, including questions from some at the food pantry about whether additional visitors coming to the building could affect the privacy of pantry clients.

Mayor Scott Hanlon stopped that conversation, saying it was premature to discuss whether it could impact the food pantry.

"There's no need to address the issue until there is an issue," he said. "I don't fix the truck until it's broken. It's not broken."

Kiesz also discussed kitchen certification questions and equipment senior nutrition would bring in and storage plans. The senior meals program would reserve use of the kitchen from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Friday, not including federal holidays.

Councilman Mike Shilhanek asked about a timeline when the senior nutrition program wants to be in the community center. Kiesz said their current lease agreement ends at the end of June, but even if a new lease agreement isn't approved right away, meals will be provided for Groton-area seniors by the Aberdeen location.

The senior nutrition program had been providing meals out of the Red Horse Inn, but Kiesz she and the building owner agreed to part ways.

City officials plan to bring a lease agreement back to the council at its July 7 meeting. Council members discussed different rental fee amounts, though consensus soon came as council members agreed to set a value but ultimately provide it as an in-kind donation.

The council approved another donation, electricity for the Groton Community Historical Society jail, located on East First Avenue. However, they added a caveat that the city will control the load, allowing them to shut off the power if the building is using too much.

Other discussion at the council meeting centered on the need to revise portions of the city's building permit ordinances, prompted by legislation approved by the South Dakota Legislature earlier this year.

The new law, which takes effect July 1, limits the types of projects for which municipalities may require building permits. Under the changes, permits generally may only be required for projects that affect the structural integrity of a building, while smaller improvements and maintenance projects would no longer be subject to permit requirements.

City Attorney Chad Locken reviewed the city's building ordinances, and pointed to contradictory information and unclear rules. City officials will look at what changes are needed and report back to the council.



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.*



Lifeguard's Quick Response Helps Child in Distress at Pool

By Elizabeth Varin

For 16-year-old Abby Fjeldheim, a routine day at the pool quickly turned into a real-life test of her training.

Fjeldheim, who is in her second year as a lifeguard, made a rescue May 29 after noticing a young boy struggling in the pool.

"I was guarding in the baby pool, and two little boys were playing with a torpedo toy," Fjeldheim said. "It went a little too deep to where he couldn't touch. So he jumped in, tried to go down and get it, and just couldn't come back above the water."

As soon as she recognized the danger, Fjeldheim sprang into action.

"I blew my whistle and jumped in," she said.

An adult who was already in the water noticed the child and reached him. Fjeldheim then helped place the boy on the pool ledge and completed an assessment before the child's aunt arrived and took him home.

While the rescue lasted only moments, Fjeldheim said the experience was initially frightening.

"It was definitely scary at first, but my instincts just kicked in," she said. "I was like, I just need to get him out of the water as soon as I can."

Looking back, she said she is thankful she remained focused on her responsibilities.

"Now that I think about it more, I'm just glad that I was paying attention and doing my job," Fjeldheim said. "It's scary, but those things happen, and you've got to be paying attention for it."

The incident reinforced an important lesson about water safety and the speed at which emergencies can develop.

For parents and guardians, Fjeldheim has a simple message: Stay alert.

"Just keep an eye on your kids," she said. "They may be good swimmers, but something can happen so fast. He jumped in, and I saw him right away, but I saw that he wasn't able to get back up. Things can happen so fast, and once things happen, you can't always do anything about them after that."

Although she hopes never to face a similar situation again, Fjeldheim's quick thinking and training helped ensure the child received immediate assistance when every second mattered.



Abby Fjeldheim

(Photo by Elizabeth Varin)

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Groton Post 39 14U sweeps Webster in home doubleheader

Groton Post 39 14U sweeps Webster in home doubleheader

Groton Post 39's 14U squad earned a doubleheader sweep over Webster on Tuesday in Groton, rallying for a 5-3 victory in the opener before exploding for an 18-8 win in the nightcap.

In the first game, Webster jumped out to a 2-0 lead. Bensen H scored a run with a triple in the second inning before John C added an RBI single in the third.

Groton answered in the bottom of the third. Tucker Leicht drew a bases-loaded walk to bring home one run, and Owen Tewksbury drove in two more with a groundout as Post 39 moved ahead 3-2.

Webster tied the game at 3-3 on a passed ball in the fourth, but Groton responded immediately. Keegan Kucker lined an RBI single down the right-field line and Owen Tewksbury later drew a bases-loaded walk to give Groton a 5-3 lead.

Keegan Kucker earned the win with two scoreless innings of relief, allowing no hits while striking out two. Graham Rose started and allowed three runs, one earned, over three innings. Owen Tewksbury drove in two runs, while Knox Mulder collected two hits. Groton showed patience at the plate with seven walks and turned two double plays defensively.

The nightcap featured an offensive outburst as Groton pounded out 16 hits and stole 23 bases in an 18-8 victory.

Webster scored three times in the first inning on RBI hits from Avery F, Karstyn S and John C. Groton answered immediately, taking a 4-3 lead on an RBI single by Easton Larson, a bases-loaded walk by Mason Locke and a two-run double by Kyson Kucker.

Webster regained the lead at 6-4 in the second inning behind doubles from Hudson L and Bensen H, but Groton quickly turned the tide. Post 39 scored six runs in the bottom of the second inning to move in front for good. Mason Locke delivered the key hit of the inning with a two-run single.

Groton added another run in the third and continued to build its advantage throughout the game.

Easton Larson led the offense with four hits, going 4-for-5. Kyson Kucker also collected four hits, while Mason Locke drove in three runs. Trayce Schelle added two hits and Hank Hill drew three walks.

Tucker Leicht started on the mound before Bentley Ehresmann provided relief. Defensively, Groton played error-free baseball and turned a double play. Keegan Kucker led the team with six fielding chances.

Post 39 will return to action Thursday when it hosts Britton.



Up to bat is Gavin Hanton with Groton Coach Chris Ehresmann looking on next to first base.

(Photo courtesy Bruce Babcock)



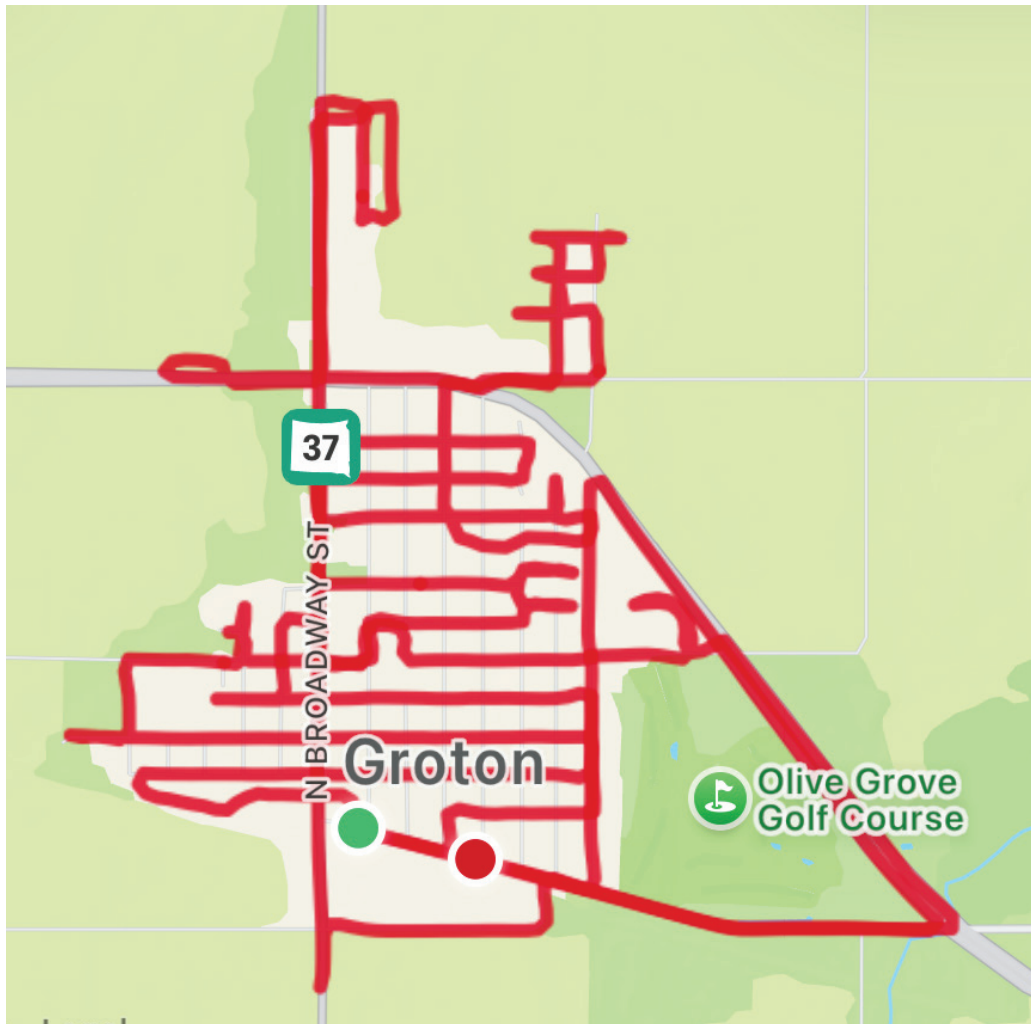
Groton U 14, Graham Rose, pitching vs Webster in double header Tuesday evening.

(Photo courtesy Bruce Babcock)



Mason Locke catching with a Webster batter at the plate.

(Photo courtesy Bruce Babcock)



Adult Mosquito Control

The City of Groton conducted adult mosquito control Tuesday night. The temperature was 65 degrees with the wind out of the SSE at 10-15 mph. 5.5 gallons of MasterLine Kontrol 4-4 was used. Travel time was 1 hours and 44 minutes with a distance of 19.38 miles. Total cost of the application was around \$400.



SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

Proposed Black Hills uranium mine gets approval to start building infrastructure on portion of site

Long-stalled project still needs additional permits to begin mining

BY: MEGHAN O'BRIEN

A controversial uranium mining proposal on the edge of the Black Hills received approval from the federal Bureau of Land Management to begin constructing "ancillary infrastructure," according to a press release from the agency Monday, although the project lacks permission to begin mining.

Uranium is a metallic, radioactive element used as fuel in nuclear weapons and power plants. The Dewey-Burdock project near Edgemont, in southwest South Dakota, has been in the proposal stage for nearly two decades and still requires additional permits. The Trump administration picked the project last year for an expedited permitting process known as FAST-41.

Monday's approval from the Bureau of Land Management gives Powertech, a subsidiary of Texas-based EnCore Energy, the green light to build infrastructure including access roads, four groundwater monitoring wells and overhead power lines on the section of the project site that's managed by the bureau, according to the press release.

About 240 acres, roughly a third of a square mile, of the project site are on public lands that the bureau oversees. The entire project area is 10,580 acres, or about 16.5 square miles.

"The Dewey-Burdock Project still requires several additional approvals from other federal and state agencies, including a license renewal currently under review by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission," said a bureau spokesperson.

EnCore Energy did not immediately provide a response to South Dakota Searchlight questions.

Opposition to project

In April, the bureau published a draft of its environmental assessment and opened it for public comment until May 15. In that monthlong span, the agency received 764 submissions, according to Monday's press release, "including comments related to groundwater, cultural resources, tribal concerns, environmental justice, and compliance with federal laws."

The bureau published its final environmental assessment Monday, as well as a finding of no significant impact. If the project receives all other necessary permits, the bureau estimates a start date for the project within the next five years. Infrastructure will remain at the site for 20 years after the implementation of the project, which the environmental assessment describes as the mine's lifespan.

The environmental assessment is vague about groundwater pollution concerns and impacts on cultural resources in the area such as Native American historic sites, according to Lilius Jarding, a project opponent and executive director of the Black Hills Clean Water Alliance.

"The process was rushed. It's only been a few weeks between the end of the comment period and this decision coming out in its final form," Jarding said. "The Bureau of Land Management was being, what I would consider, irresponsible in this situation."

EnCore Energy plans to use a method known as "in-situ" mining to extract uranium from underground. As opposed to open pits and tunnels, the method involves drilling wells to inject a water-based solution underground, dissolve uranium and pump it to the surface. The water would be pulled from local aquifers and then treated and pumped back underground after being used for mining, causing opponents to fear

pollution of local groundwater sources.

"I don't think the company understands the depth of public opinion against uranium projects in the Black Hills," Jarding said.

The Black Hills Clean Water Alliance and other project opponents have also been working against another, nearby uranium exploratory drilling project in the southern Black Hills, proposed by Clean Nuclear Energy Corp. and its Canada-based parent company Nexus Uranium.

The decision on Clean Nuclear Energy's exploration permit is in the hands of the state Board of Minerals and Environment. A hearing on the permit application was paused last month after a project opponent filed a federal lawsuit against the board, the state Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources and Clean Nuclear Energy Corp.

The lawsuit remains pending, and no date has been scheduled to resume the permit hearing.

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.

Federal agencies and tribe partner to clear Pine Ridge Reservation's ballistics testing backlog

Collaboration aims to move unsolved cases toward closure

BY: JOHN HULT

RAPID CITY — Federal law enforcement agencies and the Oglala Sioux Tribe have partnered to add the ammunition casing signatures of more than 500 firearms seized in criminal investigations on the Pine Ridge Reservation into a federal weapons database.

In clearing the backlog of untested firearms, the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of South Dakota hopes to find clues in unsolved cases on the reservation.

Every entry in the database could help move investigations toward closure for families who've lost loved ones, according to Ron Parsons, U.S. attorney for South Dakota.

The FBI investigates felony-level crimes that occur on tribal land; U.S. attorney's offices prosecute the cases. Parsons spoke of the high number of missing and murdered Indigenous people cases in South Dakota, and said the ballistics testing will help the FBI and his office meet their obligation to attend to them.

"The full weight of federal forensic capability is being brought to bear on cases that have waited far too long for answers," Parsons said on Tuesday.

Parsons' comments at a federal law enforcement facility in Rapid City came one day after agents with the FBI began to fire off hundreds of rounds of ammunition on the Pine Ridge Reservation, work that will continue for the next few weeks. The casings were given to a mobile Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives lab for entry into that agency's National Integrated Ballistic Information Network.

The network has resulted in more than a million investigative leads on unresolved gun crimes, according to a press release from the FBI.

The initiative, dubbed "Operation Ballistic Backlog," is part of a larger-scale expansion of federal policing resources in tribal areas called "Operation Steadfast Promise." Among other efforts, the latter put 70 FBI agents into rotation for temporary detail in tribal areas across the U.S. and stepped up efforts to prosecute fraud involving tribal dollars.

Ballistics like a fingerprint

Firearms leave the equivalent of fingerprints on spent ammunition casings, according to Spence Burnett, assistant special agent in charge for the St. Paul field office of the ATF.

The microscopic marks left when guns are fired can be used to match casings to firearms seized by law enforcement and cataloged by the ATF's National Tracing Center, and can then serve as evidence in

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criminal trials.

"No two firearms are the same," Burnett said.

The network was launched in 1999, but Burnett said after the press conference that not every seized firearm logged in the National Tracing Center database is linked to a shell casing signature in the network.

There's no cost to enter 3D images of casing signatures into the network's database, or for law enforcement agencies to access the information. But for signatures to be logged, agencies first need to fire the weapons, collect the casings and send them in for inclusion. That can be a logistical challenge for any agency, he said, particularly ones with heavy caseloads.

The initiative brought ATF agents to the reservation, as well as FBI agents to fire the weapons, and the federal agencies provided the ammunition.

The Oglala Sioux Tribe has filed multiple lawsuits against the federal government over policing, alleging that the U.S. has failed to uphold its treaty obligations to provide public safety by underfunding law enforcement.

The litigation was not addressed at the press conference. Parsons did, however, acknowledge that local police have been taxed by high crime.

"For years, a great many firearms and other ballistic evidence, potentially tied to serious crimes on the reservation, have sat unexamined, not for any lack of will, but because caseloads have been overwhelming, and laboratory testing capacity has been stretched thin," Parsons said.

Jason Lone Hill, the Oglala Sioux Tribe Department of Public Safety's chief of police, and Jessica Four Bear, the tribe's attorney general, were present for the press conference. They did not speak, but both were quoted in a press release sent shortly before the event.

"Working with our federal partners strengthens our ability to protect the community with our limited resources," Lone Hill said in the release.

Tribal consultation led to backlog-clearing efforts

The idea to step up ballistics testing came through consultations with the tribe, according to Christopher Dotson, special agent in charge for the Minneapolis field office of the FBI.

"Getting out to the lands, meeting with the tribal councils, the chiefs, the police departments, is a priority, not only in South Dakota, but in other states in the nation who have Indian Country in their jurisdiction," said Dotson, whose office oversees the agents operating at the Rapid City regional FBI facility.

Last week, the FBI announced a reward of \$50,000 for information leading to an arrest in the 2022 murder of 6-year-old Logan Warrior Goings, killed in his home in a drive-by shooting in the community of Oglala. Shell casings recovered from the scene were linked through the database to a weapon recovered in another part of the state.

Dotson told reporters gathered for the press conference on the ballistics testing that the database was used to help prosecute the men who killed Vincent Von Brewer III outside Pine Ridge's SuAnne Big Crow Boys and Girls Club in 2016. A pair of men from Denver were convicted of that murder in 2021.

Dotson said the collection of ballistics evidence, folded into unsolved criminal cases, is meant to show that the agency is committed to addressing the high number of unsolved violent crimes in places like Pine Ridge.

"We will never stop seeking justice for victims of gun violence," Dotson said. "We are committed to solving every murder, every assault, and bringing violent criminals to justice, no matter how long it takes."

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

Republicans in US Senate left in dark by Trump on Iran deal, but want details and a vote

BY: JENNIFER SHUTT

WASHINGTON — U.S. senators from both political parties said Tuesday they had yet to see the text of the deal Trump administration officials struck over the weekend to end the war in Iran, though several indicated any final agreement will require their approval.

Senate Majority Leader John Thune, R-S.D., said administration officials have signaled they expect to share the text of the memorandum of understanding with lawmakers, though he didn't know when.

"Hopefully that'll happen sooner rather than later," he said. "But, you know, obviously it sounds like they're not going public with it until later in the week. So we'll see."

Thune said he's heard the deal sets up a 60-day framework for negotiators to reach agreement on more specifics, including about Iran's nuclear ambitions.

"I think at the end of the day the goal here is to make sure that Iran ends its nuclear program and whatever financial incentives they have should be conditioned upon that," he said. "But we'll see when we know more."

President Donald Trump, speaking from the G7 convention in Europe, said he may hold a press conference in "a couple days" to release the text of the memorandum of understanding and appeared ready for a vote in Congress.

"What I would like to do is send it to Congress, saying you shouldn't approve it. And I will get it approved. Whatever I say, they want to do the opposite," he said. "It is not working too well for them, by the way."

North Dakota Republican Sen. John Hoeven said he believes the plan is to vote to approve the Iran agreement at some point.

"I think anytime you have Congress ratify something, it gives it longevity," Hoeven said. "You can't have the next president come in and change it with an executive order. So I think that's a benefit. I think it helps strengthen it."

Hoeven said he hasn't heard from administration officials why they haven't shared the text of the memorandum of understanding with senators, even in a classified setting. But he said he's more focused on U.S. enforcement of agreements on Iran's nuclear program in the long term.

"The real issue is that we have something that we can enforce and that's hard with Iran because they don't honor any agreement," Hoeven said.

Is the agreement a treaty?

Louisiana Republican Sen. Bill Cassidy said he believes an agreement with Iran would represent a treaty and be subject to Senate approval.

"It sounds like a treaty," he said. "And if it's a treaty, it certainly seems like it."

That would require strong bipartisanship, since the Constitution sets a two-thirds threshold for the Senate to approve a treaty.

Cassidy added it appears the administration will need the Israeli government — which initiated the attack on Iran with the United States — to stop its war in Lebanon in order to reach a final deal with Iran during the next two months.

"To make a deal, it takes two sides. In this case, maybe three, maybe four because you have Hezbollah and Israel," Cassidy said, referring to a powerful Lebanese political party and militant group opposed to Israel. "Hezbollah can just stir it up with impunity if they want to under certain circumstances. So you tell me, I mean, it takes two to dance, and so now it takes four to dance. Can you pull it off in 60 days? I don't know."

North Carolina Republican Sen. Thom Tillis said the administration needs to be as transparent as possible about what exactly is in the memorandum of understanding it's reached with Iran.

"Minimally, there has to be maximum transparency," he said.

Tillis said it "makes sense" for the Senate to approve any final deal, saying President Barack Obama

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made a mistake when he didn't have lawmakers ratify the agreement his administration struck with Iran in 2015. That deal was named the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, or JCPOA.

"I've said repeatedly Obama made a mistake when he didn't do the work to have it rise to the level of a treaty, and I believe that we should here," he said. "Otherwise, it's only good for two and a half years."

Tillis said he wasn't concerned Congress hasn't received the text of the memorandum of understanding yet, but that it's imperative the administration share those documents.

"Trust but verify," he said.

'Essentially a surrender'

Connecticut Democratic Sen. Chris Murphy said he "doubts" the memorandum of understanding is actually real, but that if it is, lawmakers should expect there are "side deals" the administration may not share.

"If what's reported is real, it's Iran's terms. I mean, it's essentially a surrender. But I think that's the only play we can make at this point," he said. "We have to end this war and stop wasting money and stop killing Americans and civilians and stop driving up prices. So it's a bad deal but he's not going to get a better deal. So we just have to accept the humiliation. But I don't even know if it's real."

West Virginia Republican Sen. Shelley Moore Capito said that lawmakers need to see the memorandum of understanding so she and others can "express our opinions."

"But right now we can't because it's not fully out there," she said.

Senate Intelligence Committee ranking member Mark Warner, D-Va., said he hadn't seen the text of the memorandum of understanding or been briefed by administration officials. But he does believe the administration needs to submit it to lawmakers within five days, as outlined in a 2015 law.

"My fear is that the details are not going to be as good as the president represents," Warner said.

Law requirements

Congress approved legislation in 2015 that requires any presidential administration to submit the text of a deal addressing Iran's nuclear program within five days. Those documents don't need to be sent to every lawmaker but are supposed to go to the congressional leaders as well as eight committees with jurisdiction.

That transmission creates a 30-day review period for the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the House Foreign Affairs Committee to hold hearings and briefings.

The law created a pathway for Congress to approve a joint resolution of disapproval for any Iran nuclear deal. The House and Senate would likely need the support of at least two-thirds of members in order to override a likely veto from Trump.

Congress overriding a presidential veto of a disapproval resolution would block the Trump administration from lifting sanctions on Iran, though that seems an unlikely scenario given both chambers are controlled by Republicans.

A report from the nonpartisan Congressional Research Service says a joint resolution of disapproval taking effect "would not invalidate the agreement itself but would affect only the possibility of presidential sanctions relief to Iran; nevertheless, precluding the President from providing such relief would almost certainly result in a dissolution of the agreement by Iran."

The law, officially titled the Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act of 2015, also clears the way for Congress to approve a joint resolution of approval.

The CRS report says that "would, upon enactment, allow the President to waive sanctions, apparently even if the review period had not yet elapsed."

Congress taking no action during the 30-day review period would allow the administration to begin sanctions relief as soon as that deadline passes.

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.

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Special ed, civil rights to be shifted out of Trump's shrinking Department of Education

BY: SHAUNEEN MIRANDA

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Department of Education announced sweeping efforts Tuesday to outsource its special education programs and civil rights enforcement to other agencies, in another major step by President Donald Trump's administration to dismantle the department.

The Department of Health and Human Services will administer programs under the Education Department's Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, or OSERS, while civil rights enforcement under Education's Office for Civil Rights, or OCR, will be transferred to the Department of Justice.

The move follows 10 earlier interagency agreements, or IAAs, with the departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, Interior, State and Treasury that transfer several of Education's responsibilities to those agencies.

The Education Department clarified in fact sheets that in the agreements announced Tuesday, it "will continue to perform all statutorily required duties and responsibilities."

"The Trump Administration has been clear: as we scale back federal micromanagement when it hinders success, we are equally committed to bolstering the efficacy of federal oversight where it is essential," U.S. Education Secretary Linda McMahon said in a statement Tuesday.

The administration has sought to do away with the 46-year-old department as part of Trump's quest to return education "back to the states." That push continues despite much of the oversight and funding of schools already occurring at the state and local levels.

Congress created the Department of Education, and only Congress has the authority to abolish the agency.

Special education

On a background call with reporters, a senior department official said OSERS "will maintain its independent statutory functions without interruption to vigorously enforce compliance with all of OSERS programs."

OSERS is responsible for administering the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, or IDEA, which guarantees a free public education for students with disabilities. The umbrella unit OSERS includes the Office of the Assistant Secretary, Office of Special Education Programs and the Rehabilitation Services Administration.

The official added that "students will not lose any rights, including their right to a free appropriate public education," adding that "no agreement can alter the rights that students with disabilities are afforded under federal law."

"In coordination with and at the direction of OSERS, HHS will support meaningful stakeholder outreach; grant administration; enforcement, compliance, and monitoring activities; annual performance determinations and assessments; collection, reporting, and analyzing of data for monitoring compliance; and draw-downs of Federal funds," according to a fact sheet.

Civil rights oversight

Meanwhile, Education's agreement with the DOJ is intended to "support and bolster the federal government's enforcement of federal civil rights laws," a senior department official said.

The Education Department's Office for Civil Rights, or OCR, is tasked with investigating civil rights complaints from students and families.

Under the agreement, "OCR will utilize the Civil Rights Division to evaluate, investigate and resolve complaints filed under the laws enforced by OCR," the official said.

The official also stressed that under the interagency agreement, OCR "retains management and leadership of OCR in accordance with federal law."

Education will also partner with the DOJ on student privacy protection, in which the Justice Department will "review complaints alleging privacy act violations, conduct necessary investigations and recommend

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potential resolutions," per a fact sheet.

In another agreement, the DOJ will "provide technical assistance" in training and advisory services regarding the desegregation of public schools, according to a fact sheet.

'This isn't efficiency — it's chaos'

The announcement sparked fierce condemnation from Democratic members of Congress, labor unions and advocacy groups Tuesday.

Rachel Gittleman, president of American Federation of Government Employees Local 252, the union representing Education Department workers, said the interagency agreements regarding special ed programs and civil rights enforcement "will leave our most vulnerable students and families who have been shut out of our education system without the services they need and without protection when they face discrimination," in a Tuesday statement.

"This isn't efficiency — it's chaos," Gittleman added. "Secretary McMahon is yet again targeting historically underserved students, eroding public trust, and sowing dysfunction for the federal employees who are trying to do their jobs on behalf of the public."

U.S. Sen. Patty Murray of Washington state, the top Democrat on the Senate Appropriations Committee, said that "instead of helping kids get a great education, this administration is spending its time, energy, and taxpayer resources fixated on where employees sit and illegally trying to shutter the Department of Education," in a Tuesday statement.

"It's an outrageous betrayal that undoes decades of hard-won progress for students," Murray added. "More kids with disabilities will be denied the education they are entitled to by law, and more college students who were harassed or assaulted will go without the justice they are owed."

Randi Weingarten, president of the American Federation of Teachers, one of the largest teachers unions in the country, said the decision "will have dire, real-world consequences."

"Congress — the only body that can legally take such actions — has refused to follow the whims of the White House when it comes to abolishing the Education Department," Weingarten said. "And parents, educators, students, and the disability and civil rights communities are rising up — and will fight in every way possible to reverse this in the courts, at the ballot box and in the court of public opinion."

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

One US-made drug treats congenital syphilis, and the country is running short

Early data shows cases declining in South Dakota, which had the highest rate in the nation

BY: NADA HASSANEIN

The United States has a shortage of the only first-line medication recommended for pregnant women with syphilis to prevent passing it to their baby, even as congenital syphilis rates have been skyrocketing.

Last July, drug manufacturer Pfizer issued a voluntary recall of brand name Bicillin L-A, or penicillin G benzathine — a long-acting injectable of the antibiotic — warning of particulates, or foreign material, in some batches. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration says supplies won't return to normal until December 2027.

In the United States, there's only one manufacturing plant that makes this injectable penicillin, run by Pfizer's subsidiary, King Pharmaceuticals, in Michigan. The FDA has allowed the temporary importation of an alternative, Lentocilin, from Portugal.

But because Lentocilin isn't a permanent solution, and penicillin is difficult and complex to manufacture, experts are concerned that the shortage will worsen infection rates and the disparities associated with congenital syphilis, which occurs when the infection is passed on to developing fetuses and newborns.

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State health departments told Stateline they are guiding providers to prioritize the medication for pregnant patients with syphilis and their babies, and are connecting patients with the drugs if clinics lack them.

Bicillin L-A has seen intermittent shortages throughout the past decade, said Elizabeth Finley, interim executive director of the National Coalition of STD Directors. In one survey of health departments across 13 states during a 2023 shortage, the group found widespread challenges in getting the drug in order to treat pregnant patients.

But last year's recall has created "a shortage that is more significant than we've experienced in the past," Finley said.

Some health centers lost their entire stock of Bicillin in the recall, Finley and others told Stateline. The drug has no generic alternative.

Congenital syphilis can have devastating, irreversible effects. Babies born to women with syphilis can be stillborn or die as a newborn. The infection also can cause serious complications in babies, such as bone deformities, deafness or blindness.

"The biggest fear with the Bicillin shortages has always been that somebody could not get treatment before delivery," Finley said. "There's really no length of exposure to syphilis that is safe for a fetus."

Indigenous babies have had the highest rates in recent years, disproportionate to their share of the population, followed by Black babies.

"It's really a tragedy, because it's totally preventable," said infectious disease physician Dr. Kelly Johnson, medical director of the California Prevention Training Center at the University of California, San Francisco. The center offers training and consultation to medical providers in Arizona, Hawaii, New Mexico and Nevada, as well as in California, where congenital syphilis cases rose almost fivefold over the past decade. Under the recall, California had to return nearly 20% of its Bicillin L-A stock.

In recent years, congenital syphilis cases have more than tripled, with nearly 4,000 cases nationwide in 2024 alone — the highest number reported in a single year in three decades.

A federal report showed lack of timely testing or proper treatment contributed to 90% of the nation's cases. Black and Indigenous women disproportionately lack access to prenatal care, where they could get tested and treated for syphilis. Almost 90% of South Dakota congenital syphilis cases between 2020 and 2023 were in Native American babies, despite Native Americans making up just 11% of the state's population.

National and state guidelines instruct providers and health departments to prioritize pregnant syphilis patients for their remaining stocks of Bicillin L-A. Non-pregnant syphilis patients can take the antibiotic doxycycline, although that drug's regimen — two pills a day for up to four weeks — can be harder for patients to adhere to, experts say.

"It's much more difficult as a clinician or as a public health person to know if people actually complete their (doxycycline) treatment," Johnson said.

Experts say it's unclear whether the shortages have been contributing to the rise in congenital syphilis cases. "But I suspect it certainly could make it worse," Johnson said. "The longer this goes on, the harder that it's going to be."

In South Dakota, which had the highest rates in the nation, cases decreased slightly last year, from 40 in 2024, to 37 in 2025. This year as of April, only one case has been reported, though data for congenital syphilis can lag.

Mississippi has seen a gradual drop in cases over the past couple of years, said Dr. Tami Brooks, medical director of the state's health department. Mississippi and other state health departments told Stateline they connect patients with Bicillin or Lentocilin when a health care center reports it has a pregnant patient but no supply.

Bicillin L-A can also be used for other infections, such as strep throat. Dr. Tanya Fitts, immediate past president of the American Academy of Pediatrics' Mississippi chapter, said one of her patients had suffered a rare complication of strep throat. For the past five years, the now 18-year-old has had to take daily oral penicillin to keep symptoms at bay, instead of the recommended monthly Bicillin L-A injection, Fitts said.

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"We haven't been able to order it for many, many years," Fitts said, adding that the price of the drug outpaced what her clinic was getting paid from insurance companies.

In a statement to Stateline, Pfizer said demand for Bicillin L-A is exceeding supply, though it said health providers may request the drug for a pregnant syphilis patient. The company did not answer Stateline's questions regarding details of the recall nor the manufacturing process, saying it doesn't disclose details about product supply chain.

If a drug is expensive but has limited use, manufacturers don't have a lot of financial incentives to make it, said infectious diseases clinical pharmacist Katherine Yang, a professor at the University of California, San Francisco's School of Pharmacy.

"The more niche a drug is, the less likely it is to have multiple manufacturers and generic products once it is off patent," Yang said. "It does speak to the vulnerability of our drug supply chain, when there are very limited manufacturers."

Bicillin L-A is typically sold by the 10-dose box, even if a clinic only needs a few doses — costing thousands of dollars, said family medicine physician Dr. Megan O'Connell, of the Cherokee Nation. She's the chief public health officer of the Great Plains Tribal Leaders Health Board, which offers epidemiological support, care and advocacy for 18 tribes across Iowa, North and South Dakota, and Nebraska.

Patrick Fonge, pharmacy director at the Navajo Health Foundation's Sage Memorial Hospital in rural Arizona, told Stateline wholesalers have increased prices.

"(Bicillin L-A) is not available in the market, but some vendors, some distributors, do have it in their warehouses and then now triple the price or quadruple the price to make profit," Fonge said. According to one wholesaler, the average wholesale price for Bicillin at the 1.2mu concentration showed about \$4,870 for a 10-dose box, he said. "We don't have extra (in our) budget for Bicillin."

Fonge puts in orders for the Lentocilin instead, through the federal Indian Health Service, which pays for the medication.

"It's clear to us that a single U.S. manufacturer that makes this drug in a singular factory is a challenge," said Finley, of the National Coalition of STD Directors. "We're talking about the U.S. not being able to make the drug penicillin. Which is ridiculous."

Stateline reporter Nada Hassanein can be reached at nhassanein@stateline.org.

This story was originally produced by Stateline, which is part of States Newsroom, a nonprofit news network which includes South Dakota Searchlight, and is supported by grants and a coalition of donors as a 501c(3) public charity.

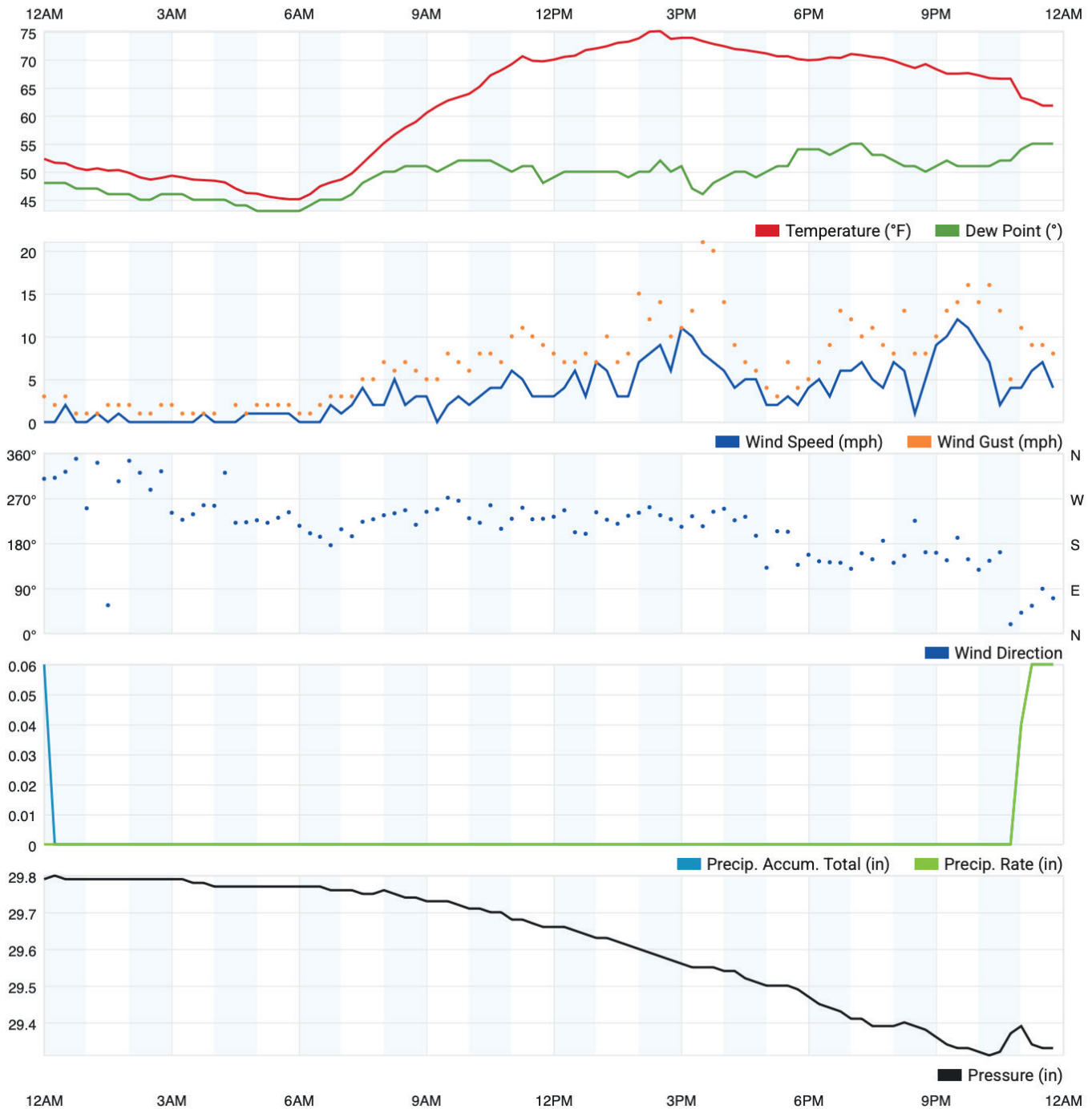
Nada Hassanein is a health care reporter for Stateline with a focus on inequities.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs

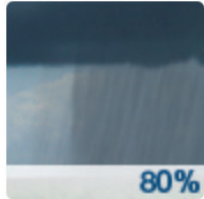
June 16, 2026



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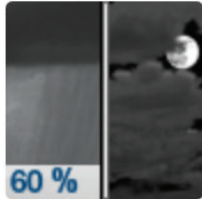
Today



High: 70 °F

Showers and
Breezy

Tonight



Low: 48 °F

Showers
Likely then
Mostly Cloudy

Thursday



High: 72 °F

Partly Sunny

Thursday
Night



Low: 48 °F

Partly Cloudy
then Chance
Showers

Juneteenth



High: 77 °F

Mostly Sunny



Windy Today

Wind gusts of 40 to 55 mph for much of the region

June 17, 2026
3:57 AM CDT

Key Messages:

- **Wind Advisory** for portions of north central and central South Dakota today between 10 am and 9 pm CDT.
- Northwest winds with **gusts of 40 to 55 mph west of the James River**. Strongest winds west of a line from Mobridge through Redfield.
- **Gusty winds will blow around unsecured objects and affect high profile vehicles.**

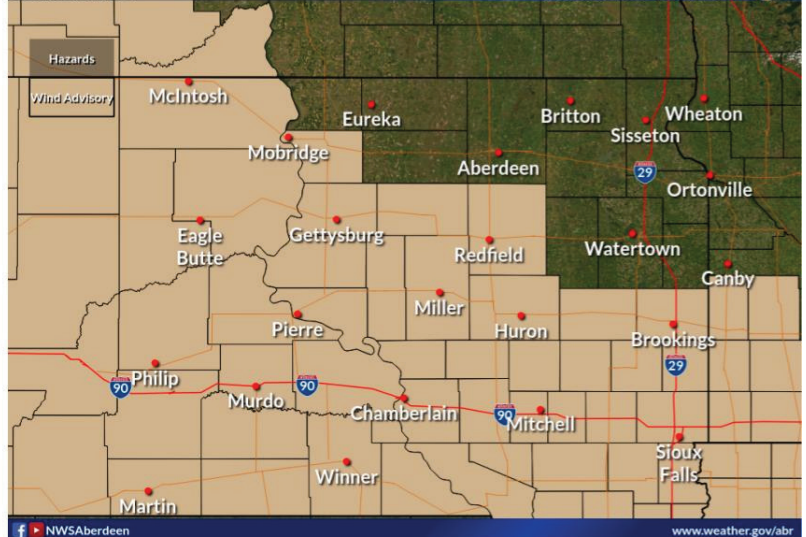
Wind Advisory Wednesday

10 AM to 9 PM CDT

Weather Forecast Office

Aberdeen, SD

Issued Jun 16, 2026 12:59 PM CDT



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

National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

Northwest winds increase today with gusts of 40 to 55 mph. Strongest gusts are expected west of a line from Mobridge to Redfield. Showers and isolated thunderstorms continue early this morning. After a brief break, showers and storms redevelop this afternoon. No severe storms are expected at this time.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 75 °F at 2:25 PM

Low Temp: 45 °F at 5:59 AM

Wind: 21 mph at 3:28 PM

Precip: 0.06

Today's Info

Record High: 105 in 1933

Record Low: 40 in 1915

Average High: 81

Average Low: 56

Average Precip in June.: 2.03

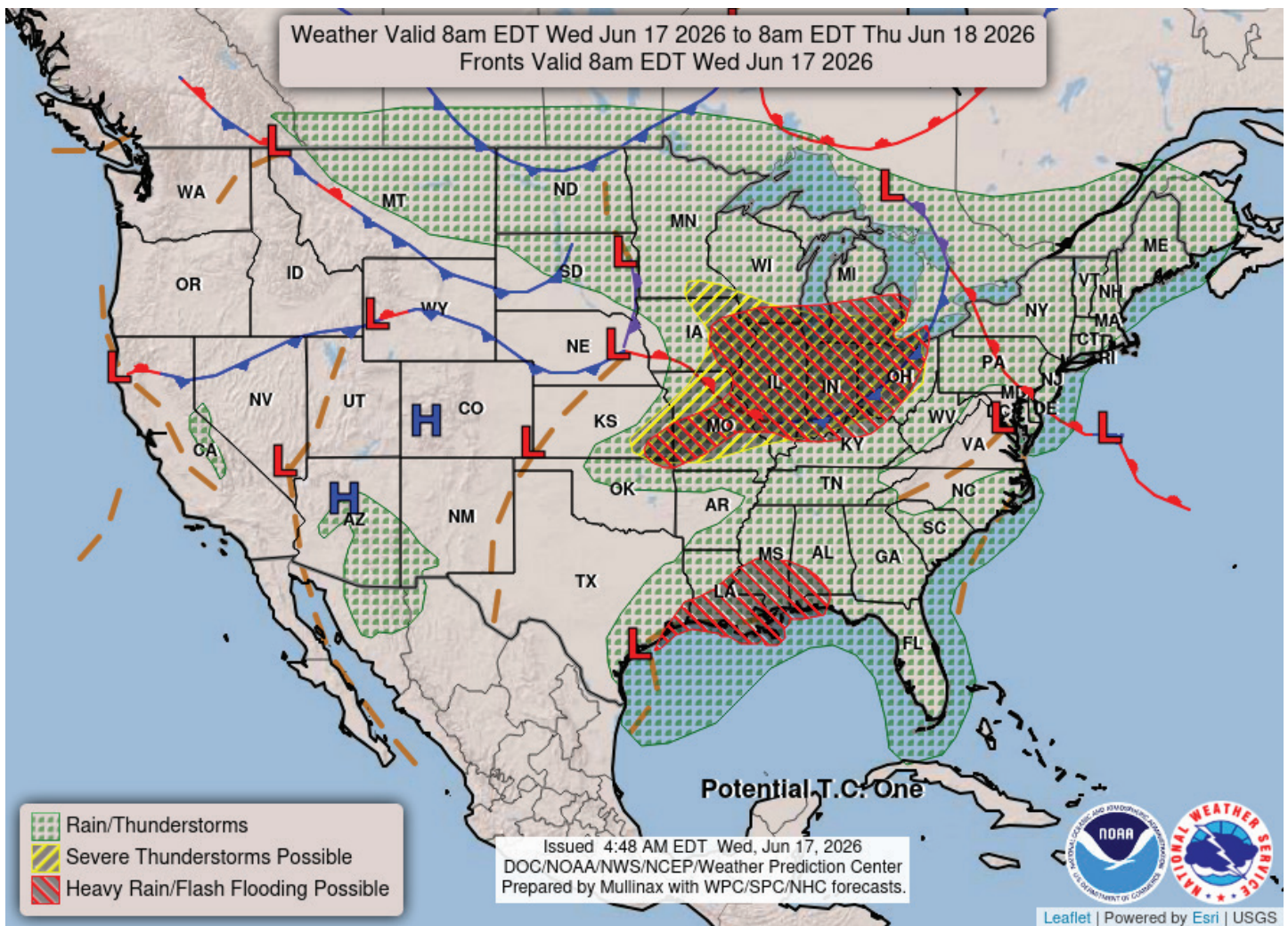
Precip to date in June.: 1.23

Average Precip to date: 9.28

Precip Year to Date: 7.59

Sunset Tonight: 9:23 pm

Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:43 am



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Today in Weather History

June 17th, 1944: Six estimated F2 or stronger tornadoes trekked across Faulk, Codington, Brown, Day, Grant, and Roberts County in South Dakota and Big Stone in Minnesota. The first tornado touched down at approximately 3:30 pm CST in Faulk County. The estimated F2 tornado destroyed all buildings except the house on a farm 7 miles northeast of Faulkton. The next tornado occurred at 4:00 pm CST in Codington County. The tornado damaged barns and tossed cattle and a truck into Grass Lake near Wallace. At about the same time, a tornado moved northeast from just northeast of Warner and crossed the town of Bath in Brown County. The storm killed two people in the destruction of their home and injured another twelve.

Twenty homes in Bath were damaged. A brick school had its upper story torn off. Another tornado moved through Codington County at 4:45 pm CST, killing three and injuring twenty-five. This F4 strength tornado moved northeast from two miles northeast of Henry, passing over Long Lake and ending 2 miles northwest of Florence. The funnel was described as snake-like over Long Lake and massive as it swept through five farms southwest of Florence. The storm killed over 100 heads of cattle and damaged about a dozen homes. In Day County, an estimated F2 moved due north from 4 miles south of Webster, ending 2 miles northeast of Roslyn. This storm passed two miles east of Webster, where barns were destroyed and livestock was killed on a half-dozen farms. At 5:15 pm CST, a monster storm moved northeast from 5 miles south of Summit, passing 3 miles south of Wilmot and ending about 3 miles east of Beardsley, Minnesota. The massive tornado had an estimated width of 1500 yards and traveled 30 miles. Along the path, eight people were killed, and another forty-three were injured. Farm devastation southwest and south of Wilmot was as complete as possible, with some farms reportedly left without debris on the property. About 15 farms in South Dakota reported F3- F5 damage. From this day, the Red Cross counted 13 dead and 560 people injured across the state.

June 17th, 2010: This day will go down as the day with the most outstanding single-day tornado total in Minnesota history. The 3 EF4 tornadoes in Minnesota were the first tornadoes EF4 or stronger in this state since the Granite Falls tornado on July 25th, 2000. This outbreak produced the highest number of tornadoes rated EF4 or greater in one day in Minnesota since the Black Sunday tornado outbreak on April 30th, 1967. The four EF4 tornadoes across the Upper Midwest on June 17th, 2010 (3 in MN and 1 in ND) were the most outbreaks in the U.S. since the "Super Tuesday Outbreak" on February 5-6, 2008. The number of tornado fatalities (4) on this day was the highest in Minnesota since July 5th, 1978.

1859 — Hot Santa Ana winds in southern California roasted fruit on one side at Santa Barbara. (Sandra and TI Richard Sanders - 1987)

1882 — A tornado traveled more than 200 miles across the state of Iowa killing 130 persons. The tornado touched down about ninety miles west of Grinnell, and struck the town and college around sunset, killing sixty persons, and causing more than half a million dollars damage. Traveling at nearly 60 mph, the tornado hit Mount Pleasant about 11 PM causing another half a million dollars damage. (David Ludlum)

1965 — Holly, CO, was deluged with 11.08 inches of rain to establish a state 24 hour rainfall record. (The Weather Channel)

1987 — Thunderstorms produced severe weather in the south central U.S. Thunderstorms in Kansas produced wind gusts to 76 mph at Lyons, and baseball size hail at Garden City. The Edwards Aquifer, which supplies water to San Antonio, TX, reached a record level of 699.2 feet following a record 18.43 inches of rain in thirty days. Torrential rains between the mid May and mid June sent 8.8 million acre feet of water down the rivers of southern Texas, the largest volume in 100 years of records. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 — Thunderstorms produced large hail and damaging winds in Georgia and the Carolinas. Thunderstorm winds gusted to 75 mph at Eden, NC. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 — Unseasonably cool air, responsible for 37 record lows in the central U.S. on the 15th and 16th, including a low of 33 degrees at Valentine NE on the 15th, overspread the eastern U.S. ending a three day seige of severe weather. (The National Weather Summary)



Hindrances to Accepting God's Love

Is something in your life preventing you from accepting God's unconditional love?

1 John 3:1-3: 1 See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and such we are. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.

2 Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is.

3 And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

Do you ever struggle to embrace the pure love of God? What might prevent a believer from accepting this wonderful blessing?

Our own relationships. Ironically, the way we love each other can distort how we perceive the heavenly Father's love. As imperfect people, we exhibit imperfect love.

Guilt. Our remorse over sinful behavior might convince us that we are unworthy of God's love. However, we have the assurance of Scripture that our Father loves us completely.

Legalism. Many people view the Bible as a rule book. However, God gave us His Word for instruction and inspiration, not as a measuring stick by which He distributes love or punishment.

Misinterpretation of divine discipline. God is a trustworthy and caring Father; His discipline and love are intimately connected (Hebrews 12:5-6). He corrects our behavior when necessary for our benefit, not as a form of punishment. Jesus already redeemed us from our sin; God doesn't continue to hold anything over our head.

Is something in your life preventing you from fully experiencing the joy and exhilaration of God's unconditional love? If so, lay it down before Him today and receive the amazing grace He so freely offers to His beloved ones.

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:

06.16.26

1 13 21 40 57 1

TOP PRIZE:

\$1,000,000/year

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 28 Mins 8 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS:

06.16.26

12 20 53 67 70 12

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$452,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 2 Days 16 Hrs 13 Mins 8 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: 15 Hrs 28 Mins 8 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS:

06.13.26

4 10 18 28 30

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$134,000

NEXT DRAW: 15 Hrs 43 Mins 8 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS:

06.15.26

22 23 28 32 68 21

TOP PRIZE:

\$10,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 12 Mins 9 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: 16 Hrs 12 Mins 9 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

News from the **AP** Associated Press

Dunn Brothers Coffee Accelerates Upper Midwest Growth with New South Dakota Franchise Agreement

Brand expansion continues as the company invests in future growth, innovation, and enhanced guest experience

MINNEAPOLIS, June 16, 2026 /PRNewswire/ -- Dunn Brothers Coffee, the Minneapolis-based coffee company known for roasting premium coffee in small batches daily, is proud to announce the signing of a new franchise agreement that will bring the brand to Chamberlain, South Dakota, further expanding its presence throughout the Upper Midwest.

The agreement represents another milestone in Dunn Brothers Coffee's strategic growth as the nearly 40-year-old brand continues to invest in new markets, modern store formats, and enhanced guest experiences. The Chamberlain location will strengthen the brand's footprint in South Dakota while bringing its signature freshly roasted coffee and community-focused approach to a new audience.

"This agreement represents more than a single location, it reflects the continued momentum of the Dunn Brothers brand," said Ben Anderson, President of Dunn Brothers Coffee. "As we approach four decades of serving communities through freshly roasted coffee, we're investing in the future of our brand through strategic growth, innovative store designs, and enhanced guest experiences. Chamberlain is an exciting step forward as we continue expanding our presence across the Upper Midwest."

The Chamberlain location will serve as one of the first locations to incorporate several new brand enhancements currently being developed by Dunn Brothers Coffee. While maintaining the fresh-roasted coffee, handcrafted beverages, and welcoming atmosphere guests have come to expect, the new location will also introduce operational and technology advancements designed to improve the customer experience and support long-term brand growth.

The Chamberlain development is part of Dunn Brothers Coffee's broader franchise growth strategy focused on strengthening its presence in existing markets while identifying opportunities for expansion in new communities. The brand continues to attract entrepreneurs seeking a differentiated coffee concept built around fresh daily roasting, community connection, and operational flexibility.

As Dunn Brothers continues to evolve its store formats, technology platforms, and franchise support systems, the company remains focused on delivering exceptional coffee experiences while creating new opportunities for growth throughout the region. The company is actively evaluating additional development opportunities across the Upper Midwest and remains committed to strategic expansion that supports both franchise partners and the communities they serve.

Dunn Brothers Coffee and its new franchise partner are currently working through development timelines for the Chamberlain location. Additional details regarding construction, opening dates, and grand opening celebrations will be announced as plans are finalized.

New Study Shows 83% of Organizations Are Adopting AI for Cybersecurity, But Cyber Pros Say the Job Has Become Harder

BRITTON, S.D.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Jun 16, 2026--

The Information Systems Security Association (ISSA) and Omdia today released Volume VIII of the Life and Times of Cybersecurity Professionals, the longest-running annual study of the cybersecurity workforce. As attackers leverage AI to scale attacks and organizations invest in AI-powered security tools, the professionals using them are burning out, being left out of decisions, and thinking about leaving the field.

83% of organizations are currently using or planning to adopt AI for cybersecurity, but the data reveals a critical gap between technology investment and workforce reality:

Top AI use cases include automating scanning and testing (50%), predictive risk analysis (48%), and

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threat detection (38%).68% say the job has become harder over the past two years, even as AI adoption has accelerated.25% have increased AI spending without a defined strategy connecting it to their people or security program.Beyond AI, the study examines job satisfaction, the skills shortage, organizational culture, and the evolving CISO role.

"Eight years of data point to the same conclusion," said Jimmy Sanders, President of ISSA. "The profession is struggling not because talent is scarce, but because organizations are not investing enough in the people they already have. That is the leadership opportunity in front of us right now."

The numbers behind that verdict are consistent across every edition of the study. Close to half of respondents have thought about leaving their role in the past 18 months, and among those, 57% have considered leaving cybersecurity entirely. 71% say technology decisions get made without the security team at the table. CISO appointments fell from 76% to 63% in a single year.

"AI will not close the cybersecurity skills gap on its own," said Melinda Marks, Practice Director, Cybersecurity at Omdia and the study's lead researcher. "Organizations getting the most from their security programs need to invest in their people first. Training, inclusion, and clear career paths are not soft benefits. They are what makes everything else work."

39% cite leadership commitment as the top driver of job satisfaction, above compensation and technology investment. 54% say seeking an apprenticeship, internship, or mentor is among the most valuable steps for anyone entering the field.

"What sustains people in this profession long-term is not any one technology or program," said Dr. Shawn Murray, Immediate Past President of ISSA. "It is connection. Access to peers who understand the work, mentors who have navigated the same challenges, and a community where your development is taken seriously. That is what professional associations exist to provide, and it is something no AI tool replaces."

Iran will reopen Strait of Hormuz and can sell oil freely under deal with US, according to leaks

By JON GAMBRELL, ZEKE MILLER, MICHELLE L. PRICE and SAMY MAGDY Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Iran will immediately take steps to reopen the Strait of Hormuz once a tentative deal with the U.S. to end the war is signed and will be allowed to sell its oil without restrictions, according to leaked copies of an interim agreement that officials say broadly matches the document.

The accord, due to be formally signed in a ceremony in Switzerland on Friday, lays out that the U.S. would secure at least \$300 billion to rebuild Iran after the war and work to end all American and United Nations sanctions imposed on Tehran if a final agreement addressing Iran's nuclear program is reached.

The U.S. agreement to immediately allow Iran to sell its oil freely and the offer to eventually lift all sanctions represent major concessions that outstrip the terms of Iran's 2015 nuclear deal with world powers, which U.S. President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew America from in his first term, declaring it the "worst deal ever." This new accord likely will draw intense criticism in Washington — and appears to be a major setback for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who launched the war with Trump on Feb. 28.

The deal calls for an immediate end to all fighting in Lebanon between Israel and the Iranian-backed militia Hezbollah. That is one of the most delicate parts of the agreement because Israel has maintained it will continue to defend itself and to occupy vast swaths of Lebanon. Iran has said it must withdraw under the deal, although the leaked versions make no mention of withdrawal.

The two sides are to start 60 days of negotiations over a final deal that the Trump administration insists will prevent Iran from ever developing a nuclear weapon. The U.S. offers appear aimed at enticing Iran to strike an agreement.

But in the meantime, Iran appears to be getting benefits up front while making few concessions. Much of the agreement would restore the status quo before the war, including ending hostilities and reopening the strait, which is a crucial passage for the world's oil and natural gas and whose closure created a historic energy crisis.

Other concessions to Iran — some of which are extraordinary, including the money for rebuilding, the

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full lifting of sanctions and the release of frozen assets — appear dependent on the progress of further negotiations on Iran's nuclear program.

A person who was briefed on the memorandum of understanding after it was signed and another who viewed a copy beforehand said it largely matched the text of what was published by the Saudi-owned broadcaster Al Arabiya, which reported details of the deal Tuesday. The two people spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the discussions.

Another two officials in the Mideast, who spoke on condition of anonymity for the same reason, also said the versions published by Al Arabiya and Bloomberg broadly matched the final agreement.

The White House and other American officials have not published the terms and did not immediately respond to questions. Iran also has not published an official version of the deal. Iran's semiofficial Tasnim news agency, close to its paramilitary Revolutionary Guard, claimed Wednesday that Bloomberg's version had missing portions, without offering a full accounting.

The deal would provide relief to the global economy

The deal provides a major win for the global economy — the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz, the narrow mouth of the Persian Gulf through which a fifth of all oil and natural gas traded once passed before the war began. Since then, Iranian attacks on shipping and the threat to vessels effectively shut the strait.

The strait's closure drove up energy prices around the world and made many basics, including food, more expensive. Iran let out some vessels that paid tolls, something never done before in the strait, which sits in the territorial waters of Iran and Oman and long has been considered an international waterway. The U.S. later provided military support to get other tankers out, but traffic through the strait was nowhere near levels before the war.

The deal calls for the U.S. to lift a blockade imposed on Iranian ports and for the strait to return to its prewar traffic levels in 30 days, while acknowledging Iranian mines may still be in its waters that need to be destroyed.

The deal provides major concessions to Iran

While the deal says that the eventual lifting of sanctions on Iran will depend on future negotiations, the U.S. will immediately issue waivers on Iranian oil sales.

Granting oil waivers directly at the start of the 60-day talks strips the U.S. of a major point of leverage over Iran. In the years before the 2015 nuclear deal, Iranian oil faced international sanctions limiting their sales. Only at the conclusion of the overall deal in 2015 were those sanctions lifted.

The interim deal also opens the door to ending all sanctions Iran faces from the U.S. and at the U.N. — though it says the schedule for that will be worked out later. Still, that is far beyond the 2015 deal, which only lifted some sanctions in exchange for Iran drastically reducing its enrichment and stockpile of uranium.

The accord would also provide Iran with at least \$300 billion to rebuild after an intense U.S. and Israeli bombing campaign — an extraordinary figure and another major benefit for Iran. U.S. Vice President JD Vance has said Gulf Arab nations would provide that amount as investments in Iran.

The deal leaves much more to be resolved in future negotiations

The interim deal sets a 60-day window, which can be extended, to negotiate over limiting Iran's nuclear program, which has been discussed at multiple rounds of talks during Trump's second administration without success. Iran maintains its nuclear program is peaceful, though it has enough highly enriched uranium to build multiple atomic bombs, should it choose to do so, according to the International Atomic Energy Agency.

In the interim deal, Iran reiterates that it will never produce nuclear weapons — a promise that it also made in the 2015 nuclear accord. Iranian diplomats have long pointed to statements from the late Ayatollah Ali Khamenei that Iran wouldn't build an atomic bomb. It remains unclear whether Khamenei's son, Iran's new Supreme Leader Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei, will follow that or not.

Trump has cited shifting goals for the war, including at times vowing it would end Iran's nuclear and missile programs and its support for Hezbollah and other proxy groups in the region. He also suggested it could lead to toppling the Iranian government.

The interim deal falls short of all of these goals. The negotiations also exposed a rift between Netanyahu and Trump, the Israeli leader's closest and most important ally, just as Netanyahu is seeking reelection. Netanyahu has come under heavy domestic criticism over the emerging deal but will be hard pressed to go against Trump, given Israel's heavy reliance on the U.S. for diplomatic and military support.

G7 leaders back Trump's plan to end Iran war that faces skepticism at home

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE, AAMER MADHANI and SYLVIE CORBET Associated Press

EVIAN-LES-BAINS, France (AP) — Leaders at the Group of Seven summit on Wednesday threw their support behind U.S. President Donald Trump's tentative agreement with Iran to open the Strait of Hormuz and further extend a shaky ceasefire — even though he's offered scant specificity about how that would be implemented.

In a declaration issued overnight, the leaders called the deal a "historic opportunity to prevent Iran from acquiring any nuclear weapon and tackling the threats related to its regional and ballistic activities." The leaders said that they were "ready to contribute to its implementation," although neither the White House nor Iran has released the text of the agreement.

The final day of summit talks started late with Trump, the last to arrive, saying "I'm the boss" as he entered the room and sat next to host French President Emmanuel Macron. The assembled leaders laughed, and Trump grinned.

The G7 leaders were closing the formal talks of the leading industrial democracies at a lakeside resort in the French Alps on Wednesday with sessions on the future of artificial intelligence and fostering economic growth.

They discussed concerns that China is flooding export markets with subsidized products, unfairly out-competing their own industries and destroying jobs. Leaders of India, South Korea, Kenya and Brazil also joined the meeting.

The U.S. leader later plans to make a stop for a glitzy dinner at the Palace of Versailles outside of Paris before he jets back to Washington.

But first, Trump finds himself trying to quell skepticism about the Iran agreement that U.S. and Iranian officials are set to formally sign at a ceremony on Friday at a stunning resort on Switzerland's Lake Lucerne. He also faces jitteriness from key ally Israel about ending the conflict under these terms.

"Here's what it says: Iran will never have a nuclear weapon. It won't have one to buy, to develop — it will not have a nuclear weapon. And I would say that's about 99.9% of what I wanted," he said.

What's in the deal

While G7 leaders gave it their backing, Trump still has to sell the deal to some members of his own party who doubt it will defang Iran's nuclear program. At the same time, he faces an anxious international community looking for him to follow through on his promise that the deal will reopen the Strait of Hormuz to oil tanker traffic, and keep it open.

The leaders meeting in the Alps said that an international maritime mission led by France and the U.K. "can play an important role to facilitate the resumption of maritime traffic in the Strait of Hormuz by protecting merchant vessels, reassuring commercial shipping operators, and supporting verification that all mines are removed."

Before the Iran war, a fifth of all oil and natural gas traded passed through the Strait of Hormuz, a maritime chokepoint that Iran has effectively shuttered since the first days of the conflict that began on Feb. 28.

White House and Iranian officials have sometimes offered contradictory interpretations of what is in the agreement.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said Israel's continued occupation of southern Lebanon, where Israeli forces have been targeting Iran-backed Hezbollah militants, would violate the deal.

"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.

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In their declaration, G7 leaders said they supported "through an immediate robust ceasefire" Lebanese efforts to disarm Hezbollah, and protect Lebanon's territorial integrity and sovereignty.

Meanwhile, Trump told reporters on Tuesday that he did not think an attack on Hezbollah by Israel would necessarily sink the agreement, though he said he was "not happy with the way Israel has handled themselves with Lebanon and with Hezbollah."

Israeli strikes in Lebanon have killed nearly 4,000 people, including hundreds of civilians, and displaced more than 1 million since fighting there began on March 2. "Israel's fighting Hezbollah too long, and too many people are being killed," Trump said.

Trump's relationship with Modi has been impacted by the Iran war

Trump on Wednesday is also expected to meet with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi at a choppy moment in the U.S.-India relationship, in part because of the war in the Middle East.

The leaders' meeting comes just a week after three Indian sailors were killed in a U.S. military strike on a tanker in the Gulf of Oman in the midst of the American blockade targeting oil shipments passing through the Strait of Hormuz. The Indian Foreign Ministry has formally protested the incident.

Trump and Modi had a warm relationship during the U.S. president's first term, but it's become more complicated since Trump's return to office.

The president hiked tariffs on India, before lowering them, over its reliance on cheap Russian oil, and the Iran war has disrupted energy supplies to India. There's some angst as well in New Delhi that Trump's recent efforts to forge a trade truce with Chinese President Xi Jinping could undercut India's appeal as an alternative manufacturing hub.

Trump was also holding one-on-one talks on Wednesday with Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi, one of the three Middle Eastern leaders who are attending the summit at the invitation of Macron.

Leaders vow to support Ukraine, tackle global drug gangs and migrant smugglers

In a flurry of declarations issued in the early hours of Wednesday, the G7 leaders stressed their support for Ukraine as it battles Russia's invasion and agreed to increase deliveries of air defense systems. They also said they would bolster sanctions on Moscow, including on Russia's oil and gas industries.

Leaders also pledged to step up the fight against the multibillion dollar international drug trade. The statement comes as Trump has been waging his own battle against drug traffickers.

United States military strikes on alleged drug-carrying boats transiting in Latin America have killed more than 200 people since September, when the Trump administration began an operation it has justified as necessary to stem the flow of drugs.

Critics have questioned the legality of the strikes.

In a separate declaration, the G7 leaders reaffirmed their efforts to halt migrant smuggling and human trafficking, which they said "constitute serious transnational crimes that erode the sovereign right of States to control their borders and expose smuggled and trafficked persons to life-threatening risks."

World shares are mixed and oil trades below \$80 on optimism over interim US-Iran war deal

By CHAN HO-HIM AP Business Writer

HONG KONG (AP) — World shares were mixed and oil was trading below \$80 a barrel on Wednesday as investors watched for details on the interim agreement between the U.S. and Iran to end the war.

U.S. futures were also trading mixed ahead of a decision by the Federal Reserve on interest rates.

In early European trading, Britain's FTSE 100 edged 0.2% lower to 10,471.84, following official data that showed U.K. inflation was steady in May at 2.8% even as fuel prices increased. Germany's DAX fell 0.3% to 24,829.58, while France's CAC 40 was up 0.2% to 8,465.32.

Asian stocks were mostly higher with markets in Japan and South Korea setting new records. Tokyo's Nikkei 225 gained 0.7% to 69,902.25, after reaching an intraday high of 70,125.75 following news that Japan's exports jumped 17% in May from a year earlier, helped in part by strong demand for high-tech products.

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South Korea's Kospi gained 1.6% to 8,864.24, also closing at another all-time high, with big technology stocks climbing despite a sell-off of artificial intelligence-related shares on Wall Street. Samsung Electronics, the country's most valuable company, was up 1%. Chipmaker SK Hynix jumped 5.8%.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng lost 0.7% to 24,312.16, while the Shanghai Composite index rose 0.4% to 4,108.08.

Australia's S&P/ASX 200 climbed 0.5% to 8,966.30.

Taiwan's Taiex added 0.2% and India's Sensex rose 0.3%.

Oil prices steadied after falling sharply earlier on optimism over a possible end to the war and reopening of the Strait of Hormuz, crucial for oil and gas transport worldwide. But challenges remain, including whether the deal includes Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon.

Brent crude, the international standard, edged 0.1% higher to \$79.05 per barrel early Wednesday after falling more than 5% on Tuesday. It was above its roughly \$70 a barrel level in late February, before the war started.

Benchmark U.S. crude was nearly unchanged at \$76.02 a barrel.

"Normalizing (oil) flows will take time," economists at HSBC wrote in a note this week. "Hurdles include mine clearance, insurance reinstatement, emptying excess Gulf oil storage, repositioning ships, and re-starting idled production fields."

Later in the day the Federal Reserve will wrap up a two-day policy meeting, the first under its new chair Kevin Warsh. It is widely expected to keep its benchmark interest rate unchanged despite pressure from U.S. President Donald Trump to cut rates.

Worries over higher prices due to the Iran war may lead the Fed to stand pat, since lower rates could fuel higher inflation.

"With weak wage growth and rent growth, underlying forces are pointing to inflation falling sharply once the energy price shock recedes. We don't expect the Fed to hike rates in 2026," Preston Caldwell, chief U.S. economist at Morningstar wrote in a commentary. "We expect the Fed to resume cutting in 2027."

Early Wednesday, the U.S. dollar fell to 160.15 Japanese yen from 160.42 yen. The euro was trading at \$1.1601, down from \$1.1608.

On Tuesday, Wall Street's benchmark S&P 500 fell 0.6% and the Dow Jones Industrial Average added 0.6%, hitting another all-time high.

The technology-heavy Nasdaq composite dropped 1.2% to 26,376.34 following losses of some big tech stocks over renewed worries about an AI bubble.

Shares of Nvidia fell 2.4%. Chipmaker Broadcom dropped 4.4% and Micron Technology lost 6.2%.

SpaceX, Elon Musk's rocket company, was up 4.8%, gaining for the third straight day since its Wall Street debut.

Yum Brands gained 1.9% after it announced it is selling Pizza Hut for \$2.7 billion, with most restaurants purchased by U.S.-based private equity firm LongRange Capital.

Most Americans see freedoms under threat but core to nation's identity, AP-NORC poll finds

By MATT BROWN and LINLEY SANDERS Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Most Americans believe civil liberties like the right to vote are under threat, according to a new AP-NORC poll, while also continuing to agree that the rights expressed in the nation's founding documents are still core to American identity.

The survey from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research finds that most Americans across demographics believe the right to vote, the right to free speech and freedom of religion are integral to the country. But they were more divided on the importance of the right to bear arms, and few — about one-third or less — saw those rights as safe from threats.

The survey, which was conducted April 16-20 — before the Supreme Court's recent ruling that winnowed a section of the Voting Rights Act — highlights an enduring consensus among Americans that personal

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freedoms are vital to the country's national identity. But it also reveals deep anxieties about the nation's trajectory on the cusp of a summer filled with celebrations of the country's semi-quincentennial birthday.

"Our idea of rights has been very consistent in this country until the last few years," said Louise Rochon, 85, of Connecticut. "Now, they're all under threat. Every single last one of them."

Americans see rights as vital, but threatened

About 9 in 10 Americans say the right to vote is "extremely" or "very" important to the United States' identity, the poll found. About the same proportion of Americans consider freedom of speech to be highly important to the country's identity. Meanwhile, about 8 in 10 Americans consider freedom of religion to be core to the national identity, while about 6 in 10 Americans consider the right to keep or bear arms as highly important to the nation's identity.

But many in the country see those same principles as imperiled today. About two-thirds of Americans view the right to vote as under some threat, with about one-third saying voting rights are under "major threat" while about 3 in 10 said they faced a "minor threat." Only about one-third of Americans said voting rights faced "no threat at all."

Additionally, nearly half of Americans say freedom of speech is under major threat, followed by about 3 in 10 who said the same about gun rights and religious freedom.

The country is going "down the drain," said Tracy Gonzales, an independent from San Antonio, Texas. Americans of all stripes, she said, have "thrown religion to the side at the moment" and allowed for other civil liberties to be eroded amid fierce debates over immigration and the economy.

"Given everything going on with our president, you really don't have time to think of anything else," said Gonzales, 37, of President Donald Trump's immigration crackdowns. "There are so many other crimes that are being committed and people that actually need help, and you're focused on the ones that are trying to get it together."

Vast majority of Black Americans see threat to voting rights

The poll's results also surfaced complicated opinions about democracy and identity among Black Americans. Those are likely rooted, at least in part, in the country's history of denying voting rights and full citizenship to people of African descent for centuries.

Black Americans are less likely than white Americans to say the right to vote is "extremely" or "very important" to American identity, with about three-quarters agreeing with the sentiment compared to about 9 in 10 white Americans.

But about 4 in 10 Black Americans say that the right to vote is facing a "major" threat in the country today, higher than any other racial group.

"You cannot feel like you are a total and full part of the American experiment unless you have the right to vote," said Antonio Williams, a school administrator in Dallas, Texas, who is Black. "And African Americans didn't fully get to enjoy the right to vote until about 60 years ago, and I feel like it's under threat right now."

Younger adults see the right to vote as less important

Independents and younger adults are less likely than Americans overall to say voting and freedom of speech are central to American identity.

"My age group has grown up a lot more with social media as part of their existence in life and the microcosms that that creates in politics," said Julian Goodwin-Ferris, 28, a professional dancer from New Jersey.

"I think we feel more like our voice doesn't matter as much because it feels like we've grown up with our rights sort of being more ignored," said Goodwin-Ferris.

Democrats and Republicans are divided on magnitude of threat

Americans at times diverged along partisan lines in their view of the threats to rights, with Democrats seeing a greater threat to freedom of speech, while Republicans were more worried about the right to keep and bear arms.

While Democrats and Republicans are similarly likely to say freedom of speech is at least "very important" to the nation's identity, about 6 in 10 Democrats say freedom of speech is facing a "major threat" compared to about 4 in 10 independents and roughly one-third of Republicans.

Similarly, while most Americans believe the right to bear arms is at least “very” important to the nation’s identity, about 8 in 10 Republicans agree with that sentiment, compared to only about 4 in 10 Democrats. About half of independents shared that view. And about 4 in 10 Republicans found that the right to bear firearms was under threat, an increase from October 2025 not reflected among either Democrats or independents.

“We have the Bill of Rights for a reason,” said Nuri Simmons, a warehouse worker in New York and a registered Democrat. Simmons, 31, said that threats to different rights “bleed into each other” and that while he was most concerned about threats to voting rights today, he understood that others may feel differently.

“Like when people try to bring some gun control into it, I think some people look at that as an attack on their rights. I guess that all depends on your politics,” he said.

Trump goes after Netanyahu as he pursues deal with Iran, putting their friendship to the test

By MIKE CATALINI and THOMAS BEAUMONT Associated Press

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told President Donald Trump last year that he was the “greatest friend Israel ever had in the White House.”

Now, as Trump tries to finalize a deal to end the war with Iran, he’s unloading on Netanyahu with rhetoric that no other American leader has dared to use publicly.

He claimed credit for Israel’s existence — “without me, there would be no Israel” — and cursed his judgment in interviews. He even described him as “crazy.”

Netanyahu’s tenure as prime minister spans four U.S. presidents, and he’s frustrated all of them at one point or another. But none has voiced that as openly as Trump, who started the conflict in tandem with Netanyahu.

The tension comes as Trump criticizes recent Israeli attacks in Lebanon, which threatened to jeopardize negotiations between Washington and Tehran. Trump has been pushing for a deal as he faces political blowback at home, where the war is unpopular and has driven up gasoline prices.

“If Netanyahu gets in between something Trump really wants, and that’s out of this war, he’s prepared to use the leverage that he has,” said Aaron David Miller, who served as an adviser on Middle East issues to Democratic and Republican administrations over two decades.

An agreement is scheduled to be signed on Friday in the Burgenstock resort near the city of Luzern. Speaking on Tuesday at the annual G7 summit in France, Trump said he told Netanyahu that he’s been unhappy with his recent moves.

“Without the U.S., there would be no Israel. Without me, there would be no Israel because no other president was willing to do what I did,” Trump said. “I have had a great relationship with Bibi. Now Bibi has to be more responsible with respect to Lebanon.”

There has long been a bipartisan consensus around supporting Israel in Washington, but that has frayed in recent years. Liberals have been increasingly outraged by Israel’s treatment of Palestinians, especially during the war in Gaza, and conservatives have questioned the importance of longstanding American support for Israel. There are concerns about antisemitism on the left and the right.

Trump’s latest comments drew swift criticism from left-leaning groups.

“He is framing Israel’s mere existence as contingent on him,” said Halie Soifer, who leads the Jewish Democratic Council of America. “It’s deeply offensive to the vast majority of Jews who care about Israel’s future.”

President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris often disagreed with Netanyahu during the war in Gaza, and sometimes they criticized him publicly. But they were more circumspect to avoid facing accusations of being anti-Israel.

Conservative, pro-Israel groups were divided on the seriousness of Trump’s public condemnation of Netanyahu.

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Republican Jewish Coalition President Matt Brooks described Trump's criticism as little more than the inevitable disagreement among family members.

Brooks dismissed that any muted criticism of Trump's comments from his party represented a political mixed message because Trump has been reliably supportive of Israel as president.

"If Biden or Harris said something critical, it came from the position of someone who was hostile toward or didn't have the same level of support for Israel that President Trump has," Brooks said.

He noted the first Trump administration's role in moving the U.S. embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem and the return of Israeli hostages from Gaza during the president's second term, among other acts.

Biden had criticized Netanyahu's handling of the war in Gaza, though Trump's criticism of Netanyahu comes with a "tremendous reservoir of goodwill on this issue that neither Biden nor Harris ever had."

Pro-Israel advocate Mort Klein said Trump should have kept the comments private, especially in light of his public praise over the years of authoritarian leaders in Turkey, North Korea and China.

Klein, president of the conservative Zionist Organization of America, said he worried that Trump was making the comments in public to appeal to Israel critics "because he sees that Americans have become more hostile toward Israel than they've ever been."

"That worries me," Klein said.

Georgia Republicans choose Collins for Senate and Jackson for governor, a mixed result for Trump

By BILL BARROW Associated Press

JACKSON, Ga. (AP) — Georgia Republicans delivered a split decision for Donald Trump in Tuesday run-offs, opting for the president's preferred U.S. Senate candidate but rejecting his choice for governor in favor of a billionaire first-time candidate who spent freely from his personal fortune to win the nomination.

In the Senate race, Rep. Mike Collins, 58, topped former football coach Derek Dooley and advanced to face Sen. Jon Ossoff, the only Senate Democrat running for reelection in a state that Trump won two years ago. The outcome will help determine control of Capitol Hill for the final years of Trump's second presidency.

For governor, healthcare tycoon Rick Jackson, 71, outpaced Lt. Gov. Burt Jones after spending about \$100 million of his own money on the campaign. That investment ultimately outweighed Jones' backing from the president. Jackson will face Democratic nominee and former Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms in November.

Trump, who endorsed Jones nearly a year ago and Collins two days before the runoff, is poised to be a fault line in both general election contests. The president was notably absent in Republicans' remarks on Tuesday, however, a shift from other primary nights where candidates paid homage to their party's leader despite his sagging approval ratings.

Collins, a second-term congressman, is a self-described "MAGA warrior" and echoes Trump's false claims that his 2020 election loss in Georgia was rigged. Yet when celebrating in his hometown, Collins thanked his wife, children, grandchildren, siblings, friends, supporters and staffers — but never the president. He even touted his bipartisanship and pitched himself as a sound conservative who can achieve progress by "building coalitions and finding common ground." And he promised to campaign in "every ZIP code and every community" of this closely divided state.

Ossoff, first elected during the 2020 cycle, has made Trump a focal point, blasting him as a "national embarrassment" who is using the presidency to enrich himself and his family. The 39-year-old faces tremendous pressure to hold his seat as Democrats try to gain a net of four seats to claim a Senate majority.

In the governor's race, Jackson spent months comparing himself — the tremendously wealthy political newcomer — to Trump and his unusual path to the presidency. He didn't do that as directly Tuesday night.

"I'm the only candidate who doesn't owe a thing to the political establishment," he said, later adding, "We proved the people of Georgia are in charge."

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Trump congratulated Jackson on social media, saying he "very successfully campaigned on being 'TRUMP,' and won."

"He will be your next Governor of Georgia," the president added. "Can't wait!"

Republicans face an immediate task to unify and raise money

Both parties in Georgia are trying to buck trends. Republicans haven't won a Senate race here since 2016, the year of Trump's first election. Democrats haven't won a governor's race since 1998.

But Democrats are bullish after they drew about 160,000 more voters than Republicans in the May primary, the first time since their victorious 1998 year that they led primary turnout. Republican runoff turnout also was lower Tuesday than in recent election cycles.

Collins said he had "good conversations" with Dooley and Gov. Brian Kemp, who had supported Dooley, and that Republicans "stand united around one mission" — defeating Ossoff in November.

Dooley offered a similar message to his more subdued crowd in metro Atlanta. "We have a lot of disagreements but the one thing that hasn't changed is my opinion of Jon Ossoff," Dooley said.

There were bitter attacks in both Republican runoffs — some of which Democrats are promising to recirculate in the general election.

Dooley repeatedly hammered Collins for a House ethics complaint that accuses him of abusing taxpayer funds by paying the girlfriend of his former top adviser for congressional job duties she allegedly did not fulfill. After an initial investigation, a federal panel forwarded the matter to the House Ethics Committee. Kemp told voters for months that they should nominate Dooley as a "political outsider" who could relentlessly attack Ossoff without having to defend a record of his own.

Jones lambasted Jackson as a faux conservative who has employed immigrants in the country illegally and whose wife has donated to Democratic candidates.

State Republican Chairman Josh McKoon said he's confident about corralling the party base and appealing to swing voters.

"This election is going to be won by the side that is able to become the party of common sense," he said.

Collins also begins the general election campaign at a financial disadvantage. He raised about \$4.9 million through the end of May, and reported having less than \$1.2 million remaining. Through late April, the last time Ossoff had to file before his primary, the incumbent had raised \$60.4 million and had \$32.5 million on hand.

Republican candidates will need to navigate Trump ties

Despite his ties to Trump, Collins has argued that he has broad appeal, and he plans to use immigration as a contrast with Ossoff.

In the House, Collins sponsored the Laken Riley Act, a 2025 law that requires immigrants accused of certain crimes to be detained. It is named for a Georgia nursing student killed in 2021 by a Venezuelan man who was in the U.S. illegally. Ossoff voted against a version of the legislation before backing the final proposal after Trump's return to power.

He leaned heavily on his decades building his trucking company, based in the same community where he was raised.

"You see, I know what it's like to have employees and their families count on you to make the right decisions every day. Jon Ossoff doesn't," he said.

Trump's mixed results in Georgia come after most of his preferred candidates have prevailed in primaries this spring. But Jackson's seemingly bottomless personal coffers were a new variable.

Jackson blanketed television and online platforms with ads. He's pledged that immigrants in Georgia illegally will be "deported or departed." He promises a slew of tax cuts. And previewing a potential general election argument, he played up his biography as a product of the state foster care system and featured his grandchildren advising him on how to make friendlier ads.

Jones, 47, comes from a wealthy family but his personal spending measured in the single millions. And despite Trump's endorsement, the president did not travel to Georgia to campaign with Jones.

Runoffs for elections chief could shape 2028

Georgia's secretary of state race was open for the first time since Trump's attempts to subvert the 2020

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election, famously pressuring outgoing Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger to “find 11,780 votes” to overtake Biden. Raffensperger refused.

For his potential successor, Republicans were left to choose between an outright election denier, Vernon Jones, and a state lawmaker, Tim Fleming, who avoids explicitly disputing the president’s 2020 election lies. They went with Fleming, who won the nomination on Tuesday.

Jones, a perennial candidate who was once a Democrat, embraced Trump’s “stop the steal” movement and said he stood “with those who believe there was election fraud.” Fleming, who once served as deputy secretary of state, has said there were “irregularities” in 2020, a word choice that has become code for Republicans who want neither to ratify nor call out Trump’s errant claims.

Democrats voted for Penny Brown Reynolds — a former state judge in Fulton County who also served in the Biden administration as deputy assistant secretary for civil rights for the Department of Agriculture — over Dana Barrett, a Fulton County commissioner.

The cost to overcome a Trump endorsement? \$100 million. Plus more takeaways from Tuesday’s primaries

By JONATHAN J. COOPER, JESSE BEDAYN and SIMRAN PARWANI Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — An endorsement from President Donald Trump is worth a lot in Republican primaries. But it’s not foolproof, especially when there’s a lot of money involved.

Rick Jackson’s campaign spent more than \$100 million, largely out of his own pocket, to defeat Trump-endorsed Burt Jones in the Republican runoff for Georgia governor. It was another rare example of the president’s choice falling short in a primary battle.

Trump’s efforts were more successful elsewhere. His candidate for U.S. Senate won a runoff in Alabama, and his pick for Oklahoma governor advanced to another runoff there.

Four states and the District of Columbia held primaries Tuesday. Among Democrats, the contests hinged on longstanding divides between progressives and moderates as the party tries to chart the best path forward to November.

Here are some takeaways as votes come in from Alabama, California, the District of Columbia, Georgia and Oklahoma.

Trump’s endorsement can be overcome — for a price

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

Jackson found another path to the Republican nomination for Georgia governor, but it was pricy. The billionaire healthcare tycoon personally supplied most of the \$100 million-plus that his campaign has spent to persuade Republican primary voters to overlook Trump’s advice.

Trump endorsed Lt. Gov. Burt Jones more than a year ago and reiterated his support last week, praising Jones’ “Courage and Wisdom” in a social media post.

Before Tuesday’s runoff, Jackson came in second behind Jones in the May 19 primary, though nearly a third of voters backed other candidates.

Jackson will face Democrat Keisha Lance Bottoms, the former Atlanta mayor, in November to lead one of the nation’s preeminent battleground states.

Meanwhile, Oklahoma’s Republican primary for governor tested 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. Mazzei secured a spot in a runoff on Aug. 25, finishing nearly even with Attorney General Gentner Drummond.

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

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bulldoze the old political order.

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

In Alabama, it worked out for Trump. He successfully backed 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 to the Senate.

Moore defeated former Navy SEAL Jared Hudson, who presented himself as a Washington outsider and tried to harness the anti-establishment fervor that propelled Trump to power to defeat Trump's preferred candidate.

Alabama is a Republican stronghold, so the GOP primary victor will be heavily favored to prevail in November.

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.

Lewis 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. 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 Lewis George wins, saying "we won't put up with it." Lewis George called Trump's threat "an attack on democracy itself."

The overwhelmingly Democratic city's relationship to the president is a focal point of the campaign 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 mayor, Muriel Bowser, didn't push back enough on the administration. Part of Lewis 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."

The race was too early to call on Tuesday night, and it could be decided by D.C.'s new ranked choice voting system.

Like a handful of other places, D.C. voters ranked the candidates on a ballot, and if no one crosses 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.

Georgia Republicans opt for candidate less skeptical of the 2020 election

State Rep. Tim Fleming won the Republican nomination for Georgia secretary of state Tuesday night, defeating opponent Vernon Jones, who leaned more into conspiracies over Trump's loss to Joe Biden.

The two were competing in an election to replace Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger, who resisted Trump's unfounded claims of election fraud and the president's request to "find 11,780 votes" six years ago.

Those claims hovered over Tuesday's race.

Jones had said he believes there were "irregularities" and "violations" in 2020 and he stands "with those who believe there was election fraud." Of four key points on Jones' campaign platform, three had to do with election management, including stronger voter identification rules.

Fleming tiptoed around the topic, saying there were "irregularities" in 2020 but adding he's "not running on conspiracy theories." Of the seven platform points on his campaign website, however, four were focused on election management and one said the state should "make it impossible for the Left to cheat in our elections."

Fleming will face Democrat Penny Brown Reynolds, who won her party's nomination Tuesday.

More progressive candidate advances in California race to serve out Swalwell's term

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Democrat Eric Swalwell resigned from the U.S. House and dropped his bid for California governor in April after a woman alleged he had sexually assaulted her twice, saying she was too intoxicated to consent to sex in both cases.

A special primary election was held Tuesday to finish Swalwell's term, and Democratic state Sen. Aisha Wahab advanced to the special general election on Aug. 18. It remained too early to determine who would fill the second slot.

Whoever wins will serve in the U.S. House through January. Wahab was favored along with Melissa Hernandez, a Bay Area Rapid Transit director.

Wahab, who's established in California politics, represents a more progressive wing of the party, while Hernandez is 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.

Robert White Jr. wins Democratic primary for the District of Columbia's delegate to Congress

By GARY FIELDS Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Washington, D.C. Council member Robert White Jr. won the Democratic primary for the district's delegate to Congress on Tuesday, ushering in generational change for a position long held by the same candidate as the nation's capital faces mounting pressures on its autonomy.

White's win in the heavily Democratic city sets him up to take the top spot in November's general elections, when he could replace 18-term delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton. Norton, 89 and a fixture of the Civil Rights movement, decided not to run again after facing growing concerns over her ability to forcefully push back against the Trump administration's federal intervention into the city's affairs.

White had campaigned on promises to fight for the city's autonomy, which has been squeezed under President Donald Trump, who deployed the National Guard on an ongoing, open-ended mission meant to fight crime and rattled the capital's economy by downsizing the federal workforce.

"My election means we're going to keep our independence and we're going to get statehood. People know I'm not going to lay down. I'm going to fight," White told The Associated Press after his win was declared.

The D.C. delegate position is a nonvoting one, but it grants the nearly 700,000 people of the district, who have no other representation in Congress, a voice through speechmaking on the House floor and bill introduction.

The primary marked the first time in a generation that D.C. residents voted 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 both races in November. The AP has not yet called a winner in the race for mayor.

Current Mayor 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 primary includes ranked choice voting for the first time, which the district's election officials have warned could delay results.

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 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. 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.

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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.

Trump 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.

Lewis George, who has pledged to protect the city's autonomy, stood that ground at her post-election event where pop music blared and a crowd danced with the candidate on stage.

"If there was any doubt, right now we lay it to rest," she said to cheering supporters. "It is the people of D.C. who elect the mayor."

McDuffie, closing out the day at an event with supporters, echoed that sentiment.

"It is under threat right now, but Donald Trump does not run Washington, D.C. We do. The people of D.C. run Washington, D.C.," McDuffie told the crowd. "And we will fight for D.C.'s autonomy every single day of the week."

Neither candidate declared victory as preliminary results rolled in.

Federal intervention, affordability among candidates' top priorities

Washington resident Fran Tatu, 69, said the National Guard deployment was a concern for her.

"What's at stake — many young lives with the surge of federal officers by Trump and all of the troops that are here," she said, adding that she was voting for Lewis George and White.

White said he plans to call for Washington residents and other actors to mobilize as much as possible and head to battleground states to help the campaigns of candidates who will be friendlier to the city's needs.

"We cannot have a Congress that is in complete opposition to D.C. come January," he said.

Candidates have also made affordability a priority, which Lewis George has blamed on the Trump administration. Public safety has also emerged as a top concern even as the Trump administration has touted its federal law enforcement intervention as a successful crime fighting initiative.

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.

Rex Heuermann to be sentenced in New York's Gilgo Beach serial killings

By PHILIP MARCELO Associated Press

RIVERHEAD, N.Y. (AP) — A Long Island architect who lived a secret life as New York's Gilgo Beach serial killer is being sentenced Wednesday after admitting in court that he murdered eight women.

Rex Heuermann faces the likelihood of a life prison sentence when he goes before a judge in Riverhead, New York. Family members of his victims are expected to address the court.

The sentencing caps an extraordinary investigation that solved one of New York's most perplexing mysteries — one that began as a series of seemingly unconnected, and largely unmarked disappearances of young women, but became the focus of true-crime documentaries, books and podcasts after police began discovering the victims' skeletal remains in the sandy scrub along a coastal parkway.

Heuermann, who has remained largely silent through multiple court appearances since his 2023 arrest, will also have a chance to speak Wednesday, but it's not immediately clear if he will. His lawyers didn't respond to messages seeking comment.

Asa Ellerup, his ex-wife, and their two grown children have said through their lawyers that they won't be attending the sentencing out of respect for the victim's families.

Heuermann, 62, of Massapequa Park, pleaded guilty in April to charges that he murdered seven women: Megan Waterman, Melissa Barthelemy, Amber Lynn Costello, Maureen Brainard-Barnes, Valerie Mack, Jessica Taylor and Sandra Costilla.

Though he was never charged in her death, he also admitted in court to killing an eighth victim, Karen Vergata. Heuermann said he strangled his victims, many of them sex workers, and dismembered some

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of their bodies.

Most of the women disappeared between 2000 and 2010, and most of their remains were found on a desolate parkway not far from Long Island's Gilgo Beach, some 50 miles (80 kilometers) from Manhattan.

But two of the killings took place years earlier. Costilla's remains were found in 1993, more than 60 miles (100 kilometers) away in the Hamptons, while Vergata's remains were found in 1996 on Fire Island, more than 20 miles (32 kilometers) east of Gilgo Beach.

The case spilled into view in 2010, when investigators started to find remains along Ocean Parkway while looking into the disappearance of another sex worker, Shannan Gilbert, whose death was ultimately ruled an accidental drowning.

The search for the killer of the other women, though, went cold for years until a renewed investigation identified Heuermann as a potential suspect in 2022.

Detectives linked him to a pickup truck that a witness reported seeing when one of the victims disappeared in 2010.

Eventually, they matched DNA from a pizza crust Heuermann had discarded in a Manhattan trash can to genetic material extracted from highly degraded hair fragments found on the women's remains.

Investigators amassed other evidence against Heuermann, including cellphone and tracking data showing Heuermann arranged meetings with some of the victims shortly before their disappearances.

Then in 2024, after Heuermann's arrest, prosecutors recovered what they described as a "blueprint" for the killings from his computer files. Among the documents was a series of checklists with reminders to limit noise, clean the bodies and destroy evidence.

As part of his guilty plea, Heuermann has agreed to cooperate with the FBI's behavioral analysis unit to help catch other serial killers.

He's been housed in the county jail in Riverhead since his arrest in July 2023, but will serve out his term in a state prison to be determined later.

Heuermann has spent the past three years alone in a segregated cell, reading crime novels, occasionally being visited by his lawyers or family, and striking up a brief correspondence with the infamous "Happy Face Killer," according to Suffolk County Sheriff Errol Toulon, who oversees the Riverhead jail.

Interim US-Iran deal leaves the thorniest issue still to be negotiated: Tehran's nuclear program

By MATTHEW LEE AP Diplomatic Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The interim deal between the U.S. and Iran is supposed to usher in a two-month period that would address the most divisive issue between the longtime adversaries — Tehran's nuclear program.

Preventing Iran from attaining a nuclear bomb is a key reason that President Donald Trump said he launched the war alongside Israel in February, but the tentative agreement he has trumpeted leaves little runway to negotiate the long-running sticking point. The previous nuclear pact between Iran and world powers, which Trump pulled the U.S. from in his first term, took many months to negotiate.

Few details have been publicly released about the initial deal, set to be officially signed Friday in Switzerland, but it generally calls for reopening the Strait of Hormuz to global oil shipments, financial incentives for Iran if it meets certain benchmarks, and a 60-day period for talks on ending the country's nuclear program.

There is deep skepticism among both Republican and Democratic lawmakers, pro-Israel advocates and Israel itself that the deal is realistic, workable or would have any effect on nuclear talks.

"My skepticism is Iran itself. What would a good deal look like? No enrichment. And we'll see if we can get there," Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, a close Trump ally and longtime Iran hawk, said Tuesday. "But whether or not we can get phase two, I don't know."

A nuclear deal takes commitment to the details

David Schenker, director of the Arab Politics Program at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, said that "this administration has proven that it has a hard time keeping its attention on these issues."

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Schenker, who served as assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern Affairs in the first Trump administration, questioned whether the current administration would have the wherewithal to reach a nuclear deal even if the agreement is signed Friday.

"This is the kind of thing that requires dogged attention, attention to detail and numerous technical experts involved," he said. "Trump loses his attention, moves on, and so does the administration. It's like they don't understand Iran's strategy. They didn't get it the first time, or the second."

The Trump administration has maintained its confidence. Vice President JD Vance said much of the technical detail must be negotiated but that the U.S. must see action for Iran to receive incentives like sanctions relief.

"Our plan under this deal is, again, the Iranians are getting a lot of benefits so long as they dismantle that nuclear weapons program," Vance told Megyn Kelly on her podcast Tuesday.

"People always ask me, 'Why do you believe it this time?' I don't believe them," he added. "I don't trust anything that anybody says. I trust what people do. And the way this deal is structured is that as they do more, they receive more. As they do less, they receive less."

Iran has long maintained its nuclear program is peaceful.

It took over a year and a half to get the previous nuclear deal

The 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, or JCPOA, took more than 18 months to negotiate, starting with secret talks between U.S. and Iranian officials in Oman at the end of then-President Barack Obama's first term.

They required dozens of direct high-level interventions from Secretary of State John Kerry and Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz, not to mention a team of dozens of technical experts traveling to Europe and elsewhere before the conclusion of the negotiations in Vienna, Austria.

Trump withdrew from the JCPOA in 2018 before most of its more contentious concessions had come into effect, and there is no indication now that Iran is willing to offer much more.

The JCPOA relied on very technical language and understandings, including limits on uranium enrichment, advanced centrifuges and heavy water production. In exchange, Iran was granted significant sanctions relief, amounting to billions of dollars.

As unhappy as critics were about the JCPOA — Trump called it the "worst deal ever negotiated," while all Republicans and a number of prominent Democrats voted against it — all sides acknowledge it took more than 18 months to get to an even imperfect agreement.

Republicans say Congress must approve any deal

Republicans say any nuclear deal with Iran should be brought to Congress, as required by law. GOP Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas said he "would certainly anticipate that" the Senate will get the final say.

GOP Sen. John Kennedy of Louisiana said he had little confidence Iran would abide by any agreement.

But Sen. Roger Marshall, R-Kan., one of a handful of senators who has spoken to Vance about the agreement, said the shortened timeline could be an advantage.

"Iran's modus operandi is to negotiate for the purpose of delaying, so they can rearm themselves," Marshall said. "I think the president has to give them some type of a finite amount of time, or there's going to be consequences. So I think it can be done."

Sen. Tim Kaine, D-Va., noted that what could help Trump's negotiators to hammer out a nuclear agreement in such a truncated timeline is that there is "a base" to work from following the Obama-era talks.

Still, the JCPOA "took years to put together. You had allies and even adversaries — China and Russia — around the table, you had the IAEA at the table, the Obama chief negotiator had a Nobel Prize in physics, Ernie Moniz," Kaine said. "I don't know that either Jared Kushner or Steve Witkoff have a Nobel Prize. So it's going to be hard."

Trump envoys Witkoff and Kushner, neither of whom had any prior experience in nuclear negotiations, made numerous but ultimately unsuccessful attempts to reach an agreement under Omani mediation during the first months of Trump's second term.

Those tapered off after the U.S.-Israel attacks on Iranian nuclear sites in June 2025 — after which Pakistan emerged as the main facilitator.

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There also is uncertainty about other issues besides nuclear that have been of concern to Arab countries, Israel, Europe and the United States.

It is not clear that any of those issues, including Iran's ballistic missile program, its support for militant proxies in the region or repression of its own people, will be addressed by either the interim or potential longer-term agreements.

Without significant capitulations by Trump up-front, it is hard to imagine that nuclear negotiations with Iran will take only several months.

"A deal is better than more fighting, but the war America and Israel prosecuted against Iran has fallen short of achieving its stated objectives," said Brian Katulis, a senior fellow at the Middle East Institute. "This agreement is mostly about cleaning up an unnecessary mess and putting the best face on it."

B-52 was in the air a very short time before crashing and killing all 8 on board

By CHRISTOPHER WEBER and JOSH FUNK Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The B-52 that crashed during a test flight at Edwards Air Force Base in California was in the air a very short time before slamming into the ground about halfway down the runway.

All eight people aboard were killed in Monday's fiery crash of the Boeing B-52 Stratofortress, which was taking part in a test mission as part of a program to keep the oldest aircraft in the U.S. fleet flying for decades to come.

No cause has been determined. Officials at the base said it could take six months to complete the investigation.

The bomber took off shortly before noon on a clear day, heading southwest into the prevailing winds. It flew straight and crashed on the same 15,000-foot (4,572-meter) runway. The compact wreckage indicates the plane dropped sharply.

Officials have not yet released the names of the crash victims.

Lauren Smith told Eyewitness News KBAK-CBS and FOX58 that her husband, Jeromy Smith, was among the victims. He was a flight test engineer for the U.S. Department of Defense and died doing what he loved, she said.

"It is such a horrible hurt, and I'm still processing everything that happened," she said.

The airfield remained closed Tuesday. Crews were making the crash site safe for search and recovery teams to enter, after fires flared up overnight, said Mike Paoli, a spokesperson for the 412 Test Wing at Edwards.

The aircraft was supporting a "radar modernization program," Col. James Hayes, the deputy commander for the 412 Test Wing, said Monday. In 2025, Boeing sent a B-52 to Edwards with a modernized radar system that is key to keeping the bomber in the air through at least 2050, nearly a century after it first entered service.

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. It was unclear if that was the same aircraft involved in Monday's crash.

AESA replaced 1960s radar technology and offers improved navigation and targeting capabilities, according to a 2023 news release from Raytheon, which designed the new system for the Air Force's entire B-52 fleet.

B-52 began flying in the 1950s

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

Along with a new radar, the fleet of 76 B-52s are scheduled to receive additional upgrades, including new engines, crew compartments, conventional and nuclear communication systems, avionics and weapons. The military said the goal is to make the B-52 a complement to the Air Force's newest strategic bomber,

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the B-21 Raider.

Aerial footage showed virtually nothing left of the aircraft that went down at the base in the Mojave Desert about 100 miles (161 km) northeast of Los Angeles. Officials determined no one could have survived after reviewing footage of the crash, Hayes said at a news conference.

Those on the B-52 included government contractors, Boeing employees and uniformed military.

Edwards is home to the 412th Test Wing, which conducts regular developmental testing of all Air Force aircraft, weapons systems, software and components before purchase by the service as well as throughout their life span. Test missions take place at Edwards daily, Hayes said.

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

Investigators will closely examine the flight controls and engines

Aviation safety experts have said their first thoughts about what might have caused the crash were about a malfunction in the flight controls or engines, but it is way too early to know. And investigators will consider a myriad of factors, including the age and maintenance of the plane.

J. Joseph, a retired Marine Corps colonel and airline pilot, said that even in a B-52 with eight engines, a malfunction can make the plane difficult to control if the pilot loses the outboard engines, and the forces pushing the plane get out of balance in a condition Joseph called asymmetric thrust. Although if there is time, the pilots can adjust the other throttles to rebalance the forces.

Heather Penney, a former F-16 combat pilot and aviation expert, said she knew one of the people who died aboard the B-52 personally — reinforcing how tragic this crash is for the close-knit community of military aviators. She declined to name the person before officials do.

She said it is unlikely that pilot error caused this crash given the expert training and experience of the test pilots on this flight. The age of the B-52 also opens up the possibility of problems with the structure of the plane.

"The youngest B- 52 was delivered to the Air Force in 1962. That was before the Cuban missile crisis, before the first man walked on the moon, before we had personal computers," said Penney, who is director of Studies and Research at The Mitchell Institute for Aerospace Studies. "These are old airplanes. They're structurally robust, but they are old aircraft. So structural failure can't be ruled out."

All the modernization efforts and upgrades that have been made to the B-52s over the decades have extended the life of these planes. At some point, these bombers will have to be replaced, but for now they continue to play a crucial role for the Air Force.

"The B-52 fleet that we have today, is the backbone of America's bomber force. It's over 50% of our bomber force, and it can go further, have larger payload, and stay airborne longer without refueling than any of our other bombers," Penney said. "There's no other bomber in our force has the attributes of the B-52. It's been a workhorse. It's going to continue to be a workhorse."

World Cup what to know: Ronaldo looks to make history by scoring in 6th World Cup

By STEVE REED AP Sports Writer

Cristiano Ronaldo, your turn.

The 41-year-old is set to enter the World Cup on Wednesday when Portugal meets Congo after impressive performances by the tournament's other top stars.

France's Kylian Mbappé and Erling Haaland of Norway each had two goals as they opened their World Cup campaigns on Tuesday, while Lionel Messi scored a hat trick for Argentina. That gave Messi 16 career goals in the World Cup, tying him with Germany's Miroslav Klose for the all-time record.

Ronaldo is also looking to make history by becoming the first player to score in six World Cups. Messi, too, is playing in his sixth World Cup but failed to find the net in 2010.

"Well, I wish him the best — I hope that he scores but not against us," Congo coach Sébastien Desabre said of the Portugal forward.

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Ronaldo's focus has been on his team's success.

"We go match by match, but not with the expectations of winning it all," Ronaldo told reporters in Portugal last week before the team's departure. "It has to be step by step. A good start is the most important thing,"

Some Portugal supporters question whether the aging star will be a help or a detriment to the team.

After scoring just once in the 2022 World Cup in Qatar, Ronaldo was upset after he subbed off against South Korea and benched for the club's first knockout-stage match against Switzerland. He also failed to score in the 2024 European Championship — the first time that has happened at a major international tournament.

But Ronaldo has also shown signs of his old productivity.

He scored eight goals during Portugal's 2025 UEFA Nations League title, including an equalizer in the final against Spain. And, he recently won his first Saudi Pro League title with Al-Nassr, scoring a club-high 28 goals.

What to watch on June 17

— Portugal vs. Congo, 1 p.m. EDT in Houston (Fox/Telemundo/Peacock)

— England vs. Croatia, 4 p.m. EDT in Arlington, Texas (FS1/Telemundo/Peacock)

— Ghana vs. Panama, 7 p.m. EDT in Toronto (FS1/Telemundo/Peacock)

— Uzbekistan vs. Colombia, 10 p.m. EDT in Mexico City (FS1/Telemundo/Peacock)

Kane, England seek strong World Cup start vs. Croatia

Harry Kane, one of the world's dominant goal scorers, leads England into its first match against Croatia with the Three Lions seeking their first World Cup title since 1966, when they won on home soil.

Kane has been a force over the past year with 61 goals in 51 matches for Bayern Munich across all competitions. The 32-year-old striker has eight goals in two previous World Cups and won the Golden Boot in 2018 by scoring six times in Russia.

But he didn't score in England's semifinal loss to Croatia in 2018. In 2022, he missed a penalty late against France in a 2-1 semifinal loss in Qatar when he sent the ball over the crossbar.

Kane's eight World Cup goals are two shy of Gary Lineker's England record.

Ghana to be without Partey for opener after appeal denied

Ghana will play its opening match against Panama without midfielder Thomas Partey after a Canadian judge on Tuesday rejected a bid to allow him into the country as he awaits trial on rape charges.

Partey's visa application was denied last week.

He will remain in the United States while his teammates play in Toronto on Wednesday. He will be eligible to play in Ghana's next two matches — both in the U.S.

Ghana's Ministry of Foreign Affairs had criticized the visa denial, calling it a "high-handed and extremely unfair decision." Its appeal was heard by the court earlier Tuesday.

Partey is awaiting trial in Britain while facing allegations from several women dating to his time playing for Arsenal from 2020-25. He has pleaded not guilty.

England's Livramento will miss tournament with injury

England fullback Tino Livramento was ruled out of the World Cup on Tuesday because of a calf injury, forcing coach Thomas Tuchel into a late squad change ahead of his team's opener against Croatia.

Chelsea defender Trevoh Chalobah was called up as a replacement and due to head to the England training camp in Kansas City. Livramento was injured during training on Sunday.

"A subsequent scan and medical assessment on Monday unfortunately confirmed he could play no further part in England's tournament," it said in a statement.

Uzbekistan ready to make World Cup debut

Uzbekistan will mark the biggest moment in the country's soccer history on Wednesday when it participates in its first World Cup, facing Colombia.

Coached by Fabio Cannavaro, Italy's 2006 World Cup-winning captain and a former Ballon d'Or winner, Uzbekistan finished second in Asian qualifying to earn its way into the expanded 48-team field.

Colombia is back in the World Cup after failing to qualify in 2022.

More World Cup news

- France striker Kylian Mbappé scores 13th and 14th World Cup goals, moving into tie for 3rd all time
- US official says Iran knew team would have to leave shortly after match
- Social media star Tim Payne leaves New Zealand for Paraguay's Olimpia
- Tunisia fires coach Sabri Lamouchi after 1 match at the World Cup and appoints Herve Renard
- US forward Christian Pulisic practices on his own in calf injury rehab, team says he is 'day to day'
- This Sweden defender at the World Cup isn't your typical soccer player: He's a baron!
- Highlights from Day 6 in photos

Stats of the day

England has struggled against European opposition at the global showcase, losing six of its last eight matches. Its overall record versus UEFA teams at the World Cup includes 14 wins, 12 losses and 13 ties.

Trump ramps up Education Department's dismantling with changes on special education and civil rights

By ANNIE MA AP Education Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's administration on Tuesday accelerated its dismantling of the Education Department, delegating much of its work to protect the nation's at-risk students.

The Department of Justice will take on enforcement of civil rights in education, while the Department of Health and Human Services will oversee special education, administration officials announced. With those moves, the Education Department has now carved away the vast majority of its functions for other agencies to handle.

The two Education Department offices involved — the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services and the Office for Civil Rights — defend the rights of children with disabilities and those who experience discrimination based on race, sex or religion. Advocates worry the change could mean lapses in communication for families and school officials who need help.

Trump, a Republican, campaigned on shutting down the Education Department, saying he would "move education back to the states where it belongs." While only Congress can close the department, Trump's education secretary, Linda McMahon, a billionaire and former CEO of World Wrestling Entertainment, has formed agreements with other federal agencies to handle much of her department's work.

McMahon said the agreements align federal responsibilities with the agencies best positioned to support them.

"The Trump Administration has been clear: as we scale back federal micromanagement when it hinders success, we are equally committed to bolstering the efficacy of federal oversight where it is essential," McMahon said in a written statement.

Critics warn of impacts to student services

Advocates said the changes would create uncertainty around services relied upon by millions of students and families.

"As is too often the case, traditionally underserved students — including students with disabilities, Black and Latino students, multilingual learners, students from low-income backgrounds, and students in rural communities — will bear the greatest burden created by this reckless decision, to which the disability and civil rights communities have already been vehemently opposed," said a written statement from EdTrust, a Washington, D.C.-based think tank that advocates for educational equity.

The Education Department already has offloaded some of its programs through 10 earlier internal agreements, but the offices affected by Tuesday's announcement were among the most closely watched.

The Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services manages billions of dollars in grants and oversees state compliance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. The Office for Civil Rights, which has been thinned by mass layoffs, investigates complaints of discrimination at the nation's schools and universities.

The Department of Justice also will take over work protecting student privacy and will provide some

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training and advisory help to schools.

While Justice and Health and Human Services will handle over most day-to-day duties of the assigned offices, the Education Department will continue to perform some tasks, such as responding to audits and issuing final determinations in civil rights cases, which it is explicitly required to do by law.

Rep. Bobby Scott, D-Va., ranking member of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce, said the announcement Tuesday was a political one intended to fulfill the president's campaign promise. The changes, he said, will likely widen inequities for students of color and students with disabilities.

The agreements are scattering education programs to agencies that do not have the expertise to manage them, said Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash.

"Instead of helping kids get a great education, this administration is spending its time, energy, and taxpayer resources fixated on where employees sit and illegally trying to shutter the Department of Education," Murray said in a written statement.

Rachel Gittleman, president of the union that represents department employees, said the moves will create chaos for families, students and schools.

"This will leave our most vulnerable students and families who have been shut out of our education system without the services they need and without protection when they face discrimination," Gittleman said in a written statement.

Families of students with disabilities opposed the decision

The transfer of special education to Health and Human Services most alarmed disability advocates, who say oversight of whether schools are adequately serving children with disabilities is best handled by education experts — not medical experts.

"The IDEA is intended to equip students as they learn alongside their peers, not cure them — the HHS is not prepared to oversee and administer the IDEA program effectively. Health and education systems speak in entirely different languages, including variations in terminology, training and disciplines," said Jennifer Coco, interim executive director of the Center for Learner Equity.

The Education Department said McMahon spent over six months in listening sessions with families, advocates and educators to better understand concerns around how the department's dismantling could affect special education. Many families raised concerns about obstacles to obtaining proper services for their children, but Coco said participants in those sessions were united in their opposition to moving special education oversight out of the Education Department.

"I think we agree on the problem," Coco said. "We have stark disagreement on the solution and these transfers today don't feel like a solution to that problem."

AP Exclusive: Nvidia's Jensen Huang says society needs 'new social norms' in the age of AI

By JOSH BOAK Associated Press

SHERMAN, Texas (AP) — Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang — whose work helped propel artificial intelligence — stressed in an Associated Press interview Tuesday that society needs to change with the advent of AI, arguing that a fuller embrace of the technology would improve people's lives.

Huang has been optimistic about AI's potential to rapidly transform society, creating faster economic growth and more scientific breakthroughs. But as the head of a computer chip company now developing AI systems, he and others are confronting a public increasingly concerned about the potential harm the technology might bring. Huang has felt obligated to respond to critics who warn of job losses and threats to humanity itself.

"We need to create new social norms," Huang said in an interview. "I would advocate that everybody use AI. Just go engage it."

Huang made his case as AI has emerged as a political flashpoint, with objections to plans to build more data centers and fears that the speed with which it's being adopted could spur the layoffs of workers who might not have a safety net. Such questions have threatened public support of the technology at a time

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when a race has kicked off with China, a contest Huang believes can best be won by a U.S. that is open to competing globally in AI.

His close relationship with President Donald Trump also has been a source of criticism among Democrats, even as he emphasized that the computing power created by AI is vital to adding the factory jobs that have been promised for decades without much enduring success. It was an argument delivered by a 63-year-old man who has watched the technology develop and described himself as "boring" because his own life revolves mainly around work and his family.

Huang disclosed during the interview some personal details, saying his favorite movie is "Kingdom of Heaven," the 2005 epic about the 12th century Crusader Kingdom of Jerusalem. He said he had watched the movie "Project Hail Mary" three or four times and "I think we might watch it again this weekend."

Huang said the ability of AI to design a website, analyze complex documents, guide advanced research or even plan a kitchen remodeling has helped to close the technological divide in America. People can now do advanced work on computers without having to know how to program or write software, he added.

Huang contended that there is a need for some government regulation and safety standards for AI, emphasizing that national security also needed to be a priority for the technology that has been powering stock market gains and U.S. economic growth in recent years.

Huang said society will adapt to AI just as it did to automobiles. He said cars were once portrayed as killing children, but the world changed its norms by having sidewalks and crosswalks and stopping kids from playing in the streets.

Huang skeptical of what government ownership of AI companies would achieve

With a market capitalization of roughly \$5 trillion, Nvidia has soared in valuation in recent years to become the world's most valuable company. AI modeling companies OpenAI and Anthropic are potentially set to also clear the \$1 trillion mark once their stocks are publicly traded.

That explosive surge in wealth concentrated in AI companies has prompted renewed worries about economic inequality. Trump has tried to defuse those concerns, recently musing about the prospect that the U.S. government could own some shares in AI firms, so any windfalls would be more broadly shared with the public. That idea has also been advanced by Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., and even OpenAI CEO Sam Altman.

Huang expressed skepticism about the idea, saying he expects the country will already benefit broadly from AI advancements.

"I'm not exactly sure what they're trying to achieve," he said regarding government ownership. "I haven't had a dialogue with them about that. But just remember that these are American companies. Their success benefits the stock price, of which many Americans are investors in. It generates taxes, which helps many Americans. It creates a lot of jobs."

He noted that AI companies could also lead to higher profits for energy, construction and hardware technology firms.

"Americans have a stake in American companies already, naturally, in a whole lot of different ways," Huang said.

Huang says national security needs to be a priority on AI

The Trump administration has recently reversed course from using a light touch on regulating AI to taking a heavier hand.

It placed export controls on the AI company Anthropic's latest models, leading the company on Friday to shutter all public access to those models over security concerns. Trump, a Republican, also signed an order to have new AI models voluntarily screened by the government before their release.

Huang said the government was properly focused on national security issues, but it was important to provide clear guidance.

"National security should always be the top concern of all technologies," Huang said. "But having said that, you know, you have to be very specific about the risk that you're concerned about, before setting up policies for export controls."

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During the Biden administration, Nvidia pushed back against export controls that were designed to restrict its ability to sell chips to China, rejecting the administration's premise that a ban would preserve an American edge on AI. Huang had warned that the export controls might limit America's ability to develop the world's AI ecosystem, as China would respond with its own advanced chips.

Huang says energy is key problem for America's AI development

Huang stressed that the U.S. is vulnerable because of its deficient energy supply. The data centers performing the computations used in AI are creating a huge demand for electricity, which could be a strain on the power grid.

Some data centers will be constructed with their own electricity sources, but Huang said the U.S. is starting from a disadvantage on energy. And without more energy, it can be harder to play to American strengths in its AI infrastructure, models and computer chip development.

"The United States is woefully behind in energy production," Huang said. "We just suffocated energy production for too long."

Huang complimented Trump on his approach to generating more energy in the U.S.. The president has aggressively supported the use of oil, coal and natural gas, but he has scorned the use of solar and wind power.

The Nvidia CEO was not commenting on Trump's opposition to climate-friendlier energy sources. But the gap he identified goes to some of the fears that U.S. households have about AI increasing their utility bills.

Huang was speaking Tuesday in Sherman, Texas, at an expansion of the Coherent factory to develop a laser for transmitting data among chips, which could cut power use by AI systems by up to 50%.

Trump's fondness for Huang started at a Mar-a-Lago dinner

Trump, not known for technological expertise, quickly developed a friendship with Huang. The president has called him "smart" and "amazing," insisting that Huang accompany him on foreign trips. Most recently, Trump had Air Force One pick up the leather-jacketed CEO in Alaska while en route to his state visit to China.

Their relationship started last year with an invitation to dinner at Mar-a-Lago, Trump's home and private club in Florida. Huang was in the area to receive the Edison Achievement Award for his AI work.

"He says drop by for dinner, and so I did," Huang said. He went with his wife, Lori.

"He was incredibly engaging, incredibly charismatic, conversational, asked a lot of questions," Huang recalled. "From the moment that I met him, the only thing that he's ever talked to me about is creating more jobs, reindustrializing the United States, protecting national security, winning." He added that Trump "calls me in the middle of the night and wants to talk about one of these topics."

But his proximity to Trump has also led to criticism from Democratic lawmakers. Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., objected to Huang not testifying before a Senate committee even as "he has time to attend a \$1 million-a-head dinner at Mar-a-Lago."

Huang said he wants the U.S. president and other officials — regardless of party — to succeed. "We could differ with politics, but we should want him to succeed," he said. "Because when President Trump succeeds, our country succeeds."

Authorities say they disrupted planned drone, gun attack on White House UFC cage-fighting show

By ERIC TUCKER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Law enforcement officials disrupted a planned attack targeting President Donald Trump's UFC cage-fighting show at the White House this past weekend, according to court papers unsealed Tuesday that say plotters who harbored fringe conspiracy theories spoke of flying explosives-laden drones and shooting panicked crowd members as they fled.

Investigators recovered high-powered firearms from several of the suspects and reviewed encrypted text messages between roughly 20 participants who shared detailed maps and aerial photographs of the area and discussed the need for a "safe house" and escape routes after the intended attack, the documents show.

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But it's unclear from the court records how close the would-be attackers could have come to being able to carry out the plan had it not been thwarted.

Several suspects or co-conspirators who were questioned by the authorities said they did not intend themselves to carry out violence but planned to instead observe others. One said he would have traveled to the UFC event as a protester but had to return home after his vehicle malfunctioned. And though the participants spoke of using drones rigged with explosives, charging documents suggest they were still looking to acquire such equipment when the plot was interrupted.

"It didn't even get close to the point of execution," Vice President JD Vance said Tuesday evening on Fox News Channel, describing the planning as "not that advanced."

"They weren't in town. They had not really done that much planning," he said.

United by conspiracy theories and anger over the country's direction

Law enforcement officials learned about the possible threat on June 10, four days before the mixed martial arts extravaganza on the White House's South Lawn, "and thanks to the rapid action of the FBI, our partners, and the Department of Justice in a multi-state operation, multiple individuals are now in custody and allegedly planned attacks were stopped cold," Director Kash Patel said in a post on X on Tuesday.

Five people from states including Ohio, Missouri, Nebraska and California were arrested on federal charges, the Justice Department said.

Asked about the arrests Tuesday, Vance said there was "more violent rhetoric coming from the left than the right these days." But the charging documents paint a more muddled view of their views, depicting them as espousing a tangled web of anti-government sentiment, antisemitic grievances, fury over the Trump administration's handling of the Jeffrey Epstein files and conspiracy theories about a powerful elite that sacrifices and consumes children.

Both Trump and Vance said they had not been briefed in advance of the plot. A top Secret Service official suggested Tuesday the investigation was continuing and an announcement might have been premature.

"Anyone that believes that case was worked in a bubble is naive," Deputy Secret Service Director Matthew Quinn told reporters at an unrelated news conference. "I'll tell you the Secret Service led that investigation from the beginning. I'll tell you that it's ongoing. In order to maintain the integrity of the investigation and the security plan, we chose not to leak it."

Communications took place on TikTok and Signal

Among those arrested was Tycen Proper, a 19-year-old Ohio man whose mother contacted law enforcement last week with concerns about his firearms purchases and online communications, according to an FBI affidavit filed in the case.

Proper told officials he participated in the planning of an attack, according to the affidavit, which says some members of the group began communicating with each other last March through a TikTok group called "Vanguard of the Old."

"The members of the group stated that they wanted to protect the United States, which they believed was headed in the wrong direction," the affidavit says. "Members of the group believed that the United States needed to be torn down so that it could be rebuilt. Some expressed a desire that people who were involved with Jeffrey Epstein should not govern the country."

Trump, who celebrated his 80th birthday at the UFC event on Sunday, was friends with Epstein many years ago but has said he ended their relationship before the disgraced financier's crimes became known. Epstein killed himself in a New York jail cell in 2019 as he awaited trial on sex trafficking charges.

A lawyer for Proper, who is charged with firearms offenses and crimes including attempted murder of an officer or employee of the United States, did not immediately return a message seeking comment.

The logistics were discussed via Signal, an app that uses end-to-end encryption for its messaging and calling services, through a primary chat of "approximately 19 individuals" and smaller side chats, authorities said. Messages obtained from Proper's phone show he identified by name several Republican lawmakers he said should be targeted because they apparently received donations from causes supportive of Israel, the affidavit said.

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Proper told law enforcement officials that he had been planning to drive with weapons and body armor to a meet-up spot in Fredericksburg, Virginia, court papers say. He said though he did not intend to shoot people at the White House, others in the group did, the affidavit said.

The plan called for the use of drones that would be detonated over the north side of the White House, prompting an evacuation into the line of fire of waiting snipers in an attack Proper said was designed to "jumpstart" a revolution, authorities said.

Investigators who examined Proper's phone and TikTok account identified additional suspects.

Michael Alan Thomas, 32, of Pinon Hills, California, told officials he viewed himself as "the planner and advisor for the group, and while he was not willing to take action himself, wanted to guide and instruct others on how to carry out attacks" designed to overthrow the government, an FBI agent said in an affidavit.

The agent said Thomas believed the U.S. government was "run by an elite group of individuals who sacrifice and consume infants who also were deeply involved" with Epstein and are now protected by Trump.

Another suspect, Bryan Omar Roa, also of California, told the FBI he had planned to attend the event as a "protester" but he had to return home because his car was broken, an agent said.

It was not immediately clear who their lawyers were.

Two other suspects were identified as Daniel K. Eskridge, 32, of Kidder, Missouri, who officials say said in a group chat that a target of the attack should be "big and someone a majority of the country knows," and Abraham Hermosillo Alvarez, an Omaha, Nebraska, man who the FBI said posted detailed plans with the co-conspirators.

A lawyer for Alvarez declined to comment and a lawyer for Eskridge did not immediately return a message seeking comment.

US strike on an alleged drug boat kills 1, leaves 2 survivors in the eastern Pacific Ocean

The U.S. military attacked a boat accused of smuggling drugs in the eastern Pacific Ocean on Tuesday, killing one man and leaving two survivors, as the Trump administration continues its monthslong campaign against alleged traffickers in Latin America.

The latest attack brings the number of people who have been killed in boat strikes by the U.S. military to at least 208 since the Trump administration began targeting those it calls "narcoterrorists" in early September.

As with most of the military's statements on strikes in the eastern Pacific Ocean and Caribbean Sea, U.S. Southern Command said it targeted the alleged drug traffickers along known smuggling routes. The military did not provide evidence that the vessel was ferrying drugs. A video posted on X showed a boat traveling in the water before being hit by the strike and bursting into flames.

Southern Command said it "immediately notified U.S. Coast Guard to activate the Search and Rescue system for the survivors."

President Donald Trump has said the U.S. is in "armed conflict" with cartels in Latin America and has justified the attacks as a necessary escalation to stem the flow of drugs into the United States and fatal overdoses claiming American lives. But his administration has offered little evidence to support its claims of killing "narcoterrorists."

Critics have questioned the overall legality of the boat strikes as well as their effectiveness, in part because the fentanyl behind many fatal overdoses is typically trafficked to the U.S. over land from Mexico, where it is produced with chemicals imported from China and India.

The strikes have drawn intense scrutiny from some Democratic lawmakers and military legal scholars. The U.S. military's first strike in early September drew particular concern from some lawmakers and those who study military law.

Two men on the boat initially survived the attack that killed nine others, and they were clinging to the wreckage when the vessel was struck again, killing them. The White House confirmed the follow-up strike, insisting it was done "in self-defense" to ensure the boat was destroyed and in accordance with the laws

of armed conflict.

But some legal scholars said a second strike killing survivors would have been illegal under any circumstance, armed conflict or not.

The Pentagon's watchdog said in May that it plans to look into whether the U.S. military followed an established targeting framework when carrying out the strikes.

However, the evaluation is focused specifically on what's known as the six-phase Joint Targeting Cycle and not on the legality of the strikes, the inspector general's office said.

Federal government seeks to halt the first U.S. reparations program for Black people

By SAFIYAH RIDDLE Associated Press

The federal government on Tuesday asked a judge to halt the United States' first reparations program that offered Black people in a small Illinois city \$25,000 for 20th century race-based housing discrimination, joining an existing lawsuit that called the program unconstitutional.

The program, launched in Evanston, Illinois in 2021, is the first and only one of its kind in the U.S., allotting \$20 million to Black residents — their direct descendants — who lived in the city between 1919 and 1969 and suffered housing discrimination because of city ordinances, policies or practices. Residents, regardless of race, who experienced discrimination due to the city's policies or practices after 1969 also qualified.

The city has already distributed over \$7 million — using revenue from a local tax on legal marijuana sales — to hundreds of people in \$25,000 increments to be used for home repairs, down payments on property, and interest or late penalties on property in the city.

The U.S. Department of Justice called the program "racially discriminatory" in a court filing Tuesday, saying that it violated the Equal Protection Clause of the U.S. Constitution because it allotted different benefits on the basis of race.

"There are sound ways for a city to remedy past discrimination or direct resources to its most vulnerable citizens and neighborhoods. Simply handing out money based on race, however, is not the answer," Harmeet Dhillon, the assistant attorney general of the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division, said in a statement.

Approximately 14% of the city's roughly 76,000 residents are Black, according to the U.S. Census, with 11% identifying as more than one race. A majority of the city's Black residents live in the city's Fifth and Second Wards, which are historically low-income areas, according to a 2024 study on the reparations program.

Reparations have long been a hot topic

Reparations has been a hot-button issue across the country since the abolition of slavery in 1865. But it has become especially polarizing in recent years after momentum grew for similar programs across the country in the wake of George Floyd's death in police custody in 2020. At least five states, including California, New York and Maryland, and more than a dozen cities, including Boston, Detroit and Philadelphia, have created task forces or commissions to study slavery reparations. But none have gone as far as Evanston to actually distribute resources.

Robin Rue Simmons, who pioneered the program in Evanston and now leads the committee that presides over the funds, said that the lawsuit and the federal government's support is a "fear tactic" aimed at dissuading other governments from pursuing similar programs.

Michael Bekesha, one of the attorneys who initially sued the City of Evanston on behalf of six plaintiffs in May 2024, said in an interview that applicants weren't required to demonstrate that they were specifically harmed by the City of Evanston, leaving race as the only criteria. His clients would all be eligible for the program if they were Black, he said.

Bekesha said Evanston's program is different from those in the past, pointing to the program that compensated Japanese people after the U.S. government imprisoned over 100,000 people in internment camps during World War II, or the people in Chicago who were paid after being tortured by the city's

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police department between the 1970s and the early 1990s.

"Reparations programs aren't new, but they've always been lawful, they've always been connected to specific harms, specific injuries suffered by specific individuals," Bekesha said. "And here in Evanston, there is no connection between the individuals receiving the money and any action taken by the city of Evanston at any point."

Simmons vehemently disputed the idea that the program wasn't tailored to specific historical policies. She said redlining policies across the city between 1919 and 1969 harmed Black communities for generations, mirroring a prevalent practice nationwide wherein banks and property owners wouldn't sell or rent to Black families in areas with more wealth. Those policies, she said, often limited access to high-paying jobs, healthcare and education.

"Evanston has set a new precedent. It has shown that racial reparations are possible," Simmons said.

Conservatives reject race-based reparations

The Trump administration's move to halt the program is in lockstep with a broader conservative rejection of race-based reparations, and it is a decisive shift from former President Joe Biden's broad support of a congressional inquiry into ways to address the government's long history of racial subjugation.

It is also a departure from prevailing attitudes among international governing bodies like the United Nations, which recently adopted a resolution that urged countries to implement reparations for the trafficking of Africans into slavery around the world. The U.S. was one of three countries that rejected the measure, with the United Kingdom and all 27 European Union countries abstaining from the vote.

Iran says the initial deal to end the war with the US requires Israel to withdraw from Lebanon

By JON GAMBRELL, SAM METZ and SAMY MAGDY Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Iran's top diplomat said Tuesday that the tentative deal to end the war with the United States would require Israel to withdraw from Lebanon — a condition Israel has already rejected and that could sink the agreement, leading to the resumption of all-out war.

The deal, which is between the U.S. and Iran, has not been made public, and officials have sometimes offered contradictory interpretations of what is in it. While Israel is not party to the agreement, it is part of the war after joining the U.S. in launching strikes on Iran on Feb. 28. Israel also has fought the Iran-backed Hezbollah militant group in Lebanon and seized large swaths of that country.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said Israel's continued occupation of southern Lebanon would violate the deal.

"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.

A U.S. official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss outlines of the agreement, has said the deal does not call for an Israeli withdrawal. And Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Monday that Israel would remain in Lebanon "as long as necessary."

The negotiations to end the war have been plagued by such disagreements before, leading to a prolonged but uneasy ceasefire that has failed to develop into a permanent end to hostilities and has left the Strait of Hormuz, a crucial waterway for the world's energy supplies, effectively shut.

Switzerland's foreign ministry said the signing ceremony for the deal will take place Friday at the Bürgenstock resort near the city of Luzern.

Iran's call for an Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon complicates any deal

Pakistan has said the deal called for an end to military operations, including in Lebanon, as Iran long insisted. But Araghchi's call for an Israeli withdrawal adds a new wrinkle.

It puts Israel into a dilemma as it tries to degrade Hezbollah's military capabilities without undermining an agreement championed by its most important ally, the United States. Israel invaded southern Lebanon after Hezbollah fired missiles across the border during the first week of the war. Since then, it has expanded its military footprint to levels unseen in decades and struck targets deep inside Beirut.

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Though Hezbollah has been weakened, it retains the ability to strike Israel, leaving open questions about the effectiveness of Israel's campaign.

As of Tuesday evening, Netanyahu had not seen the memorandum of understanding between the U.S. and Iran, said a person familiar with the situation, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss closed-door details. Another person, who also spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss private conversations between Israel and the U.S., said Israeli officials have not asked U.S. negotiators for the memorandum.

Netanyahu's office did not immediately respond to a request for comment. The White House declined to comment on whether Netanyahu or Israeli officials have reviewed the agreement.

The Israeli ambassador to the U.S., Yechiel Leiter, told NPR that while Israel does not know the details of the deal, the apparent inclusion of Lebanon is "unnecessary and unhelpful."

The extent of Israel's strikes has at times opened a public fracture between its leaders. U.S. President Donald Trump told reporters Tuesday that he was "not happy with the way Israel has handled themselves with Lebanon and with Hezbollah."

"It just goes on forever," he said of Israel's strategy. Israeli strikes in Lebanon have killed nearly 4,000 people, including hundreds of civilians, and displaced more than 1 million.

"Israel's fighting Hezbollah too long, and too many people are being killed," Trump said.

Lebanese government welcomes prospects for a ceasefire

Israel and the Lebanese government have entered their own U.S.-mediated direct negotiations, of which Hezbollah was not part. Those talks have yielded several announced ceasefires that were never implemented on the ground.

Lebanese officials initially tried to keep Lebanon separate from the U.S.-Iran negotiations, not wanting to be seen as beholden to Iran, but they have since welcomed the announcement that the deal to end the U.S.-Iran war would include a ceasefire in Lebanon.

Araghchi's latest comments appear to match the understanding of two regional officials with direct knowledge of the interim deal. The officials, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss the closed-door negotiations, said it would require Israel to leave nearly all the territory it occupies in Lebanon, minus a few hilltop points along the border seized earlier.

The officials say Iran insisted the accord include Lebanon in the last days of the negotiations.

The U.N. peacekeeping force in Lebanon known as UNIFIL reported that Israel and Hezbollah are still exchanging fire but at a "significantly reduced level," U.N. spokesperson Stephane Dujarric said Tuesday.

Many questions loom ahead of ceremonial signing

Other major questions hang over the planned ceremonial signing.

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

The agreement provides for the "immediate" opening of the Strait of Hormuz and the lifting of the American naval blockade of Iranian ports, according to a senior U.S. official who spoke to reporters Monday on condition of anonymity to discuss outlines of the agreement.

At least two oil tankers left Iran on Tuesday and crossed the U.S. military blockade without being stopped, ship tracking websites show. They represented Iran's first crude oil exports in two months, merchant ship-tracking website TankerTrackers.com said.

The site said it corroborated the departure of the Iranian-flagged tankers Diona and Hero II with satellite imagery and that they were carrying a combined total of 3.8 million barrels of Iranian crude oil. U.S. Central Command said it had no comment.

Next, the U.S. and Iran will begin 60 days of negotiations over Iran's nuclear program and the potential lifting of sanctions, Pakistani officials who helped broker the interim deal said, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss the unpublished text.

The pact also includes the possibility of releasing Iran's frozen funds and a \$300 billion fund to help rebuild Iran if Tehran meets certain benchmarks, senior U.S. officials told reporters Monday. Trump later said the United States would not "invest" funds in Iran.

U.S. officials have not yet explained how they see the agreement addressing Iran's nuclear program,

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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.

Iran has agreed to discuss ways to possibly "dilute or remove" the uranium, the regional officials said. However, it remains unclear whether Tehran would agree to that, particularly with hard-liners opposed.

Trump said he's open to sending the emerging agreement to the U.S. Congress for review. Republicans on Capitol Hill say they want Trump to provide more information about the agreement, with some expressing skepticism that the deal can deter Iran from pursuing a nuclear weapon.

A person is in custody in a Chicago cross burning investigation, police say

By ED WHITE Associated Press

A person is in custody in an investigation of a large cross set on fire in a well-known Chicago park, police said Tuesday.

The burning cross was discovered June 9 in Grant Park, where Barack Obama delivered his acceptance speech when he was elected the nation's first Black president in 2008.

A man identifying himself as a 21-year-old college student told WMAQ-TV that he was the shirtless person in an image distributed by police when they were looking for a suspect. But police did not immediately say Tuesday if he's the person in custody. The man said he was protesting President Donald Trump and not making a racist statement.

"I did know about this historical relevance beforehand. But I didn't know the severity, how racially motivated it may seem from what I did," the man told the TV station. "Cause my protest has nothing to do with race, nothing to do with gender."

Cross burnings in the U.S. have historically been seen as symbols of hate and intimidation against Black people and have often been connected to the Ku Klux Klan.

The Chicago Police Department's communications office confirmed that a person was in custody in connection with the case, but no other details were released. An email seeking comment from the prosecutor's office was sent Tuesday.

"I can't speak to anyone's motives. We can only speak to the impact. And the impact was devastating," Mayor Brandon Johnson, who is Black, said when asked about the cross and the man's remarks to WMAQ.

The man interviewed by the TV station said he was protesting the "ruling class" and Christian nationalists who support Trump. He said he put a red hat on the cross to signify a MAGA hat worn by the president's allies.

The man said he doesn't consider what he did a hate crime.

"I understand why it was interpreted that way, and I apologize for that, but no, the intent was not there," he said.

Gina Miranda Samuels, faculty director of the Center for the Study of Race, Politics and Culture at the University of Chicago, said the man seemed sincere that he was not trying to send a hateful message to Black people.

Nonetheless, she added, "it says a lot about how uninformed people can be" about certain symbols, "and that it would be acceptable to use a symbol of hatred and terror in this way."

The Rev. Michael Pfleger, senior pastor with the local Catholic church The Faith Community of Saint Sabina, said he doesn't buy that the man went to the trouble of making the cross but didn't know it was a symbol of hate.

"Your Lawyer Schooled you well," he said in a post on Facebook.

Officials from the church had posted on social media a \$10,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of anyone involved in the cross burning. ____ This story has been corrected to show that the man interviewed by WMAQ-TV said the hat on the cross was red, signifying a MAGA hat. It was not an actual MAGA hat.

Republican Gov. Mike DeWine wants Ohio to abolish the death penalty, saying it is not a deterrent

By JULIE CARR SMYTH and PATRICK AFTOORA-ORSAGOS Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Republican Gov. Mike DeWine, who has repeatedly postponed executions over the past seven years, said Tuesday that Ohio should abolish the death penalty, confirming his change of heart on the policy he helped write as a state legislator 45 years ago.

DeWine, 79, said during a news conference that data indicates the death penalty is not serving as a deterrent to violent crime, which he had always believed was its moral imperative.

"I do not believe that argument today can be successfully made, nor do I believe that there's any chance in the future the facts that I've cited to support that belief will change," he said. "Therefore, I believe Ohio should abolish the death penalty."

To bolster his case, DeWine brandished charts and graphs detailing the diminishing number of death sentences meted out by courts and showing the exceedingly long wait times that elapse as legal appeals play out for those on death row. He said condemned murderers are increasingly unlikely to ever be executed, sometimes dying by natural causes or by suicide before their execution date arrives.

"In summary, each decade that the death penalty has been in effect, the chances of a murderer getting executed get more and more and more remote," DeWine said.

He also cited years of pain brought to victims' loved ones by the delays and the toll taken on the mental health of state employees who serve on execution teams.

DeWine, facing a term limit in December, said he felt compelled to share his observations now, having had 50 years of experience with the issue from the time he was a young county prosecutor, through being a congressman and U.S. senator, then as Ohio's attorney general. But he said his outright opposition has only crystallized over the past year.

Divided reaction to DeWine's position

Headed into the announcement, any chance of a legislative repeal of the death penalty appeared unlikely. Republican House Speaker Matt Huffman has said he would oppose such an effort.

In repeatedly extending Ohio's unofficial death penalty moratorium by postponing scheduled executions, DeWine has cited pharmaceutical suppliers' unwillingness to provide the drugs used in lethal injections. In January 2025, President Donald Trump ordered then-U.S. Attorney General Pam Bondi to help states try to resolve that issue.

Interim Ohio Republican Attorney General Andy Wilson expressed relief that DeWine didn't choose to use commutations and that his office will continue working to uphold the current law.

DeWine has already said he expects no further executions during his term, but he said the compelling nature of the death penalty data remains the same whether you include the past seven years, when executions have been on hold, or not.

Kevin Werner, executive director of Ohioans to Stop Executions, said the governor's decision is in line with "an evolution on the death penalty" across the political spectrum in Ohio.

"Nobody supports a system that harms victim families, convicts innocent people and wastes millions of dollars without a shred of improved public safety," Werner said.

Abraham Bonowitz, executive director of Death Penalty Action, said his group had been anticipating DeWine's announcement, which he called "well-reasoned."

Kent Scheidegger, legal director of the Criminal Justice Legal Foundation, which supports the death penalty and crime victims' rights, said DeWine may be right that Ohio's death penalty isn't currently serving as a deterrent.

However, "what is needed is the political will and effective leadership," Scheidegger said.

Death penalty's future being debated nationally

The governor noted that Ohio is far from the only state where such trends exist. Use of and support for the death penalty has been on the decline nationally for two decades.

Currently, 27 states allow the death penalty and 23 do not, according to the Washington, D.C.-based

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Death Penalty Information Center. Ohio is among four states where executions are paused by executive action. The center reported in 2023 that more Americans now believe the death penalty is administered unfairly than fairly, a first.

Texas has executed 600 people since it resumed the death penalty in 1982. Republican state Rep. Jeff Leach, who has met with death row inmates and advocated for reforms, led a group of state lawmakers last year who successfully halted the first execution in the U.S. tied to a murder conviction for shaken baby syndrome.

Then-Illinois Gov. George Ryan, also a Republican, signed off on the execution of one killer then decided not to carry out any more. In virtually his last act as governor, he emptied death row with pardons and commutations in 2003. Numerous governors have commuted some number of death sentences or granted broad blanket clemency to condemned inmates in the years since to empty portions of their death rows.

But the nation remains divided.

Since 2019, Colorado, New Hampshire and Virginia have eliminated the death penalty, while five states have approved nitrogen gas executions since 2024 to get around issues with lethal injection protocols. Meanwhile, Trump pushes to expand federal executions. During his first term, Trump's administration carried out 13 federal executions, more than under any president in modern history.

DeWine's position has evolved over time

Pushing back execution dates has left Ohio with 30 scheduled over the next four years, according to the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction. Ohio hasn't put an inmate to death since July 18, 2018, the year before DeWine took office.

The state reinstated capital punishment in 1981 under a law co-written by DeWine. Ohio resumed death penalties in 1999, and 56 people have since died by lethal injection in the state.

DeWine's support has slowly shifted since his political career began in 1976. As attorney general, DeWine ordered the Ohio prison system to consider alternative lethal injection drugs. A year later, in 2020, he said lawmakers would have to choose a different method before any more inmates could be executed.

Since then, neither a bipartisan push to ban the practice nor a competing effort to bring nitrogen gas executions to Ohio has gone anywhere. A nitrogen gas execution in Alabama was halted last week, after the U.S. Supreme Court refused to set aside a lower-court ruling that found the method unconstitutionally cruel.

About Mike DeWine, the Republican Ohio governor who has called for an end to the death penalty

By JULIE CARR SMYTH Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Gov. Mike DeWine on Tuesday used his bully pulpit to call for an end to the death penalty in Ohio.

The 79-year-old Republican cited his expertise on the issue as a former county prosecutor, member of both chambers of Congress and Ohio attorney general, as well as his seven years as governor.

But DeWine's support for a policy change is far from assured to make waves, even in a state controlled by his own party. That is because DeWine is more moderate than many younger Republicans in the state, whose political aspirations rely on endorsements from President Donald Trump, a staunch death penalty supporter.

Here's a closer look at DeWine and his place in Ohio's political landscape:

Fifty years of experience with the death penalty

DeWine was first elected to public office in 1976, when he became prosecuting attorney in Greene County, where he grew up. He still lives in the historic home there where he and his wife, who had eight children, hosted a summer ice cream social each year to encourage and celebrate GOP candidates and officeholders. The event ended its 50-year run just last weekend.

When DeWine was elected to the state Senate in 1980, Ohio had no death penalty law. The old one had been declared unconstitutional, and DeWine was instrumental in writing the new one, which cleared

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both legislative chambers with overwhelming bipartisan majorities. It has been in effect now since 1981.

He said Tuesday that he always believed the moral justification for the death penalty was its potential to deter violent crime.

During his four terms in the U.S. House, DeWine supported federal legislation signed by President Ronald Reagan that expanded the number of crimes eligible for the death penalty. As a U.S. senator, he backed a bill signed by President Bill Clinton that attempted to speed up the review of capital cases in federal courts.

In between those positions, DeWine was lieutenant governor of Ohio under storied Republican Gov. James Rhodes.

He took a brief break from politics after losing a Senate reelection bid to Democrat Sherrod Brown in 2006, before being elected Ohio attorney general in 2010. In that role, he said Tuesday, he “vigorously” carried out the state’s death penalty law.

Since he became governor in 2019, problems obtaining lethal injection drugs have led to an unofficial moratorium on executions in the state, which last conducted one in 2018.

Uneven relationship with fellow Republicans

DeWine may be the titular head of the Ohio Republican Party, but that doesn’t mean his party always listens to him. Particularly in the Trump era, he has presided over a party rife with internal divisions.

Clashes became particularly fierce during the COVID-19 pandemic, when DeWine and then-state Health Director Amy Acton — now the Democratic nominee for governor — presided over one of the most rigorous virus responses in the country in early 2020. Within months, a faction of Republicans had mutinied against DeWine’s mandates, particularly over business closures, threatening to pass a bill limiting his powers or even to impeach him.

In 2023, after DeWine struck down a ban on gender-affirming care and transgender athletes participating in girls’ sports, the Republican-dominated state Legislature easily overrode his veto.

The divisions have also been seen in this year’s critical elections.

DeWine had tried to position popular former Ohio State Buckeyes football coach Jim Tressel as a potential successor, appointing the moderate Republican as lieutenant governor last year. But the state GOP rushed to back Trump-endorsed biotech billionaire Vivek Ramaswamy in the race in May 2025, before Tressel had even made up his mind whether to run. DeWine endorsed Ramaswamy in January.

DeWine said Tuesday that he had not shared his decision to call for an end to the death penalty with Ramaswamy, now the GOP gubernatorial nominee. The recent effort by the Trump administration to take on Medicaid fraud has found DeWine defending his administration’s work on the issue, even as Ramaswamy, Ohio-born Vice President JD Vance and GOP lawmakers take aim at Ohio’s existing fraud-fighting efforts.

Other Republican voices come to DeWine’s side

Among proponents of DeWine’s push to end the death penalty in Ohio were a host of fellow Republicans, including some staunch conservatives.

“For many years, I was a proponent of the death penalty,” former congresswoman and current state Rep. Jean Schmidt said in a statement. “My views changed because of the risks of executing an innocent person, the exorbitant costs, and my belief in the sanctity of life. The death penalty is no longer a policy worth preserving.”

Former Ohio Auditor and Attorney General Jim Petro cited wrongful convictions among the flaws that make the death penalty no longer tenable.

Former Ohio Gov. Bob Taft, the great-grandson of President William Howard Taft and grandson of “Mr. Republican” Sen. Robert A. Taft Sr., also sided with DeWine.

DeWine “has been thoughtful and given this issue the careful consideration it needs,” Taft said.

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Oil drops below \$80 per barrel, while tech stocks weigh on a mixed Wall Street

By STAN CHOE AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Oil prices sank again Tuesday and dropped below \$80 per barrel for the first time since early March, while U.S. stocks drifted near their all-time highs in mixed trading.

The S&P 500 slipped 0.6% and pulled 1.3% below its record set earlier this month. The market was nearly evenly split between stocks rising and falling, and the Dow Jones Industrial Average added 328 points, or 0.6%, to set a record for the second straight day. But drops for some influential tech stocks pulled the Nasdaq composite down 1.2%.

Stocks that had benefited from the boom in artificial-intelligence technology weighed on the market in particular following vicious swings over the last couple weeks.

They've been leading the market up and down amid worries that their stock prices shot too high in the mania around AI. That's taken a toll because chip companies, makers of computer memory and other AI winners have grown so massive that they've become some of Wall Street's most influential stocks.

Drops of 2.4% for Nvidia, 4.4% for Broadcom and 6.2% for Micron Technology were the heaviest weights pulling the S&P 500 lower.

Dave & Buster's Entertainment sank 6.2% after reporting a weaker profit for the latest quarter than analysts expected, while Robinhood Markets fell 1.4% after the investing platform said that it's laying off about 10% of its full-time employees.

On the winning side of Wall Street was SpaceX, which rose 4.8% for its third straight gain since its debut on the U.S. stock market. It said it's moving forward with a purchase of Cursor, a popular AI coding assistant, valuing it at \$60 billion.

Yum Brands climbed 1.9% after it said it's selling the Pizza Hut chain for \$2.7 billion. Most of the restaurants will go to LongRange Capital, a private equity firm. Those in mainland China will go to Yum China Holdings.

All told, the S&P 500 slipped 42.94 points to 7,511.35. The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 328.64 to 51,999.67, and the Nasdaq composite fell 307.60 to 26,376.34.

The strongest action was in the oil market, where optimism continued that a tentative U.S.-Iran deal on their war will reopen the Strait of Hormuz at the end of the week and get the global flow of oil going again. The price for a barrel of Brent crude fell 5.1% to settle at \$78.96.

Significant hurdles remain in the negotiations, including what to do with Iran's nuclear program. But the hope on Wall Street is that this agreement will mean a long-term fix to a conflict that has worsened inflation around the world. The price of Brent has come down sharply from its \$100-plus level of a few weeks ago, though it could still take months for the energy industry to get back to full speed.

In stock markets abroad, indexes rose in Europe following a mixed performance in Asia.

Tokyo's Nikkei 225 briefly topped 70,000 for the first time before ending with a modest gain of 0.1% after the Bank of Japan raised its benchmark interest rate to 1%. That's its highest level in three decades, and it followed a similar move by the European Central Bank last week.

The Federal Reserve began its own meeting on what to do with interest rates Tuesday, with an announcement on the decision scheduled for Wednesday.

It's the first meeting under the Fed's new chair, Kevin Warsh, who was nominated by President Donald Trump. Trump has been pushing for lower interest rates, which would give the economy a boost but also threaten to worsen inflation. The widespread expectation, though, is that the Fed will leave its main interest rate alone again.

In the bond market, the yield on the 10-year Treasury fell to 4.43% from 4.47% late Monday and from 4.56% earlier this month.

High yields in bond markets worldwide caused by expensive oil prices have threatened to slow economies and undercut prices for all kinds of investments, including stocks and cryptocurrencies.

High yields have already sent mortgage rates higher, and a report on Tuesday said construction crews broke ground on far fewer new U.S. homes in May than economists expected.

White House talking points claim victories in initial Iran deal but often don't meet reality

By MATTHEW LEE AP Diplomatic Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House has informed supporters that President Donald Trump has accomplished his goals in the war with Iran despite the details of an initial agreement remaining unclear and negotiations on Tehran's nuclear program still to be held.

In a series of talking points sent to Trump supporters and Republican members of Congress this week, the White House proclaimed major victories, such as Iran agreeing to never have a nuclear weapon, reopening the crucial Strait of Hormuz and fighting in Lebanon ending.

The talking points, on White House letterhead, were obtained by The Associated Press from two recipients of the document and go against some of the realities on the ground, especially regarding what Israel has agreed to in its conflict with Hezbollah in Lebanon.

But the memorandum of understanding between the U.S. and Iran, expected to be signed Friday in Switzerland, is still a closely guarded secret, even among Republican allies in Congress and the Israelis. That has led to confusion, concern and skepticism among all but the most hard-core Trump supporters about what has been agreed to.

Republicans acknowledged that the initial deal, by remaining under wraps, has created a vacuum that is being filled by potential misinformation.

"You don't know what's true and what's not true — is it in there?" said Sen. Shelley Moore Capito, R-W. Va. "My speculation is that it's probably still being written and fine-tuned, and the administration is not ready to release it until it's all done."

Asked why he was not releasing the terms of the initial agreement, Trump told reporters Tuesday at the Group of Seven summit in France that he would "like to get a formal setting first before we do that."

"I'll not only release it," he went on to say, "I'll probably have a press conference and read it to you word by word, so that the press covers it accurately."

Comparison with the Obama-era nuclear accord

Trump said he was open to submitting an eventual agreement to Congress for review and approval.

"I like the idea, send it to Congress please," Trump said. "I mean who wouldn't approve it?"

Yet submitting a nuclear agreement with Iran to Congress is not optional under a law that was passed following the 2015 Iran nuclear agreement reached by then-President Barack Obama, which Trump abandoned during his first administration. Some congressional aides argue that even the presumed memorandum of understanding to be signed Friday would also be subject to lawmakers' review.

The talking points claim that the Obama-era Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, or JCPOA, was never signed, which is partly true but misleading. The foreign ministers who negotiated the agreement did sign a copy of the deal, although it was viewed as an informal document meant to memorialize the occasion.

More important, the JCPOA was endorsed and approved by the U.N. Security Council, which enshrined its provisions into international law.

"President Trump solved a threat Washington spent forty years managing," according to the talking points. "Iran will never have a nuclear weapon." Copies of the talking points were provided to the AP by a congressional aide and an outside government adviser.

Iran's position dating back decades is that it has no desire to develop a nuclear weapon. Many Iran critics doubt that pledge because the country has 440.9 kilograms (972 pounds) of uranium that is enriched up to 60% purity, a short, technical step from weapons-grade levels of 90%, according to the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Reopening the Strait of Hormuz

Meanwhile, the talking points say "the Strait of Hormuz is open again, and energy prices American families pay every day are coming down."

"American Families Are the Big Winners," the document says. "Start with what this means at home. American families no longer have to fear a nuclear-armed Iran. They are going to feel relief at the pump

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and at the grocery store.”

The Strait of Hormuz, where a fifth of the world's oil passed before the war began, had been open to all maritime traffic until Feb. 28 when Trump and Israel began attacking Iran. That means that an agreement to reopen the strait would start to return the situation to where it was on Feb. 27 before the U.S. and Israel spent billions of dollars to go to war. It could take weeks or even months for some normalcy to return.

Consumer prices in the United States and elsewhere only spiked after the war began and shipments of oil and other commodities through the strait were interrupted by Iran, which insists it will retain control of access to the crucial waterway no matter what.

Sanctions relief for Iran

The talking points say Iran will not receive any American taxpayer money for its eventual agreement with and adherence to an as-yet unnegotiated nuclear agreement and will only get financial incentives if it meets certain benchmarks.

They suggest that Obama's 2015 nuclear accord cost U.S. taxpayers billions of dollars, when the monetary sanctions relief provided to Iran then actually came from frozen Iranian assets and not the U.S. treasury.

The talking points mention “the pallets of cash” the U.S. sent to Iran after the JCPOA was signed. In fact, the shipment of cash, which came from an Iranian payment for a canceled arms sale to the late Shah of Iran's government, were unrelated to the nuclear deal.

That money was part of a swap that saw the release of several American citizens detained in Iran and of several Iranians imprisoned in the U.S.

Israel-Hezbollah fighting in Lebanon

The talking points trumpet Trump's claim that the agreement will end the Israel-Hezbollah conflict in Lebanon.

“This signed agreement ends military operations on every front,” they say. “For the first time, that explicitly includes Lebanon, with a commitment to both Israel and Lebanon's sovereignty and territorial integrity.”

However, Hezbollah is not party to talks that have been taking place in the U.S. between Israel and Lebanon, and the Iranian-backed militant group has rejected any agreements reached during them. Israeli officials also have said they will not be bound by the terms of the tentative Iran-U.S. agreement and do not know the details of it.

“We're less encouraged about the fact that it seems that Lebanon has been included in the agreement with Iran,” Israeli Ambassador to the U.S. Yechiel Leiter told NPR. “And we think that that's unnecessary and unhelpful.”

A senior U.S. official told reporters that Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon was not a condition of the memorandum of understanding. The official spoke to reporters on condition of anonymity Monday to discuss outlines of the unreleased agreement.

Pizza Hut, overtaken by the arrival of delivery culture, will be sold for \$2.7 billion

By MICHELLE CHAPMAN and DEE-ANN DURBIN AP Business Writers

Pizza Hut, the 68-year-old chain that has long struggled with growing competition and outdated restaurants, will be sold for \$2.7 billion by parent company Yum Brands.

Yum Brands said Tuesday that the private equity firm LongRange Capital will buy Pizza Hut, excluding the mainland China business, for about \$1.5 billion.

In mainland China, Pizza Hut will be purchased by Yum China Holdings Inc. for approximately \$1.2 billion, the company said. China is Pizza Hut's second-largest market outside the U.S., accounting for 19% of sales. Yum China Holdings Inc. spun off from Yum Brands and became an independent company in 2016.

Yum Brands, which also owns KFC and Taco Bell, began to explore its options for Pizza Hut in November. Last year, Yum Brands' global sales rose 5% but Pizza Hut's sales fell 2%.

In February, Yum Brands announced plans to close 250 U.S. Pizza Hut locations. Pizza Hut had 19,974

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restaurants worldwide at the end of last year.

"Pizza Hut has long been the weak link in Yum's portfolio," Neil Saunders, managing director of GlobalData, wrote Tuesday. "Despite efforts to revitalize the brand and shut underperforming locations, it has become increasingly clear that pushing the division back into growth will require a level of investment and patience that Yum is just not prepared to commit to."

Pizza Hut was founded in 1958 in Wichita, Kansas, by two brothers who borrowed \$600 from their mother to open the store. They chose the name because their sign only had room for eight letters.

Pizza Hut's familiar red roof debuted in 1969 and by 1971 it was the top pizza chain in the world by sales. PepsiCo acquired Pizza Hut in 1977 but spun off its restaurant division — which became Yum Brands — in 1997.

By the 1980s, Domino's was the fastest-growing U.S. pizza company, buoyed by its promise of 30-minute delivery. As pizza carryout and delivery grew in popularity, Pizza Hut was saddled with large, dine-in restaurants. In 2020, even as pizza delivery boomed during the COVID-19 pandemic, Pizza Hut closed 300 U.S. restaurants.

The chain has been further pinched in recent years by the growth of DoorDash, Uber Eats and other restaurant delivery companies which marketed access to a slew of cuisines besides pizza.

U.S. pizza sales have slowed considerably since the pandemic, growing less than 1% in 2024 and falling less than 1% in 2025, according to Technomic, a restaurant consulting company. But Pizza Hut performed worse than average, with U.S. sales down 8.2% last year, Technomic said.

By selling Pizza Hut, Yum Brands can focus more on its brands with stronger sales, Yum CEO Chris Turner said.

"Under LongRange and Yum China, Pizza Hut will be well positioned for future growth with ownership that brings deep expertise in the restaurant industry," Turner said in a statement.

Connecticut-based LongRange Capital was founded in 2019 by Bob Berlin, who previously engineered a turnaround at Arby's when he led private equity investments at The Baupost Group. Berlin said Tuesday he looked forward to working with Pizza Hut's executive team and franchisees "to drive its next phase of growth."

"Pizza Hut is a beloved global brand with a rich heritage and a loyal customer base that few brands can match," Berlin said in a statement.

Asked Tuesday if LongRange planned to close any Pizza Hut locations, the company said it had no comment beyond Berlin's statement.

Yum Brands, based in Louisville, Kentucky, expects the sale in U.S. and China to close in the third quarter. The company's stock rose nearly 2% Tuesday.

UK military investigates after Russian warship fires warning shots near yacht in the Channel

By JILL LAWLESS and BRIAN MELLEY Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — A Russian warship fired warning shots near a U.K.-registered pleasure yacht in the English Channel on Tuesday, authorities said, an incident that caused no damage but illustrated heightened tensions between the two countries.

Britain's Defense Ministry launched an investigation after the yacht reported being fired on by a Russian navy vessel about 20 nautical miles (23 miles, 37 kilometers) south of the Isle of Wight, outside U.K. territorial waters.

There were no reports of injuries or damage to the sailing yacht, which continued its journey from the U.K. toward France.

The BBC reported that the yacht, which has no motor, had drifted toward the Russian vessel in foggy conditions.

Russia's Defense Ministry said the crew of the frigate Admiral Grigorovich tried to contact the yacht when it was seen sailing on a "dangerous course in close proximity with the warship." It said the ship's crew

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launched flares and issued sound signals when the yacht did not respond.

"After the distance had closed to 150 meters (500 feet), the frigate's commander decided to fire warning shots across the vessel's bow using small arms," the ministry said. It said the yacht then changed course and sailed away.

The ministry said the ship's crew "acted in strict accordance" with international navigation rules to avoid a collision.

Britain's account of the incident was similar.

"Following attempts to contact a British vessel in the channel, the Grigorovich fired warning shots. These were not aimed at the vessel and were an attempt to prevent a possible collision," Britain's Defense Ministry said in a statement.

Russian warships passing through the English Channel are routinely shadowed by the Royal Navy, and patrol vessel HMS Mersey was monitoring the Russian ship at the time of the reported incident and provided support to the yacht's crew.

The British military said last month that it had monitored the Admiral Grigorovich throughout April as the Russian ship escorted six Russia-linked civilian vessels near the U.K.

The altercation occurred two days after British commandos boarded and detained a sanctioned tanker in the Channel that is suspected of being part of the Russian "shadow fleet." British defense officials said they don't believe the two events are linked.

The tanker's captain, an Indian national charged with shipping Russian oil in violation of international sanctions over Moscow's war on Ukraine, was ordered held in jail after appearing Tuesday in court.

The British military has had several close encounters with Russian vessels in the region and warned Moscow in November that it was ready to deal with any incursion into its territory after the spy ship Yantar was detected on the edge of U.K. waters north of Scotland.

In April, Britain and Norway said they had tracked a Russian attack sub and two spy submarines operating north of the U.K. for several weeks.

A Royal Navy frigate, aircraft and hundreds of personnel spent weeks following the Russian vessels and prevented them from carrying out "nefarious" activities against underwater infrastructure, then-Defense Secretary John Healey said.

He accused Moscow of using the distraction of the Iran war to ramp up malign activity against Europe.

Five years ago, Russia said one of its warships fired warning shots and a warplane dropped bombs in the Black Sea to force the British destroyer HMS Defender out of an area near Crimea that Moscow claimed as its territorial waters.

The U.K. denied that account and insisted its ship wasn't fired upon. It was the first time since the Cold War that Moscow acknowledged using live ammunition to deter a NATO warship, reflecting the growing risk of military incidents amid soaring tensions between Russia and the West. The incident occurred about six months before Russia invaded Ukraine.

Rain along the Gulf Coast could become the first named storm of the Atlantic hurricane season

By DAVID FISCHER Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — A cluster of storms along the Gulf Coast could become the first named tropical storm of the 2026 Atlantic hurricane season, the National Hurricane Center said.

The storms threatened to bring heavy downpours that could lead to dangerous floods across southern states including Texas and Louisiana. The system was centered Tuesday afternoon about 55 miles (85 kilometers) south-southwest of Corpus Christi, Texas, according to a hurricane center advisory.

National Hurricane Center director Michael Brennan said meteorologists are expecting the system to strengthen, possibly into a tropical storm by early Wednesday. But coastal areas could experience tropical storm conditions this week, even if the system doesn't officially get a name, Brennan said.

"The main hazard with these types of systems is largely the flooding from the heavy rainfall," Brennan

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said. "And we could see potentially life-threatening flash and urban flooding across the Texas coast eastward into central Mississippi through Thursday. Prolonged rainfall may extend the flood threat into the weekend."

Tornadoes were possible from the upper Texas coast across southern Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and the Florida Panhandle, forecasters said.

The storm's maximum sustained winds were around 30 mph (45 kph) Tuesday, just shy of the 39 mph (63 kph) needed to be named a tropical storm. The system had a 70% chance of forming into a tropical cyclone over the next two days, the hurricane center said.

Houston, where a World Cup match between Portugal and the Democratic Republic of the Congo is scheduled for Wednesday, has been under a flood warning since Monday. The stadium is covered, and no plans have been announced to move or reschedule the match.

By Thursday, the storms could drop 4 to 8 inches (10 to 20 centimeters) of rain, with isolated totals of a foot (30 centimeters) in coastal areas.

A tropical storm watch was already in effect from Sargent, Texas, to Morgan City, Louisiana. Rough surf could cause rip currents along the Gulf for the next couple of days.

Trump signals swift return of sanctions on Russian oil as G7 refocuses on Ukraine

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE, SYLVIE CORBET and AAMER MADHANI Associated Press
EVIAN-LES-BAINS, France (AP) — The United States could soon reimpose sanctions on Russian oil shipments after President Donald Trump and fellow leaders at the Group of Seven summit of major industrialized democracies moved Tuesday to put the war in Ukraine back on top of their agenda, more than four years after Russia launched its full-scale invasion.

The Iran war has recently overshadowed Ukraine, but Trump said he wants to shift the focus following the announcement of an agreement to end the 3 1/2-month-old conflict in the Gulf.

Trump said Iran will soon be "back in the rearview mirror."

Trump said the sanctions on Russia that were eased during the Iran war to help lower oil prices can go back in place as more oil moves through the Strait of Hormuz.

"Soon we'll be able to do that because the oil is now flowing," Trump told reporters in Evian, the French spa town close to the Swiss border that is hosting the summit. "We're in a position to do that soon."

The U.S. in March temporarily eased some sanctions on some Russian oil shipments as crude prices sharply increased. The waiver has been extended.

Zelenskyy joins G7 leaders for talks

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy joined the G7 leaders for talks on the war in his country. They wrapped quickly, after just 75 minutes.

Zelenskyy said Ukraine is serious about peace while Russia toys with world leaders. "The entire 'Seven' supports Ukraine unanimously today," he said.

Zelenskyy added that G7 leaders supported Ukraine's need for more Patriot missiles and discussed how to increase production by licensing production. Patriot missiles are able to counter Russian ballistic missile attacks on Ukraine's power grid and cities.

As the U.S. under Trump has cut back aid to Ukraine, France and its European allies are now the biggest providers of military and financial support to Kyiv.

Trump downplayed the impact of the Russia-Ukraine war on the U.S. but lamented the death toll.

"The whole thing is ridiculous," Trump said. "So, yeah, I'm going to do whatever I can."

Meanwhile, the U.K. announced new sanctions targeting the "shadow fleet" Russia uses to ship oil and gas, and the finance networks used by Moscow to evade Western sanctions. The ships targeted include several recently purchased by Russia to transport liquefied natural gas from its sanctioned Arctic LNG 2 project.

Russia fires again at Ukraine's biggest cities

Hours before the summit began Monday, Russia fired hundreds of drones and dozens of missiles at

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Ukraine's biggest cities in a barrage that killed 11 people and set fire to a religious landmark.

The attacks came after Zelenskyy and Putin spoke separately by phone with Trump on Sunday, the U.S. leader's 80th birthday.

While campaigning in 2024 for a return to the White House, Trump claimed he could end the Russia-Ukraine war within 24 hours of taking office. However, negotiations have faltered and Trump has acknowledged it has proved much harder than he thought.

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 the 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 Ukraine joining while the war continues.

Trump says he may send Iran deal to Congress

The U.S.-Iran ceasefire deal got plenty of attention at Tuesday's sessions, with Trump voicing his openness to sending the deal to Congress for review. The text has not been made public.

"I like the idea, send it to Congress please," Trump said at the start of a meeting with United Arab Emirates President Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan on the summit's sidelines. He added, "I mean who wouldn't approve it?"

Republicans on Capitol Hill say they want Trump to provide more information about the agreement, with some expressing skepticism that the deal can deter Iran from pursuing a nuclear weapon.

Trump also met with the Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani. The Gulf nations are not part of the G7, but French President Emmanuel Macron extended invitations to their leaders at a fraught moment for their region.

Trump also expressed frustration over Israel's continued hostilities with the Iranian-backed militia Hezbollah in Lebanon, telling reporters he's "not happy with the way Israel has handled themselves with Lebanon and with Hezbollah."

Trump said Israeli operations to target Hezbollah "should have been able to deal with them faster," adding: "It just goes on forever. And when that happens, it throws a negative light on the big deal. And that's the deal with Iran."

Macron said France and other Western partners are "ready to take action very quickly" to help reopen the Strait of Hormuz peacefully to ease the economic impact of rising oil prices. France and the U.K. have championed a mission to restore maritime security there as soon as conditions allow.

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

AP Exclusive: The private school choice boom leaves behind many kids in public school

By BIANCA VÁZQUEZ TONESS and SHARON LURYE AP Education Writers

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — The Catholic school tour ended, and Maria Contreras felt an overwhelming desire to enroll her 7-year-old. But first, a difficult question for the principal.

The second grader has trouble focusing. He doesn't listen to teachers and runs around the classroom, she explained. Could he be expelled?

More families across the country are experimenting with private school as states — and soon the federal government — use taxpayer-supported scholarships to encourage them to leave public school. Soon, half of all American schoolkids will be able to apply for state money to finance a private education, and many states will offer the scholarships even to families with high incomes.

In theory, these programs are supposed to give children an educational opportunity they wouldn't otherwise have. In reality, students already in private or home school are most likely to benefit, an analysis by The Associated Press shows.

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The reasons are complicated. In some cases, public school families don't know about these scholarship programs, known as vouchers or education savings accounts. They may lack transportation to get their kids to private school. Some worry their child won't survive in a more strict disciplinary environment. Sometimes, as in Texas, the latest state to join the already \$10.5 billion private school choice movement, the law is written to benefit families who know how to navigate complicated education systems.

Contreras and her husband had grown up Catholic in Mexico. They moved to Texas, he found a job as a welder, and eventually they got green cards. They were relatively happy sending their three older children to Fort Worth public schools.

But their youngest son, Ian, presented different challenges. He was reading far below grade level.

Contreras asked Ian's teacher in the fall to test him for a learning disability, not knowing there was a legally mandated process for requesting an evaluation.

For months, no one tested her son.

She wasn't alone. Students at her son's elementary school, where nearly all students are economically disadvantaged and the majority are still learning English, have been diagnosed with learning disabilities at a surprisingly low rate. Only 4% qualify for special education services, compared with 14% districtwide.

Contreras had no idea then, but without the testing, she would have few options for paying for a new school for Ian.

The kids who benefit from school choice

Contreras learned about the opportunity for private school scholarships at church, of all places. During announcements at Mass, a man asked in Spanish if anyone wanted \$10,000 to attend Catholic school. Ian raised his hand.

Texas' monumental program launches this fall, offering around \$1 billion of public money to help families with private school or homeschooling expenses. The program funds education savings accounts — a type of scholarship that goes beyond just tuition, giving families money for everything from textbooks and music lessons to transportation and tech.

Republican-led states such as Indiana, Florida and Arizona have long offered taxpayer-funded scholarships for students attending private school or studying at home. But the movement to privatize education has surged under President Donald Trump, who has capitalized on growing skepticism of public schools.

For years, Texas had resisted launching a voucher program, as Democrats and rural Republicans blocked efforts they feared would divert money from public schools. Gov. Greg Abbott, a Republican, fast-tracked the creation of Texas Education Freedom Accounts last year with an assist from Trump. The president himself called GOP lawmakers to urge them to pass this part of his education agenda.

To get the votes, Texas Republicans abandoned a provision that would have awarded 80% of Freedom Accounts in the first year to students leaving public schools.

Without such a provision, evidence from other states is clear: The majority of scholarships will be used by students already in private or home schools.

Last year in Alabama, for example, former public school students made up only 13% of scholarship recipients, an AP analysis shows. Fewer than half of public school students in Alabama who were offered a scholarship used it, compared with 94% of kids who were already attending private schools.

Alabama plans to remove any income limits to its scholarship program next year, joining states like Arizona that offer scholarships to all. In Arizona, the AP analysis shows, use of the scholarships is nearly three times higher in high-income ZIP codes than in low-income neighborhoods.

In the end, the Texas legislation prioritized students from any type of school who have documented disabilities, plus their siblings. Those students, as long as their families earn less than \$165,000 for a family of four, would be first in line when Texas awarded its Freedom Account scholarships this spring.

Next, the state prioritized lower-income children, whose families earn less than \$66,000 for a family of four. Ian would be in the third group, virtually at the end of the line, since his parents earn around \$70,000 a year.

Priority for kids with disabilities

To catapult to the front, Ian would need to have a documented disability — a growing trend in state

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voucher programs. Today, nine states have taxpayer-funded scholarships to help students with special needs attend private school or learn at home.

But leaving the public school system is risky for many of these students, and special education advocates have long warned against it. Private schools aren't legally required to admit students with special needs. Contreras was surprised to learn private schools also aren't obligated to offer services to help kids with disabilities, as public schools are.

Despite decades of research on school choice, academic scholarship hasn't kept pace with states targeting vouchers to students with disabilities. How those students are faring academically in traditional private schools is unknown.

Educators at Saint Rita Catholic School appeared unfazed when, in the middle of her tour, Contreras interrupted their description of the third grade reading list to disclose how much trouble Ian has sitting still.

"Sometimes a kid would rather be seen as active than not understanding," replied Principal Kindra Johnston, a former counselor who brings her golden retriever to work each day. "I can teach him how to regulate himself. How to have purpose."

Having a smaller class and a teacher who knows how to reach him could help, she added.

The school currently enrolls students with learning disabilities, including dyslexia, dysgraphia, attention-deficit / hyperactivity disorder, and borderline intellectual function, she told a reporter.

There's no public information showing how many students with disabilities attend private schools in Texas. Representatives of the Diocese of Fort Worth say they have encouraged Catholic school students to apply for the scholarship money so schools can pay for more special education therapies students need.

Missing the deadline for disability testing

Contreras left the tour of Saint Rita wanting to enroll her son immediately. But she soon realized: Without the voucher, she can't afford the \$7,000 tuition.

With her daughter's help, she formally requested a special education evaluation at her son's public school.

Under Texas law, the district has 15 school days to respond and then 45 school days to evaluate after a parent files their request for disability testing. If evaluators find a disability and decide it's affecting a child's ability to learn, the school is legally obligated to make a plan and provide services to help.

But by the time the Texas voucher application was due, the Fort Worth school district still hadn't tested Ian. Contreras had made the request too late.

Texas started notifying families in April whether they would get the voucher. According to information released so far, the approved applicants don't mirror the state population. Only 43% recently attended public school. While more than half of Texas public school students are Latino, only a little over a quarter of voucher recipients are.

At the same time, three-fourths of the roughly 95,000 Freedom Accounts awarded as of May went to low-income kids. The share of approved applicants with disabilities, 28%, was double the share in the public school system.

Ian's group has been placed on the waitlist.

In April, right before the school's deadline to respond about the disability testing, and shortly after The Associated Press asked the district about Ian's evaluation, his school contacted Contreras to arrange testing for attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder. Contreras was surprised to learn the process started with a survey to be completed by a parent and Ian's teacher, plus a visit to his pediatrician.

On the last day of school, Contreras finally got answers. Ian was diagnosed with ADHD. The school agreed to seat him near the teacher and give him extra teaching on difficult concepts.

But he currently doesn't qualify for specialized services for his disability. He won't receive priority status for this round of vouchers.

It's possible Ian could benefit from leaving his public school and attending Saint Rita this fall.

Chances are, he won't receive any financial help from the state to do it.

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, including 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. The aircraft, Air Force officials said, was conducting a test flight for the latest upgrade to the strategic bomber that the Air Force hopes to keep flying through at least 2050, nearly a century after it entered service in 1955.

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 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.

An investigation is underway into the cause of the crash.

Why eat junk on a camping trip?

Tips and recipes for nutritious food on the trail

By ALBERT STUMM Associated Press

Few things feel better than a long hike in the woods, exhausting yourself as you soak in the fresh air and tranquility. Then, back to camp, where you chip away at those health benefits with packaged hot dogs slapped into a white-bread bun with a slice of plasticky processed cheese food.

It doesn't have to be that way, said Aaron Owens Mayhew, a dietitian and long-haul trekker in Orcutt, California.

"It always made me sad that people who train so hard, they exercise, they eat well at home, and then they go backpacking and pick up honey buns," Owens Mayhew said.

Getting outside generally improves mental and physical health. But too often, campers and hikers resort to the convenience of processed foods high in saturated fat, salt and sugar.

Here's how to rethink campsite cooking to eat healthy while acting healthy.

Eat outdoors what you eat at home

Many people rightly assume that a little processed food is fine, especially when you're exerting outsize energy that can help counter excess calories. The problem lies in the way the body processes it, said Owens Mayhew, who founded Backcountry Foodie, a website dedicated to bringing nutrition to the trail.

Simple carbohydrates like sugary baked goods and candy bars can cause rapid blood glucose spikes followed by a sharp drop, leaving hikers more fatigued than before. Meanwhile, heavily processed foods tend to be dense in calories but lacking the vitamins, minerals and protein the body needs to perform well.

A healthy diet can provide consistent energy throughout the day and improved recovery.

"I like to think of food as one variable that can be controlled, unlike a sprained ankle or bad weather," Owens Mayhew said.

She said the best way to eat in the wilderness is to find ways to continue eating the food you normally do at home. Instead of frying bacon and eggs on the fire because that's what you did at camp as a kid, have that bran cereal you eat every morning, this time with powdered milk (find it in the baking aisle).

Many of the recipes on Owens Mayhew's website are healthier versions of her family's classic recipes, including tuna casserole, garlic-Parmesan noodles and sweet potato casserole. As a supplement to grilled meat or fish, she suggested packing instant brown rice, quinoa and couscous, which are lightweight, healthy and require only boiled water.

To boost flavor, add fresh ginger, herbs, or garlic or onion powder. Adding nuts, dried mushrooms, grated Parmesan, sun-dried tomatoes or dried fruit turns the starch into a meal of its own.

Prep meals at home and assemble at camp

Cooking at camp is much harder than when you're comfortably home in your kitchen, so winging it is usually a bad idea, said Rashad Frazier, founder of Camp Yoshi, a gourmet adventure outfitter.

Well before a trip, take time to plan meals and prep as many ingredients as will stay fresh in zip-top bags or containers. Chopping onions or grating fresh ginger at home frees time to enjoy the sunset and spend time with family when you're outdoors.

"There's no extra bonus points for cutting onions and making mango chutney at camp," he said.

Frazier's cookbook, "Cook Out," devotes a section to pantry ingredients that can be prepped at home. His universal spice mix, salsa verde, chutneys, curry paste, pickled onions and other flavor boosters pack a punch without adding many calories. They can be mixed and matched, he said, with whatever meat, vegetables or grains you have.

Also, always have an emergency backup meal for when bad weather or other factors ruin your plans, Frazier said. His is a Bolognese sauce that he keeps in the freezer until leaving. But a homemade pureed soup or even peanut butter and jelly can be a lifesaver.

"Have that one dish that's always like, in the event of emergency, break glass, eat this," he said.

Two recipes to elevate campsite cooking:

Rashad Frazier's Universal Camping Spice Mix

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From the cookbook "Cook Out "

Ingredients

1 tablespoon kosher salt
1 teaspoon fresh cracked black pepper
1 teaspoon smoked paprika
1 teaspoon thyme
1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
1/2 teaspoon onion powder
1/2 teaspoon cayenne (adjust to spice preference)

Directions

Mix at home and put into a sealed container. Rub onto any meat, fish or vegetable before cooking on a well-oiled grill.

Backcountry Foodie's Parmesan Pesto Ramen

One serving

Ingredients:

1 package ramen noodles
2 tablespoons pine nuts or almonds
1 tablespoon dried basil (or 2 tablespoons fresh, if available)
1/8 teaspoon garlic powder
1/8 teaspoon table salt
2 tablespoons grated Parmesan cheese
3 tablespoons olive oil
6 oz water

Directions

At home, discard the ramen's high-salt seasoning packet. Create a pesto packet by putting the nuts, herbs, garlic and cheese into a small baggie. At camp, boil water to cook the pasta, discard the water when tender, and stir in the pesto packet and oil. Tear fresh basil if you have it and stir it in.

Authorities say at least 9 dead, 25 hurt after a train and bus collide in Zimbabwe

By FARAI MUTSAKA Associated Press

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP) — A freight train struck a bus at a level crossing in Zimbabwe on Tuesday, killing at least nine people including two children, police and rail authorities said.

The crash occurred at a railway crossing in Triangle, a sugar-producing town in the country's south, according to police.

National Railways of Zimbabwe spokesperson Andrew Kanambura said in a statement the bus driver failed to stop and check for oncoming trains before crossing the tracks, violating railway safety regulations. He said at least 25 others were hurt and taken to the hospital.

Photos posted by local media showed the bus crumpled beside the railway tracks with part of its side sheered off. Twisted fragments of metal and shattered debris were strewn on the ground.

The crash happened less than a week after a minibus carrying schoolchildren caught fire in central Zimbabwe, killing seven. Last month, 10 people were killed in a collision between a bus and a haulage truck.

Road crashes are common in Zimbabwe, where a traffic accident occurs every 15 minutes and an average of five people are killed and 38 injured each day, according to the country's road safety agency. Authorities say human error accounts for 94% of road accidents in the southern African nation.

Africa has the world's highest road traffic fatality rate despite accounting for only about 3% of the global vehicle population, according to the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, with buses and other public transport vehicles frequently involved in major crashes.

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SpaceX buys AI coding startup Cursor for \$60 billion in race for an edge over Anthropic and OpenAI

By The Associated Press undefined

SpaceX will move forward with its \$60 billion acquisition of artificial intelligence startup Cursor as Elon Musk's space exploration and AI company seeks a competitive edge against rivals Anthropic and OpenAI after its Wall Street debut last week.

SpaceX said in April that it had the rights to buy Cursor, or pay \$10 billion to "work together" with the company.

In a regulatory filing Tuesday, SpaceX said that Cursor will become a wholly owned subsidiary when the deal closes in the third quarter.

Cursor, made by San Francisco startup AnySphere, is a popular AI coding assistant. What SpaceX has described as Cursor's wide "distribution to expert software engineers" is likely part of what made it attractive to Musk's company, giving it access to a new customer base.

When it first announced the potential acquisition, Cursor said the partnership with SpaceX subsidiary xAI would enable it to build future AI products using xAI's massive AI data center complex Colossus, based in Memphis, Tennessee.

Cursor, which started in 2022, helped sparked a trend called "vibe coding" as AI coding assistants have become increasingly capable of doing the work of computer programming.

Cursor competes with other coding tools like Anthropic's Claude Code and OpenAI's Codex but also has relied heavily on partnerships with those larger AI research companies for the foundations of its technology.

It was Cursor's Composer, combined with Anthropic's Claude Sonnet, that a prominent AI researcher was playing with for weekend projects when he coined the phrase "vibe coding" in early 2025.

SpaceX became a public company on Friday in what is largely considered a successful debut. Shares of the company have jumped since Friday, and are up 9% before the opening bell Tuesday.

Today in History: June 17

O.J. Simpson charged with murder following highway chase

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Wednesday, June 17, the 168th day of 2026. There are 197 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On June 17, 1994, after leading police on a slow-speed chase on Southern California freeways, O.J. Simpson was arrested and charged with murder in the deaths of his ex-wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and her friend, Ronald Goldman. (Simpson was acquitted of the murders in a criminal trial in 1995, but held liable in a civil trial in 1997.)

Also on this date:

In 1775, the Revolutionary War Battle of Bunker Hill resulted in a costly victory for the British, who suffered heavy losses.

In 1885, the Statue of Liberty, disassembled and packed into 214 separate crates, arrived in New York Harbor aboard the French frigate Isère.

In 1930, President Herbert Hoover signed the Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act, which boosted U.S. tariffs to historically high levels, prompting foreign retaliation.

In 1963, the U.S. Supreme Court, in Abington (Pennsylvania) School District v. Schempp, struck down, 8-1, rules requiring the recitation of the Lord's Prayer or the reading of biblical verses in public schools.

In 1972, President Richard Nixon's eventual downfall began with the arrest of five burglars inside the Democratic National Committee headquarters in Washington, D.C.'s, Watergate complex.

In 2008, hundreds of same-sex couples got married across California on the first full day that same-sex marriage became legal by order of the state's highest court; an estimated 11,000 same-sex couples would be married under the California law in its first three months.

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In 2015, nine Black worshippers were killed when a gunman opened fire during a Bible study gathering at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina. (Dylann Roof, a white supremacist, was captured the next day; he would be convicted on state and federal murder and hate crime charges and sentenced to death.)

In 2021, President Joe Biden signed the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act into law, creating the first new national holiday since the establishment of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Today's Birthdays: Filmmaker Ken Loach is 90. Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich is 83. Musician Barry Manilow is 83. Comedian Joe Piscopo is 75. Actor Jon Gries is 69. Filmmaker Bobby Farrelly is 68. Actor Thomas Haden Church is 66. Actor Greg Kinnear is 63. Olympic speed skating gold medalist Dan Jansen is 61. Fashion designer Tory Burch is 60. Actor Jason Patric is 60. Actor-comedian Will Forte is 56. Latin pop singer-songwriter Paulina Rubio is 55. Tennis Hall of Famer Leander Paes is 53. Tennis star Venus Williams is 46. Actor Jodie Whittaker is 44. Rapper Kendrick Lamar is 39. Actor KJ Apa is 29.