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Brown County Fair Tickets Available

The Groton Daily Independent has some Brown County Fair Tickets available for \$50 each. 2 each of Cooper Alan & Jackson Dean, Aug. 12, 8 p.m.; and 2 each of Theory of a Deadman & Sevendust, Aug. 14, 8 p.m. I do take Venmo. Text Paul at 605-397-7460 if interested.

Community Calendar

Monday, Aug. 10

Senior Menu: Chicken fried steak, mashed potatoes with gravy, green beans, fruit, whole wheat bread.

First day of boys golf practice

First day of cross country practice

School Board meeting, 6 p.m.

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

Senior Citizens meet at the Community Center, 1 p.m.

Tuesday, Aug. 11

Senior Menu: Beef and bean burrito, Spanish rice, corn, fruit.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Council, 6 p.m.

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PO Box 34, Groton SD 57445

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

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Wednesday, Aug. 12

Senior Menu: Chicken bacon ranch pasta, broccoli, fruit, whole wheat bread.

United Methodist: Community Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.

Groton Area Staff Development Day at NSU, 8 a.m.

Thursday, Aug. 13

Senior Menu: Meatloaf, au gratin potatoes, peas and carrots, fruit, whole wheat bread.

First day of volleyball practice.

Friday, Aug. 14

Senior Menu: Grilled chicken sandwich, roasted sweet potatoes, California blend, fruit.

Girls Soccer at NSU vs. Dakota Valley, 3 p.m.

Boys Soccer at NSU vs. Custer, 5 p.m.

Saturday, Aug. 15

Boys Soccer hosts Hot Springs, 11 a.m.

Girls Soccer hosts Sioux Falls Christian, 1 p.m.

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1440

Why 1440? The printing press was invented around the year 1440, spreading knowledge to the masses and changing the course of history. More facts: In every day, there are 1,440 minutes. We're here to make each one count.

Irish Mob Boss Extradited

Daniel Kinahan, suspected head of one of the world's largest drug syndicates, was taken into custody by Irish officials after his extradition from the United Arab Emirates yesterday. The transfer brings Kinahan home to face charges of directing organized crime and follows his April arrest in Dubai.

Formed in the 1990s to traffic street drugs in Dublin, the Kinahan network became one of Europe's primary importers of illicit drugs, controlling an estimated one-third of the continent's cocaine supply and amassing more than \$1B in net worth. The group's rise was reportedly due to Kinahan's coordination of a "supercartel" (podcast w/transcript) linking Central and South American cartels with other regional crime networks, including the Italian Mafia. His lavish 2017 wedding in Dubai, to which he had fled a year prior, was infiltrated by undercover DEA agents, allowing them to begin mapping the worldwide network.

Kinahan gave a phone interview from an Emirati prison days before being returned.

Roman Shipwreck Revealed

A Roman-era shipwreck was discovered off the coast of Sicily, Italy's culture minister announced Saturday. The ship measures about 20 feet wide and 70 feet long and was discovered alongside hundreds of well-preserved clay jars.

The discovery came after a tipoff from a local fisherman, who found what appeared to be a rock while freediving three miles off the coast of Mazara del Vallo. He dove down and discovered the ship before sharing the finding with local authorities. At a depth of about 150 feet, cultural heritage divers from Palermo police confirmed the discovery of the ancient ship and jars, identifying them as the long cylindrical jars typically used to carry wine, olive oil, or grain. Italian authorities will now safeguard and investigate the site to learn more about its history.

The Mediterranean seabed is believed to hold numerous still-undiscovered ancient wrecks. Explore the most fascinating treasures 1440 staff have discovered about ancient Rome.

 Humankind: "Old ladies" freedive off Cape Cod to forge friendships—and remove over 6,000 pounds of waste.

Myspace Nostalgia Pitch

Myspace's owners revealed in a yet-to-be publicly available documentary that they seek to relaunch the social media site. Owners Tim and Chris Vanderhook have not announced a date for relaunch as of this writing.

In the early 2000s, the site, then stylized as MySpace, became the world's most popular social media platform. The company boasted 115 million monthly visitors by 2008; however, it was soon surpassed by Facebook. Despite a series of rebrands and ownership transfers in the 2010s, including one involving singer Justin Timberlake, the company never regained its status as a meaningful social media competitor.

The owners' plans come amid a broader cultural backlash against social media sites like Meta and TikTok, which have been criticized for addictive algorithms and correlations with poor mental health, including in children.

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Sports, Entertainment, & Culture

Don Nelson, five-time NBA champion and Hall of Fame coach, dies at age 86. He revolutionized the sport with "Nellie Ball" and won 1,335 regular-season games, the second most in league history.

Dutch cyclist Demi Vollering wins her second Tour de France Femmes title, besting rival and runner-up Katarzyna Niewiadoma-Phinney by 1 minute, 18 seconds over nine stages.

Country music icon Violet Hensley, known as the "Whittlin' Fiddler" for her ability to carve and play violins, dies at age 109.

Centenarians (people who live past 100) comprise 0.03% of the US population.

Science & Technology

Amazon to build a 35-turbine, 7.6 GW natural gas power plant to service a Texas data center; would be the single largest CO2 emitter in the US by a factor of two.

Brain study reveals the prefrontal cortex, which controls decision-making and executive functions, can suppress "outside the box" thinking.

First complete genome of a songbird mapped; analysis sheds light on the neuroscience of vocal learning.

Business & Markets

US stock markets rise Friday (S&P 500 +0.6%, Dow +0.3%, Nasdaq +1.3%) despite report the US shed 23,000 jobs in July; S&P 500 hits record high.

Wildberries, Russia's Amazon-like online retailer, has lost one-fifth of its warehouse space and about \$3B in merchandise from Ukrainian drone strikes over the past three weeks.

Social media platform X to end revenue-sharing program, will replace it with a program incentivizing original content and reporting; move combats aggregator and clickbait accounts.

Politics & World Affairs

Senate votes 50-49 to confirm acting Attorney General Todd Blanche to serve in the role in a nonacting capacity.

Yemen's Houthi rebels claim responsibility for attack on Saudi oil refinery, say it is in response to Saudi drones; announcement comes after Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, and Turkey sign defense pact.

Israel says it will not withdraw from Gaza until Hamas fully disarms, defying President Donald Trump's 15-point peace proposal that stipulates disarmament would happen in stages, alongside an Israeli withdrawal.

BROWN COUNTY FAIR

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Highway Patrol Sturgis Rally Daily Information

Compiled from 6 a.m. Saturday, August 8, 2026, to 6 a.m. Sunday, August 9, 2026

Item	Sturgis	Rapid City District	District Total	Last Year to Date
DUI Arrests	17	4	21	21
Misd Drug Arrests	22	10	32	31
Felony Drug Arrests	13	1	14	14
Custodial Arrests	30	7	37	N/A
Total Citations	116	144	260	252
Total Warnings	476	236	713	592
Cash Seized	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Vehicles Seized	0	0	0	0
For Drug Poss.	0	0	0	0
For Serial No.	0	0	0	0
Non-Injury Accidents	2	2	4	4
Injury Accidents	3	4	7	14
Fatal Accidents	1	0	1	2
# of Fatalities	1	0	1	2

Fatal Crashes:

At approximately 4:41 p.m. Saturday, U.S. 85, mile marker 35: A 2003 Harley-Davidson Electra Glide motorcycle, operated by a 72-year-old male, was traveling north on U.S. 85 near mile marker 35. The driver braked when approaching a turning motorcycle in front of him. The driver lost control of the vehicle and became separated from the motorcycle. The driver was transported to Monument Health in Spearfish. The driver sustained fatal injuries.

Injury Crashes:

At 9:19 a.m. Saturday, US Highway 16A, mile marker 33: A 2017 Harley-Davidson motorcycle operated by a 68-year-old male (Unit 1) was driving westbound on US 16A near MM 33. A 2026 Harley-Davidson motorcycle operated by a 60-year-old male (Unit 2) was driving westbound in front of Unit 1 with a 61-year-old female passenger. Unit 2 slowed for traffic and Unit 1 was unable to slow and collided with the rear of Unit 2. All riders were wearing helmets and received non-life-threatening injuries.

At 11:20 a.m. Saturday, N Rochford Rd and US 14A: A 2007 Harley-Davidson motorcycle, operated by a 67-year-old male, was traveling in a group, northbound on N Rochford Rd, near its intersection with US 14A. The driver entered a left curve and lost control. The driver became separated from the motorcycle and came to final rest on the northbound shoulder. He was not wearing a helmet. He was life-flighted to Rapid City Monument Health with serious injuries.

At 11:46 a.m. Saturday, US Highway 14A, mile marker 32: A 2018 Harley-Davidson motorcycle, operated by a 59-year-old male, was driving eastbound on Highway 14A near mile marker 32. The driver failed to negotiate a curve in the roadway and enter the ditch. The driver was separated from his motorcycle. The driver was transported to Lead-Deadwood Monument Health for treatment of his injuries.

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At 4:50 p.m. Saturday, US Highway 14A, mile marker 47: A 2026 Harley-Davidson motorcycle (Unit 1), operated by a 54-year-old male, was traveling east on US 14A. An unidentified vehicle was westbound and crossed the center of the roadway, making contact with the male driver of Unit 1. The driver of Unit 1 was transported to Monument Health for treatment of his injuries.

At 6:32 p.m. Saturday, South Dakota Highway 44, mile marker 34: A 2016 Harley-Davidson motorcycle, operated by a 39-year-old male, (Unit 1) was traveling westbound near mile marker 34 on South Dakota 44 with a 28-year-old female passenger. A 2019 Subaru Forester, operated by a 66-year-old female (Unit 2), was in front of Unit 1 attempting to make a left turn. Unit 1 switched lanes and collided with Unit 2 as it turned. Driver 2 was transported to Monument Health for treatment of minor injuries.

At 6:48 p.m. Saturday, US Highway 16, mile maker 59: A 2019 Harley-Davidson motorcycle, operated by a 69-year-old male, was westbound on US 16 near mile marker 59. The motorcycle's rear tire failed, and the driver was unable to maintain control and became separated from the motorcycle. He was wearing a helmet and was transported to Monument Health for treatment of his injuries.

At 7:34 p.m. Saturday, South Dakota Highway 44, mile marker 59: A 2008 Harley-Davidson motorcycle, operated by a 45-year-old female (Unit 1), was traveling eastbound on Interstate 90 and was took exit 59. A 2007 Toyota Camry, operated by a 60-year-old female (Unit 2), was in front of Unit 1 and was slowing. Driver 1 lost control of the motorcycle and became separated from the motorcycle. Unit 1 collided with the rear of Unit 1. Driver 1 was not wearing a helmet and was transported to Monument Health in Rapid City for treatment of her injuries.

All information released so far is only preliminary.

The Highway Patrol is an agency of the South Dakota Department of Public Safety.

"Allergies during pregnancy"

Pregnancy is such an incredible state of anticipation. Each day it seems like you're finding something new to wonder or worry about! Having an allergic or immune system condition can certainly add a few questions and considerations to the list, though.

- Is my nose congested from seasonal allergies?

It could also be something called rhinitis of pregnancy- fluctuating hormones and increased blood volume lead to increased nasal congestion independent of allergies. Fortunately, over the counter nasal steroid sprays (such as fluticasone, triamcinolone, or budesonide) and oral antihistamines (such as cetirizine and loratadine) are still safe for most while pregnant.

- Will my asthma get worse while pregnant?

For about of third of patients, the answer is unfortunately yes. However, another third of patients experience improvement in their asthma control! It is very important to have the medical team managing your asthma ready to manage either situation.

- What if I have a severe allergic reaction while pregnant, such as to a bee sting or a food?

Please do still use your epinephrine device and get in touch with your allergist and obstetrician!

- What if I need an antibiotic while pregnant, but I have a penicillin allergy?

Penicillins are usually the preferred antibiotic class for many common situations in pregnancy, because they are very effective and safe for both mom and baby. The allergy should be evaluated by a specialist, especially if the initial reaction occurred a long time ago! Many people who think they are allergic to penicillins no longer are.

- Why am I so itchy!?

There are unfortunately many reasons this can happen in pregnancy, some more serious than others. Talk to your obstetrician first, but if it seems like it may be classic hives know that this is unfortunately common in the postpartum period. If the hives just aren't going away, an allergist should help you manage them in the long term.

- What if I have an immunodeficiency?

Ideally, your immunology team has had the chance to optimize your care prior to pregnancy, limiting the number and severity of infections as much as possible with treatments that will be safe for mom and baby. During pregnancy, you will likely need to be followed closely and have medication doses adjusted frequently leading up to and after delivery.

- Is there anything I can do to prevent my baby from having allergies?

Unfortunately, if you have an allergic condition, then your child is at higher risk to also have one. Eczema is a very common infant condition and may not be lifelong- a good start would be to use very gentle soaps and bland, thick creams or ointments regularly. To prevent food allergy, allergists recommend introduction and regular ingestion of commonly implicated foods between 4 and 6 months of age (once you have clearance from your pediatrician to begin solid foods). Small servings of cow's milk yogurt, scrambled or boiled egg, and peanut butter which has been thinned with a liquid are all that's needed! Just remember to feed these items at least 2-3 times per week, long term.

Don't forget to enjoy your pregnancy! Before you know it you'll have a newborn to enjoy instead.

Dr. Durón provides allergy and asthma care for patients of all ages in Sioux Falls at Dakota Allergy & Asthma. She is board-certified by the American Board of Allergy and Immunology and completed her fellowship at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas, Texas. She is a new mother to twins. Follow The Prairie Doc® at www.prairiedoc.org, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and Tik Tok. Prairie Doc Programming includes On Call with the Prairie Doc®, a medical Q&A show (most Thursdays at 7pm on SDPB, YouTube and streaming on Facebook), 2 podcasts, and a Radio program (on SDPB, Sundays at 6am and 1pm).



By Rebecca M. Duron, MD, MSPH

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EARTHTALK

Dear EarthTalk: What is the Xerces Society's "Leave the Leaves" campaign all about and how many sites participate?

—Randy J., Newark, NJ

The Xerces Society's "Leave the Leaves" campaign asks homeowners, grounds crews, municipalities and campuses to rethink the annual ritual of removing every fallen leaf and dead plant stem. What looks like untidy yard debris can be essential winter habitat for insects and other invertebrates.

Many butterflies, moths and bees overwinter close to where they spent the growing season. Fritillary and woolly bear caterpillars shelter in leaf litter; luna moths and swallowtails disguise cocoons or chrysalises as dead leaves; and mated bumble bee queens burrow only an inch or two into soil, where leaves provide insulation. About 30 percent of native bees nest in tunnels and may use hollow stems, dead wood or brush piles.

The advice is not to abandon every lawn. Xerces recommends leaving leaves where practical or raking them intact into garden beds, beneath trees or into designated piles. Leaves can suppress weeds, retain moisture and return nutrients as they decompose. The group discourages shredding because mowers can destroy insects, eggs and cocoons inside the leaves, and recommends delaying spring cleanup until overwintering wildlife has emerged.

"It not only needs leaves, it looks like a leaf," says Xerces pollinator ecologist Ray Moranz of the goatweed leafwing butterfly, whose camouflage depends on leaf litter.

How many sites participate is harder to answer than the slogan suggests. Leave the Leaves is an open public-education effort promoted through social media, yard signs and downloadable materials; Xerces publishes no registration total for every household, park or institution following it. Its Bee City USA and Bee Campus USA network is the campaign's most identifiable distribution system. The latest completed public tally lists 426 affiliates at the end of 2024—224 cities and 202 campuses—but that figure represents affiliates able to use the campaign kit, not proof that every one ran a Leave the Leaves activity. The 2025 affiliate report is scheduled for September 2026.

Real-world adopters demonstrate the idea's flexibility. UC Davis encouraged residents to preserve leaf litter through its Bee Campus USA affiliation. Greensboro, North Carolina, launched a pledge program offering Leave the Leaves yard signs to residents and businesses. Raleigh advises residents to rake leaves into beds, create a decomposition pile or leave them where they fall, while keeping heavy layers off turf and storm drains.

Readers can participate by preserving whole leaves in low-traffic garden areas, retaining some hollow stems and brush, keeping streets and drains clear, and explaining the intentionally wildlife-friendly landscape to neighbors.



By leaving leaves and organic debris on the ground, we are promoting biodiversity and welcoming backyard wildlife. Credit: Roddy Scheer.

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We've finally reached the end of my confidence rankings, and if you've been following along, you already know what's coming this week. The safety position has been looming at the bottom of this list for a while now, and it officially lands at number one. With Harrison Smith retiring and no obvious replacement waiting in the wings, there are more questions here than at any other position on the roster. Let's take a look at the Vikings' biggest question mark heading into 2026.

Coming in at number 1: safety

Confidence level: 25%

Current projected starter: Joshua Metellus

Fighting for the other starting spot: Jamal Adams, Theo Jackson, Jakobe Thomas, and Jay Ward

Competing for a roster or practice squad spot: Kahlef Hailassie, Jacob Thomas, and Tavierre Thomas

Why I'm confident: Brian Flores.

One of the best defensive coordinators in the NFL, Flores is able to design schemes to cover any weakness on the defense while putting his players in position to flourish. However, figuring out a game plan for the safety position might be his biggest challenge yet.

Another reason for optimism is Joshua Metellus, the only player in the group who has locked up a starting spot. He's the epitome of the "Jack of all trades" moniker and has the ability to line up at every position on defense.

Cause for concern: Everything else.

The retirement of Harrison Smith has left a glaring hole in the secondary, and he will be sorely missed. Despite his age, the six-time Pro Bowler still found ways to impact the game last season. His football IQ was off the charts, and he was the vocal leader of the entire defense.

The battle for the other starting spot is between four players (listed in alphabetical order). Jamal Adams has the best credentials out of the four, but he's not the same player he was when he was in Seattle. He was actually signed to play linebacker here but has since switched to safety. Theo Jackson is entering his fifth season in the NFL and was the primary backup last season, playing nearly 50% of the defensive snaps. Jakobe Thomas is a third-round rookie, so his potential is unknown at this point. Jay Ward is entering his fourth year in the league and played about 23% of the defensive snaps last season.

While it's possible one of these players steps up and snatches the role, none of the players I just mentioned fill me with optimism.

Potential upgrades: Harrison Smith, Donovan Wilson, and Jabrill Peppers are all free agents who could come in and likely start next to Metellus. And yeah, I'm including the Hitman here because I refuse to believe he's actually retired.

Training camp news and notes

Training camp just started, and all eyes are on the Vikings' QB competition. So far Kyler Murray has gotten the majority of the first-team snaps, while J.J. McCarthy has been running with the backups. While head coach Kevin O'Connell hasn't officially named a starter yet, I think it's pretty clear Murray is the favorite to win the job.

Second-year wide receiver Tai Felton has received rave reviews and seems to have taken a big step after a rookie season where he was only on the field for 46 snaps. If he can keep this up, the Vikings will have an embarrassment of riches at the WR position.

Rookie Charles Demmings is another player who has been turning heads at training camp. Coming from Stephen F. Austin State, most people (me included) assumed he would need a few years to make an impact on the field. Apparently I was wrong.

Looking ahead

The Vikings' first preseason game, a noon kickoff against the New York Giants, will be Saturday, August 15, so the next article you read here will be a recap of an actual game. I, for one, can't wait. Skol!



SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

Education Department hands more states, including SD, flexibility with federal dollars

Six states received waivers consolidating \$109M, while a record 22 have broader authority to waive certain requirements

BY ROBBIE SEQUEIRA

The Trump administration is increasing its efforts to turn more control of federal education money to the states as it continues working to dismantle the Education Department.

Six states have received waivers allowing them to consolidate more than \$109 million in federal education funding and bypass certain requirements for local education agencies, Kirsten Baesler, assistant secretary for the department's Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, told Stateline in an interview.

The consolidation of four funding streams into one means the money can be used more flexibly by the states with Returning Education to the States waivers — Arkansas, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, South Dakota and Vermont. Some states, including South Dakota, chose to put that money toward statewide literacy and math improvement efforts.

South Dakota Education Secretary Joe Graves lauded the state's waiver in a news release.

"The department will use the flexibilities to help districts leverage resources and align funding with priorities here at home," Graves said. "Together, these two functions will advance student academic achievement and success across the state."

Indiana will run a pilot program allowing up to 15% of its districts to combine two funding streams that had been focused separately on teachers and students and to alter requirements for all schools on college and career readiness measures when calculating a high school's performance rating.

It's a part of a growing push by the Trump administration to turn federal education measures to state control. Beyond the six states that received these waivers, 22 states have received Education Flexibility Partnership, or Ed-Flex authority, which allows states to waive certain federal education requirements for school districts without seeking separate permission from the Department of Education each time.

That's the highest number of states in the program's 32-year history, Baesler said.

Those states are: Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Montana, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia and Wisconsin.

In South Dakota, the Governor's Office said in a news release that the Ed-Flex waiver will allow the state's Department of Education to waive the limit on annual carryovers of Title I funds by school districts. Title I is a federal program that provides extra funding to schools with a high percentage of low-income families. Before the waiver, the department could approve carryover waiver requests from districts once every three years.

While many public school district staff welcome the waivers, some state education groups have opposed them. Some have argued that consolidating federal funding weakens guardrails that ensure money goes to the specific populations and programs they were meant to serve. In Arkansas, for example, the Arkansas Education Association warned that greater flexibility would reduce transparency and possibly shift money away from formula-based funding for high-need districts, the Arkansas Advocate reported.

A state must request such a waiver. Baesler said department officials are working with states before they submit applications to determine whether their goals require a waiver, an amended state plan or

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could already be done under existing federal law.

Baesler also said state officials should take greater responsibility for identifying and pursuing their own education needs and priorities rather than waiting for direction from the feds.

"Don't wait for the signal to come because what students in North Dakota need are going to be completely different than what Texas needs or Louisiana or Oregon or Washington," Baesler said.

In September, the department will convene with state representatives to discuss results from a Learning Agenda Initiative which includes eight states: Arkansas, Georgia, Idaho, Kansas, New Hampshire, Tennessee, Utah and Wisconsin, officials told Stateline. The program paired state education agencies with federally funded research and technical-assistance centers to examine state data and develop multi-year learning agendas identifying needs and ways to measure a state's progress on its education priorities.

The department is also giving states additional points on some competitive grant applications when they design or help lead "Returning Education to the States" projects.

The future of the Department of Education has been a hot topic since President Donald Trump signed a March 2025 executive order directing Secretary Linda McMahon to take steps to close the department and push more control of education to the states. Congress, which created the department through a 1979 federal law, retains the authority to eliminate it.

But the department has begun to hand off some administrative duties to other federal agencies.

Carissa Moffatt Miller, CEO of the Council of Chief State School Officers, said at a National Conference of State Legislatures conference earlier this month that transferring federal programs between agencies could disrupt grant payments because the Education and Labor departments, for example, use different grant management systems. Those delays could lead districts to hold back spending or pull teacher contracts even if Congress appropriated the money, she said.

Moffatt Miller said that federal funding accounts for about 12% of education funding, with the remaining 88% coming from state and local sources. Analysis from Education Week estimated that at least \$12 billion in previously awarded federal education funds have been disrupted by administrative actions over the past year.

Stateline reporter Robbie Sequeira can be reached at rsequeira@stateline.org. South Dakota Searchlight contributed to this report.

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.

Robbie Sequeira is a staff writer covering housing and social services for Stateline.

Podcast:

Ep. 28: Sen. Rounds on Wounded Knee medals, water pipelines and a 'clandestine' Postal Service investigation

ROUNDS: There's a lot of people in South Dakota that live on the reservations that have relatives that were, you know, wounded or killed during that massacre that occurred in December of 1890. Those people still feel strongly about the loss to their families. What we wanted them to do was to be able to get a full report, unredacted, in terms of the materials that they reviewed.

O'BRIEN: We're back with another episode of the Searchlight Report, a podcast from South Dakota Searchlight that brings you up to date on policy and politics in the Mount Rushmore State. I'm your host, Meghan O'Brien.

Republican U-S Senator Mike Rounds joined the podcast this week to give updates on his priorities at the national level. He's represented South Dakota in the Senate since 2015. Before that, he served as governor from 2003 to 2011, and was previously a member of the state Legislature.

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Thanks for joining me today. Recently, South Carolina Republican Senator Lindsey Graham died, and there was a memorial service for him at the U.S. Capitol. Could you just share a little bit more first about your experience working with him?

ROUNDS: Well, first of all, Lindsey was a good friend, and we would get together for dinner in the evenings, normally once a week, sometimes twice a week, depending on our schedules, just get together and just see what's going on. Lindsey was the guy that a lot of us enjoyed traveling with. He was one of the guys who really was probably one of the experts on foreign relations with a number of the different countries in battle-torn areas.

He had a very good working relationship with the president, and was a good resource for those of us that were looking at different issues in terms of where the president was going on issues, whether it be the war in Iran, whether it be, you know, what was gonna happen within the NDAA or on foreign relations.

On a personal note, he was just a very good friend. He'd been hunting with us in South Dakota. And once again, just a fine guy to really talk about issues. He was one of the guys who would work across the aisle. And his goal was to see the Senate actually work together the way the Founding Fathers wanted it to work, which was to find common ground, to find things that would last long-term within the Senate.

And he wasn't afraid to go out and to spend a huge amount of time overseas. He was not afraid to go and meet directly with individuals that may not have had the best interest of the United States at heart to begin with, but he was there to establish a relationship, to try to find a path forward, other than having a conflict.

In the meantime, he was a real hawk when it came to the raising of the resources, and then also the expenditures for making sure that our men and women in uniform were properly funded, that they had the right equipment, the right tools, the best training, best leadership, and so forth. And he was a reserve officer for, as a matter of fact, he spent a lot of time in the Air Force. He was an attorney, so he served as a JAG overseas. He had spent time overseas in Afghanistan.

But, as I say, a good friend and a guy that I spoke with multiple times per week.

O'BRIEN: I appreciate you sharing that. Just shifting a little bit more towards policy and some of your work in Congress — you've been working on making the Postal Service more reliable for South Dakotans. What was the initial motivation behind that push and, and what have you learned along the way?

ROUNDS: Beginning more than almost two years ago, we had been receiving complaints about the lack of service in the mail service in South Dakota. First-class mail was taking an extended period of time. We also had heard that the, U.S. Postal Service was planning on changing the use of the Huron facility and the Sioux Falls facility, and that a lot of the mail, the first-class mail and packages were going to be leaving the state in a spoke-and-hub concept that had never proven to be successful in the past for the Postal Service.

But they were gonna move a lot of our mail out of state, and then back in state from a central processing center. It was evident that they had not counted on the length of time it takes to truck over long distances that amount of mail. We found evidence on our own. The amount of time it took for a first-class piece of mail to reach from my office in Rapid City to my office in Pierre, it ended up going to Denver, then across Nebraska into Iowa, and then north into North Dakota to Fargo, and then back down to Pierre, taking about 10 days.

We also discovered that last year in December, they had had the president sign a change in rules, which would allow them to change the time in which a postmark would be put on a piece of mail. Everybody always thinks that if you get the mail into the postal system, at your local post office, by a particular time, that on that day, you would get a postmark on the mail.

What we found out is that they had changed the rules, and that it was their intent to not postmark any of that mail until it got to their first regional processing center, which might take two days. So, it delayed the implementation or the marking of a piece of first-class mail for record keeping, by, you know, several days.

Then, we found out that not only were they not using the existing infrastructure in South Dakota, but, they were sending it out, and there doesn't, there didn't seem to be any desire to try to meet any of the

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existing criteria for, from the time you mail it till the time it gets back in. First-class mail is supposed to be delivered in three days. It's taking closer to 10 for a lot of the mail in South Dakota. No common sense involved in their planning.

The first time that I spoke to the postal, or the postmaster general, was when Mr. DeJoy was the postmaster. And we sent him a letter. He came in, met with us, agreed with us, and in February of a year ago, had said that he would change this back up because this clearly was not working in certain rural areas. Unfortunately, he left within a month of the time that he spoke with us.

The new Postmaster General, Mr. Steiner came in. And he met with us after we sent a letter to him telling him, look, we really want to get this thing done. Came in and basically pooh-pooed our concerns, said that the bigger problems were in the bigger cities, and was not able to give us any reassurances that he would fix the problem that people in rural areas had from around the country.

Because of that, we went to the Office of Inspector General, who works for Congress, asked them to investigate. They met in my office, they looked at it and said that they would make the investigation, but they cautioned us that they would have to do this somewhat in a clandestine manner because they couldn't trust that the post office wouldn't try to hide mail, if they knew they were coming in to inspect, which is exactly what we have found out to be true.

We have had whistleblowers from across the state that have been notifying us that when there was a possibility of an inspector general showing up, that they were being directed where to hide the mail, so that mail, which was not being delivered, wouldn't be easy to find. So, we've really appreciated the help from postal employees who have been frustrated by the inability of the post office to honor the commitment that they've made in the past.

The inspector general has completed most of their work now. They are preparing a report for us. It should be available by the end of September. In the meantime, there were four postal governors. There's a board that is made up of four governors or five governors. There are four that are absent right now. They are trying to fill those posts right now. This is kind of the oversight committee for the Postal Service. We have held those nominations. The first two have already come up, and we have pulled them from being approved by the Senate. They anticipate that they're gonna have two more that they will nominate. We intend to hold those as well. We've told the post office that we are not releasing those until such time as we get relief for people in South Dakota that are suffering with the lack of postal service.

That in a nutshell is where we're at today. We still are inviting comments, and the Office of the Inspector General was still taking comments. I think they've just expired that in the last day or so, but they have been taking comments from people across South Dakota, for their official record as well. So that's where we're at right now. We hope to get an official finding from the Office of the Inspector General. We've told the post office that we expect, number one, that they will comply with whatever recommendations the inspector general comes up with. And second of all, that they will reinstate or at least fix the issue of their dating the postmarks on mail, and start getting back to a three-day delivery for first-class mail in South Dakota. We haven't received a response back yet.

O'BRIEN: Moving a little bit over to, you're also part of the Armed Services Committee, which is seeking more information about the Defense Department's review of the medals awarded to soldiers who were at the Wounded Knee Massacre in 1890. The department decided to retain the medals. What are you hoping to learn about how the review was handled?

ROUNDS: My concern was that once they had done the report, that we wanted to get information about how the analysis was done. There's a lot of people in South Dakota that live on the reservations that have relatives that were, you know, wounded or killed during that massacre that occurred in December of 1890. Those people still feel strongly about the loss to their families.

What we wanted them to do was to be able to get a full report, unredacted, in terms of the materials that they reviewed, that they looked at, and so that we can understand how they came to the assessment that there would be no changes made. So, we wanted a list of and copies of all documents considered, the eyewitness accounts that they reviewed, the individuals with whom the panelists met, if any, which panelists actually visited the Wounded Knee site, whether and how the panel considered the, the Treaty

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of Fort Laramie and any other applicable Indian Treaty law, the labor code and any other applicable laws of war, and really the totality of the context of the overall engagement.

We also wanted an explanation of how the panelists weighed the various sources of evidence. And then we thought it appropriate that an explanation be given of what engagement the panelists had with the tribal descendants of Wounded Knee victims. We also wanted an explanation of any historical review conducted by historians employed by the federal government. And we wanted an explanation of what documents were excluded from the review, and why, and any other matter relevant to the conclusions drawn in the review.

Basically, it's one thing to just walk in and say, we've looked at it, there's nothing here to see, we're done. Instead of that, actually giving us a report of what they did. And we think that, after the request was made, we think they owe that to the descendants of those individuals that died that day.

O'BRIEN: And from our research, it looks like no member of South Dakota's congressional delegation has ever supported rescinding the medals for Wounded Knee. Do you see yourself ever taking that position?

ROUNDS: What we've said is, let's do the investigation, and then allow the military to actually make the determination, rather than having Congress get in the middle of it. What I can tell you is that there may very well have been, under the conditions at that time, there may very well have been the delivery or the awarding of those Medals of Honor appropriately, but there may also have been other areas where they have, may not have been. But rather than arbitrarily saying we support it or we don't support it, let's get the facts. And that's what we've asked for in the past.

And so, when this attempt was made by the Armed Services Committee to require this report to be made, I really thought that was a step in the right direction. And I wanted the department to actually do a report and issue a report. They didn't do that. And this is an attempt to actually get them to issue the report and to give us the information, so that then the survivors have at least an explanation of why no action was taken.

And that's really what I wanted, was to get this done in such a fashion that the military should have the ability to actually show what the reasoning was for the issuing or the decision not to take away a medal would be there. But I'm not going to make a carte blanche decision to say no medals should have been issued, or that every single medal was issued appropriately. That's what we wanted the department to do if possible.

O'BRIEN: OK. Why should the government retain medals awarded in connection with that massacre?

ROUNDS: Well, what we do know based on the limited reading that I've done through books, some, some of them like the, you know, what Black Elk has shared, is that this went on for several days, that there actually was a confrontation. It did involve someone on the Army side trying to take away a gun from one of the Natives that were there. And in doing so, the gun went off.

There is not a certainty as to whether it was intentional or by accident. But it did create the beginnings of what was a very sensitive situation coming shortly after, you know, what had happened to the 7th Cavalry earlier, that was still fresh in their minds, with the loss of, of George Armstrong Custer, you know, with the 7th Cavalry.

And so, to these folks at that time, there were a lot of jitters. They thought that they did have a group of individuals that had been armed, but that still doesn't mean that you kill women and children. And so what we've got in this whole thing, were men, women and children, and in this particular case, in his own description of it, there was some fighting that occurred.

I don't know, we don't know whether the awarding of those Medals of Honor were appropriate or not, because we don't know what the purpose was for awarding them. But we also know that there was clearly a massacre of unarmed women and children. But we don't know whether that involved the issue to anybody who was involved in that, had also received a Medal of Honor.

So, that's the reason for the report. Let's see if we can find out why they were received, who received them, and for what purpose. We also know that some of the individuals that had received a Medal of Honor at that time, or that were recipients of the Medal of Honor, had received those Medals of Honor for

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previous activity prior to their engagement at Wounded Knee.

O'BRIEN: OK, shifting a little bit more to, earlier this year in May, it was announced that a tribal police training facility will be up in Devils Lake, North Dakota. You were part of a push at the state and national level to have a facility here in South Dakota instead. What did those efforts look like for you and what was your reaction when the North Dakota site was announced?

ROUNDS: We simply wanted one closer to home, and we had worked with the folks in North Dakota as well. The people in South Dakota are happy with having it in North Dakota. We had offered it just as a location, as an alternative. The folks in North Dakota definitely wanted to do it as well. It's fine being in North Dakota, or South Dakota.

It just can't be down in New Mexico, so far away. That's where the problem was. It was just too far away. A lot of the young people that joined the police force, they're young, they're 19, 20, 21, 22, 23 years old. Many of them, this would be the first time they would have been away from home. A lot of them are tribal members, they lived, you know, in those rural areas, and they're now asked to be gone for six months away from family. The dropout rate is very high.

Our tribal chairmen and council members had said that they thought that they would have a better chance of keeping these trainees on board if they didn't have to, leave and stay that long at a training facility that far away. So, if we can get that training done in North or South Dakota, we've got a better chance of actually keeping these young people in the program and getting them through to a graduation.

The second piece of it that we were concerned about was that they get a chance to train with other law enforcement personnel, both in North Dakota and in South Dakota, who they'll be expected to coordinate or to communicate with in those rural areas. A lot of these are, may very well be deputy sheriffs, they may be local, small, municipal law enforcement officers, they may be members of the Highway Patrol in either North Dakota or South Dakota. And this gives them kind of a leg up in terms of having, you know, met them, at a training seminar here within the two states.

But, like I told our delegation, in North Dakota, it's fine with me, whether it's in South Dakota or North Dakota. If it works better in South Dakota, great, we want them to support us.

If it looks like the training can be expedited in North Dakota, and the state's tribes in South Dakota support that, then I have no problem with that. We shouldn't be fighting among ourselves. We've just got to get it up here into the Upper Midwest. So, I'm fine, as long as my tribal members are fine with it as well.

O'BRIEN: OK, got you. You're sponsoring legislation that would provide millions for feasibility studies into Missouri River water pipelines in South Dakota with some Western states that are in a crisis over dwindling water sources. How do you view the future of water in South Dakota and how does your legislation figure into that?

ROUNDS: In order to actually put together a pipeline or a water project, you've got to have a couple of different studies completed. In the past, we could combine a couple of them. Right now, we're not in that position. So, we've got to start out by actually having feasibility studies completed. We want to be able to utilize the waters of the Missouri River for domestic water use as best we can. It's the reason why we've been supporting a number of the water projects around the state. Lewis and Clark is a really good example. Mid-Dakota, Mni Wiconi, the West River/Lyman-Jones are good examples.

In this particular case, the Black Hills of South Dakota have an aquifer, but in some cases, we're concerned about whether or not it's long term. So, Senator Thune and myself have been working to try to make sure that we can get these, these new proposals out there as quickly as we can, find out about the feasibility studies, and then move from there.

If we get this done correctly, it means that, as other thirsty states west of the Missouri River may very well look at other options for their own, particularly in the mountain states, we want to make sure that we've got South Dakota covered before anybody tries to draw water from the Missouri River. There's a limited amount which is available. We haven't reached that limit yet, but most certainly, we want to make sure that the tribes can continue to gain access to the water that was allocated to them in the Pick Sloan Development project that built these dams.

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And, second of all, we want to make sure that the states, the upper basin states that have not had a lot of development for irrigation, but instead, we're using it for domestic water supplies, that we get that supply, get it locked in, and utilizing it before there is a push to try to draw additional water out that may lead to some depleted resources in dry years.

So, that's kind of what this is about. We want to make sure that we get these water projects in so that we can have good, solid water availability for years to come. In the western part of the state right now, we're in a drought situation. The West River/Lyman-Jones is a good example of one that's running at capacity right now, and they're gonna need more water right now.

And the city of Fort Pierre is another good example, where the city of Fort Pierre at some point is gonna have to decide what they're going to do for a water resource project. We're working with the city at this point on some different options. But all the way along the western part of the state, if we want economic development to continue, if we want people to be able to stay on their ranches and in their farms, they're going to need the availability of good water as well.

And when it comes to feeding livestock, while in many years, you can do it for stock dams, you've also got to have water available, you know, good high-quality water available, and sometimes that's not the case. We've looked at that with regard to the rural water systems in eastern South Dakota.

And we found that the cattle producers, livestock producers found that the quality of water coming out of the Missouri was far exceeding what they could get from wells in their local regions, and most of those producers today use those water systems as their primary source of water for their livestock as well. So we're trying to develop it.

We want to make sure that young families coming in recognize that they have not only electricity, telecommunications, connectivity, but they've also got a really good supply of water for the long term as well. And that's what this is all about.

O'BRIEN: Senator Rounds and I had to cut our conversation short, but with many other topics on the table, we hope to bring you more interviews with South Dakota's congressional delegation in the future. We also hope to bring you an interview with Rounds' opponent in the November third general election, independent candidate Brian Bengs.

That's all we have for this episode of Searchlight Report. Audio for this episode of the podcast came from recordings by South Dakota Searchlight.

The podcast is based on reporting by South Dakota Searchlight's staff — editor Seth Tupper, senior reporter John Hult and reporters Joshua Haiar, Makenzie Huber and me.

I write the scripts and produce the audio, with editing by Seth Tupper.

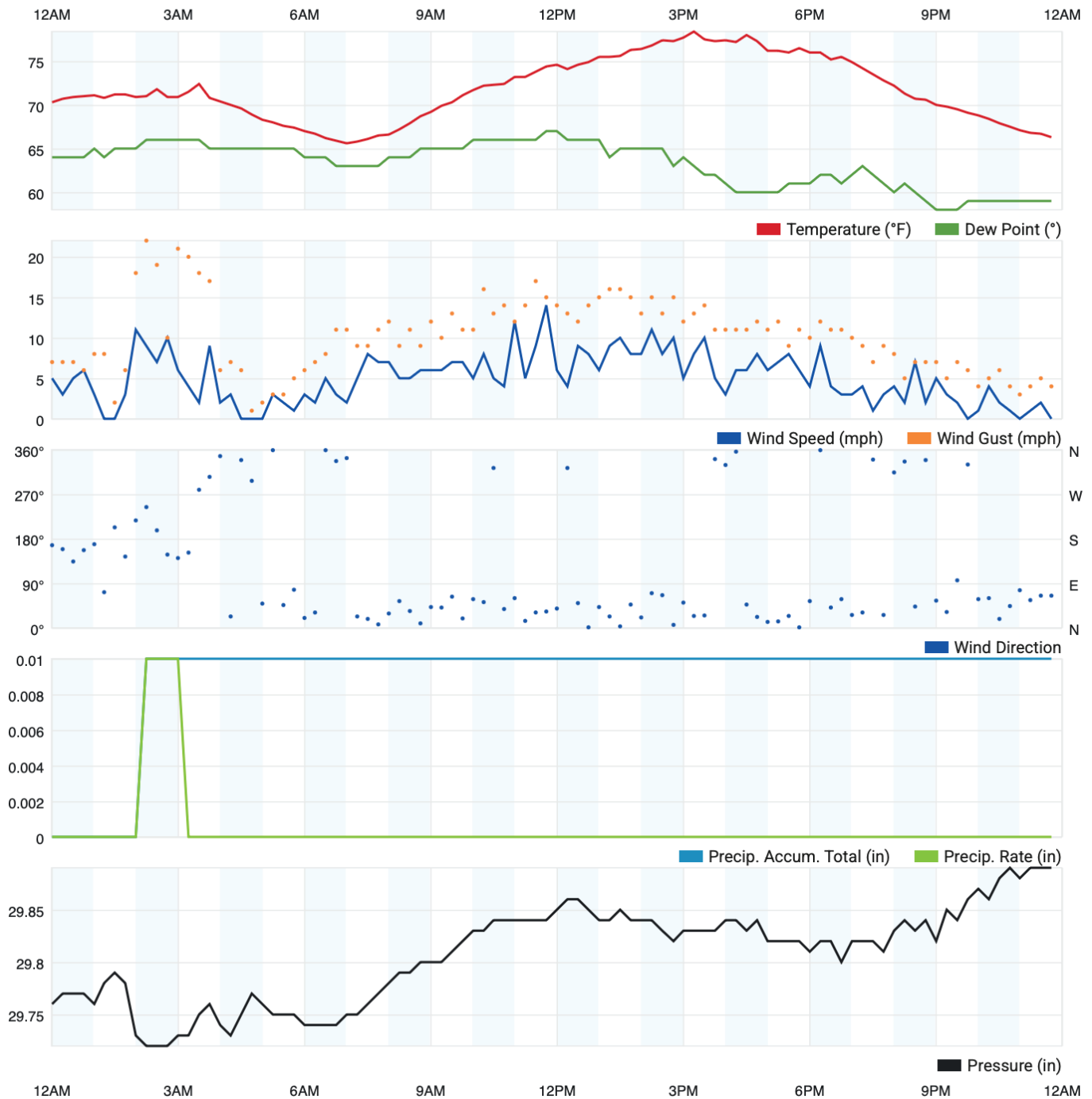
South Dakota Searchlight is part of States Newsroom, the nation's largest nonprofit news organization. Until next time, I'm South Dakota Searchlight's Meghan O'Brien with the Searchlight Report.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs

August 9, 2026



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Monday

Monday Night

Tuesday

Tuesday Night

Wednesday



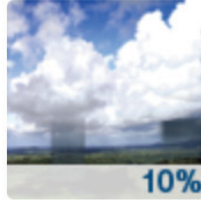
High: 85 °F

Slight Chance
T-storms then
Sunny



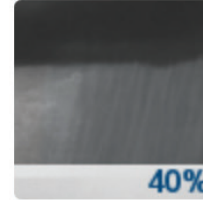
Low: 61 °F

Chance
T-storms



High: 85 °F

Slight Chance
Showers



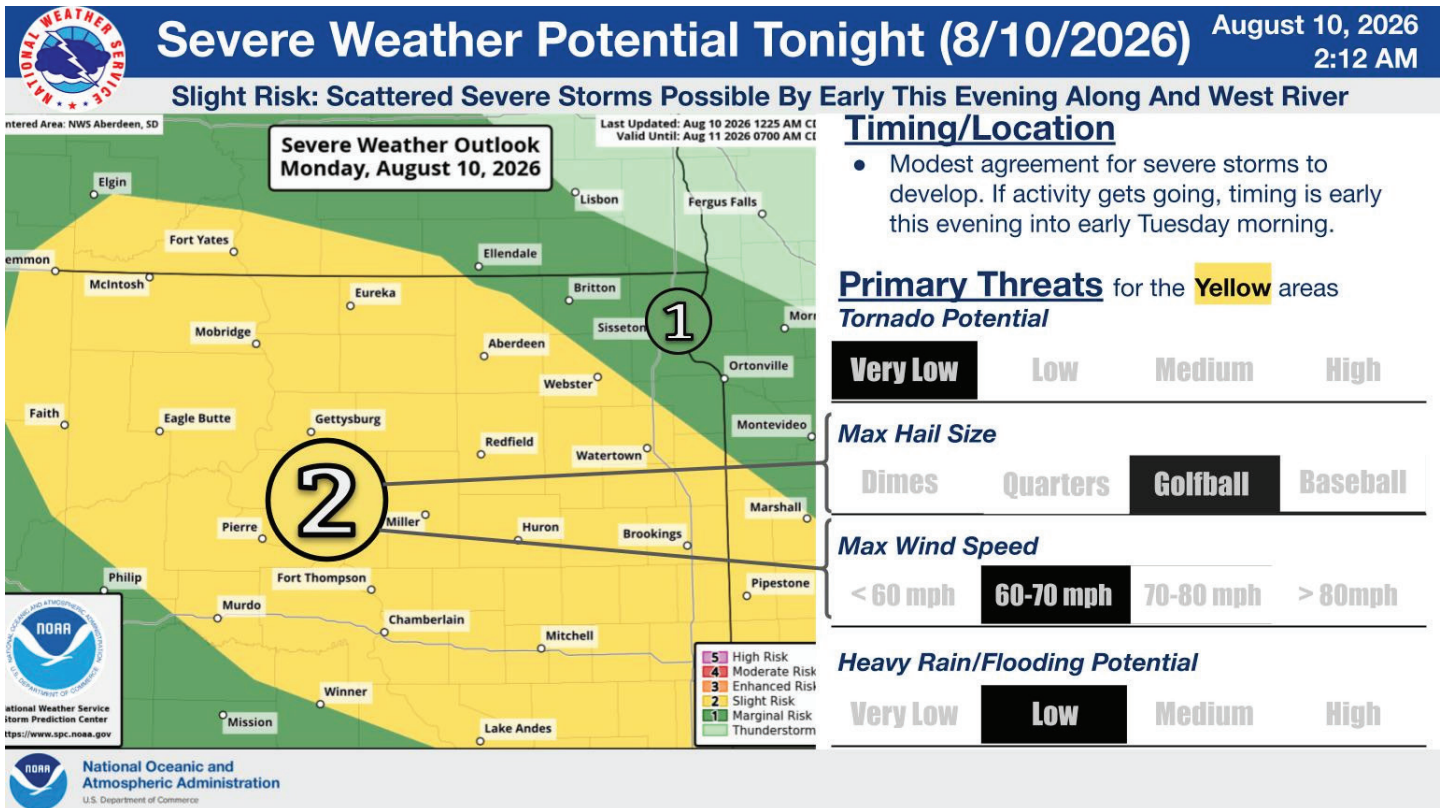
Low: 61 °F

Chance
Showers



High: 81 °F

Mostly Sunny



A Slight Risk (level 2 of 5) for severe weather is in effect over central, north central and northeast South Dakota, mainly for this evening through the overnight. There is still some uncertainty surrounding where and when storm initiation occurs, and how much coverage there will be. Large to very large hail (1 to 2+ inches) and damaging wind gusts up to 65 mph are currently the main threats.

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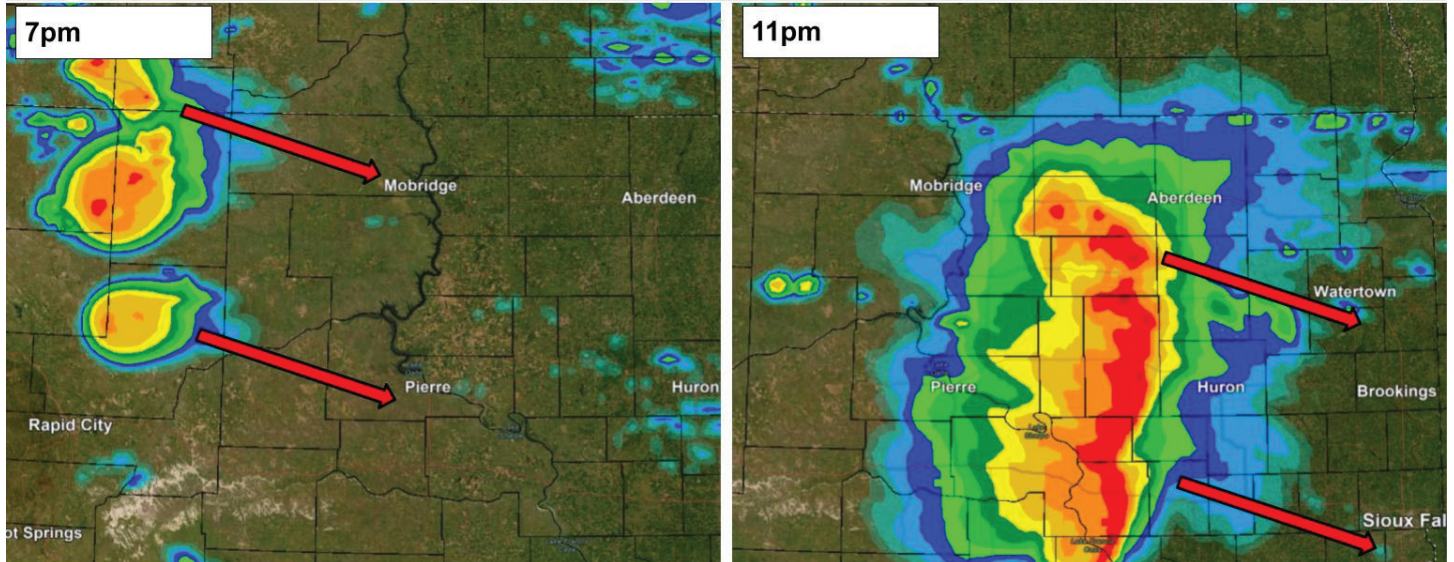


Severe Weather Risk This Evening/Overnight (8/10/26)

August 10, 2026

2:32 AM

Expected Storm Evolution



This is just one model's representation of how thunderstorms evolve over time this evening into tonight. Make sure to monitor later forecasts for the latest updates on timing & changes to threats.



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

National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

Isolated to scattered storms could develop by early this evening over western South Dakota before making their way east-southeast across the region overnight. Initially, large to very large hail poses the main threat. But, eventually storms could organize overnight into one or more line segments with the potential for damaging winds increasing.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 78 °F at 3:16 PM

Low Temp: 66 °F at 7:01 AM

Wind: 23 mph at 2:05 AM

Precip: 0.01

Today's Info

Record High: 106 in 1947

Record Low: 42 in 1985

Average High: 84

Average Low: 58

Average Precip in Aug.: 0.73

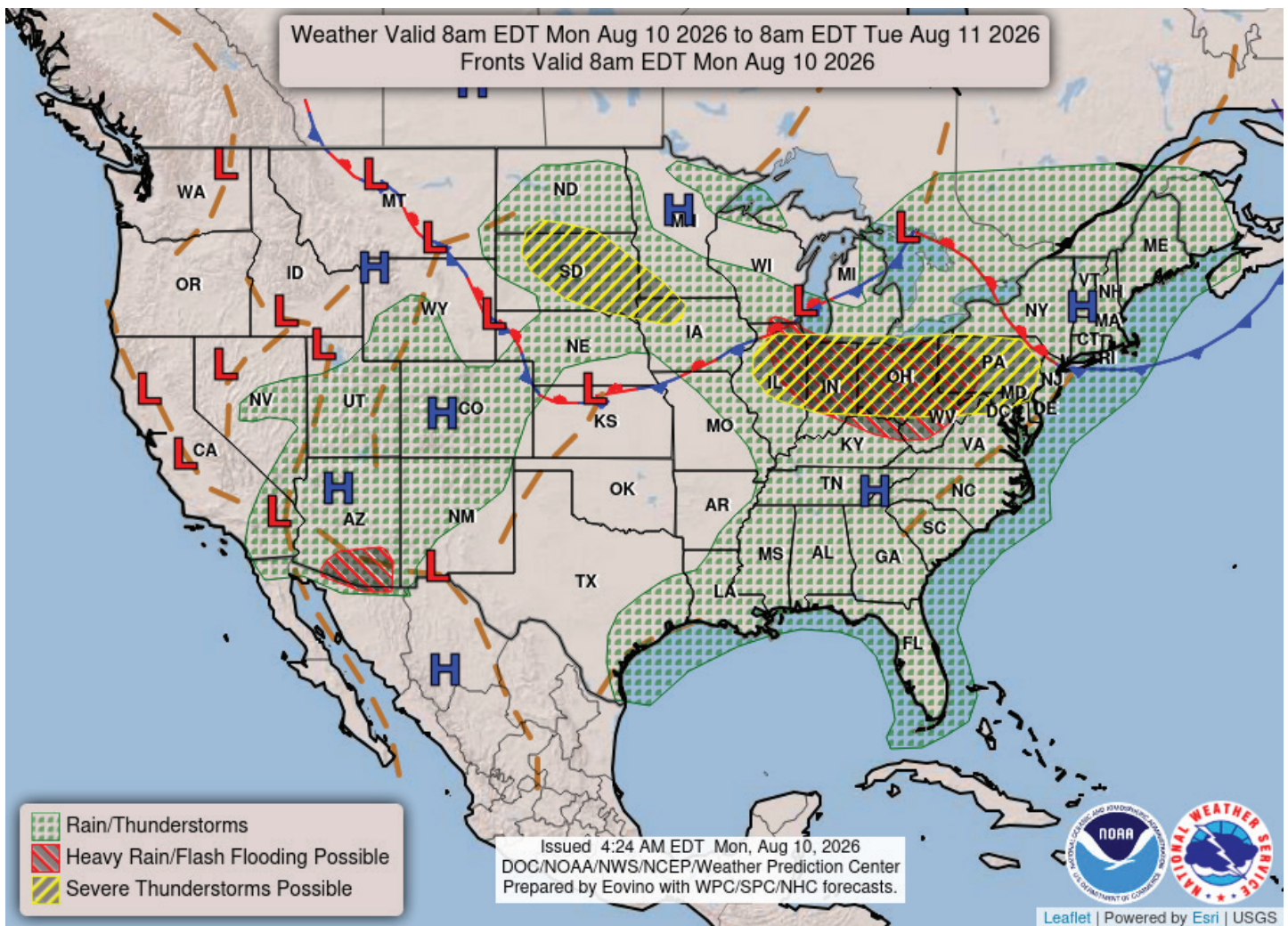
Precip to date in Aug.: 9.81

Average Precip to date: 14.83

Precip Year to Date: 19.28

Sunset Tonight: 8:48 pm

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:28 am



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Today in Weather History

August 10, 1886: An estimated F3 tornado moved southeast from 10 miles northwest of Aberdeen. This massive tornado destroyed four homes and a dozen barns. This is the earliest significant tornado on record for Brown County.

August 10, 2007: Several supercell thunderstorms developed along a frontal boundary during the evening bringing large hail, damaging winds, along with a couple of tornadoes. An EF0 tornado touched down north of Timber Lake with no damage reported. Another EF0 tornado touched down briefly north of Trail City with no damage occurring. Wakpala, in Corson County, and Mobridge saw golf ball sized hail. The hail broke some windows and damaged the siding on several houses in the Mobridge area.

1884: An earthquake, centered near New York City and registering a magnitude 5.5, hit the region a little after 2 PM. The tremor made houses shake, chimneys fall, and residents wonder what the heck was going on, according to a New York Times article two days later. Click [HERE](#) for more information from the USGS.

1856: A hurricane destroyed Isle Dernieres or Last Island, a pleasure resort south-southwest of New Orleans on this day. The highest points of the island were under five feet of water. The resort hotel was destroyed, along with the island's gambling establishments. Over 200 people perished, and the island lost all its vegetation and split in half. Only one cow remained on the island after the catastrophe. The Last Island is now just a haven for pelicans and other seabirds. The steamer Nautilus foundered during the storm. The lone survivor clung to a bale of cotton and washed ashore sometime later.

1882 — Sandusky OH noted a four minute snow squall during the morning, frost was reported in the suburbs of Chicago, and a killing frost was reported at Cresco IA. (The Weather Channel)

1884 — An earthquake, centered near New York City and registering a magnitude 5.5, hit the region a little after 2 PM. The tremor made houses shake, chimneys fall, and residents wonder what the heck was going on, according to a New York Times article two days later.

1886 — An estimated F3 tornado moved southeast from 10 miles northwest of Aberdeen, South Dakota. This massive tornado destroyed four homes and a dozen barns. This is the earliest significant tornado on record for Brown County.

1898 — The temperature at Pendleton OR climbed all the way to 119 degrees at set a state record. (The Weather Channel)

1924 — Colorado's deadliest tornado killed a woman and nine children in one house along its twenty-mile path east southeast of Thurman. Mennonite men had left the farm to provide possible aid, as the 200-yard wide storm was first seen while far away.(The Weather Channel)

1936 — The temperature soared to 114 degrees at Plain Dealing, LA, and reached 120 degrees at Ozark AR, to establish record highs for those two states. (The Weather Channel)

1980 — Hurricane Allen came ashore above Brownsville, TX, dropping fifteen inches of rain near San Antonio, and up to 20 inches in the Lower Rio Grande Valley. Tidal flooding occurred along the South Texas coast. Hurricane Allen packed winds to 150 mph, and also spawned twenty-nine tornadoes. Total damage from the storm was estimated at 750 million dollars. (David Ludlum)

1987 — Unseasonably hot weather continued in the southeastern U.S. Ten cities in Florida, Georgia and South Carolina reported record high temperatures for the date. Macon GA hit 101 degrees. A tropical depression deluged southeastern Texas and southwestern Louisiana with torrential rains. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 — Citizens of Bluefield, WV, where the Chamber of Commerce provides free lemonade on days when the temperature warms into the 90s, were able to celebrate their record high of 90 degrees. Eight other cities also reported record high temperatures for the date,including Bismarck ND with a reading of 102 degrees.(The National Weather Summary)

1989 — Thirty-eight cities in the south central and southeastern U.S. reported record low temperatures for the date, including Asheville NC with a reading of 48 degrees, and Victoria TX with a low of 63 degrees. Oklahoma City OK reported a record cool afternoon high of 71 degrees, and the daily high of 64 degrees at Raleigh NC established a record for August. In Arizona, a record sixty-four day streak of 100 degree days at Phoenix came to an end.(The National Weather Summary)

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Daily Devotion

The Believer's Highest Honor

The greatest responsibility for us as believers is to faithfully serve the Lord.

John 12:24-26: 24 "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.

25 "He who loves his life loses it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it to life eternal.

26 "If anyone serves Me, he must follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also; if anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him.

God's Word describes believers as "ambassadors" (2 Corinthians 5:20), "soldiers" (2 Timothy 2:3), and "saints" (Ephesians 2:19). But perhaps the highest honor we can receive is to be called servants of the Most High God. From the world's perspective, those who die to self in order to follow the Lord may stand in last place—in reality, however, they are first in His kingdom. (See Matthew 20:16.)

God places us in situations, vocations, and neighborhoods where we can have an impact for Christ. Think about the stay-at-home mom who raises godly children or a bedridden man who prays regularly for his church family. Though neither responsibility involves worldly power or recognition, both serve the Lord, and He is pleased by such faithfulness.

There are no unimportant positions in the kingdom of God. The type of service may change with seasons of life, but we're always in service for Him. To accomplish His purposes, the Lord uses whatever time, talent, and treasure we have.

Service to the Lord is not about what we do but rather how well we do all that He has given us to accomplish (1 Peter 4:10). A good servant shares both Jesus Christ's attitude of humility and His motivation to reach people with the love of God.

We all need the encouragement, comfort, and peace that comes through God's grace. Our daily devotionals, known as Seeds of Hope, have been a means through which thousands of people have experienced this grace. Each devotional comes from God's Word and we pray this good "seed" finds good soil in your heart. Our aim is that the Seeds of Hope will be a great source of daily encouragement to you and that God will use them to draw you near to Him

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WINNING NUMBERS

MILLIONAIRE FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS:

08.09.26

8 22 31 57 58 3

TOP PRIZE:

\$1,000,000/year

NEXT DRAW: 17 Hrs 46 Mins 38 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS:

08.07.26

17 20 32 54 57 23

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$80,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 17 Hrs 31 Mins 38 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS:

08.08.26

3 30 31 34 50 3

All Star Bonus: 4x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$2,450,000

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 46 Mins 38 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS:

08.08.26

2 3 26 32 33

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$24,000

NEXT DRAW: 2 Days 17 Hrs 1 Mins 38 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS:

08.08.26

14 29 46 55 59 16

TOP PRIZE:

\$10,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 17 Hrs 30 Mins 38 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS:

08.08.26

5 9 35 54 63 7

Power Play: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$905,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 17 Hrs 30 Mins 38 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

News from the **AP** Associated Press

UEFA, CONCACAF and AFC accuse FIFA of 'deception' and 'breach of trust' over World Cup plans

Associated Press undefined

UEFA, CONCACAF and the AFC believe that FIFA president Gianni Infantino's recent plans to sell an interest in the World Cup was a "fundamental breach of trust" with the institutions world soccer's governing body serves.

In an "open letter to the football family" revealed on Monday, UEFA, CONCACAF and the AFC also said that "when trust is broken through deception, when an individual places himself above the collective that entrusted him with authority, that duty has been abandoned."

UEFA runs soccer in Europe, CONCACAF does the same for North, Central America and the Caribbean, while the AFC governs the sport in Asia.

Ukrainian drone attack on the Russian city of Nizhnekamsk kills 12, authorities say

By The Associated Press undefined

A Ukrainian drone attack Monday on the Russian city of Nizhnekamsk killed 12 people and wounded 39 others, authorities in the Tatarstan region said.

Ukraine has targeted Russian oil facilities with long-range drones almost daily in recent months. The barrage has caused fuel shortages in Russia, eaten into Russian refining capacity, and unsettled the Russian public.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy says it is a campaign to force Russian President Vladimir Putin to the negotiating table and stop his more than 4-year-old invasion.

Nizhnekamsk came under a "massive" drone attack targeting industrial and civilian facilities on Monday morning, according to the press service of Tatarstan's head, Rustam Minnikhanov. No further details were immediately available.

Ukrainian officials made no immediate comment.

Nizhnekamsk is roughly 1,200 kilometers (750 miles) east of the Ukrainian border and has a population of about 240,000. The city is an important oil refining hub, home to two refineries and a petrochemical plant.

Ukraine's domestically developed long-range drones have flown increasing distances deep inside Russia, with some now reaching Siberia, around 2,000 kilometers (1,200 miles) from the countries' border.

"We do deliver entirely justified responses, and every Russian strike will be met with our response. Russia's war will be felt more and more at their own home – in Russia," Zelenskyy said late Sunday on social media.

"The only reason this is still continuing is Russia's unwillingness to end this war."

Russia has also regularly battered Ukraine from the air using missiles, powerful glide bombs and drones, hitting civilian areas and causing thousands of civilian casualties, according to the United Nations.

The World Health Organization's European office said Monday that one of its warehouses in the central Dnipro region of Ukraine had been struck twice in less than 24 hours.

The attacks destroyed emergency supplies worth an estimated \$500,000 that were intended for front-line health facilities, it said in a statement.

No casualties were reported.

Count Biface, the man in a can with a plan, seeks Parliament seat in Britain's wackiest election

By BRIAN MELLEY Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Timing is everything in comedy and, so it seems, in British politics for a perennial joke candidate who wears a garbage can on his head.

Count Biface, a self-described intergalactic space warrior, has landed in the center of the U.K.'s political universe ahead of a special election Thursday that was derided as a farce long before the ballot was packed with nearly three dozen candidates — many from the silly end of the spectrum.

Biface, who has run against prime ministers past and present, was the first to throw his bucket in the ring when Reform UK leader Nigel Farage abruptly quit Parliament and said he would seek reelection to clear his name over financial allegations.

"Game on, Nige," Biface declared soon after Farage, portraying himself as the victim of a witch hunt, said he would represent the people against the establishment.

But when the major political parties denounced Farage's move as a political stunt and boycotted the Clacton-on-Sea election in southeastern England, the trash-talking comedian was launched into prime position as default challenger. He has been on a nonstop media blitz since.

"I'm the only fresh thing on the menu," Biface told The Associated Press on a day of interviews with reporters from Japan, the Netherlands, Italy and Germany. "You're all sick of these politicians, as good as they're trying to be, but you know you need something different, a little bit of secret sauce."

The jokes have continued nearly nonstop — and not all are coming from the man in the can with a 20-point plan.

"If (Farage) wants to spend the summer arguing with a bin, I won't stop him," then-Treasury Secretary Rachel Reeves, known more for number-crunching than playing for yuks, said as she officially accepted Farage's resignation and set the stage for the special election.

The man behind the mask is a comedian who keeps a lid on his identity

Under Biface's black cape, rubbish bin and ample body armor that looks straight out of a low-budget sci-fi film, is a middle-aged comedian named Jon Harvey trying to keep his cool during a sweaty summer.

You'd never know who was in there from talking to his alter ego. Biface never breaks character and delivers snarky ripostes when challenged to lift the lid.

"Has anyone here seen 'Return of the Jedi'?" he said to a BBC host in reference to the "Star Wars" sequel where Darth Vader is unmasked. "Nobody wants to know what's under the recycling. ... It's absolutely putrefying."

Harvey is a married father of two who grew up in London and studied the classics at Oxford. He has been a TV writer on the political comedy "The Thick of It" and the humorous news quiz "Have I Got News for You." He's the author of a sports memoir written after his brother's death and Biface's memoir: "What on Earth? An Alien's Guide to Fixing Britain."

Biface was born out of a copyright dispute over a bucket

In a country where almost any adult citizen can run for office — regardless of where they live — eccentric candidates are a celebrated electoral tradition. On the 3-foot-long (0.9-meter-long) Clacton ballot, there are no fewer than three members of the Monster Raving Loony Party, including Nick the Incredible Flying Brick and Baron von Thunderclap.

Harvey's turn in politics began almost a decade ago when he blasted to earth from the so-called planet of Sigma IX as Lord Buckethead to run for the House of Commons seat held by then-Conservative Prime Minister Theresa May. She won handily, but Biface rocketed to fame and landed on "Last Week Tonight with John Oliver."

But the use of Buckethead, borrowed from a "Star Wars" parody, ended in "an unfortunate battle on the planet Copyright." He was reincarnated as Biface to take on Prime Ministers Boris Johnson and Rishi Sunak.

He twice challenged London Mayor Sadiq Khan, who proclaimed in his 2024 victory speech that he was the first person in British politics to win successive victories over Biface.

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"Believe me, he made me work hard for it," Khan quipped.

In June, Binface lost a parliamentary special election to Andy Burnham, who quickly replaced Keir Starmer as prime minister when he was forced out after his Labour Party was battered by Farage's party in local and regional elections.

Platform includes a dubious tax policy and a hot take on hand dryers

Binface, leader of the "Recyclons" on his home planet, continues to reuse items of past campaign manifestos that feature a mix of absurd and hyper-local policy offerings that don't necessarily resonate with a global audience.

Among the more relatable points, he promises to "cut your taxes, and raise everyone else's," build one affordable home and nationalize singer Adele — whatever that means.

One item that has raised some eyebrows is a vow to relocate the hand dryer in the men's restroom at the Crown & Treaty pub in Uxbridge to a more sensible location.

"Do you want to be using the urinal and have another human blasting your bits with insanely hot air?" he said.

His main selling point is that he's not Farage, though he has opted not to directly attack his main opponent. Instead, his platform takes not-so-subtle digs at the populist often pictured with a pint of beer.

In reference to the gift Farage did not declare when he was elected, which is the source of a parliamentary investigation, Binface said he would not accept 5-million-pound (\$6.7-million) gifts from "crypto billionaires (on Earth)."

He would also bar members of Parliament who resign midterm from running in the subsequent by-election and promised to spend more time in Clacton than Washington, D.C., a reference to Farage's trips to the U.S., where he considers President Donald Trump an ally.

Candidate seeks a more perfect union with the United States

Binface, if elected, has no interest in dealing with Trump: "He's awful." But he would "love to cement" the so-called special relationship between Britain and the U.S. "with a galactic union."

"You've still got the Atlantic Ocean. I can't do much about that, but yes, I'd love to foster better relations," he said.

Binface has conceded he doesn't expect to win, but if he pulls off an otherworldly upset, he would have to check his headgear at the door of the House of Commons under rules that bar costumes and require businesslike attire.

He said some members of Parliament have been discussing making an exception.

"You might think they should be trying to fix the British economy, healthcare system and infrastructure first," he said.

But those are issues for serious politicians and not ones you'll find on a platform that includes price caps for croissants and a plan to punish scofflaw cyclists by making them ride unicycles.

Crimea strikes could rise sevenfold if Western funds came faster, Ukraine drone commander tells AP

By HANNA ARHIROVA Associated Press

EASTERN UKRAINE (AP) — The commander leading Ukraine's drone war says his country's recent strikes in Crimea are the first phase of a campaign aimed at rendering the peninsula — illegally annexed by Russia in 2014 — unusable as a staging ground for Russian forces.

Maj. Robert "Magyar" Brovdi, one of Ukraine's most prominent commanders among a new generation of soldiers, said his forces could strike seven times more military targets in Crimea if the money pledged by Western allies came faster.

"Crimea falls within the key conceptual pillars on the path to ending the war," Brovdi told The Associated Press in an interview.

Despite that shortfall, Ukraine's summer campaign in Crimea has already inflicted significant damage: striking rail bridges, oil depots and power infrastructure to disrupt supply lines and blind Russian air de-

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fenses as drones fly in.

Brovdi said his forces are equipped at just 14% of what they would need to carry out the Crimea campaign at full capacity.

A firm believer in numbers since his past life running an international grain trading business, Brovdi joined Ukraine's territorial defense as a volunteer in the war's opening days. He rose quickly, commanding one of the country's most effective drone brigades before being tapped to lead a force with no precedent before this war — Ukraine's Unmanned Systems Forces.

"It's not that the production capacity of Ukrainian manufacturers doesn't allow us to make the necessary quantities" of drones, Brovdi said. "It's the banal problem of untimely financing, which our partners do allocate, but which moves significantly slower than our plans."

A lover of the arts

A devoted patron of the arts, Brovdi's underground command post resembles a museum, with pieces of Ukrainian art on display, including by renowned painter Maria Prymachenko — each with small placards noting their titles and a QR code linking to more information. "Please don't touch the sculpture," reads a sign beneath one piece.

The artwork sits against a backdrop of dozens of screens streaming live footage from the front, along with real-time data that drives decisions on the battlefield. Soldiers can grab good coffee, pick a book, work out or rest in sleeping pods — a culture that feels closer to a Silicon Valley office than a war room.

They work around the clock to try to prevent Crimea from functioning as a staging ground for the Russian military, said Brovdi, whose call sign, Magyar, nods to his ethnic Hungarian roots in Zakarpattia, the western Ukrainian region bordering Hungary.

He pointed to one sign of progress — in four recent large-scale Russian missile barrages from the peninsula, only five missiles were launched in total, a drop he credited to the systematic destruction of Russian air defenses there. The AP couldn't independently verify the claim.

To open that "window" for drones to strike the peninsula without being shot down en masse, his forces destroyed more than 300 air defense assets over recent months — surface-to-air systems, radar stations, electronic warfare equipment.

The window metaphor sends him into a sidetrack about something personal — he loves sleeping with one open, a pleasure he rarely gets anymore as one of Russia's most hunted men, who spends most of his time in underground bunkers.

Forcing Russia out of Crimea

Much of Russia's Soviet-era air defense hardware runs on the power grid, which is one of the reasons Crimea's electrical infrastructure has become a recurring target. Russian soldiers become "blind," left with just machine guns and rifles, he said. The tactic has also impacted access to power for civilians, and Brovdi said he has twice publicly apologized to Ukrainians living in Crimea for the disruptions.

Wherever Starlink connectivity reaches across Crimea, his forces can now destroy even the most heavily defended target using an average of just three drones, mixing munitions with different characteristics and warheads depending on what's being hit. He described the strikes as deliberately calibrated — different munitions for a bridge pier than for a fuel truck or a moving train — and said his forces avoid hitting civilian infrastructure.

"Creating conditions that make it impossible for any kind of military capability ... to remain there will make Crimea uninteresting ... as a military staging ground," he said.

Ukraine is also working to dismantle Crimea's role as a naval base — a blow to Russia's presence near NATO's borders, he added.

The campaign's early results have not been made public, Brovdi said. But roughly two weeks into the offensive that began in late June, he said Ukrainian intelligence indicated Russian authorities had ordered all military commands and security services to relocate off the peninsula, along with a covert order to remove secret archives and artworks. The AP could not independently verify the account.

Threats from Russia

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Meanwhile, Russia is working to counter Ukraine's edge. It is installing jamming systems at a scale that will, to some degree, degrade Starlink connectivity, Brovdi said.

Russia is also building its own satellite communications system to rival Starlink, he said. "This is a risk for the entire planet," Brovdi said, "because a dictatorship will gain access to information across the whole globe."

He also pointed to other threats facing Ukraine. The concentration of jet-powered Shahed drones, which are much harder for Ukraine to shoot down, has increased two and a half times in recent weeks, he said.

Russia's military can currently fire a simultaneous salvo of 77 ballistic missiles, he said, and plans to increase that to 200. That is one of Ukraine's most vulnerable points, since the country is running short of interceptors for the U.S.-made Patriot — the only system Ukraine has in its arsenal against ballistic missiles — meaning dozens fired by Russia during mass barrages get through and hit their targets.

"Even if they only manage half of that, it will all be flying at us," Brovdi said. The only way to bring the number down, he said, is by striking every facility involved in producing those missiles — underscoring the importance of Ukraine's long-range strikes deep inside Russian territory.

Ukraine's plan for Russia's Wildberries

Ukraine has increasingly targeted Wildberries, Russia's largest online marketplace sometimes described as the country's answer to Amazon, and Brovdi named it as a target.

"Wildberries is, first of all, a supply platform — it's the war's quartermaster," he said, noting the company runs a dedicated section selling goods for Russia's military.

At the same time, he said, the strikes on the retail chain are meant to make ordinary Russians feel the war directly, in hopes the resulting desire to end it could weigh on Russia's ability to keep fighting.

Brovdi declined to give a timeline for the Wildberries campaign, saying only that the strikes will continue "until it becomes impossible for it to recover quickly."

"Ultimately, Wildberries is, forgive the expression, a consumer gambling addiction," he said, arguing that losing access to it — like restrictions on social media — creates an intrusion on one's personal life that most Russians feel.

"It turned out to be a sensitive sensor of the comfort of Russia's massive population — people who consider themselves completely untouched by the actions of the aggressor country," he said.

A man accused of orchestrating Tupac Shakur's 1996 killing is on trial. Here's what to know

By JESSICA HILL Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — The case of rap icon Tupac Shakur's killing has been unresolved for decades; now the man charged in his 1996 killing in Las Vegas is going to trial.

Duane "Keffe D" Davis, 63, faces one charge of murder with a deadly weapon with the intent to promote, further or assist a criminal gang in Shakur's death. Jury selection begins Monday, with the trial scheduled to last about a month.

The trial will bring to a head one of the biggest mysteries in the hip-hop world that gripped the public for decades. Shakur, who also went by the stage names 2Pac and Makaveli, is considered one of the most influential rappers of all time.

Shakur was shot in Las Vegas on Sept. 7, 1996. He was in a black BMW with music mogul Marion "Suge" Knight on their way to Club 662, where Shakur was scheduled to perform, when a white Cadillac pulled up beside them. Gunfire erupted. Shakur, who was in the passenger seat, was shot multiple times and died six days later, while Knight survived.

The case went cold until recent years, when public statements and a tell-all memoir from Davis revived the case. He was a leader of South Side Compton Crips at the time of Shakur's death. Davis was arrested in 2023 and pleaded not guilty.

Here's what to know about the trial.

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When and where the trial will be held

It will take place in Clark County District Court in Las Vegas, with Judge Carli Kierny presiding over the case.

Jury selection starts Monday. That's expected to take a few days. Then, the prosecution and defense will give opening statements and witness testimony will begin.

Inside the courtroom, seats for the public will be in short supply, with a daily lottery for a chance to get one. A room on the second floor of the court will be open to the public and will show a live feed of the trial.

The trial likely won't answer 'who pulled the trigger'

Prosecutors are not arguing that Davis is the one who pulled the trigger that night, and the trial likely won't confirm who fired at Shakur. Instead, prosecutors plan to prove that Davis made the calls that led to Shakur's death and provided the gun used to shoot Shakur.

Davis is the co-author of the memoir "Compton Street Legends," which describes his exact role in the shooting. The book says that Davis obtained a handgun from an associate and tossed it into the back seat of the Cadillac but did not say who fired the fatal shots.

Orlando "Baby Lane" Anderson, Davis' nephew, has long been considered the suspect who pulled the trigger, but charges were never brought against him in the killing. He died two years after Shakur's death in an unrelated gang shootout in Compton, California.

Two others — Deandrae "Freaky" Smith and Terry "Bubble Up" Brown — were in the car with Davis and Anderson, but they have since died as well.

Who is expected to testify

Prosecutors expect to call between 35 and 45 witnesses during the trial, ranging from people who saw Shakur moments before he was shot to people who were in both Shakur and Davis' orbits at the time.

Their witness list includes former Las Vegas Mayor Oscar Goodman and members of Shakur's family. However not everyone on the list will necessarily testify. Rather, attorneys may ask potential jurors if they're familiar with certain names.

Leonard Jefferson, a California resident who pulled up next to the BMW and snapped a photograph, which became the last known photo of Shakur, is expected to testify.

The state is also expected to call Denvonta Lee, who was affiliated with the South Side Crips.

In grand jury testimony, Lee testified that rival gangs, the Crips and Mob Piru, were tied to dueling record labels Death Row Records and Bad Boy Records.

Though he wasn't there that night, Lee also testified that Anderson didn't have a clear shot, so Smith took the gun and did the shooting. He also said Davis was in charge and gave the gun to Anderson, who gave it to Smith.

The witness list includes others who previously testified to the grand jury, including Malcolm Greenidge, a friend of Shakur's who was traveling in his entourage that night. Reggie Wright, who grew up in Compton and did security for Death Row Records, is also expected to testify.

But other witnesses will be new, including a former member of Death Row's security team and a former member of Mob Piru who was at Club 662 the night Shakur was shot.

Witnesses also include former police officers and detectives, as well as gang experts.

Davis' defense attorney is expected to call less than a handful of witnesses, including one expert in the area of false confessions and coercive interrogation techniques.

Celebrities could be at the trial

Prosecutors requested to have multiple out-of-state witnesses testify, and it's unclear who those people are.

One of the witnesses is in prison in California, according to court records. Knight is serving a 28-year prison sentence in California for running over and killing a Compton businessman outside a burger stand in January 2015. He previously said he would not testify in Davis' case.

As the only other living eyewitness who was in one of the two vehicles that night, Knight's testimony could make or break the case.

Davis' defense attorney Michael Sanft told The Associated Press that Knight would be a good witness

for Davis' defense if he did testify.

Fans have also speculated whether Sean "Diddy" Combs will testify. Combs is currently serving a four-year prison sentence in New Jersey following his conviction of prostitution-related charges.

In his book, Davis alleged Combs wanted Knight and Shakur dead and offered Davis money to kill them. Combs has long denied having any involvement in the shooting.

A spokesperson for Combs did not return emailed requests asking whether he plans to testify and his name does not appear on any witness list.

Congressional Democrats launch probe into efforts to deport US military members and their families

By JACK BROOK and SAFIYAH RIDDLE Associated Press/Report for America

Congressional Democrats said they are investigating the Trump administration's efforts to deport military service members and their families after The Associated Press found more than 50 active-duty troops' spouses and parents have been detained by immigration authorities.

In a letter sent Sunday evening to the Department of Homeland Security, the Defense Department and the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Democrats said they will investigate whether the Pentagon and DHS are coordinating to deport military service members and their families.

"These efforts imperil military readiness, weaken service members' morale, and betray America's promises to the people who put their lives on the line for our nation," according to the letter, which was signed by more than 60 lawmakers and provided to the AP.

The Pentagon declined to comment, stating it would "reply directly to the authors of the letter."

DHS told the AP that it values service members' contributions and "U.S. military service alone does not automatically grant lawful immigration status, or exempt aliens from the consequences of violating U.S. immigration laws."

The VA did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

In their letter, the Democrats provided an extensive list of questions to the agencies. They said the apparent collaboration between DHS and the military to deport troops' families "raises both ethical and legal concerns."

"Donald Trump is breaking our country's promises to service members by tearing apart dozens of military families who were promised immigration protections," Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren said. "That's just plain cruel, and it's hurting our military readiness and morale."

Warren's office is leading the probe alongside Connecticut Sen. Richard Blumenthal, Illinois Sen. Tammy Duckworth and several House Democrats.

The AP investigation found President Donald Trump's administration has rolled back protections for military families and departed from longstanding bipartisan consensus to carry out its mass deportation agenda. Service members have been forced to take leave of their duties, including delaying deployment, to care for their children after their spouses were detained.

The lawmakers pressed the administration on why military recruiters are still promoting immigration protections.

Citing the AP's reporting, the lawmakers urged the Trump administration to restore policies that had previously shielded military service members' families from immigration enforcement while allowing them to adjust their legal status.

"This report is appalling and shows the unbelievable cruelty at the center of the Trump immigration agenda," said Blumenthal, the ranking Democrat on the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs. "We will be demanding answers and accountability."

The Republican chairs of the armed services and veterans' affairs committees, Mississippi Sen. Roger Wicker and Kansas Sen. Jerry Moran, did not respond to requests for comment.

Last week, Trump established the Military Spouse Commission, chaired by Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth's wife, Jennifer Rauchet, to develop policies and recommendations for improving life for troops' spouses.

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"Military spouses are intrinsically linked to the good order, readiness, and retention of our military," Trump stated in a letter published in the Federal Register on Aug. 6. "Their support and contributions to our Armed Forces are crucial to mission success."

The White House did not respond to a request for comment.

The Defense Department said in a December letter to Democratic lawmakers, obtained by the AP, that it had not implemented any recent policy changes for noncitizen family members in the military and has not conducted analysis on how deportations impact troop readiness and morale.

Danitza James, president of Repatriate Our Patriots, an organization providing support to military families and veterans facing deportation, said troops are being betrayed.

"Our military service members are the ones that sign on the dotted line to go and defend our country and maybe not come back," James said. "They trust our government to take care of their families, and they're not doing that."

Wisconsin, Minnesota primaries are next to feature progressive clash with Democratic establishment

By SCOTT BAUER and JONATHAN J. COOPER Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — Progressive candidates for governor in Wisconsin and U.S. Senate in Minnesota are making their final pushes ahead of Tuesday's election, increasing the pressure on a Democratic establishment that has spent the year on its heels.

The primaries come a week after Abdul El-Sayed narrowly defeated Rep. Haley Stevens in Michigan's divisive and costly U.S. Senate primary. El-Sayed's victory has energized the left while stoking fears among Democratic Party leaders that the shift to the left, particularly in battleground states like Michigan and Wisconsin, will make it more difficult to win in November.

Wisconsin's chaotic primary pits progressive against governor's pick

In Wisconsin, democratic socialist Francesca Hong is trying to win a four-way Democratic primary for governor where her top opponent has been endorsed by popular Gov. Tony Evers, who isn't seeking a third term.

Evers got behind Milwaukee County Executive David Crowley on July 18, the same day Crowley reentered the race after dropping out 10 days earlier. Crowley rejoined after the candidate he backed, Lt. Gov. Sara Rodriguez, ended her candidacy amid a campaign finance scandal.

Evers and Crowley were crisscrossing the state together in the last days before final ballots are cast Tuesday.

Evers and more establishment Democrats were hoping to finally coalesce around Crowley in the final days of the chaotic primary that saw two other candidates drop out, most notably former Lt. Gov. Mandela Barnes on July 29.

Barnes and Rodriguez, who were both seen as potential front-runners, remain on the ballot and absentee votes already cast for them can't be undone.

Republicans are spending to influence the Democratic primary

Republicans are putting money behind Hong, thinking she will be the better matchup for Republican U.S. Rep. Tom Tiffany in November. The Republican Governors Association has spent nearly \$3.6 million through its Right Direction Wisconsin PAC on ads contrasting Hong with President Donald Trump and playing up her liberal policies.

Crowley and other Democrats argue the ads are meant to bolster Hong's standing in the primary because Republicans see her as the easier opponent.

Evers projected confidence at a rally that attracted hundreds of people in Hong's hometown of Madison on Sunday night, saying Crowley was the best chance Democrats had to defeat Tiffany.

"We're going to win this thing," Evers said, telling the Crowley supporters that Tiffany would be "the worst governor in the history of Wisconsin."

"If Tom Tiffany wins in November that will be like electing Donald Trump as governor of the state of

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Wisconsin," he said.

Crowley urged Democrats to come together after the primary to beat Tiffany.

"Our ultimate goal is to make sure we don't have a MAGA extremist occupying the governor's office," Crowley said.

Tiffany, one of the most conservative members of Congress, is endorsed by Trump.

The president called Hong a communist in remarks on Wednesday, where he mentioned a 2020 social media post by Hong calling for Thanksgiving to be canceled. Asked about the post this week, Hong reversed herself and said that Thanksgiving was her favorite holiday.

Trump won Wisconsin in 2016 and 2024, and Republicans have held majorities in both chambers of the Legislature since 2011. Holding onto the governor's office is key to Wisconsin Democrats' effort to gain full control of state government for the first time in 16 years.

In the race to replace Tiffany, U.S. Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy's son-in-law Michael Alfonso is in a five-person Republican primary. Alfonso, who is trying to represent Duffy's old congressional district, has Trump's endorsement.

Minnesota primary comes in wake of immigration enforcement surge

In neighboring Minnesota, voters are choosing between moderate U.S. Rep. Angie Craig and progressive Lt. Gov. Peggy Flanagan in a Democratic U.S. Senate primary that's playing out in the aftermath of Trump's aggressive immigration enforcement surge in the state.

The race has been shaped by the killing of Renee Good and Alex Pretti by federal immigration officers in Minneapolis, confrontations that were caught on camera and fueled a backlash to Trump's immigration policies.

Both Craig and Flanagan spent the weekend traversing the Twin Cities metro area.

In a driveway in suburban Eagan on Sunday, Craig spoke to the angst among Democratic primary voters who feel that Washington isn't working for them. Members of Congress need to stop trading stocks and becoming lobbyists when they leave office, she said, and the U.S. needs to restrict the flood of corporate campaign spending.

"But the only way we pass any of the progressive policies that all of us here support is by winning elections and taking damn majorities," she said.

Unlike in Wisconsin, where the incumbent governor has endorsed a candidate in the race to succeed him, Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz has not gotten involved in the Senate primary. But his wife, Gwen Walz, has endorsed Craig and campaigned with her on Sunday.

Flanagan campaigned Saturday with U.S. Sen. Chris Van Hollen, a Maryland Democrat, who helped her make the case that Washington needs a shakeup to root out the deep-pocketed forces propping up a broken status quo.

"It is big corporations, it's special interests who are putting their thumb on the scale in our elections across the country," Flanagan said. "And it's not just Republicans. It's Democrats, too."

The race has been one of the most expensive Minnesota has seen, with millions of dollars backing both candidates, but disproportionately falling in Craig's favor.

Whoever wins the primary will be the frontrunner to replace retiring Democratic Sen. Tina Smith in November. Minnesota voters haven't elected a Republican to a statewide office since 2006.

Mike Lindell, the founder of MyPillow, is a top Republican candidate in the governor's race. He's endorsed by Trump, and he was a prominent promoter of falsehoods about election fraud. U.S. Sen. Amy Klobuchar is in a six-person primary on the Democratic side.

Democratic struggles also on display in other states' primaries Tuesday

Two veteran Democratic incumbents in Connecticut face challenges from the left.

Moderate Democratic Gov. Ned Lamont is running for a third term but faces progressive state Rep. Josh Elliott. The Democratic nominee will face Republican state Sen. Ryan Fazio in November.

Longtime Democratic U.S. Rep. John Larson, 78, is running for a 15th term and his age and health have been major issues in the four-person race.

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Former Hartford Mayor Luke Bronin narrowly won the party's endorsement at its state convention in May. Other candidates are Hartford Board of Education member Ruth Fortune and state Rep. Jillian Gilchrest.

In Vermont, two Democrats are running in for a chance to take on Republican Gov. Phil Scott.

Former child advocacy organization CEO Aly Richards boasts endorsements from former Democratic Govs. Howard Dean and Madeleine Kunin. She faces economist Amanda Janoo.

Wildfires burn across western US and Canada as residents are evacuated

By JAMIE STENGLE and WUFEI YU Associated Press

Wildfires burning across the western U.S. and Canada on Sunday left some residents keeping a wary eye out for possible evacuation orders while others already forced to flee their homes waited to see what would be left on their return.

In western Canada, over 20,000 people were forced to flee communities along Okanagan Lake in British Columbia over the weekend as a fast-moving wildfire destroyed homes and dozens had to be rescued by aircraft. In the U.S., crews in Washington that have been fighting three wildfires that began burning in the Spokane area for over a week continued cleanup near containment lines.

Laurie Allen left her home in Nine Mile Falls, a community north of Spokane, last weekend, fleeing with her husband, dog and two kittens as a wildfire burned a short distance away. The roads into her neighborhood were still closed Sunday but she said she'd learned from a friend that while covered in ashes, her house and others nearby were intact.

"I've been here 65 years. It's never happened," Allen said. "We didn't think about anything but grabbing our animals and leaving. But now it's affected so many of our friends and family around. So it's pretty dang devastating."

Over 20,000 flee Canadian wildfires

In Canada, Anette Boulet was among residents who fled Summerland, home to about 12,000 people along Okanagan Lake in British Columbia. As she and her family left around 4:30 a.m. Saturday, their home was shrouded in smoke.

"You couldn't see barely. It was, it was just dark, and the ridge, the ridge of fire just coming towards you," said Boulet, who evacuated to a center in Penticton.

"There's no words to express it," she said. "The fear."

Later Sunday, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police said an 80-year-old woman died while trying to escape the wildfire that forced evacuations in the Okanagan Lake region.

Besides the evacuations in Summerland, the Bald Range fire, first reported Friday evening, has also led to the evacuation of about 8,000 people in and around nearby Peachland. British Columbia declared a state of emergency Saturday.

Eleanor Olszewski, Canada's minister of emergency management and community resilience, said Sunday on social media that she'd approved a request for federal assistance from British Columbia to provide shelter and accommodations for those forced to flee.

Spokane-area fires leave residents on edge

Crews fighting three wildfires in the Spokane area continued "mop-up operations" on Sunday near containment lines, and none of the fires were growing, according to a news release from the team managing those wildfires. The fires, which have burned over the last week, have damaged or destroyed about 920 structures.

Earlier in the week, a man was arrested and charged with intentionally setting the biggest of the three Spokane-area blazes.

Residents in the tiny rural town of Malden, located about 35 miles (55 kilometers) south of Spokane, had been urged Saturday to evacuate immediately. By Sunday, however, their evacuation level was downgraded to be ready to quickly leave if necessary.

"The wind is fairly calm. The fire is not progressing," said John Goyke, whose company operates Malden's

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water under contract, "but we're using social media and Facebook to keep in contact with everyone."

Goyke, who is the mayor of nearby Rosalia, said Malden's residents have been told to conserve water so it can be saved for fire trucks if needed, and Malden's fire department has been trucking water from Rosalia.

In 2020, Malden was mostly destroyed by a wildfire, losing its fire station, post office, city hall and library.

Two killed fighting wildfire when helicopter crashes

In Utah, two helicopter pilots were killed when their aircraft crashed while they were fighting a wildfire Friday morning in the Fishlake National Forest. Crews were finally able to get to the site Saturday to confirm the deaths.

Officials said Sunday that fire activity had prevented them from quickly reaching the area amid steep, rough terrain.

"When we first got there we could see two different plumes of smoke, one from the crash site, one from an active fire coming towards us," Sevier County Sheriff Nathan Curtis said.

The National Transportation Safety Board is investigating the cause of the crash.

Western Europe sets new temperature record as heat waves pummel the region

By STEFANIE DAZIO Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — The heat waves roiling Western Europe this summer toppled an average temperature record for the June-July period set in 2022, according to the European climate agency Copernicus.

The extreme heat began in May and has contributed to major wildfires, prolonged drought and new national temperature records across the region, as well as thousands of projected heat-related deaths.

Globally, so far this is the third-hottest year, behind 2024 and 2025, climate statistics show. But 2026 still has time to catch up. Thanks to the one-two punch of accelerated human-caused global warming and a supersized El Niño, a periodic warming of parts of the Pacific that leads to temperature variations around the globe, there's an increasing chance that by the end of the year, 2026 could become the hottest year on record, beating out 2024 — or at least come close, scientists said.

Last month saw the highest average sea surface temperature ever recorded for July across the extra-polar oceans, or the oceans free of seasonal sea ice, Copernicus said.

That was partially fueled by developing El Niño conditions in the equatorial Pacific, the service said. The new average record for July is 20.96 degrees Celsius (69.73 degrees Fahrenheit), which beat the 2023 record of 20.89 C (69.60 F).

But last month's average surface air temperature globally was 16.90°C (62.42 F), making it only the joint second warmest July on record and tied with July 2024, Copernicus reported.

In Western Europe, meanwhile, the average temperature record for the June-July period hit 21.62°C (70.92 F), Copernicus said.

"Persistent high-pressure systems trapped heat over western Europe, the extreme temperatures also amplified widespread drought. As soils dry out, they lose their ability to provide natural cooling, allowing heat to build more readily," said Samantha Burgess, strategic lead for climate at the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts.

"This is a clear example of how climate change is intensifying heat extremes, with heat and drought increasingly reinforcing one another."

Israel rejects Trump's Gaza plan, more details emerge on the Strait of Hormuz and other Mideast news

By The Associated Press undefined

Israel on Sunday rejected a deal announced by U.S. President Donald Trump for Gaza. Details emerged on the potential deal between Iran and Oman on managing the Strait of Hormuz as Tehran suggested that

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vessels linked to “hostile countries” would be barred. Iran also shuffled its top security post.

Meanwhile, Yemen’s Iranian-backed Houthi rebels struck a government-held port on the country’s Red Sea coast, deepening fears over threats to strategic shipping routes and a potential return to civil war.

Here’s a look at developments across the Middle East. Full coverage can be found [here](#).

Netanyahu insists no Gaza withdrawal until Hamas disarms

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu dismissed the deal on Gaza announced by Trump last month, saying Israel’s military “will not carry out any withdrawal until Hamas is genuinely disarmed.”

Netanyahu told a Cabinet meeting that “Israel rejects the 15-point document” but is still discussing plans for Gaza with Washington, after making similar comments last week. Trump had said Israeli forces would withdraw as the Hamas militant group’s disarmament is completed. Israeli forces control over half the Palestinian enclave of about 2 million people that’s been largely destroyed.

There was no immediate White House comment on Netanyahu’s statement.

“We remain committed to the road map,” said a member of the Hamas political bureau, Bassem Naim, adding that the group expects mediators and the U.S. to pressure Netanyahu — who also faces domestic tensions as he struggles to hold onto power ahead of the next elections scheduled for Oct. 27.

The Hamas-led attack on Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, sparked the war in Gaza. A fragile ceasefire continues.

Houthis target Aramco refinery and Red Sea port

Iranian-backed Houthi rebels in Yemen attacked the government-held port city of Mocha late Sunday night. It was the second attack on the Red Sea coast city in less than 24 hours.

A Houthi military source told the Houthi-controlled Al-Masirah TV that the attack targeted weapons depots and Saudi troop concentrations.

A statement from the Yemeni Armed Forces posted on X said residential neighborhoods were targeted by ballistic missiles and drones in the attack, and that air defense systems managed to intercept some of the drones.

Drones and missiles were also used during the earlier attack on Sunday. The Yemeni government-allied National Resistance Forces said at least seven people — four troops and three civilians — were killed and 15 civilians were injured in that strike.

Fayed al-Noman, the information ministry’s assistant undersecretary, said the attack severely damaged port buildings and piers as well as commercial goods and food supplies. The military later said missiles landed in several areas, including near a television station.

Mocha is a main port under Yemen’s internationally recognized government and has been renovated to handle shipping that avoids the Houthi-held port of Hodeida.

The Houthis said they targeted military forces and warehouses.

Yahya Saree, a Houthi military spokesperson, said they also targeted an Aramco refinery in the Saudi city of Jazan with a drone in response to Saudi drones breaching Yemen’s airspace over Hajjah and Saada provinces.

The Saudi Energy Ministry reported a fire at a facility belonging to the Aramco refinery, with no casualties. The ministry did not say the cause. The attacks threaten to reignite Yemen’s civil war after a 2022 truce.

— Samy Magdy in Cairo

Iran’s top security post changes again

Iran named a new head of its powerful Supreme National Security Council, state media reported. Mohsen Rezaei had been a military adviser to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei and a former Revolutionary Guard commander.

It was the latest shuffle at the top for the politburo-like body, which has a range of political opinions and rivalries and is adapting to the loss of several senior officials in the war.

Rezaei replaces Mohammad Bagher Zolghadr, who took up the role after Ali Larijani was killed by an Israeli strike in March. Zolghadr will become a political adviser to Khamenei.

Rezaei earlier this month said Iran will never allow an unauthorized route through the Strait of Hormuz, which was considered an international waterway before the war and Tehran’s assertion of control.

Iran says negotiations ‘cannot resume’ until conditions met

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Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi told reporters that negotiations with Oman about "new maritime routes" on the Strait of Hormuz were in the final stages but "this, however, does not mean that the Strait of Hormuz will reopen." That step requires conditions that "have been conveyed through intermediaries."

The Supreme National Security Council on Saturday said the strait will not reopen until the U.S. "corrects its behavior." It demanded that the U.S. never threaten Iran again, a permanent end to the war with Iran and its armed allies, a lifting of the naval blockade of Iranian ports and a withdrawal of the U.S. military from the area. The U.S. also must "completely compensate" Iran for war damage, lift sanctions and "unconditionally" release frozen assets.

The United States did not comment on the demands. Trump on Sunday asserted to Axios that "we are only semi-negotiating" with Iran and letting economic pressures take their toll.

Araghchi said an "exchange of messages through intermediaries" continues with the U.S. but that doesn't constitute negotiations, which he said can't resume until violations of the interim deal end and the U.S. "has remedied" provisions it violated.

Details emerge about a potential Iran-Oman deal

Iran and Oman, located on the other side of the Strait of Hormuz, are working to finalize a temporary deal that would reopen it, with ships entering near Iran and exiting near Oman, according to two people familiar with the talks who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly. Ships would transit without paying fees or tolls during the interim period.

The agreement is designed to restore the separate interim deal between the U.S. and Iran. The two people said the agreement is endorsed by Gulf Cooperation Council members and is expected to be jointly announced by Iran, Oman, the U.S. and the U.N.'s International Maritime Organization. But they stressed the terms still could change.

The Iranian parliament's National Security Committee approved "general outlines" of a plan to manage the strait, the state broadcaster reported, but a lawmaker said transits by vessels belonging to "hostile countries" would be prohibited. The member of parliament's presiding board said countries that have "caused damage" to Iran cannot transit until they compensate for it. There were no further details.

— Michelle Price in Washington and Amer Madhani in New York

Suspected Irish crime boss lands in Dublin after extradition from Dubai to face allegations

LONDON (AP) — The alleged leader of an Irish organized crime gang was extradited to Ireland from Dubai on Sunday to face allegations that he ran an international drug smuggling and money laundering empire with tentacles that stretched to Britain, Spain and the U.S.

The Irish Air Corps plane carrying Daniel Kinahan, 49, landed at an airport on the outskirts of Dublin on Sunday evening after courts in Dubai refused to block his extradition.

Kinahan was taken to the Special Criminal Court in Dublin where he was charged with directing the activities of a criminal organization. He was ordered to remain in custody at the high-security Portlaoise Prison about 90 miles (145 kilometers) southwest of the capital. His next court appearance is scheduled for Oct. 5.

Ireland's Special Criminal Court handles all organized crime and terrorism cases, as well as others where prosecutors believe the ordinary courts are inadequate to ensure the "effective administration of justice." Cases are heard by a panel of three judges without a jury.

Large security operation for Kinahan's transfer to Dublin

Irish media reported that a huge security operation was underway to ensure Kinahan faces justice. It included armed police, members of the armed forces and the prison service — which recently acquired a bombproof escort van to transport organized crime suspects, terrorists and other high-risk prisoners, Irish broadcaster RTE reported.

The security precautions came after Kinahan's family members were linked to a bloody gang war with another Irish organized crime group. U.S. authorities said in 2022 that the feud had resulted in 18 murders

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as they announced a reward of up to \$5 million for information leading to the disruption of the Kinahan organization or the arrest and conviction of Daniel Kinahan.

"Since February 2016, the (Kinahan Organized Crime Group) has been involved in a gang war with another group in Ireland and Spain, resulting in numerous murders, including of two innocent bystanders," the U.S. Treasury Department said when it sanctioned six members of the Kinahan gang and three businesses linked to it.

Irish police, with the help of authorities in Britain, Spain and the U.S., have been pursuing members of the Kinahan gang since at least 2016, when the feud led to a daytime shooting during the weigh-in for a boxing match at a Dublin hotel. Kinahan was a boxing promoter at the time.

The authorities allege the gang smuggled tens of millions of dollars in illegal drugs, including cocaine and cannabis, as well as guns into Europe, then used a network of apparently legitimate enterprises to launder the profits.

'Large quantities of cocaine' from South America

Kinahan is believed to have run the day-to-day operations of the gang from his base in Dubai, the U.S. Treasury said. That includes buying "large quantities of cocaine" from South America, organizing its distribution in Ireland and attempting to smuggle drugs into the U.K., Treasury said.

Kinahan has also instructed gang members to deliver money to a number of people in prison, including one who was convicted of attempting to murder someone on behalf of the organization, the agency said.

He was detained by Dubai authorities in April on an Irish arrest warrant.

During a phone interview with Scottish podcaster James English last week, Kinahan denied being an organized crime boss and described himself as the victim of a conspiracy to tarnish his reputation. While he said the extradition proceedings were expedited due to a deal between the Irish and Dubai governments, he said he hoped his trial in Dublin would help clear his name.

"I believe, in a way, I am a scapegoat," he said in the interview posted on TikTok. "And anyone that looks into this so-called feud that they say they have created, then you will see, you will see things yourself if someone has the time to look into it."

In March 2022, the head of the Kinahan organization in Britain, Thomas "Bomber" Kavanagh, was sentenced to 21 years in prison after he was convicted of orchestrating drug shipments into the U.K. Two other men were sentenced to 20 years and 19 1/2 years for their part in the crimes.

In the course of their investigation, police found 15 kilograms of cocaine and 220 kilograms of cannabis inside asphalt removal equipment fitted with a tracking device at the port of Dover on the English Channel, Britain's National Crime Agency said when Kavanagh was sentenced.

Kavanagh lived in a mansion equipped with bulletproof glass and reinforced doors in Tamworth, north-east of Birmingham. When police raided the property in 2019 they seized numerous weapons and 35,000 pounds of cash in various currencies, including Emirati dirhams and euros, as well as British pounds, the crime agency said.

Don Nelson, second-winningest NBA coach who won 5 titles as a Celtics player, dies at 86

By JOHN RABY AP Sports Writer

Don Nelson, the second-winningest coach in NBA history who won five championships as a player with the Boston Celtics, died Sunday. He was 86.

Nelson's family confirmed the death in a statement that did not say where he died or provide a cause.

"On Sunday morning our beloved husband, dad, grandfather and great-grandfather Don Nelson peacefully went to be with the Lord, surrounded by his loving family," the statement said. "Throughout his last week, friends and family encircled him with love, sharing the blessing of his friendship and revisiting treasured memories."

Nelson is one of two coaches in NBA history to have at least 250 wins with three different franchises —

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Milwaukee, Dallas and Golden State — also serving as general manager for all three franchises. He was a three-time coach of the year and made the playoffs 18 times in 31 seasons. He went to the conference finals three times with the Bucks and once with the Mavericks, never winning a title.

Nelson introduced what is now known as the point forward, and his up-tempo style of offense created a buzz. He said the idea of shifting from the dominant big men of the 1970s to an offense focused on speed and the fast break came from his playing days under Celtics Hall of Fame coach Red Auerbach.

"The league really hadn't seen an offense like the one we were running, and the results were undeniable," Nelson wrote in 2016 in *The Players' Tribune*.

Nelson said that "without Red Auerbach teaching me the mechanics of running the fast break, none of it would have been possible. He deserves all the credit for Nellie Ball, and for how fast the game of basketball is played today."

Nelson played 11 of his 14 seasons in Boston and was on five Celtics championship teams under four different coaches. He became an assistant coach in Milwaukee after retiring as a player, then took over after coach Larry Costello resigned 18 games into the 1976-77 season. Nelson coached the Bucks for 11 seasons starting in 1976 and won seven straight division titles.

In Nelson's second season, Milwaukee overcame a 29-point fourth quarter deficit to beat Atlanta 117-115 in regulation.

"I coached the team as though I was still playing for the Celtics, while implementing a few of my own strategies," Nelson wrote. "I knew I wanted to play unconventional basketball and use speed to my advantage."

His fast-paced offenses were probably best on display with Golden State in the "Run TMC" era featuring future Hall of Famers Tim Hardaway, Mitch Richmond and Chris Mullin. Nelson said he wanted them on the court at the same time.

Nelson spent 11 seasons over two stints with Golden State. The first one was punctuated by a rift with rookie star Chris Webber, who was traded away a month into his second season. Nelson, demoralized by the trade, missed nine games that season due to illness and resigned under pressure three months later in February 1995.

In between, Nelson was fired after less than one season in New York in 1995-96, then coached in Dallas for eight seasons, missing 21 games with the Mavericks starting in December 2000 to recuperate from prostate cancer surgery.

Nelson's son, Donnie, joined his father as an assistant coach with the Mavericks in 1998, later became general manager and remained with the organization until 2021. Together they persuaded 20-year-old German star Dirk Nowitzki to pass up European basketball and join the Mavericks. Don Nelson also developed Steve Nash into one of the NBA's top point guards before Nash went on to win back-to-back MVPs with the Phoenix Suns in 2005 and 2006.

"Don Nelson was a true innovator whose influence on the game of basketball is still felt today," current Warriors coach Steve Kerr said. "He consistently challenged conventional thinking, experimented with different lineups and styles of play and saw possibilities in the game that others often did not. So much of what is now commonplace in the modern NBA can be traced back to the way Nellie approached the game."

At Golden State, Nelson's "We Believe" Warriors led by Baron Davis upset Nowitzki and the top-seeded Mavericks in the first round of the 2007 playoffs in one of the biggest shockers in NBA history. In his final season as a coach, Nelson mentored rookie Stephen Curry in 2009-10.

"One of the big reasons I was drafted by the Warriors was because of Don Nelson. The story is he never liked rookies, but from Day 1 he challenged me and gave me an opportunity to be my best self on the court," Curry said in a statement released by the Warriors. "He taught me a lot during our one season together and I'll never forget the night he became the winningest coach in NBA history in Minnesota. We were so happy for him. He had an immeasurable impact on the sport and will go down as one of the greatest minds in the history of the game."

Davis added: "When I think of Nellie, I'll always think of the 'We Believe' team and our incredible run in 2007. He understood what made us go and made us believe we could beat anybody, ultimately helping us

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make history as the first No. 8 seed to defeat a No. 1 seed in a seven-game series. That time in my life and career was truly special, and Nellie was a huge part of making it possible.”

Nelson retired as the NBA’s career coaching wins leader with 1,335, just ahead of Lenny Wilkens’ 1,332. Nelson kept that top spot for nearly 12 years before close friend and now-retired San Antonio coach Gregg Popovich passed him in March 2022.

Nelson was inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in 2012. In 2025, he received the Chuck Daly Lifetime Achievement Award, presented by the National Basketball Coaches Association. Miffed that the Mavericks sent Luka Dončić to the Los Angeles Lakers in a blockbuster trade, Nelson wore a pair of Dončić’s signature Jordan Brand sneakers to the awards ceremony. He called the trade a “tremendous mistake.”

Born in Muskegon, Michigan, Nelson attended high school in Rock Island, Illinois, and averaged a double-double in college at Iowa. He spent his retirement years living on the Hawaiian island of Maui and owned several short-term rentals on the island.

Boat capsizes in New York Harbor, woman and 5-month-old baby die

NEW YORK (AP) — The operator of a boat that capsized in New York Harbor, killing a mother and her infant daughter, is facing criminal charges and authorities are investigating whether the vessel was an illegal charter, the U.S. Coast Guard said Sunday.

The 22-foot Bayliner speedboat overturned around 10:25 p.m. Saturday near Liberty Island, home to the Statue of Liberty, the U.S. Coast Guard said.

Twelve people were rescued from the water before police arrived, and police divers later located the 27-year-old woman and 5-month-old girl in the water. Both were taken to a hospital where they were pronounced dead. According to the Coast Guard, the others were in stable condition.

“We are deeply saddened by the tragic loss of life last night, and our thoughts are with the victims’ family and loved ones during this incredibly difficult time,” said Capt. Doreen McCarthy, the Coast Guard Sector New York commander. “We are extremely grateful for the heroic, swift actions of our partner agencies and Good Samaritan vessel who assisted in rescuing survivors from the water.”

Manuel Hernandez, 46, of New York, has been charged with 13 counts of reckless endangerment, police said. No phone number for him could be found Sunday, and the case has not yet been entered into online court records.

The victims’ identities have not been released pending notification of family, police said Sunday.

Adam Schwartz said his sightseeing company’s hot tub boat, Sea the City II, was out on a cruise when the accident occurred and took the 12 survivors onboard.

“Our captain and both crew members immediately assisted, called in to the Coast Guard and ... then coordinated with the Coast Guard and NYPD Harbor units to bring them to land in Brooklyn,” Schwartz told The Associated Press on Sunday.

McCarthy said Coast Guard investigators are working with police to investigate and are committed to holding lawbreakers accountable. According to the Coast Guard, an illegal charter is any passenger-for-hire vessel operation that lacks Coast Guard credentials, safety equipment and inspection certificates.

‘Spider-Man: Brand New Day’ keeps record pace, ‘The Odyssey’ sets new high for Nolan

By JAKE COYLE AP Film Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — “Spider-Man: Brand New Day” continued its blistering pace in theaters, collecting \$144.5 million domestically over its second weekend, according to studio estimates Sunday, while Christopher Nolan’s “The Odyssey” set a new high for the director.

The Sony-Marvel release has accrued \$1.67 billion worldwide in just 10 days of release, putting it on a

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trajectory to be among the biggest blockbusters ever. Domestically, no movie has wracked up a higher total faster. In U.S. and Canadian cinemas, "Brand New Day" has grossed \$655.1 million thus far. Overseas, it's already surpassed \$1 billion.

It took only seven days for "Brand New Day" to become the highest grossing movie of the year, easily displacing "Toy Story 5" (\$1.07 billion worldwide). No Sony film has ever cleared \$100 million in its second weekend before. It came close to toppling the best sophomore frame on record: "The Force Awakens," with \$149.2 million in 2015.

Christopher Nolan's "The Odyssey" also crossed \$1 billion. In its fourth weekend, the Universal Pictures release added \$31.5 million domestically to bring its global total to \$1.1 billion.

Nolan's Homeric epic is the director's first movie to reach that threshold since 2012's "The Dark Knight Rises." It now ranks as Nolan's biggest box-office hit ever, not accounting for inflation, eclipsing both "The Dark Knight Rises" (\$1.08 billion) and 2009's "The Dark Knight" (\$1 billion). Nolan's "Oppenheimer" (\$975 million) ended just shy of the milestone.

A big part of that success, of course, has been on IMAX. With \$147.3 million domestically on the company's large-format screens, "The Odyssey" now ranks as IMAX's highest grossing domestic release of all time.

"The Odyssey" still has one major market left. It opens in China on Friday.

"Spider-Man: Brand New Day" and "The Odyssey" have helped drive Hollywood to its best box-office year since the pandemic. Ticket sales are running 18.5% ahead of last year, according to Rentrak. There have already been five \$1 billion movies — more than any year since 2019. The other two were "Michael" and "The Super Mario Galaxy Movie."

Rentrak forecasts that the overall summer theatrical revenue will reach \$4 billion on Monday. That seasonal mark has long been a sign of thriving business for Hollywood. Since the pandemic, the only summer to surpass \$4 billion was 2023, when "Barbie" and "Oppenheimer" drove ticket sales.

According to Rentrak, summer revenue is just \$14.8 million shy of \$4 billion through Sunday.

A pair of comedies tried to provide some counterprogramming to the blockbusters but made little impact. "One Night Only," a Will Gluck-directed romantic comedy where premarital sex is outlawed except for one night a year, opened with \$5.7 million. The Universal release, starring Monica Barbaro and Callum Turner, cost about \$25 million to make. Reviews weren't good (46% fresh on Rotten Tomatoes) but audience scores (a "B+" CinemaScore) were better.

Coming in fourth was Fox Searchlight's "Super Troopers 3," the third in the long-running comedy series from the comedy troupe Broken Lizard. It debuted with \$4 million.

Two new limited releases packed theaters. A24's "Tony," starring Dominic Sessa as a young Anthony Bourdain, grossed \$348,955, good for one of the best screen-average openings of the year: \$58,159 per theater. Mubi's "Teenage Sex and Death at Camp Miasma," from "I Saw the TV Glow" filmmaker Jane Schoenbrun, debuted with a per-location average of \$50,300 across five screens.

Top 10 movies by domestic box office

With final domestic figures being released Monday, this list factors in the estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Rentrak:

1. "Spider-Man: Brand New Day," \$145 million.
2. "The Odyssey," \$31.5 million.
3. "One Night Only," \$5.7 million.
4. "Super Troopers 3," \$4 million.
5. "Toy Story 5," \$3.9 million.
6. "Minions & Monsters," \$3.5 million.
7. "Moana," \$2.8 million.
8. "Ice Cream Man," \$2 million.
9. "The Invite," \$717,568.
10. CatVideoFest 2026, \$568,414.

Tears of joy for Demi Vollering after winning the Women's Tour de France for the second time

By JEROME PUGMIRE AP Sports Writer

After winning the Women's Tour de France for the second time on Sunday, Demi Vollering tried hard to hold back tears while the Dutch national anthem played.

It was her toughest moment of the day after an ultra-dominant performance on the bike from the 2023 champion.

She secured an impressive stage win, and in doing so extended her overall lead over Polish rider Katarzyna Niewiadoma-Phinney to 1 minute, 18 seconds clear of the 2024 champion.

Vollering raised her bike in the air moments after crossing the finish line in Nice. Niewiadoma-Phinney had started Sunday's ninth and final stage only eight seconds behind Vollering, who got a time bonus for winning it.

Finally, as the Dutch anthem ended, a lone tear trickled down the side of Vollering's face. A few more soon followed as her achievement hit home.

"It's not only the dream of winning the Tour de France. It's also the dream of living this life, of working hard along with passionate people," the 29-year-old Vollering said. "It all starts with dreaming. Go chase the dreams and don't let anyone stop you."

Nobody could on Sunday.

Knowing that she was well clear, Vollering began to celebrate as the line approached, raising her arm in triumph and then tapping her head with her finger to show her mental strength.

"I was thinking about a lot of things as I was approaching the finish line. I thought that I had never won in the yellow jersey before," Vollering said. "I thought about how much work has gone into this victory. I thought about the people who have been behind me."

She finished the stage 1 minute, 4 seconds ahead of Spaniard Paula Blasi Cairol and Niewiadoma-Phinney, who looked tired but was all smiles later on the podium.

Former Giro d'Italia champion Elisa Longo Borghini of Italy was third overall in the Tour — 4:29 behind — after Marlen Reusser lost valuable time after crashing going downhill after the second of the day's four climbs.

Reusser ended up 14th overall at nearly 26 minutes behind.

Vollering attacks

Niewiadoma-Phinney had it all to do on the final climb, especially with her rival sitting on her wheel, and was unable to pressure Vollering.

Vollering attacked about 800 meters from the top and dropped Niewiadoma-Phinney — as she did when winning Saturday's eighth stage to take the overall lead from her rival.

Two years ago, Vollering missed out on Tour victory after finishing an agonizing four seconds behind Niewiadoma-Phinney on the last stage.

She made full amends this time.

Vollering has now won five Grand Tours, including two Spanish Vuelta titles and the Giro d'Italia secured in June to join countrywoman Annemiek van Vleuten as the only other female cyclist to have won all three Grand Tours.

"I still have a lot of dreams," Vollering said. "On and off the bike."

Four climbs

Each of the first three climbs on Sunday was 7.7 kilometers long with a 5.9% average gradient. But the final ascent branched off onto a slightly different route which, even though it was shorter at 6 kilometers, had a steeper average gradient of 7.6% with one portion stretching to a grueling 12%.

It made little difference.

After winning Friday's seventh stage with an impressive solo attack of her own up the iconic Mont Ventoux, Niewiadoma-Phinney seemed short of energy and Vollering's lead was never under threat.

How to spot the Perseid meteor shower, a summer light show that promises to dazzle

By ADITHI RAMAKRISHNAN AP Science Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The Perseid summer light show is back — and viewing conditions are especially promising for the Northern Hemisphere.

The meteor shower's peak Wednesday night into Thursday morning coincides with a total solar eclipse across Spain, Iceland and Greenland and a six-planet parade — though the best time to view the fireballs will come after totality.

As many as 50 to 100 meteors per hour may be visible under ideal conditions, according to NASA. The American Meteor Society estimates 30 to 50 meteors per hour could be seen from rural regions.

Random meteors are visible in dark skies on any given night. Meteor showers tend to put on dazzling celestial shows and happen at predictable times every year when the Earth plows through trails of debris left behind by comets and, sometimes, asteroids. Those remnants collide with Earth's atmosphere at extremely high speeds, producing streaks of light known as shooting stars.

"Comets typically have orbits that cross the orbit of the Earth. So as they get near the sun and the sun evaporates the ice, a lot of the dirt and crap that's frozen into the comet gets released, and continues in orbit around the sun," astrophysicist Neil DeGrasse Tyson told The Associated Press on Sunday.

The Perseids are debris from comet 109P/Swift-Tuttle, an icy ball that orbits the sun every 133 years and isn't scheduled for a return visit until 2125. Observations of this meteor shower date back over 2,000 years.

The Perseids are a perennial favorite because they tend to produce brilliant fireballs. Summer temperatures also make this shower popular.

"We don't have to suffer through a cold winter night to get a good view of meteors," said astronomer Zach Vanderbosch with McDonald Observatory in Texas.

The moon will be in its new moon phase during the Perseids' peak, making viewing conditions even better.

"The moon is beautiful, but it's such a diva," said astronomer Aparna Venkatesan with the University of San Francisco. "New moon means we don't have moonlight flooding the sky, and you tend to see way more meteors as a result."

To spot the meteors, go outside after dark, away from clouds and city lights. Venkatesan plans to drive to the Sierra Nevada.

The best views will be between midnight and dawn when the constellation Perseus is high in the northern sky. The meteors will appear to radiate from that constellation.

Look up and give your eyes a half hour to adjust to the darkness. Vanderbosch recommends picking a patch of sky to focus on until a quick, bright streak passes by — even in your peripheral vision — and to avoid looking at your phone.

"There's just something magical about it," Vanderbosch said.

Trump's immigration crackdown looms over Minnesota's bruising Senate primary

By JONATHAN J. COOPER Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — In the streets surrounding a drab federal office complex next to the Minneapolis airport, the beleaguered resistance to President Donald Trump found its footing.

As U.S. immigration agents staged at the Bishop Henry Whipple Federal Building for a monthslong deportation campaign, protesters with whistles and cellphone cameras assembled to oppose them. Two were shot and killed in the city's streets before Trump pulled back under pressure.

Months later, those confrontations remain the backdrop to Minnesota's Democratic primary for U.S. Senate on Tuesday, which features establishment-backed U.S. Rep. Angie Craig and the more progressive Lt. Gov. Peggy Flanagan. The immigration debate is an added schism in a race that otherwise echoes many of the other left versus center divides that have played out across the United States this year.

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Craig voted for tighter enforcement soon after Trump returned to office last year, only to later express regret for her decision after the Republican president sent a surge of agents into Minneapolis. She backed a resolution that condemned antisemitism after a 2025 firebombing in Boulder, Colorado, and expressed thanks for law enforcement, including U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers.

Those votes may turn out to be some of the most fraught of Craig's eight-year career in Congress, decisions that Flanagan has highlighted while trying to portray her rival as unwilling to fight an unpopular administration in Washington.

"I think that's when she lost my vote permanently and that's why I will not vote for her no matter what," said Bryce Bohne, 40, of Minneapolis. The teacher and owner of an educational tourism company is supporting Flanagan.

Around the Whipple federal building, the fences and barriers are down. The ambient soundtrack is no longer the whistles and chants of protesters, just the rumble of departing jets and passing buses.

But the signs of what happened remain. A few volunteers in bright orange vests keep vigil across the street for 12-plus hours a day, ready to help people getting released from immigration detention or leaving hearings at the immigration court inside.

A few miles away, visitors still bring fresh flowers and handwritten notes to memorials marking the spots where Renee Good and Alex Pretti were killed.

Craig is no stranger to tough races, but until now the heat was from the right

Craig flipped a Republican-held seat in 2018, and every two years she overcame millions of dollars of attack ads to win tough reelection campaigns.

Until Craig's Senate run, the heat came from the right. Newly under fire from the other side, the decisions she made as a swing-seat congresswoman have become a liability as a statewide Senate candidate. At one recent event, she adopted the language of the insurgent left, though it did not always seem to come naturally.

"The working class keeps getting screwed," she told volunteers preparing to knock on doors for her Saturday in Brooklyn Park, a Minneapolis suburb. "Folks, I don't know about you, but it is time that we had a working folks reno—reso—renovation—"

Here, she took a breath.

"—revolution in this country."

In Craig's view, she is well suited to the antiestablishment fervor gaining a foothold in the Democratic Party. Raised by a single mother in an Arkansas trailer park, she has known economic hardship. The lesbian mother of four grown children, she is not the archetype of a traditional member of Congress.

She was one of the House Democrats to call for President Joe Biden to drop out of the 2024 race after his disastrous debate performance against Trump. As a relatively junior member of Congress, she pushed successfully to become the top Democrat on the Agriculture Committee, jumping ahead of long-tenured colleagues.

"I consider myself a progressive" she told reporters after her event Saturday. "Every race that I run, Republicans run ads against me saying I vote with Democrats 96, 97% of the time."

"Of course, in the primary," she added, "people want to point out the few votes I've taken against Democrats."

'I regret my vote,' Craig wrote in a mea culpa

Chief among them was the Laken Riley Act, the first bill passed by Congress after Trump started his second term. It requires federal authorities to detain migrants accused of theft and violent crimes.

Craig and nearly 60 other Democrats in the House and Senate voted for the bill early in 2025.

But at the end of the year, as immigration officers descended on Minneapolis, that vote became a liability. Weeks after Good and Pretti were killed, Craig published a mea culpa in a Minnesota Star Tribune column.

Craig explained that although she had qualms with parts of the law, it had the support of Democrats she respected, and many of her constituents were unhappy with the situation on the border under Biden.

But the "outright occupation by aggressive, unaccountable federal forces" made clear to her "that sup-

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porting any bill that gives ICE new authority in this administration was the wrong decision. And I regret my vote."

Trump's immigration operation, she says, was not enabled by her vote on the Laken Riley Act.

"Before that, people had a little bit more sensibility about the fact she was in a tough district and had to take tough votes," said Corey Day, former executive director of the Minnesota Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party.

Craig has since presented herself as a strong defender of Minnesotans against Trump. She says her record of winning tough races positions her to ensure the seat stays in Democratic hands.

"Angie has experience working across demographics that we need to win over statewide, including in rural Minnesota," said Kevin Anderson, a Hennepin County commissioner who is supporting Craig and went to one of her weekend events. "I love Peggy, I really do, she's a great politician. But I don't think she's ever had to work across Minnesota."

Democratic Gov. Tim Walz has declined to endorse either candidate for the seat held by Democrat Tina Smith, who is not running again. Late last month his wife, Gwen Walz, endorsed Craig over Flanagan, his governing partner for two terms.

The Republican field includes Michele Tafoya, a former NFL sideline reporter.

Flanagan supporters are suspicious of Craig

To Flanagan and her supporters, Craig's vote for the immigration bill was not a pragmatic overture to swing voters but a betrayal.

"My primary opponent voted for Donald Trump's immigration bill and was the only Minnesota Democrat to do so," Flanagan told volunteers in St. Paul on Saturday. "She since then has said that she regrets that vote, and I'm glad. But it shouldn't have taken 14 months."

"We can stand with the immigrant community and not just when it's politically expedient for us," Flanagan added.

Like Abdul El-Sayed, who won last week's Democratic Senate primary in Michigan, Flanagan supports Medicare for All and wants to curtail U.S. military support for Israel. She is running as much against the donors who have spent millions of dollars backing Craig as she is against Craig herself.

"The fact that the money is coming from us and only us makes such a huge difference, because she's beholden to us, not some billionaire with some business or crypto interest," said 43-year-old Flanagan supporter Justin Ropella, a customer service manager from Woodbury.

Through July 22, Craig's campaign had spent \$9 million and Flanagan's \$5.5 million. The disparity was even higher among outside groups, with Craig backers spending considerably more, though both have benefited from an influx of outside spending.

To help make up the difference, Flanagan has called on the support of progressive champions such as Sen. Bernie Sanders the Vermont independent who campaigned with her last month.

"If the people of Minnesota can stand up -- and I'm confident that they can -- and tell these billionaires and their lies and their 30-second ads and their super PACs to go to hell, democracy is going to reign," Sanders said.

Health officials urge caution for Gulf Coast beachgoers during surge of deadly bacterial infections

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP) — Health officials in Louisiana are urging beachgoers to take precautions during a summertime surge in infections from a flesh-eating bacteria found in coastal waters.

Louisiana has confirmed nine cases of *Vibrio vulnificus* infections this year, the state's health department said last week in a news release. All were hospitalized, and five died. During the same period over the previous decade, Louisiana reported an average of seven cases and one death.

"Seek medical care immediately if a wound exposed to brackish or salt water becomes red, swollen, painful, warm or discolored," officials said in the release. "Tell the health care provider about the water exposure."

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The Gulf is an ideal environment

Vibrio bacteria thrive in seawater and in the brackish mix of fresh and saltwater found in estuaries and lagoons. Most infections are reported from May to October, and most happen in states along the Gulf Coast. Doctors say the Gulf is an ideal environment with the right amounts of salt and heat to let this organism proliferate.

The mostly deadly type is *Vibrio vulnificus*, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. As many as one in five of those infections are fatal, a much higher rate than other types of *Vibrio* bacteria.

Florida, which tends to have more infections than other states, has reported 14 *Vibrio vulnificus* cases and two deaths so far this year, compared with 33 cases and five deaths for all of last year. Records show more cases in years when Florida is hit by tropical storms and hurricanes.

Bacteria enters through breaks in the skin

Some people become infected by eating raw or undercooked shellfish — particularly oysters. But a large percentage fall ill when the person is in ocean or brackish water and the bacteria enter the body through small breaks in the skin.

Doctors say severe cases are seen more often in elderly patients, people with weakened immune systems, and those with liver disease, diabetes and certain chronic illnesses.

Scientists say climate change is helping the germs proliferate and spread northward. A 2023 study found that the northernmost case has been shifting by about 30 miles each year, and that cases overall have been rising.

Beachgoers can protect themselves

Vibrio vulnificus can enter the body through unhealed cuts and scrapes, recent piercings and tattoos, and recent surgical incisions. People should immediately wash cuts and scrapes thoroughly with soap and clean running water after coming in contact with coastal waters or raw seafood, the CDC said. They should see a doctor if they start to develop symptoms such as fever, chills, and hot red areas on the skin that start to turn dark and blister.

Oysters are a particular risk, and there is no way to tell if an oyster is contaminated just by looking at it. People should wash hands with soap and water after handling raw shellfish and wear protective gloves if they have a weakened immune system and are at a higher risk of infection.

Health officials also offer cooking instructions for clams, mussels and other shellfish. They recommend throwing away any with open shells before boiling or steaming.

Cyprus natural gas to supply Europe by first half of 2028, minister says, as EU seeks new sources

By MENELAOS HADJICOSTIS Associated Press

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — European consumers can expect natural gas from an undersea deposit off Cyprus to help meet their energy needs as early as March 2028, the island nation's energy minister said.

Michael Damianos said the East Mediterranean is fast becoming an alternative energy source for European nations as Russia's war in Ukraine and upheaval in the Middle East compel the continent to seek out new sources.

Damianos said partners TotalEnergies of France and Italy's Eni made a final decision last month to proceed with developing the Cronos natural gas field off Cyprus' southern coast. The project will be the first time gas from east Mediterranean deposits is supplied to European markets.

"It's important for Europe at this time because of the war in Ukraine, because of this situation in the Middle East, that Cyprus is going to be an alternative source of gas," Damianos told The Associated Press in an exclusive interview Friday.

According to the Eni-TotalEnergies consortium timetable, work on a pipeline from Cronos to existing infrastructure at Egypt's massive Zohr natural gas deposit 105 kilometers (65 miles) away will begin later this year and take up to 18 months to complete.

Once that's done, the gas will be conveyed to the Damietta processing facility on Egypt's northern shore

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where it will be liquefied for transport by ship to Europe.

Piping Cronos gas to Egypt for processing was the most economically viable option, costing roughly \$2 billion (1.73 billion euros) or half the estimated cost of developing other gas fields inside Cypriot waters because of its proximity to existing infrastructure.

Although the agreement is for all of the more than 3 trillion cubic feet (tcf) of gas in Cronos to go to Europe, there's a clause in the deal so that about a fifth of that amount could be used to cover some of Egypt's domestic energy needs.

"It's a small reserve," said Damianos. "Our income as a country is not going to be huge, so its importance is not the money, its importance (is) the commencement of being a producer and having first gas."

Cronos is one of six natural gas deposits discovered so far inside Cyprus' Exclusive Economic Zone off its southern coastline. Two of those, Glaucus and Pegasus, jointly hold an estimated 6.9 tcf. ExxonMobil and partner QatarEnergy, which were licensed to develop those fields, say they expect gas from Glaucus and Pegasus to start flowing by 2033.

"What we can say (is) that Exxon is the type of company that sticks by the timelines and sometimes delivers even earlier," Damianos said.

The energy minister said ExxonMobil plans to expand its exploration activities off Cyprus and is expected to receive an additional license to search for hydrocarbons.

Another gas field — the first to be found off Cyprus some 15 years ago — is Aphrodite, which holds an estimated 5.6 tcf. Damianos said a final decision by a Chevron-led joint venture to develop the field is expected in the summer of 2027. A pipeline will link the deposit directly to Egyptian facilities to supply the country's domestic energy needs according to an agreement with Chevron.

Part of the Aphrodite field lies in Israeli waters and it's hoped an arbitrator will decide the percentage Israel is entitled to by next month.

A separate electricity project aims to connect to Israel

Damianos also hailed the entry of French investment company Meridiam as a backer to the Great Seas Interconnector project, an electricity cable that will connect Europe's power grid with that of Cyprus and eventually Israel.

The ambitious project would not only end Cyprus and Israel's energy isolation, but it would be an important building block for the IMEC initiative — a new energy and trade route to the Gulf and India that the European Union is pursuing.

But the project is now tied up in red tape over its real cost above an earlier estimate of \$2.2 billion. A European Investment Bank report that's due in the next few months will offer clarity over its cost.

That's important for Cyprus because under an existing agreement, Cypriot energy consumers would have to put up as much as 63% of the cable's construction cost, meaning a significant jump in electricity prices.

Additional private investment is being courted to offset that burden on Cypriot consumers while additional EU funding is being weighed, said Damianos.

The EU has already committed \$760 million (658 million euros) for the project.

"It's a very important project for Europe because it connects Cyprus which is isolated to the European grid. And the idea is to then proceed and connect to Israel," Damianos said.

Russia, Ukraine exchange overnight strikes that leave 7 dead, many injured

By The Associated Press undefined

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Russia and Ukraine exchanged strikes overnight that killed civilians and injured many others on both sides, local authorities reported.

Large-scale Russian missile strikes on Ukrainian cities have become almost routine in recent weeks, with Moscow exploiting Ukraine's critical shortage of interceptors for the U.S.-made Patriot systems — the sole air defense weapon in its arsenal able to shoot down ballistic missiles.

In the latest attacks, Ukrainian drones killed five people and injured two dozen others, including a 4-year-

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old boy, in Russia's border region of Belgorod, according to the regional administration.

In Kharkiv, Ukraine's second-largest city, Russian missiles struck a high-rise apartment block in the Saltivskiy district, killing two people and injuring 13, according to regional head Oleh Syniehubov. Eight more people were injured in Ukraine's Black Sea port of Odesa after "dozens of missiles and drones" struck the city and surrounding region, according to local administration head Oleh Kiper.

Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has for months lobbied other countries, especially the U.S., to send Ukraine more Patriot systems made scarcer by the Iran war, arguing they are crucial for defending civilians.

Failing that, Zelenskyy wants to make Patriot ammunition in Ukraine or get approval from Elon Musk to use his Starlink satellite communications system to guide strikes inside Russia that can hit its missile launchers.

Meanwhile, Kyiv has kept up long-range drone strikes against Russian energy infrastructure, as well as the country's largest online retailer, Wildberries, and other targets deep inside Russia, sparking a fuel crisis.

Russia's defense ministry on Sunday claimed its overnight strikes hit drone warehouses in the Kharkiv region, as well as fuel depots and stores of other materiel belonging to Ukraine's armed forces at the port of Odesa.

It said its forces had shot down 153 Ukrainian drones during the night, including over Russian-occupied Crimea and the Black and Azov seas.

In Russia's Belgorod region, authorities said Ukrainian drone strikes damaged 29 apartment blocks and five private houses, as well as administrative buildings and unspecified "commercial facilities."

Debris from Ukrainian drones also fell on two enterprises and a private home in the Russian city of Novorossiysk, mayor Andrey Kravchenko said on Sunday. He did not specify what the commercial sites were. Regional authorities later said falling debris had injured one person, damaged two private houses, and blew out a window in an apartment block.

A major fuel terminal is located at Novorossiysk that links Kazakhstan's oil fields to markets around the world, and which has previously been a target for Ukrainian strikes.

Moldova says blast near Ukraine border caused by drone

A "powerful explosion" believed to be from a combat drone was reported in the village of Crocmaz, in southeast Moldova near the border with Ukraine, local police said Sunday.

No one was injured by the impact, which caused a vegetation fire in the Stefan Voda district, police said, adding that "fragments of a combat drone were found at the scene" and would be examined by specialists. Police did not specify the origin of the drone.

Multiple drones have violated Moldovan airspace since Russia launched its full-scale war in neighboring Ukraine.

Bulgaria summons Ukrainian ambassador over drone incident

Bulgaria has summoned Ukraine's ambassador after a drone entered Bulgarian airspace, the country's public broadcaster BNT reported on Sunday.

The drone exploded on Saturday close to an international gas pipeline shortly after crossing the border from Romania. No casualties or damage were reported.

Bulgaria's defense ministry said the drone appeared to be the type used by Ukrainian armed forces, and that the incident was likely accidental.

Ukrainian Foreign Ministry spokesman Heorhii Tykhyi said the incident was being examined, but that it did not deliberately target Bulgaria. Ukraine and Bulgaria were in "close contact" to clarify what had happened, he added.

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Shanghai cancels at least 1,300 flights as Typhoon Dolphin hits China's eastern coast

BEIJING (AP) — Typhoon Dolphin hit China's eastern coast on Sunday evening after forcing over 300,000 people to preemptively relocate and Shanghai's two airports to cancel more than 1,300 flights. The storm brought heavy rains to northern Taiwan the day before.

In the Philippines, five people were rescued and seven remained missing after a landslide that hit three houses in the northern mountain resort city of Baguio on Sunday. The landslide was set off by days of heavy monsoon rains, which had been intensified by Dolphin, officials said.

Dolphin hit the Chinese city of Taizhou in Zhejiang province and the northern parts of neighboring Fujian province, bringing strong winds, estimated at 151 kph (93 mph) when it made landfall, and massive waves to the city's coastline. Heavy rains have created a risk of severe flooding in Zhejiang, and authorities have warned of severe landslide risks.

Shanghai's Hongqiao and Pudong airports canceled about 60% of Sunday's expected flights, according to the Paper, the city's state media.

Forecasters in China predicted that areas could see 200-400 millimeters (7.9-15.7 inches) of rainfall over the next few days.

The outer bands of the storm on Saturday hit northern Taiwan, including the capital of Taipei, bringing rain. Some Taiwanese airlines also canceled their flights to China on Sunday.

On Saturday evening, authorities in Zhejiang evacuated some 390,000 people in the city of Taizhou. Authorities in Shanghai evacuated more than 30,000 people from riskier areas.

Zhejiang authorities also suspended ferries and cruises.

Earlier in the Philippines, Dolphin helped intensify seasonal monsoon rains, which set off floods and landslides, including one that hit three houses on Sunday in Baguio.

Many areas of the main northern Luzon region, including the densely populated capital region of metropolitan Manila were flooded, displacing more than 12,000 people and forcing several northern cities and towns to shut down schools on Friday and Saturday, disaster officials said Sunday.

The monsoon rains were preceded by a tropical storm, which left at least six people dead last week, including four villagers. They died in a landslide and a rockslide in the provinces of Benguet and Rizal in Luzon, Philippine officials said.

El-Sayed spoke with Obama as Michigan Democrats look to unite after a bitter Senate primary

By WILL WEISSERT Associated Press

BRIDGEWATER, N.J. (AP) — Abdul El-Sayed, the Democratic nominee for U.S. Senate in Michigan, said Sunday he has spoken with Barack Obama and hopes the former president campaigns with him as the party tries to unite after a bitter primary that exposed deep rifts between its progressive and moderate wings.

El-Sayed said his Friday conversation with Obama was "really warm and inspiring." The candidate did not provide details.

"I was grateful for his advice. It was very warm, very inviting, and I know that he knows the critical role that Michigan is going to play," El-Sayed told NBC's "Meet the Press."

Asked if he would like to see Obama come to Michigan to drum up support for Democrats before the midterm elections in November, El-Sayed said he "really" hoped so and that Obama "knows a lot about winning Michigan" after carrying the state in the 2008 and 2012 presidential races.

An Obama spokesperson confirmed the call.

The discussion came the same day that a group of Michigan nominees and other notable national Democrats tried to present a united front at a rally in Detroit. The crowd cheered loudest for El-Sayed, a former public health official who last week narrowly beat establishment-backed U.S. Rep. Haley Stevens in a contentious and closely watched primary. A Democratic victory in the fall is crucial to the party's chances

of regaining a Senate majority.

Democratic Sen. Gary Peters is not seeking reelection in the perennial swing state, which Republican Donald Trump won in 2016 and 2024, while Democrat Joe Biden carried in 2020.

El-Sayed faces Republican Mike Rogers, a former congressman who narrowly lost the Senate race to Democrat Elissa Slotkin in 2024 and has tried to capitalize on lingering tensions within the Democratic Party.

Rogers has released a video message attempting to appeal to Democrats who feel their party may be moving too far to the left with El-Sayed. "You have a home with us," Rogers says in the video.

During an interview Sunday with CNN's "State of the Union," El-Sayed acknowledged that "we aired our differences" in the heated primary. But he said the internal divisions are "so much smaller than the similarities that we share."

"You're seeing folks come together," El-Sayed said, before adding of moderate Democrats, "We might see the world differently. But we also recognize the responsibility to come together."

Watchdog for \$46 billion tribal gambling industry can't enforce the law without a chairperson

By SAVANNAH PETERS Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — On opening day at the Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma's new Harrah's-branded casino, the tribe's chairman watched customers pack the gambling floor while a queue of cars spilled out of the parking lot.

"We couldn't let them in because we were so full," Chairman Jacob Keyes said. "That's a direct impact from the Harrah's name."

But a vacancy in Washington is preventing the tribe's partnership with the gambling giant from moving beyond branding. Plans for Harrah's parent company to take over day-to-day management of the casino in Chandler, Oklahoma, stalled after it opened in April, because no one is at the helm of the federal commission that oversees tribal gambling.

The last chairperson of the National Indian Gaming Commission stepped down from the role in January. President Donald Trump has not nominated anyone to fill the vacancy. Absent a chair, the commission is unable to perform some key responsibilities, like enforcing legal and safety violations, approving new tribal gambling laws and certifying management agreements between tribes and casino operators.

Industry leaders say the agency's inertia risks delaying business deals, weakening oversight and leaving tribes without a key advocate in Washington as they grapple with an emerging threat posed by online prediction markets.

"At this crucial time, the (National Indian Gaming Commission) is operating with one arm tied behind its back," said Jonodev Chaudhuri, a former NIGC chair from 2013 to 2019 and a citizen of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. "That's a very precarious position for tribes and Indian gaming."

There's a lot at stake for tribes that rely heavily on casino revenue to fund healthcare, housing, education and other vital services. Tribal gambling brought in a record \$46 billion in 2025, nearly triple the annual casino revenue of gambling powerhouse Nevada.

The commission's core powers are vested in its chair

With its Harrah's contract stuck in limbo, the Iowa Tribe's small government staff finds itself managing the 175,000-square-foot (16,258 square-meter) casino, a mammoth task it had intended to outsource.

"It's discouraging. We're paying a fee and not getting the full value," Keyes said.

The decision to outsource management was strategic: Harrah's branding would bring in more business than existing staff could accommodate. Instead, staff has to balance management with other priorities like preparing tribal budgets and overseeing social programs, Keyes said.

The three-member gaming commission was formed in 1988 to regulate casino-style gambling and promote economic development on tribal lands. Some 250 tribal governments across 29 states now operate 545 gambling facilities, the commission said.

Under federal law, its enforcement powers are vested solely in the chairperson. Industry leaders say

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its inability to cite casinos for violating federal law or force the emergency closure of unsafe facilities is particularly troubling.

In a typical year, the commission issues several citations to tribes for operating casinos on unauthorized lands, failing to submit required financial statements, misusing revenues and other violations. The commission's last enforcement action was issued on Jan. 12 — the same day acting chairperson Sharon Avery's term expired. She remains on the commission.

The commission declined an interview request and said in an emailed statement that tribal officials and its field staff provide "excellent regulation" amid the leadership gap. But Steven Light, an expert in tribal gambling law at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, said the lack of enforcement power could discourage investment in tribal gambling and slow business growth.

"Markets function best when there's stability and certainty around processes and rules," Light said.

Prediction markets have emerged as a new threat to tribal gaming

The commission vacancy comes as the popularity of online prediction markets like Kalshi and Polymarket explodes. Tribal leaders fear those platforms, which allow users to wager on the outcome of virtually any event, could violate their sovereignty and take a bite out of gambling revenue.

"Every dollar generated by Indian gaming goes to fund healthcare for our people, education for our children, housing for our elders," said David Bean, chairman of the Indian Gaming Association and a citizen of the Puyallup Tribe.

At least eight tribes have sued prediction market platforms, alleging they accept bets from tribal lands and in states where tribes have exclusive gambling rights in violation of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, which the gaming commission is tasked with enforcing.

Prediction markets argue their users are engaging in futures trading, not gambling, and dispute claims that they are circumventing regulation.

The commission chairperson typically serves as an advocate for the tribal gambling industry in Washington, according to former commissioners and staffers. Yet it's been conspicuously silent while the federal government weighs how to regulate prediction markets, said Joe Valandra, the commission's chief of staff from 2005 to 2007 and a citizen of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe.

James Siva, who leads the California Nations Indian Gaming Association and is vice chairman of the Morongo Band of Mission Indians, said the Trump administration's support of and business ties to the prediction markets industry could explain why it hasn't filled the vacancy.

"These things are happening in conjunction with each other," Siva said in April at a news conference with the Indian Gaming Association. "It is not a coincidence by any means."

The leadership gap spans two administrations

The commission's last Senate-confirmed chairperson termed out under former President Joe Biden without a successor in place.

A White House spokesperson called the commission a "valued board" but did not say when a new nomination will be made.

In April, Trump appointed Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Billy Kirkland, a citizen of the Navajo Nation, to the commission. That's raised questions about potential executive branch influence over an agency designed to be independent.

"This crosses that threshold in an uncomfortable way," said Shannon O'Loughlin, the commission's chief of staff from 2015 to 2017 and a citizen of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

Keyes said a crucial opportunity to develop his tribe's economy hangs in the balance. He doesn't see the commission vacancy as partisan play.

"I don't want to sound like sour grapes, but when have Native American issues ever been prioritized by the federal government?" he said.

Pakistan says new defense pact with Saudi and Turkey is 'purely defensive' and open to others

By MUNIR AHMED Associated Press

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Pakistan's foreign minister said Sunday a new defense agreement his country signed with Saudi Arabia and Turkey was not directed against any country and remained open to other nations in the region.

The landmark Mecca Joint Defense Agreement was signed on Friday by the Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif as the three countries seek to deepen security cooperation amid heightened tensions between the United States and Iran.

Pakistan's Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar said Sunday the agreement was "purely defensive in nature" and that other countries could join if they were willing to uphold its principles and resolve differences through peaceful means, adding the deal reflected a shared desire to strengthen strategic security cooperation.

His post on X came a day after Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan similarly said the agreement was not aimed at Iran or any other country.

The agreement stipulates "that any armed attack against any one of the three states shall be regarded as an attack against them all," according to statements released by the three sides. Dar said in his post the stipulation was consistent with the right of individual and collective self-defense under Article 51 of the U.N. Charter.

Pakistan, he said, would continue working with countries across the region toward lasting peace and stability.

"The Makkah Accord does not abrogate or replace any existing bilateral or multilateral agreements between these countries, or with other countries or organizations," he wrote.

His comments followed overnight public celebrations of the agreement. Landmarks in Pakistan's capital, Islamabad and Saudi cities were illuminated in the colors of the Saudi, Turkish and Pakistani flags.

The three countries bring significant but differing capabilities to the arrangement. Pakistan has extensive military experience and is the Muslim world's only nuclear-armed country; Saudi Arabia brings substantial economic resources and regional influence; and NATO member Turkey has a large military and an increasingly sophisticated domestic defense industry.

In Islamabad, defense analysts cautioned against viewing the agreement as the equivalent of NATO, despite its collective-defense provision. Abdullah Khan, an Islamabad-based defense analyst, said that although the agreement was signed during a period of heightened regional tensions, it should not be interpreted as being directed against Iran or another country.

Pakistan and Saudi Arabia have maintained close military ties for decades and signed a separate mutual-defense agreement in September 2025. Pakistan and Turkey also have expanded military and defense-industrial cooperation in recent years.

No Ebola cases found on quarantined river boat, Congo authorities say

By JEAN-YVES KAMALE Associated Press

KINSHASA, Congo (AP) — No cases of Ebola have been detected among passengers on a river boat that was placed in quarantine near Kinshasa, health authorities have said.

The confirmation announced on Saturday eased concerns that the rare Bundibugyo virus might spread to the Congolese capital.

More than 200 boat passengers were placed in quarantine on Thursday in the port of Maluku, 65 kilometers (40 miles) from Kinshasa, after one traveler who was previously aboard the boat died with symptoms matching the Ebola virus.

Specialist teams from the Ministry of Health were deployed to Maluku to examine all of those on board.

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Those exhibiting suspicious symptoms had samples taken and sent to a laboratory for analysis, the ministry said on Saturday, adding that the vessel was also decontaminated.

The National Institute of Biomedical Research, which is responsible for testing, said that all suspected cases tested negative for Bundibugyo. It urged the population of Kinshasa to remain calm.

Congo has been battling an Ebola outbreak that has been deemed the fastest in history in terms of transmission, with confirmed cases since it started in May reaching 4,200, including over 1,900 deaths.

The river boat passenger had become sick and disembarked nearly three weeks ago in Pimu, in the province of Mongala, more than 1,000 kilometers from Kinshasa along the Congo River, Africa CDC Director-General Jean Kaseya said on Thursday. The capital has no confirmed Ebola case, he added.

News of the passenger's death caused panic in Kinshasa, which is far from the eastern region hit by the outbreak, the second-largest outbreak on record, behind the 2014-2016 West Africa outbreak that recorded more than 28,000 cases, including over 11,000 deaths.

Ebola is highly contagious and spreads through contact with bodily fluids such as vomit, blood or semen, and with contaminated surfaces and materials such as bedding and clothing.

Health authorities say between 60% and 70% of new cases in the current outbreak are recorded outside of contacts being monitored, and that the outbreak is spreading at an "alarming" rate faster than efforts to track it.

The medical charity Doctors Without Borders said this week that the outbreak is still "spreading at an alarming and unprecedented rate" and that the response, which has been expanding, "is still not reaching communities quickly enough to break transmission chains."

Many immigrants face deportation without a lawyer at their side in court. This program tries to help

By REBECCA SANTANA Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — Lawyer Kamalpreet Chohan ran her finger down a list of 57 names of people scheduled to appear during a morning of hearings at the immigration court in California's capital and pointed out one glaring absence.

"None of these folks are represented," she said.

Chohan is the coordinator of a program that sends volunteer lawyers to immigration courts to assist people without representation and help them navigate the complicated legal system where the stakes are a future in America or deportation.

Appearing without a lawyer opens up even greater risk under the second Trump administration, with the courts playing a key role in its mass deportation agenda. Courts are increasingly denying asylum, deportation officers have arrested immigrants in court hallways, the administration has packed courtrooms to cut backlogs and reduced lead time on hearings, prompting people to miss them.

Data shows that legal representation can be vital to winning in court but many immigrants, unable to pay for a private lawyer or find a pro bono one, navigate the system without an attorney at their side.

"Folks go into immigration court not knowing what's happening. They come out not knowing what's happening. And when there's an attorney present," Chohan said, "it's just so helpful."

Immigrants aren't provided an attorney but legal help makes a difference

Unlike criminal court, there is no guaranteed lawyer in immigration courts.

Immigrants have to hire one at a cost of thousands of dollars or hope to get represented by one of the nonprofit organizations assisting low-income immigrants. But waitlists with those organizations are long, and many parts of the country just do not have that many immigration attorneys.

Of the roughly 3.2 million pending deportation cases currently in U.S. immigration courts, people in 52% of those cases do not have a lawyer, according to an analysis of immigration court data by the Vera Institute of Justice, a think tank.

A Congressional Research Service study from 2024 found that only 19% of people who did not have a lawyer won asylum or another avenue to stay in the United States. Among those who did have a lawyer,

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47% were successful.

"Having an attorney is just super critical to be able to navigate the system successfully," said Adriel Orozco of the advocacy group American Immigration Council.

Chohan said she frequently runs into people who have been scammed by lawyers or people posing as lawyers who take their money but do nothing for their case.

"I will give him a list of attorneys who are free and we have vetted," she told one man who said he was scammed. "They have long waitlists but he should still ask."

Speaking later to The Associated Press, the man described how he left Guatemala after being threatened by gangs and came to the U.S. in 2024 seeking asylum. Ever since, he said he has done everything that has been asked of him while he tries to make ends meet, occasionally painting houses. He spent \$4,500 on a lawyer who in the end did nothing to help him, he said.

"He turned out to be a scammer," said the man, who did not want to be identified for fear of endangering his case. He is worried about what comes next in court after being warned by the judge that he could be deported. "I don't know what I'm going to do," he said.

A nonstop day of consulting with clients, shuttling back and forth into court

Outside the Sacramento building where the court is housed is a long line of immigrants waiting for appointments with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, which is in the same building. Volunteers with a local anti-ICE resistance group stand ready to help.

Upstairs, two immigration judges are on the bench. One hears the in-depth individual cases of immigrants who are pursuing their claim of asylum.

The other judge has the master calendar docket, where dozens of immigrants will appear in brief hearings geared at making sure their case is ready to go to the next step.

Signs taped to the wall remind people not to videotape or record inside the court complex. A security guard makes sure no one loiters in the hallways. Most people clutch stacks of papers documenting their cases.

After immigrants file into the courtroom for their hearings, Judge Susan Phan introduces Chohan and describes the services her organization offers.

"You are not required to meet with her but it is a rare opportunity that we have someone volunteering their time," Phan said before launching into the day's work.

The need for a detailed asylum application

Chohan, who works with the California Immigration Project, starts each hearing in the courtroom. She has a clipboard to take notes, extra copies of forms and a crate of books for restless children attending court with their parents. She spends the bulk of her time in the waiting room, talking to immigrants after their hearings and scanning their documents to flesh out what else they need.

Speaking to one young man from Mexico, she asks to see his asylum application, noting that the judge had pointed out that it was not that detailed.

"Sometimes judges can deny a claim if there isn't enough detail," she said through one of the organization's volunteer translators.

The organization frequently has clinics to help immigrants fill out their asylum application. Chohan said she will alert him to the next one.

Another woman holding a stack of documents is there with her son and wanted to make sure her children could come with her if she is deported. Chohan also briefed her on what to expect at her upcoming asylum hearing and said the organization will send her an asylum filing guide.

Chohan highlighted places on forms where people need to give answers or answer in more detail. It's OK to write "none" but she advises them to not leave boxes blank.

Everything submitted in Spanish must be accompanied by a translation into English that must be done by a person, not an automatic online translator. Copies of every single page of a passport must be submitted. Documents must be sent in two weeks before the applicant's hearing so the judge can review them.

Over and over, Chohan reminds immigrants to download their receipt showing they paid the \$102 asylum application fee so they can submit it to the court.

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Chohan said a lot of these procedures and forms are discussed in court but it is happening so fast and immigrants are listening through a translator that they do not always understand what is happening.

"A lot of times when they go into court, they're just happy that they're out of court and they're not being arrested," she said.

A changing immigration court system

Chohan has witnessed the upheaval in the immigration courts during Republican President Donald Trump's second term.

She was in the court hallways last summer when ICE officers waited to arrest immigrants after their hearings. Earlier this summer she watched as the administration started holding "mega masters," hearings with dozens of respondents at a time that are meant to clear a backlog but have created chaos.

Chohan said there are not enough pro bono lawyers in the Sacramento area to help everyone who needs one so the "Attorney of the Day" program is often the next best thing. She believes everyone should have access to a lawyer.

Until that day, she said, the program "helps bridge that gap."

Today in History: August 10, derecho rakes the US Midwest

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Monday, Aug. 10, the 222nd day of 2026. There are 143 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On Aug. 10, 2020, a powerful derecho struck several Midwest U.S. states, causing four fatalities and an estimated \$11 billion in damage, making it the costliest thunderstorm in modern U.S. history.

Also on this date:

In 1792, during the French Revolution, mobs in Paris attacked the Tuileries (TWEE'-luh-reez) Palace, where King Louis XVI resided. (The king was later arrested, put on trial for treason, and executed.)

In 1821, Missouri became the 24th state admitted to the Union.

In 1945, a day after the atomic bombing of Nagasaki, Imperial Japan conveyed its willingness to surrender provided the status of Emperor Hirohito remained unchanged. (The Allies responded the next day, saying they would determine the Emperor's future status.)

In 1969, Leno and Rosemary LaBianca were murdered in their Los Angeles home by members of Charles Manson's cult, one day after actor Sharon Tate and four other people were killed.

In 1977, postal employee David Berkowitz was arrested in Yonkers, New York, accused of being "Son of Sam," the gunman who killed six people and wounded seven others in the New York City area. (Berkowitz pleaded guilty to second-degree murder charges and was sentenced to six consecutive life terms in prison.)

In 1988, President Ronald Reagan signed a measure providing \$20,000 payments to still-living Japanese-Americans who were interned by the U.S. government during World War II.

In 1993, Ruth Bader Ginsburg was sworn in as the second female justice on the U.S. Supreme Court, serving until her death in September 2020.

In 2006, British authorities announced they had thwarted a plot to simultaneously blow up 10 aircraft heading to the U.S. using liquid explosives made to look like soft drinks.

In 2018, Richard Russell, a 29-year-old airline ground agent, stole a commercial plane from Sea-Tac International Airport near Seattle; he flew for 75 minutes, performing dangerous stunts while being chased by military jets before crashing into a remote island in Puget Sound, killing himself.

In 2019, Jeffrey Epstein, accused of orchestrating a sex-trafficking ring and sexually abusing dozens of underage girls, was found unresponsive in his New York City jail cell and later pronounced dead at a hospital. (The city's medical examiner ruled the death a suicide.)

Today's Birthdays: Actor James Reynolds is 80. Rock singer-musician Ian Anderson (Jethro Tull) is 79. Country musician Gene Johnson (Diamond Rio) is 77. Singer Patti Austin is 76. Actor Daniel Hugh Kelly is 74. Folk singer-songwriter Sam Baker is 72. Actor Rosanna Arquette is 67. Actor Antonio Banderas is 66. Rock musician Jon Farriss (INXS) is 65. Singer Julia Fordham is 64. Actor Chris Caldovino is 63. Singer Neneh

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Cherry is 62. Singer Aaron Hall is 62. Former boxer Riddick Bowe is 59. Actor Sean Blakemore is 59. R&B singer Lorraine Pearson (Five Star) is 59. Singer-producer Michael Bivins is 58. Actor-writer Justin Theroux is 55. Actor Angie Harmon is 54. Country singer Jennifer Hanson is 53. Actor JoAnna Garcia Swisher is 47. Singer Cary Ann Hearst (Shovels & Rope) is 47. Actor Aaron Staton is 46. Actor Ryan Eggold is 42. Actor Lucas Till is 36. Reality TV star Kylie Jenner is 29. Actor Jeremy Maguire is 15.