

Groton Daily Independent

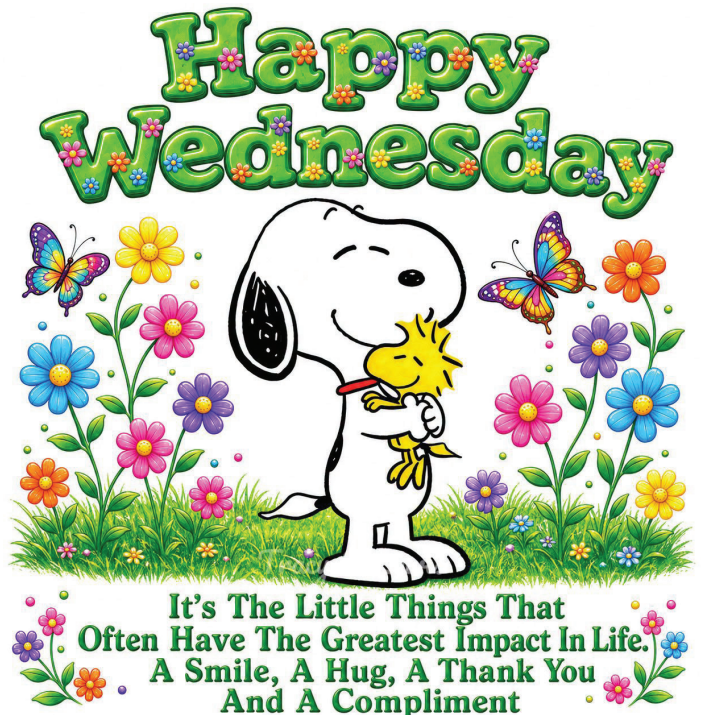
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Wednesday, July 15

Senior Menu: Roasted chicken breast, roasted potatoes, California blend, fruit, whole wheat bread.
Groton Legion at Redfield, 5:30 p.m.
Junior Legion at Redfield, 7 p.m.
U10 Baseball at Ipswich, 5:30 p.m., DH.
School Supply Drive, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., Groton Community Center.
JVT Practice, 7:30 p.m., GHS Arena.
United Methodist: Community Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.; Groton Ad Council, 7 p.m.
Men's Golf 3 p.m.

Groton Daily Independent
PO Box 34, Groton SD 57445
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Thursday, July 16

Senior Menu: Cheeseburger casserole, sweet potatoes, corn, fruit, whole wheat bread.

Cancelled: Junior Legion hosts Watertown, 5:30 p.m. (DH).

U14 Tournament in Groton: Game 1: Redfield vs. Groton, 5 p.m.; followed by Clark taking on the winner of Game 1.

Junior/Adult Golf Tournament, 5:30 p.m., Olive Grove Golf Course.

Friday, July 17

Senior Menu: Ham and cheese sandwich, potato salad, fresh celery, fruit./

Junior Legion at Aberdeen Smitty's "B", 5:30 p.m., (DH).

U14 Tournament in Groton: Game 3: Loser of Game 1 vs. Loser of Game 2 followed by the winners of Games 2 and 3.

U12 Baseball State Tournament at Elkton/Salem/Beresford

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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.

New Alzheimer's Drug

A novel Alzheimer's treatment slows disease progression at a rate comparable to approved drugs, according to a midstage trial presented yesterday. The results could lead to a new class of therapies.

The exact cause of Alzheimer's remains unclear, but leading theories suggest the disease is driven by the buildup of amyloid-beta and tau proteins in the brain. Some research suggests amyloid begin accumulating roughly 20 years before symptoms appear and may eventually trigger an abnormal form of tau that sparks symptom onset.

Existing drugs target amyloid through intravenous infusions, reducing cognitive decline by about 25% to 35% compared with a placebo. The new drug, dicanersen, is injected into the fluid around the spinal cord and directs the brain to make less tau. The lowest dose curtails cognitive decline by 26%, while higher doses show diminishing benefits. Researchers will probe this counterintuitive result in a larger study.

Separately, Capt. Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger III—who emergency-landed a 155-person plane in the Hudson River—revealed he has early-stage Alzheimer's disease.

Maya Mathematician Unmasked

Archaeologists have unearthed the only known example of a Maya mathematician credited with their calculations. An inscription discovered on a wall in Xultun, Guatemala, is signed by Sak Tahn Waax, whose name translates to "white-chested fox."

The writings were found in a math classroom of sorts dating to the eighth century. There, researchers discovered a formula for synchronizing Maya calendars with the cycles of Mars and Venus. The formula, known as Text 19, was written in partial dates and hieroglyphic shorthand, making it difficult to decipher. Maya societies were known to rely on elegant mathematical and astronomical calculations to mark the passage of time. However, unlike famed Greek astronomers, including Ptolemy, Hipparchus, and Eratosthenes, the names of their Maya counterparts are largely unknown.

Contrary to popular belief, the Maya did not predict an apocalypse in 2012. Hear other fascinating takeaways about Maya culture from a man who discovered an ancient Maya city.

EU's 'Super Tuesday'

Four countries took a step toward joining the European Union yesterday, the first time since 2002 that many candidates advanced on the same day. Albania, Montenegro, Moldova, and Ukraine held talks in Brussels to advance their accession processes, but full membership in the 27-nation bloc could be years away.

The rare move comes as Europe faces political and security changes, including Russia's war in Ukraine and the EU's push to expand farther east and south. Ukraine and Moldova each opened a second negotiating cluster, covering foreign relations, security, and trade, while Albania and Montenegro advanced by closing selected chapters in their talks. To become members, countries must negotiate 35 policy chapters grouped into six clusters and win approval from every current member.

The EU was created in 1958 by six countries and now accounts for roughly 5.5% of the world's population. Nine countries are now officially candidates to join.

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Sports, Entertainment, & Culture

AI film company drops trailer for low-budget "Odyssey"-inspired movie days before Christopher Nolan's highly anticipated \$250M adaptation premieres (More, w/trailer) | Nolan's cast hiked 45 minutes to set daily, and more film-related numbers.

"The Young and the Restless" leads Daytime Emmy Awards nominations with 18 nods; ceremony is set for Oct. 30 (More, w/full list) | "General Hospital" missed a best lead actress nod for the first time in 12 years, plus more snubs and surprises.

Spain eliminates France 2-0 to reach the 2026 World Cup final.

Argentina and Lionel Messi take on Jude Bellingham's England at 3 pm ET for a chance to face the reigning European champions Sunday.

Science & Technology

New York imposes nation's first statewide moratorium on hyperscale data centers for up to one year as the state devises protections for the environment and its energy grid.

Astronauts take first-ever X-rays in space using miniature portable device, marking a major advance in aerospace healthcare; the device could also be used to provide medical care in rural towns and villages.

Engineers can control how artificial blood vessels grow by mechanically stretching them, a step toward supplying critical blood flow to lab-grown organs and tissues.

Business & Markets

US stock markets close up (S&P 500 +0.4%, Dow +0.0%, Nasdaq +1.0%) after cooler-than-expected inflation report; consumer price index fell 0.4% in June from May, the largest monthly drop since April 2020.

IBM shares crater 25%—its worst drop since at least 1968—after the company preannounced earnings that fell below Wall Street's expectations.

Five of the largest US banks report record quarterly profits, fueled by strong trading activity and resilient consumer spending.

Politics & World Affairs

Supreme Court Justices Amy Coney Barrett and Elena Kagan testify before House Appropriations Committee to call for increased security funding, citing threats to their families.

ICE will reportedly suspend most traffic-stop arrests after two deadly shootings in the span of a week.

US troops will withdraw from Iraq Sept. 30, the country's prime minister says, citing planned disarmament of Iranian-backed militias.

US House passes Trump-backed bill that would make daylight saving time permanent, removing need to adjust clocks twice a year; bill heads to Senate.

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POET Bioprocessing – Groton Awards Grants to Seven Area Causes Community Impact Grants total \$10,000

GROTON, S.D. (July 14, 2026) – POET Bioprocessing – Groton awarded 2026 Community Impact Grants to seven local organizations this year that are planning projects to address health care, recreation, and events for area residents. This year's grants totaled \$10,000.

"Each project that POET supports has a mission to make this community a better and safer place," said Blake Gomer, General Manager of POET Bioprocessing – Groton. "We are honored to support these seven organizations and the committed people behind them."

This year's grants were awarded to the following organizations.

- GRASP (Groton Elementary After School Program): \$2,000 to purchase snacks, toys/games, and help families pay for field trips if needed.
- Turton Volunteer Fire Department: \$2,000 to purchase a tank filling system.
- Midwest Street Medicine- Aberdeen: \$2,000 to assist their organization in sustaining operational costs.
- Northeast SD Family Violence Prevention Conference, Inc.: \$1,000 to bring expert speakers to present at the Family Violence Prevention Conference.
- Aberdeen Area Foster Closet: \$1,000 to help host two to four Foster Family Events between July 2026 and July 2027, including an expanded Parents Night Out series and a new seasonal family event.
- Groton Area Fire Protection and Rescue District: \$1,000 to help cover tuition and registration fees for certified training courses, bring qualified instructors to our community for on-site training, purchase training materials and props, offset travel and lodging costs for specialized courses, and provide certification and recertification in critical areas such as Firefighter I/II, EMT, and technical rescue.
- Enrich Groton SoDak dba The Pantry: \$1,000 to purchase a variety of food, paper, and hygiene supplies.

The POET Community Impact Grant is a one-time grant, designed to support local nonprofits, schools, churches, earth-friendly groups, and individuals committed to leading projects that will benefit their communities. The next grant cycle will open in the spring of 2027. For more information, visit poet.com/grants.

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Groton Legion Post 39 splits dramatic doubleheader with Milbank Post 9

Groton Legion Post 39 earned a split of a Tuesday doubleheader with Milbank Post 9, rolling to a 9-2 victory in the opener before falling 5-4 in heartbreaking fashion on a walk-off sacrifice fly in the nightcap.

Groton wasted little time taking control of the first game, scoring four runs in the opening inning. Carter Simon drove in the first run on a groundout before TC Schuster followed with an RBI single. Karsten Fliehs then delivered the big hit of the inning, a two-run single that gave Post 39 a 4-0 advantage.

Milbank trimmed the lead to 4-2, but Jarrett Erdmann kept the hosts in check. The right-hander allowed four hits and two unearned runs over six innings while striking out five and walking one to earn the victory. Braeden Fliehs pitched a scoreless seventh inning in relief.

Groton broke the game open with a five-run seventh inning. Simon tripled home a run, Schuster added another RBI single, Tristin McGannon drew a bases-loaded walk, and Lincoln Krause drove in two more runs despite hitting into a double play as Post 39 pulled away for the 9-2 win.

Groton finished with 10 hits. Schuster and Jordan Schwan each collected two hits, while Schuster and Simon drove in two runs apiece. The Legion also showed patience at the plate, drawing six walks, with McGannon and Isaiah Scepianiak each reaching twice via free passes.

The second game proved to be much tighter, with Milbank rallying late to earn a 5-4 walk-off victory.

Groton struck first when Simon drove in a run on a first-inning double play. Jordan Schwan's RBI single in the second extended the lead to 3-0 before Milbank answered with three runs in the bottom of the third, capitalizing on a walk, an error and a sacrifice fly.

Alex Abeln put Groton back in front 4-3 with an RBI single in the fourth, but Milbank responded immediately with a game-tying run in the bottom half of the inning.

The game remained deadlocked until the bottom of the fifth when Tyler Heinje scored the winning run after tagging up on a sacrifice fly, giving Milbank the walk-off victory.

Braeden Fliehs started for Groton, striking out five while allowing three unearned runs over 2 1/3 innings. Kason Oswald took the loss in relief after allowing two runs, one earned, over 2 1/3 innings.

Schuster, Abeln and Schwan each had a hit for Groton, while Abeln, Schwan and Simon each drove in a run. Post 39 again showed patience at the plate, drawing eight walks, with McGannon and Abeln leading the way with two apiece.

With the split, Groton continued to show both its offensive firepower and resilience, combining for 13 runs over the two games while battling Milbank to the final out of the nightcap.



SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

No immediate threat of New World screwworm affecting South Dakota, state vet says

Animal transport rules and winter weather help keep pests from becoming established in the state

BY MEGHAN O'BRIEN

PIERRE — Flesh-eating pests spreading north into the United States have so far been kept at bay from South Dakota, but state animal industry leaders are keeping an eye on the threat.

New World screwworm cases surfaced in Texas in early June. The name "screwworm" refers to the larvae, or maggots, that burrow into open wounds, feeding as they go "like a screw being driven into wood," according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. They primarily infest livestock, wildlife, pets and birds, leading to sickness or death. In rare cases, they can infect humans.

The larvae grow into flies about the size of a common housefly, with orange eyes, a blue or green body, and three dark stripes along the back.

Across Texas and in southeastern New Mexico, 35 total cases have been reported, primarily in cattle, according to the USDA. No cases have been reported in South Dakota. Texas is working with federal partners to control the population and track animal movements, according to South Dakota State Veterinarian Mendel Miller.

Miller said he has no immediate concerns due to Texas' containment strategies and South Dakota's requirements for veterinary inspections and health records on animals coming into the state.

"The system's in place to prevent it from getting here, provided everybody follows the rules and follows the system," he said.

New World screwworms reached as far north as South Dakota from 1947 to 1950 via infested livestock shipments, according to the USDA.

A traditional boundary line for screwworm infections runs through central Kansas, Miller said. The imaginary line separates warmer, southern climates that are more welcoming to the insects from cooler, northern climates.

"With global climate change and things like that, milder winters, that line may creep north," Miller said. "But, we still have winter. That's probably our best mechanism to prevent it from getting established."

For now, Miller said South Dakota is "still cold enough."

"The ground still freezes and we still get snow cover," he said. "As long as we have winter, we should be fairly safe."

He recommended keeping a close watch on livestock. Most cattle infections happen during castration, Miller said. Sheep infections happen during dehorning and tail docking, when the tail is removed from the animal.

"The best thing to put on their animal is their eyes," he said of farmers and ranchers.

Screwworm had been mostly eliminated from the United States in the 1960s, through the use of sterile flies to end the life cycle of other flies, Miller said. Screwworms have been confined mostly to Mexico and Central America since then, although there have been periodic outbreaks in the United States.

The federal government is using sterile flies again in its eradication efforts. Sterilized males mate with females, which lay unfertilized eggs. Because females only mate once in their lifespan, this could reduce and eliminate the population.

The USDA recently broke ground on a \$750 million sterile fly facility in Edinburg, Texas, that aims to produce up to 300 million sterile flies per week when it opens next year. The agency has also invested in sterile fly facilities in Mexico and Panama.

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency announced on Monday it would suspend several animal exports from Texas, including cattle, horses, pigs and bison.

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.

Airport expansion loans cleared for takeoff despite turbulence in legislative committee

Two lawmakers oppose rules for new law authorizing use of housing infrastructure fund BY MAKENZIE HUBER

The South Dakota Legislature's Rules Review Committee approved rules Tuesday allowing up to \$30 million in loans from a state housing infrastructure fund to help finance airport expansion projects in Rapid City and Sioux Falls, despite opposition from the state speaker of the House and another lawmaker.

The rules implement a law that Republican Gov. Larry Rhoden requested last year and signed in March after the Legislature approved it.

The law authorizes loans up to \$15 million each to the state's two largest commercial airports at 2% interest with 20-year repayment periods. Repayments and interest must be returned to the housing fund to support future housing infrastructure projects.

The Legislature and former Gov. Kristi Noem created the housing fund in 2023 with \$200 million: \$100 million for grants and \$100 million for loans to support streets, sewer, water and other infrastructure needed for housing developments. The package used \$150 million in state money and \$50 million in federal American Rescue Plan funds.

The rules package passed on Tuesday in a 4-2 vote at the Capitol in Pierre. Sen. Taffy Howard, R-Rapid City, and House Speaker Jon Hansen, R-Dell Rapids, voted against it.

Both said they opposed the rules because the change in how the housing funds can be used should have required a two-thirds majority vote in both legislative chambers — a higher bar than the bill achieved. It passed 22-11 in the Senate, which was two votes short of the two-thirds threshold, and 43-24 in the House, which was four votes short of two-thirds support.

The state constitution requires appropriations bills to receive a two-thirds vote, but legislators sometimes debate what constitutes an appropriation.

Hansen, as the presiding officer in the House, tried to require a two-thirds majority during the legislative session, saying the bill would change the purpose of how the money was being spent. His decision was overruled in a 34-33 House procedural vote, with lawmakers arguing the bill itself didn't mention "appropriation" and that the funds were being loaned rather than spent. Rep. Tim Walburg, R-Madison, called the bill at the time a "funding transfer."

Hansen, who is not running for reelection after his failed bid for the Republican nomination for governor last month, said Tuesday the Legislature should revisit how it defines appropriations — specifically whether the definition should cover not just the authorization of new funds but also changes to how previously appropriated funds can be used.

"In this case, the specific purpose was changed to something different. Therefore, it was a new appropriation and should have required a two-thirds vote," Hansen said. "In the future, I think the Legislature really needs to just sit back, away from any particular bill that's being driven through the Legislature, and really consider that definition and how to apply it."

Senate Majority Leader Jim Mehlhaff, R-Pierre, said procedural concerns weren't a sufficient reason to reject a package that had already cleared the full legislative process.

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"I don't believe the committee is here to thwart the will of the Legislature," Mehlhaff said.

The committee approved similar rules following legislative action last year allowing a \$15 million, zero-interest loan from the same fund for a new elementary school serving the Douglas School District near Ellsworth Air Force Base. Howard and Hansen both voted for that rule change, after Howard voted for the bill and Hansen voted against it.

Julie Johnson, an Aberdeen lawyer and lobbyist for Homes for South Dakota, told the committee Tuesday the organization supports the change to the rules for airports, but wants to ensure the funds are repaid and directed toward housing infrastructure needs across the state.

"We want to be sure the world knows that this isn't a slush fund and there are still needs for infrastructure loan monies," Johnson said.

By late 2025, about \$65 million remained in the loan portion of the fund. The program has helped finance 87 projects expected to produce 7,464 single-family lots and 5,882 multifamily units.

Rapid City plans a concourse expansion at its airport adding five gates and more passenger space. Sioux Falls is building a new concourse with up to five additional aircraft gates and 57,000 square feet of seating and circulation space. The projects are expected to cost more than \$100 million apiece.

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

Salad greens scrutinized as cyclosporiasis outbreak spreads

States are tracking thousands of cases of the intestinal illness; Michigan hit hardest

BY ANNA CLAIRE VOLLERS

As state and federal officials work to identify the source of the recent outbreak of the intestinal illness cyclosporiasis, Michigan health officials have identified lettuces or salad greens as one potential culprit.

"Early information has shown lettuce as a common product that regularly comes up during the investigation," said Dr. Natasha Bagdasarian, chief medical executive at the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, in a news release. "We will continue to provide updates as we learn more."

Officials cautioned they haven't ruled out other food items as the source. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has confirmed 843 cases in 31 states, but that is a significant undercount based on the numbers being reported by state health officials.

Cyclosporiasis is caused by the parasite cyclospora. Symptoms include watery or "explosive" diarrhea, nausea and stomach cramps. It's often contracted by eating or drinking something contaminated with the parasite, which lives in feces.

Michigan first reported an outbreak of cyclosporiasis on July 1 after nearly 200 cases were reported across seven counties. The state now leads the nation in cases, with the state health department reporting 2,640 cases Monday and 44 hospitalizations. The case numbers jumped 69% from Friday.

New York, Ohio, Illinois, Indiana and Kentucky also have reported a higher than usual number of cases. New York City alone has seen 403 cases this year, most of them since May 1. The New York City Health Department said in a statement to Stateline that it's working with partners to determine a common source.

Ohio health officials reported 177 cases as of July 2, with 28 hospitalizations.

"Fortunately there have been no deaths in Ohio, as is consistent with our past experiences with this illness," said Dr. Bruce Vanderhoff, director of the Ohio Department of Health, in a statement.

"Nevertheless, this is a serious illness that can cause dehydration and require people to seek emergency medical care, and it should be taken seriously."

The CDC expects case numbers to continue rising, given a typical six-week lag between the onset of illnesses and when cases are typically reported to the CDC. The New York Times reported it has independently confirmed at least 4,800 cases this year.

States such as Michigan are rushing to do their own sleuthing after cutbacks have reduced surveillance

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capabilities at the federal level. Last year, the CDC scaled back its surveillance program that monitors food-borne illnesses. It no longer requires monitoring for six pathogens, including cyclospora, only requiring reporting for two: salmonella and Shiga toxin-producing E.coli.

The CDC acknowledged that while it's working to collect and analyze data at the national level, "State health departments may have more timely information about the situation in their jurisdictions."

The Trump administration said on social media on Monday that the CDC is working with 3,000 health departments to gather data, and that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration is investigating the outbreak alongside the CDC and state and local partners.

Local health departments in Michigan have conducted more than 1,000 interviews of those who've tested positive for cyclosporiasis, to try to trace the source of the outbreak, state officials said.

But in many states, the risk to the public remains low.

It's not uncommon for states to see at least a few cases of cyclosporiasis each year. Michigan typically identifies 40-50 each year, while Rhode Island documented six cases last year and 12 in 2024. Because it can take up to two weeks for symptoms to develop after a person is exposed to the parasite, state officials say it takes time to investigate the source.

There's currently no evidence that links recreational water exposure, such as swimming in lakes, as a risk factor for the illness. And in none of the cases confirmed by the CDC did the affected person report any travel during the two weeks prior to falling ill.

In previous cyclosporiasis outbreaks, bagged salad mixes and kits were identified as the culprit, along with fresh cilantro, basil, raspberries, snow peas and green onions. One of the largest outbreaks of cyclosporiasis was in 2020, which resulted in 701 people falling ill in 14 states, and which the CDC linked to Fresh Express bagged salads.

The CDC has identified cases in the current outbreak in the following states: Alaska, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, West Virginia and Wisconsin.

Three cases in South Dakota

FROM SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

Three cyclosporiasis cases have been reported to the South Dakota Department of Health so far this year. Case counts can be monitored at <https://doh.sd.gov/health-data-reports/data-dashboards/infectious-disease-dashboard/>. Medical providers suspecting cyclosporiasis infection in a patient should collect a specimen for testing, the department said, and if positive, a report should be submitted to the department within three days. Reports can be submitted at sd.gov/diseasereport.

Janine Weisman of the Rhode Island Current, Kyle Davidson of the Ohio Capital Journal and Jon King of the Michigan Advance contributed to this report. Stateline reporter Anna Claire Vollers can be reached at avollers@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.

Anna Claire Vollers covers health care for Stateline. She is based in Huntsville, Alabama.

US House passes bipartisan bill to make daylight saving time permanent

BY AMELIA TWYMAN

WASHINGTON — The U.S. House voted Tuesday to make daylight saving time permanent nationwide in a bipartisan move that pushes the country one step closer to ending the long-contested ritual of semian-annual clock changes.

The House passed the measure, called the Sunshine Protection Act, 308-117. Its future in the Senate is uncertain.

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Introduced by Republican Rep. Vern Buchanan of Florida, the Sunshine Protection Act passed the House Energy and Commerce Committee 48-1 in May and carries strong support from President Donald Trump.

"This bipartisan legislation represents a popular, common-sense reform and would benefit Americans by protecting precious daylight during the evening, when people are most likely to be awake and active," the White House said in a statement Tuesday. "If (the bill) were presented to the President in its current form, his advisors would recommend that he sign it into law."

Year-round daylight saving time

Permanent daylight saving time would mean keeping the clocks shifted forward one hour all year, eliminating the need to "spring forward" every March and "fall back" each November. The adjustment would extend more daylight into the evening, creating later sunrises and sunsets compared to standard time.

"Establishing permanent daylight saving time would provide families with more usable daylight hours in the evening, giving people additional opportunities to spend time outdoors," Republican Rep. Gus M. Bilirakis of Florida said during House debates Tuesday.

Many other representatives from Florida voiced their support for the bill Tuesday, saying later daylight hours would help boost the Sunshine State's economy.

Rep. Frank Pallone Jr., a New Jersey Democrat, agreed.

In his remarks supporting the permanent daylight saving time, he also pointed to the harmful effects that switching the clocks twice a year can have on people's health, as well as young children and pets' quality of sleep.

Under the bill, states that do not observe daylight saving time before enactment would have the choice to remain on permanent standard time.

The provision would only affect two states, Hawaii and Arizona outside Navajo Nation, that already do not observe daylight saving time. Those states instead go by standard time, the hours the rest of the country follows from November to March, year-round. Other states wishing to opt out would have to enact a law one day before the federal bill becomes law.

Is standard time better?

Many health experts say standard time is better for humans because it increases the amount of daylight received in the morning, which is beneficial for body rhythms and helps improve sleep, The Hill reports.

Democratic Rep. Madeleine Dean of Pennsylvania, the only representative to speak in opposition to the bill during Tuesday's floor debate, cited the benefits tied to standard time as one of her main reasons for going against the bill.

Though she too expressed frustration with the practice of changing clocks, she said dozens of medical associations show "if we stop the clock, permanent standard time is a healthier choice."

Dean also pointed to events that occurred the last time the U.S. briefly attempted to follow permanent daylight saving time in 1974. Some children lost their lives while walking to school in the dark, she said.

"We aren't voting on bills right now that would reduce the sky-high costs of food, fuel, healthcare or addressing the president's war in Iran," Dean said. "Instead we're considering a bill that was deadly and dangerous in the past."

Daylight saving time's past and future

Daylight saving time was first introduced in the early 20th century as an energy-conserving wartime measure, according to the academic journal Science. The U.S. has observed short periods of permanent daylight saving over the years, but the federal government has each time reverted to the practice of changing clocks.

Lawmakers have also made attempts in recent years to enact permanent daylight saving time. In 2022, the U.S. Senate unanimously approved an earlier version of the bill, sponsored by Sens. Patty Murray, a Washington Democrat, and Rick Scott, a Florida Republican, only for the measure to stall in the House.

In a statement Tuesday, Murray called on Senate Majority Leader John Thune to bring the House-passed bill for a vote in the Senate.

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"My state, where it is often dark earlier than 4pm in the winter, has made it abundantly clear we want permanent Daylight Saving Time," Murray wrote. "Americans from Seattle to Miami believe it's way past time to lock the clock—I am calling on Leader Thune to bring this bill to a vote as soon as possible."

If the Senate considers the bill this year, some opposition is likely to come up, including from Sen. Tom Cotton, an Arkansas Republican.

Amelia Twyman is an intern at States Newsroom's Washington bureau. Born and raised in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, she now studies journalism and creative writing at the University of Maryland. She works as an assistant news editor at the university's independent student newspaper, The Diamondback. Amelia is set to graduate in 2028.

Fed Chair Warsh vows to fight inflation even as new CPI report shows 3.5% rise

BY ASHLEY MURRAY

WASHINGTON — Federal Reserve Chair Kevin Warsh promised Tuesday to "put these years of high inflation behind us" and lower prices, including mortgage rates, for everyday Americans as inflation remains at the highest level in two years.

Warsh appeared before lawmakers on Capitol Hill just after the government's latest monthly inflation data showed a slight drop, led by falling gas prices as the war in Iran cooled.

But routine costs like food and fuel remain 3.5% higher compared to a year ago, a level of inflation last seen in May 2024, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Consumer Price Index for June. The report comes as the United States and Iran again ramped up the exchange of rocket fire last week in the Strait of Hormuz, a chokepoint for a significant portion of global oil.

The grilling by members of the House Committee on Financial Services marked Warsh's first time before Congress since being confirmed to lead the central bank.

The nation's top banker faced questions not only about inflation, but also how he plans to insulate the Fed from President Donald Trump, following the U.S. Supreme Court's decision to increase the president's authority over agencies.

Warsh told lawmakers he will ignore political pressure and "follow the data" when deciding monetary policy decisions.

Warsh's appointment was made after Trump's long and public pressure campaign on former Fed Chair Jerome Powell to lower interest rates, and his firing of Fed Board Governor Lisa Cook. Trump also targeted Powell with a federal investigation over renovation costs, but eventually dropped the probe.

'A potential second surge in inflation'

Financial Services Committee Chair French Hill, an Arkansas Republican, warned during questioning "a potential second surge in inflation is appearing due to factors outside the Fed. What the Fed can control is how it reacts."

Hill said he was "encouraged" to hear Warsh commit to lowering inflation to the Fed's target of 2%.

"Inflation affects Americans in the here and now, not in some hypothetical future composed of long-term projections. ... How do you and your colleagues on the open market committee plan to accomplish that?"

Warsh said the Fed will examine interest rates and the central bank's assets and liabilities to harness inflation.

"We have the tools to deliver that. So it's a function of commitment, responsibility, and tools, and we're three for three, and we'll deliver," he said.

Hammering on the topic of high costs of living, Rep. William Timmons, R-S.C., said "the people I represent should not have to endure another sustained period of elevated inflation."

Warsh said he agreed with Timmons' "diagnosis" that American households and businesses have suffered an "undue hardship."

"What I would also say is I'm not in the business of trying to prejudge what the (Federal Open Market) committee I'm honored to lead decides," Warsh said. "I think we need to have a continued good family fight

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on this subject. That'll start again in a couple of weeks, and when we have news for you about exactly the methods of solving this problem, we'll be very clear about what they are and so will the American people."

Communications with public

Several questions from committee Democrats centered on how Warsh plans to communicate with the public after he announced plans to pare back press conferences and announcements.

Rep. Nydia Velázquez, D-N.Y., asked Warsh if he can "commit today to creating a fixed public standard for which (Federal Open Market Committee) decisions and procedural changes trigger a press conference rather than deciding case by case which ones might be worth it?"

Warsh said it is "immediately important to think about reforms, including communications."

"I don't expect any of the changing communications to be about hiding the ball," he said.

Rep. Andy Barr, a Kentucky Republican, cited a Wall Street Journal article criticizing the "constant yammering, long policy statements and press conferences" to signal future policy moves.

"Chairman Warsh, why is it important to do away with the dot plot and end once and for all forward guidance?" Barr asked, referring to a graph displaying data as dots.

Warsh said his Fed will not share "every passing thought."

"I think being somewhat more circumspect in our communications, at least for me, is a better way of calling balls and strikes," he said.

Will he follow the president's wishes?

Warsh also faced numerous questions from Democrats on his commitment to protecting the Fed from Trump's attempts to interfere.

Rep. Gregory Meeks, a New York Democrat, said "If the president publicly pressures you to pursue a different course than the one you believe the economic data supports, will you follow the president's wishes or follow the data?"

"My commitment to you is to follow the law and follow the data, follow our very best judgment," Warsh answered.

Meeks shot back: "Even if he publicly criticizes you for doing it? ... Publicly criticizes you and tells you how disappointed he's in you and all of that? Will you still do what the data tells you to do? ... You ready for that?"

"I'm ready to follow the law, and I'm ready for the Fed to deliver on the expansive remit that you gave us," Warsh replied.

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

After 2 deadly shootings, ICE reportedly ordered to end vehicle enforcement stops

BY ARIANA FIGUEROA

WASHINGTON — The Department of Homeland Security Tuesday ordered U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers to cease vehicle-related enforcement stops, following the deadly shootings of two men in their vehicles, according to multiple media reports.

A DHS spokesperson did not respond directly to States Newsroom's question about what was characterized in some reports as a new nationwide order.

"We are always evaluating our procedures to keep our officers safe and criminals off our streets," the spokesperson said. "We will not disclose or discuss law enforcement tactics."

U.S. Sen. Susan Collins of Maine, a Republican who is up for reelection in one of the nation's most closely watched races, said on social media Tuesday that she spoke with Homeland Security Secretary Markwayne Mullin on Monday night and "urged him to cease all non-urgent vehicle stops." ICE officers killed a 26-year-old Colombian man with legal status in his vehicle in Biddeford, Maine, on Monday.

As the Trump administration aims to carry out mass deportations, aggressive enforcement has occurred

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across the interior of the country, with at least 21 shootings involving federal immigration agents, even before Maine. At least 10 of those incidents prior to Maine have been deadly, according to an investigation by the Guardian.

Monday's shooting in Maine, coupled with another by federal immigration officers who on July 7 killed 52-year-old Lorenzo Salgado Araujo, a Mexican national, during a traffic stop in Houston, Texas, renewed congressional anger and demand for answers.

Neither man was an initial person of interest for immigration enforcement, DHS stated.

Hispanic Caucus calls for abolishing ICE

On Tuesday, the Congressional Hispanic Caucus condemned federal immigration agents for the recent shootings, calling for congressional oversight and for the dismantling of ICE.

"An agency that acts as though it is above the law cannot be reformed at the margins," said New York Democrat Nydia Velázquez. "You cannot put a Band-Aid on a system that is fundamentally broken. We must abolish ICE."

"Here we are again, a brown man, a Latino, killed," said the chair of the Hispanic Caucus, Rep. Adriano Espaillat of New York.

Members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus said the recent killings are a pattern with immigration enforcement under the Trump administration, coupled with conflicting statements given by the Department of Homeland Security and independent video recordings of the incidents.

The department came under intense scrutiny after federal immigration officers shot and killed two U.S. citizens in Minneapolis in January, Renee Good and Alex Pretti. Minnesota prosecutors announced Monday that they started receiving evidence from the federal government about their killings after the Trump administration initially refused to turn over evidence to local law enforcement.

Espaillat said members of the Hispanic Caucus will hold a field hearing in Houston on July 24 with House Democrats on the Homeland Security Committee. Democrats plan to focus the hearing on the killing of Salgado Araujo, a construction worker, husband and father of three U.S. citizen children.

ICE to get billions

Texas Democrat Joaquin Castro said that Congress must not only use its power of subpoena to conduct oversight, but must freeze hiring at ICE and refuse to fund the agency.

Congressional Republicans funded ICE and Border Patrol with \$70 billion until September 2029 through a special legislative process after Democrats refused to fund DHS for fiscal year 2026.

Additionally, congressional Republicans last year approved roughly \$170 billion for DHS to conduct immigration enforcement and hire more ICE and Border Patrol agents.

"We have to disband ICE in this Congress," Castro said. "Otherwise, these killings will continue. There will be another victim in a few days or a few weeks."

Texas Democratic Rep. Sylvia Garcia said she has a meeting with Homeland Security's Mullin this week, where she plans to ask questions related to the Texas and Maine shootings.

"This is a human life," she said of Salgado Araujo. "He was not the target. He had no criminal record. He may not even be the right man. Those are very troubling questions for everybody."

Ariana covers the nation's capital for States Newsroom. Her coverage areas include immigration, congressional policy and legal challenges with a focus on how those policies impact the lives of immigrants and migrants coming to the U.S.

Food stamp changes will cost states billions, raising fears about SNAP's future

The federal government says new data shows a need for more state accountability

BY KEVIN HARDY

Upcoming funding shifts in the federal food stamp program are poised to cost states billions of dollars, heightening fears that more Americans will lose access to the nation's largest food assistance program.

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Last year's One Big Beautiful Bill Act made major changes to the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program, or SNAP, including new eligibility and work requirements. Already, more than 4 million Americans have lost SNAP benefits, putting more pressure on food banks and food pantries across the country.

But beginning in fall 2027, states for the first time must begin to fund some SNAP benefits themselves. Analyses of newly released data from the U.S. Department of Agriculture show states could be on the hook for more than \$9 billion. Some states, county officials and advocates fear this will remove more Americans from the safety net program and even push some states to consider dropping out of SNAP altogether.

The new law will penalize states depending on their payment error rates — a technical calculation by the feds of SNAP overpayments and underpayments, not fraud. States with a payment error rate above 6% will have to fund 5% to 15% of their benefit payments. Previously, the feds provided the aid.

In USDA's most recent analysis, the error rate slightly improved across the states in fiscal year 2025, but officials said states still made a collective \$10.1 billion in improper payments.

"These payment error rates are further proof that state accountability is severely lacking in SNAP," Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins said in a June news release.

As many as 36 states will face new cost share requirements in the fall of 2027. And nearly half of those are expected to be on the hook for \$100 million or more a year, according to the left-leaning Center on Budget and Policy Priorities.

For example, in Michigan, the current error rate could cost the state \$300 million a year, the center estimates. Texas could be on the hook for an estimated \$725 million and New York may need to spend more than \$1 billion.

"States are going to have to make some really painful decisions as they have to balance their budgets about how they are going to cover those costs, and if they can't fully cover the required cost-sharing requirement, by raising revenue or cutting elsewhere in their budget," said Katie Bergh, senior policy analyst at the center.

The change is heightening fears that states will slow down benefit approval, cut access or even choose to drop out of the program altogether, Bergh said. While advocates and some officials have unsuccessfully pushed Congress to reverse its SNAP changes, many are now asking for at least a delay in implementation to give states time to improve their payment error rates.

After USDA released its new data last month, New Jersey Human Services Commissioner Stephen Cha said the error rate measurement is "fundamentally flawed." Though the state significantly cut its error rate from 14.33% to 6.86%, it could still be on the hook for an estimated \$100 million.

Cha reiterated previous calls for Congress and the Trump administration to eliminate or delay the changes. "Penalizing states will do nothing to improve payment accuracy or meaningfully address waste, fraud, or abuse," Cha said in a statement. "Instead, they impose a significant financial and administrative burden on State and county governments, threatening our ability to effectively administer SNAP and meet the critical needs of families across New Jersey."

In a statement to Stateline, a USDA spokesperson noted states have had decades to improve erroneous payments. "Perhaps now, States will stop spending other people's money so recklessly," the statement said.

Looming budget pressures

In 10 states — California, Colorado, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Virginia and Wisconsin — counties administer the SNAP program.

The National Association of Counties has said the cost shift will threaten not only food access, but could squeeze the ability of counties to fund public safety, emergency management and infrastructure needs.

"These cost shifts threaten to destabilize county budgets, forcing reductions in staffing and delaying critical nutrition assistance for vulnerable residents," association CEO Matthew Chase said in a letter last year to congressional leaders.

The National Conference of State Legislatures, which represents lawmakers and legislative staff, said states are committed to administering SNAP benefits accurately and to being held accountable for their performance. But in a statement, the organization said USDA's most recent data "make clear that additional

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time is needed" to implement meaningful improvements.

State efforts to improve their payment accuracy also have substantial tradeoffs.

This spring, the Urban Institute and the American Public Human Services Association surveyed all SNAP agencies across the country. Thirty-nine states responded to the survey, representing a 78% response rate.

The survey found that SNAP administrators are investing in staffing, technology and automation to respond to the federal law. But many states are turning away from efforts to improve timeliness and may have to reduce staffing and benefits to comply.

In the survey, 29% of states identified narrowing eligibility policies as a potential risk and 11% saw a wholesale withdrawal from SNAP as a potential risk.

Oklahoma Gov. Kevin Stitt, a Republican, said churches, food banks and other organizations would ensure that people are fed there.

Stitt, the chair of the bipartisan National Governors Association, said he believes federal programs like SNAP are operated with "a lot of fraud and abuse." He also suggested that the program had become too seamless, with cards that resemble credit cards allowing recipients to easily purchase groceries.

"Maybe it's going back to the day where there was a little stigma attached and you had to actually go to a food bank and pick up commodity cheese and commodity groceries, and it had a little stigma so you were a little bit embarrassed," he told Stateline. "Maybe we should go back to a little bit of that instead of just making it so easy..."

"Nobody's going to go hungry in Oklahoma," he said. "...I can assure you people were eating, getting married, graduating from high school before we even had anything called SNAP benefits."

The error rate

The federal focus on error rates is incentivizing states to slow down or entirely halt benefits in some cases, said Gina Plata-Nino, SNAP director at the Food Research & Action Center, a nonprofit working to combat hunger.

That's because states face no penalty for wrongfully denying benefits, she said, only for paying too much or too little in benefits. The rate, calculated by a random sample of households, adds the number of overpayments and underpayments together. And states can still be penalized for overpayments they later recover from recipients.

"There is no oversight in terms of the people who are eligible and being cut off," Plata-Nino said.

In Massachusetts, nearly 175,000 people lost SNAP benefits between July of last year and May of this year. And understaffing at the Department of Transitional Assistance has caused thousands of incoming phone calls from residents to get disconnected, according to the Massachusetts Law Reform Institute, a poverty law and policy center.

That organization has pushed for more caseworkers, though a legislative budget proposal last week would cut \$26 million from existing operations, said Victoria Negus, senior economic justice advocate at the institute.

"What is happening is a version of what I've been calling 'can't see the forest for the payment error rate trees,'" she said. "They have set up this system that forces states to try to meet a number that is almost impossible for them to meet without fully decimated access to SNAP, because it takes time to methodically and carefully reduce payment error rates."

In Alabama, officials said the state continues to prioritize staff training, automation and other changes to reduce the state's error rate. The current error rate of 9.52% could cost the state an estimated \$170 million.

Alabama's legislature has set aside nearly \$150 million for the SNAP program. But state Sen. Greg Albritton, a Republican who leads the budget committee, told the Alabama Reflector in April that those funds won't be released unless the state can reduce its error rate to 6% or develop another plan to cover costs of the federal cuts.

Kathryn Shoupe, spokesperson for the Alabama Department of Human Resources, noted that the federal data can be over a year old. She also noted that it isn't evidence of fraud, but usually unintentional reporting errors from recipients.

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LaTrell Clifford Wood, the hunger policy advocate at the anti-poverty nonprofit Alabama Arise, said the state needs hundreds more employees to fully meet the need. She noted that more than 52,000 people have already lost SNAP benefits in Alabama. And with rising grocery prices, she said the focus on the error rate will force difficult budgetary decisions that could affect other parts of the state budget, such as education.

"It is a metric with moral ambiguity," she said. "We are putting paper pushing over people."

Stateline reporter Kevin Hardy can be reached at khardy@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.

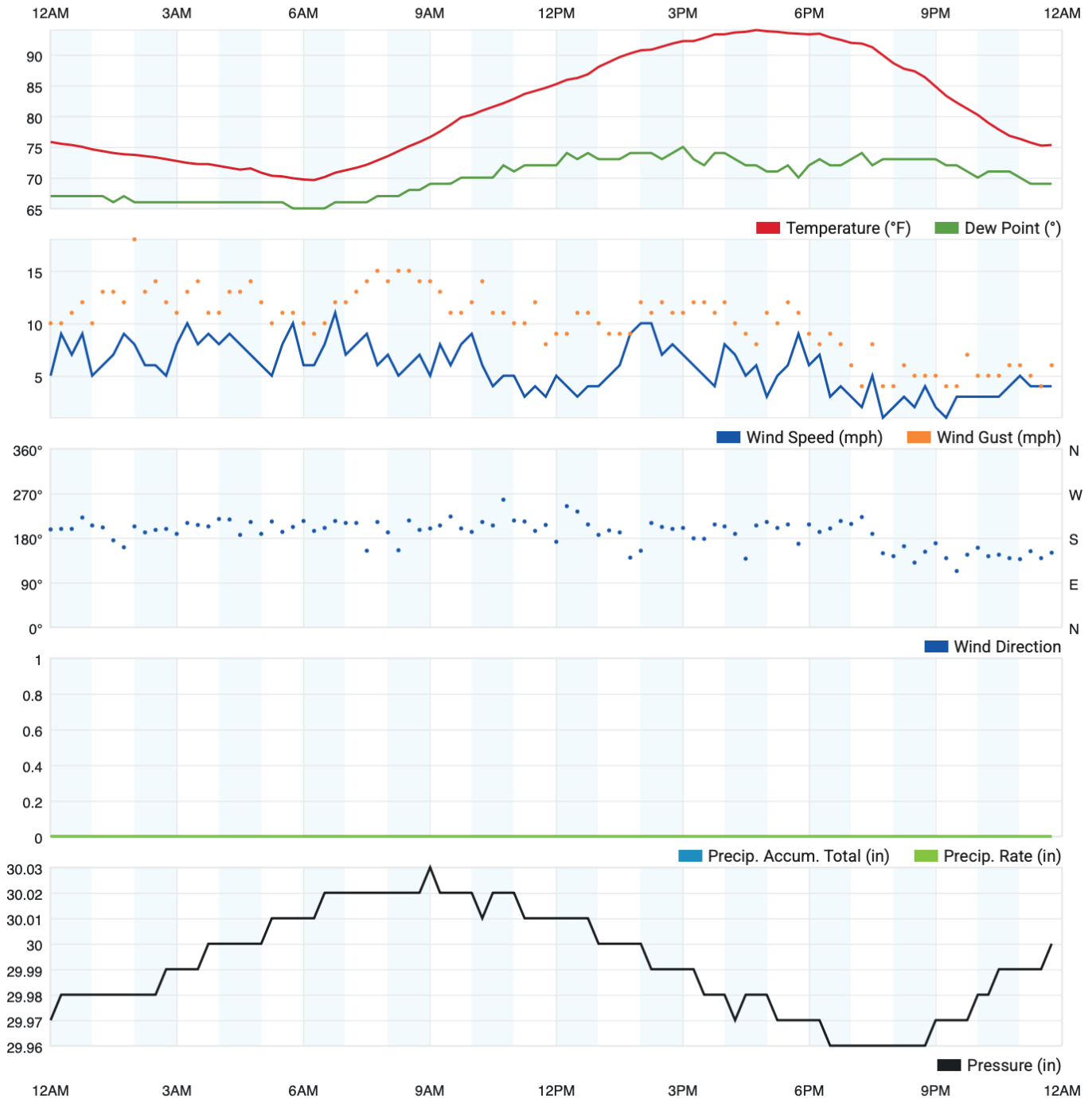
Kevin Hardy covers business, labor and rural issues for Stateline from the Midwest.

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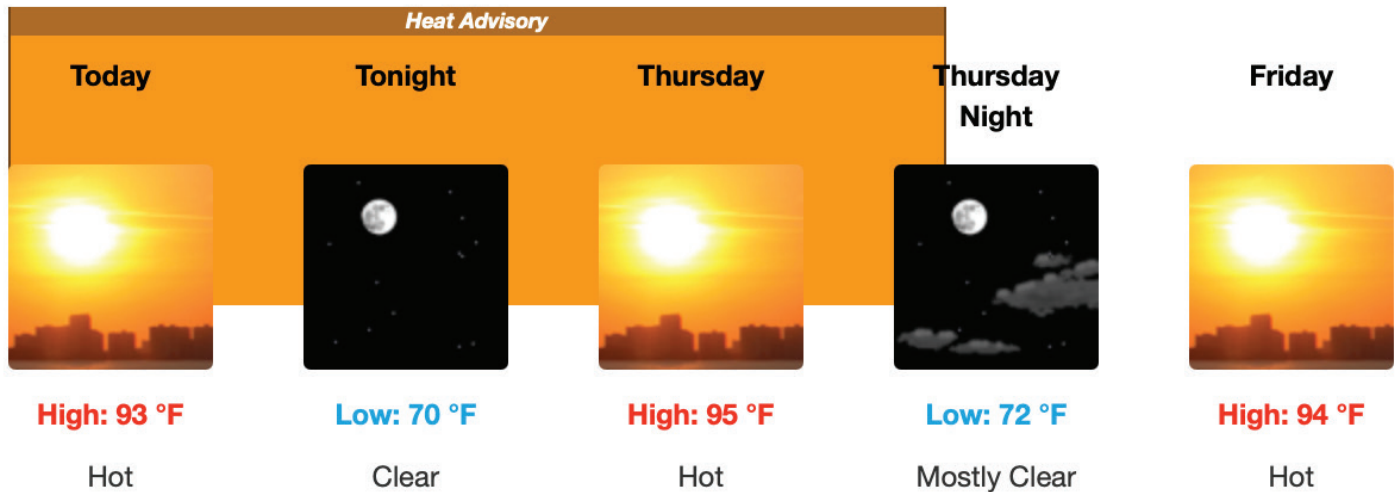
Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs

July 14, 2026



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Heatwave Continues

July 15, 2026
2:19 AM

Key Messages

- Temperatures and humidity remaining consistent the rest of the week and weekend.
 - ◆ **Highs in the 90s to the lower 100s, warmest over central SD.**
- Dewpoints in the upper 50s to low 70s, highest James Valley and eastward.
 - ◆ **Heat Index Values from 90s to low 100s.**
- *The **LONG DURATION** heat may cause widespread heat related impacts particularly for those without adequate cooling and/or those sensitive to heat!*



Maximum Temperature (°F) & Maximum Heat Index (°F) Forecast

		7/15	7/16	7/17	7/18	7/19			7/15	7/16	7/17	7/18	7/19
		Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun			Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
Aberdeen	Max Temp	95	98	99	96	96	Milbank	Max Temp	91	92	93	90	90
	HeatIndex	95	98	100	96	96		HeatIndex	94	94	96	91	91
Britton	Max Temp	91	93	93	91	91	Miller	Max Temp	92	96	96	97	97
	HeatIndex	93	94	95	91	91		HeatIndex	90	95	96	96	97
Brookings	Max Temp	91	92	95	93	94	Mobridge	Max Temp	97	101	97	100	99
	HeatIndex	92	94	98	93	94		HeatIndex	95	100	96	98	98
Clark	Max Temp	88	91	92	90	91	Murdo	Max Temp	94	97	98	100	99
	HeatIndex	89	91	93	90	91		HeatIndex	92	95	97	99	98
Eagle Butte	Max Temp	96	99	97	99	99	Pierre	Max Temp	97	102	101	102	101
	HeatIndex	93	97	96	97	97		HeatIndex	95	101	101	102	101
Ellendale	Max Temp	92	94	93	92	91	Redfield	Max Temp	94	97	98	98	98
	HeatIndex	93	95	94	91	91		HeatIndex	92	96	97	97	97
Eureka	Max Temp	94	98	94	94	94	Sisseton	Max Temp	90	92	93	90	91
	HeatIndex	92	96	94	92	93		HeatIndex	93	94	95	90	92
Gettysburg	Max Temp	94	98	97	98	97	Watertown	Max Temp	90	92	94	89	91
	HeatIndex	92	96	96	96	96		HeatIndex	92	93	97	91	93
Kennebec	Max Temp	95	98	100	101	101	Webster	Max Temp	89	90	92	88	88
	HeatIndex	93	97	99	100	101		HeatIndex	91	91	95	89	89
McIntosh	Max Temp	96	98	94	97	95	Wheaton	Max Temp	90	92	92	90	89
	HeatIndex	94	97	93	96	94		HeatIndex	93	94	95	90	89

National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

Dangerously hot temperatures continuing the rest of the week and weekend as the region remains under the heat dome. High temperatures remain in the 90s to the lower 100s. Very little relief is expected overnight with low temperatures in the upper 60s to mid-70s.

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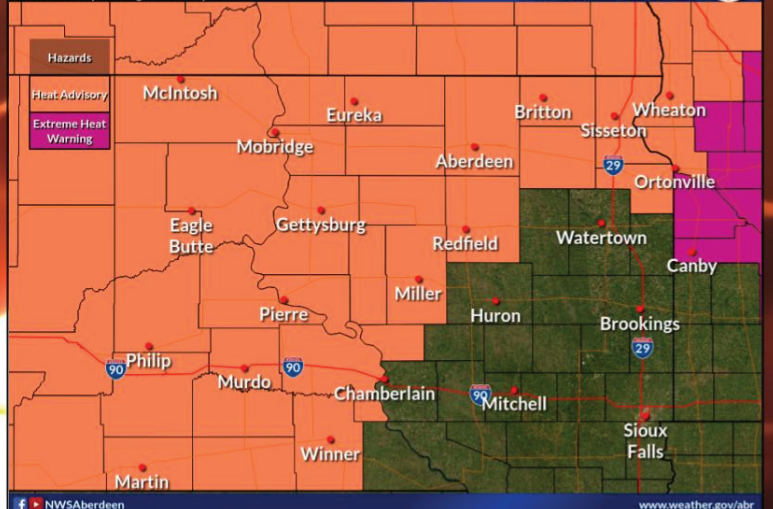
Heat Advisory

Heat Headlines

Heat Advisory Through Thursday

Weather Forecast Office
Aberdeen, SD

Issued Jul 15, 2026 12:20 AM CDT



NWSAberdeen

www.weather.gov/abr

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
weather.gov/abern

A Heat Advisory remains in effect for central SD, portions of northeast SD and portions of west central MN until Thursday evening. These dangerously hot temperatures and high humidity may lead to heat related illnesses.



Maximum HeatRisk

July 15, 2026

2:21 AM CDT

Key Messages

- Maximum HeatRisk is expected to be **Moderate** to **Major** for the rest of the week and into the weekend.
- This heat affects anyone without cooling/hydration and those sensitive to heat.
- **Don't forget about your pets!** Make sure to provide them with lots of water and shade. Bring them inside if possible. **Never leave pets in a hot vehicle!**

Orange 2	Moderate - Affects those who are sensitive to heat, especially those without cooling/hydration, and some health systems and industries.
Red 3	Major - Affects anyone without cooling/hydration as well as health systems and industries.

Maximum HeatRisk Forecast

	7/15	7/16	7/17	7/18	7/19
	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
Aberdeen	3	3	3	2	3
Britton	2	3	2	2	2
Brookings	2	2	3	3	3
Clark	2	3	2	2	3
Eagle Butte	2	2	2	2	3
Ellendale	2	3	2	2	3
Eureka	3	3	3	3	3
Gettysburg	3	3	3	3	3
Kennebec	2	2	2	2	3
McIntosh	3	2	2	2	2
Milbank	2	2	2	2	3
Miller	2	3	3	2	3
Mobridge	3	3	3	3	3
Murdo	2	2	2	2	3
Pierre	2	2	2	2	3
Redfield	2	3	3	3	3
Sisseton	2	3	2	2	2
Watertown	2	3	3	2	3
Webster	2	3	2	2	2
Wheaton	2	3	3	2	2

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Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 94 °F at 4:37 PM

Low Temp: 70 °F at 6:18 AM

Wind: 18 mph at 1:53 AM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 114 in 1931

Record Low: 41 in 1912

Average High: 85

Average Low: 60

Average Precip in July.: 1.69

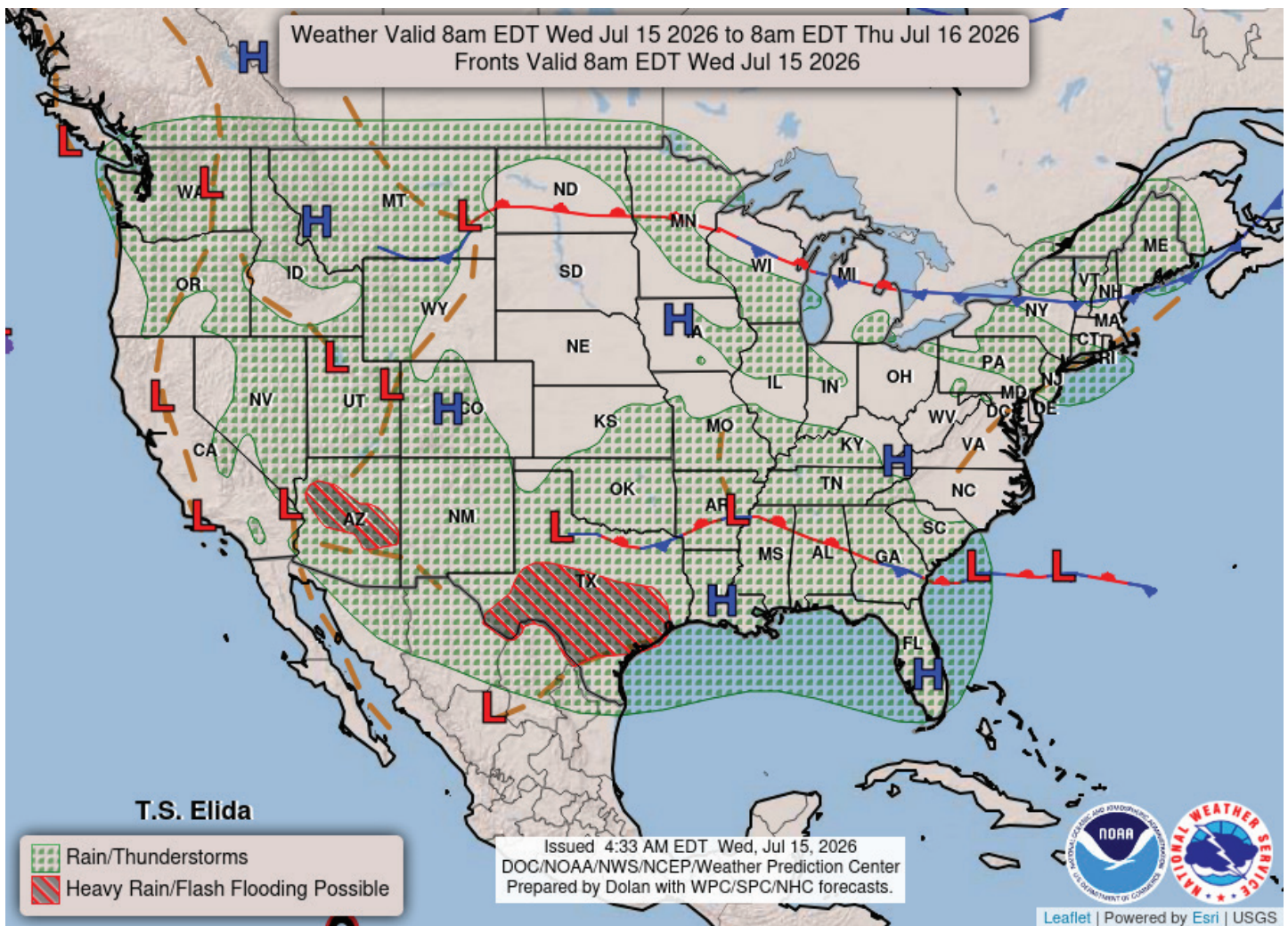
Precip to date in July.: 4.72

Average Precip to date: 12.70

Precip Year to Date: 14.19

Sunset Tonight: 9:18 pm

Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:59 am



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Today in Weather History

July 15, 1885: The first of three damaging tornadoes hit 7 miles NNE of Highmore, Hyde County, and moved to the northeast. Two small homes were destroyed before the funnel turned to the east, then northeast and north before lifting. This tornado was estimated to have an F2 strength and was seen in all directions for 20 miles. The second tornado appeared to be motionless 3 miles east of Harrold, and then moved east to Holabird, in Hyde County, where it destroyed two homes and dissipated. A third tornado, this one with an estimated F3 strength, formed to the west of Highmore and moved east into town, then lifted about 4 miles east of town. Three homes were destroyed, and about 20 other buildings were damaged at Highmore. A farmer was killed 2 miles east of town. Losses totaled about \$55,000, which included many new buildings, including a church and a skating rink.

July 15, 1986: Thunderstorms brought locally heavy rainfall to portions of Walworth to Marshall Counties. Three inches of rain in an hour and a half was reported in extreme northwest Marshall County. The highest rainfall amount was seven inches southeast of Bowdle. The rains caused lowland flooding, with water over several roads in Marshall County, including Highway 10, two miles east of Britton. In Britton, 3.86 inches of rain was reported.

July 15, 2006: Record heat occurred across central and north central South Dakota and into parts of northeast South Dakota. Afternoon high temperatures ranged from 105 to as high as 120 degrees. Record highs were set at Pierre, Mobridge, Kennebec, and Timber Lake. Pierre set a new all-time record high of 117 degrees, and Mobridge tied their all-time record high of 116 degrees. Kennebec and Timber Lake both hit a record high temperature of 112 degrees. The coop observer station 17 miles west-southwest of Fort Pierre tied the state record high temperature with 120 degrees. Other high temperatures for the day were 116 degrees at Onida and Mission Ridge, 114 degrees at Murdo, 112 degrees at Redfield and Blunt, 111 degrees at Stephan, 110 degrees at Conde and Gann Valley, and 109 degrees at Aberdeen.

July 15, 2011: A large upper-level high-pressure area built over the region bringing sweltering and humid conditions. This heat was the worst to hit the area since July 2006. Beginning on Friday, July 15th and persisting through Wednesday, July 20th, many locations experienced high temperatures in the 90s to lower 100s, with low temperatures in the 70s at night. Also, humidity levels rose to extreme levels. Surface dew point temperatures in the 70s and lower 80s brought extreme heat index values of up to 110 to 125 degrees. The dew points were some of the highest ever recorded in the region on July 17th. The dew point at Aberdeen tied the previous record with 82 degrees. Sisseton also tied their record with 83 degrees. Watertown came a degree shy of matching their record with 80 degrees.

The prolonged heat took its toll on livestock with fifteen hundred cattle perishing during the heat. Numerous sports and outdoor activities were canceled. Some of the highest heat index values included; 110 degrees at Mobridge; 111 degrees at Watertown; 113 degrees at Miller and Gettysburg; 114 degrees at Wheaton and Faulkton; 116 degrees at Pierre; 118 degrees at Sisseton; and 121 degrees at Aberdeen. The highest heat index value occurred at Leola with a temperature of 98 degrees and a dewpoint of 82 degrees, and the heat index hit 125 degrees. [Click HERE](#) for more information.

1888: The Bandai volcano erupts on the Japanese island of Honshu on this day in 1888, killing hundreds and burying many nearby villages in ash. [Click HERE](#) for more information from the History Channel.

1901: The city of Marquette, Michigan set their all-time record high temperature with 108-degree reading.

1916 — A dying South Atlantic Coast storm produced torrential rains in the southern Appalachian Mountains. Altapass, NC, was drenched with more than 22 inches of rain, a 24 hour rainfall record for the state. Flooding resulted in considerable damage, particularly to railroads. (David Ludlum)

1954 — The temperature at Balcony Falls, VA, soared to 110 degrees to establish a state record. (The Weather Channel)

1983 — The Big Thompson Creek in Colorado flooded for the second time in seven years, claiming three lives, and filling the town of Estes Park with eight to ten feet of water. (The Weather Channel)

1987 — Unseasonably cool weather spread into the south central and eastern U.S. Fifteen cities reported record low temperatures for the date, including Houghton Lake, MI, with a reading of 37 degrees. The high temperature for the date of 58 degrees at Flint, MI, was their coolest of record for July. Thunderstorms spawned several tornadoes in Illinois and Indiana, injuring a cow near Donovan, IL. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)



The Causes of Discouragement

A life of faith isn't always easy. But we have a constant refuge in times of trouble.

Psalms 43:1-5: 1 Vindicate me, O God, and plead my case against an ungodly nation; O deliver me from the deceitful and unjust man!

2 For You are the God of my strength; why have You rejected me? Why do I go mourning because of the oppression of the enemy?

3 O send out Your light and Your truth, let them lead me; Let them bring me to Your holy hill And to Your dwelling places.

4 Then I will go to the altar of God, To God my exceeding joy; And upon the lyre I shall praise You, O God, my God.

5 Why are you in despair, O my soul? And why are you disturbed within me? Hope in God, for I shall again praise Him, The help of my countenance and my God.

What has caused you to feel discouraged? Sometimes the reason is easy to identify, but other times there are subtle, less obvious factors. Things that can contribute to discouragement include ...

An area of weakness. Some sins seem to have a stronghold in our life, and no matter how hard we try to overcome them, we still struggle. If the temptation begins to feel inescapable, we can become disheartened.

Unanswered prayer. When the answer to a prayer is no or not now, we can lose hope, especially if we've prayed a long time.

Prayerlessness. Failing to understand God's sovereignty and timing can lead to discouragement. However, cutting off communication with Him will lead only to deeper despair. Consistent prayer keeps us connected to our source of hope.

The sense you can't please God. This is a consequence of a works-based faith, which wrongly assumes God's favor is tied to our good works. Instead, believe the truth of Scripture: Our Father's love is based on His own grace, not our deeds.

Psalm 46 tells us, "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble" (Psalm 46:1). The next time you feel discouraged, pray this verse to the Lord, asking Him to fill you with His peace and joy.

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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- ☐ 12 Months\$60.00

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City _____

State, Zip Code _____

Phone Number _____

The following will be used for your log-in information.

E-mail _____

Password _____

Pay with Paypal. Type the following into your browser window:

paypal.me/paperpaul

Pay with Venmo: @paperpaul Phone Number to Confirm: 7460



WINNING NUMBERS

MILLIONAIRE FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS:

07.14.26

12 13 15 16 41 2

TOP PRIZE:

\$1,000,000/year

NEXT 17 Hrs 43 Mins 43
DRAW: Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS:

07.14.26

2 4 10 48 56 22

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$672,000,000

NEXT 2 Days 17 Hrs 28
DRAW: Mins 43 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS:

07.13.26

6 7 24 29 51 4

All Star Bonus: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$33,770,000

NEXT 16 Hrs 43 Mins 43
DRAW: Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS:

07.11.26

1 2 10 18 20

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$183,000

NEXT 16 Hrs 58 Mins 43
DRAW: Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS:

07.13.26

1 17 31 39 43 22

TOP PRIZE:

\$10,000,000

NEXT 17 Hrs 27 Mins 43
DRAW: Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS:

07.13.26

5 25 36 40 48 3

Power Play: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$498,000,000

NEXT 17 Hrs 27 Mins 43
DRAW: Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

News from the **AP** Associated Press

Mystery bidder buys T. rex nicknamed 'Gus' for a record \$50 million

By PHILIP MARCELO Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A Tyrannosaurus rex fossil billed as one of the world's largest and most complete specimens was sold for a record \$50.1 million Tuesday to a mystery bidder.

Sotheby's said the 67-million-year-old fossil, nicknamed "Gus," is now the most expensive set of dinosaur bones ever auctioned off, besting the almost \$45 million price tag for a nearly complete stegosaurus sold by the same New York auction house in 2024. The previous record holder had been a Tyrannosaurus rex skeleton nicknamed "Stan" that sold for nearly \$32 million in 2020.

"Gus is not only an exceptional find, but a specimen that's been excavated, documented, prepared, and cared for with real excellence," Cassandra Hatton, Sotheby's vice chair, said after the sale was completed. "The market responds when great specimens are taken care of in the right way."

Why the bidding for this T. rex was intense

Standing upright with its tail extended and right foot slightly raised, "Gus" is an adult dinosaur specimen measuring about 12 ½ feet (3.8 meters) tall and 38 feet (11.5 meters) long.

He's about 61% complete, with what Sotheby's describes as an "exceptionally preserved" skull including a gaping jaw of powerful teeth, two "well represented" feet and a number of rarely found bones, including a furcula, or wishbone.

The fossil was discovered in 2021 on a ranch in South Dakota and named in honor of property owner Gary Licking, who died during the roughly five year excavation, restoration and mounting process.

The auction house said the winner, who participated by phone and wants to remain anonymous, outbid six other prospective buyers during Tuesday's 10-minute bidding battle. The piece had been estimated to fetch anywhere from \$20 to \$30 million ahead of the sale.

"Try a bigger bite," auctioneer Phyllis Kao cajoled the bidders at one point during the auction, which was conducted live and online. "It's a T. rex, after all."

Scientists want 'Gus' on public display

The Society of Vertebrate Paleontology, an advocacy group of scientists, scholars and students, said scientifically significant fossils such as "Gus" should be publicly displayed in museums and other research institutions so that they can be "preserved, documented, and accessible for future generations."

"Our hope is that the new owner recognizes the extraordinary scientific and educational value of Gus the T. rex and that they aim to keep it in the public trust by immediately donating it to an accredited natural history museum," Kristi Curry Rogers, the society's president-elect, said in a statement Tuesday. "That outcome would ensure that this remarkable specimen continues to advance science, rather than becoming unavailable for study."

Indeed, "Apex," the stegosaurus, the previous dinosaur fossil record-holder, is currently on long-term loan to the American Museum of Natural History in Manhattan. "Sue" the T. rex, the first dinosaur ever sold at auction in 1997, also by Sotheby's, is a centerpiece of the Field Museum in Chicago.

And "Stan" is on display at the Natural History Museum Abu Dhabi, posed in combat with another fossilized T. rex over the remains of a triceratops.

A Cretaceous king and Hollywood staple

Tyrannosaurus rex, whose name roughly translates to "King of the Tyrant Lizards," stood firmly at the top of the food chain when it ruled during the late Cretaceous period.

With its fearsome jawline and comically stubby arms, it has become the most recognizable and beloved of the dinosaurs, depicted in everything from children's programs like Barney, the purple T. rex, to the enduring "Jurassic Park" movie franchise.

The great beasts roamed what is today western North America, during a time when the region boasted

"warm climates, high sea levels, and rich coastal floodplains" that allowed their primary prey, giant herbivores like the triceratops, to flourish, according to Sotheby's.

Tehran threatens to halt all Mideast energy exports after US reimposes its blockade on Iran

By JON GAMBRELL Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — The U.S. military reimposed a naval blockade on Iran and intensified its airstrike campaign early Wednesday, hitting an Iranian army barracks and killing at least seven troops while wounding 260 people across the country, Iranian officials said.

Days of retaliatory strikes across the Middle East by Iran and the U.S., and both nations' attempts to assert control over the Strait of Hormuz, threaten to push the region back to all-out war.

More than 30 people have been killed over "recent days," Iranian government spokesperson Fatemeh Mohajerani said, without elaborating. Seven of the dead came from the attack on the barracks in Iran's southeastern Sistan and Baluchestan province.

The U.S. first imposed the blockade in mid-April and then lifted it in mid-June, a day after signing the interim deal that set a 60-day period for negotiations over issues like Iran's nuclear program, but talks have stalled as fighting over the strait, through which a fifth of the world's oil and natural gas trade passes during peacetime, has intensified.

Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard threatened Wednesday to halt all energy exports from the Middle East over the blockade.

"The export of oil and gas from the region will be either for everyone or for no one," it said.

When U.S. President Donald Trump announced the return of the blockade Monday, he also said he would impose a 20% fee on ships passing through the strait. But he dropped the plan to collect fees hours before resuming the blockade, citing requests from allies in the Persian Gulf.

Both US and Iran launched attacks as blockade reimposed

The U.S. carried out another wave of strikes as it reimposed the blockade, striking dozens of targets over seven hours, the U.S. military's Central Command said Wednesday.

Hossein Kermanpour, a spokesperson for the Health Ministry, gave Wednesday's casualty figure of over 260 people wounded, without specifying how many people had been killed. Kermanpour's figures reported far more people injured than in any other round of recent violence between Iran and the U.S.

One strike targeted a barracks for Iran's 388th Mechanized Infantry Brigade in Bampur in Sistan and Baluchestan province, Iranian state television reported. The report said the Americans fired at least 13 missiles in the attack and that the dead included conscripts and career soldiers. A number of other troops were wounded.

The army said it would make "a decisive response to this aggressive action by the American enemy," state TV added.

The 388th operates battle tanks and armored vehicles.

Missile alert warnings went out in Bahrain and Kuwait early Wednesday morning as they faced incoming Iranian fire, something that's been a daily occurrence, further straining a ceasefire in the war. Jordan also said it shot down three incoming Iranian missiles. Iran claimed attacks on the three nations.

U.S. Navy Adm. Brad Cooper, who leads Central Command, said in a statement that Iran had launched dozens of missiles and drones at neighboring Gulf Arab countries.

"U.S. forces are holding Iran accountable for unwarranted aggression that continues to endanger innocent lives," Cooper said.

When the U.S. and Israel launched the war on Iran on Feb. 28, Tehran effectively shut the Strait of Hormuz by attacking and threatening ships. That sent the price of oil, fertilizer and other goods soaring.

Iran has more recently attacked ships moving through the strait on a route near Oman overseen by the U.S. military that is outside Tehran's control, setting off the recent violence. The U.S. has threatened to reopen the strait by force — but experts say that would require a much bigger armada if not tens of

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thousands of ground troops.

Iran's ambassador to the United Nations, Amir Saeid Iravani, criticized America's ongoing attacks targeting his country.

"The U.S. is the aggressor, not the victim," he wrote to the world body's leader, according to the state-run IRNA news agency.

Trump says he's seeking Gulf investments instead of fees

Trump said Tuesday that he was called by the region's "kings and emirs," who suggested an alternate arrangement to charging ships fees to pass through the strait like the president proposed a day earlier.

"They said we'd love to do it a different way. We'd love to invest in the United States with billions and billions of dollars," Trump told reporters Tuesday in the Oval Office.

Trump said he preferred that arrangement to charging tolls "because I don't think anybody should be able to charge a fee for the strait."

It was unclear if the investment deals would be new commitments relative to what Trump announced after a visit last year to the Middle East.

Trump's plan to charge fees would have been a change to longstanding American policy and a departure from U.S. promises that the strait would remain open to all without tolls.

Trump told Fox News Channel on Tuesday night that more U.S. strikes against Iran were coming over the next two days and that bridges and power plants could be targets by next week unless negotiations resume. Already, the U.S. has struck at least one bridge.

"You better make a deal, or you're not going to have anything left," Trump warned.

The interim peace deal is in peril

Under the interim deal, Iran agreed that passage through the strait would remain free of charge for 60 days — but the agreement left open what would happen after. Iran asserts it has the right to manage traffic and potentially charge fees. The U.S. has disputed that.

The price for a barrel of Brent crude oil, the international standard, briefly topped \$87 early Tuesday, still well below the nearly \$120 reached at the height of the war. The price dipped to \$78 in the aftermath of Trump's announcement that he had changed course, then went back up to \$85 a barrel on Wednesday.

Regional mediators meanwhile are still trying to get the United States and Iran back to the negotiating table.

Death toll from Bangkok bar fire rises to 32 as 2 more die in hospital

By TIAN MACLEOD JI and JINTAMAS SAKSORNCHAI Associated Press

BANGKOK (AP) — Survivors and family members of victims of a deadly bar fire in Bangkok visited a nearby police station on Wednesday to seek compensation, gather belongings and share statements from the blaze.

The fire, which broke out on Sunday night, killed at least 32 people and left more than 70 injured, 15 of whom are still in critical condition, according to the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration.

The cause of the fire at the Rong Beer Na Ladprao bar is still under investigation.

Most of the people who were killed were found trapped in windowless bathrooms, where they may have sought to escape the flames, police said.

Wiroon Supasingsiripreecha, chief of the Institute of Forensic Medicine, told reporters Wednesday that most of the victims died from smoke inhalation, while a few died from burn injuries.

Natthaphong Lakhorn, 26, was at the beer hall on the night of the fire with four companions. He was sitting near the stage when the fire broke out.

He recounted seeing white smoke coming from the stage, which he at first thought was an effect from dry ice before realizing it was the start of a fire.

"When the fire broke, I just ran, and then all power went out," said Natthaphong, who said that one of his companions, a relative, died in the fire. "It was so hectic."

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On Wednesday, Natthaphong went to the Phahonyothin Police Station in Bangkok to give a statement. Photos of personal belongings, like smartphones, left behind the bar on the night of fire adorned the walls.

Bandages covered both of Natthaphong's ears and part of his forehead. Before registering with the police, he said that he plans to seek compensation for these injuries.

Natthaphong said he escaped through the back door of the bar near the bathrooms, and that there was a security guard there who was using a flashlight to lead people out, contradicting reports from police that the door was not used.

Kanticha Singkhon, 25, was at the police station to pick up a handbag and other personal belongings of her mother, who died in the fire.

With her mother gone, Kanticha said she is now responsible for her younger brother.

"I want them (the owners of the bar) to be the one reaching out to the families. Rather than having us come to the police station ourselves because they (family members of victims) would be going back to their hometowns by now," she said. "They won't have time, because each victim came from far away."

A lawyer representing the bar owners told local media that survivors and family members will initially receive 10,000 baht (approximately \$300) in compensation.

"It's not enough money for a funeral — I had to take a loan to arrange my mom's funeral," Kanticha said. "I have not had any financial arrangements, and no one has contacted me."

Asian shares rise after rally on Wall Street as data show US inflation slowing

By YURI KAGEYAMA AP Business Writer

TOKYO (AP) — Asian shares mostly rose Wednesday, tracking a rally on Wall Street following a report that showed U.S. inflation was not as bad last month as economists expected.

South Korea's Kospi surged 6.2% to 7,284.41 as prices rebounded from a recent sell-off in semiconductor stocks. Shares in computer chipmaker SK Hynix rose 9.4%, while those of Samsung Electronics surged 6.1%.

Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 rose 1.3% to 68,613.89.

Australia's S&P/ASX 200 rose 0.4% to 8,841.10.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng edged up 1.5% to 24,701.10, while the Shanghai Composite lost 0.2% to 3,957.79 after the Chinese government reported the economy expanded at a 4.3% annualized pace in April-June, slowing sharply from 5% in the first quarter of the year.

Stock price gains overall were moderate given worries that the United States and Iran may return to an all-out war. That has pushed oil prices higher. Investors are also watching for earnings reports from various companies for the spring.

Renewed attacks have raised the risks of further disruptions of transport of oil and gas through the Strait of Hormuz.

In energy trading, benchmark U.S. crude rose 30 cents to \$79.64 a barrel. Brent crude, the international standard, gained 62 cents to \$85.35 a barrel.

"The U.S.-Iran Memorandum of Understanding signed last month has proved to be anything but. The two sides are once again exchanging military strikes, and they hold completely different views on the state of affairs in the Strait of Hormuz," said Tim Waterer, chief market analyst at KCM Trade.

"With shipping around the Gulf becoming increasingly fraught with danger, traffic flows are declining once more," he said.

On Wall Street, the S&P 500 added 0.4% to recover some of its 0.8% loss from the prior day, closing at 7,543.59. The Dow Jones Industrial Average added less than 0.1% to 52,508.27. The Nasdaq composite climbed 0.9% to 26,107.01.

Stocks got help from easing yields in the bond market, which fell after a report said U.S. consumers had to pay prices for gasoline, food and other costs of living that were 3.5% higher last month than a year earlier.

Lower inflation can relieve pressure on the Federal Reserve to raise interest rates. Higher rates would keep a lid on inflation, but they also slow the economy and hurt prices for all kinds of investments.

Following the inflation report, traders saw less than a 17% chance that the Fed will raise its main interest rate at its next meeting in a couple weeks. Rebounds for big, influential tech stocks also helped steady the market. Micron Technology rose 4.9%, and Nvidia climbed 4.1%. A day before, they were two of the heaviest weights on the S&P 500 after falling 4.4% and 3.5%, respectively.

In the bond market, the yield on the 10-year Treasury dropped to 4.58% from 4.62% late Monday. That halted its run higher from 3.97% before the war with Iran began.

In currency trading, the U.S. dollar inched down to 162.15 Japanese yen from 162.19 yen. The euro cost \$1.1446, up from \$1.1425.

26 Meta employees sue, alleging AI-driven layoff picks hit workers on medical and parental leave

By BARBARA ORTUTAY and ALEXANDRA OLSON AP Business Writers

A group of 26 Meta employees has sued the company, claiming it used artificial intelligence systems to select people for layoffs, disproportionately targeting those on medical, parental or family leave.

They are among the 8,000 employees, or about 10% of its workforce, Meta said it would lay off in May. The lawsuit filed late Monday in federal court in Oakland, California, claims the company used internal AI systems, keystroke and activity-monitoring data, AI token-usage dashboards and algorithmically assisted performance rankings, among other methods, to determine who would be laid off.

Many of these scores and ratings “by design, cannot be accumulated by an employee who is on protected medical or family leave, or whose output is reduced by a disability,” the lawsuit says. Meta, according to the lawsuit, did not account for protected leave when taking employees’ scores into account and “did not pause the system for the individualized, leave- and accommodation-neutral review that the law requires.”

As a result, people on protected medical or family leave were disproportionately selected for layoffs, the lawsuit says. Each of the 26 anonymous employees in the lawsuit took protected leave and requested or received a reasonable accommodation for disability. Though they have been notified of their layoffs, all 26 remain employed by Meta, with separations set to begin July 22.

Many workers were on parental leave

Many of the employees in the lawsuit took pregnancy or parental leave, during which time they wouldn’t have worked and thus had their measured output reduced. Others took medical leave — one disclosed a “serious health condition and disability” that was approved by Meta’s own provider. But according to the lawsuit, he was “discouraged and deterred from taking that leave by a manager” who warned that doing so would result in his selection for the anticipated layoffs. Meta offered no accommodation for his disability, the lawsuit says.

Meta said in a statement that the claims “lack merit and are not based on facts. Workforce management and organizational decisions were and are made by people, not AI.”

About half the plaintiffs had taken leave for caregiving or pregnancy-related reasons. Eight are women who had taken maternity or pregnancy-related leave, four are men who had taken parental leave and one is a woman who had taken leave to care for a family member and later bereavement leave.

The lawsuit says the layoffs violated several state and federal laws, including the Family and Medical Leave Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Pregnancy Discrimination Act and the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act.

Lawsuit cites ‘disparate impact’

The complaint also references “disparate impact liability,” a longstanding civil rights concept that President Donald Trump’s administration moved to abandon. Disparate impact, codified in Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, holds that facially neutral policies or practices can be discriminatory if they disproportionately burden a protected class of workers and aren’t necessary for the job.

The Trump administration has ordered federal agencies to deprioritize disparate impact liability enforcement, arguing that its use undermines “meritocracy” and encourages the assumption that any racial or

gender imbalance in a workforce is the result of discrimination. The order has led the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission to drop discrimination cases on behalf of some workers.

However, the lawsuit against Meta underscores that companies remain vulnerable to disparate impact litigation in the age of AI despite the Trump administration's efforts to stamp out its enforcement. Workers are still free to pursue such lawsuits on their own if the EEOC rejects their complaints, and several state laws specifically prohibit disparate impact discrimination.

In the case against Meta, lawyers for the plaintiffs argued that the company's "algorithmically assisted selection process, by systematically recording such absences as reduced performance, falls more heavily on women than on men." That's because women disproportionately take pregnancy and caregiving leave, according to the lawyers. The lawsuit cites Title VII's prohibition on employment practices that have a disparate impact, as well as a landmark 1971 Supreme Court ruling that recognized the doctrine.

The plaintiffs' lawyers said in a statement that the lawsuit asks for one thing — preserving the status quo to keep the workers employed pending arbitration. That's because "once these separations are final, the harms are irreversible: employer-subsidized health coverage lost during pregnancy, postpartum recovery, and active medical treatment; time-bound leave rights extinguished; unvested equity forfeited; and immigration consequences triggered."

House passes bill to 'ditch the switch' and make daylight saving time permanent

By KEVIN FREKING Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — There will be no turning back the clock if the House has its way.

The House passed a bill Tuesday that would make daylight saving time permanent. Proponents, including the White House, argued the change would provide more daylight during the times that Americans are most active. The vote was 308-117.

Daylight saving time is that period between spring and fall when clocks in most parts of the United States are set one hour ahead of standard time. States could opt out if their respective legislatures act to do so before the bill's enactment. The Senate would also have to pass the bill before it could be signed into law, but it's unclear if it will do so.

Rep. Gus Bilirakis, R-Fla., said Americans are ready to "ditch the switch," saying that changing the clock twice a year creates unnecessary disruption. More important, he said, it would give families more daylight time in the evening to spend outdoors and support local businesses.

"In my home state of Florida where tourism is a cornerstone of our economy, having more predictable daylight hours is a practical improvement that benefits workers, businesses and visitors alike," Bilirakis said.

Detractors said permanent daylight saving time would lead to darker and potentially more hazardous winter mornings where children will be waiting for school buses and parents will be driving to work in darkness.

"Millions of Americans will wake up during the winter months in complete darkness with the sun not rising until long after people get up and travel to school or work or have to go about their days," said Rep. Mary Gay Scanlon, D-Pa.

Rep. Jim McGovern, D-Mass, said he supported the bill, but he questioned whether it was the best way for Congress to be spending its time.

"For folks getting crushed by rent, groceries, utility bills and healthcare costs, is this really the best the majority can do?" McGovern said. "Is this really the most pressing issue before the American people at this moment?"

A 2025 poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research shows that if forced to choose, most Americans would prefer to keep that extra hour of daylight in the evening.

If they had to choose one option for the entire country to use, more than half of adults — 56% — prefer making daylight saving time permanent, with less light in the morning and more light in the evening. About 4 in 10 prefer standard time, with more light in the morning and less in the evening.

The White House weighed in before the House vote, calling the "Sunshine Protection Act" a popular,

common-sense reform and saying advisers would recommend the president sign the bill if it reaches his desk.

Members of Congress have long been interested in the potential benefits and costs of daylight saving time since it was first adopted as a wartime measure in 1942. The Senate passed a bill four years ago to make daylight saving time permanent, but it stalled in the House.

Former Obama counsel Kathryn Ruemmler to testify in Epstein probe

By JOEY CAPPELLETTI Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Kathryn Ruemmler, the former top lawyer at Goldman Sachs who was White House counsel to President Barack Obama, is set to face questioning before a House committee Wednesday about her relationship with Jeffrey Epstein.

Ruemmler is the latest prominent figure called before the House Oversight Committee as lawmakers investigate the network of powerful people connected with Epstein. The bipartisan inquiry has already included testimony from more than a dozen high-profile witnesses, including Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates and former President Bill Clinton, as lawmakers examine how Epstein's wealth and influence may have helped shield him from scrutiny.

Thousands of documents released by the Justice Department showed that Ruemmler and Epstein had an extensive relationship. The files included personal emails, social plans and gifts that extended beyond formal legal work.

Ruemmler served as White House counsel under Obama from 2011 to 2014 and was briefly considered for attorney general. She served as Goldman Sachs' general counsel for the past six years before announcing in February that she would step down amid backlash over her correspondence with Epstein.

The released documents showed that the two were close years after Epstein's 2008 conviction on sex crimes, when he became a registered sex offender. She tried to downplay her relationship in more recent statements, calling him a "monster." But documents showed she had called Epstein "Uncle Jeffrey" in emails and said she adored him.

Although she said she would step down on June 30, she remains employed by Goldman Sachs.

Ruemmler is the 17th person to testify as part of their broader investigation. Billionaire investor Leon Black was subpoenaed last month after lawmakers said he refused to answer some questions about his yearslong relationship with Epstein.

A spokesperson for the committee said that Black's attorneys have confirmed his appearance for a formal deposition on Sept. 3 and that they will produce Black's nondisclosure agreements by the end of next week.

The committee has also expressed interest in questioning acting Attorney General Todd Blanche, whose nomination to permanently lead the Justice Department is pending before the Senate. Former Attorney General Pam Bondi identified Blanche as the department's point person on the release of the Epstein documents, a process that has drawn bipartisan scrutiny.

ICE officer who fatally shot driver in Maine was 'fearing for public safety,' agency says

By PATRICK WHITTLE, LEAH WILLINGHAM and JACK BROOK Associated Press

BIDDEFORD, Maine (AP) — An Immigration and Customs Enforcement agent fatally shot a motorist in Maine on Monday, the second time in a week that ICE has used deadly force and at least the ninth death since President Donald Trump began his immigration crackdown.

The man who was killed in Biddeford was identified as a 25-year-old native of Colombia. The Colombian Embassy said it was in contact with U.S. authorities about the Colombian national's death and "is providing the necessary consular assistance to his family."

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security, which includes ICE, said in a post on X that agents were

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surveilling an address for a person with a final order of removal from the country. When ICE tried to stop a vehicle driven by someone coming from that address, the "vehicle attempted to flee the scene and, fearing for public safety, an officer discharged his weapon," the department said.

Prior to the brief ICE statement on the incident, Maine U.S. Sen. Angus King said Homeland Security Secretary Markwayne Mullin told him the officer opened fire after the man tried to use his vehicle as a weapon against ICE agents in Biddeford, a coastal city roughly 15 miles (24 kilometers) southwest of Portland. The agents involved didn't have body cameras, he said.

When asked about the contrasting statements, King told CNN that that's what the investigation is all about. "Did this young man actually try to run over an ICE agent or was he in danger of running over other people in the street?" he said. "Was there a reasonable expectation of bodily harm or deadly force to justify this shooting?"

DHS did not immediately respond to an email seeking clarity on what led to the shooting.

King, an independent, said Mullin also told him the officers were in Biddeford to serve an arrest warrant but that it was not for the person who was shot. King said Mullin told him that earlier information that the man was the target of an enforcement action was incorrect.

U.S. Sen. Susan Collins, a Maine Republican, said Mullin told her the Homeland Security Department's Office of Inspector General is investigating in cooperation with the FBI.

Messages seeking comment were left for the inspector general's office and the Maine Department of Public Safety.

The Maine attorney general's office, which is also investigating, said initial statements suggest the motorist was trying to flee in the direction of the agent. The office said the agent who killed him has been placed on leave.

Witness says he heard driver say, 'I tried to stop'

Daniel Boucher said he looked out his third-floor window after hearing a "pop, pop, pop" sound and saw a small car "turned 90 degrees to the curb" with an SUV behind it. The driver was wounded and the car started moving down the street until the SUV hit it, Boucher said.

"His face was bloody. His head was bloody," Boucher said, getting choked up. "I clearly heard the victim say, 'I tried to stop.'"

Boucher said he saw an ICE officer bring a medical bag to where the man was lying before an ambulance and fire truck arrived. At one point, Boucher said, the agent who shot the man walked close to him.

"I was emotional and I just let him have it, and he looked at me and said, 'He tried to run me over,' or something to that effect," Boucher said. "I don't remember his exact words."

Video from a security camera at a nearby business, obtained by the AP, shows a white vehicle approaching an intersection at a modest speed before making several slow circles. A law enforcement SUV blocked its path and two officers open the driver's door and dragged out a limp body.

It was not clear from the video at what point shots were fired.

The man was authorized to work in the US, advocates say

Two advocacy groups — the Maine Immigrants' Rights Coalition and Presente! — said the man who was killed was authorized to work in the U.S.

After the shooting, his family contacted the Immigrants' Rights Coalition, but they weren't ready to speak publicly about the shooting, said the group's executive director, Mufalo Chitam.

Mary Hayes, who lives close to where the shooting happened, said the man lived nearby with his wife and daughter.

"I watched a wife fall to her knees looking at her husband's dead body on the ground," Hayes told the AP as she held a piece of cardboard with "No ICE Stop ICE" written on it. "I watched a little girl crying with a little pink backpack on because she's never going to see her father again."

Sadie Dilboy said the man killed in the shooting regularly came to her laundromat and would bring his daughter, who he'd give quarters to buy candy from the vending machine.

"He was such a good person," she said. "He was always cleaning up."

Anti-ICE protesters gather near the scene

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Several hundred demonstrators gathered in Biddeford on Monday night to wave anti-ICE signs and call for the agency to be abolished.

"We will always be a city of immigrants," said Maine Speaker of the House Ryan Fecteau, a Democrat from Biddeford.

A handful of pro-ICE and pro-Trump protesters demonstrated across the street.

Some demonstrators had gathered in the city within hours of the shooting. Amy Goodman arrived with a sign that said "Stop Killing Us" and directed it toward police working at the scene.

"Sadly, it's something we're seeing a whole lot more often lately, and I'm mad about it," she said.

A recent uptick in Trump's immigration crackdown

On July 7, an ICE officer fatally shot 52-year-old Lorenzo Salgado Araujo, of Houston, after federal agents driving unmarked vehicles pursued him while he was taking his construction crew to a job site.

The shootings come amid a Trump administration push to carry out its mass deportations agenda. During the five-day period at the end of June, ICE arrested more than 10,000 people.

The figures indicate that while the administration is no longer cracking down on individual cities, the arrests are surging. The administration's enforcement efforts were widely condemned last winter after the killings of Alex Pretti and Renee Good in Minnesota.

Hundreds of Maine ICE arrests since Trump's return

ICE had a significant presence in Maine earlier this year, which prompted several protests. Immigration officials later said in late January that they had ceased "enhanced operations" in Maine after hundreds of arrests.

A Homeland Security spokesperson said at the time that some Maine arrests were of people "convicted of horrific crimes" including aggravated assault and endangering the welfare of a child.

Court records show that while some had felony convictions, others had unresolved immigration proceedings or had been arrested but never convicted of a crime.

ICE arrested 546 people in Maine between the start of Trump's second term and March 11, 2026, the most recent data available, according to ICE arrest data provided to the University of California, Berkeley Deportation Data Project and analyzed by the AP.

About 45% of arrested people had criminal backgrounds. During the equivalent 416-day period before Trump took office, roughly 69% of those arrested had criminal backgrounds, the data shows. ____ This story was first published on July 13, 2026. It was updated on July 14, 2026, to correct the age of Johan Sebastián Durán Guerrero. He was 25, not 26 as the Colombian Embassy previously stated.

Gibraltar ushers in a new era as British territory's border fence with Spain is removed

By SUMAN NAISHADHAM Associated Press

MADRID (AP) — Thousands of people who travel every day between the southern tip of Spain and the British territory of Gibraltar will no longer have to cross a physical border, beginning on Wednesday.

The official opening at midnight on Tuesday — after a border fence was fully removed — allows a new freedom of movement under a historic treaty between the European Union and the United Kingdom. It came after years of post-Brexit wrangling.

The contested British Overseas Territory of 38,000 people is perched at the southern end of the Iberian Peninsula, in a strategic location mere miles from Morocco where the Atlantic Ocean meets the Mediterranean Sea.

Soon after midnight, crowds crossed freely between Spain's La Línea de Concepción and Gibraltar in both directions. Many wore Spanish soccer jerseys after Spain's victory against France in the World Cup semifinal on Tuesday, adding to the celebratory mood.

"What you feel here is the brotherhood between the two people," Gibraltar's Chief Minister Fabian Picardo told Spanish broadcaster RTVE.

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A deal that took years to realize

When Britain left the EU in 2020, the relationship between Gibraltar and the bloc had been left unresolved. Previous talks on a deal to ensure people and goods could keep flowing across the border had made halting progress. In 2025, the EU and U.K. announced an agreement on those issues, with the two sides and Gibraltar's government signing a treaty Tuesday that eases border crossings.

The U.K.'s Foreign Office Minister Stephen Doughty said Tuesday that the agreement secured Gibraltar's long-term economic future and interests.

Maroš Šefčovič, the EU's trade representative, praised the agreement, too.

"It has taken four years of patient, complex negotiation, but the outcome speaks for itself," Šefčovič said. "It is a very special feeling to see a fence come down."

Without a deal, Gibraltar could have faced a hard land border with full passport checks, posing economic risks for the territory deeply dependent on some 15,000 Spaniards — almost half of Gibraltar's workforce — who cross the frontier every day for work.

Leisure visits by people crossing both sides of the border would have been affected, too.

"People who are visiting family in Spain, or whose Spanish family is visiting them in Gibraltar. Children who are going to football matches and extracurricular activities, either in Spain or in Gibraltar. They will be able to do that without having to worry about frontier queues," Picardo told The Associated Press in an interview.

The deal in effect brings the territory into the EU's Schengen free travel area. At Gibraltar's airport and port, entry and exit checks will be conducted by both U.K. and Spanish border officials. The arrangement is similar to what's in place at Eurostar train stations in London and Paris, where both British and French officials check passports.

Gibraltar was ceded to Britain in 1713, but Spain has maintained its sovereignty claim ever since. Relations between the two countries on the issue of Gibraltar have had their ups and downs over the centuries. The treaty that removed the border fence does not resolve the territory's contested status.

In Britain's 2016 Brexit referendum, 96% of voters in the Rock, as the territory is popularly known in English, supported remaining in the EU.

Travelers to Gibraltar from countries outside the Schengen area — including the U.K. — will have to contend with the EU Entry-Exit System, or EES, which was rolled out in Europe in April and replaced passport stamps with biometric data collected through photographs and digital fingerprints.

Facial recognition cameras at the Rock

With the border fence gone, Gibraltar officials have set up live facial recognition cameras at entry points and throughout the territory.

Chief Minister Picardo said the territory will have many more CCTV cameras, and that it has increased its police presence as well as resources for customs and Coast Guard agencies.

"The fortress has become a digital fortress now," Picardo said.

Trump administration orders ICE to suspend most vehicle stops after 2 deadly shootings

By PATRICK WHITTLE, JACK BROOK, REBECCA SANTANA and MICHAEL R. SISAK Associated Press
BIDDEFORD, Maine (AP) — Trump administration officials told Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers to suspend most vehicle stops after two deadly shootings within a week, people familiar with the decision said Tuesday.

The policy change came after an ICE officer shot and killed a Colombian driver Monday in Maine and a week after one shot and killed a motorist in Houston, renewing criticism of the agency's enforcement tactics that were widely condemned last winter after the killings of Alex Pretti and Renee Good in Minnesota.

In Florida on Tuesday, a third man in roughly a week died during an encounter with immigration officers. This time, a 28-year-old man was killed after he was hit by a tractor trailer while running from immigration and other federal officers, authorities said.

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The suspension of vehicle stops allows room for exceptions when executing a criminal warrant or working with partner agencies, according to a person who spoke Tuesday on condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive law enforcement operations. Matthew Felling, a spokesperson for Maine Sen. Angus King, said the senator's office was also told by the Department of Homeland Security that ICE was suspending stops.

Hundreds of people in Maine protested Tuesday over the fatal shooting of Johan Sebastián Durán Guerrero, a 25-year-old Colombian national.

DHS said Monday that an officer, "fearing for public safety," shot and killed Durán Guerrero while officers were watching the home of someone they believed was in the U.S. illegally and facing a final order of removal from the country. It said in a post on X that when ICE tried to stop a car driven by someone who came from the home, the person attempted to flee in the vehicle and the officer fired.

That was a shift from how King earlier described the encounter, when he said Homeland Security Secretary Markwayne Mullin told him the officer opened fire after the man tried to use his vehicle as a weapon. King said Mullin told him the officers were trying to serve an arrest warrant, but not for the man who was shot.

DHS, which oversees ICE, didn't respond to an email seeking clarity on what led to the shooting.

In a scathing post on X, outgoing Colombian President Gustavo Petro called the shooting a targeted killing "at the hands of the U.S. government."

Petro, who has openly quarreled with U.S. President Donald Trump, urged Trump to provide an explanation and accused ICE officers of treating Durán Guerrero as "an inferior being without rights."

The shooting also sparked outrage in Maine, where hundreds of protesters gathered Tuesday outside an ICE detention center in Scarborough, just up the coast between Biddeford and Portland.

"These people are killers and they must leave our state now," organizer Todd Chretien told the crowd.

Maine's congressional delegation on Tuesday demanded a "comprehensive, transparent, and expedited investigation."

Questions surround the shooting

Durán Guerrero's shooting marked at least the ninth time ICE has used deadly force since Trump began his immigration crackdown.

Photos showed bullet holes in Durán Guerrero's car windshield, but the officers involved in the shooting didn't have body cameras, leaving many questions. Among them are how close the officer was to the vehicle when they fired, whether officers told Durán Guerrero to stop, and why ICE believes he had put the public in danger.

"We are always evaluating our procedures to keep our officers safe and criminals off our streets. We will not disclose or discuss law enforcement tactics," an ICE spokesperson said in a statement.

Border Czar Tom Homan told reporters Tuesday that the investigation needs to play out.

"If officers acted inappropriately or illegally, they'll be held accountable," he said.

Maine's attorney general's office, which noted that it's working with federal agencies to investigate, said initial statements suggest the driver was trying to flee in the direction of the officer, whose name hasn't been released and who was placed on leave.

The state's other senator, Republican Susan Collins, said Mullin told her that DHS' Office of Inspector General is investigating in cooperation with the FBI.

Democrats seeking to unseat Collins in November sought Tuesday to connect her with ICE's methods, which have drawn public scrutiny and derision. Collins later said in a statement that although ICE needs to improve, eliminating the agency would make the nation less safe.

Maine Secretary of State Shenna Bellows, who is vying for Collins' seat, called the ICE officers at the shooting "thugs" during a vigil Tuesday evening in Lewiston.

"That agency is broken and we need to go back to a time where the rule of law united all of us regardless of the politics," she told the crowd.

Video shows the shooting's aftermath

According to neighbors and public records, Guerrero lived in an apartment about 150 feet (46 meters) from where his car came to a rest outside an apartment building across the street from a pawnshop and

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laundromat.

Video from a nearby business' security camera obtained by the AP shows a white car slowly approaching an intersection before making several circles. A law enforcement SUV blocks its path and two officers open the driver's door and drag out a limp body.

It isn't clear from the video when the shots were fired.

Daniel Boucher said he heard a "pop, pop, pop" and ran to the intersection.

"His face was bloody. His head was bloody," Boucher said. "I clearly heard the victim say, 'I tried to stop.'"

Boucher said the officer who shot Durán Guerrero walked close to him.

"He looked at me and said, 'He tried to run me over,' or something to that effect," Boucher said. "I don't remember his exact words."

Durán Guerrero is survived by his wife and young daughter

Two advocacy groups — the Maine Immigrants' Rights Coalition and Presente! — said Durán Guerrero was authorized to work in the U.S.

Neighbors say Durán Guerrero was a friendly and familiar face even though they rarely chatted because he didn't appear to speak English.

Claudia Morton, who often waved to Durán Guerrero, was distraught.

"The whole world should be crying," she said.

Dozens of Durán Guerrero's relatives and neighbors gathered in Bucaramanga, his hometown in north-eastern Colombia, to remember him on Tuesday. They stood outside his parents' home, holding candles around a table where a photograph of him rested beside a statue of the Virgin Mary.

Trump touts 'tremendous chemistry' with new Iraqi Prime Minister al-Zaidi during White House visit

By SEUNG MIN KIM and QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump gave Iraq's new prime minister an effusive welcome at the White House on Tuesday, promoting the "tremendous chemistry" between him and a fellow wealthy businessman who arrived at the seat of governmental power without any prior political experience.

Ali al-Zaidi emerged as a consensus candidate in Iraq after months of deadlock over the premiership following last year's parliamentary elections. Trump endorsed al-Zaidi for the job after he threatened to cut off U.S. support for Iraq if another candidate became the country's next prime minister.

"Mark my words, I knew what I was doing," Trump said in the Oval Office as he sat alongside al-Zaidi for his first visit outside Iraq as prime minister. "This man is going to be a great leader in the Middle East, beyond Iraq. His influence is going to spread all throughout the Middle East."

Speaking through an interpreter, al-Zaidi said that he was conveying his greetings from the "oldest civilization in the world" and that the focus of his U.S. visit would be to announce an "economic partnership" between the two countries.

The issue of Iran loomed large in the discussions Tuesday. Iraq has been under pressure to disarm a network of Iran-backed militias operating in the country, some of which launched attacks on U.S. bases and diplomatic facilities after the U.S. and Israel launched their war against Iran in February. Officially, the Iraqi government has given non-state armed groups until the end of September to disarm, but some of the most powerful militias have said they have no intention of doing so.

Al-Zaidi stressed on Tuesday that there will be no justification for their existence after Sept. 30. A Trump administration official said ahead of the Oval Office meeting that the U.S. will make "informed" decisions based on Iraq's efforts to disarm Iranian-backed militias inside its borders. The official insisted on anonymity to discuss the administration's strategy ahead of al-Zaidi's visit.

Al-Zaidi has been called 'Trump of the Middle East'

Iraq's dominant parliamentary bloc called the Coordination Framework, a coalition of Shiite parties allied with Iran, initially said it would back former Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, whom the Trump administration viewed as too close to Tehran. Trump, a Republican, got personally involved, threatening to block support

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if al-Maliki returned to power.

Since al-Zaidi's formal installation as prime minister-designate in April, the Trump administration has kept up its outreach to ensure the U.S. can wield significant sway in Iraq, particularly in extricating the Iranian influence that is deeply entrenched inside the country.

The parallel backgrounds of Trump and al-Zaidi have also bolstered their rapport. Victoria Taylor, director of the Iraq Initiative at the Atlantic Council, noted that al-Zaidi has been likened to "Trump of the Middle East" considering his business background and lack of political experience.

"When you value business success, I think then it's very appealing to look at an Iraqi prime minister who is likely a billionaire and can be really pointed to as a political outsider," she said.

But Taylor added that "the reality is much more complicated," noting that al-Zaidi was chosen by the current political infrastructure in Iraq and will be " beholden in some way to that system."

"I'm not always sure that there's a full appreciation of the challenge that this prime minister will face in actually trying to really dismantle core parts of the political system," she said, noting the obstacles that al-Zaidi will face as he tries to disarm the Iran-backed militias or challenge political corruption.

Underscoring the complicated competing interests that al-Zaidi is confronting in Iraq, the new prime minister sidestepped a question about Trump's remarks on the 2020 killing of Iranian Gen. Qassem Soleimani.

"At that time, I wasn't involved in politics," al-Zaidi said. "Let's talk about the future."

Renad Mansour, director of the Iraq Initiative at the Chatham House think tank, said he expects that "the U.S. will put significant pressure on al-Zaidi" to move ahead with disarmament during his Washington visit "and Zaidi will respond by saying, 'But I need support — intelligence support, technical support, armed support.'"

"There is a scenario in which, if the Iraqi government starts going after these groups, they will also go after the government," Mansour said. "And this is a scenario that I think that the Iraqi government is apprehensive about."

Oil pipeline deal is set to be signed, Iraqi officials say

The two governments are also poised to finalize a significant energy deal.

Two Iraqi officials said an agreement is slated to be signed Friday between Iraq, U.S. companies Chevron and TI Capital, and Qatar's UCC for construction of an oil pipeline that will connect southern Iraq's Basra to western Iraq's Haditha and from there to the Ceyhan port in Turkey and the port of Baniyas on Syria's coast. The pipeline is projected to carry about 2 million barrels of oil per day. The officials spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to comment publicly.

Neither Trump nor al-Zaidi elaborated on the pending deal publicly during their Oval Office meeting, but the U.S. president said Iraq has "tremendous potential" because of its oil.

Later, a senior Trump administration official said the U.S. is "facilitating conversation" between Iraq and Syria on future energy projects. The official spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss private deliberations among the governments.

Al-Zaidi cracks down on corruption

Al-Zaidi received Trump's blessing, despite the fact that he was chairman of a bank, Al-Janoob Islamic Bank, that was among the financial institutions banned by Iraq's central bank in 2024 from dealing in dollars amid pressure from the U.S. to crack down on money laundering and funneling of funds to Iran.

Since taking office, al-Zaidi has made a public show of cracking down on corruption. His government has conducted raids and arrested dozens of current and former lawmakers and government officials accused of corruption, including some affiliated with former Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani.

The Iraqi premier's delegation to Washington includes a number of Iraqi businessmen and government officials, and al-Zaidi's office said in a statement that the aim of the visit is to "strengthen economic and development partnerships, attract investment, and expand the role of U.S. companies in implementing infrastructure projects" and to further develop the oil-rich country's energy sector.

Man fleeing immigration officers in Florida is struck and killed by tractor trailer, police say

By GENE JOHNSON Associated Press

A man running from an encounter with immigration and other federal agents in Florida was struck and killed by a tractor trailer on Tuesday, authorities said.

It was the third death in a week involving encounters with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents, following shootings in Texas and Maine.

The 28-year-old was among four occupants of a vehicle that stopped in the parking lot of a gas station and convenience store in the St. Augustine area before 7 a.m. During an encounter with agents from ICE and Homeland Security Investigations, the four fled on foot, with one darting across a busy road into the path of the semi, Florida Highway Patrol Sgt. Dylan Bryan said in an emailed statement.

The driver of the semi stopped and tried to help the man, Bryan said.

It was at least the 10th death involving encounters with immigration agents since President Donald Trump launched his mass deportation campaign last year.

It wasn't immediately clear what prompted the encounter Tuesday. In an emailed statement, the Department of Homeland Security confirmed it had conducted an operation and said the Florida Highway Patrol and Homeland Security Investigations were "investigating an incident resulting in the death of a Mexican national."

The department did not respond to an inquiry from The Associated Press about the status of the other three occupants of the vehicle.

State Rep. Angie Nixon, a Democrat from Jacksonville, called the death a tragedy that resulted from an out-of-control agency.

"Whether it's ICE agents gunning down a father in the streets of Houston, shooting a young man in Maine or conducting operations right here in Northeast Florida that result in a deadly crash, the outcome is the same: fear, chaos and death," she said.

In two other cases, people died after fleeing agents and being struck by vehicles.

Last summer, a man running from immigration officers outside a Home Depot store in southern California died after being hit by an SUV as he tried to cross a freeway. Homeland Security officials said that 52-year-old Roberto Carlos Montoya Valdez, of Guatemala, was not being pursued by immigration authorities when he was struck.

In October, a pickup truck fatally struck 24-year-old gardener Josué Castro Rivera, of Honduras, on a highway in Norfolk, Virginia, as he tried to escape authorities during a traffic stop. Authorities said Castro Rivera's vehicle was stopped as part of a "targeted, intelligence-based" operation and that Castro Rivera had "resisted heavily and fled."

The Mexican government on Tuesday said it had asked state attorneys general in the U.S. to review the deaths of migrants in ICE custody or during raids for possible criminal prosecution.

Spain shuts down France and Kylian Mbappé, advances to the World Cup final with a 2-0 victory

By STEPHEN HAWKINS AP Sports Writer

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Spain's defensive prowess and swagger were just too much for an attacking trio led by France great Kylian Mbappé, and just enough to get the 2010 champions into another World Cup final.

The Spanish team managed a record sixth shutout in seven games so far, winning 2-0 in the semifinals Tuesday against one of the most prolific scorers in World Cup history.

Teenager Lamine Yamal certainly was correct when he said France should fear Spain. That despite FIFA's top-ranked team being led by Mbappé — their captain with 20 goals in his 20 World Cup games before

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the semifinals — Ballon d'Or winner Ousmane Dembélé and Michael Olise, who has a tournament-high five assists.

"We were up against one of the best national teams in the world, but today, they were facing the best team in the world," Spain coach Luis de la Fuente said.

Mikel Oyarzabal scored from the penalty spot after a heady play by Yamal drew a foul, and Pedro Porro added another goal to put Spain in its second World Cup final.

A day after his 19th birthday, Yamal was denied a goal on a close offside call that came soon after Porro's give-and-go with Dani Olmo in the 58th minute had put Spain up 2-0. But it was Yamal's smart play against a veteran defender that gave Spain the early lead.

Spain will face either defending champion Argentina or England on Sunday in East Rutherford, New Jersey, across the river from New York City.

"So difficult to get to this moment, but we want more," Spain midfielder Rodri said. "We want to win this World Cup."

After trying to become only the third team to reach three consecutive World Cup finals, France instead will play in the third-place game in Miami Gardens, Florida, on Saturday.

"Spain has been able to defend well," departing France coach Didier Deschamps said through a translator. "They've closed out all the spaces and also we've made some technical mistakes. So it is difficult to create problems when the technical level is below standard."

Argentina and England play Wednesday in Atlanta in the second powerhouse semifinal match.

This win on soccer's biggest stage marked the third summer in a row that Spain beat France in a tournament semifinal match. Yamal scored in a 2-1 win in the 2024 European Championship semifinals just days before his 17th birthday, and La Roja won 5-4 in Nations League play last year.

Yamal was quick to point out that France should be concerned after Spain's quarterfinal win over Belgium set up another semifinal matchup.

"It's a team who loves to have control of the game, control of the ball. That's what we let them do," said Mbappé, who got none of his three shots on target. "It's difficult when you don't change the play of Spain."

Spain has outscored opponents 12-1 since a scoreless draw against surprising Cape Verde to open group play. The lone goal allowed by goalkeeper Unai Simón was in the quarterfinal game against Belgium that snapped his World Cup record of 650 scoreless minutes.

This World Cup run has extended Spain's unbeaten streak in regular time to 37 matches (28 wins and nine draws) since March 2024. That broke the country's previous record of 35 in a row from 2007-09.

The loss broke France's record-matching streak of six consecutive World Cup wins, which the team also accomplished in the 2018 and 2022 tournaments.

Oyarzabal's penalty kick in the 22nd minute came after Yamal drew a foul when kicked by defender Lucas Digne.

After a poor first touch with his head, Digne was trying to clear the ball when Yamal raced in from behind to challenge in the penalty area. The ball hit off the elbow of the leaping teen before he was kicked by Digne, playing in his 63rd game for France only six days before his 33rd birthday.

Oyarzabal's fifth goal of this year's World Cup marked the first time either team had trailed in their seven games in this tournament. It was his 30th goal in 60 international games for Spain.

For the second goal, Porro broke free and received a pass back from Olmo, who got the touch just before getting knocked off his feet by defender Dayot Upamecano.

"We knew that we're a very tough team, we're doing things really well," Porro said.

France allowed only two goals in its first six games in this tournament.

Spain had two other real scoring chances in the first half.

There was the a free kick from just beyond the box after Adrien Rabiot drew a yellow card for a foul on Olmo in the eighth minute. Alex Baena's kick went directly into the wall of French players.

After France goalkeeper Mike Maignan's attempted clearing pass in the 38th minute instead went straight to Baena, there were several quick passes before Fabian Ruiz's close-range shot was denied on a nifty play by Upamecano.

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Mbappé, who is tied with Argentina great Lionel Messi with a tournament-high eight goals and leads the race for the Golden Boot on the assist tiebreaker, still has the third-place match to add to his tally. Messi has two games left in his sixth World Cup to try to win the Golden Boot and also increase his overall record of 21 goals at the tournament.

"As the captain, I have to take all the responsibility and I have no problem with that," Mbappé said. "We wanted to go to the final. We didn't go."

Trump will speak on elections in primetime address after pushing debunked conspiracies

By COLLIN BINKLEY and BILL BARROW Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump will deliver a primetime address this week that he says will include a focus on elections, suggesting he could revisit long-debunked conspiracy theories about his 2020 defeat to Democrat Joe Biden. The speech comes as he's escalated calls for Republicans to pass tighter federal voting rules for November's midterm elections.

The Republican president has been guarded about what he plans to say in the 9 p.m. Thursday speech, scheduled as he confronts a collapsing deal to end the war with Iran. He also faces numerous domestic issues, including recent deadly shootings by Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers. Asked for a preview of the speech on Tuesday, Trump offered scant detail but said he has "really big news."

"It doesn't get bigger, because without free and fair elections, you don't have a country," Trump said in the Oval Office. He refused to go further, saying he wanted to "save it" for the moment, though he also hinted he would be talking about a hodgepodge of issues.

"We'll be discussing other things, too," Trump said, without elaborating. "It's going to be a very big announcement."

Trump has used the power of the primetime presidential address — typically reserved for milestones — to deliver politically charged speeches before, including one in December when he sought to blame the challenging economic climate on Democrats. But Thursday's address seems poised to go even further, using the moment to amplify election lies before an audience of millions in an effort to boost Republican prospects before midterms that threaten to hobble Trump for the remainder of his term.

On Monday, when asked about the speech, Trump repeated baseless claims of voter fraud in the Los Angeles primary race for mayor. During the interview with conservative outlet Newsmax, Trump said Republican Spencer Pratt lost his primary bid because of fraud, citing in part California's slow vote count.

Federal prosecutors said they were opening fraud investigations in the state last month after Trump drew attention to the claim.

The president's preoccupation with voting fraud and election security dates back at least to 2016, when he refused to say whether he would accept defeat to Democrat Hillary Clinton. After he won, he convened a voting integrity commission to support his claims that widespread voter fraud cost him the popular vote, though the commission disbanded without uncovering any such evidence.

Four years later, after he lost the 2020 election to Biden, Trump again claimed cheating and zeroed in on the Democrat's narrow win in Georgia. Trump called the state's secretary of state and pressured him to "find 11,780 votes," just enough votes to overturn Biden's victory in the state. He, along with a dozen allies, was indicted in the state though the charges were later dropped.

Repeated audits and reviews -- many run by Republicans, including Trump's own then-attorney general -- have found no significant fraud occurred in 2020.

Before winning in 2024, Trump was again laying the groundwork to claim cheating if he lost. After returning to office, he stocked his administration with officials who back his false claims of 2020 election fraud.

Trump made voting regulation central in this term

Frequently declaring that he won the White House "three times," Trump has made voting regulation a core issue during his second term, demanding legislation that would require voter ID and sharply limit mail-in voting. Facing midterm races that will decide control of Capitol Hill, Trump has stirred new claims

to cast doubt on election results that could challenge his power in Washington.

Earlier this year, FBI agents raided elections offices in Fulton County, Georgia, seizing materials from the 2020 election. Tulsi Gabbard, then Trump's director of national intelligence, traveled to Atlanta to oversee the execution of the search warrant.

Maryland Gov. Wes Moore, campaigning in Georgia for Democratic Sen. Jon Ossoff and governor's candidate Keisha Lance Bottoms, smiled Tuesday when asked about Trump potentially rehashing the 2020 election in his national address.

He called it a strategy "for losers."

"I think people are exhausted by having conversations about elections that happened six years ago, that we have the answer to," Moore said. "He continues to bring this up because he cannot get out of his mind that he actually could have lost."

Beyond Georgia, Trump has widely taken aim at states that allow voters to submit ballots by mail. Trump said he called a U.S. attorney in California and demanded scrutiny of the governor's primary last month as votes were being counted.

Last week, Trump ousted the remaining members of the federal Election Assistance Commission, a bipartisan panel that resisted his efforts to require would-be voters to document their U.S. citizenship before registering.

Writers Guild of America seeks to block Paramount's buyout of Warner in latest merger challenge

By WYATTE GRANTHAM-PHILIPS AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The Writers Guild of America became the latest group to challenge Paramount's \$81 billion acquisition of Warner Bros. Discovery on Tuesday, filing a lawsuit that seeks to block the merger on the grounds it would cause "specific harm" to movie and TV writers working across the U.S.

A Paramount-Warner merger "threatens the economic and creative health of the American entertainment industry," reads Tuesday's federal complaint, which was filed by both the Writers Guild of America West and Writers Guild of America East (jointly the WGA).

The union argued that the merger would create less competitors and give the larger company "both the incentive and the ability" to lower wages and the number of projects that offer workers employment.

"This proposed combined entity would be the largest employer of writers, with tremendous power to suppress our wages, eliminate opportunities for emerging writers, cut jobs across the industry, and produce less programming," WGAE President Tom Fontana said in a statement.

A Warner-Paramount tie-up would bring together two of the five last legacy studios in Hollywood. It would also mean putting Warner's HBO Max, its libraries filled with popular titles like "Harry Potter" and even CNN under the same roof of Paramount-owned CBS, movies like "Top Gun" and the Paramount+ streaming service.

Tuesday's complaint alleges that the merger violates antitrust law by reducing competition in three markets for writers: writing for episodic TV and streaming series, TV writing deals overall and screenwriting for the biggest theatrical films.

In response, Skydance-owned Paramount maintained that a combined Warner-Paramount would allow the company to "expand opportunities for writers, not shrink them." It also reiterated pledges to release at least 30 movies a year with a 45-day window exclusive to theaters — and said it would continue to commission from independent production companies while maintaining "two distinct film studios."

"A stronger Hollywood only means something if it's stronger for the writers who power it," the company said in a statement.

The WGA's complaint arrives a day after 12 states, led by California Attorney General Rob Bonta, filed a lawsuit challenging the deal, alleging that it would "extinguish competition" in Hollywood and lead to fewer choices for moviegoers and cable TV customers nationwide.

The coalition of states called on Warner and Paramount to not close the merger until after a court had

time to “fully evaluate” their claims. But they said the companies quickly refused — and late Monday night, the group filed an emergency motion in federal court seeking a temporary restraining order and preliminary injunction aimed at immediately halting the deal.

Paramount on Monday called the states’ claims “wrong on both the facts and the law” and vowed to “vigorously defend” its Warner acquisition.

The growing list of legal challenges could become a roadblock in Paramount’s quest to complete its purchase of Warner. Other regulatory reviews are ongoing in the European Union and in the U.K., which has suggested it may intervene. But Paramount has also racked up effective green lights from a handful of other countries, including the Trump administration in the U.S., China, Canada and Australia.

Paramount and Warner have hoped to close their deal sometime in the third quarter of this year. In Monday night’s motion seeking an immediate pause, the states said the companies may try to complete the process as early as July 22.

Including debt, Paramount’s proposed purchase of Warner is valued at nearly \$111 billion based on outstanding shares.

Supreme Court justices detail security risks and weigh in on ethics in rare congressional testimony

By LINDSAY WHITEHURST Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — In rare congressional testimony, Supreme Court justices shared chilling stories Tuesday about the threats they increasingly face in public life and fielded questions about ethics and emergency appeals.

The appearances from Supreme Court Justices Amy Coney Barrett and Elena Kagan were the first of their kind since 2019. Their testimony came weeks after the conservative-majority court handed down a series of major opinions, including one that increased President Donald Trump’s power over federal regulatory agencies and one that rejected his wide-ranging tariffs. Those rulings and more sparked harsh personal criticism of the justices.

The main focus of the hearings in the House and Senate was a request for increased security funding for the justices. Like judges around the country, they’ve faced a surge in threats of violence and intimidation.

Barrett said she had to take a bulletproof vest home a few years ago, something she struggled to explain to her 12-year-old son. “I didn’t expect that performing this service would put me in the position of explaining to my children what a bulletproof vest was, why I had to wear one,” she said.

While security was the major theme of the justices’ testimony, ethics and the shadow docket also emerged as lines of questioning for members of Congress in packed hearing rooms with lines out the door.

Security is central to the Supreme Court’s budget request

The Supreme Court requested a total of \$228 million for next fiscal year, a roughly 10% increase over the year before. About \$18 million of that is for maintaining the building and grounds.

Much of the requested operating-budget increase, \$14.6 million, would go to expanding personal protection for justices, with six more agents for each.

The U.S. Marshals Service reported 564 threats in the last government fiscal year, an increase that includes threats to the hundreds of federal judges around the country.

The nine-member Supreme Court has also been targeted, including by fake 911 swatting calls and pizza deliveries in the name of a judge’s murdered son.

Barrett said her son opened their door in May to see their street filled with police cars responding to a fake swatting call that her security team quickly dispersed. Last year, her sister was the victim of a bomb threat in Charleston, South Carolina, police said. No bomb was found.

In 2022, shortly after the leak of a draft opinion overturning the Roe v. Wade abortion decision, a would-be assassin was arrested near the home of Justice Brett Kavanaugh with weapons and zip ties. Threats to the Supreme Court have continued to grow since then and are expected to be up 38% this year, Kagan said.

She condemned rhetoric from public officials targeting judges for personal criticism when they disagree

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with their rulings.

"When political figures of any stripe are trying to intimidate judges and justices to do things that they like rather than things they don't, that's where we really have crossed the line," she said.

Kagan and Barrett differ on ethics code enforcement

Multiple Democrats brought up the Supreme Court's relatively new code of ethics, adopted in 2023 during a storm of criticism over undisclosed trips and gifts from wealthy benefactors to some justices.

While the justices agreed that members of the court are taking the code seriously, Kagan supported creating a way to enforce it. The liberal-leaning justice acknowledged, though, that enforcement could be tricky. That would have to come from the judicial branch and the Supreme Court sits at its head.

Barrett, who is part of the court's conservative majority, said she's not sure an enforcement mechanism is possible. It's not clear there's an effective way to address questions about who would do the enforcing and how, she said.

"I am certainly fully committed to the code as are all of our colleagues, but because of some of the complexities I'm just not quite sure" about enforcement, she said.

Kagan cites downsides to the rise in emergency appeals

The Supreme Court has seen a sharp rise in appeals to its short-term emergency docket, where the justices make quicker decisions in cases still working their way through the court system.

It's been especially busy during Trump's second term, as his administration appeals orders blocking parts of his wide-ranging agenda to the nation's highest court. The government notched a string of wins in this manner, on cuts to the federal workforce, restrictions on transgender members of the military, and more.

Such decisions are usually made without a detailed explanation, and while the orders are designed to be temporary they can nevertheless have real-world effects.

"There are downsides of using emergency relief," Kagan said. "You don't get the kind of briefing that we ordinarily do. We don't get the argument we ordinarily get." She added: "We should consider those downsides when we decide how often to grant relief."

US stocks rise after data shows slowing inflation, even as IBM plunges

By STAN CHOE AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Stocks rose Tuesday after a report showed U.S. inflation was not as bad last month as economists expected. That was even though oil prices continued to climb on worries that the United States and Iran may return to all-out war.

The S&P 500 added 0.4% to recover some of its 0.8% loss from the prior day. The Dow Jones Industrial Average added 9 points, or less than 0.1%, and the Nasdaq composite climbed 0.9%.

Stocks got help from easing yields in the bond market, which fell after a report said U.S. consumers had to pay prices for gasoline, food and other costs of living that were 3.5% higher last month than a year earlier. That wasn't as bad as May's 4.2% inflation rate or the 3.9% that economists expected for June.

Less bad inflation takes pressure off the Federal Reserve, which is considering raising interest rates. Higher rates would keep a lid on inflation, but they also slow the economy and hurt prices for all kinds of investments.

Following the inflation report, traders see less than a 17% chance that the Fed will raise its main interest rate at its next meeting in a couple weeks. That's down from the nearly 42% probability they saw the day before, according to data from CME Group.

Rebounds for big, influential tech stocks also helped steady the market. They've swung sharply in recent weeks on worries that they shot too high in the euphoria around artificial-intelligence technology and that the voracious demand for AI chips and data centers may fade if they don't produce the promised profits and productivity.

Micron Technology rose 4.9%, and Nvidia climbed 4.1%. A day before, they were two of the heaviest weights on the S&P 500 after falling 4.4% and 3.5%, respectively.

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To be sure, big risks remain for inflation. Fighting in the Middle East is threatening to close the Strait of Hormuz, the narrow waterway that oil tankers use to exit the Persian Gulf and deliver crude to customers worldwide.

The price for a barrel of Brent crude, the international standard, briefly topped \$87 in the morning. Following its leap of nearly 10% on Monday, it got back to where it was before the United States and Iran signed their interim deal to halt their fighting in the middle of last month.

Brent's price later pared its gain and settled at \$84.73, up 1.7% from Monday's settlement. It eased after Donald Trump backed away from his threat made Monday to charge 20% on all cargo going through the strait to reimburse the U.S. military for its protection.

Wall Street's other big focus this week is the start of earnings reporting season, as companies tell investors how much profit they made from April through June. The pressure is on companies to deliver big growth to justify how high their stock prices have jumped. Indexes are near records despite the recent swings caused by worries about AI stocks.

Bank of America, Citigroup, JPMorgan Chase, Goldman Sachs and Wells Fargo all on Tuesday reported fatter profits for the latest quarter than analysts expected. Their reports showed strength for their trading desks and suggested spending by U.S. consumers remains resilient.

Their stocks mostly rose following the results. Goldman Sachs jumped 9%, but Citigroup fell 5.3%.

IBM was the heaviest weight on the S&P 500 and the biggest reason the Dow lagged behind other indexes after dropping 25.2%. That was its worst day since at least 1972, according to data provider FactSet.

CEO Arvind Krishna said performance for IBM's software and infrastructure businesses fell short of expectations last quarter after customers shifted their spending toward servers, storage and memory to get ahead of expected price increases caused by the AI boom.

"These conditions require our teams to execute perfectly, and this quarter we faltered," Krishna wrote in a letter to investors. "We did not adapt and move quickly enough, and numerous large deals failed to close on the timelines we expected, driving the majority of our shortfall."

All told, the S&P 500 rose 28.25 points to 7,543.59. The Dow Jones Industrial Average added 9.63 to 52,508.27, and the Nasdaq composite climbed 233.83 to 26,107.01.

In the bond market, the yield on the 10-year Treasury dropped to 4.58% from 4.62% late Monday. That halted its run higher from 3.97% before the war with Iran began.

Fed Chairman Kevin Warsh testified before lawmakers on Capitol Hill for the first time since taking over leadership of the central bank. He pledged to make high inflation "a thing of the past" but offered no signal about the Fed's next steps.

In stock markets abroad, indexes inched higher in Europe following a stronger finish in Asia.

Japan's Nikkei 225 added 0.7% as SoftBank Group Corp. rose 3.3%. It's a big investor in AI, and Chairman Masayoshi Son gave a speech in Tokyo where he derided the idea that there is a bubble in investments in capacity for AI.

Stocks rose 1.4% in Shanghai after the government reported China's exports jumped 27% in June from a year earlier as AI drove strong demand for computer chips and other technology.

As cyclospora illnesses surge to a record, Michigan officials eye lettuce as a possible cause

By MIKE STOBBE AP Medical Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Infections from the diarrhea-causing parasite cyclospora are surging, with state-level data suggesting that 2026 is already the nation's worst year for reported cases.

More than 30 states have reported infections this year, and current data from them shows the number of infections surpassing the record U.S. mark of about 4,700 set in 2019. The illness is not usually life threatening and is typically treated with antibiotics.

Health officials have not yet definitively identified what is causing the infections. On Tuesday, federal

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health officials said there may be different infection patterns in different places, although they believe cases in at least four states — Michigan, Ohio, Kentucky and West Virginia — are linked.

Michigan officials blame lettuce

In Michigan — where more than 3,300 cases have been reported — officials say early information points to lettuce or salad greens as a possible culprit.

After conducting more than 1,000 interviews with patients, “early information has shown lettuce as a common product that regularly comes up during the investigation,” said Natasha Bagdasarian, the Michigan health department’s chief medical executive.

Because of that commonality and because produce has been behind some past cyclospora outbreaks, Michigan officials advised consumers to buy whole heads of lettuce, discard the outer layers and thoroughly wash what is left. They also suggested people avoid bagged lettuce and pre-mixed salad kits.

On Tuesday, the Taco Bell restaurant chain issued a statement saying it had “voluntarily and temporarily removed limited ingredients at select restaurants as a precautionary measure. We will continue to closely monitor the situation and follow the guidance of public health authorities.”

In a call with reporters on Tuesday, federal health officials did not directly respond to a question about whether they are looking at Taco Bell or any specific food vendor or distributor.

“FDA certainly is continuing its traceback investigation on multiple produce items, also including locations that are reported by the case patients before they became sick,” said Donald Prater, The U.S. Food and Drug Administration’s Acting Deputy Commissioner for Food, in response.

Cyclospora causes ‘explosive’ diarrhea

Cyclospora is a microscopic, spherical parasite that commonly causes watery diarrhea “with frequent and sometimes explosive bowel movements,” according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Outbreaks tend to occur most often in the late spring and summer.

The heat-loving parasite infects the bowels and spreads through feces. In the past, people have been infected by consuming fruits or vegetables that were exposed to feces-contaminated irrigation water.

The illness, called cyclosporiasis, is less common than foodborne illnesses caused by other germs, including salmonella and E. coli. Many cases are never linked to a specific food or other source and, for years, few U.S. cyclospora outbreaks were reported. But the number started rising about a decade ago, with a particularly notable spike in 2018 and 2019.

Experts say it’s likely that cyclospora cases historically were underreported, in part because some common tests used to check for food poisoning have not been geared to detect cyclospora. They attribute the increasing trend in cases to climate change and better detection.

2019 was the worst year for infections

The worst year in the U.S. for infections was 2019, when about 4,700 illnesses were reported, according to federal data on confirmed and suspected cases.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention keeps those numbers, but they traditionally lag what is posted by individual city and state health departments dealing with local outbreaks in real time. On Tuesday, CDC officials issued a health alert that said that since May 1, the agency is aware of 1,645 confirmed domestic cases and more than 5,100 that require further analysis to confirm whether the infections were acquired in the U.S. The reports come from 34 states, and no deaths have been reported, the CDC said.

The true number of cases is likely larger than what has been reported so far because some people may have milder illnesses that they don’t seek care for, said Gwen Biggerstaff, deputy director of CDC’s Division of Foodborne, Waterborne, and Environmental Diseases, in the call with reporters.

It can take days to weeks for someone exposed to the parasite to develop symptoms. It’s not clear to what extent people currently are being infected, or whether many of the exposures happened earlier. But Biggerstaff said officials expect that case numbers will continue to grow through August.

The CDC also posted information about the investigation of an outbreak affecting the four states.

The federal alert did not detail how many reports came from each state. But Michigan officials have reported more than 3,300 cases, officials in northwest Ohio said they have seen more than 1,100, New

York City officials counted more than 400 and Illinois reported more than 200.

Officials do not think all can be tied to a common source. In Illinois, for example, more than half the people with infections said they had traveled outside the United States, and at least some may have been infected elsewhere.

But Michigan officials believe a large share of their total is likely due to a linked domestic outbreak. CDC officials did not go into detail about why they currently think cases in Michigan, Ohio, Kentucky and West Virginia are part of the same outbreak.

E. Jean Carroll is paid \$5.6 million in Trump sex abuse and defamation case

By JENNIFER PELTZ Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The writer E. Jean Carroll has collected over \$5.6 million that a jury awarded in her sexual abuse and defamation lawsuit against President Donald Trump, court records and her lawyers said.

The payment — representing the \$5 million jury award, plus interest — was made Monday from an account where it had been held in escrow since the 2023 verdict, according to court records. Carroll's lawyer, Roberta Kaplan, confirmed the payment Tuesday.

"We are pleased to report that she has received the damages payment," Kaplan said in a statement. Carroll herself later wrote on Substack that "the eagle has landed."

Trump's lawyers have vowed to continue appealing.

Trump deposited the money in an escrow account shortly after the jury ruled against him. The U.S. Supreme Court recently let the civil verdict stand, clearing the way for Judge Lewis A. Kaplan to release the money.

Trump's lawyers then sought but were denied an emergency order to block the payment. The one-sentence denial set no conditions on how Carroll may use the money. Her lawyers have said in court papers that she plans to put it in a retirement account.

Trump's attorneys have since filed another appeal seeking to stop or reverse the payment.

The jury found Trump attacked Carroll in 1996 in a New York luxury department store dressing room and defamed her after she told the story publicly in a memoir in 2019, during his first term as president.

Trump insisted nothing sexual happened between him and Carroll, now 82, a former advice columnist. Trump claimed she was "totally lying" and "not my type" in a 2019 interview. He said he didn't know her, dismissing a 1987 photo of them and their then-spouses at a party as inconsequential, and he accused her of harboring political motives and trying to sell books at his expense.

Trump didn't attend the trial, where Carroll testified that their flirtatious and friendly chance encounter at the department store turned violent.

Carroll sued Trump after New York changed its laws to give sexual abuse survivors a fresh chance to sue over attacks that happened in the distant past.

Trump is also appealing \$83 million in defamation compensation granted to Carroll by a separate Manhattan jury after a 2024 trial where Trump briefly testified.

The Associated Press generally does not identify people who say they have been sexually abused. Carroll has agreed to be named.

Darline Graham, sister of late Sen. Lindsey Graham, has been sworn in to finish his term

By MARY CLARE JALONICK Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Darline Graham, the sister of the late South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham, was sworn in to the Senate on Tuesday afternoon — filling the seat just three days after her brother's death.

Graham was appointed by South Carolina Gov. Henry McMaster on Monday to fill the remaining months of her brother's current term and arrived in Washington just a day later to take the oath of office. Senators,

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staff and family members looked on in the packed chamber, many of them visibly emotional, as Graham was sworn in by Iowa Sen. Chuck Grassley, the most senior Republican senator.

A separate special election will be held next month to pick a new Republican nominee in the general election for Lindsey Graham's seat, as he had been seeking a fifth term this year.

Darline Graham, who will be the state's first female senator, has not previously held public office. She has worked as an optician and at various state agencies, including the South Carolina Commission for the Blind and the Department of Employment and Workforce. She is married to Larry Nordone but will be known in the Senate as Darline Graham, her legal name.

She said on Monday that her older brother, who raised her after their parents died, had always been there for her. "And now, I will be there for him," she said.

After she was sworn in, Graham walked to her brother's desk and stood behind it as dozens of senators from both parties lined up to shake her hand or give her a hug. She attended the weekly Senate Republican luncheon before the ceremony, where Lindsey Graham's former colleagues told stories about him and welcomed her to the Senate.

Graham, 71, died unexpectedly on Saturday in Washington. A preliminary report from the medical examiner said he suffered a tear in his aorta, known as an aortic dissection.

One of President Donald Trump's closest allies in the Senate, Graham was the chairman of the Senate Budget Committee and was set to become the top Republican on the Senate Judiciary Committee in the next Congress. Darline Graham will receive her own committee assignments in the coming days.

Graham has often been by her brother's side

Lindsey Graham, who was not married and did not have children, was exceptionally close to his sister. He became her legal guardian after their parents died, when he was 22 and she was 13. She often appeared at his campaign events and supported him in speeches and campaign ads, and she was there as he filed reelection paperwork earlier this year, along with her children and grandchildren.

"To Lindsey, I miss you more than I can even put into words," his sister said as McMaster announced her appointment. "But I'm going to do this. I got it."

McMaster said the two had spoken "in the wee hours of Sunday morning" after Graham's death, and he asked her to serve.

"I had wondered what you would say, and I was humbled by your quickness to see the duty that you had to serve," McMaster said. He added that President Donald Trump "thought it was a great idea" when he later told him of his pick. Trump announced his support for Graham to fill the seat earlier Monday.

Senators welcome Darline Graham in the Capitol

The weekly Republican luncheon is generally a serious discussion of the week's agenda. But on Tuesday, Lindsey Graham's colleagues told stories and remembered his sense of humor while welcoming his sister into the fold.

"It's personal for us," said South Dakota Sen. Mike Rounds, a Republican who sat next to Graham on the Senate floor. He said senators also tried to offer support for Darline Graham, "who has been put in a position of not only losing her closest family member, but then also being asked to step into this role."

Rounds said that Lindsey Graham, who was known for his quick wit, "was a character, and he was the guy that made everybody feel like you were one of his closest friends."

Several of South Carolina's House members attended the swearing in, lining up in the back of the Senate chamber, as did prominent members of Trump's administration, including Secretary of State Marco Rubio, Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent and special envoy Steve Witkoff. His son-in-law Jared Kushner was also there.

South Carolina holds a special primary in August

According to South Carolina law, a one-week filing period for a special primary election begins on the second Tuesday after the candidate's death, or July 21.

The special primary election would be held on the second Tuesday after that filing period closes, or Aug. 11. Any necessary runoff would follow two weeks after that, or Aug. 25.

From that point, the new nominee would have just over two months to campaign for the general elec-

tion on Nov. 3.

Several Republicans are potentially eyeing a run, including Lt. Gov. Pamela Evette and Republican Reps. Russell Fry, Nancy Mace and Ralph Norman.

Subaru issues recall for 541,000 SUVs over label with incorrect weight rating

NEW YORK (AP) — Subaru of America is recalling more than 541,000 of its Crosstrek, Forester, and Ascent SUVs due to an inaccurate label attached to the vehicles.

According to a notice published by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration this week, the now-recalled vehicles were made with a certification label that incorrectly states their gross axle weight rating, or GAWR, which reflects the maximum weight that each axle of a vehicle can support.

The NHTSA warns a wrong GAWR label “may lead to an overloaded vehicle,” which could increase the likelihood of a crash.

Subaru has not been aware of any crashes or injuries resulting from this issue in the U.S., according to recall documents. And no mechanical repair is needed — but the company plans to mail impacted owners a “corrective certification label” to place over the faulty one. Customers may also choose to have a dealer place the new label on their cars, free of charge.

The labeling recall covers certain 2026 Crosstrek Hybrid, 2025-2026 Forester and Forester Hybrid, and 2019-2026 Ascent vehicles.

Owner notifications are set to go out in late August — and additional letters will be mailed “once the remedy is available,” NHTSA documents note. In the meantime, drivers can also confirm whether their specific vehicle is included in this recall and find more information using the NHTSA’s website and/or Subaru’s recall lookup platform.

The Associated Press reached out to contacts for Subaru of America — a New Jersey-based subsidiary of the larger Japanese automaker — for further comments Tuesday.

Buffett omits gift to Bill Gates’ foundation after Microsoft cofounder’s Epstein ties disclosed

By JOSH FUNK AP Business Writer

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Billionaire Warren Buffett omitted Bill Gates’ foundation from his annual donations this year after disclosures of the Microsoft co-founder’s ties to convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein. He will donate about \$6 billion to four foundations connected to his own family, but did not mention Gates in his announcement Tuesday.

Buffett also said in his statement that he wants all of his remaining Berkshire Hathaway stock worth more than \$140 billion donated to charity by the end of 2034. Previously the plan was for his three children to distribute his remaining fortune within 10 years of the 95-year-old investor’s death.

“Of course, mortality is unpredictable, but my remaining shares will be donated to the four foundations one way or the other by December 31, 2034,” Buffett said in a statement. “The goal is to have the grants grow annually to each of the three foundations managed by each of my children and the annual grant to the Susan Thompson Buffett Foundation grow at a somewhat greater rate.”

Buffett did not immediately respond Tuesday to questions. CNBC said Buffett was scheduled to give the channel an exclusive interview on the topic Wednesday morning.

The Gates Foundation thanked Buffett for his gifts in a statement Tuesday and said the foundation remains in a strong financial position thanks to Gates’ pledge to donate 99% of his remaining fortune to the charity, which plans to close in 2045 after distributing the money.

“The Gates Foundation is grateful to Warren Buffett for his decades of support for our work. His gifts, totaling more than \$47 billion, have helped us expand and deliver on the foundation’s mission to improve health and opportunity for people around the world,” the charity said in its statement.

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Buffett's latest gifts are roughly equal to last year's donations

The majority of Buffett's charitable gifts — worth more than \$61 billion — have gone to the Gates Foundation since he announced the plan to give away his fortune in 2006. He has been giving blocks of Berkshire Hathaway stock to the Gates Foundation and the four foundations run by his three children regularly.

Buffett plans to give about \$4.5 billion in stock to the Susan Thompson Buffett Foundation this year and about \$500 million in shares each to the Sherwood Foundation, Howard G. Buffett Foundation and Novo Foundation, which are run by his children.

So the total amount of donations announced Tuesday is similar to the roughly \$6 billion in donations he made last summer, with Buffett's family foundations getting significantly more than in previous years that would seem to account for the money that would have gone to the Gates Foundation.

Gates has denied any ties to Epstein's crimes

Gates denies any knowledge of Epstein's crimes and has not been accused of any wrongdoing. He said he only met with Epstein because he thought it might help him raise money for charitable causes.

Epstein, who was accused of sexually abusing dozens of underage girls, was found dead at the Manhattan federal lockup in August 2019 and his death was later ruled a suicide by New York City's medical examiner.

Buffett already said in 2024 that he planned to cut off donations to the Gates Foundation after his death and let his three children decide how to distribute the rest of his fortune. The decision he announced Tuesday will accelerate that plan.

The two billionaires were the best of friends

Buffett and Gates used to be exceptionally close friends who talked often, played bridge online and even took vacations together. Gates also served on the board of Buffett's conglomerate for years and the legendary investor sat on the board of the Gates Foundation. But Buffett told CNBC in March that he hadn't talked to Gates for months since before the Epstein files were released. The disclosures began in December 2025 and continued into this year.

In the past, Buffett stood up for Gates. Three years ago, Buffett cut off a man who was presenting a resolution at the Berkshire Hathaway shareholder meeting after he questioned Gates' character because of his ties with Epstein. Peter Flaherty was arrested that day for trespassing even though he had been approved to make the presentation beforehand. The charge was later dropped, but the incident led to a lawsuit, which is still pending in the courts.

Buffett can't believe how many people Epstein fooled

Buffett said to CNBC "it is astounding to me that anybody could be that successful as a con person" but Epstein found a way to exploit the weaknesses of others. Buffett would not discuss Gates' involvement, but said he doesn't want to be involved with anything that could be investigated later.

Gates discussed his ties to Epstein with the staff of his foundation recently. Gates appears multiple times in the Justice Department's release of documents connected to its investigation of the late financier. The Justice Department's files include email correspondence between Gates and Epstein about philanthropic projects, calendar entries documenting dates they got together, and photos of Gates at events the two men attended.

The foundation announced that it hired someone in March to assess the foundation's past engagement with Epstein and review its policies to vet any future philanthropic partnerships. Gates and the rest of the foundation's board expect to get an update on that investigation sometime this summer.

Buffett told CNBC that he's amazed at how many wealthy and powerful people have been caught up in the Epstein scandal.

"I mean, it, here you had a guy that was a convicted guy, a sensational con man, and the percentage of people that he knocked off," Buffett said. "I mean, whether it was, he found their weakness. It might have been sex. It might be power, it might be, whatever it might be. And I don't see how anybody could have pulled that off."

Buffett said he's glad Epstein never came to Omaha, where he has lived for more than six decades. Buffett is regarded by many as the world's greatest investor who built up Berkshire over the years by

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buying insurance companies like Geico, major utilities, manufacturers and well-known brands like Dairy Queen and the BNSF railroad.

Buffett stepped down as Berkshire CEO in January after 60 years of leading the company, but he remains as chairman and the largest shareholder. Greg Abel is now CEO of Berkshire Hathaway.

Inflation cools more than expected in June as gas costs fall, underlying prices ease

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. inflation cooled last month as the cost of gas, clothes, and used cars fell, providing some relief to consumers, while underlying price pressures also slowed more than expected.

Consumer prices dropped 0.4% from May to June, the largest monthly drop in four years, the Labor Department said Tuesday, after rising 0.5% in the previous month. On a yearly basis, inflation declined to 3.5%, down from a year-over-year gain of 4.2% in May and lower than many economists expected.

Excluding the food and energy categories, core prices were unchanged from May to June, a positive sign that underlying inflation is declining. On a yearly basis, core prices rose just 2.6%, down from 2.9% the previous month. Core inflation remains above the Federal Reserve's target of 2%.

The core figures suggest that the gas price spike from the Iran war, while it pushed up airfares and some other costs, hasn't so far led to broad-based, sustained inflation, economists said.

"This reading is very much in the camp that the inflation we've had this year is transitory," said Michael Metcalfe, head of macro strategy at State Street Markets. "Yes, gas prices went up, but nothing else did, more or less."

Yet oil prices rose for a second day Tuesday as the United States renewed attacks on Iran and President Donald Trump announced a new blockade in the Strait of Hormuz, a key shipping route for about one-fifth of the world's oil. The increase threatens to undo at least some of the progress that occurred last month.

And many Americans have soured on the economy after five years of elevated inflation, posing a risk to Trump and Republicans in the upcoming midterm elections.

For his part, Trump on Tuesday blamed his predecessor, Democrat Joe Biden, for the rate of inflation having spiked to a three-year high just last month.

"It's not my fault," he said. "We are putting it to sleep. ... Inflation is way down."

"Remember that for the midterms," he added.

Yet inflation has risen since Trump's inauguration last year, to 3.5% from 3% in January 2025. It jumped even further after the Iran war began Feb. 28, when it was just 2.4%.

Benign report could make Fed rate hike less likely

Tuesday's report likely reduces pressure on the Fed to boost its short-term interest rate to combat inflation. Last month, Fed officials left their key rate unchanged at about 3.6%.

"Today's report gave some breathing room for the Federal Reserve in deciding whether and when to raise interest rates," Kathy Bostjancic, chief economist at Nationwide Financial, said.

Fed Chair Kevin Warsh, in written testimony to the House Financial Services Committee, said Tuesday that the Fed has "no tolerance" for high inflation which he pledged would become "a thing of the past." Yet he provided no hints about what steps the Fed may take in coming months. Warsh will face questions later Tuesday from members of Congress.

More goods and services saw slower price gains than expected

A wider range of prices cooled last month than economists had forecast. Electricity prices, which have been elevated by spiking demand from data centers, fell 1% from May to June, though they are still 4% higher than a year ago. Clothing prices dropped 0.6% from May to June but are 3.9% more expensive than a year earlier.

Groceries rose 0.2% from May to June and are up 2.7% from last year, while apartment rental costs cooled, rising just 0.1% last month and 2.8% from a year ago.

The inflation-fighters at the Fed remain sharply divided over next steps, according to minutes of their

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June 16-17 meeting. About half of policymakers support raising interest rates by the end of the year to cool borrowing, spending, and price increases, the minutes showed. Another half are willing to wait for signs that inflation may resume falling as gas prices decline, though the minutes predate the recent flare-up of violence in the Middle East.

And the situation in the Middle East continues to change hour to hour. On Tuesday, the price for a barrel of Brent crude oil, the international standard, climbed 4.6% to \$87.13 after the United States and Iran each said the Strait of Hormuz is under its control. Gas prices have also risen about 6 cents a gallon in the past week, to a nationwide average of \$3.86 a gallon.

"Today's number is a very good reading, but so much is going to depend on what happens in the Middle East," Bostjancic said.

Next steps

Many Fed officials have flagged massive investments in the build out of artificial intelligence infrastructure as a factor that could worsen inflation by pushing up prices for memory chips and other semiconductors, as well as electricity. With chips so much more expensive, companies like Apple, Microsoft, and Dell have announced price increases for laptops, tablets, and video game consoles.

Other Fed officials have offered conflicting views on what steps the Fed could take next. On Monday, Fed governor Christopher Waller said he was worried about core inflation, which he noted had risen from 3% last December to 3.4% in May, according to the Fed's preferred measure. He pointed out that the cost of more than two-thirds of services have risen by 3% or more compared with a year ago.

"If we get another hot reading on core inflation this week, then the (Fed) will need to consider tightening monetary policy in the near term," Waller said in a speech in New York.

But last week John Williams, president of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, said that if core inflation stays at a 0.2% monthly pace for the rest of this year, the Fed could avoid hiking rates. Tuesday's data is along the lines of what Williams wants to see.

Other signs of where prices are headed are mixed. The Federal Reserve Bank of New York said last week that a survey found that nearly half the companies in its region that have paid tariffs still plan to lift their prices further.

Separately, Walmart last week said it was rolling back prices on thousands of items, including ground beef, potato chips, toys, and clothes. Trump praised the move on social media and sought to take credit for the reduction, though the company did not mention Trump in its announcement.

Baseball union head criticizes MLB salary cap ad campaign, says claims of economic woe are perverse

By RONALD BLUM AP Baseball Writer

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — The head of baseball's players' union chastised management on Tuesday for its advertising campaign in support of a salary cap while Commissioner Rob Manfred maintained the proposal was developed in response to fans.

Bruce Meyer, who took over when Tony Clark was forced out in February, said the sport was thriving despite assertions by Major League Baseball that massive change is needed.

"I have watched over the last few years the owners, the commissioner's office, try to convince fans, the consumers of their product, that the product is broken," Meyer said ahead of the All-Star Game. "The supposed stewards of the game have spent an inordinate amount of time trying to convince those same fans that they don't have hope or they shouldn't have hope or that the product that they're paying to consume in record numbers is somehow broken. I think it's perverse."

Attendance has averaged 29,230 this season, up 1.2% from 28,895 through similar dates last year. MLB is on pace for its highest attendance since 2017.

Management in May proposed a salary cap system, which players say they will never accept. MLB launched a "Level the Field" campaign claiming fans support a cap that contains a floor.

"In order for this game to reach its full potential we need to continue to address concerns that our fans

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have, particularly concerns that go to the core of what we're about, that is competitive balance," Manfred said in a separate question-and-answer session.

"We need to make sure that fans in markets at the beginning of the season have a realistic belief that their team has a chance to win," he added. "I think that we need a system where fans, particularly in smaller markets, can have some hope that the players that are signed and developed by their organizations can actually stay there through free agency and honestly I think we need a system where there is a more robust free agent market, so if you don't want to go to New York or Los Angeles, you have a realistic opportunity to get a viable free agent contract."

Fans have responded positively to MLB's changes in the 2020s, which include expanded playoffs in 2022, a pitch clock in 2023 and an appeals system to robot umpires for strike zone decisions this year.

"We got that momentum by listening to our fans and making changes that, candidly, the MLBPA was not interested in," Manfred said. "Those changes have paid off in terms of creating that momentum, and the best way to lose momentum is to stand still."

No small-market team has won the World Series since the 2015 Kansas City Royals. The Los Angeles Dodgers, coming off their second straight title, had a \$323.3 million opening-day payroll for their 40-man roster and a \$163.7 million tax for a \$487.1 million total. Cleveland had the lowest payroll at \$75.5 million.

"It defies human experience to ask a fan to think that the bottom end of that gap has the same opportunity to win as the top," Manfred said. "There is no question, OK, that everybody in any sport is not going to win once every 30 or 32 years depending on how many teams you have, but the data in our sport is stark. Your opportunity to make the playoffs if you are a larger-market team is dramatically higher and your opportunity to proceed to the subsequent rounds, that advantage grows with each round."

Meyer said unions for players in the NFL, NBA and NHL agreed to caps under duress.

"In one way or the other they were broken or forced into it," he said. "I believe that this system is bad for players and would be for generations to come."

Baseball's five-year labor contract expires Dec. 1 and management is expected to immediately start a lockout, the sport's 10th work stoppage since 1972. No games have been lost since a 7 1/2-month strike in 1994-95 caused the World Series to be canceled for the first in 90 years.

"Teams in every market across the league can afford to compete," Meyer said. "Many of them are choosing not to. From our standpoint, that's the biggest problem in the game right now."

Meyer said owners want a cap to guarantee profits and increase franchise values, a system he called "subsidized mediocrity."

"They don't want it because they're just so concerned about the fans," he said. "If they were so concerned about the fans, they would listen to the fans all across baseball who are literally chanting 'Sell the team.' They want their owners to sell the team because they feel they're not competing."

Manfred did not want to comment on whether he thought President Donald Trump, who said he supports a cap, would attempt to intervene in bargaining.

"It would be wildly, wildly inappropriate for me to speculate about what the president of the United States might do or not do in a hypothetical situation," he said.

Manfred defended MLB's advertising campaign supporting a cap.

"Sometimes the other side may not be completely accurate or fair in terms of their recitation and what's going on," he said.

Warsh says Fed has 'no tolerance' for high inflation but provides no hints on next move

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal Reserve Chair Kevin Warsh said Tuesday that the Fed will make high inflation "a thing of the past," yet he provided no signal about the central bank's next steps.

Fed policymakers "have no tolerance for persistently elevated inflation," Warsh said in his first appearance before Congress since becoming chair May 22, replacing former chair Jerome Powell. "And we share

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a resolute commitment to restoring price stability.”

Still, Warsh heads a sharply divided rate-setting committee, with about half of the 19 policymakers penciling in higher interest rates by the end of the year in forecasts released last month. Another half have signaled that they support keeping rates unchanged or even cutting them. Warsh faces a stiff challenge in reconciling the divided committee while navigating a rapidly-changing economic outlook.

Warsh spoke to the House Financial Services Committee soon after the government reported that inflation fell 0.4% from May to June, driven down mostly by cheaper gas prices. Core inflation — which excludes the volatile energy and food categories — was unchanged last month, a broader slowdown in price increases than economists expected.

Compared with a year ago, inflation dropped to 3.5% from 4.2% in May. Core inflation rose just 2.6% in June from a year earlier, down from 2.9% in May, a positive sign that higher gas costs haven't yet lifted broader prices. Still, the core figure is above the Fed's 2% target.

The cooling inflation figures reduce pressure on the Fed to combat higher prices by hiking interest rates. Still, the renewed conflict in the Middle East has already driven up oil prices and could reverse some of the progress on inflation in coming months.

Warsh, asked about the price figures, said they represented just one month of data and suggested he does not see inflation as defeated.

“There might be some that look at this morning's data and say, ‘mission accomplished,’” he said. “That is not my view.”

Guidance on next steps

In keeping with his stated policy of providing less guidance about the Fed's policies, Warsh did not signal whether rate increases would be necessary to combat inflation. The next meeting of the Fed's rate-setting committee is July 28-29.

Under questioning from members of the House committee, he explained a bit more his thinking about pulling back on what Fed-watchers refer to as “forward guidance.”

“If we were to give you my projection today about what we'll do when we meet in two weeks,” Warsh said, Fed officials are more likely to accept information “consistent with our priors and rejecting information that's inconsistent.”

“When we have news for you about exactly the methods of solving this problem, we'll be very clear about what they are,” he added later.

Warsh was pressed by Democrats on the committee to explain how he would react if President Donald Trump, who repeatedly attacked his predecessor, demanded that he cut rates or take other steps that weren't justified by the economic data.

“Are you ready for that?” Rep. Gregory Meeks, a Democrat from New York, asked.

“My commitment to you is to follow the law and follow the data, follow our very best judgment,” Warsh said.

Warsh also cited the Supreme Court's recent decision to allow Fed governor Lisa Cook to remain on the central bank's board, thwarting Trump's attempt to fire her for now, as a sign the high court sees the Fed as independent.

“To the extent there were questions about it, the court has answered those questions,” he said.

The renewal of the Iran war has caused oil prices to climb again after they had fallen back to nearly their prewar level. Gas prices had fallen about 20% from their peak but have also increased in the past week and are still about 35% higher than they were when the U.S. attacked Iran Feb. 28.

Some Fed officials have argued that underlying inflation, even excluding the impact of gas prices, remains elevated and may require higher interest rates to defeat.

Impact of technology investments

Another factor that could boost inflation for the rest of this year is the massive investment in artificial intelligence infrastructure by the so-called “hyperscalers,” such as Google parent Alphabet, Microsoft, Amazon, and Meta Platforms. The spiking demand for memory chips and processors has sent semiconductor

prices soaring, leading to price hikes for laptops, tablets, and video game consoles.

Warsh said Tuesday that AI investment is "the most striking feature of the economy right now" and added that the Fed is "monitoring the implications" for inflation and jobs.

Other Fed officials have stepped in to provide guidance as Warsh has declined to do so. Fed Governor Christopher Waller on Monday said that another "hot" inflation report Tuesday would mean the Fed would have to consider raising rates "in the near term."

But last week John Williams, president of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, said that if core inflation stays at a 0.2% monthly pace for the rest of this year, the Fed could avoid hiking rates. Williams' approach implies the Fed would keep rates steady for some time while it monitors incoming data.

After Lindsey Graham's death, questions linger about aging politicians and health transparency

By JILL COLVIN Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The sudden death of Sen. Lindsey Graham, a top ally of President Donald Trump and one of Washington's best-known politicians, is renewing focus on the country's aging lawmakers.

Graham, who had turned 71 just two days before dying on Saturday, was far younger than many of his Senate colleagues and appeared to have been in good health. He suffered a tear in his aorta, according to a preliminary report from the medical examiner.

It was the second time in less than a month that emergency personnel were dispatched to the home of a U.S. senator. In early June, Mitch McConnell, the former Republican Senate leader, was hospitalized for undisclosed reasons.

After weeks of increasingly dire speculation about his health, he finally revealed on Sunday that he had fallen and suffered from mild pneumonia. He released a photo, complete with a copy of the day's newspaper.

Graham's death and McConnell's hospitalization have come amid an ongoing reckoning about the nation's aging leaders, two years after the disastrous presidential debate that sparked widespread panic among Democrats about then-81-year-old President Joe Biden's capacities and accusations of a cover-up.

Some politicians have continued to obscure details about their health challenges, asking for privacy despite their public positions, and fueling conspiracy theories.

"I think we need some transparency," Sen. John Cornyn of Texas said Monday. "I wish Sen. McConnell and his team would have done that earlier, I think it would have resolved a lot of questions."

McConnell is admitted to a hospital

McConnell, who at 84 is only the third-oldest member of the Senate, was admitted to the hospital on June 14 with barely any explanation. Aides said he was "receiving excellent care" but offered no details about his condition.

The dearth of information fueled a wave of speculation about his prognosis, with Laura Loomer, a Trump ally and conspiracy theorist, claiming on social media that a "high level source close to the White House" had told her he was "officially brain dead."

But McConnell, who will retire from Congress at the end of January after serving as the longest-ever Senate leader, said in a statement that he is on the mend. He said a fall had led to his hospitalization and that he was "briefly unconscious" and treated for mild pneumonia.

"You all know how folks of my generation often hesitate to share the vulnerability that comes with growing older," he said. "Even in the public eye, I feel that same instinct – I can't help it."

That wasn't enough to put speculation to rest. On social media, many refused to believe the veracity of a photo his office released that included the front page of the "Sports" section of The Washington Post.

Conspiracy theories about McConnell's health are "a symptom of our times," said Sen. Rand Paul, who is also from McConnell's home state of Kentucky. Paul said people should "give him a break."

"People think they have a right to know everyone's medical problems," he said, "but I don't know, where does it begin and where does it end?"

Trump's medical reports offer limited details

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The oldest person ever elected president, at age 78, has long offered only the rosiest picture of his health. "Everything checked out PERFECTLY," he boasted after his last physical in May, adding that he took yet another cognitive test aimed at detecting early dementia and has "aced them all."

His past medical reports have been criticized for offering limited detail and including statistics that some health professionals have viewed with skepticism.

When he first ran for president in 2016, Trump declined to release his health records, breaking with longtime precedent. He instead offered a four-paragraph note from his doctor declaring that he would be "the healthiest individual ever elected to the presidency." Rep. Ronny Jackson, White House doctor during Trump's first term, later drew headlines when he extolled the president's "incredibly good genes."

When he was infected with COVID-19 in the midst of his 2020 reelection campaign, Trump's doctors and aides withheld key details of his treatment and tried to downplay the severity of his illness.

And after an attempted assassination at a Pennsylvania rally, Trump aides kept the public in the dark for days, declining to discuss the extent of his injuries or release medical records after assuring he was "fine."

Kean Jr. goes absent for months

The obfuscation extends beyond the septuagenarian and octogenarian set. New Jersey Republican Rep. Tom Kean Jr. spent four months missing without explanation before he finally disclosed late last month that he had been in treatment for depression.

He said in a brief floor speech after his return that he had remained silent about his condition because he is a "private person by nature."

He won an uncontested primary during his absence, despite missing more than 100 votes in the House, and is running for reelection.

The approach stood in contrast to Sen. John Fetterman, a Pennsylvania Democrat, who disclosed his hospitalization for clinical depression the day after he was admitted to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center for treatment. He also suffered a stroke while running for office.

Biden's stumbles doom his reelection effort

Biden's halting gait, frail appearance and frequent verbal stumbles eventually doomed his 2024 reelection campaign. After a debate in which he frequently lost his train of thought, he chose to withdraw from the race, sparking an unprecedented swap at the top of the Democratic ticket that ultimately paved the way for Trump's return to office.

Many others have refused to retire. California Sen. Dianne Feinstein, a Democrat, died in office in 2023 at the age of 90, after years of declining health, including a bout of shingles. Though she returned to the Senate after her illness, she appeared frail and confused at times. It was later revealed that her office had failed to disclose in real time that she had contracted encephalitis while recovering.

Longtime Republican Rep. Kay Granger of Texas spent the final months of her more than two decades in Congress, when she was in her early 80s, suffering from what her office called "unforeseen health challenges" that made travel to Washington difficult.

Eleanor Holmes Norton, 88, the longtime House delegate for the District of Columbia, announced earlier this year that she would not run for reelection amid questions about her competency.

Ukraine downs 5 Russian ballistic missiles as Kyiv looks to boost its air defenses

By ILLIA NOVIKOV Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Ukraine's air force said Tuesday it intercepted five ballistic missiles launched by Russia in a raft of overnight attacks, although other missiles and drones got through and hit warehouses and a school in the capital of Kyiv.

It was the first time in almost two weeks that Ukraine said it had downed Russian ballistic missiles, which are harder to stop than drones or cruise missiles and have pummeled the country in Moscow's 4-year-old full-scale invasion.

Ukrainian air defenses likely used the U.S.-made Patriot surface-to-air guided missile system that is the

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most effective way of countering ballistic missiles, but ammunition for it has been in short supply amid the Iran war despite European efforts to make up for the shortfall.

Paris cheers Ukraine along the Champs-Elysees

Along the cobblestoned Champs-Elysees in Paris, crowds cheered Ukrainian troops marching in the annual Bastille Day parade, and President Volodymyr Zelenskyy received an ovation from European leaders who showed solidarity with Kyiv. Ukrainian aviators trained in France flew aboard two Mirage 2000B fighter jets alongside French air force pilots.

Zelenskyy was in France seeking a remedy to his country's air defense problem, and he announced Monday that Ukraine is joining with nine other nations to form a coalition that will build a shared ballistic missile shield for Europe. Ukraine and its partners could jointly develop a mass-produced, low-cost system in the next 12 months, he said.

The Bastille Day parade featured about 500 troops from the "coalition of the willing" group of countries that have pledged to help with Ukraine's postwar security. French President Emmanuel Macron called it a "great honor" to welcome them to the parade.

Tuesday's attack in Kyiv caused fires at two warehouses and also damaged a school, Mayor Vitali Klitschko said.

The Russian Defense Ministry said in a statement it targeted military manufacturing facilities that produce long-range missiles and drones.

Moscow is seeking to choke off Ukrainian strikes on oil facilities deep inside Russia that have caused critical fuel shortages, frustrating the public and, Western analysts say, are hindering the Russian army's advance on the front line.

Ukraine's air force said one ballistic missile and 25 drones struck 17 locations, while falling debris was reported in 10 locations.

Ukraine seeks to bolster air defenses ahead of winter

Ukraine urgently needs to improve its air defense shield before winter. Much of the country is at the mercy of Russian missiles that have hammered its power grid since 2022, making winters almost unbearable.

President Donald Trump said at the NATO summit last week that the U.S. will give Ukraine a license to make Patriot systems itself. However, they are expensive, in high demand and take a long time to produce, so it will likely be years before any Ukrainian-made systems are ready to deploy.

Ukraine strikes more Russian oil facilities

Ukraine, meanwhile, kept up its long-range onslaught on Russian targets, especially oil facilities.

An attack in southern Russia's Krasnodar region caused a fire at the Afipsky Oil Refinery that was later put out, authorities there said.

Zelenskyy said Ukraine also hit an oil refinery in the city of Salavat in the Bashkortostan region, some 1,400 kilometers (900 miles) from the Ukrainian border. Bashkortostan Gov. Radiy Khabirov confirmed an attack on an industrial area in Salavat, but didn't say what was hit.

In addition, the Ukrainian navy struck four Russian tankers operating as part of Moscow's so-called shadow fleet of aging tankers of uncertain ownership and safety practices that are dodging international oil sanctions and a patrol boat, Zelenskyy said.

Ukraine claimed Monday it struck 105 Russian vessels in the Sea of Azov next to the Crimean Peninsula between July 6-13.

The Russian Defense Ministry said its air defenses overnight intercepted 288 Ukrainian drones.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has rebuffed ceasefires offered by Zelenskyy.

"This war must be brought to an end, and all reasonable diplomatic proposals are on the table," Zelenskyy said on social media.

Subpoenas issued to NY Times reporters seen as 'unprecedented' threat to press freedom

By JOCELYN NOVECK AP National Writer

Dangerous. Brazen. Unprecedented. Uncharted territory.

Reaction in the media world has been swift and severe to the issue of subpoenas to five New York Times journalists who reported on security questions involving the new Qatari-gifted Air Force One — a legal maneuver seen as a troubling escalation of the Trump administration's campaign to control and intimidate independent media outlets.

"The subpoenas are an extraordinary escalation in President Trump's efforts to threaten and intimidate independent news organizations and have a chilling effect on the work of journalists across the country," said Jodie Ginsberg, CEO of the Committee to Protect Journalists.

Media advocates and analysts expressed dismay at the tactic, even after months in which news organizations drawing President Donald Trump's ire have been attacked both in courtrooms and in the court of public opinion; media access to corridors of power has been blocked; and a Washington journalist's home has been searched by federal agents.

"They have used the levers of power to intimidate and demonize professional journalists who report stories that are unfavorable to the administration's desired narrative," said Frank Sesno, a former CNN White House bureau chief who is now a media and public affairs professor at George Washington University.

He called Friday's subpoenas "dangerous and uncharted territory, but merely an extension of what we have seen from this administration and president."

"Don't like a poll? Sue the Des Moines Register," he said. "Don't like the way an interview is edited? Sue '60 Minutes.' Don't like the coverage of the gifted Air Force One? Order the FBI to investigate and subpoena the journalists for what is, by the way, a story that is in the public interest."

Some of the subpoenas were delivered to reporters at home

Some of the subpoenas were delivered to reporters at their homes, the Times said. Sought by Jay Clayton, the U.S. attorney in Manhattan, they seek to force the reporters to testify before a federal grand jury in Manhattan this week.

The new jet in question, a present from Qatar that Trump's administration spent \$400 million to retrofit and upgrade, entered service last week. But the Republican president used an older model Air Force One jet to leave a NATO summit in Turkey.

The Times, citing anonymous sources, reported that the switch had come at the urging of the Secret Service and that the newer plane lacked some of the advanced security features of the older aircraft, including antimissile capabilities. On social media, Trump denied security concerns.

The subpoenas were issued after FBI Director Kash Patel and other Justice Department officials met at the White House on Friday to talk about the matter, according to a person familiar with the discussions who was not authorized to discuss the issue publicly and spoke on the condition of anonymity. The Times said the meeting lasted around eight hours.

The fact that the operation was conducted from the White House itself was particularly egregious to analysts like Sesno, who called the coordination "unprecedented."

"This graphically illustrates the pressure and influence the White House and president have brought to bear on law enforcement that is supposed to be independent and driven by facts, not politics," he said.

The Justice Department has justified the subpoenas by saying that "to be clear, reporters are not the targets, those leaking classified information are."

"We value and appreciate the important role that the press plays in this country," the department said in a weekend statement. "But DOJ also plays an important role to make sure that the people entrusted with our nation's secrets do what they're supposed to do with that information, which means not sharing classified information."

The National Press Club called on the Justice Department to immediately withdraw the subpoenas.

"Every American should understand what is at stake," Mark Schoeff Jr., the club's president, said in a

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statement. "When federal agents arrive at the homes of journalists with subpoenas, it is not ordinary law enforcement. It is an extraordinary assault on the freedom of the press that strikes at the heart of the First Amendment."

Also expressing solidarity with the Times journalists was the White House Correspondents' Association — which, in less than two weeks, holds its rescheduled dinner, with Trump planning to attend the event that celebrates the First Amendment. The first dinner was scuttled when a shooter opened fire in what prosecutors say was an attempt to kill the president.

"The White House Correspondents' Association stands with the New York Times reporters who were targeted for doing their jobs to uphold the public's right to know how its government operates," said a statement from the group's president, Weijia Jiang. "The WHCA condemns any act of intimidation against journalists, including attempts to pressure them into revealing sources."

Trump's administration has initiated multiple lawsuits against media outlets

Trump's animosity toward news outlets whose agenda runs counter to his own isn't new. But in his second presidential term, he has launched an escalation, often harnessing the levers of the federal government or attempting to do so. These efforts have taken place both in actual courtrooms and in the court of public opinion.

The president has sued various news organizations whose coverage he dislikes. He has also threatened to revoke TV broadcast licenses. His Federal Communications Commission chairman is seeking to penalize shows like ABC's "The View," where some hosts speak out against Trump, by having the FCC explore revoking its exemption from equal-time rules.

The legal skirmishes include an escalating dispute between the media and Trump's Defense Department over reporters' access to the Pentagon. The Times has filed two lawsuits over a policy requiring journalists to be accompanied by escorts at the military complex.

The White House has also battled with The Associated Press over the news organization's refusal to follow Trump's executive order renaming the Gulf of Mexico. And it has battled with The Wall Street Journal over reporting about Jeffrey Epstein and his ties to the president — including an article that described a sexually suggestive letter that the newspaper said bore Trump's signature.

Last month, the Justice Department withdrew subpoenas it had issued that sought to compel reporters at The Washington Post and The Wall Street Journal to testify before a grand jury, according to people familiar with the matter.

The Post confirmed that one of its journalists received a subpoena from the Trump administration as part of a broader crackdown on media leaks that in January also included the extraordinary step of an FBI search of the home of another journalist at the newspaper and the seizure of her electronic devices. The media world was stunned by the search of the home of reporter Hannah Natanson, who was covering Trump's transformation of the federal government.

The Times is now gearing up for battle against what its lawyer David McCraw has called "this brazen act."

In an internal memo seen by the AP, the newspaper's executive editor, Joseph Kahn, criticized the subpoenas, praised his journalists' work and said: "We expect to prevail. We have the best legal team in the business. ... The law protects news gatherers from this sort of retaliatory abuse of prosecutorial power. It is essential that the courts reaffirm that protection and quash this overreach. We are confident they will in this case."

An experimental Alzheimer's drug shows promise targeting a different brain protein, new study shows

By LAURAN NEERGAARD AP Medical Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — An experimental drug might help slow early Alzheimer's disease in a markedly different way than today's treatments — by lowering levels of a brain protein called tau, researchers reported Tuesday.

Tau is one part of a toxic duo fueling Alzheimer's but prior attempts to develop drugs that can target

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the protein have failed. Two Alzheimer's drugs, lecanemab and donanemab, try to clear buildup of the better-known amyloid protein and can modestly slow cognitive decline.

The new findings suggest Biogen's diranersen did more than lower tau levels. The study of about 400 people found signs that it also slowed cognitive decline, in one small subset enough to be comparable to amyloid therapy, according to results presented at the Alzheimer's Association International Conference in London. Biogen is planning a larger study to try to prove the drug's benefit.

"This is really quite promising if it were to hold up" in that next-step testing, said Jessica Langbaum of the Banner Alzheimer's Institute in Phoenix, who wasn't involved with Biogen's study.

"This is early days," cautioned Dr. Reisa Sperling of Mass General Brigham, who also wasn't involved in the study. But "I think it will reinvigorate interest and investment in lots of tau mechanisms, and the field needs that."

It's one of multiple novel attempts to fight the mind-destroying disease, including a possible tau vaccine, an experimental heart drug that might do double-duty for some people at high risk of Alzheimer's, and ways to help medicines more easily get across the so-called blood-brain barrier.

New approaches are needed to fight the leading cause of dementia

It's not clear exactly what causes Alzheimer's, which affects more than 7 million Americans and tens of millions worldwide. That sticky amyloid protein starts building up to form plaques in the brain about two decades before symptoms appear. But amyloid alone isn't enough to cause Alzheimer's. Many scientists believe that amyloid buildup eventually triggers an abnormal form of tau to form tangles in neurons, setting off symptoms.

Diranersen is what's called an antisense oligonucleotide that doesn't attack tau buildup but instead instructs a tau-producing gene to produce less.

"If you lower tau production, you are lowering the amount of the abnormal tau that needs to be cleared by the microglia, by the clearance mechanism in the brain. And so you are enabling the normal clearance mechanism to have more capacity to clear the tau," said Dr. Cath Mummery of University College London, who led the new study.

Today's anti-amyloid drugs are given through the bloodstream via infusions or injections. Diranersen is injected into the fluid surrounding the spinal cord, a straighter path to the brain.

Biogen's tau drug missed a key study goal — but was still encouraging

Biogen's study included people with mild cognitive impairment or mild Alzheimer's, randomly assigning them to different doses of diranersen or a placebo. Back in May, Biogen and partner Ionis Pharmaceuticals announced that the lowest dose — given every six months — had the strongest effect. That was a counterintuitive surprise and meant the study didn't meet its planned goal of showing that higher doses brought greater benefits.

Still, scientists had been anxiously awaiting details about how much that twice-a-year spinal shot really helped. Five of six different brain tests showed diranersen recipients' memory and other cognitive abilities still worsened but more slowly than those given dummy shots, Mummery said. In one test of the lowest dose, that translated to a 26% reduction in cognitive decline — "approximately the same" change seen in earlier tests of amyloid drugs, she said.

Side effects included injection site pain and a temporary state of confusion that could appear a few days after the shot and last about a week, she said. But there were no signs of brain inflammation, which can affect recipients of anti-amyloid drugs.

Alzheimer's researchers also target tau in a broad new study

The University of California, San Francisco, last week opened a first-of-its-kind study known as the Alzheimer's Tau Platform. Funded by the National Institutes of Health, it will test a variety of experimental anti-tau therapies against and in combination with today's amyloid treatments. First up is a vaccine called AADvac1 designed to train the immune system to recognize and fight a specific worrisome portion of the tau protein, said UCSF's Dr. Adam Boxer.

The "platform" approach will expand to locations around the country, allow addition of other tau drugs to

test and include people with Alzheimer's-related protein buildup who aren't yet showing symptoms, he said.

Other studies hint at new ways of attacking Alzheimer's

Researchers told the Alzheimer's meeting that an experimental cholesterol-lowering drug called obicetrapib might do more than help heart health. They're exploring if it also might lower buildup of Alzheimer's-related proteins in people who carry a genetic risk for the disease.

Why? That gene, called APOE4, also affects how the body processes cholesterol. Obicetrapib maker NewAmsterdam Pharma plans to begin a study soon to test if the drug's cholesterol effects also can mitigate the Alzheimer's risk in people carrying one or two copies of that gene.

Companies also are trying to get Alzheimer's drugs into the brain faster and at higher volumes, by penetrating the protective lining meant to protect the brain from harm. Denali Therapeutics' CEO Ryan Watts describes it as "hitching a ride" with iron that naturally gets into the brain. His company is pursuing drugs that target tau and amyloid using that "transport vehicle" technology.

Death toll from a Bangkok music bar fire rises to 30, dozens remain in hospital

By TIAN MACLEOD JI and JINTAMAS SAKSORNCHAI Associated Press

BANGKOK (AP) — The death toll from a huge fire in a Bangkok music bar has increased to 30, officials said Tuesday, as the investigation into the blaze proceeded while relatives of the victims took on the grim task of identifying their loved ones and retrieving their bodies.

More than 70 people were injured in the Sunday night tragedy, with 24 of them still in critical condition, according to a statement by the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration.

Initial details about the victims, which have not been updated since Monday, said 18 of the dead were women and nine were men, all Thai except one bar employee from Laos. The injured included 41 women and 34 men.

The blaze at the Rong Beer Na Ladprao bar, the city's deadliest in 17 years, broke out shortly before midnight in a northern part of the Thai capital. Firefighters needed half an hour to bring it under control.

The bar, which in Thai calls itself a brewery or beer hall, claimed to accommodate as many as 600 customers. It was not clear how many were present Sunday night.

An investigation into the cause of the fire and whether the bar was following safety regulations is ongoing. Most of the people who were killed were found trapped in windowless bathrooms where they may have sought to escape the flames, police said.

Bangkok governor orders safety survey and better enforcement

Bangkok Gov. Chadchart Sittipunt said Tuesday he has ordered the city's administration to conduct a sweeping survey of such establishments to assess risks. The city will also step up enforcement of existing laws to improve safety standards, he said.

Former patrons of the bar and other mourners visited the site Tuesday, adding to the growing pile of flowers leaning on the guardrails cordoning off the location of the blaze.

Handwritten messages in Thai and other languages, including Korean, were left alongside white flowers, expressing condolences to the victims.

Debris from the bar, including melted musical instruments and blackened chairs, lay scattered along the sidewalk, moved there Monday by officials investigating the cause of the fire.

University student Thanakon Phoklang said he was passing by and wanted to pay his respects.

"It was regrettable," he said. "It's impossible to feel anything else."

The public clamor for answers and action concerning the tragedy has included relatives of the dead who went to Bangkok's Institute of Forensic Medicine to collect their bodies on Tuesday.

Families weep as they retrieve bodies

Gathering at a loading area for vehicles, family members wept as they walked with coffins that were then loaded into an ambulance and taken away.

Namthip Tubsuk, a mother of two and teacher nicknamed "Ice," died in the fire, according to her aunt

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Jittiya Phaiklaw, who focused on reports alleging exit doors had been locked.

"They shouldn't have locked the doors," Jittiya said. "If they were afraid the customers would get away, they could have had the security guard staff minding them away."

Jutatip Surakumhang, a friend of Namthip, said an apology was owed.

"I feel there must be someone coming out to apologize to everyone who died. There were deaths deserving an apology. It was heartbreaking," Jutatip said.

The bar issued an apology and condolences Monday on Facebook and vowed to cooperate with investigations into the fire.

The relatives and friends of another deceased victim, 35-year-old Bangkok native Top Sarobol, also came to the forensic institute to accompany his body. They wept as his coffin was brought out and loaded into the van to be returned home.

"For his family, it is hard to accept it. His grandmother is old. She always said let her grandson cremate her," his friend Nuttakarn Sevoy said. "But the reality is opposite of what we wanted."

Speculation about the causes of the tragedy has been rampant but mostly unconfirmed, while experts have drawn general conclusions about fire safety in Thailand.

Engineering expert suggests problems should be probed

On Monday, the president of the Thailand Structural Engineers Association, Amorn Pimanmas, told reporters outside the bar that, while he had not inspected the venue, he observed some risk factors that could worsen fire hazards.

He said the building is enclosed, has low ceilings and may have used foam as decorative materials, without adequate flame-retardant treatment. Combined with limited air ventilation, smoke would accumulate quickly, he said, creating toxic air that could be the main cause of death for many victims.

He also noted that officials said the bar was licensed as a restaurant with a live music venue rather than an entertainment venue because it was located outside the designated zoning for such businesses. Amorn said that would exclude it from the stricter fire safety requirements for entertainment venues.

"There must be some kind of revolution regarding fire safety procedures, and I think law enforcement is also very important," he said. "It's not that we don't have the law, but it's the problem of how the law could be strictly enforced from now on. I think the government should answer this question."

Today in History: July 15, discovery of the Rosetta Stone

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Wednesday, July 15, the 196th day of 2026. There are 169 days left in the year.

Today in History:

On July 15, 1799, the Rosetta Stone, a key to deciphering ancient Egyptian scripts, was found at Fort Julien in the Nile Delta during the Napoleonic campaign in Egypt.

Also on this date:

In 1834, the Spanish Inquisition was abolished more than 350 years after its creation.

In 1870, Georgia became the last Confederate state to be readmitted to the Union.

In 1913, Democrat Augustus Bacon of Georgia became the first person elected to the U.S. Senate under the terms of the recently ratified 17th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, providing for popular election of senators.

In 1916, The Boeing Company, originally known as Pacific Aero Products Co., was founded in Seattle.

In 1975, three American astronauts blasted off aboard an Apollo spacecraft hours after two Soviet cosmonauts were launched aboard a Soyuz spacecraft for a mission that included a linkup of the two ships in orbit.

In 1976, a 36-hour kidnap ordeal began for 26 schoolchildren and their bus driver as they were abducted near Chowchilla, California, by three gunmen and imprisoned in an underground cell. (The captives escaped unharmed; the kidnappers were caught.)

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In 1996, MSNBC, a 24-hour all-news network, made its debut on cable and the internet.

In 1997, fashion designer Gianni Versace, 50, was shot dead outside his Miami Beach home; suspected gunman Andrew Phillip Cunanan (koo-NAN'-an), 27, was found dead eight days later, a suicide. (Investigators believed Cunanan killed four other people before Versace in a cross-country rampage that began the previous March.)

In 2002, John Walker Lindh, an American who'd fought alongside the Taliban in Afghanistan, pleaded guilty in federal court in Alexandria, Virginia, to two felonies in a deal sparing him life in prison. (Walker was released in 2019 after serving 17 years of a 20-year prison sentence.)

In 2006, Twitter (now known as X) was launched to the public.

In 2019, avowed white supremacist James Alex Fields Jr. was sentenced by a state court to life in prison plus 419 years for killing one person and injuring dozens when he deliberately drove his car into a crowd of anti-racism protesters during a rally in Charlottesville, Virginia. (The previous month, Fields received a life sentence on 29 federal hate crime charges.)

In 2020, George Floyd's family filed a lawsuit against the city of Minneapolis and the four police officers charged in his death, alleging the officers violated Floyd's rights when they restrained him and that the city allowed a culture of excessive force, racism and impunity to flourish in its police force. (The city would agree to pay \$27 million to settle the lawsuit in March 2021.)

Today's Birthdays: Actor Patrick Wayne is 87. R&B singer Millie Jackson is 82. Singer Linda Ronstadt is 80. Author Richard Russo is 77. Musician Trevon Horn is 77. Arianna Huffington, co-founder of The Huffington Post, is 76. Former professional wrestler Jesse Ventura is 75. Actor Terry O'Quinn (TV: "Lost") is 74. Rock drummer Marky Ramone is 74. Rock musician Joe Satriani is 70. Model Kim Alexis is 66. Actor Willie Aames is 66. Actor-director Forest Whitaker is 65. Actor Brigitte Nielsen is 63. Rock drummer Jason Bonham is 60. TV personality Adam Savage (TV: "MythBusters") is 59. Actor-comedian Eddie Griffin is 58. Actor-screenwriter Jim Rash (TV: "Community") is 55. Actor Scott Foley is 54. Actor Brian Austin Green is 53. Singer Buju Banton is 53. Actor Diane Kruger is 50. Actor Lana Parrilla (LAH'-nuh pa-REE'-uh) is 49. Actor Travis Fimmel is 47. Actor-singer Tristan "Mack" Wilds is 37. Actor Iain Armitage (TV: "Young Sheldon") is 18.