

Groton Daily Independent

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Community Calendar

Monday, Aug. 17

Senior Menu: Chef salad with deli ham, tomatoes and cucumbers, fruited Jell-o, fruit.

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

Groton Area Staff Development Day

Boys Golf at Sioux Valley Invitational, 10 a.m.

Back-to-School Open House, 4-6 p.m.

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

Tuesday, Aug. 18

Senior Menu: Sloppy joe on a bun, baked potato, baked beans, fruit.

St. John's Lutheran: Quilting, 9 a.m.

United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.

Groton Area Staff Development Day

Girls Soccer at Lennox, 4 p.m.

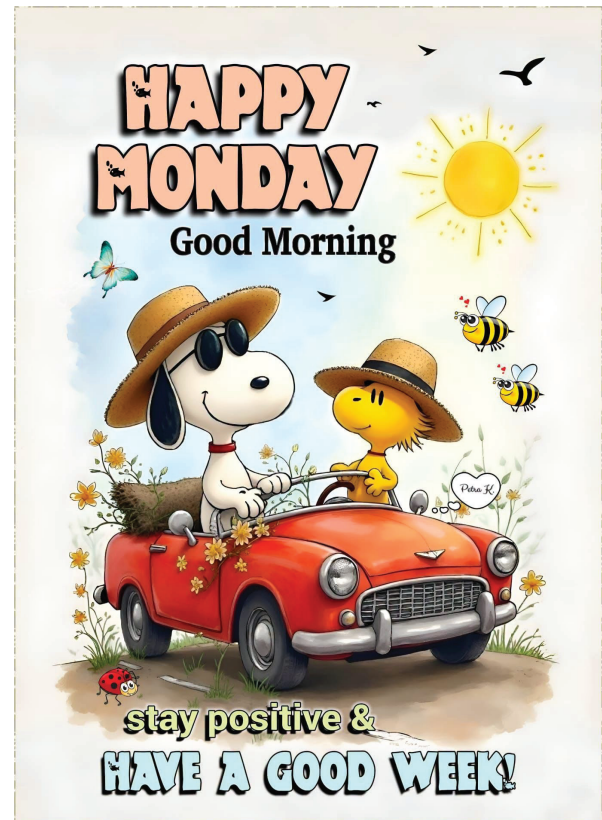
Special School Board Meeting, 6 p.m.

City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.

Groton Daily Independent

PO Box 34, Groton SD 57445

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



Wednesday, Aug. 19

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

Senior Menu: Chicken alfredo, tossed salad, broccoli, fruit, breadstick.

United Methodist: Community Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.; Nominations Committee Meeting, 6 p.m.; Groton Ad Council, 7 p.m.

Thursday, Aug. 20

Senior Menu: BBQ pulled pork with Mac n cheese, cucumber salad, fruit, whole wheat bread.

Emmanuel Lutheran: WELCA "Do Day", 1:30 p.m.

Friday, Aug. 21

Senior Menu: Hot turkey combo, mashed potatoes with gravy, carrots, fruit, whole wheat bread.

Soccer at Belle Fourche (Girls at 5 p.m., boys at 7 p.m. MT)

Football at Miller/Highmore-Harrold, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Aug. 22

Soccer at St. Thomas More/Rapid City Christian (girls at 11 a.m., boys at 1 p.m. MT)

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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.

USS Abraham Lincoln

Centcom Commander Adm. Brad Cooper visited the USS Abraham Lincoln on Saturday in light of allegations of poor conditions on the ship. Cooper praised US service members for their role in the war and claimed the Lincoln had among the lowest numbers of mental health cases among US aircraft carriers.

The ship is beginning to return home after a record 250 consecutive days without making land. In recent days, reports have emerged of rotten food, plumbing backups, and moldy showers. There have also been reports of mental health crises. Senate Democrats have begun investigating the physical and mental state of crew members as a US official confirmed one service member went overboard the ship weeks ago but was rescued.

The Lincoln's 5,000 sailors and Marines had expected to end their Middle East deployment in May but were extended due to the war in Iran. The carrier is responsible for more than 10,000 attacks and will be replaced by the USS George Washington.

Record Indiana Flooding

Severe storms and flooding across Indiana Saturday have caused at least seven deaths as of this writing. President Donald Trump issued an emergency declaration to provide resources and aid relief.

Portions of southeast Indiana are underwater due to the White River rising to record-breaking levels. The river crested at nearly 25 feet Saturday, surpassing the previous record set in 1913 by over a foot. Rainfall exceeding 11 inches drenched parts of Indiana east of Indianapolis over two days last week, sending water rushing into the White River and its tributaries. About 300,000 people across the state experienced power outages. Warnings remain in effect, but floodwaters are expected to recede in some areas.

Separately, a tropical storm that began as Hurricane Lala brought strong winds and rain to multiple Hawaiian islands Saturday. Roughly 70% of the Big Island lost electricity, and at least one person died in a storm-related car accident.

👉 **Humankind:** Musician releases debut album with the help of a horse who strums guitar and harp strings.

Cambridge Professor Dies

Former University of Cambridge sociology professor Jason Arday was found dead Friday, marking a tragic end to one of the UK's highest-profile academic scandals in recent years. His death follows mounting questions about accusations that he copied others' work and exaggerated his personal accomplishments.

Named the youngest Black professor in Cambridge history in 2023 at age 37, Arday described having been nonverbal until age 11 and unable to fully read or write until age 18. A rising star, he attracted increased attention led to questions about his academic work, including allegations that he had plagiarized parts of his PhD and subsequent research. He also faced questions about claims ranging from completing 30 marathons in 35 days to having suffered "locked-in" syndrome during a monthslong coma. He resigned Aug. 5 without fully denying or admitting wrongdoing, citing the intense media scrutiny.

Some observers argued that both the intensity of media coverage and Cambridge's failure to do due diligence were in part racially motivated.

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Sports, Entertainment, & Culture

Former MLB pitcher Tommy John, a four-time All-Star nicknamed "the Bionic Man," dies at age 83; he is the namesake of a then-revolutionary elbow surgery.

St. Louis Cardinals outfielder Joshua B  ez becomes first MLB player to hit three home runs in each of his first three at-bats.

American swimmer Kate Douglass breaks the world record in the 50-meter freestyle twice in one day at the Pan Pacific Championships.

"Avengers: Domsday" trailer teases Robert Downey Jr.'s return to Marvel Cinematic Universe ahead of film's Dec. 18 release.

Science & Technology

Anthropic reveals details of proposed AI watermark; says it will help determine likelihood of Claude being used for text generation and be indistinguishable to human readers.

US health officials inspect Taylor Farms central processing plant in Mexico as part of cyclosporiasis investigation; outbreak, linked to iceberg lettuce, linked to nearly 9,500 cases and two deaths.

Blocking an enzyme involved in lung inflammation cuts the risk of developing tumors in mice; lung cancer kills more than 100,000 Americans per year.

Business & Markets

US stock markets close down Friday (S&P 500 -0.2%, Dow -0.2%, Nasdaq -0.3%); slip comes a day after the S&P 500 crossed 7,800 for the first time.

Ice cream maker Rebel Creamery files for bankruptcy after losing \$24M lawsuit against rival Van Leeuwen for imitating its product packaging.

Jane Street, a prominent quantitative trading firm, loses \$15B in July following the meltdown at AI hedge fund Situational Awareness.

Inside the implosion of the \$45B fund, led by 24-year-old Leopold Aschenbrenner.

Politics & World Affairs

Four 15th-century paintings attributed to Renaissance artist Antonello da Messina are stolen from a museum in Sicily during the country's Ferragosto national holiday (More, w/photo) | Ferragosto, explained.

Police arrest a 19-year-old man for a shooting at Virginia State University that left five people wounded; the attacker was not a student at the university, no motive was publicly identified as of this writing.

Ukraine launches one of its largest aerial attacks yet against Russia, with hundreds of drones reportedly killing at least six people.

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Highway Patrol Sturgis Rally Daily Information

Compiled from 6 a.m. Saturday, August 8, 2026, to 6 a.m. Saturday, August 15, 2026

Item	Sturgis	Rapid City District	District Total	Last Year to Date
DUI Arrests	76	29	105	112
Misd Drug Arrests	160	37	197	238
Felony Drug Arrests	81	19	100	94
Custodial Arrests	152	62	214	N/A
Total Citations	792	764	1,556	1,361
Total Warnings	2,642	1,560	4,202	4,367
Cash Seized	\$6,116.00	\$0.00	\$6,116.00	\$0.00
Vehicles Seized	0	0	0	1
For Drug Poss.	0	0	0	1
For Serial No.	0	0	0	0
Non-Injury Accidents	15	12	27	27
Injury Accidents	15	23	38	63
Fatal Accidents	1	2	3	4
# of Fatalities	1	2	3	4

Fatal Crashes:

None

Injury Crashes:

At 6:41 a.m. Saturday, Interstate 90, mile marker 75: A 2018 Harley-Davidson motorcycle trike, operated by a 69-year-old male, was driving eastbound on I-90 near mile marker 75 in the rain. The driver lost control and struck a cable guard rail. The driver became separated from the motorcycle. He was wearing a helmet and sustained serious non-life-threatening injuries. He was transported to Monument Health of Rapid City.

All information released so far is only preliminary.

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

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Football season is officially back! The Minnesota Vikings defeated the New York Giants 13-10, a strong start to their preseason and hopefully a harbinger of things to come in 2026. Was it a meaningless game? Yep. Did I still watch every second of it? Yep.

Last week, Vikings head coach Kevin O'Connell officially named Kyler Murray the starting quarterback for 2026, ending months of speculation and daily practice recaps of each QB's performances. Some people think it was never a true competition to begin with, but I disagree. I think the Vikings were hoping J.J. McCarthy would rise to the occasion, grab the starting role, and never look back. Heck, even if things had been close,

the Vikings likely would have gone with the younger player with more upside. Unfortunately for McCarthy, Murray was clearly the better QB. And after watching the first preseason game, it's fair to wonder if McCarthy becomes the team's QB2. Carson Wentz is still on the roster, and after playing well last season, he continued that strong play Saturday – and even got an extended run because Max Brosmer was injured (it didn't look too serious).

Before we get into the game recap, I have to point out the bad news. Jamal Adams, signed to provide depth at both linebacker and safety, went down with a non-contact injury and had to be carted into the locker room. As of this moment, there isn't an official diagnosis, but by the sounds of it, he's likely out for the season. It's a tough injury for a player who, by all accounts, was having a great training camp.

Now, on to the recap.

The Vikings have been talking about a revamped rushing attack, and it was on full display Saturday. Aaron Jones Sr and Jordan Mason both had three carries, combining for 44 yards (7.3 yards per carry). Demond Claiborne had 12 carries (more than every other RB combined) and was close to popping some big runs. He's likely locked up that RB3 spot, and his speed will be a great complement to the starting duo of Jones and Mason.

The Vikings have an embarrassment of riches at the WR position. I know I've said that before, but seeing the depth in an actual game reinforced my opinion. The top five spots are pretty much locked up at this point (Justin Jefferson, Jordan Addison, Jauan Jennings, Tai Felton, and Myles Price). The Vikings only kept five WRs on the opening day roster last season, but in 2023 and 2024 they had six. I think the Vikings were hoping to sneak undrafted rookie Dillon Bell onto the practice squad, but he played well on Saturday and even had two runs for 27 yards. I think he makes the 53-man roster.

Coming as a shock to absolutely nobody, Brian Flores' defense brought the heat all game. Free agent signee James Pierre led the team in tackles. Four Vikings had sacks, highlighted by Jay Ward doing his best Harrison Smith impression by blitzing off the edge and destroying Giants' QB Jaxson Dart (who briefly left the field and was checked for a concussion). The Vikings' defense was practically living in the backfield all day, evidenced by the fact that eight different players had a tackle for a loss. It's going to be a long day for opposing offenses.

Player of the game

This week's player of the game was Myles Price. Undrafted in 2025, Price made the roster as the team's kick return specialist, but he only played 17 snaps on offense. This year he's out to change that. After performing well in training camp, Price led the team in catches and receiving yards against the Giants. He also made the play of the game, snagging a one-handed touchdown catch for the Vikings' only TD of the game.

Looking ahead, the Vikings will host the Baltimore Ravens this week for joint practices before the two teams face off for their second preseason game. The game will be on Saturday, August 22. Kickoff is at noon.

Anatomical Variations: Inherent Challenges in Comprehending Cancer

Human anatomy is fascinatingly and frustratingly complex. In each body, 600 muscles, 206 bones, and 360 joints provide structural stability and movement; two lungs circulate air through 1,500 miles of airways to 480,000,000 alveoli with every breath; one heart circulates 5-6 liters of blood through 60,000 miles of vessels every 30 seconds; 600 lymph nodes activate the immune system and filter foreign invaders (e.g., bacteria, viruses), cellular debris, and cancer cells coursing through 100,000 miles of lymphatic vessels; and the list continues.

As human anatomy applies to clinical medicine, some concepts are fundamentally more conceivable than others. For example, if an individual breaks a bone, they can often logically identify the etiology, understand the inhibited function, and realize the immediate need for urgent care. A radiologist would then localize and visualize the fracture, and an orthopedic surgeon would reduce and fix the bone. Cancer, however, is generally more arduous to conceptualize.

Cancer develops from a single cell, and comprehending the size of one cell is inherently challenging. There are around 30,000,000,000,000 (30 trillion) cells that compose each human body, and the average cell diameter is about 5 micrometers. For reference, the smallest object an unaided human eye can identify is approximately 100 micrometers (0.1 millimeters, or comparatively about one-tenth the thickness of a standard office staple), so it would take about 8,000 average-size cells arranged in a 20x20x20 cluster to be perceived by the naked eye as a minimally visible "speck."

A single cell becomes cancerous when it acquires a mutation in its genetic code that causes it to grow and divide uncontrollably, ultimately creating many copies of its dysfunctional self. The microscopic scale at which this initially occurs makes it highly implausible to notice, and this is why signs and symptoms of cancer do not present until replication has created enough cellular mass to manifest physical or functional effects. To complicate matters further, while cancer can develop essentially anywhere in the body, cancer cells can relocate (metastasize) throughout the body via the extensive vascular, respiratory, and lymphatic pathways.

Thorough surface examinations (e.g., skin observation, breast/testicle self-exams, digital rectal exam, colonoscopy) are important routine screening procedures, and specialized imaging techniques (e.g., CT, MRI, PET, US) can confirm the presence and location of suspicious lesions (abnormal tissues). A biopsy of an alleged cancer tissue is normally collected to allow a pathologist to observe the associated cells, much like how a radiologist views bones in radiographs. A histologist slices the tissue thinly (~5 micrometers thick) and applies pigmented stains so each cell in the plane can be easily examined. A pathologist then inspects the tissue using a microscope to determine if cancer cells are present and what characteristics they exhibit.

Based on the diagnostic findings, an oncologist can establish the best treatment plan with the patient. Unfortunately, as cancer originates as part of the body's tissues, treatment via surgical resection, chemotherapy, or radiation often also destroys healthy tissue as it is difficult to confidently target all and only the microscopic cancerous cells.



By Ethan L. Snow, PhD, MA

Ethan L. Snow, PhD, MA is a Clinical Anatomist and Associate Professor at South Dakota State University in Brookings, South Dakota. Dr. Snow leads the Snow Lab Research Team – a collaborative and interdisciplinary team of undergraduate students, professional students, faculty, and clinicians who analyze rare and unique clinical cases involving anatomical variations. Follow The Prairie Doc® at www.prairiedoc.org, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and TikTok. 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).

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Hay bales started on fire three miles north and about two miles east of Groton Sunday evening. The Groton and Bath Fire Departments responded to the fire and are pictured below refilling with water at a fire hydrant at Groton Ford. (Photos by Paul Kosel)



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EARTHTALK

Dear EarthTalk: How is Bulgaria moving away from coal and toward cleaner energy, and what challenges are standing in the way?
—Ivan Dimitrov, Mount Prospect, IL

For decades, Bulgaria's domestic energy landscape has been anchored by its nuclear capabilities and vast lignite coal reserves, particularly at the Maritsa East complex—one of the largest open-pit coal operations in Europe. However, escalating costs for European Union greenhouse gas emission certificates and shifting geopolitical dynamics have forced a

structural reevaluation. The country is moving away from traditional state-guaranteed feed-in tariffs toward a highly competitive, subsidy-free merchant market.

However, the primary bottleneck to Eastern Europe's green transition is no longer a lack of investment capital, but rather insufficient grid absorption capacity and regulatory red tape. Bulgaria's aging electricity network was not designed to handle large amounts of variable solar and wind power. To prevent speculative developers from hoarding grid capacity without building projects, Bulgaria introduced reforms to its Renewable Energy Sources Act. These changes mandate a financial guarantee of roughly €25,500 per MW for new grid applications and establish fast-track, 12-month administrative pipelines for priority wind and solar infrastructure.

Simultaneously, the integration of Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) has emerged as a critical technical defense against grid instability. Supported by the EU's National Recovery and Resilience Plan (NRRP), the country is working to commission over 1,000 MW of co-located storage alongside 2,660 MW of new renewable capacity. In an energy security briefing for the Center for the Study of Democracy, analyst Martin Vladimirov emphasized that the grid requires storage assets to prevent midday congestion. These utility-scale batteries are designed to capture excess midday solar generation and discharge it during peak evening hours, mitigating grid congestion that stifles regional energy trading.

Transitioning to a clean energy economy also carries socioeconomic risks. The Maritsa East mining region supports thousands of livelihoods. To prevent economic marginalization, the Bulgarian Ministry of Energy is utilizing the European Investment Bank's (EIB) Just Transition Mechanism. This strategic framework focuses on land reclamation, economic diversification, and retraining programs to pivot skilled coal miners toward positions in green hydrogen development, grid digitalization, and sustainable manufacturing. The challenge reflects a dilemma across Eastern Europe: countries must cut carbon emissions without sacrificing reliable electricity, affordable energy or the economic security of communities that have depended on coal for generations.

Everyday people can advance progress by encouraging local authorities to establish regulatory frameworks for rooftop solar cooperatives, allowing neighborhoods to generate and share power locally. Citizens can collaborate with technical universities and trade schools to support curricula for green energy infrastructure jobs. Ultimately, Bulgaria's experience shows that replacing coal is not a matter of installing more solar panels and wind turbines. The harder task is modernizing the grid, adding storage and ensuring that workers and communities tied to the old energy economy have a meaningful place in the new one.



Bulgaria is struggling to move away from coal and toward renewables. Credit: Pexels.



SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

Thune says year-round higher ethanol blend will require compromising with small oil refiners

BY JOSHUA HAIAR

SIOUX FALLS — The year-round sale of higher ethanol-blended gasoline, called E15, does not have enough votes in the U.S. Senate unless it comes with compromises for small oil refineries, said Majority Leader John Thune, R-South Dakota.

Ethanol is a gasoline additive made primarily from corn, and a lower E10 blend is already available year-round. Supporters of year-round E15 availability say it would strengthen the farm economy and make the country more energy independent. Without a law authorizing year-round E15, summertime sales require a federal waiver.

Opponents point to research showing emissions from higher ethanol blends could worsen summer smog — although the biofuels industry disputes that — while encouraging the conversion of grasslands for corn farming. Some lawmakers from oil-producing and refining states also oppose the expansion.

The U.S. House approved a bill in May authorizing year-round E15 sales, and year-round E15 language is in the Senate version of the farm bill under consideration by that chamber's Ag Committee.

Walter Wendland, president of the South Dakota Ethanol Producers Association, asked Thune during Wednesday's Midwest Agricultural Export Summit in Sioux Falls whether Congress could approve year-round E15 without making concessions to small oil refiners regarding the exemptions they receive from the Renewable Fuel Standard.

"Probably not," Thune said.

Thune said E15 supporters need senators on board from states with small oil refiners. He listed Montana, Wyoming, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Tennessee lawmakers as those who might be inclined to support E15, but won't without addressing small refineries' concerns.

"At some point, we've got to get this done," Thune said. "And I think at some point it becomes a decision of what can you get the votes to do."

The dispute centers on the Renewable Fuel Standard, overseen by the Environmental Protection Agency. It requires oil refiners to blend a minimum amount of renewable fuels, such as ethanol, into their fuel



From left, moderator Kimberly Reed, former president and chair of the Export-Import Bank of the United States, asks questions of U.S. Rep. Dusty Johnson, R-South Dakota, and U.S. Senate Majority Leader John Thune, R-South Dakota, at the Midwest Agricultural Export Summit in Sioux Falls on August 12, 2026. (Photo

by Joshua Haiar/South Dakota Searchlight)

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supply, or pay for compliance credits.

Refineries processing 75,000 or fewer barrels per day can obtain a small refinery exemption if they can show that complying with the standard would cause them "disproportionate economic hardship."

Whether the Renewable Fuel Standard is actually met depends partly on whether larger refiners make up for the exemptions granted to small refiners.

Current law allows no automatic exemptions. Small refiners must prove a hardship and can receive full or half exemptions.

The House bill would allow small refiners to receive automatic 75% exemptions, but the bill would require companies to aggregate their facilities rather than applying exemptions to individual plants. Seventeen of the 33 facilities that applied last year would be ineligible under that scenario. The House bill would not require exempted amounts to be reallocated to other refiners.

The Senate version would grant automatic full exemptions to small refiners without changing rules regarding aggregate versus individual facilities. The Senate version would require some reallocation of exempted amounts to other refiners.

Thune told the Sioux Falls audience that, "try as we did on the House-passed version of it, we weren't going to get there, and it was the small refineries issue." The Senate bill is a work in progress.

Sioux Falls-based POET ethanol's Senior Vice President of Corporate Affairs Joshua Shields said year-round E15 would be a positive development for biofuels, regardless of the changes to small refinery exemptions.

"This is about expanding market access for homegrown biofuels," he said in a statement. "When motorists are given the freedom to fuel with E15, a cleaner, more affordable option, that relies less on volatile petroleum spikes, we are confident that's what they will choose."

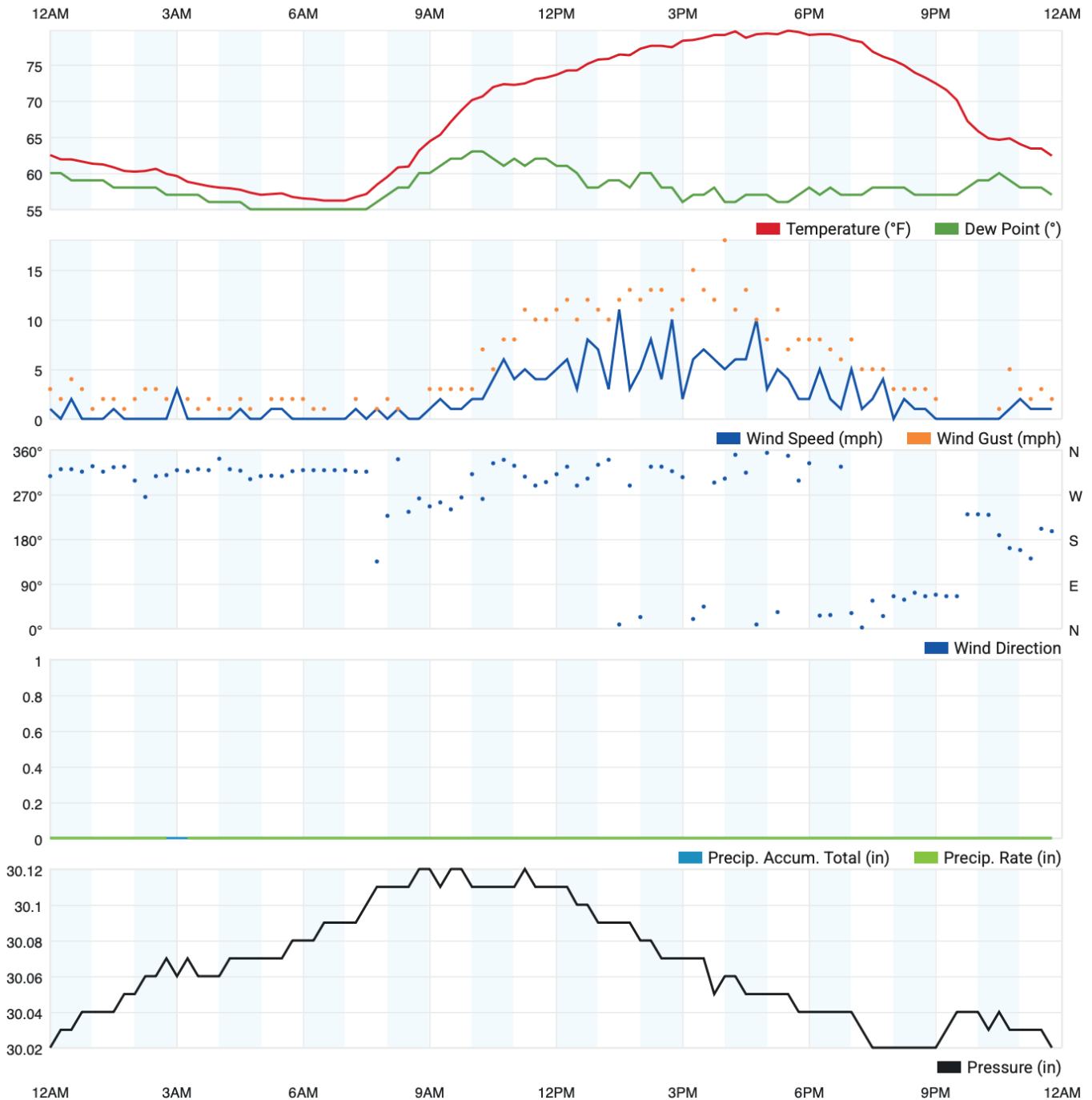
Joshua Haiar is a reporter based in Sioux Falls. Born and raised in Mitchell, he joined the Navy as a public affairs specialist after high school and then earned a degree from the University of South Dakota. Prior to joining South Dakota Searchlight, Joshua worked as a multimedia specialist and journalist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

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs

August 16, 2026



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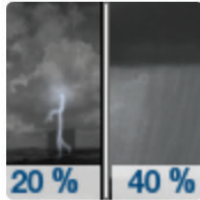
Today



High: 84 °F

Slight Chance
T-storms

Tonight



Low: 58 °F

Slight Chance
T-storms then
Chance
Showers and
Patchy Fog

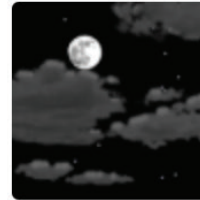
Tuesday



High: 79 °F

Chance
Showers and
Patchy Fog

Tuesday Night



Low: 53 °F

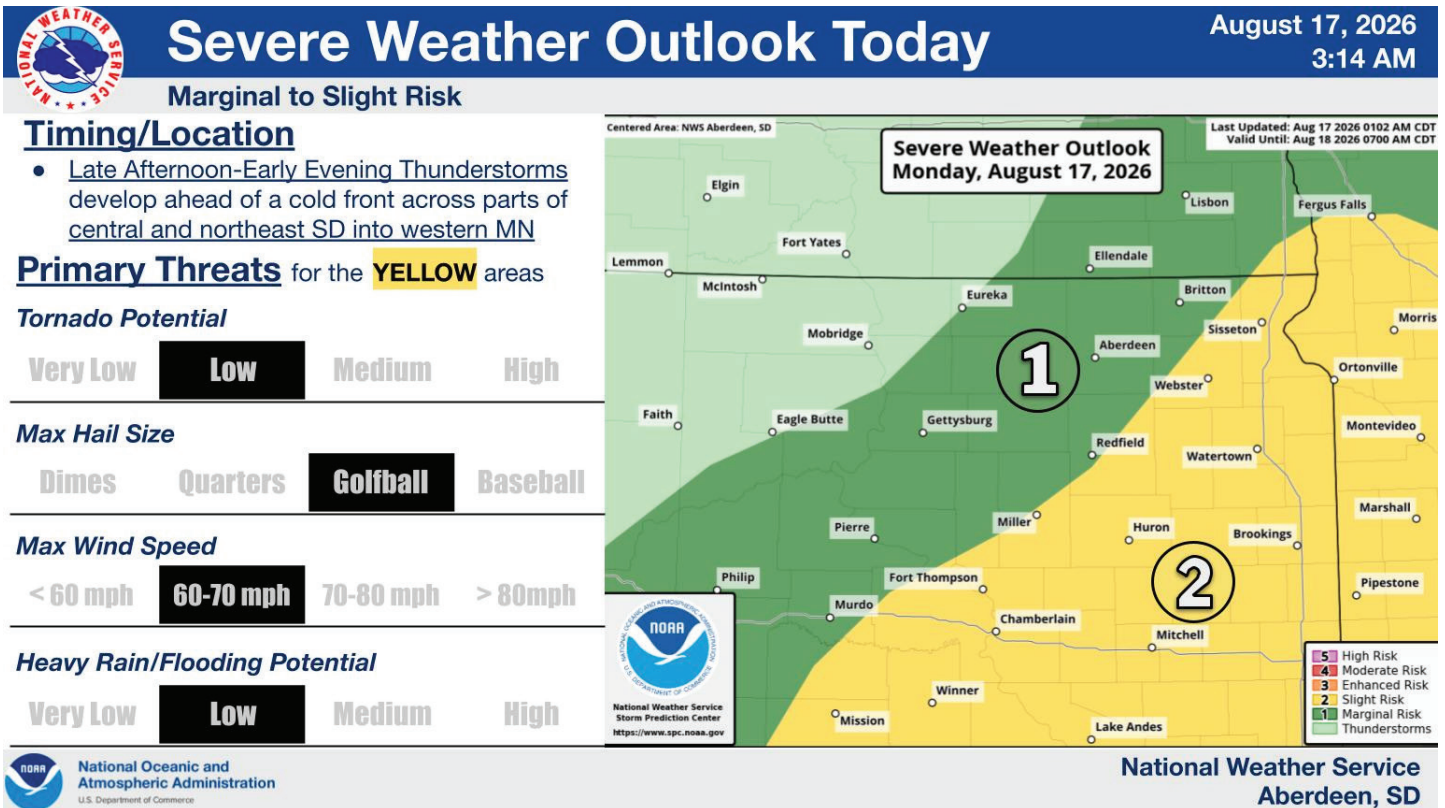
Partly Cloudy

Wednesday



High: 79 °F

Mostly Sunny
then Slight
Chance
T-storms



A low pressure system along with its associated frontal boundaries will track across the region today and lead the development of thunderstorms this afternoon into this evening. A Marginal Risk (level 1 of 5) to a Slight Risk (level 2 of 5) has been issued for this afternoon and tonight. Best probabilities for seeing the most active weather will be found within the Slight Risk area where large hail up to 2 inches in diameter and damaging winds of 60-70 mph will be possible.

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THREAT ASSESSMENT

HIGHEST LOCAL RISK

1

WHAT THIS MEANS:
Isolated Severe Storms
Possible

Late Afternoon & Evening
across south-central South
Dakota

PRIMARY THREATS



DAMAGING
WIND
GUSTS
of 60 mph



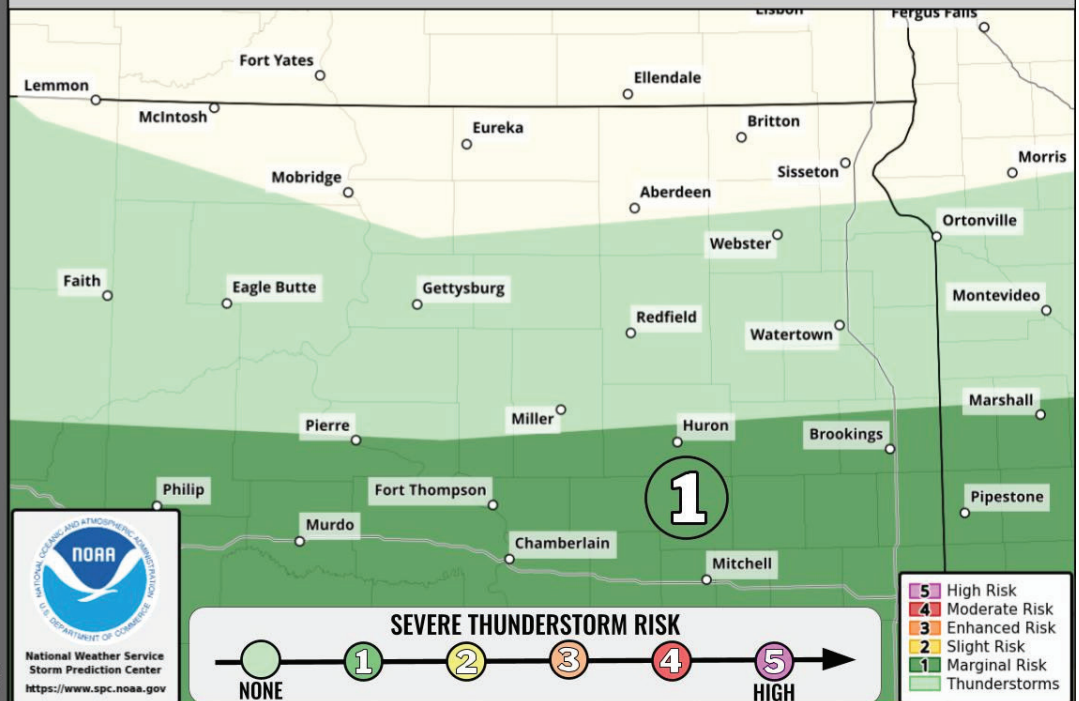
LARGE
HAIL of 1"
in diameter

NWS
Aberdeen, SD



<https://www.spc.noaa.gov>

Marginal Risk For Severe Storms Tuesday



On Tuesday, the risk for severe weather will shift south and primarily affect areas of southern South Dakota. A Marginal Risk (level 1 of 5) has been posted for portions of south central SD in our forecast area. Large hail up to 1 inch in diameter and damaging winds up to 60 mph will be possible with any of the strongest storms.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 80 °F at 5:28 PM

Low Temp: 56 °F at 6:49 AM

Wind: 18 mph at 3:58 PM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 104 in 1976

Record Low: 39 in 2012

Average High: 83

Average Low: 57

Average Precip in Aug.: 1.22

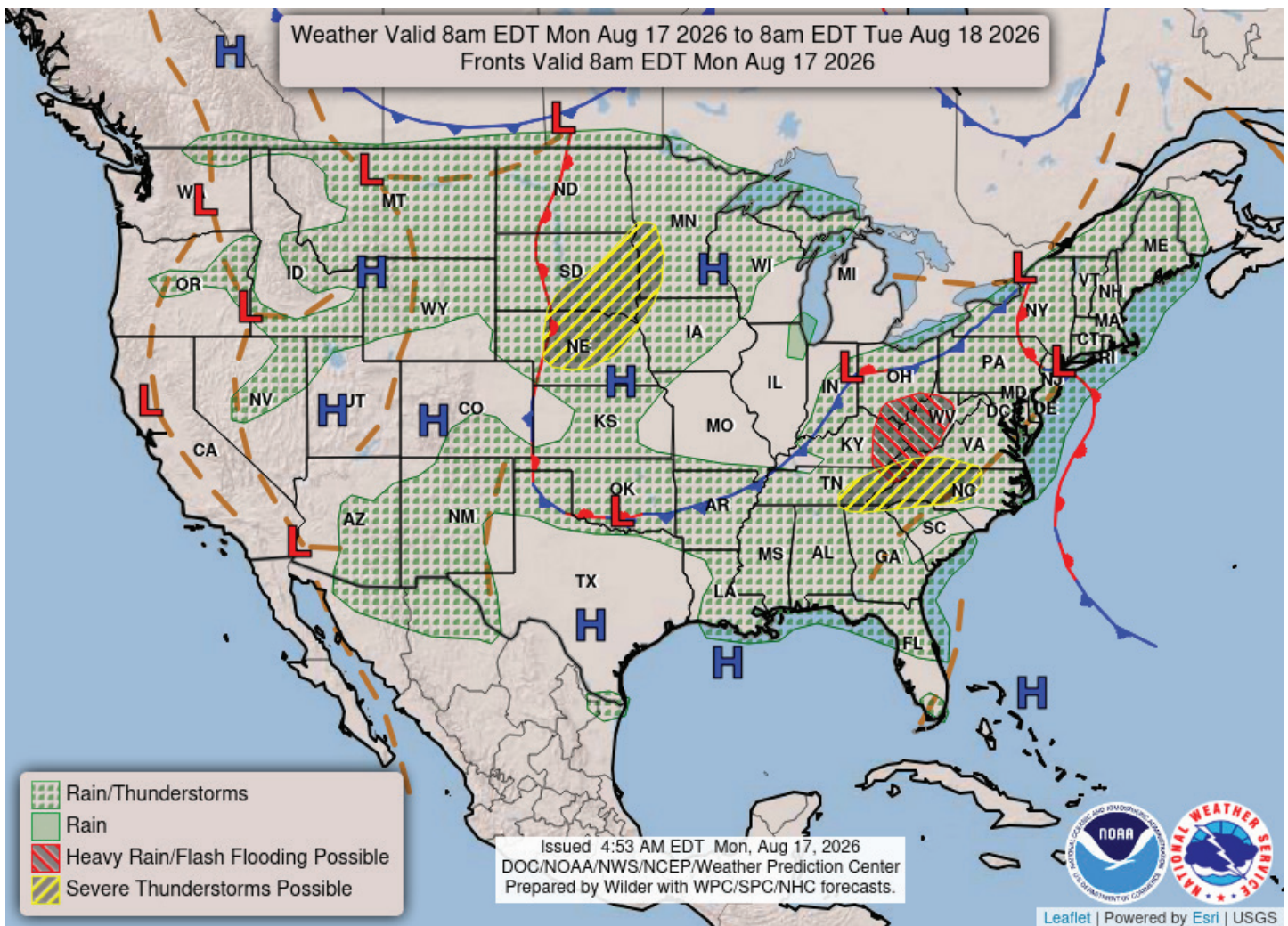
Precip to date in Aug.: 10.14

Average Precip to date: 15.32

Precip Year to Date: 19.61

Sunset Tonight: 8:37 pm

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:36 am



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Today in Weather History

August 17, 1961: Intensive rainfall occurred during the overnight hours on the 17th through the early morning hours on the 18th. Some rainfall amounts include 4.13 inches in Clark, 2.52 inches 1 W of Summit, 2.50 in Andover, 2.20 in Waubay, 2.15 in Wilmot, 2.12 in Wheaton, and 2.10 in Clear Lake.

August 17, 2007: An estimated four to six inches of rain and hail to the size of baseballs caused localized flooding between Piedmont and Tilford in Meade County, especially near poor drainage areas and at a barricade along a frontage road. The water washed over several roads and was several inches deep on Interstate 90, forcing law enforcement officials to close it for a couple of hours. Torrential rains estimated at four to six inches fell west of Hermosa in Custer County between 6 pm and 8 pm MST. Battle and Grace Coolidge Creeks overflowed their banks and several dry canyons filled with water and drained into the creeks. State highways 40 and 36 were flooded in numerous spots. A river gauge on Battle Creek just east of Hermosa crested at 14.91 feet at 9 pm, rising from 2.63 ft at 7:30 pm and above the flood stage of 8.0 feet. About six inches of water covered Highway 79 at the Battle Creek bridge. A railroad bridge about 3/4 mile downstream became clogged with debris and water rose behind the embankment and flooded six homes. At about 8:30 pm MST, a section of the embankment failed, flooding a new subdivision on the other side. All of the approximately 20 houses were damaged; three homes were washed off their foundations, and one of those houses was carried a half a mile east of the subdivision by the flowing water. There were no injuries.

1899: Hurricane San Ciriaco set many records on its path. Killing nearly 3,500 people in Puerto Rico, it was the deadliest hurricane to hit the island and the strongest at the time, until 30 years later when the island was affected by the Hurricane San Felipe Segundo, a Category 5 hurricane, in 1928. It was also the tenth deadliest Atlantic hurricane ever recorded. San Ciriaco is also the longest lasting Atlantic hurricane in recorded history, continuing for 28 days. On August 17, the hurricane turned back to the northwest and made landfall near Hatteras, North Carolina on the following day. San Ciriaco remains the strongest hurricane to make landfall on the Outer Banks since 1899.

1915 — A hurricane hit Galveston, TX, with wind gusts to 120 mph and a twelve foot storm surge. The storm claimed 275 lives, including forty-two on Galveston Island, with most deaths due to drowning. Of 250 homes built outside the seawall (which was constructed after the catastrophic hurricane of 1900), just ten percent were left standing. (The Weather Channel)

1946 — An estimated F-4 tornado killed 11 people and injured 100 others in the Mankato, Minnesota area around 6:52 PM. The deaths and most of the injuries occurred in the complete destruction of the 26 cabins at the Green Gables tourist camp, 3 miles southwest of Mankato. A 27-ton road grader was reportedly hurled about 100 feet. Another tornado an hour later destroys downtown Wells, Minnesota.

1969: The music festival, known as Woodstock, should have ended on this day. Jimi Hendrix, the last act to perform, was delayed due to rain on Sunday evening. Jimi Hendrix took the stage at 8:30 am Monday morning.

1969 — Camille, the second worst hurricane in U.S. history, smashed into the Mississippi coast. Winds gusted to 172 mph at Main Pass Block LA, and to 190 mph near Bay Saint Louis MS. The hurricane claimed 256 lives, and caused 1.3 billion dollars damage. Several ocean going ships were carried over seven miles inland by the hurricane. The hurricane produced winds to 200 mph, and a storm surge of 24.6 feet. Complete destruction occurred in some coastal areas near the eye of the hurricane. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1988 — Fifty-five cities, from the Middle Mississippi Valley to the Middle Atlantic Coast Region, reported record high temperatures for the date. Beckley WV reported an all-time record high of 96 degrees, and Baltimore MD hit 104 degrees, marking their thirteenth day of the year with 100 degree heat. Chicago IL equalled a record with 46 days of 90 degree weather for the year. Thunderstorms produced severe weather from Wisconsin to New Jersey. Thunderstorms in New Jersey produced high winds which gusted to 92 mph at Wrightstown, and blew down a circus tent at Lavallette injuring fourteen persons. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)



Patience: Our Gift of Service

The fruit that is produced within us is meant to be used for God's glory.

Colossians 3:12-13: 12 So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience;

13 bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.

In today's reading, the apostle Paul encourages Christians to "put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience." In other words, we don't come pre-equipped with these traits. Rather, we develop them as we learn to imitate Jesus Christ—"bearing with ... and forgiving each another."

The Holy Spirit faithfully guides us in growing spiritual fruit. Our Father then provides opportunities to use and further hone these attributes.

For now, let's zero in on patience—something we tend to classify rather narrowly as "waiting." That's certainly part of the definition, but so is the idea of perseverance. When we're bearing with one another as Paul challenged us to do, we are not simply waiting for them to become better versions of themselves. We are enduring their hardship alongside them or persisting in our attempts to offer aid. We're caring, listening, and serving however we can. In a world that insists on doing everything quickly, patience is an amazing gift to give another person.

God put patience on the list of spiritual fruit (Galatians 5:22-23), indicating that this trait is possible for every believer. Whatever gifts you possess, patience is an attribute you can put on. Practice it for the glory of God and as a way to serve others.

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:

08.16.26

10 13 41 43 52 2

TOP PRIZE:

\$1,000,000/year

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 57 Mins 22 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS:

08.14.26

3 23 27 46 60 11

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$100,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 16 Hrs 42 Mins 21 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS:

08.15.26

8 18 19 40 41 10

All Star Bonus: 4x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$2,600,000

NEXT DRAW: 15 Hrs 57 Mins 22 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS:

08.15.26

4 16 18 29 33

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$31,000

NEXT DRAW: 2 Days 16 Hrs 12 Mins 22 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS:

08.15.26

19 21 45 46 65 20

TOP PRIZE:

\$10,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 41 Mins 22 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS:

08.15.26

5 8 27 29 63 13

Power Play: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$35,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 41 Mins 22 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

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News from the **AP** Associated Press

World shares are mixed and Brent crude is higher after worries over stagflation pull US stocks lower

By ELAINE KURTENBACH AP Business Writer

BANGKOK (AP) — Shares were mixed in Europe and Asia on Monday after U.S. stocks edged back from their all-time high following a weaker than expected report on the U.S. economy.

Oil prices also were mixed.

In early European trading, Germany's DAX was nearly unchanged at 26,438.04, while the CAC 40 in Paris lost 0.1% to 8,628.32.

Britain's FTSE 100 gained 0.2% to 10,766.46.

The future for the S&P 500 edged 0.1% higher, while that for the Dow Jones Industrial Average slipped 0.2%.

Tokyo's Nikkei 225 index gained 0.7% to 69,220.25 after the Japanese government reported the economy grew slightly faster than forecast in the April-June quarter, expanding at a 1.1% annual pace even as private spending and investment stayed flat and export growth slowed. In quarterly terms, the economy grew 0.3% in the second quarter of the year.

In Hong Kong, the Hang Seng picked up 1.3% to 25,453.23, while the Shanghai Composite index rose 1.4% to 3,982.65.

Markets in South Korea were closed for a holiday.

In Australia, the S&P/ASX 200 slipped 0.5% to 9,073.20.

Taiwan's Taiex gained 0.1%, while the Sensex in India fell 0.3%.

On Friday, The S&P 500 fell 0.2% following a report that showed shoppers spent less at U.S. retailers last month. Such data could help the Federal Reserve keep interest rates low, which is positive for investors. But it also suggests growth may be slowing at a time when inflation is still high.

The Fed has no good tool to fix both a stagnating economy and high inflation at the same time, which is why what's called "stagflation" is seen as a worst-case scenario.

The Dow industrials dipped 0.2%, and the Nasdaq composite shed 0.3%.

Wall Street will get financial updates from some of the nation's biggest retailers this week.

Home Depot reports its latest results on Tuesday, followed by Target and Lowe's on Wednesday and then Walmart on Thursday. The results will help give investors a more detailed picture of how businesses and consumers are handling stubbornly high inflation.

Wall Street and economists will get more details about the Federal Reserve's interest rate policy when the central bank releases minutes from the July meeting on Wednesday.

In other dealings early Monday, Brent crude, the international standard, rose 0.4% to \$88.84 per barrel, while U.S. benchmark crude slipped 0.2% to \$82.20 per barrel.

With prospects for a deal toward ending the war with Iran unclear, the stability of oil supplies remains uncertain with the Strait of Hormuz nearly closed, blocking a vital route for oil and gas tankers from the Middle East.

The U.S. dollar fell to 159.13 Japanese yen from 159.32 yen. The euro rose to \$1.1601 from \$1.1588.

Thousands in Indonesia await aid after quake kills 55, overshadowing Independence Day

By FIRDIA LISNAWATI and NINIEK KARMINI Associated Press

REO, Indonesia (AP) — Thousands of people were still waiting for aid on the Indonesian island of Flores as the country marked its 81st Independence Day on Monday, days after a powerful earthquake killed at least 55 people, injured dozens and damaged hundreds of homes and other buildings.

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Many residents on Flores island in East Nusa Tenggara province spent the day mourning victims and waiting for aid to arrive to communities still cut off by the deadly quake.

During Indonesia's Independence Day ceremony in the capital Jakarta, President Prabowo Subianto asked participants to pray for people affected by disasters in East Nusa Tenggara and other parts of the country, while leading a nationwide moment of silence honoring the nation's independence heroes.

More than 1,300 homes were damaged when the quake struck East Nusa Tenggara province on Saturday, with nearly 250 destroyed on Flores alone. Some 5,000 people were forced into temporary shelters and more than 130 people were injured, according to the National Disaster Management Agency.

The province's governor declared a 14-day state of emergency on Sunday.

The quake occurred at a depth of 10 kilometers (6 miles) shortly before 6 a.m. Saturday, according to the U.S. Geological Survey, and residents fled in panic as tsunami warnings were issued but later lifted. Authorities have since recorded at least 995 aftershocks, though only 46 were felt by residents.

Thousands of people on Flores camped outside collapsed homes under tarpaulin tents overnight into Monday, sleeping outside because of the danger of more aftershocks.

An Associated Press photojournalist saw widespread devastation across the island, with fallen trees blocking roads, giant boulders hurled down slopes by landslides, and homes left shattered or heavily damaged. Buildings collapsed onto parked cars.

For many residents, the disaster revived painful memories of a powerful earthquake and tsunami that struck Flores in 1992, killing about 2,500 people.

"My house is just rubble now," said Rasyid Jafar, a clothing trader in the village of Reo, the hardest-hit area in Manggarai regency, "We need food, medicine and clean water urgently."

More than 3,500 military and police personnel have been deployed across the disaster zone and 275 tons of aid have been sent to the area, though logistical challenges have slowed deliveries to some hard-hit communities.

Aid workers reached tiny Palue Island, one of the areas closest to the earthquake's epicenter, late Sunday, after a difficult sea and land journey through landslide-hit terrain, authorities said. Thousands of residents remained in urgent need of assistance after days of isolation.

"The roads are steep and many were blocked by landslides. It was a near-death journey," said deputy police chief of Sikka regency, Marselus Yugo Amboro, whose team was among the first to reach the island with emergency supplies.

He said initial assessments revealed extensive damage, with one villager killed, two seriously injured and nearly 150 homes destroyed.

Indonesia, an archipelago of more than 17,000 islands, is prone to earthquakes and volcanic eruptions because of its location on the Pacific "Ring of Fire," a horseshoe-shaped arc of seismic faults and volcanoes.

In 2018, a magnitude 7.5 earthquake triggered a tsunami on the island of Sulawesi that killed more than 4,400 people. In 2004, a magnitude 9.1 quake off Sumatra unleashed a tsunami that killed about 230,000 people in a dozen countries, nearly 170,000 in Aceh province alone.

Kushner sits with Netanyahu to talk Gaza after 2-hour meeting with Hamas

By JULIA FRANKEL and SAMY MAGDY Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Mideast negotiator and Trump son-in-law Jared Kushner was meeting Monday with Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu after the premier rejected the 15-point, U.S.-backed road map to move the truce deal forward in Gaza.

In the latest round of meetings, the U.S. is angling for Israel's approval of the road map. There is a lot at stake, including the lives of some 2 million Palestinians in Gaza, the reconstruction of the demolished enclave and future control over the territory.

Hamas says it has agreed to the road map, which includes disarmament, and the group is urging mediators and the U.S.-created Board of Peace to "compel" Israel to sign on as well. But Israel, which under the

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road map must withdraw from Gaza, says Hamas must fully disarm before any Israeli withdrawal will occur. Israeli troops occupy about 60% of the strip and Netanyahu has previously threatened to advance.

Former British Prime Minister Tony Blair and Board of Peace Director Nickolay Mladenov were also in the meeting with Netanyahu, according to a source familiar with the plans and a diplomatic source. Both spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss a closed-door meeting.

Meeting follows Kushner conversation with Hamas

The meeting comes after Kushner spent over two hours meeting Sunday with Hamas chief Khalil al-Hayya in Egypt on disarmament, according to a regional official and a Hamas official, who both spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to reporters.

Officials from mediating countries Egypt, Qatar and Turkey also were there.

The Hamas official also said the Hamas leader demanded Israel halt its attacks on Gaza and withdraw to the so-called "yellow line" dividing the territory before beginning implementation.

The yellow line was never precisely defined. Israeli forces have moved beyond it and now control about 60% of Gaza. In May, Netanyahu said the next step was to move to 70% control, with Israel "tightening the grip" on Hamas "from every direction."

Regional neighbors increase pressure on Israel

Several regional powers including Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates issued a statement Sunday condemning Israel's rejection of the road map, saying, "Israel now bears responsibility for obstructing the efforts to bring peace in Gaza." Other signers included Jordan, Pakistan, Indonesia and the ceasefire mediators.

The foreign ministers' statement called on the Board of Peace and the U.S. to take "immediate and concrete measures" to keep any party from obstructing the plan's implementation.

Israel had no immediate response.

The White House referred questions about Kushner's meetings to the Board of Peace, which did not immediately comment. The Tony Blair Institute also did not comment.

Under the road map, Hamas would hand over weapons to the Palestinian technocratic committee meant to oversee daily operations in the territory. The committee has not yet entered Gaza.

But Hamas has linked the surrender of its heaviest weapons to the creation of a Palestinian state and the road map entails the creation of a "credible pathway toward achieving Palestinian self-determination and statehood," something Israel's current government rejects.

Until the road map is agreed to, other elements of the ceasefire are on hold, including reconstruction and the deployment of international forces to separate Israeli forces from committee-controlled areas.

Netanyahu faces a challenging election on Oct. 27 as he tries to hold onto power with a coalition that includes ministers taking a harsh line on Gaza and it's not clear whether he will take decisive steps on the ceasefire before then.

Also coming up is the anniversary of the Oct. 7, 2023, Hamas-led attack on southern Israel that sparked the war.

The 60-day deadline for an Iran peace deal is expiring. Here's where things stand

By JOSEPH KRAUSS Associated Press

The deal that U.S. President Donald Trump signed at Versailles in June set an ambitious 60-day deadline for ending the war with Iran and reaching an accord on its nuclear program.

The deadline was Monday, and the two sides are further apart than they were then.

Talks, such as they are, have focused on reopening the Strait of Hormuz and lifting a U.S. blockade on Iran, both of which were supposed to have happened under the interim deal. There has been no sign of any compromise on the strait, or that detailed nuclear talks have even begun.

The U.S., meanwhile, has no good options for getting out of the war it started alongside Israel.

Acceding to Iran's latest demands would mean giving it control over a critical international waterway that

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carried a fifth of the world's traded oil and gas before the war — and would be tantamount to admitting defeat. Escalating the deeply unpopular war would further draw down U.S. supplies of advanced missile interceptors, jolt the world economy, and drive up gas prices ahead of U.S. congressional elections.

So both sides have dug in, hoping the other will blink first. So far, neither has.

The interim deal collapsed weeks later

The June deal, known as the Memorandum of Understanding, called for a halt to all military operations and set a 60-day deadline for an agreement to permanently end the war and resolve the longstanding dispute over Iran's nuclear activities.

It called for the Strait of Hormuz to be reopened but gave Iran a vaguely defined role in facilitating traffic, leaving open the possibility it could charge fees after the 60-day deadline. Iran has seized on that clause to claim control over the waterway.

A week after the deal was signed, Iran began firing on vessels using a route along the coast of Oman, on the other side of the strait, that is overseen by the U.S. military and intended to bypass Tehran's control.

The U.S. responded by striking Iran, which retaliated by attacking Arab countries hosting American forces, like Jordan, Kuwait and Bahrain. The U.S. canceled waivers issued as part of the deal that had allowed Iran to sell its oil internationally and Trump restored a blockade of Iran's ports.

Each side accused the other of violating the June agreement, of which almost nothing remains.

The fighting eventually died down. A related truce in Lebanon between Israel and the Iran-backed Hezbollah has mostly held, even as Israeli troops occupy large areas in the country's south. Lebanon's "territorial integrity and sovereignty" were to have been ensured under the June deal.

Iranian officials say they stopped negotiating with the U.S. in June, while acknowledging that messages have been relayed by intermediaries. Trump says the talks have continued, occasionally claiming progress after pulling back from threatening major strikes.

Pakistan, which played a key role in brokering the June agreement, noted last week that the deadline was Monday while expressing hope it would be extended.

"We are not closing the chapter," Foreign Ministry spokesman Tahir Andrabi said. "Pakistan is making all-out efforts to bring the two parties to the negotiating table."

Iran's leaders think they can force Trump to give up the strait

Earlier this month, Iran issued a list of demands for reopening the strait, including the lifting of the American blockade, the withdrawal of U.S. forces from around Iran and the payment of reparations for damage inflicted in the war started by the U.S. and Israel on Feb. 28.

Even then, Iran has said it would control the strait — and potentially charge fees — through an agreement it is negotiating with Oman, and that the strait will not go back to being an open, toll-free waterway as it was before the war.

Iran-backed Houthi rebels in Yemen have meanwhile begun attacking Saudi oil tankers in the Red Sea, threatening another crucial trade route that had been used to relieve some of the pressure from the strait being closed.

Trump has rejected Iran's demands — saying it's Tehran that should pay war reparations and claiming the U.S. controls the strait. He appears to be banking on economic pressure — in the form of the blockade and longstanding sanctions — to bring Iran's rulers to their knees.

Iran's economy has been battered by the war and isolation, and inflation has soared. The crisis could stoke renewed anti-government protests, like those that were brutally crushed in January.

Traffic through the Strait of Hormuz, which rose immediately after the interim deal, is back to a small fraction of what it was before the war. Rising prices of fuel and other goods are expected to climb further the longer this continues with effects far beyond the Middle East.

The clock is still ticking for both sides.

Hayden Panettiere, who starred in the television series 'Heroes' and 'Nashville,' dies at 36

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Hayden Panettiere, star of popular television series including "Heroes" and "Nashville," has died. She was 36.

Panettiere's father, Skip, announced the actor's death in a statement provided to ABC News on Sunday. "It is with profound sadness that we share the tragic passing of our beloved Hayden. She was an incredible light and a force of nature who brought immeasurable love and joy to all who knew her — and to the millions who watched her onscreen," his statement said.

No cause of death was announced, and a publicist for Hayden Panettiere did not immediately respond to an email from The Associated Press.

Panettiere, who would have turned 37 on Friday, began her career as a child actor in commercials and soap operas.

Her role as a cheerleader with superpowers in "Heroes" propelled her to fame in 2006, with the series revolving around the mantra "Save the cheerleader, save the world."

"I think 'Heroes' is really hot because it's just a really great combination of everything that people love — they love reality, they love sci-fi and things like X-Men where they get to dream of something bigger," Panettiere told The Associated Press in 2008. "And at the core of it are these human stories that people can relate to, very rugged. And it's just grabbed everyone in every age group."

She went on to win three Teen Choice Awards for that role and was a Grammy Award nominee for a children's spoken word album recorded a few years after the release of the animated movie "A Bug's Life."

Panettiere later played a brash country upstart opposite Connie Britton on "Nashville," which aired on ABC for four seasons before being canceled and revived on CMT. She did her own singing in the show, which scored some hits on country charts, spawned U.S. tours and earned Panettiere two supporting actress Golden Globe nominations. Panettiere had 11 songs recorded for "Nashville" appear on Billboard's Hot Country Songs charts during the show's run, including two featuring Britton.

Panettiere's younger brother, Jansen, who was also an actor, died of a heart condition in 2023, at age 28.

She had been open about her struggles with alcohol addiction and depression, including after the birth of her daughter with Ukrainian boxer Wladimir Klitschko in 2014.

In an interview with podcaster Jay Shetty after her memoir came out in May, Panettiere talked about the custody arrangement for her 11-year-old daughter, who lives full-time with Klitschko in Ukraine. News of the 2018 decision prompted headlines about Panettiere giving up custody of her daughter.

"I think there's been this very common misconception that I just gave up my child," she said. "That could not be farther from the truth."

Panettiere said Klitschko suggested their daughter live with him full-time when the child was 2, as Panettiere struggled with mental health challenges and addiction. She said she was in a "horrible cycle for years of battling depression and anxiety and alcoholism and substance abuse" while "just trying to find my way back, my way out of the darkness."

She entered rehab in 2015, while filming "Nashville."

"I was the one who put myself in the first treatment center. I was drowning," she said in a 2023 interview with Women's Health magazine.

On Shetty's podcast, Panettiere recalled the explosion of her fame when she was cast on "Heroes," including the first time she was tracked by the paparazzi. When she'd imagined the moment as a younger actress, she'd planned to look chic.

Instead, she said, "it was just sheer terror."

Panettiere also appeared in two of the "Scream" movies, starred as the title character in the 2009 film "I Love You Beth Cooper" and played the young daughter of a football coach in "Remember the Titans." She had spoken positively about her experience filming "Remember the Titans," saying she felt so similar to the character she played — Sheryl Yoast, the opiated, football-loving daughter of Will Patton's Coach Bill Yoast.

Ukraine takes aim at Russia's economy and morale by attacking online retailer

By The Associated Press undefined

The attacks began on a July weekend and have continued for a month, stretching from Moscow and St. Petersburg, to cities in the south, and eastward to the Ural Mountains. The targets weren't oil refineries, maritime hubs or arms plants hit by other Ukrainian strikes, but warehouses that bring the convenience of online shopping across the breadth of Russia.

Ukraine's drones have pummeled the giant depots belonging to Wildberries, Russia's biggest online retailer, burning billions of dollars' worth of merchandise and bringing the war home to the broad public.

The attacks on about 20 Wildberries facilities have underlined Kyiv's ability to strike far and wide inside Russia and posed a new challenge to President Vladimir Putin nearly 4½ years into his full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

They have badly shaken the empire built by Tatyana Kim, the country's richest female entrepreneur, whose fortune has been estimated at \$8.1 billion.

Hundreds of thousands of individual sellers have lost their merchandise, sending shock waves across Russia's economy. Wildberries has drawn massive loans from VTB and other banks as it expanded and likely will have trouble repaying them, putting more pressure on the financial system.

An online giant began in a Moscow apartment

Kim, 50, was born in Grozny, the capital of the province of Chechnya, to an ethnic Korean family of an engineer and a teacher. She launched Wildberries in 2004 from her Moscow apartment soon after giving birth to her first child while working as an English teacher.

"The idea was born from my own needs, and turned out to be needed by hundreds of thousands," said Kim, now a mother of seven. "If a product or service makes your own life easier, you're on the right track."

Wildberries initially sold clothing before expanding to appliances, household items, cosmetics, books and more. The platform with its distinct purple logo has become an undisputed leader in e-commerce, accounting for about half of all online orders in Russia. Businesses big and small use it to store, ship and deliver merchandise across the country's 11 time zones.

An estimated 500,000 to 800,000 sellers use Wildberries, often described as Russia's Amazon. After Western brands fled following the war in Ukraine, online retailers filled the void with merchandise from China, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates and elsewhere.

The company also acquired a bank, expanded to tourism and even considered buying an airline.

In 2024, Kim divorced her husband, Vladislav Bakalchuk, triggering a fight for control of the company. Bakalchuk sought the support of Chechen leader Ramzan Kadyrov and his feared paramilitary forces but eventually lost the battle, which peaked in a shootout at a business center near the Kremlin that left two people dead and several wounded.

Wildberries depots are easy targets

The company has prided itself on relying on about two dozen mammoth warehouses as the core of its vast logistical network stockpiling the goods before shipping to about 100,000 storefront distribution points nationwide.

Rival online retailers Ozon and Yandex Market use smaller depots spread over a wider network.

As Ukraine embarked on a strategy of using long-range drones to attack deep inside Russia, it has expanded from striking military bases, oil refineries and other infrastructure to Wildberries warehouses, which provided particularly soft targets.

Since the first attack July 18 in Elektrostal, just east of Moscow, and in the southwestern Tambov region, Wildberries depots burned one after another in massive fires that flooded social media.

The depots, some as big as 300,000 square meters (about 3.2 million square feet) were unprotected and easy to set ablaze. It took three days to extinguish the fire in the Elektrostal depot, the Moscow region's main hub.

"These are not military and high-value political targets, therefore they're not especially secured, they're

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not really built to be able to shrug off drone strikes,” said podcaster Mark Galeotti, a Russia expert who heads the Mayak Intelligence consultancy.

The strikes have stretched from the European part of Russia to Yekaterinburg, over 2,000 kilometers (about 1,250 miles) from Ukraine’s border.

There’s scarce public data, but some estimates indicate that up to 20% of the company’s total warehouse space has been destroyed, with assessments of losses running as high as \$6 billion.

Kim said Wildberries’ sites have been “reinforced and strengthened” defensively, but the attacks continued. Some warehouses suffered only minor damage, and Ukraine tried to hit them again.

Wildberries said it’s rearranging supply chains to create “partner hubs” for storing merchandise — a long and challenging process, given its dependence on big depots.

Attacks cause a ripple effect

Ukrainian officials have said Wildberries sells gear and technical components, including drones, to the military. Moscow denied it, but such dual-use items as drone components, flak jackets or thermal weapon sights remain available on the platform.

Mykhailo Podolyak, an adviser to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, said the attacks were designed to disrupt military supplies, breed popular discontent and cause a domino effect in the Russian economy by putting stress on major banks, including VTB and Sberbank, that made massive loans to Wildberries.

Wildberries’ debts were estimated at the equivalent of about \$15 billion at the end of 2025.

Russia’s small and medium businesses already have been hit hard by tax increases, regulatory hurdles and, most recently, a fuel crisis from attacks on oil refineries.

The strikes on Wildberries have further exacerbated the business environment, said Chris Weafer, CEO of Macro-Advisory Ltd. Consultancy.

“I wouldn’t say it’s a nail in the coffin because we’re not there yet, but it’s certainly another enormous difficulty on top of what has already been a very difficult situation for small enterprises,” Weafer said.

Wildberries had recently changed its seller policy, exempting it from liability for stock damaged by a “force majeure” that includes drone attacks.

Kim pledged to support sellers with discounts on storage, free transfer of goods to other sites, discounted loans and other measures. Wildberries also issued some reimbursements but they covered only a fraction of the losses.

Russia’s Central Bank has asked lenders to restructure loans to small and medium businesses that lost merchandise.

Meanwhile, many owners of Wildberries pickup points face lost revenue amid the plunging deliveries. Some vented frustrations on social media about going out of business.

The lost goods mean tens of thousands of small businesses can’t continue to operate, service their loans or pay taxes. Many are pleading for government support.

Galeotti said the strikes reflected Kyiv’s effort to bring the war home to Russia.

“It’s not just about seeing great clouds of black smoke over your cities because of some oil refinery on the outskirts being hit,” he said. “You might be a small business whose inventory has just gone up in smoke in one of the Wildberries’ warehouses. Or else you just simply might be an ordinary consumer who just suddenly is no longer going to get the goods that you plan to buy.”

Some analysts warn that instead of provoking discontent, the attacks could fuel stronger anti-Ukrainian and anti-Western fervor.

The Wildberries attacks have played into the hands of Russian hawks who urge escalating the war, said pro-Kremlin political expert Sergei Markov.

“It strengthens the view that it’s necessary to hit Europe,” he said. “And better sooner than later.”

Former President Dmitry Medvedev sought to stir up anger at Ukraine for trying to destroy an essential part of daily routine for millions.

“Our enemy is fighting not the Russian leadership or the army, but ordinary citizens,” he said.

All eyez on Tupac: Long-awaited trial begins in rapper's 1996 killing

By JESSICA HILL Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Opening statements are set to begin Monday in the trial of a man accused of orchestrating the killing of Tupac Shakur, kicking off weeks of testimony that will revisit what happened on a Las Vegas nearly 30 years ago.

Duane "Keffe D" Davis, 63, is charged with murder with a deadly weapon with the intent to promote, further or assist a criminal gang in the rapper's death. He pleaded not guilty, but if convicted, faces life in prison.

The long-unsolved drive-by shooting gripped the hip-hop community, partly because no one was charged until Davis was indicted in 2023.

Shakur remains a cultural icon and is considered one of the most influential and versatile rappers of all time, despite dying at 25. He was nominated for six Grammy Awards and was inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in 2017.

In recent years, he received a posthumous star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, had a street in Oakland named in his honor and inspired a character on the upcoming video game "Stranger than Heaven."

Over the course of the trial, which could span weeks, prosecutors plan to call 35 to 45 potential witnesses, and the defense will call only a handful to testify.

Members of Shakur's family are expected to be in the courtroom Monday. Shakur's stepbrother, Maurice "Mopreme" Shakur, recently told The Associated Press that sitting through the trial will be retraumatizing for the family, but it's important to be there.

"We're gonna stand by Pac as we always have," he said.

All eyes on Tupac

Along with Shakur's family, friends and fans traveled to Las Vegas to show their support during jury selection.

Darryl Harper, a veteran music producer who collaborated with Shakur at Death Row Records on songs released after the 1996 shooting, said he booked a plane ticket as soon as the latest trial date was set.

"He became a personal friend of mine as I worked with him almost every day of his last days here," said Harper, who flew in from his home in Georgia.

Harper hopes the trial will reveal the truth about who was involved with the shooting.

"My prayer is that it's the right person," he said outside the court during jury selection. "If he's the right person, then I'm glad that Tupac would get some kind of redemption finally. I think he deserves it."

Shakur's cousins Kendrick Lesane and William Lesane flew in from Atlanta to watch jury selection. William Lesane said he wants someone held accountable.

"For me, justice has long left the station 30 years ago," he said.

Prosecutors allege that Davis was the shot-caller

Prosecutors aren't claiming Davis pulled the trigger. Rather, they say he organized the shooting to get revenge after Shakur and his entourage beat up Davis' nephew at the MGM Grand hours before Shakur was shot.

The gunfire came from a white Cadillac that Davis was in with three others, all who have since died.

In 2008, Davis spoke to investigators looking into the deaths of Shakur and Notorious B.I.G., born Christopher Wallace. During the investigation, Davis was under an agreement that what he said about Shakur's killing couldn't be used against him. But nearly 10 years later, Davis published a book with those details and participated in media interviews in which he laid out his role in the shooting.

The book and his public statements revived the Las Vegas investigation and became key pieces of evidence, prosecutors say.

"Had he decided to never write the book, he would not, probably, have ever been prosecuted for the crime," prosecutor Marc DiGiacomo recently said.

Defense argues that the book is fictionalized

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Davis' attorney Michael Sanft says Davis co-authored the book "Compton Street Legend" to make money, not to tell the truth. He argues it's impossible to tell which parts — if any — Davis wrote and which parts author Yusuf Jah penned.

Jah, who is on the list of potential witnesses, recently told an investigator that he didn't believe Davis fully read his own book, according to court documents.

Prosecutors say the book is sensationalized but that they'll show "what is true, what is exaggeration, and what is an outright lie," they wrote in court documents.

Davis recently told Las Vegas television station Fox 5 that he actually wasn't there the night Shakur was shot. In his book though, he says he carpooled from Los Angeles to Las Vegas that night to watch the same boxing match Shakur attended. It describes where he stayed, and the events before and after Shakur was shot. ____

Associated Press journalists Ty O'Neil in Las Vegas and John Seewer in Toledo, Ohio, contributed.

States take Meta to trial in California in the biggest fight yet over social media harms to children

By BARBARA ORTUTAY AP Technology Writer

Of the thousands of lawsuits Meta faces over child safety on its platforms, none may be more consequential than one going to trial this week in California.

States are seeking extensive financial damages that could, in theory, total as much as \$1.4 trillion, plus changes to how the company operates Facebook and Instagram.

The lawsuit accuses the social media giant of contributing to the youth mental health crisis by knowingly and deliberately designing features that get children addicted to its platforms. It also claims that Meta routinely collects data on children under 13 without their parents' consent, in violation of federal law.

"Meta has harnessed powerful and unprecedented technologies to entice, engage, and ultimately ensnare youth and teens. Its motive is profit, and in seeking to maximize its financial gains," the lawsuit says.

Dozens of states filed the lawsuit three years ago. The trial set to begin Tuesday in federal court in Oakland, California, features four of the states as plaintiffs — California, Colorado, Kentucky and New Jersey. The other 25 states are expected to have trials later.

Meta said it disputes the allegations, and the trial evidence will show its commitment to supporting young people. "We've listened to parents, worked with experts and law enforcement, and conducted in-depth research to understand the issues that matter most," the company said in a statement.

States seek to land a major blow against Meta

For Meta, which already lost two pivotal cases over harms to children and teens this year, the stakes are high. The company reported a rare profit decline last month, in part due to \$2.4 billion in legal expenses.

The \$1.4 trillion figure, which Meta disclosed in a legal filing, is almost as high as the Menlo Park, California, company's entire market capitalization — that is, the value of all its outstanding shares on the stock market. Paying it would inevitably put Meta Platforms in bankruptcy and perhaps put the company under state ownership.

"The state attorneys general are going for the gusto," said Eric Goldman, a professor and co-director of the High Tech Law Institute at Santa Clara University School of Law. "They are trying to set the definitive precedent in this case and they have asked for extraordinary damages and they are going to seek extraordinary structural remedies if they succeed."

Meta calls the possible penalty "untethered to any claimed violation" by the states.

"A sanction of that size has no analog in the history of consumer protection enforcement," Meta said in a July 6 filing with the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California.

If Meta loses the trial, the court would have wide discretion over the size of any financial penalty, and legal experts say anything close to \$1.4 trillion would be unlikely.

"It's not plausible in the sense that Meta doesn't have that much money and could not get it," said James

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Grimmelmann, a law professor at Cornell Law School and Cornell Tech. "An award that large would put Meta into bankruptcy, wipe out its owners, and effectively result in the states owning Meta."

As a practical matter, Grimmelmann added, "that seems extremely unlikely to happen."

In other cases that have involved high potential damages for multiple individual offenses, he said courts have stopped short of imposing the maximum penalties. One example is the Anthropic artificial intelligence training case, where plaintiffs were claiming damages of \$150,000 per book that Anthropic copied, but the penalty ended up being \$3,000 per book, totaling about \$1.5 billion.

Trial seeks to hold Meta accountable on state and federal statutes

The federal trial this week is more complex than one earlier this year, in Los Angeles, where a state court awarded \$6 million in damages from Meta and Google's YouTube to a single plaintiff, a young woman who testified she became addicted to social media as a child.

That case was a bellwether, or test case, picked from thousands of similar civil tort lawsuits to give both plaintiffs and the defendants an idea of how their arguments fare in court. The jury determined that Meta and YouTube were negligent in the design or operation of their respective platforms, and that the negligence was a substantial factor in causing harm to the plaintiff. They also determined each company knew their platforms could be dangerous when used by a minor and that they failed to adequately warn of that danger.

The Oakland case, meanwhile, has state attorneys general as the plaintiffs and centers on state and federal statutes they allege Meta violated, which lay out potential penalty amounts for each violation.

"And there's a lot of them because it's four different states and at least three different kinds of statutes. There's a child privacy statute, there's a false advertising statute and there's unfair competition statutes," said Rebecca Allensworth, a professor at Vanderbilt University Law School.

Meta has added safety tools — but states want more

An outcome that leads to changes in how Facebook and Instagram operate could be as consequential as any financial penalty.

Meta has introduced a slew of new features in recent years designed to protect minors. In 2024 it launched teen accounts on Instagram, which are private by default and come with messaging and content restrictions, and parental controls. The company also uses artificial intelligence to determine if kids under 13 are using Instagram or if teenagers are lying about their age to access adult accounts.

Safety advocates have called on the company to do more. A New Mexico judge earlier this month ordered new safety measures on the platforms including time limits for minors, AI chatbot restrictions, and mandatory warnings on the platforms, but his order applied only to users in the state.

"These AGs have a real chance at fixing the product," Laura Marquez-Garrett of the Social Media Victims Law Center said Friday in a virtual discussion with advocates hosted by the Tech Oversight Project. "For these companies, this is a real point of reckoning. As these cases go forward, this is a leap forward, folks, not a step."

During jury selection last week, prospective jurors were asked whether and how much they believe Meta has contributed to the youth mental health crisis. While many agreed that it did, they also put responsibility on parents, and said things like climate change and the state of the world are also causing children's and teenagers' mental health issues.

Rescuers in Indonesia recover 6 more bodies in earthquake aftermath, raising death toll to 53

By FIRDIA LISNAWATI Associated Press

RUTENG, Indonesia (AP) — Rescue teams in eastern Indonesia recovered six more bodies Sunday, a day after a magnitude 7.7 earthquake, raising the death toll to 53, authorities said, as many of the thousands of displaced people spent the night outdoors in fear of aftershocks.

Rescuers dug through debris looking for anyone buried beneath landslides triggered by the quake across six regencies on Flores, a predominantly Catholic island in the Muslim-majority country. They focused on

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three regencies that remained inaccessible: hardest-hit Manggarai, East Manggarai and Nagekeo.

"We have cleared most landslides and reopened roads to previously isolated villages, although communication disruptions and power outages continue to hamper search efforts," said Fathur Rahman, head of the search-and-rescue office in Maumere, the capital of Sikka regency.

More than 900 homes were destroyed and 450 more damaged in East Nusa Tenggara province, forcing about 5,000 people into temporary shelters. At least 241 homes were damaged in the Flores region alone, said Abdul Muhari, the National Disaster Management Agency's chief for disaster prevention.

The quake occurred at a depth of 10 kilometers (6 miles) shortly before 6 a.m. Saturday, the U.S. Geological Survey said. Residents fled in panic as tsunami warnings were issued and later lifted.

Authorities have since recorded at least 995 aftershocks, but only 46 were felt by residents, Muhari said, adding that 135 people were injured.

Many residents at Labuan Bajo, the gateway to Komodo National Park, one of Indonesia's best-known tourist destinations, spent the night outside because of the aftershocks.

"The shaking was terrifying, so intense that my house nearly collapsed," said farmer Anastasia Imad, speaking from a makeshift green tent beside her damaged home. "We feared the aftershocks would bring it down on us while we slept."

Landslides blocked sections of the Trans-Flores Highway, a roughly 700-kilometer (435-mile) road linking communities across the mountainous island.

Meanwhile, relief workers distributed rice, ready-to-eat meals, drinking water, blankets and medicine, while emergency shelters were set up for displaced residents. Authorities said restoring electricity and communications, as well as delivering aid to remote villages isolated by landslides, were among the biggest challenges.

Indonesia, an archipelago of more than 17,000 islands, is prone to earthquakes and volcanic eruptions because of its location on the Pacific "Ring of Fire," a horseshoe-shaped arc of seismic faults and volcanoes.

Flores has experienced some of the country's deadliest disasters. A powerful earthquake and tsunami in 1992 killed about 2,500 people on the island.

In 2018, a magnitude 7.5 earthquake triggered a tsunami on the island of Sulawesi that killed more than 4,400 people. In 2004, a magnitude 9.1 quake off Sumatra unleashed a tsunami that killed about 230,000 people in a dozen countries.

Top US commander visits aircraft carrier, Gaza talks in Egypt and other Mideast news

By The Associated Press undefined

The top U.S. military commander in the Middle East praised the leadership of the long-deployed USS Lincoln after visiting the sailors on the vessel during a regional tour that ended on Saturday, the U.S. Central Command said.

U.S. negotiator Jared Kushner had a rare meeting with the Hamas leader on the Gaza ceasefire. And the 60-day negotiating period that began with the June 17 signing of an interim agreement between the U.S. and Iran is set to end with no word of an extension.

Here's a look at the latest developments on Sunday in the Iran war and the wider Middle East. Full coverage can be found [here](#).

US Central Command chief visits aircraft carrier

Adm. Brad Cooper visited the USS Lincoln as reports have emerged of mental health and supply issues. The Lincoln arrived in the Middle East in January and has been supporting the U.S. war against Iran, including the blockade on Iranian ports. It has spent a record-setting uninterrupted time at sea of more than 240 days.

"History will record this deployment as one of the most operationally intense and consequential of the modern era," Cooper said of the Lincoln strike group in a statement released Saturday. Extended deploy-

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ments of carriers — which can have more than 5,000 sailors and Marines on board — have raised concerns. In a statement Sunday, Cooper praised the leadership on the carrier for making mental health and resilience a priority.

Cooper also went to Bahrain, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates to meet with civilian and military leaders, according to the Central Command statement.

The U.S. Navy's blockade is in response to Iran asserting control over the Strait of Hormuz after the war started on Feb. 28 with U.S. and Israeli strikes. Before then, about one-fifth of the world's traded oil and natural gas passed through what had been considered an international waterway.

Talks between the U.S. and Iran have stalled while Iran talks with Oman about how to manage the strait that runs between them.

US negotiator meets with the Hamas chief

U.S. negotiator and President Donald Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner held a rare meeting with the Hamas chief in a new diplomatic effort to make progress in the stalled Gaza ceasefire. Kushner will meet with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Monday.

The meeting in Egypt with Hamas' Khalil al-Hayya was confirmed by a regional official and a Hamas official, both speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to reporters. Kushner was one of a trio of envoys meeting with al-Hayya, with officials from mediating countries Egypt, Qatar and Turkey also attending.

Mediators are pushing for the implementation of a road map that calls for the disarmament of Hamas and other Palestinian militant groups in Gaza, the withdrawal of Israeli forces and the handing over of power to Palestinian technocrats.

Netanyahu has rejected Trump's latest plan to advance the stalled ceasefire, saying Israel will not withdraw from any of the roughly 60% of the territory it controls until Hamas has been completely disarmed — something the militant group controlling the rest has resisted.

Kushner, former British Prime Minister Tony Blair and the director of the U.S.-created Board of Peace overseeing the ceasefire, Nikolay Mladenov, are to meet with Netanyahu on Monday, according to a person familiar with the plans and a diplomat who both spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss a closed-door meeting.

Separately, Kushner met with Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi. The president's office said the meeting called for Israel and Hamas to "fulfill their obligations under the ceasefire agreement in the Gaza Strip," without elaborating.

Israel targets two Hezbollah commanders in Saturday's strikes

Israel's military said it targeted two Hezbollah commanders in Saturday's strikes in southern Lebanon, the deadliest attacks since a truce between Israel and Iran-backed Hezbollah went into effect in June.

Lebanon's Health Ministry and state news agency said at least 11 people were killed.

Israel's military said early Sunday one strike killed Abu Hassan Alaa, whom it described as a senior Hezbollah commander who had taken part in attacks against Israel's soldiers in southern Lebanon. Earlier, the military said a strike killed Ali Samir Al-Haj Hassan, also described as a Hezbollah commander, adding that his family was with him.

Israel and the Lebanese government announced a "framework agreement" in June, laying out a plan for Israeli forces to withdraw from southern Lebanon in exchange for Hezbollah's disarmament. Hezbollah has refused direct talks and wasn't party to the U.S.-mediated deal.

Iran insists Qatar is holding 3 of its pilots

Iran again on Sunday alleged that Qatar was holding three Iranian pilots who went missing in March when their jets were downed, which Qatar has denied.

Iran's state TV reported Sunday that the commander of the Missing Persons Committee of Iran's Armed Forces General Staff has urged Qatar to allow Iranian Air Force experts to conduct a field investigation.

This is the first known case in the war where Iran has said a regional country is holding its fighters. Tehran has repeatedly targeted regional countries that are hosting U.S. military bases.

An Israeli strike in Gaza wounds five

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An Israeli strike hit Khan Younis in southern Gaza and wounded five people, including a child who was seriously injured, according to the Kuwaiti and Nasser hospitals, where the casualties were taken.

Israel's military said it struck a member of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad.

While the heaviest fighting has subsided since a ceasefire took hold in October between Israel and Hamas, Israeli forces have carried out repeated airstrikes, killing at least 1,262 Palestinians, according to Gaza's Health Ministry.

The ministry, part of the Hamas-led government, maintains detailed casualty records that are seen as generally reliable by U.N. agencies and independent experts. It does not give a breakdown of civilians and militants.

Israel's Ben-Gvir advocates killing '30 to 40' people in Gaza nightly

An extremist Israeli lawmaker in Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's coalition publicly advocated killing "30 to 40" people in Gaza each night in comments that surfaced Sunday.

Minister of National Security Itamar Ben-Gvir was speaking to a former Gaza-held hostage, Rom Braslavski, on Braslavski's podcast. The two were discussing Israel's recovery from the Hamas attack of Oct. 7, 2023, when Ben-Gvir criticized Israel's recent drawdown of strikes in Gaza.

"It's no secret, I disagree with the prime minister," he said. "I think targeted assassinations should be carried out in Gaza, taking down 30 to 40 every night. Not just those who pose an immediate threat — there are people there who are not worthy of life. They shouldn't live. They're not even people."

Similar statements in the past have been presented to the U.N.'s world court as evidence of genocidal intent. Israel denies it has committed genocide in Gaza.

Trump orders Pentagon to scale back joint exercises with South Korea

By KONSTANTIN TOROPIN and ALANNA DURKIN RICHER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump ordered the Pentagon on Sunday to scale back annual joint military exercises with South Korea, saying the ally declined to help with the war against Iran and citing his good relationship with North Korea's Kim Jong Un.

Trump said in a social media post that the exercises, which began Monday, are not only costly but "send a signal that is totally inappropriate and hostile" to North Korea, which he said "has been unthreatening and respectful" during his time in the White House.

"Therefore, and based on the fact that it is too late to cancel, I have instructed Secretary of War, Pete Hegseth, to substantially reduce the Joint Military Exercises!" Trump wrote. The president added that he recently asked South Korea's president if they would join the U.S. in the "denuclearization" of Iran, "and they said, 'No thanks!'"

The move is the latest example of the president appearing to turn against an ally in favor of a leader that previous administrations have cast as an adversary. Trump and others in his administration have also railed against NATO allies over perceived lack of support for his war against Iran, even as they seek to confront an increasingly aggressive Russia in the Baltic region.

It is also a sharp turnaround from how his administration has viewed South Korea in recent months.

In May, Hegseth praised the longtime ally for its "commitment to increase defense spending" and its "leadership in assuming primary responsibility for the security of the Korean Peninsula" during a meeting at the Pentagon.

"It demonstrates alliance burden-sharing that all of America's partners would do well to follow," the defense secretary added.

What the US military says about the joint exercises

The 11 days of exercises involving 18,000 South Korean soldiers were designed to beef up readiness against North Korean threats.

The U.S. military has said the summertime Ulchi Freedom Shield exercises reinforce "the role of the

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alliance as the linchpin for regional peace and security" and reaffirm "the ironclad commitment between the United States and the Republic of Korea to defend their homelands." The exercises are one of the two main combined drills conducted by the South Korean and U.S. militaries annually, along with their springtime training.

U.S. and South Korean forces were expected to practice joint operations in complex scenarios, including a live-fire exercise to test joint precision targeting and maneuver, a wet gap crossing, and distribution of prepositioned military equipment, according to the U.S. military. South Korea's Defense Ministry confirmed that the exercises began on Monday as planned.

The joint training started days after North Korea resumed ballistic missile testing activities in defiance of U.N. bans.

Trump's decision was sharply criticized by Democratic Sen. Mark Kelly, a former Navy pilot, who said that "hollowing out these joint exercises is shortsighted and a mistake" in a social media post made just hours after the president's own post. Earlier this month, South Korea, the U.S. and Japan detected the launches of two ballistic missiles from North Korea in what were the North's first ballistic weapons testing activities since late June. The missiles landed in the waters off North Korea's east coast.

North Korea threatens strong response

North Korea has been pushing hard to enlarge its nuclear and missile arsenals since Kim's high-stakes diplomacy with Trump collapsed in 2019. Experts say Kim likely believes a bigger weapons arsenal would increase his chances for wresting more concessions from the U.S. in future negotiations.

North Korea on Friday threatened unspecified stern steps against the U.S. and South Korea, describing their military drills as a "a rehearsal for an aggressive war" that are triggering greater instability in the region.

The warning was typical of the harsh rhetoric that North Korea often deploys ahead of major U.S.-South Korean military exercises. Experts say North Korea has often used its rivals' drills as a pretext to ramp up testing activities to modernize weapons and promote public support for the reclusive North Korean leader.

Trump met with the North Korean leader three times during his first term to discuss the country's nuclear program, most recently in 2019. Since returning to office, Trump has expressed interest in continuing those discussions. In September 2025, Kim said he held "good personal memories" of Trump and suggested he could return to talks if the U.S. drops "its delusional obsession with denuclearization" of North Korea.

Trump's announcement came a day after he posted a photo of himself standing next to North Korea's Kim, writing that the two leaders get along great "despite the unfriendly look on this particular picture."

This is not the first time that Trump has sought to end the exercises. During his first term he also issued a surprise announcement that called the war games "provocative."

"We will be stopping the war games, which will save us a tremendous amount of money, unless and until we see the future negotiation is not going along like it should," Trump told reporters after his 2018 meeting with Kim in Singapore.

Tropical Storm Lala rakes Hawaii with high winds and rain without making landfall

By MIKELLA SCHUETTLER and KATE BRUMBACK Associated Press

Hurricane Lala weakened Sunday to a tropical storm after raking Hawaii without making landfall, its heavy rains and winds strong enough to sweep around 100 homes off their foundations on the Big Island, officials said.

Gov. Josh Green said no one is believed to have died when the homes washed away. Earlier, a search-and-rescue mission was launched in the coastal communities of Na'alehu and Wai'ohinu, near the Big Island's southern tip.

He spoke at a news conference as the storm continued to punish the islands with strong gusts and pounding rain, reaching a total of nearly three feet (one meter) in places.

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Cynthia Channels, a local organizer who works with unhoused people and families in need, has been driving around Oahu in her pickup truck, assessing damage. For her, the wind has been the worst part of the storm.

"The winds are really bad, people's shingles are falling off the roofs," Channels said.

Green said its not clear if a vehicle wreck that killed one person Saturday in the South Point area of the Big Island was storm related.

Storm hits islands with flooding and power outages

Honolulu, on Oahu, was bearing the brunt of the tropical storm conditions spreading westward over the island chain. The Honolulu Fire Department had received more than 600 weather-related responses by noon local time Sunday, including 147 reports of downed trees. There were also roofs blown off, downed power lines and one swimmer who had to be rescued, a city statement said.

Much of the state remained under a flash flood warning, though the National Hurricane Center downgraded the Big Island to a flood advisory Sunday.

"Basically, the best thing to do right now is just stay home for a bit longer," weather service meteorologist Stephen Parker said. "The storm won't last forever and once those kind of threats get cleaned up, it will be safe to be out and about again."

More than 200,000 homes and businesses were without power by midday, according to the utility tracker poweroutage.us. That included nearly two-thirds of customers on the Big Island. At least three hospitals were operating on generator power, the governor said, adding damage to roads and several small bridges was making some places hard to reach.

"Everyone is safe and healthy," said Green, a medical doctor who previously worked in emergency departments of remote hospitals on the Big Island. "But boy, a lot of work ahead."

Powerful waves pounded the Big Island's coast. Just missing landfall, the eyewall didn't weaken, and its winds pounded mountainsides as bands of rain blew nearly sideways. The storm came three years after the state experienced the deadliest wildfire in the U.S. in more than a century.

Lala isn't losing strength as wind and rains lash Hawaii

Tropical storm warnings were in effect for the islands of Maui, Molokai, Lanai, Kahoolawe, Oahu, Kauai and Niihau, raising the possibility of destructive flooding.

The heaviest rain Sunday was falling on Lanai, Moloka'i and Oahu, while the highest wind gusts topped 100 mph (161 kph) at the towering Mauna Kea volcano on the Big Island, Parker said.

As of 11 a.m. in Hawaii, Lala was centered about 140 miles (220 kilometers) west of Honolulu with top sustained winds of 65 mph (100 kph), the U.S. National Hurricane Center said in its latest advisory. The storm was moving west-northwest at about 16 mph (28 kph).

The advisory said the storm's strength is expected to change little through Monday and forecasters expect Lala could become a hurricane again on Tuesday or Wednesday when it has moved well west of the island chain.

Some higher-altitude places on the Big Island, dominated by Mauna Kea, have been hit with as much as 35 inches (89 centimeters) of rain. That's enough to loosen steep slopes where some of the 210,000 islanders live off the grid in improvised housing.

As the hurricane approached, shelters were opened, events were canceled and ranchers were urged to leave their cattle in pastures rather than structures that might collapse. Many residents are still dealing with the aftermath of devastating floods in March and took precautions.

A beloved bakery is damaged

The Punalu'u Bake Shop on in Naalehu, Big Island, a tourist hotspot and major local employer, was severely damaged. Zachary Kennedy, the manager of the Hawaiian sweet bread bakery, said water rushed through their factories and retail store, leaving behind around three feet (1 meter) of mud.

"This is a different level of damage, it's literally catastrophic," Kennedy said.

Kate McLellan, a resident on Oahu's North Shore, was still waiting for the worst of the storm after her power went out Sunday morning, glued to the weather network.

In March and April, her community was hit by back-to-back storms with heavy rain and high winds,

keeping residents on high alert. Memories of that storm were "giving that same uncertainty and hesitation and panic and anxiety," McLellan said.

Nicole Clark has been sheltering in place on Kauai and is prepared to stay there after her school was canceled Monday for her kids because of a tree blocking a road. Still, she said she's inspired and comforted by the sense of community established across Hawaii during storms like this.

"It's a good feeling during hard times," Clark said.

At least 7 people have died from days of heavy rain and record-setting flooding in Indiana

By PHILIP MARCELO and OBED LAMY undefined

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. (AP) — Days of storms and flooding in Indiana left at least seven people dead as floodwaters receded in Indianapolis' White River and rains eased in other parts of the state Sunday.

Frank Gounder was among the Indianapolis residents assessing the damage Sunday, which also happened to be his 37th birthday.

The furniture maker, who lives on the city's hard-hit northside, less than a mile from the White River, had been at home as floodwaters crept up his driveway until they were about 2 feet deep (0.61 meters) in the house and his workshop.

Now Gounder is left to pick through waterlogged materials and handmade furniture in various stages of completion to see what, if anything, could be salvaged.

"It's a lot. Before the water had actually gotten into my house and I saw that it was going to happen, I started freaking out, getting mad," he said. "But after you realize you can't do anything about it, you kind of just have to let go and just continue, or else you're just going to be miserable."

Storm victims mourned

A 4-year-old boy, three men and three women were among those who had died since the storms began Aug. 11, said Liz Woods, a spokesperson for the state Department of Homeland Security.

Among the latest confirmed victims was a 31-year-old cyclist found dead early Sunday in a hole that opened up on a washed-out road in Henry County, east of Indianapolis.

Henry County Coroner Brian Clark said the man, James Briar, appears to have gone around a barricade and fallen into the collapsed road.

Officials in Jennings County, in the southern end of the state, said the youngest victim reported so far was killed Tuesday when a tree crashed through his bedroom during strong winds.

"This is obviously unexpected," Cody Low, chief deputy at the Jennings County Sheriff's office, told the local ABC affiliate. "There's nothing we can say that is going to make it any better. We're going to push through this as a community."

The other victims included a 19-year-old man whose body was recovered Saturday. Officials in Delaware County, located east of Indianapolis, said Matthew Morey had jumped off a bridge into the rushing waters of the Mississinewa River with friends three days earlier.

Family and friends gathered earlier in the week at the bridge to remember the recent high school graduate, who was headed to Purdue University, and warn of the dangers of swollen rivers.

"There are no words that can ease the pain of losing a child," Delaware County Sheriff Tony Skinner said in a statement on Sunday. "Our hearts are with Matthew's family, friends, classmates, and everyone who knew and loved him."

Skinner's office also confirmed Stephanie Sallee and her dog were found dead in a cornfield Friday, not far from Sallee's car. They believe the 58-year-old had been driving on a flooded road when the vehicle was swept away.

In social media posts, Sallee's family remembered her as a sweet, kind and "spunky lady" who adored her grandchildren and other young relatives.

Recovery efforts are underway

In Indianapolis, flooding from the White River peaked early Sunday morning before receding, the city

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Department of Public Works said.

The agency reopened city floodgates Sunday, though they urged residents to be cautious as they returned to flood-damaged neighborhoods. Emergency shelters remained open after hundreds of homes along the river and its canals were evacuated. First responders used boats to rescue people stranded by rapidly rising floodwaters.

Recovery efforts were also underway elsewhere in the state.

"I must admit it is a good morning," Christine Altman, president of the Hamilton County board of commissioners, said during a Sunday briefing. "It's not raining, and the water is receding."

She said the county, located just north of Indianapolis, escaped without any loss of life, though officials were assessing whether a significant bridge damaged in the flooding could be repaired or if it needed to be completely replaced.

While northern parts of Indiana dried out, a cluster of storms was expected to pass through the central and southern regions later Sunday, bringing the potential for heavy rain, flash flooding and damaging winds, the National Weather Service warned.

Nearly 130,000 utility customers statewide remained without power as of late Sunday, down from a peak of around 300,000, according to the online utility tracker PowerOutage.us.

Storms brought historic flooding to Indiana

Heavy rains hammered Indiana over the past week, causing rivers to crest and setting records as roads and bridges were seriously damaged or washed out entirely by the rushing waters.

The White River crested at more than 24 feet (7.32 meters) in the communities of Anderson and Noblesville, surpassing records set in 1913.

Indianapolis Mayor Joe Hogsett said the flooding was the worst the city has seen in more than 30 years.

Gov. Mike Braun's office said more than 350 evacuations and scores of rescue and welfare checks have occurred elsewhere in the state, including at a senior mobile home community north of Indianapolis.

President Donald Trump on Saturday approved Braun's request for federal disaster assistance to help with flooding response and recovery efforts.

The drenching rains and destructive flooding were among the impacts of severe storms that have wreaked havoc across the Midwest and beyond in recent days.

Tornadoes, heavy rains and flash flooding brought serious damage to communities from Illinois to western Pennsylvania.

Kushner has a rare meeting with Hamas' leader on the Gaza road map. A meeting with Netanyahu is next

By SAMY MAGDY, JULIA FRANKEL and CARA ANNA Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — U.S. negotiator and President Donald Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner held a rare meeting with the Hamas chief on Sunday in a new diplomatic effort to make progress in the stalled Gaza ceasefire. Kushner will meet on Monday with Israel's prime minister, who is under pressure after rejecting the new 15-point, U.S.-backed road map.

The talks aim to salvage the plan for Hamas to disarm and Israel to withdraw from the Palestinian territory shattered by war.

At stake are the lives of some 2 million people in Gaza and reconstruction of the crowded enclave now largely controlled by Israeli forces, more than 10 months since the ceasefire ended major military operations. A meeting between Kushner, fellow envoy Steve Witkoff and Hamas leaders in Egypt last year helped clinch the ceasefire, whose progress until now had been stalled over the key issue of Hamas' disarmament.

The more than two-hour meeting in Egypt with Hamas' Khalil al-Hayya was confirmed by a regional official and a Hamas official, both speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to reporters. Kushner was one of a trio of envoys meeting with al-Hayya, with officials from mediating countries Egypt, Qatar and Turkey also there.

Hamas in a statement later called on mediators and the U.S.-created Board of Peace overseeing the

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ceasefire to "compel" Israel to approve the road map for next steps.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu last week rejected the 15-point plan in a rare public show of defiance against the Trump administration, Israel's closest ally.

Kushner, former British prime minister Tony Blair and the Board of Peace director, Nickolay Mladenov, are to meet with Netanyahu on Monday, according to a source familiar with the plans and a diplomatic source. Both spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss a closed-door meeting.

Regional powers accuse Israel of obstructing peace efforts

Several regional powers including Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates issued a statement condemning Israel's rejection of the road map, saying that "Israel now bears responsibility for obstructing the efforts to bring peace in Gaza." Other signers included Jordan, Pakistan, Indonesia and the ceasefire mediators.

The foreign ministers' statement called on the Board of Peace and the U.S. to take "immediate and concrete measures" to keep any party from obstructing the plan's implementation.

Kushner's meeting with the Hamas leader aimed at ensuring the militant group's commitment to the road map, particularly disarmament, before his meeting with Netanyahu, the regional official said.

The Hamas official said the group is committed and waiting for mediators to start the 14-day negotiation period to work out a timetable for implementation. That period requires all parties' approval of the road map to begin.

The Hamas official also said the Hamas leader demanded that Israel halt its attacks on Gaza and withdraw to the so-called "yellow line" dividing the territory before beginning implementation. The yellow line was never precisely defined. Israeli forces have moved beyond it and now control about 60% of Gaza.

In May, Netanyahu said the next step was to move to 70% control, with Israel "tightening the grip" on Hamas "from every direction."

The White House had no comment on the talks

The White House referred questions about Kushner's meetings to the Board of Peace, which did not immediately comment. The Tony Blair Institute did not comment.

Under the road map, Hamas would hand over weapons to the Palestinian technocratic committee meant to oversee daily operations in the territory. The committee has not yet entered Gaza. But Hamas has linked the surrender of its heaviest weapons to the creation of a Palestinian state, something Israel's current government rejects.

The road map involves Hamas gradually giving up its weapons while Israeli forces halt attacks and begin withdrawing from Gaza. But Netanyahu says Israel will not retreat from any position in Gaza until Hamas has been completely disarmed.

That stance leaves other elements of the ceasefire, including reconstruction and the deployment of international forces to separate Israeli forces from committee-controlled areas, on hold.

Netanyahu faces a challenging election on Oct. 27 as he tries to hold on to power with a coalition that includes ministers taking a harsh line on Gaza, and it's not clear whether he will take decisive steps on the ceasefire before then. Also coming up is the anniversary of the Oct. 7, 2023, Hamas-led attack on southern Israel that sparked the war.

Netanyahu's Likud party on Sunday responded to the statement by regional powers by claiming that "Arab states want to topple" Netanyahu so that centrist challenger Gadi Eisenkot and center-left party leader Yair Golan "will give them everything they want. That will not happen."

Colombian president asks Trump to suspend tariffs to help earthquake recovery

BOGOTÁ, Colombia (AP) — Colombia's President Abelardo de la Espriella has asked his ally U.S. President Donald Trump to suspend tariffs to help the South American nation recover from a powerful earthquake that killed at least 289 people.

De la Espriella took office earlier this month just days before the 7.4 magnitude quake struck. He was

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backed by Trump in Colombia's closely contested presidential election, which was decided in a runoff on June 21, and has sought to emphasize his connections with the U.S. leader.

On Saturday night, de la Espriella wrote on X that he spoke with Trump and thanked him for aid sent by the U.S. in response to the earthquake. He added that he "asked him to consider the temporary suspension of the high tariffs that affect Colombian products, in order to provide relief to our businesspeople, who are facing very difficult times due to the effects of the earthquake."

There has been no immediate response from the Trump administration to de la Espriella's request. The U.S. has offered a total of \$26.5 million in earthquake aid, including food, shelters and health supplies, according to the U.S. State Department.

The earthquake that struck Monday morning devastated parts of western Colombia, hitting cities including Pereira, Cali and Quibdo. Cities along the country's Pacific coast were hit particularly hard. The president declared the quake a natural disaster.

The government has said that 143 people are missing, while other civilian-run databases put the number in the thousands.

The natural disaster, whose epicenter was in one of the poorest regions of the country, Choco, has so far left 3,937 people injured, according to the government. In addition, it destroyed 14,705 homes and damaged another 81,536.

In Cali, Colombia's third biggest city, workers searched for the more than 70 people reported missing in that city. Hope remained alive even after the key 48 to 72 hour window to find survivors beneath the rubble has long passed.

"Miracles do happen" even though more than 120 hours have passed since the earthquake struck, said Cali Mayor Alejandro Eder from the unified command post. "We are working where we know there are still victims; we are working in the hope of rescuing people alive."

Police looking for additional people who fired guns in Virginia university shooting that wounded 5

Associated Press undefined

ETTRICK, Va. (AP) — Authorities were seeking additional people who fired weapons during a shooting at Virginia State University that left five people wounded, police said Sunday, as a 19-year-old suspect remained in custody and investigators sought to unravel what happened.

Investigators were trying to determine what led to Saturday's shooting and if the others who fired did so in self-defense or if they were among the aggressors, said Lt. James Lamb, commander of the Chesterfield County Police Department's Major Crimes Unit. He did not say how many others fired weapons.

"We don't have specific locations that we are looking (at) yet as we are working on identifying them," Lamb said in an email response to questions from The Associated Press.

The shooting, at about 1:30 a.m. Saturday, prompted a campus lockdown and came as students were getting ready for the new school year. It happened near the university's Quad Annexes, where campus police and Chesterfield County officers found five people with gunshot wounds outside campus dormitories.

Many students had just completed the university's "New Trojans Experience" for incoming students. Classes resume Monday.

A suspect was found in a dormitory closet and arrested more than 14 hours after the shooting — and several hours after university officials already had lifted a campus lockdown, saying that law enforcement did not believe there was an immediate threat.

The AP left email and telephone messages with Virginia State University administrators.

Camron Harris, 19, of Henrico, Virginia, was being held without bond in the Chesterfield County jail. He is due in state court Monday to face four counts of malicious wounding and four counts of using a firearm in the commission of a felony.

It could not be immediately determined if Harris has an attorney who could speak on his behalf, and efforts to reach his family by phone were unsuccessful.

Virginia State University is a historically Black university located in Ettrick, Virginia, about 24 miles (39 kilometers) south of the state capital of Richmond. The public university has about 5,700 students and was the first fully state-supported four-year college for Black Americans. Most of its students are undergraduates.

The victims ranged in age from 17 to 23 and only one of them was a student at the university, according to police. Harris was not a student, police said.

Brazil's Lula and Flávio Bolsonaro return to their strongholds to kick off presidential campaigns

By MAURICIO SAVARESE Associated Press

SAO BERNARDO DO CAMPO, Brazil (AP) — Brazil's two main presidential candidates kicked off their campaigns on Sunday, rallying supporters in their political strongholds ahead of what is expected to be a tight October election.

President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva spoke with nostalgia to more than 10,000 supporters at the Vila Euclides Stadium outside Sao Paulo — a city where he rose to political fame 47 years ago as a metalworkers union leader during the country's 1964-1985 military dictatorship.

The 80-year-old, wearing a hat after a skin cancer diagnosis, insisted Brazil needs more of his policies.

Sen. Flávio Bolsonaro, one of the sons of former President Jair Bolsonaro, gathered with thousands of voters on the Copacabana Beach in Rio de Janeiro. His father, under house arrest following his conviction for an attempted coup, did not attend the rally.

Lula echoed his own earlier comments denouncing foreign interference in Brazil's politics. His allies have accused the U.S. government of seeking to boost Flávio Bolsonaro's bid with measures such as raising tariffs on Brazilian exports and revoking the visa of Brazil's ambassador to Washington.

Speaking about Brazil's vast reserves of rare minerals, Lula said "no one (abroad) will tap our minerals. We are going to tap them for the benefit of the Brazilian people."

Bolsonaro argued that he is "the only one who can sit with the United States, with China, with Israel, with the Middle East, with India and with Argentina to make the best and biggest trade deals for our nation."

His party's convention was attended by Argentina's President Javier Milei. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and several members of the Trump administration have expressed support for him.

Voters' attention is expected to perk up after TV ads start

Sunday was the first campaign day the 13 candidates in the running but many voters are expected to pay more attention once campaign ads start airing on TV and radio at the end of the month.

"It looks like we are starting slow this time," said 68-year-old Flávio Alves, a Lula supporter who lives on the same street where the rally was underway. "We all expect a narrow election, but now Lula is in government, things are different."

Four years ago, Lula beat incumbent Jair Bolsonaro with 50.9% of the vote.

Another presidential candidate, Ronaldo Caiado, a former state governor and an agribusiness leader, toured the surroundings of Brazil's capital Brasilia and reinforced his anti-Lula credentials.

Another Lula opponent, Romeu Zema, met voters and attended a Catholic ceremony in the countryside of Minas Gerais, considered a bellwether state for the elections — a state he had governed until recently.

Both top candidates appeal to women voters

Lula, who is seeking his fourth nonconsecutive term, and Bolsonaro each reached out to women voters, who account for nearly 53% of Brazil's 158 million eligible voters, according to the country's electoral court.

"Men need to learn from childhood that they are no better than women. We need to be equal," said Lula, as first lady Rosângela da Silva stood by his side, nodding. She was one of the event's main speakers in Sao Bernardo do Campo, where Lula lived a large part of his life.

Lula said he will launch his platform within 10 days, with more details to come about his policies to benefit women, including education initiatives and policies to prevent and punish violence against women.

Sen. Bolsonaro, with his mother and wife by his side, told supporters he would work to fight violence

against women.

Flávio Bolsonaro seeks to distinguish himself from his father

In his speech, the younger Bolsonaro vowed to fight crime and to remove what he described as left-wing "ideology" from Brazilian schools. Every student "has the right to dream of being Elon Musk someday," he said.

Before his appearance on Copacabana beach, 45-year-old Bolsonaro said during a live broadcast that he has received 1,800 death threats, without offering evidence. The lawmaker noted that he was wearing a bulletproof vest.

His father was attacked by a man with a knife as he campaigned for the presidency in 2018, suffering internal bleeding and intestinal injuries.

Jair Bolsonaro chose his son to stand against Lula as the Liberal Party's candidate. The younger Bolsonaro's campaign has faced headwinds since its start, with moderate political parties keeping their distance, a public rift with his stepmother and difficulties in finding a running mate.

The 45-year-old lawmaker, who bears a physical resemblance to his father, clearly sought to establish his own identity.

"I know I look like him. But it is hard to compare Pelé's son with Pelé," he said, referring to the three-time World Cup-winning soccer player who died in 2022.

Ukraine launches one of its largest aerial attacks of the war, killing at least 6 people in Russia

By The Associated Press undefined

Ukraine launched hundreds of drones across Russia on Sunday, killing at least six people in one of Kyiv's largest aerial attacks of the war.

Kyiv has stepped up its attacks on Russia this year, with long-range missiles and swarms of drones targeting military industries and energy facilities. It has also increasingly pummeled giant Wildberries depots, burning billions of dollars' worth of merchandise belonging to the Russian online retail giant. Those attacks have brought the war home to the Russian public nearly 4½ years into Moscow's full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

Meanwhile, Ukraine also came under Russian attack, with drone strikes destroying homes and torching Kyiv's landmark book market.

Russia's Ministry of Defense said it had destroyed 822 Ukrainian drones overnight. Some 600 drones were detected headed toward the Russian capital, Moscow Mayor Sergei Sobyenin said, with a third of those destroyed over the Moscow region itself.

An 83-year-old man was killed after a Ukrainian drone hit a private home in the Moscow region, local Gov. Andrey Vorobyov said. He also confirmed that a Ukrainian attack had sparked a blaze at a Wildberries warehouse in the town of Podolsk.

A drone attack targeted three towns in Russia's southwestern Rostov region, killing five people, local Gov. Yury Slyusar said. The attack, with more than 150 drones, damaged several homes and a railway station and sparked a forest fire.

Russian strikes kill 5 in Ukraine

A Russian missile attack on Ukraine's Kryvyi Rih killed two people and wounded 14 others, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy wrote on social media Sunday. He also said that one more person had been killed in the city of Sumy.

ArcelorMittal Kryvyi Rih, Ukraine's largest steel producer, confirmed that one of its sites had been hit in a missile attack and that operations had been partially suspended.

Elsewhere, a man and a woman died when their home was hit by a Russian strike in Ukraine's southern Zaporizhzhia region, said Ivan Fedorov, the head of the local military administration.

Russian attacks also sparked fires throughout the Ukrainian capital, Kyiv, wounding six people. A blaze took hold at one of the city's largest book markets, tearing through kiosks huddled close to the Pochaina

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metro station. Firefighters fought back the flames, which sent plumes of black smoke across the capital, and picked their way through rubble where the market's crowded pavilions once stood.

"Wherever the Russians can reach with their ballistic missiles, they strike civilian infrastructure," Zelenskyy said.

Russia's Ministry of Defense said Sunday that it had targeted a metallurgical plant in Kryvyi Rih and several military-industrial sites in Kyiv, including a manufacturing facility for Ukraine's Flamingo missiles.

The domestically produced missiles are increasingly key to Ukraine's long-range attacks on Russia, with Zelenskyy announcing Saturday that Kyiv had used the weapons to attack a rocket research and production center in Samara approximately 900 kilometers (560 miles) from the Ukrainian border.

NATO jet downs drone in Romanian airspace

Romania's Ministry of National Defense said Sunday that a Spanish Air and Space Force F-18 fighter jet shot down a drone that had entered Romanian airspace.

The drone's entry into the NATO member's airspace was detected by surveillance systems at 4:44 a.m., the ministry said, about 24 kilometers (14.9 miles) north of the eastern city of Galati near the border with neighboring Moldova. Moldova is a landlocked country between Ukraine and Romania.

A Spanish F-18 aircraft that was performing air policing duties "made radar contact with the target and received engagement approval," the ministry said. "The drone was safely shot down by the F-18 aircraft at 05:01."

The ministry later said that drone debris was also reported in the Black Sea around 10 a.m. on Sunday, about 1.5 kilometers (0.9 miles) from the coastal city of Constanta. Separately, another drone fragment was found on Sunday 1 nautical mile (1.85 kilometers) from Constanta.

Romanian officials did not specify the drone's origin.

However, Moldova's Ministry of Defense said Sunday that its Army surveillance systems had detected a Geran-type Shahed drone in Moldovan airspace, which entered from Ukraine and exited toward Romania.

The spate of drone incidents comes weeks after Romanian pilots shot down three drones over three days as Russia intensified attacks against Ukraine near the border. Since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, Romania has reported dozens of drone incidents, including some that have crashed and exploded on its territory.

Acting Foreign Minister Oana Toiu said in a post on X that the Spanish deployment in Romania was scaled up "at the request of Romania and NATO to bolster the Eastern Flank following prior drone incidents," and that it was Spain's fourth such deployment.

Box Office: 'Spider-Man' stays on top while two dino movies battle for third

By LINDSEY BAHR AP Film Writer

Two very different dinosaur movies devoured a modest chunk of the North American box office this weekend, although neither came close to unseating "Spider-Man" from its perch atop the charts, nor managed to steal second place from "The Odyssey."

"Paw Patrol: The Dino Movie" and "The End of Oak Street," one targeted to very young children and the other an original PG-13 rated action movie, battled for third place in their first weekend in theaters. According to studio estimates on Sunday, the Anne Hathaway and Ewan McGregor movie had the slight edge, with a projected \$21 million to the animated pups' \$20.5 million.

Neither stood a chance for first, however, while "Spider-Man: Brand New Day" continues to cast its sticky web around audiences three weekends into its historic run. The Sony Pictures release added another \$70 million from theaters in the U.S. and Canada, bringing its domestic total to a staggering \$785.8 million, making it the fourth-biggest domestic release ever. With \$118.7 million from overseas markets, it surpassed \$2 billion globally, only the eighth movie ever to achieve that landmark (not accounting for inflation) and the second-fastest to do so. "Avengers: Endgame" did it in 11 days in 2019. "Brand New Day" took about 18.

"The Odyssey," now in its fifth weekend, also managed to stay in second with a \$23.2 million weekend

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that pushed its domestic total to \$504.7 million. With \$98 million from international showings, propelled by \$36.6 million from its first few days playing in China, Christopher Nolan's epic has now made over \$1.2 billion globally.

"The End of Oak Street" came in ahead of expectations with around \$21 million from 3,446 locations. It also made \$26 million from international screenings, adding up to a \$47 million global opening against a reported \$80 million production budget.

The film, written and directed by David Robert Mitchell, stars McGregor and Hathaway as suburban parents in 1982 whose neighborhood is mysteriously transported to prehistoric times. It was well-received by critics and currently carries an 86% on Rotten Tomatoes, but audiences gave it a less enthusiastic B CinemaScore. According to PostTrak exit polls, just over half the opening weekend audience said they would "definitely recommend" to friends.

Family audiences showed up for "Paw Patrol: The Dino Movie," which Paramount Pictures released in 3,545 theaters in the U.S. and Canada this weekend. Carrying a PG rating, it's the third theatrically released Paw Patrol movie since 2021. The opening weekend audience gave it an A CinemaScore. Globally, it has a running total of \$69 million.

The Katseye documentary "Katseye: Wild Hearts" rounded out the top five with \$4 million from only 724 screens. Several other newcomers also managed to get places in the top 10: "Six: The Musical Live" opened in sixth place with \$3 million, followed by "The Brink of War" with \$2.7 million. The Tamil-language romance "Vishwanath & Sons" made \$1.6 million to take 10th place.

The Matthew McConaughey crime thriller "The Rivals of Amziah King" opened outside of the top 10 with just over \$1 million from 632 theaters. The young Anthony Bourdain biopic "Tony," meanwhile, made \$706,676 from 37 theaters in its second weekend. The A24 release is expanding in the coming weeks.

The box office is strong with the summer season, now over, accounting for over \$4.2 billion in ticket sales — about 5.7% ahead of the pre-pandemic summer of 2019. Paul Dergarabedian, the head of marketplace trends for Rentrak, noted that the number to date is only about \$130 million shy of the record 2013 summer, which was led by "Iron Man 3" and "Despicable Me 2."

While this summer might not surpass 2013, which ended with just under \$4.8 billion, Dergarabedian said, "This is going to be a top five summer of all time."

The year overall is just under \$6.9 billion.

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," \$70 million.
2. "The Odyssey," \$23.2 million.
3. "The End of Oak Street," \$21 million.
4. "Paw Patrol: The Dino Movie," \$20.5 million.
5. "Katseye: Wild Hearts," \$4 million.
6. "Six: The Musical Live," \$3 million.
7. "The Brink of War," \$2.7 million.
8. "Toy Story 5," \$2.3 million.
9. "One Night Only," \$2 million.
10. "Vishwanath & Sons," \$1.6 million.

Republicans won the redistricting competition. Don't tell that to this California congressman

By NICHOLAS RICCARDI Associated Press

LINCOLN, Calif. (AP) — One thing Anne Smull, a retired feedstore owner, was looking forward to on Election Day was voting for the man who currently represents her in Congress, conservative Rep. Kevin Kiley. Now she can't.

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That's because California Democrats sliced Kiley's district six ways as payback for Republican redistricting in Texas and elsewhere. The chunk of the district that Smull, who identifies as a conservative, lives in is now grafted onto an overwhelmingly Democratic seat based in the state's wine country.

During a recent lunch at a cafe in Lincoln, a onetime agricultural town that has morphed into a bedroom community on the edge of Sacramento's exurban sprawl, Smull was heartbroken to hear she can no longer vote for Kiley.

"He believes in the same things I do," Smull said. "It feels sneaky and underhanded."

Republicans started the redistricting competition. Democrats might finish it

Democratic voters in several other states know how Smull feels.

President Donald Trump last year told GOP-controlled states to redraw their maps before this year's midterm elections to increase the number of winnable seats for Republicans in order to help the party hold onto the U.S. House. The effort was turbocharged by a U.S. Supreme Court decision this spring that neutralized a key provision of the Voting Rights Act and cleared the way for Republicans to redraw more seats across the South that had elected Black Democrats.

Democratic-leaning and heavily minority communities from Texas to Tennessee have been split into multiple congressional districts that dilute the Democratic vote by stretching deep into conservative areas.

In the future, it is likely that more Republican voters in other states will go through what Smull and other conservatives in Northern California are facing. Democrats in Maryland, New York, Illinois and other strongholds have pledged to retaliate in time for the 2028 elections and split Republican-leaning districts the way their California counterparts did Kiley's.

Democrats have been hindered nationally by stricter rules against partisan line-drawing in their states, but California showed a way around that. California Democrats won voter approval last year to redraw the state's congressional map, originally made by an independent commission, and formed five new Democratic-leaning seats.

'We have zero voice,' says voter angry at the Democratic drive for a new political map

Kiley's is one of them. The reworked political lines led the two-term congressman to leave the Republican Party and run as an independent in the slightly Democratic-leaning district that now includes his home.

He spoke out against partisan gerrymandering, even unsuccessfully trying to force the Republican-led House to allow a vote on a bill to ban mid-decade redistricting.

"We've seen partisan divisions really spin out of control in really harmful ways, and I think exhibit number one is the redistricting wars," Kiley recently told a group of voters in the suburb of Citrus Heights.

Democrats contend Kiley's party switch is purely a political trick to survive in a more liberal district. They note he still caucuses with House Republicans, has voted for many of the GOP's priorities, including Trump's sweeping budget and tax cut bill last year, and that political organizations run by House Republicans are spending money to back his reelection.

Even some of Kiley's supporters think the election was a factor in the congressman's decision to become an independent.

"My original thinking was he did it because of redistricting — maybe it'd help him get reelected," said John Coburn, a 68-year-old retired business owner, at the Citrus Heights event.

Coburn is furious at the Democrats' redistricting and hopes Kiley wins. Coburn does not care that they did it in retaliation for Texas, where Republicans at Trump's directive revised that state's map to carve out up to five new winnable conservative seats.

"I don't care about Texas, I live in California," Coburn said, adding that "40% of the state is Republican, and we have zero voice. Zero. It's not how our Founding Fathers intended."

For Democrats in the district, a rare political opportunity

In an interview, Kiley said his switch to independent was no political gambit. If he wanted to stay in the House, he argued, he could have had an easier time staying in the GOP, moving to a more conservative district that included parts of his old one and running in a Republican primary there.

"I could have gone there and run and played the same game these other politicians are playing," he said.

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Kiley said he is caucusing with Republicans to avoid losing his seats on committees and that in the next Congress he will try to change rules so independent members do not lose committee seats because they do not caucus with one of the two major parties.

Among his backers, he noted, is onetime Democratic presidential hopeful Andrew Yang, a former technology entrepreneur who co-founded a centrist party for independents.

The Democrat running against Kiley, former state Sen. Richard Pan, scoffs at his rival's newfound independent status.

"He was a MAGA champion when he first ran for Congress, and now he's trying to say 'I'm not,'" Pan told a crowd at a senior community in Roseville, referring to Trump's "Make America Great Again" movement.

Earlier that day, Pan swung by the Placer County Democratic Party office, tucked away on the second story of a brick shopping arcade in Lincoln's compact downtown.

Placer is a Republican county that stretches from the Sacramento suburbs to the northwestern shores of Lake Tahoe. The entire county is in Kiley's current district, but it will be divided among three districts in the new map.

Kathleen Crawford, chair of the county Democratic Party, was enthusiastic about the county getting carved up.

"It's worth it, because we have an opportunity to get Democratic representation, which has been missing from our county," Crawford said. "I've been here 15 years, and this is my first real opportunity to elect a Democrat."

A never-ending cycle that cuts out 'the little people'

Lincoln's downtown is flanked by fruit, vegetable and flower farms, as well as new subdivisions. The community and its neighboring suburbs have become a destination for people fleeing the San Francisco Bay Area's housing prices. That has helped change the once solidly conservative area into a political battleground where skilled mapmakers can draw winnable seats for Democrats.

Ed Church, a 61-year-old risk manager, was eating lunch at Simple Pleasures cafe in Lincoln when he contemplated Kiley's shift. A Democrat, Church has not been a Kiley fan and he was bemused by the congressman's move.

"If that's how he'd been initially and not so MAGA, I probably could have supported him," Church said of Kiley's independent status. Now Church, as a Lincoln resident, is in a purely Democratic district and will not have a say in Kiley's fate in November. His main criteria in the election will be "who's going to stand up to Trump?"

Across the street at a gun store, Wesley Johnson, 43, who considers himself a conservative independent, said he was dispirited by the state's redistricting.

"I feel Northern California is not represented fairly," Johnson said. "San Francisco, Sacramento and Los Angeles control everything."

He acknowledged Republicans were doing the same thing in states they controlled and said he did not know how it could stop.

"You're just cutting out the little people," Johnson said.

Today in History: August 17, Clinton admits to Lewinsky affair

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Monday, Aug. 17, the 229th day of 2026. There are 136 days left in the year.

Today in history: On Aug. 17, 1998, President Bill Clinton gave grand jury testimony via closed-circuit television from the White House concerning his relationship with Monica Lewinsky; he then delivered a TV address in which he admitted his relationship with Lewinsky was "wrong" but denied previously committing perjury (Clinton was subsequently impeached by the House of Representatives, but acquitted in the Senate).

Also on this date:

In 1807, Robert Fulton's North River Steamboat made its first voyage, heading up the Hudson River on

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a successful round trip between New York City and Albany.

In 1863, federal batteries and ships began bombarding Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor during the Civil War, but the Confederates managed to hold on despite several days of shelling.

In 1915, a mob in Cobb County, Georgia, lynched Jewish businessman Leo Frank, whose death sentence for the murder of 13-year-old Mary Phagan had been commuted to life imprisonment. (Frank, who had maintained his innocence, was pardoned by the state of Georgia in 1986.)

In 1945, Sukarno and Mohammad Hatta proclaimed independence for Indonesia, setting off the Indonesian National Revolution against Dutch rule.

In 1945, the George Orwell novel "Animal Farm," an allegorical satire of Soviet Communism, was first published in London by Martin Secker & Warburg.

In 1959, trumpeter Miles Davis released "Kind of Blue," regarded as one of the most influential jazz albums of all time.

In 1978, the first successful trans-Atlantic balloon flight ended as Maxie Anderson, Ben Abruzzo and Larry Newman landed their Double Eagle II outside Paris.

In 1988, Pakistani President Mohammad Zia ul-Haq and U.S. Ambassador Arnold Raphel (RAY'-fehl) were killed in a mysterious Pakistani C-130 plane crash shortly after taking off from Bahawalpur.

In 1999, more than 17,000 people were killed when a magnitude 7.4 earthquake struck the Kocaeli Province of Turkey.

In 2019, an accident during repair work at Russia's largest hydroelectric plant killed at least 10 workers and left dozens missing after an engine room was suddenly flooded. The accident occurred at the Sayano-Shushenskaya plant in southern Siberia.

In 2017, a van barreled down a busy walkway in central Barcelona, swerving as it mowed down pedestrians in the picturesque Spanish tourist destination. Thirteen people were killed and 100 were injured in what authorities called a terrorist attack.

Today's Birthdays: Computer scientist Margaret Hamilton is 90. Actor Robert DeNiro is 83. Businessman Larry Ellison is 82. Film director Martha Coolidge is 80. Filmmaker/author Julian Fellowes is 77. Tennis Hall of Famer Guillermo Vilas is 74. Singer Belinda Carlisle is 68. Author Jonathan Franzen is 67. Actor Sean Penn is 66. Singer/actor Donnie Wahlberg is 57. College Basketball Hall of Famer and retired NBA All-Star Christian Laettner is 57. Rapper Posdnuos (PAHS'-deh-noos) (De La Soul) is 57. Tennis Hall of Famer Jim Courier is 56. Soccer great Thierry Henry is 49. Rock climber Alex Honnold is 41. Actor Austin Butler is 35. Singer-songwriter Phoebe Bridgers is 32. Actor Lexy Kolker is 17. Actor Kayden Tokarski is 17.