

Groton Daily Independent

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Community Calendar

Monday, Aug. 24

Senior Menu: Ground beef stroganoff with noodles, peas, fruit, whole wheat bread.

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

Senior Citizens meet at the Community Center, with potluck at noon

Tuesday, Aug. 25

Senior Menu: Egg salad sandwich, tomato spoon salad, fruit, cookie.

United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.

NEC Boys Golf Meet, 10 a.m., Olive Grove Golf Course

Volleyball at Hamlin (C match at 5 p.m., JV at 6 p.m. followed by varsity)

Wednesday, Aug. 26

Senior Menu: Roasted chicken breast, roasted potatoes, California blend, fruit, whole wheat bread.

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

Groton Daily Independent

PO Box 34, Groton SD 57445

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

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Thursday, Aug. 27

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

Boys Soccer at Freeman/Marion/Parker/Viborg-Hurley, 4 p.m.

Girls Soccer at Garretson, 4:30 p.m.

Cross Country at Whetstone Creek Golf Course, Milbank, 5 p.m.

Friday, Aug. 28

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

Football hosts Beresford, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Aug. 29

Volleyball: C Match at Matchbox, Aberdeen, 9 a.m.

Volleyball: at Huron Area (vs. Brandon Valley at 10 a.m.; vs. Brookings at noon; vs. Huron at 1 p.m., vs. Sturgis, 4 p.m.)

Boys Soccer hosts Dakota Valley, 1 p.m.

Airport Fly-In/Drive In at Groton Airport

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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.

Trade Talks Collapse

The trade dispute between the US and Canada escalated sharply over the weekend after last-minute negotiations ended without agreement. A raft of US tariffs on Canadian goods kicked in Friday at midnight, while Prime Minister Mark Carney announced Canada would apply dollar-for-dollar tariffs going into effect Sept. 8.

The new US tariffs apply a 50% levy to about \$20B in Canadian imports, or roughly 5% of the goods exported to the US. Items range from alcohol to agricultural products but exclude energy-related goods. Carney said the retaliatory tariffs would be equal in monetary value, with specific items listed in the coming days.

Both countries and Mexico signed a free-trade agreement replacing NAFTA during President Donald Trump's first term. Trump declined a 16-year extension in July, switching to an annual review.

Anthony Retrial Denied

A Texas judge rejected Karmelo Anthony's request for a new trial Saturday following his conviction in the murder of 17-year-old Austin Metcalf. The case drew national attention over the issue of race, even as both legal teams sought to downplay its role in the violence.

Nineteen-year-old Anthony, who is Black, received a 35-year prison sentence for fatally stabbing Metcalf, who was white, at a high school track meet in April 2025. Anthony's team says he acted in self-defense, while prosecutors say Anthony initiated the altercation and pulled a knife. Since the trial, Anthony's supporters have questioned courtroom conduct, evidence, and the jury's racial makeup. A recent hearing uncovered both teenagers' disciplinary records that weren't previously acknowledged due to an informal agreement between the legal teams. The court recused the original judge after Anthony's team questioned his impartiality over comments he made about the trial.

Anthony's lawyers have appealed the decision.

Robot Race Returns

A Chinese-made robot defeated Jamaican athlete Usain Bolt's 100-meter sprint record Saturday, crossing 109 yards in 9.39 seconds, below Bolt's 9.58 seconds. The showmanship was part of China's second annual World Humanoid Robot Games in Beijing.

More than 2,000 humanoid robots are participating in this year's Olympics-style games, with matches including racing, fighting, table tennis, and soccer. There are also more practical competitions, including contests on industrial assembly, packing, and tool manipulation. China leads the world in humanoid robot production, responsible for more than 80% of global shipments. The country has already begun replacing human workers on some domestic assembly lines and food delivery services, though robots have not yet been widely adopted.

The competition comes weeks after the US banned imports of foreign-made humanoid robots, citing national security concerns. See analysis on how China's approach to AI differs from the of the US.

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Sports, Entertainment, & Culture

Actor Michael Wright, best known for playing Eddie King Jr. in 1991 film "The Five Heartbeats," dies at age 70 due to Marchiafava-Bignami disease, a rare neurological disorder, and complications from heart failure.

American Kyle Kirkwood wins Freedom 250 Grand Prix after leading 128 of 147 laps.

Dolly Parton says she is exploring "avatar performances" for future concerts amid health issues, including dizziness and dehydration.

Science & Technology

Researchers discover compound that boosts metabolism and lowers cholesterol production without loss of muscle mass; could lead to alternatives to GLP-1 drugs.

Unknown AI lab releases Ox Alpha, a free model offering 1 million-token context window (roughly 750,000 words in a single prompt); researchers suspect Chinese origin.

Scientists use "thunderquakes"—seismic waves generated by thunderstorms—to image beneath the Earth's surface.

Business & Markets

US stock markets rise Friday (S&P 500 +0.4%, Dow +1.0%, Nasdaq +0.4%), ending volatile week on a high note ahead of expected sanctions against Iran.

TikTok agrees to \$400M settlement with Justice Department over allegations it violated the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act.

Nvidia signals upcoming price hikes to some of its largest customers.

Hugging Face reportedly considers sale, valuing the AI startup at upward of \$13B.

Politics & World Affairs

Iranian hackers shut down a small UK power plant for four days last month, a new report alleges.

The US is expected to announce new sanctions against Iran as war focuses on economic isolation.

Tens of thousands of residents of Gary, Indiana, remain without power for 13 days after storms killed at least seven people earlier this month.

Democratic Republic of the Congo reaches road map for peace with Rwanda-backed M23 rebels in US-mediated process.

EMPLOYMENT

Wanted full or part time help for harvest. Someone who can drive combine, semi or tractor. Housing available. Near Aberdeen call 605-380-4898. (0819.0909pd).
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The Minnesota Vikings lost to the Baltimore Ravens 13-3 Saturday, bringing their preseason record to 1-1. Luckily for the Vikings, the final score of a preseason game isn't nearly as important as the information we learned about each player. So, what did we learn?

McCarthy is not a starting-caliber NFL quarterback

When the Vikings drafted McCarthy with the 10th overall pick in 2024, expectations were through the roof. We all know what happened then. Injuries derailed his rookie season, while journeyman QB Sam Darnold led the team to 14 wins. The Vikings let Darnold walk in 2025 and handed the keys to McCarthy without any real competition for the role. Darnold went to

Seattle and won a Super Bowl, while McCarthy missed nearly half the season because of injury and failed to impress when he was actually on the field (163 yards per game and more interceptions than touchdowns).

Determined to not make the same mistake, the Vikings brought in a veteran QB to compete with McCarthy this offseason. It didn't take long for head coach Kevin O'Connell to declare Kyler Murray the winner of the "competition."

With most of the Vikings' starters sitting out against the Ravens, McCarthy got the start. This was his chance to prove everyone wrong and possibly even open the competition back up. Instead, we saw the same problems that have plagued McCarthy since entering the league. Zero touch on the ball, scattershot accuracy, holding onto the ball too long, missing easy reads... I think it's safe to say McCarthy's time in Minnesota is about up. With Murray winning the starting job and McCarthy failing to take advantage of his opportunities, it wouldn't surprise me to see the team try to trade him and move on.

The Vikings' receiving group is among the best in the league

This isn't exactly breaking news, but Saturday's game just reinforced my opinion that the Vikings have one of the deepest WR groups in the NFL. Everyone knows about Justin Jefferson, Jordan Addison, and Jauan Jennings. But the battle for the other spots is the most competitive in training camp. Myles Price is the team's kick returner, so he has a spot virtually locked up, but he's also made huge strides as a receiver as well. Tai Felton has been getting rave reviews all offseason and likely secured his spot too. That leaves MAYBE one spot left. Right now, I see it coming down to Dontae Fleming and Dillon Bell. I think privately the Vikings were hoping to stash the undrafted rookie Bell on the practice squad, but after two preseason games, I don't think that's a possibility anymore. Which, I suppose, is a good problem to have.

The Vikings' defense is going to be a problem for opposing offenses

Again, this isn't a new revelation for anyone who has been watching the Vikings these last few years. But Brian Flores' ability to design defensive schemes to fit his players cannot be overstated. I'm still not comfortable with the team's depth at outside linebacker, but after two preseason games, I'm feeling better about depth at cornerback and safety. Speaking of safety, Jay Ward has really impressed me this year. He came into training camp with his eyes set on the open safety spot, and as it stands now, he's in the driver's seat.

Looking ahead, the Vikings wrap up preseason with a trip to Denver to face the Broncos. The game will be Friday, August 28, and kickoff is set for 8 pm. This will be the last chance for players on the bubble to make their case, because less than 48 hours after the game, the Vikings will have to trim the roster from 90 players to 53.

Back to School, Back to Bedtime: Why Sleep Routines Matter

If bedtime has drifted an hour or two later over the summer, nothing has gone wrong. Late sunsets, camp schedules, vacations, and relaxed screen rules all nudge a child's internal clock later. Pulling that clock back toward a school-year schedule is real work, and it usually takes a couple of weeks of consistent effort, not one good night. It is also normal to experience some protest, stalling, and a few rough mornings along the way. Sleep problems and irregular bedtimes are extremely common in childhood; roughly 20% to 30% of children are affected by insomnia at some point, so families who struggle with this are in the majority, not the minority.

It is important to be aware of the appropriate amount of sleep for your child's developing body. The American Academy of Pediatrics endorses these nightly sleep targets:

- Preschool (3–5 years): 10–13 hours, including naps
- School age (6–12 years): 9–12 hours
- Teens (13–18 years): 8–10 hours

Sleep is one of the strongest levers parents have over a child's mood and behavior. Getting the recommended hours is linked to better attention, learning, memory, emotional regulation, and mental health, while too little sleep is associated with depression, obesity, and high blood pressure.

The behavioral effects show up quickly. In studies where children's sleep was experimentally extended or restricted, kids sleeping close to 10 hours had better emotional stability, less restless and impulsive behavior at school, and a more positive mood than kids sleeping about 8 hours. Short sleep impairs the brain's "brakes" (impulse control and flexible thinking), which is why an under-slept child melts down over things they would otherwise shrug off.

If you find yourself just beginning to work on nighttime routine and sleep habits, there is good news. Children whose sleep improves over time show measurable declines in both emotional and behavioral problems. Working on sleep is not just damage control; it is an intervention to support wanted emotional and behavioral outcomes.

What are recommended strategies?

The American Academy of Pediatrics encourages using the 4Bs. Bathe, brush, books, bed. Using a consistent, predictable, calming sequence in the same order each night signals to the brain and the body that sleep is coming. This works for teens too, in an age-appropriate form.

Keep screens off for at least an hour before bedtime, and keep phones, tablets, and TVs out of the bedroom overnight. It is normal for children and teens to play music at night. Instead of using a tablet or a phone, purchase an alarm clock with digital music ability or a radio. Creating a nighttime playlist that can be played nightly is a predictable and consistent habit that signals to the brain and body it is time for sleep.

Consistency is what makes falling asleep and waking up easier. Try to keep weekend and vacation evenings consistent with weekdays.

Sunlight in the morning helps reset the internal clock. Open windows, turn on a light, or even get outside if you can.

Monitor caffeine intake. School-age children should not consume caffeine after noon. Common hidden sources include iced tea, chocolate, soda, and certain flavored waters. In a world where energy drinks and Starbucks are popular, educate your adolescent about how caffeine impacts sleep. Research identifies that adolescents consuming energy drinks are 4.5 times more likely to sleep fewer than 6 hours.

As always, annual well-child visits with your Primary Care Physician are vital. This is an opportunity to work together on strategies to support healthy sleep habits and to discuss if your child snores regularly or



By Nikki Eining CSW-PIP, QMHP

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has pauses in breathing, is very sleepy during the day despite adequate time in bed, takes a long time to fall asleep most nights, or wakes repeatedly. These difficult experiences are treatable, and they deserve evaluation rather than more willpower.

The American Academy of Pediatrics [healthychildren.org](https://www.healthychildren.org) is a great resource for parents. Under the "Healthy Living" tab, you will find multiple articles and resources on exploring appropriate curfews, bunk bed safety, separation anxiety, and more.

Resources

The Role of the Pediatrician in the Promotion of Healthy, Active Living. Pediatrics. 2024. Muth ND, Bolling C, Hannon T, Sharifi M.

Longitudinal Association of Nighttime Sleep Duration With Emotional and Behavioral Problems in Early Childhood: Results From the Danish Healthy Start Study.

Sleep. 2021. Zheng M, Rangan A, Olsen NJ, Heitmann BL.

Consensus Statement of the American Academy of Sleep Medicine on the Recommended Amount of Sleep for Healthy Children: Methodology and Discussion. Journal of Clinical Sleep Medicine : JCSM : Official Publication of the American Academy of Sleep Medicine. lullab2016. Paruthi S, Brooks LJ, D'Ambrosio C.

Association Between Objectively Measured Sleep Duration and Symptoms of Psychiatric Disorders in Middle Childhood. JAMA Network Open. 2019. Ranum BM, Wichstrøm L, Pallesen S.

Nikki Eining is a private independent practice licensed social worker who serves as the Statewide Pediatric Mental Health Care Access Program Coordinator for The USD Center for Disabilities and Owner of Grace Grit Growth Counseling LLC in Brookings, SD. Nikki brings a diverse set of experiences and passions spending over 18 years working in the mental health field. Her previous experience has focused on supporting youth and families in office, school, and community settings without outpatient behavioral health services and prevention programming. She has professional experience in clinical mental health, education, research design, non-profit, program development, and trauma-informed care practices.

Nikki is passionate about trauma and healing-informed practices, the power of protective factors and collaboration across communities to help decrease barriers for youth and families. Nikki is a Theraplay Level 1, 2 and Group trained therapist, SAPST trained prevention provider, and an ACE Interface Certified educator. Follow The Prairie Doc® at www.prairiedoc.org, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and Tik Tok. Prairie Doc Programming includes On Call with the Prairie Doc®, a medical Q&A show (most Thursdays at 7pm on SDPB, YouTube and streaming on Facebook), 2 podcasts, and a Radio program (on SDPB, Sundays at 6am and 1pm).

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EARTHTALK

Dear EarthTalk: How has the prevalence of bird feeders in the U.S. affected birds' evolution? Is putting up a bird feeder good or bad for ecosystems and the planet?

—Estelle Louis, Twin Falls, ID

In America, an estimated 50–60 million people maintain backyard bird feeders, a device often hung on yard trees or outdoor decks. Residents deploy these to intend to supply birds with the necessary foods. Although many hang up these feeders in hopes of helping wildlife through harsh seasons,

research suggests that this well-intentioned habit may reshape bird behavior beyond the intended benefits.

Feeders are one of the most significant factors in modern bird evolution, contributing to new selective pressures found in urban and suburban environments. For example, the access point of many feeders has caused physical and genetic adaptations among many birds. Studies suggest that some urban bird populations have been found with altered beak shapes and bolder foraging behaviors, a shift researchers attribute to bird feeders. Though this trait may help them exploit human-provided food, it can also significantly reduce their survival in the wild.

Many feeders also favor certain species over others and can cause population instability. Dominant, more adaptable birds such as jays or house finches can gain a competitive advantage over human-provided resources, often at the expense of shyer or less aggressive birds. As a result, feeders can contribute to biodiversity loss and significantly marginalize quieter species, contributing to unbalanced ecosystems across bird populations.

Environmentally, feeders create artificial dense areas that introduce several well-documented risks. Domestic cats, raccoons, and predatory birds hang around these food sources in addition to the targeted birds, often as unwanted guests that can threaten vulnerable bird populations. In addition, illnesses such as avian influenza, salmonella, and conjunctivitis can spread more easily in these crowded spots. Excess seeds and droppings beneath feeders can contribute to localized nutrient pollution. Researcher Andrew Abraham, from Aarhus University in Denmark, notes that when “the nutrients in bird feed are washed into rivers...they may also exacerbate issues of eutrophication.” (Eutrophication is an excessive growth of algae that is suffocating for all wildlife.)

That said, bird feeders should not be entirely abolished from backyards. Indeed, they can provide a huge survival boost for bird populations after natural disasters, helping wildlife through tough winter storms, droughts, or other severe conditions. Moreover, bird feeders can partake in citizen science, allowing scientists to track and monitor bird populations through local resident feeders.

The final verdict on bird feeder viability is complicated, but having attentive responsibility over feeders is one of the best ways to manage its benefits and consequences. Observers should clean them and provide proper food to avoid disease, while also ensuring that they only supplement natural sources and not replace it. If you would like to learn more about how to eco-consciously set up a bird feeder, consider contacting local wildlife centers or Audubon Society chapters near you.



You may not be doing birds a favor giving them access to your bird feeder.

Credit: Pexels.



**SOUTH DAKOTA
NEWS WATCH**

Inform. Enlighten. Illuminate.

More workers than retirees drove South Dakota's growth

By Amina Aidarkhanova
South Dakota News Watch

For years, retirees have been closely associated with South Dakota's population growth, especially in communities known for recreation and features of lifestyle.

But Census migration estimates tell a different story.

Working-age adults ages 18 to 64 represented the largest share of people moving into South Dakota from other states each year from 2021 through 2024, according to an analysis of U.S. Census Bureau data.

During that period, an average of about 21,000 working-age adults moved into South Dakota annually, compared with roughly 5,000 children and 2,000 retirees. In 2022 alone, more than 22,500 working-age adults moved into the state, while about 1,800 retirees arrived.

The findings suggest retirees remain an important part of South Dakota's migration story but are not the state's largest group of newcomers.

Working-age adults drive South Dakota's domestic migration

David Sorenson, professor of economics at Augustana University in Sioux Falls, said statewide migration patterns challenge a common assumption.

"If the common conception is that it's elderly driving our migration, that's absolutely false," Sorenson said.

He said some counties continue attracting retirees, but statewide data show working-age adults dominate migration. The findings also raise questions about who those workers are, including younger professionals, families and people approaching retirement.

Some newcomers are returning for connection, community and quality of life

Danielle Schulz returned to White, South Dakota, after spending about 40 years in California.

She moved west at age 19 hoping to experience different cultures.

"I wanted to meet people from other countries," Schulz said. "I wanted to see a part of the world that I wasn't exposed to."

She returned after her father's death gave her the opportunity to buy the family farm.

Although returning meant taking a substantial pay cut, she said the move offered something she valued more.

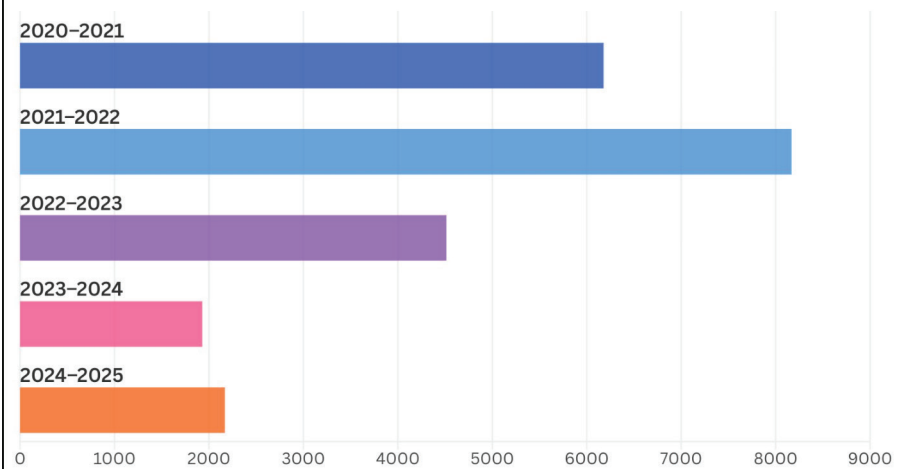
"I wanted solitude," Schulz said.

She also wanted to reconnect with family and her community.

"The people you meet in your life are what keep you somewhere," she said.

South Dakota Net Domestic Migration (2020-2025)

After a post-pandemic surge that peaked at over 8,100 net arrivals in 2021-2022, net gains from other states have leveled off to around 2,000 per year.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program (NST-EST2025-ALLDATA). • Graphic by Amina Aidarkhanova / South Dakota News Watch

Sorenson said migration decisions often involve jobs, family ties and lifestyle preferences rather than a single factor.

The post-pandemic migration surge also coincided with expanded remote work and South Dakota's "Freedom Works Here" campaign, although previous South Dakota News Watch reporting found local officials lacked evidence directly linking migration gains to the advertising effort.

Migration data shows arrivals but

not whether people stay

Migration estimates measure people moving into South Dakota, but not whether they remain.

Jared McEntaffer, CEO of the Dakota Institute, said net migration – the difference between arrivals and departures – provides a better measure of long-term population growth.

"The net number is really important," he said.

While more than 20,000 working-age adults moved into South Dakota annually during the study period, net domestic migration has slowed since its pandemic-era peak. South Dakota gained more than 8,100 net domestic residents during 2021-22, but annual gains later dropped to about 2,000 as more residents left the state.

Sorenson also cautioned against drawing conclusions from a single year's estimates.

Retirees remain visible but may not drive statewide migration

Retirees continue to play an important role in parts of South Dakota, particularly in western counties that attract RV travelers and outdoor recreation enthusiasts, Sorenson said.

Migration patterns vary by county, meaning some communities attract more retirees while others draw younger workers and families.

A shift in 2024 raises new questions

In 2024, working-age migration declined while retiree migration reached its highest level during the study period. Both Sorenson and McEntaffer said more years of data are needed to determine whether the change represents a lasting trend.

"It raises your antenna," Sorenson said. "But you'd want to see this repeat or continue."

Attracting newcomers is only part of the migration challenge

For South Dakota, the larger question is not only who moves to the state, but whether those newcomers remain.

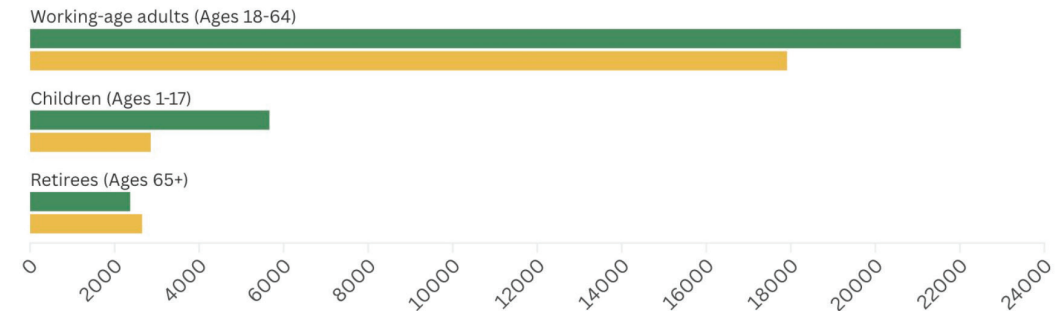
Working-age residents play a key role in the state's workforce and economy. Whether recent migration translates into sustained population growth will depend not only on attracting new residents but also on convincing them to stay.

South Dakota News Watch is an independent nonprofit. Read, donate and subscribe for free at sdnewswatch.org. Amina Aidarkhanova received the 2026 Jeffrey B. Nelson Investigative Journalism Endowed Internship and the Chuck Raasch and Sandy Johnson Scholarship from the SDSU Foundation. Contact: amina.aidarkhanova@sdnewswatch.org.

Shift in South Dakota Domestic In-Migration (2023 vs. 2024)

Child and working-age migration dropped in 2024 while retiree in-movers hit a decade high.

■ 2023 ■ 2024



Source: [U.S. Census Bureau](https://www.census.gov) • Graphic by Amina Aidarkhanova / South Dakota News Watch



SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

South Dakota's cybersecurity program is running out of time, money as local governments face attacks

BY MAKENZIE HUBER

Pennington County residents haven't been able to access some services since a cyberattack knocked out county computer systems in July.

The water system in Rapid City, which is part of Pennington County, was among the first of dozens of utilities targeted in a nationwide wave of cyberattacks this summer. The attackers did not access its network in Rapid City, city officials said.

Mitchell, meanwhile, is recovering from its own breach, which left city staff without computer access.

The three incidents — all hitting South Dakota local governments within weeks of each other — underscore a vulnerability that state officials have spent years and millions of dollars trying to address.

Local governments hold sensitive taxpayer data, but often lack the staff, budget or expertise to protect it from cyberattacks. A 2025 report by the Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center found that 68% of state, local, tribal and territorial governments lack the budget to address major cybersecurity priorities, and that small and rural communities are especially vulnerable.

A state-funded program in South Dakota is working to close that gap — but time and money are running short.

State funding in place of declined federal funding

SecureSD is a \$7 million program run by the South Dakota Attorney General's Office and Dakota State University that delivers cybersecurity tools, training and technical support to local governments.

Lawmakers launched the program with funds in 2024 in response to Gov. Kristi Noem rejecting a piece of \$1 billion in cybersecurity grants to states. Noem spokesman Ian Fury told South Dakota Searchlight at the time that the grants were "wasteful spending," adding the administrative burden of the grant "would have far exceeded the allowable administrative cost."

That 2022 four-year federal grant program, part of the 2021 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, faces an uncertain future. Congress extended the program through next month, but did not provide new funding. Efforts to reauthorize the program haven't cleared both chambers.

South Dakota's SecureSD program is led by Mike Waldner, who previously directed South Dakota's centralized education email system.

The program reviews regular vulnerability reports from the Department of Homeland Security for local governments that sign up for the program, which flag issues like outdated software or misconfigured firewalls. It also helps transition local governments to more secure data and email, purchases equipment or contracts with information technology companies to monitor cybersecurity needs, and trains local employees. SecureSD also runs Project Boundary Fence, in which cybersecurity experts test local governments' defenses and report back on weaknesses.

Most counties have participated in at least one aspect of the program, including Project Boundary Fence, and participation has "ramped up" in recent years, Waldner said.

"It's like walking through a parking lot and checking doors. We're not there to steal anything, but we'll tell people when their doors are unlocked so they can fix it," Waldner said.

The "hands down number one priority" of SecureSD, Waldner said, is moving local governments onto professionally managed email systems that meet federal security standards — a step up from the patchwork of local setups many counties currently rely on.

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More than half of county-level email addresses, based on a South Dakota Searchlight analysis of county auditor email addresses, are not on government domains, making them more vulnerable to attacks and impersonation. Only verified U.S.-based public sector organizations, including state and local governments, can get a .gov email address, and agencies must have advanced security protocols that make it harder for scammers to copy or fake official government messages.

"We're working our tails off to remedy that and fix that, for a number of reasons," Waldner said.

Rapid City is transitioning to a government, cloud-based email system using SecureSD funding, said Jim Gilbert, the city's director of information technology. Katy Urban, public information officer with the Pennington County State's Attorney Office, said the county is in the process of the same transition.

The \$7 million in state funding for SecureSD expires June 30, 2028. Waldner said all of it will be spent — but once it runs out, local governments will have to absorb the cost of maintaining any improvements themselves. That uncertainty is "one of the biggest reasons an entity pauses" when considering cybersecurity upgrades, he said.

Waldner has had to prioritize the secure data and email transition as the expiration date nears. He said additional funding could eventually allow the program to expand into other areas, including cybersecurity management and data backup.

"My hope is we can secure funding and not only pay for the data and email solution, but pay for additional cybersecurity functions I know are needed," Waldner said.

Future of state help for local governments

Sen. Randy Deibert, R-Spearfish, was among the lawmakers who championed the \$7 million appropriation in 2024. A former Lawrence County commissioner, he said the program's upcoming funding deadline was a built-in inflection point for the Legislature.

"It's probably time to take a good look at that local government cybersecurity program and get an update on it for lawmakers: what's working, what's not, what should work," Deibert said. "We should have some recommendations after a couple of years."

Deibert said the original vision wasn't just funding — it was to offer state-level IT support to counties that couldn't afford their own, similar to how the state helped school districts move onto secure email systems. He noted that Lawrence County has been fortunate to have a strong IT person on staff, but acknowledged not every county is in that position.

"I'm not certain that throwing dollars at it is the key," Deibert said.

Lt. Gov. Tony Venhuizen leads the Governor's Resilience and Infrastructure Task Force. That group is evaluating South Dakota's critical infrastructure — energy, water, data networks and more — and identifying vulnerabilities to natural disasters and cyberattacks. The task force discussed SecureSD at its August meeting and plans to recommend legislative proposals next session, including how to expand and continue the program.

"We haven't made a final decision on what to propose, but it's clear the need is still there and is going to still be there to continue to serve local governments in this way," Venhuizen said.

The task force is also considering how much the state should require local governments to participate in cybersecurity programs, rather than leaving it voluntary.

Gov. Larry Rhoden recently awarded \$500,000 to the task force to primarily fund research by Dakota State University and South Dakota Mines. The money is meant to build a map of the state's critical infrastructure systems to identify vulnerabilities and redundancies. The funding will also support public education on cybersecurity and how residents can prepare for disruptions.

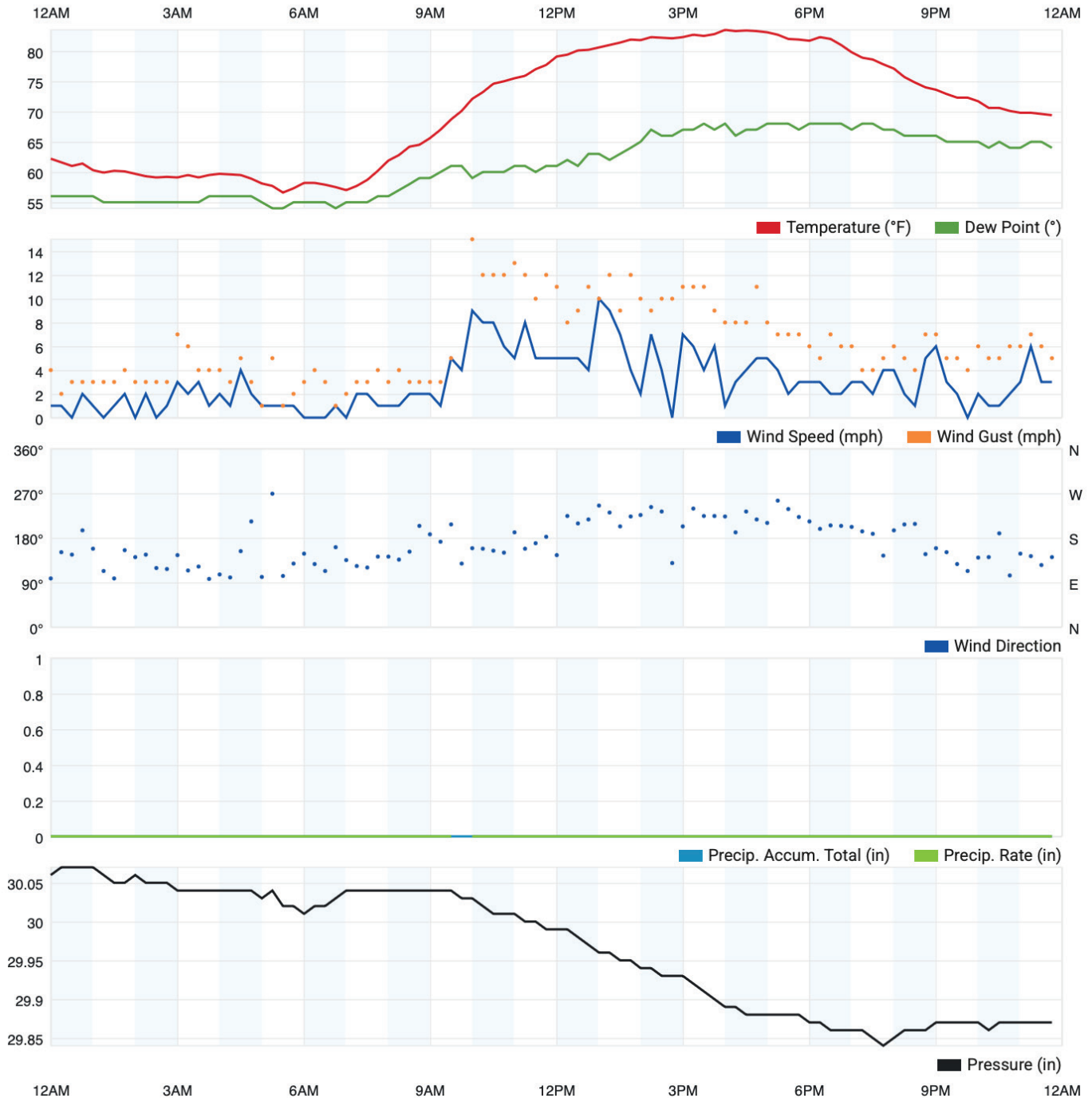
Makenzie Huber is a lifelong South Dakotan who regularly reports on the intersection of politics and policy with health, education, social services and Indigenous affairs. Her work with South Dakota Searchlight earned her the title of South Dakota's Outstanding Young Journalist in 2024, and she was a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

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs

August 23, 2026



Broton Daily Independent

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Today



High: 85 °F

Mostly Sunny

Tonight



Low: 61 °F

Chance
T-storms

Tuesday



High: 84 °F

Sunny

Tuesday Night



Low: 59 °F

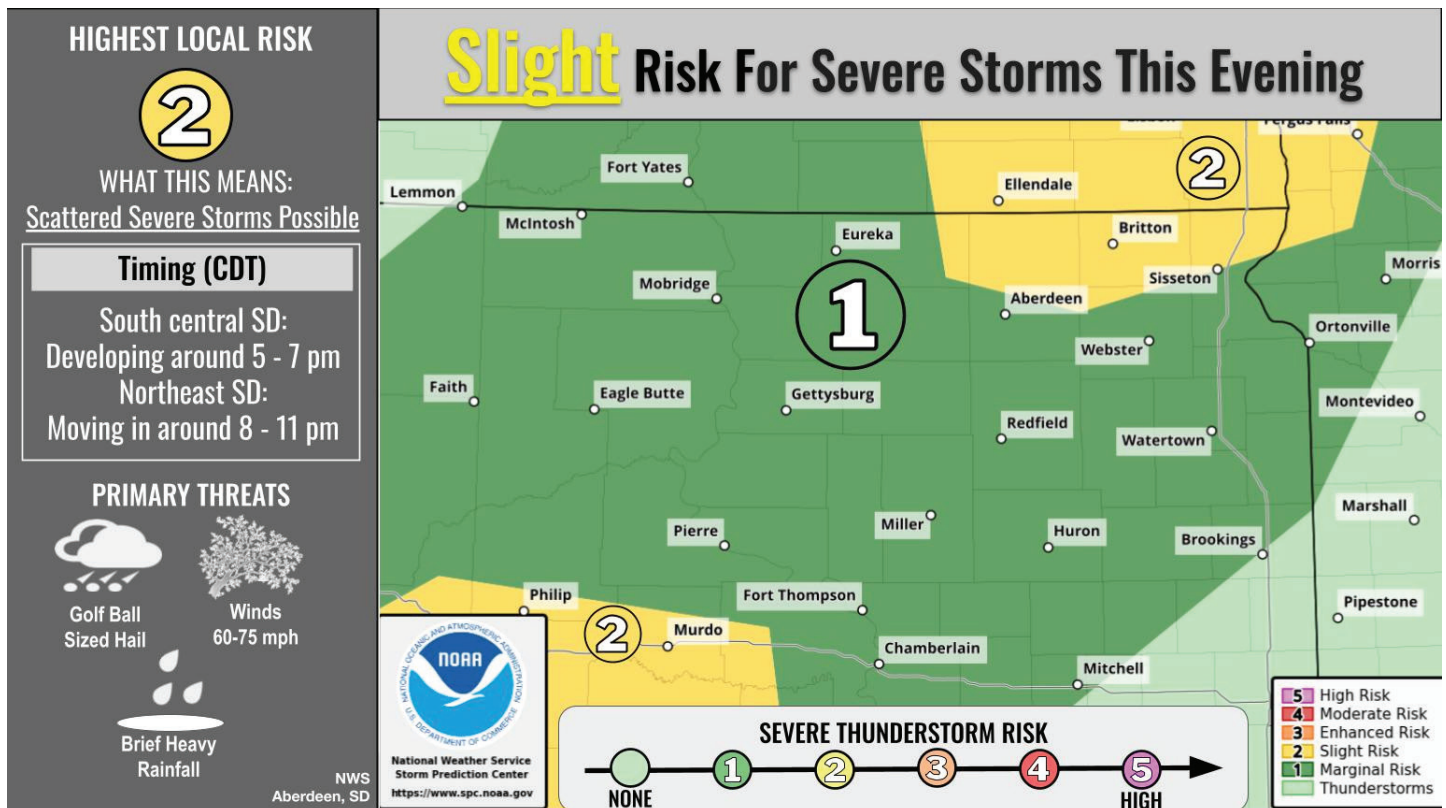
Mostly Clear

Wednesday



High: 82 °F

Sunny



There is a marginal to slight (1 to 2 out of 5) risk for severe storms this evening with the highest risk in two separate locations. Storms associated with an upper level disturbance are expected to develop late this afternoon into early this evening across south central SD. Another area of storms will move in from North Dakota late this evening into northeast SD and west central MN on a weak cold front. The main threats from any storms will be large hail and strong, gusty winds.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 84 °F at 4:26 PM

Low Temp: 56 °F at 5:30 AM

Wind: 16 mph at 9:59 AM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 103 in 1929

Record Low: 38 in 1934

Average High: 82

Average Low: 55

Average Precip in Aug.: 1.74

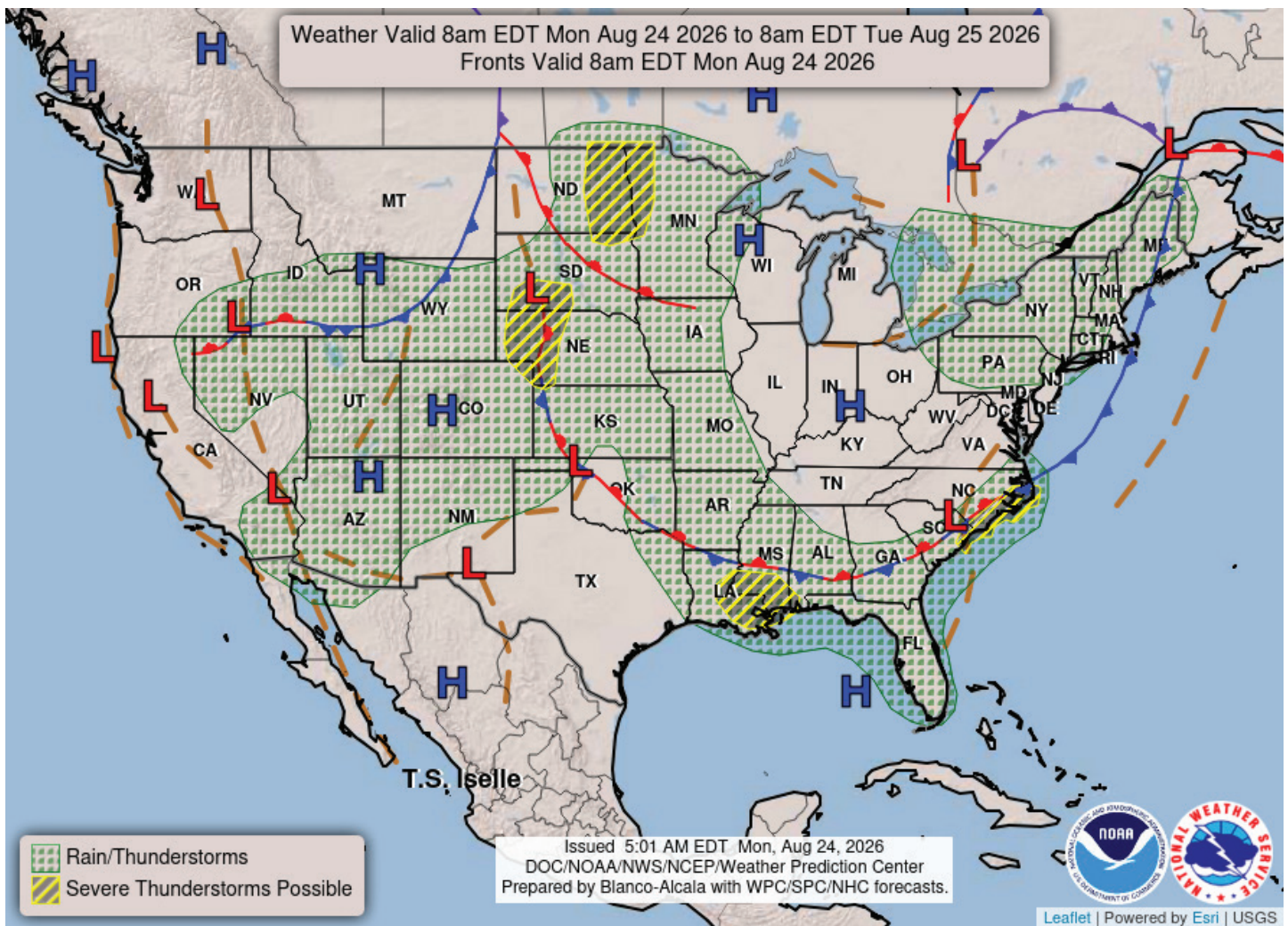
Precip to date in Aug.: 10.14

Average Precip to date: 15.84

Precip Year to Date: 19.61

Sunset Tonight: 8:25 pm

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:45 am



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Today in Weather History

August 24, 1960: A man was injured when a barn was blown over by an F2 tornado that touched down near Hayes, in Stanley County. Hail, up to golf ball size accompanied the storm as well as about three inches of rain, causing some damage to crops and a farmhouse. The sky color in a westerly direction shortly before the tornado hit was described as a distinct shade of green. Evidence suggests that the tornado may have touched down again in northeast Sully County, destroying a barn, a chicken coop, and haystacks on two farms. Also, precipitation more than 3 inches and locally 6 to 8 inches was accompanied by severe hail, causing damage to buildings and crops. Hail damage was most substantial in Stanly County. The wind carried away an estimated 400 tons of baled hay in Haakon County. A measured rainfall amount of 5.1 inches in less than six hours occurred in Onida, causing extensive flooding of basements, streets, and cropland. Additional rainfall amounts include 5.58 inches 4 NW of Onida, 4.50 inches 23 N of Highmore, 3.05 inches 2N of Onaka, 3.42 inches in Clear Lake, 3.11 inches in Miller, 3.02 inches in Eureka, 2.55 inches 1 NW of Faulkton, 2.40 inches in Gettysburg, 2.22 inches in Blunt, 2.20 inches at Oahe Dam, and 2.16 inches in Clark.

August 24, 1998: A line of severe thunderstorms raced southeast across Sully, Hyde, and Hand counties during the morning hours, producing destructive winds up to 100 mph and hail up to the size of baseballs. The winds and hail damaged or destroyed a wide swath of sunflowers and corn. Four power poles south of Highmore on Highway 47 were snapped off. The school in Highmore had twenty screens shredded by the hail and the winds. On a farm northeast of Onida, a grain bin was blown over a distance of 200 yards.

August 24, 2006: Up to 4.25" diameter hail and 9 tornadoes developed across central and northeastern South Dakota between 4:30 pm and 8:00 pm, two of which were rated as F3 intensity. The first of these F3 tornadoes developed in McPherson County west of Hillsview at 5:03 pm, and tracked 24.5 miles southeast to just north of Hosmer before lifting at 5:30 pm. Numerous livestock and deer were killed. Devastating damage was observed to farm equipment, homes, barns, grain bins, and vehicles. A well-anchored mobile home was completely destroyed. Debris from each site was observed up to 3 miles away. One person received minor scrapes and bruises. The second F3 tornado of the event was spawned by a long-track supercell, and this supercell produced the other 7 tornadoes of the day (two F2, an F1, and four F0 roughly from Onida to De Smet). It touched down just south of Wessington in Beadle County at 6:37 pm, and tracked 19.5 miles southeast to just southwest of Huron before lifting at 7:18 pm. This tornado destroyed 8 houses and numerous farm buildings and damaged at least 7 other houses. Five large high-voltage transmission towers were blown down about 3 miles southeast of Wessington. A woman was cut on the neck at a farm southwest of Wolsey where the house and all other buildings were destroyed (non-life threatening). One other injury occurred southeast of Wolsey.

79: Stratovolcano, Mount Vesuvius erupted on this day, burying the Roman cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum.

1456: Machiavelli wrote, "On the 24th of August, about an hour before day-break there arose from the Adriatic near Ancona, a whirlwind, which crossing Italy from east to west, again reached the sea near Pisa, accompanied by thick clouds, and the most intense and impenetrable darkness."

1992: Hurricane Andrew made landfall in southern Florida at 4:30 AM on this day. The high winds caused catastrophic damage in Florida, with Miami-Dade County cities of Florida City, Homestead, and Cutler Ridge receiving the brunt of the storm. About 63,000 homes were destroyed, and over 101,000 others were damaged. This storm left roughly 175,000 people homeless. As many as 1.4 million people were left without electricity at the height of the storm. In the Everglades, 70,000 acres (280 km²) of trees were knocked down. Additionally, rainfall in Florida was substantial, peaking at 13.98 in (355 mm) in western Miami-Dade County. About \$25 billion in damage and 44 fatalities were reported in Florida.



Jesus Is Stronger Than Our Fears

Though storms may rage around us, Jesus is still present—He is our calm within the storm.

Mark 4:37-39: 37 And there arose a fierce gale of wind, and the waves were breaking over the boat so much that the boat was already filling up.

38 Jesus Himself was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke Him and said to Him, ``Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?"

39 And He got up and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, ``Hush, be still." And the wind died down and it became perfectly calm.

The evening Jesus calmed the fierce gale on the Sea of Galilee, His disciples were terrified. Watching a storm from shore is one thing—dramatic but distant. But when you're in the boat with waves crashing over the sides and rain pelting your face, fear becomes very real.

We all face storms of some sort: physical crises, relational ruptures, financial pressures, overwhelming circumstances. When troubles hit, we might find ourselves crying out, "God, where are You?" He is where He's always been. The problem isn't His absence; it's that fear can make it hard to see Him clearly.

Remember, this is Jesus, whose voice commands nature itself. He is sovereign over every type of storm we face (1 John 4:4). Our Savior knows we are frail (Psalms 103:13-14), and He doesn't stand at a distance critiquing our panic. He is present with us in the chaos, and He speaks peace into our heart even when the circumstances haven't changed yet.

With three words, Jesus calmed a storm instantly. Sometimes He calms our storms just as quickly. Other times, He calms us in the midst of them, giving us His peace while the waves still rage. Either way, He is faithful. When we turn to Him in trust, we discover that His presence is always more than enough.

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:
08.23.26

15 28 32 55 57 1

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

NEXT DRAW: 17 Hrs 12 Mins 51 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS:
08.21.26

1 25 34 48 57 24

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$130,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 16 Hrs 57 Mins 51 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS:
08.22.26

20 23 36 42 50 4

All Star Bonus: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$2,750,000

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 12 Mins 52 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS:
08.22.26

5 7 11 23 35

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$36,000

NEXT DRAW: 2 Days 16 Hrs 27 Mins 52 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS:
08.22.26

4 18 29 47 53 16

TOP PRIZE:
\$10,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 56 Mins 52 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS:
08.22.26

13 31 54 57 65 23

Power Play: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$81,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 56 Mins 52 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

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News from the **AP** Associated Press

World shares decline as bond market pressure persists, and Iran's rial sinks against the dollar

By ELAINE KURTENBACH AP Business Writer

BANGKOK (AP) — World shares were mostly lower and oil prices slipped on Monday at the outset of a week capped by an annual meeting of top U.S. economic officials at Jackson Hole, Wyoming.

Iran's currency hit a record low as the U.S. prepared to announce new sanctions to try to break the impasse with Iran, adding pressure when its economy is already battered by earlier sanctions and a U.S. naval blockade.

The rial dropped to 2.02 million to the U.S. dollar on informal currency markets. Iran's official Central Bank rate stood at around 1.5 million rial to the dollar, but the informal rate is what most Iranians pay.

In early European trading, Germany's DAX edged 0.1% lower to 26,110.79, while the CAC 40 in Paris also gave up 0.1%, to 8,474.35. Britain's FTSE 100 inched up 0.1% to 10,831.33.

The future for the S&P 500 was down 0.2%, while that for the Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 0.1%.

In Tokyo, the Nikkei 225 fell 0.7% to 65,528.09, while South Korea's Kospi lost 3.1% to 6,696.96.

The Hang Seng in Hong Kong declined 1.9% to 25,517.33 and the Shanghai Composite index gave up 0.6% to 3,882.01.

Australia's S&P/ASX 200 gained 0.5% to 9,103.10, bucking the regional trend.

Taiwan's Taixex fell 1%.

Investors will get an important inflation update on Wednesday when the U.S. releases its report on personal consumption expenditures, or PCE, for July. It is the Federal Reserve's preferred measure of inflation. Much like the consumer price index, it has shown that the rate of U.S. consumer inflation remains stubbornly above 3%.

The Fed has been struggling to get inflation back to its target rate of 2%. Inflation has crept higher after the U.S. imposed a wide range of tariffs globally. It has climbed further as the Iran war slowed global oil shipments from the Strait of Hormuz.

Last week, rising bond yields forced the U.S. Treasury Department into an unusual intervention and raised the specter of higher borrowing costs weighing on consumer spending, the lifeblood of the economy. It also sparked concerns that investors balk at financing a seemingly endless flow of government borrowing.

The bond markets got only temporary relief from Bessent's announcement that the government would double its buybacks of longer-term bonds. That was meant to bring down the 10-year Treasury yield and lower mortgages. The 10-year yield rose back to 4.73% Friday, matching its highest point in more than a year. It was at 4.71% early Monday.

The 30-year Treasury yield, which the Fed is also targeting with its bond repurchases, also rose and is near its highest level since 2007.

Higher yields can slow the economy and undercut prices for all kinds of investments.

The bond market has remained jumpy, and investors will be watching for signals from Federal Reserve Gov. Kevin Warsh regarding rates and other policies in a key speech at the annual gathering of U.S. economic leaders in Jackson Hole later this week.

On Friday, the S&P 500 rose 0.4% for just its second gain in the six days since setting its all-time high last week. The Dow industrials jumped 1% and the Nasdaq composite climbed 0.4%.

Most U.S. companies have reported bigger profits for the spring than analysts expected, helping push stocks to records since share prices tend to follow the path of corporate profits over the long term.

Uncertainty about when the war with Iran will allow oil tankers to freely exit the Persian Gulf again has roiled markets, causing oil prices to rise and pushing up Treasury yields due to worries over inflation.

The outlook remained murky early Monday. The new head of Iran's top security body warned Sunday that Tehran will see any country's support for new U.S. economic measures against the Islamic Republic as

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an "act of war," while Iran's president defended a memorandum of understanding with the United States as the best way out of the stalled conflict.

Early Monday, the price for a barrel of Brent crude oil was 1.1% lower at \$93.32. U.S. benchmark crude fell 1.8% to \$85.52 per barrel.

The U.S. dollar bought 159.27 Japanese yen, up from 158.94 yen late Friday. The euro fell to \$1.1662 from \$1.1678.

Iran's rial currency hits new record low as US prepares to announce more sanctions

By DAVID RISING Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Iran's currency hit a record low Monday as Washington prepared to announce new sanctions it said would be an "economic D-Day" and would add further pressure on an economy already battered by previous sanctions and a U.S. naval blockade.

The rial dropped to 2.02 million to the U.S. dollar as trading opened on informal currency markets. Iran's official Central Bank rate stood at around 1.5 million rial to the dollar, but the informal rate is what most Iranians pay.

The currency had already been under pressure before the U.S. and Israel attacked Iran on Feb. 28, with double-digit inflation and negative growth, but has been hitting new record lows as nearly six months of war have taken an even greater toll.

Still, U.S. President Donald Trump has been unable to win concessions from Iran, which continues to keep a firm grip on shipping through the Strait of Hormuz, the key waterway through which a fifth of the world's traded oil transited freely before the war began. Iranian attacks and threats have severely hampered that traffic during the war.

Iran and Oman, which is on the opposite side of the strait, are reportedly in the final stages of agreeing upon a plan for joint management of the waterway, which regional officials have said would include having ships to enter the Persian Gulf through an Iranian-controlled route and exit through a route controlled by Oman.

Trump has been sharply critical of Oman, an American ally, threatening to bomb the country if it "gets in the way."

Oman's foreign minister was to visit Iran on Tuesday for new talks.

In an attempt to break the impasse with Iran, U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent promised even stronger sanctions than those already in place would be announced Monday, including secondary sanctions on countries that continue to do business with Iran.

"President Trump decimated Iran's economy to a point where the rial has never been weaker and inflation has rarely been higher," Bessent wrote Sunday in an opinion piece in the Financial Times. "The regime's final refuge now lies in the self-deception of fearful nations that still believe accommodating aggression can secure a durable peace."

Already last week, the United Arab Emirates announced that it was suspending all trade with Iran. Trump had called the leader of the UAE, Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the day before the announcement.

The UAE has long been one of Iran's largest trading partners and its biggest source of imports, as well as a major re-export and financial hub for Iranian businesses.

Following Bessent's remarks, Mohsen Rezaei, the hard-line leader of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, said in a post on X that any country's support for new American economic measures would be seen as an "act of war."

European leaders join Zelenskyy in Kyiv for Ukraine's Independence Day as Russian invasion pushes on

By SAMYA KULLAB Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — European leaders joined President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in Kyiv on Monday for official celebrations marking Ukraine's Independence Day as Russia pushes on with its 4-year-old invasion of the country.

One of President Vladimir Putin's key goals in starting a war with Russia's neighbor in February 2022 was to place Kyiv in Moscow's orbit. Ukrainians voted overwhelmingly for independence in 1991.

With no significant changes on the front line for months and no apparent progress after more than a year of U.S.-led peace efforts, the warring countries are locked in a spiral of escalating aerial attacks that are killing civilians and smashing infrastructure.

EU leaders rally around Ukraine

U.K. Prime Minister Andy Burnham, on his first overseas trip since taking office last month, on Monday joined almost a dozen other European leaders, as well as other dignitaries including European Council President Antonio Costa, in Kyiv.

"For Ukraine, independence is not an abstract idea. We defended it against all odds," Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha said on social media. "In times like these, nations learn how important it is to have allies by your side."

Burnham was to co-chair a meeting of the so-called Coalition of the Willing group of countries helping Ukraine resist Russia's onslaught, with the leaders of France and Germany expected to join online.

The visiting leaders took to Kyiv pledges of further military and financial support. Burnham is expected to announce that the U.K. Government has agreed to allow defense company MBDA to release classified information relating to British components used in the SCALP long-range missile, according to his office. That would pave the way for France and Ukraine to advance plans for local production of the weapon in Ukraine.

SCALP is the French version of the UK's Storm Shadow missile, with both systems incorporating shared French and British technology.

Ukraine has leaned heavily on NATO countries for help fighting Russia's bigger army, although relations with the United States have been cooler under President Donald Trump.

Russia, meanwhile, is getting help from North Korea and China.

Both Russia and Ukraine are trying through long-range strikes to inflict economic pain, disrupt military supplies and erode public morale.

Ukraine's long-range drones have repeatedly hit facilities in Russia's vital oil industry, causing fuel shortages, and have also engaged in a campaign against Russia's largest online retailer Wildberries.

Ukrainian strikes kill 3 teenagers

Three teenagers were killed and six children were wounded in the southern Russian city of Krasnodar, Russia's children's rights ombudswoman Maria Lvova-Belova said Monday, as Ukraine attacked several warehouses of Ozon for the third straight day, according to officials and the company.

Ozon is one of Russia's major e-commerce retailers. The company said a large fire raged at an Ozon logistics facility in the suburbs of Krasnodar following the overnight attack.

A drone also hit the grounds of an Ozon logistics center in the southern Russian region of Adygeya, regional governor Murat Kumpilov said, though the company said its Adygeya warehouse wasn't damaged.

In all, four Ozon premises appeared to have been targeted.

Russia's Defense Ministry said its air defenses overnight intercepted and destroyed 351 Ukrainian drones over eight Russian regions, as well as occupied Crimea and the waters of the Azov and the Black Seas.

The ministry also said that its forces overnight continued to strike Ukrainian ports and vessels delivering cargo for the armed forces.

What to know about Iceland's vote on whether to restart talks to join the EU

By BRIAN MELLEY and JAMES BROOKS Associated Press

REYKJAVIK, Iceland (AP) — When U.S. President Donald Trump said he wanted a “piece of ice, cold and poorly located,” the people of Iceland had every reason to worry even if he was referring to Greenland.

Their concern was not only that the object of Trump's desire was their nearest big neighbor, but that he repeatedly called it Iceland — four times.

That gaffe, as Trump continued to press for control of Greenland earlier this year, could help push the fiercely independent Iceland and its 400,000 people closer to Europe as voters decide Saturday whether to restart talks to join the European Union.

“We can't really trust the U.S. anymore,” said Hildur Knútsdóttir, a horror fiction writer who plans to vote in favor of EU membership. “Trump was not joking about Greenland. There was a lot of fear here in Iceland because if he takes Greenland with force, we're probably going to be next.”

Iceland's decision is whether to continue going it alone successfully and maintain control of precious natural resources like its lucrative and well-managed fisheries, or to strengthen ties with Europe to better insulate the country from geopolitical instability and gain economic benefits such as the more stable euro currency and lower interest rates and inflation.

Iceland, which is a member of NATO, already participates in the EU's single market through the European Economic Area and is part of the Schengen free-travel zone.

Sovereignty is at the heart of the divide

For both sides of the debate, it's really a matter of sovereignty, said Hulda Thorisdottir, a political science professor at the University of Iceland.

Opponents argue that the nation that won its independence from Denmark in 1944 enjoys all the benefits of European integration with no drawbacks. Why surrender that when they're doing so well? she said.

“The independence of Iceland is the most precious resource that we have,” said Haraldur Olafsson, a physics professor who is chairman of Heimssyn, a Euroskeptic group that opposes EU membership. “The possibility of making your own law and deciding how things are done is essential.”

EU proponents, however, see it through the lens of a rapidly changing world in which shifting alliances pose a security risk. Being outside the EU makes Iceland vulnerable and that threatens its sovereignty, Thorisdottir said.

Foreign and Defense Minister Thorgerdur Katrín Gunnarsdóttir, who supports joining the EU, said when she asks people from smaller countries such as Ireland, Finland or Luxembourg, whether they feel they've lost their sovereignty, “they look at me like I'm a crazy woman” and say membership has made them stronger.

This is not the first time Iceland has considered joining the EU

Prime Minister Kristrun Frostadottir's center-left coalition government was elected in 2024 on a platform that called for a vote on EU membership.

Icelanders did not vote on the decision to apply for EU membership in 2009, after the country's debt-burdened banking sector collapsed during the 2008 global financial crisis. Accession talks were suspended in 2013 after a center-right government came to power, and they formally ended in 2015.

The referendum is a first step to potentially joining the 27-nation bloc. Voters will answer a simple yes-or-no question: Should Iceland resume accession negotiations with the European Union?

If voters reject the proposal, the issue would be put to rest. A yes vote would lead to a yearslong negotiating process with the European Commission assessing 35 sets of criteria from financial systems to fisheries, transport networks, agricultural regulations, and freedoms such as speech and religion.

Any agreement would need to be approved by all current EU member nations and then voters in Iceland would have the final say on whether to join.

The fish factor could be a deal breaker

The descendants of Vikings who settled Iceland have been living off the sea for centuries, and fishing remains part of the country's cultural identity. They fought the so-called Cod Wars with Britain to win

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control of their fishing grounds in the 1970s.

Their rich North Atlantic fishing grounds have always been a key sticking point to joining the EU over concerns they would have to join the Common Fisheries Policy that would allow Spanish, Dutch and other trawlers into their waters.

Any deal with the EU that doesn't protect Iceland's fishing rights is seen as dead in the water, but Gunnarsdóttir and other officials are confident any deal will offer an exemption for Iceland's fisheries.

"We are a superpower when it comes to fisheries," she said. "We will not sign any agreement which will not underline our sovereignty and full control of our fisheries."

Heiðrun Lind Marteinsdóttir, the CEO of Fisheries Iceland, said the seafood trade organization doesn't oppose joining the EU if there is a permanent opt-out from the fisheries policy, but she said that would be unprecedented.

"I think we need to be very realistic on the negotiation process and what we can get out of the negotiations," she said. "To be honest, I think, we're aiming high."

Others in the industry are more skeptical that any protection of Icelandic fisheries would be lasting — especially for open water species like herring, capelin and mackerel that migrate between different fishing zones.

"We are going to see European fishing vessels here in Iceland," Einar Sigurdsson, chairman of Isfelag fishing company, predicted.

Trump's Greenland obsession sped up election timetable

The government had planned to hold the vote by next year but moved it up after Trump's repeated overtures about taking over Greenland, a self-governing territory of Denmark, a longtime U.S. ally.

The U.S. State Department reassured Iceland officials that Trump meant Greenland during his repeated slip of the tongue at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, Gunnarsdóttir, the foreign minister, said.

It didn't help that William Long, the newly arrived U.S. ambassador in Reykjavik, once joked that Iceland would become the 52nd U.S. state and he'd be its governor. He apologized, but the remark prompted thousands of Icelanders to sign a petition urging the prime minister to reject his appointment.

Gunnarsdóttir said Trump's saber-rattling emphasized the importance of the EU's collection of small and large nations standing as one with Greenland and Denmark.

"That is so important for us to see a group of like-minded nations stand together on principles and values," she said. "That is also what I'm looking at when I see the European Union in this volatile world."

Fast-moving wildfire amid shifting winds threatens Reno, Nevada, forcing thousands to evacuate

By JOHN RABY, JACK BROOK and JOHN SEEWER Associated Press

An out-of-control wildfire that jumped over fire trucks and made it difficult for crews to reach hot spots destroyed homes in northwest Reno, Nevada, on Sunday. Shifting winds challenged firefighters trying to bring it under control, and authorities urged some 90,000 people to evacuate.

At least six people — three first responders and three civilians — were injured. Officials said the fire was "human-caused" but did not provide details on how they reached that conclusion, or whether it was intentionally set or accidental.

The Hawk Fire began Saturday and grew to more than 23 square miles (60 sq. km.) as it spread Sunday across the Peavine Peak area of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, where rugged foothills are ringed by homes and businesses near the California state line. There was zero containment.

Some 42,000 residents have been ordered evacuated as the "GO NOW" zone expanded, reaching the edge of the University of Nevada. An additional 45,000 people were in the adjacent evacuation warning zone. Authorities urged people to be prepared to stay away for several days, because shifting and strengthening winds were expected to make the fire even more unpredictable.

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"Please get out if you can right now," Washoe County Sheriff Darin Balaam said.

A Sunday evening update said crews observed "extreme fire behavior" as gusts pushed flames through dry brush.

"Over the next 12 hours, the fire is expected to continue to make moderate to high intensity runs in pockets of dense fuels," the statement said.

A family raced to grab possessions but lost their home

It wasn't known how many homes were destroyed. Cari Kieffer said a video posted on social media showed her house entirely burned down, with only a scorched basketball hoop still standing.

"I woke up this morning and just started crying — all my kids, they lost everything," Kieffer said Sunday. "We lost all our stuff. Everything we own is gone."

Kieffer had been watching her son's football game Saturday when she learned that their home on the outskirts of Reno was in the evacuation zone. An app the family used to track the fire's progress had been lagging significantly behind its actual location, she said, so they thought firefighters had kept the blaze from their neighborhood.

Instead, Kieffer, her husband and their four children ages 3 to 16 raced to save their dogs and whatever possessions they could retrieve. Ash rained down, and the wind blew like an oven blast from a wall of flames advancing down the hillside toward their neighborhood, she said.

"I kept looking outside and the flames just kept getting closer and closer every time I looked," Kieffer said. "I was like, we gotta go like now."

Eyes watering and throat burning, Kieffer grabbed a handful of clothes, a Bible, her wedding photos and her mother's ashes. In the frenzy, as firefighters yelled at her family to leave immediately, she said she forgot her family's birth certificates and was unable to salvage her childhood photos.

The family drove to a friend's home but had to evacuate again. They learned later Saturday evening that their own home was gone.

Governor declares state of emergency and mobilizes National Guard

Nevada Gov. Joe Lombardo declared a state of emergency in Washoe County and mobilized the Nevada National Guard to support aerial firefighting with two helicopter crews as well as 60 troops to help police safeguard evacuated neighborhoods. Also responding were 800 fire personnel.

Nearly 10,000 customers were without power in Washoe County on Sunday, down from 60,000 on Saturday. Portions of U.S. Route 395, a major north-south highway, were closed due to the fire. Reno, with more than 280,000 residents, is the largest city in Nevada outside of metro Las Vegas.

Washoe County emergency officials opened the Reno-Sparks Convention Center to evacuees, but said they couldn't bring their pets — small animals and large animals were to be left at two other locations. Casinos in Reno offered discounts on hotel rooms to evacuees.

The fire turned destructive fast

The fire was so small Saturday morning that it wasn't even a concern, said Tyler Duvall, who went camping over the weekend. By the next day, his house was in the evacuation zone.

"The wind really blew it up," Duvall said.

On Saturday alone, 15 new fires popped up across Nevada. Months of dry weather and a record lack of snow this past winter across the American West have created prime fire conditions. Earlier this month, wildfires in eastern Washington state forced the evacuation of 60,000 people in the Spokane area, while three wildfires north of Reno forced more than 13,000 residents from their homes.

A mountaintop home goes up in flames

Jaida Hargrove's grandfather, Rick Arrate, lived alone on Peavine Mountain, which overlooks Reno and Sparks. Firefighters used a bulldozer, cut down trees and applied fire retardant in their attempt to contain the flames, Hargrove said.

"They all thought it would be OK," she said. "And then, in about 30 minutes, the winds just changed and it came way too fast."

Arrate and the firefighters were quickly forced off the mountain. "All he was able to take with him was his two golden retrievers," Hargrove said.

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Arrate spent Saturday night with Hargrove's parents, his next steps unknown.

Separate GoFundMe crowdfunding campaigns were set up to assist Arrate and the Kieffer family.

A Nevada transplant gets a rude welcome to Reno

Retired police officer and firefighter Ted Melden has seen his share of Mother Nature's fury since moving to Reno with his wife earlier this month from Chapin, South Carolina. So far, he has experienced a hailstorm with flash flooding, two different power outages and, now, the second wildfire incident in the region in two weeks.

"Just another natural disaster," Melden said.

In the two years he lived in South Carolina, Melden said Hurricane Helene knocked over trees in his yard, while a tornado did some damage in his neighborhood.

For now, Melden hasn't been ordered to leave his home, but he has his bags packed just in case.

"You just have to roll with the flow and be ready," he said.

David Barb returned from a weekend hunting trip to find the fire had leveled his taxidermy shop, but his house nearby appeared to have been spared thanks to workers with a landscaping company who cut a fire break, he said. His wife was home when the fire started on the other side of the mountain and later evacuated to a friend's house.

"I'm kind of devastated, but thank God everyone's safe," he said Sunday.

Residents just outside the evacuation zone are keeping watch

The University of Nevada, where many of the 20,000 undergraduates moved into their housing this weekend, was just outside the evacuation zone Sunday.

Two hospitals evacuated patients and the sheriff said his office was keeping a close watch on whether to evacuate the county jail.

The fire moved exceptionally fast Saturday night, jumping over fire trucks and making it difficult for responders to get to hot spots while residents were trying to get out, the sheriff said.

"It was extremely confusing," Balaam said, describing how changing winds sent the flames in different directions.

Thai prime minister meets security chiefs after coordinated attacks in 3 southern provinces

By GRANT PECK Associated Press

BANGKOK (AP) — Thailand's Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul, already facing a flood crisis in the country's north, held an urgent meeting on Sunday with high-level security officials in response to coordinated violence overnight in three southern provinces where a small-scale Muslim insurgency is active.

The meeting, held shortly before Anutin flew north to inspect the badly flooded province of Nan, followed 51 incidents on Saturday night in the southernmost provinces of Narathiwat, Pattani and Yala.

The attackers did not engage with military or police forces. Only three civilians were known to have been wounded, and they were reported to be recovering on Sunday.

The violence primarily involved small bombs, arson and other forms of property damage. The highest-profile target was a 7-Eleven convenience store in Pattani. A video circulating on social media appeared to show armed men stalking outside the store while customers and workers fled before it was set on fire.

A bomb that damaged rail tracks in Narathiwat forced the suspension of local and long-haul services. It was not clear when they would be restored due to the uncertain security situation.

As has often been the case with such incidents, no group was immediately publicly blamed or claimed responsibility for the actions.

However, such attacks are generally believed to be carried out by the Barisan Revolusi Nasional Melayu Patani, or BRN. It is the major insurgent group in the south with the organizational means and support to stage such an action. It is also the group with which the Thai government has been holding on-again, off-again peace talks.

The three southernmost provinces are the only ones with Muslim majorities in predominantly Buddhist

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Thailand and the BRN has said that it is seeking self-rule for them.

Muslim residents have long complained of being treated like second-class citizens in Thailand, and separatist movements have been periodically active for decades.

Insurgent violence escalated sharply in 2004 and was met with heavy-handed crackdowns, further fueling discontent. According to Deep South Watch, a think tank based at the Prince of Songkla University's campus in Pattani, 7,837 people have died in the violence in the past 22 years.

The last major flare-up came in July, when about 10 attackers opened fire and threw pipe bombs at soldiers at a security checkpoint in Narathiwat. Five paramilitary soldiers were killed and six civilians were wounded, including a 10-year-old boy.

Don Pathan, an independent security analyst, says the BRN carries out attacks largely for leverage as it negotiates with the Thai government.

"From the ground, BRN combatants are turned off by the boasting of military officials and wanted to use the spike in violence to demonstrate their capabilities," said Pathan. "Many of the targets in these latest incidents were civilians, but BRN combatants were not after body counts. They want to send a stern message to the Thais of what they are capable of doing."

Workers in China worry over being replaced as they adapt to the growing impact of AI on jobs

CHAN HO-HIM and FU TING Associated Press

HONG KONG (AP) — Computer programmer Fei Zhaojun's boss asked him if artificial intelligence could soon replace humans in coding jobs. Two weeks later, he was laid off from his job in Beijing, together with about 160 of his colleagues.

It's an increasingly common scenario as artificial intelligence, supported by government policies, reshapes China's massive job market. Some economists believe that might eventually undermine the overall strength of the world's second largest economy.

Rapid adoption of AI in many fields, from computer programmers to script writing and physical tasks, is pushing people out of their jobs or leaving them afraid that it might. China is at the vanguard of AI adoption as government policies encourage people and businesses to use AI applications and robotics in all aspects of life, so people like Fei are figuring out how to adapt.

"There appears to be far less anti-AI sentiment in China (than elsewhere). Most people seem either positive, neutral, or mildly interested in AI," said Shujing He, a Beijing-based senior analyst at advisory and research firm Plenum.

"Individuals who worry about being replaced, as well as those who have already left traditional workplaces, are often eager to experiment with AI-enabled businesses and independent ventures," she said. "The level of interest is striking."

Until recently, Fei had doubted AI could do programming work perfectly, even though his bosses thought it was close enough.

"Mid-level coders' job are essentially replaceable in most of the cases," said Fei, 40. "Even if it is a disaster that leads to replacing all humans, at this stage, you just have to use it as everyone else is using it."

Now he's making vlog-style short videos during a career break while figuring out what he wants to do next. He's not making a living off of his videos, which are about ordinary people's lives, but hopes that they might help others.

If you can't beat them, join them

Du Qinchun, a part-time translator, has been helping to train an AI model to do translations. That's brought him more work, at least temporarily.

"But it's true that the pay in the industry has been cut by more than half compared to what it was years ago," said Du, who is based in southwestern China's Chengdu city.

The trend is so evident that popular college programs in foreign languages have increasingly fallen out of favor as AI-powered translation tools have become more widespread.

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The share of Chinese industrial enterprises saying they use AI models and “agents” jumped to 47.5% last year from 9.6% in 2024, according to the market intelligence firm IDC.

“China’s vibrant open-source model ecosystem fosters greater AI application innovation in industrial settings, gradually closing the gap between foundational model capabilities and real-world enterprise value creation,” said Yanze Du, an IDC senior research manager in Beijing.

Humanoid robots can now, for example, sort parcels in postal centers, although still on a small-scale basis, and are pushing the boundaries in performing more human tasks such as directing traffic and making coffee. Food delivery robots are also gaining ground across the country, potentially threatening the livelihoods of millions of Chinese food delivery workers.

Generative AI increasingly is used for creation, production and distribution in China’s short drama industry. The number of live-action short and vertical video series designed for mobile phones fell about 75% in the first quarter of this year from a year earlier, according to Chinese media reports.

“Tasks that once required specialized training can now be performed by almost anyone with access to AI tools. This is particularly evident in software development and multimedia creation,” said Plenum’s He. “As a result, workers whose roles are narrowly concentrated in these areas may face greater displacement risk.”

A report from International Labor Organization, meanwhile, found that women face higher risks of losing employment due to use of AI than men, as they tend to work in areas more suitable for automation, such as assembling electronics, and remain underrepresented in science and technology.

AI has mixed effects on the slowing economy

Under China’s “AI Plus” initiative and its five-year plan through 2030, the government is pushing to infuse AI across many industries, aiming to gain an edge in China’s technology rivalry with the U.S.

“What is specific to China is that the government is really into diffusing AI across the economy, so AI may get into different domains more quickly comparing to other countries,” said Zilan Qian, a research associate at Oxford China Policy Lab.

China’s economic growth has already been slowing. Consumer spending has lagged partly due to people becoming reluctant to spend because they’re worried about losing their jobs. It’s added to problems stemming from a prolonged downturn in the housing market that has undermined household wealth.

China’s tech industries may be innovative with high productivity, but they may not generate many new jobs, said Eswar Prasad, a professor of economics and trade policy at Cornell University.

“AI is likely to lift productivity across the board but could have a severe disruptive effect on employment, worsening the employment growth problem and resulting in a detrimental effect on social stability,” he said.

Similar to their U.S. rivals, Chinese tech giants have cut or restructured tens of thousands of jobs, partly due to AI. The outlook for the broader jobs market remains uncertain: China’s overall urban unemployment rate hovers around 5%, but unemployment for people aged 16 to 24, excluding students, is roughly triple that.

That said, in the longer run, some experts say unemployment rates could fall, since China’s population of 1.4 billion is rapidly aging and shrinking.

By 2050, China is projected to have fewer than two working-age adults to support each retiree, compared with more than 2.5 in the U.S., said Xuenan Cao, a professor at San Francisco Bay University whose focus includes technology and society.

“Automation could partially offset a shrinking workforce rather than being purely a threat to it,” Cao said.

Some embrace AI to find new ways to make a living

Wang Zhicheng, 32, often used AI for brainstorming and fact-checking in his previous job as a script-writer for a company that produces 3D animated educational videos and interactive exercises for children.

After its parent company laid off roughly half of its 13 script writers, he chose to resign and work independently, making illustrated children’s books.

While AI sometimes saved time the scripts it generated, they often felt strange, Wang said. Episodes tended to be repetitive and formulaic and the level of detail devoted to knowledge varied widely.

“You can treat AI as a tool just like (Microsoft) Word,” said Wang, who has started his own studio mak-

ing picture books and other creative works. "Humans are still the decision makers on which one to pick or pursue among all that AI generates."

High school chemistry teacher Yang Zheng said he doesn't consider AI as a threat to his job even though students use AI for help with their homework.

"Teachers cannot be there all the time," he said. "It is a good thing for students as it generates in real-time so that students can ask follow-up questions," said Yang, 29. "It often gets things wrong, but it improves over time."

Uganda and Burundi military officials visit Israel to discuss Gaza troop deployment

By JOSEPH FALZETTA and SAM MEDNICK Associated Press

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) — Military officials from Uganda and Burundi visited Israel last week to discuss deploying troops to Gaza as part of an international security force envisioned by U.S. President Donald Trump's Board of Peace for the fragile ceasefire, according to officials.

A Board of Peace official told The Associated Press that Ugandan officials joined a Burundian military delegation, and that Uganda is finalizing details of its participation after its parliament approved the troop contribution this month.

Nothing has been finalized with Burundi, but the official said they look forward to starting the process.

"We shared significant knowledge with one another, and the Burundi representatives expressed interest in our mission," the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to discuss talks with potential troop-contributing countries ahead of any agreement.

A Burundian military official told the AP that three other senior military officers led the delegation to Israel and that Burundi appeared intent on joining. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media.

It was not clear what Uganda or Burundi might be offering or what they might receive in return. Spokespersons for their militaries did not respond to requests for comment.

Progress on the international force has been slow

If Burundi moves ahead, the African nations would be the latest to join the international force for Gaza after Morocco, Kosovo, Kazakhstan and Albania made commitments. Uganda has committed around 1,200 personnel, and Morocco has committed up to 500. Kosovo, Kazakhstan and Albania in total have committed around 80.

Indonesia earlier said it was preparing to send 8,000 troops — by far the largest commitment — but put that on hold after the U.S. and Israel attacked Iran.

The 20,000-strong force would be led by U.S. Maj. Gen. Jasper Jeffers. Troops committed remain far short of that goal.

Last month, Trump announced a deal for Hamas to disarm and for Israel to withdraw its forces from Gaza. According to the deal, the International Stabilization Force would be deployed to areas of the Palestinian territory administered by an incoming technocratic committee, and Israeli forces would withdraw.

The force would help monitor the ceasefire, train Palestinian police and secure the delivery of aid, among other tasks.

The ceasefire that took effect in Gaza last October has stalled due to disagreements regarding Israel's withdrawal from the strip and Hamas' disarmament. A U.S. delegation met for hours earlier this month with the Hamas leader and then with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to press them forward. Hamas has agreed to the new U.S. deal.

Netanyahu has rejected it, saying Israel will not withdraw from any of the roughly 60% of the territory it controls in Gaza until Hamas has been completely disarmed. Even after Netanyahu's meeting with the U.S. team, which included negotiator Jared Kushner, officials offered no concrete commitment by Israel.

Uganda and Burundi have peacekeeping experience from Somalia

Paul D. Williams, director of the security policy studies program at The George Washington University,

said Uganda and Burundi have gained considerable peacekeeping experience through long-term deployments in Somalia as part of an African Union force resisting the al-Qaida-linked al-Shabab extremist group.

Their countries' leaderships have "shown they are willing to tolerate high numbers of casualties without withdrawing," he said.

Williams added that, with the mission in Somalia winding down, both countries will be searching for ways to accrue financial and material support for their militaries: "Deploying to Gaza with U.S. support is one way to do that."

A Ugandan military officer with knowledge of the upcoming deployment said troops were being selected to go to Gaza. The officer spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to speak to the press.

3-year college degrees grow more popular in the US, saving time and cash. But critics aren't sold

By HEATHER HOLLINGSWORTH AP Education Writer

Giles Sims, 34, was sick of getting passed over for jobs because he didn't have a college degree.

But with a wife and a widowed mother to help support, he needed a quick solution. So the laid-off web developer turned to one of a growing number of three-year degree programs.

"I can't afford to be out of the workforce for four years. That just seems like forever, and the three-year made it seem less daunting," said Sims, a student at Ensign College, a private Salt Lake City school that recently changed all its bachelor's degrees to require fewer classes than a traditional four-year degree.

The condensed programs have exploded in popularity. As of this spring, 26 U.S. states have a college that offers at least one reduced-credit, three-year bachelor's, according to the nonprofit research group RAND.

Advocates say these programs are a solution to the college affordability crisis and a godsend for non-traditional students like Sims.

Critics, however, worry that they'll narrow too much what students learn, confuse employers, limit graduate school options and create headaches in fields that require state licenses.

The American Association of University Professors, for one, says the programs devalue the meaning of a college credential.

"This is not innovation. This is just cutting corners," said Todd Wolfson, AAUP's president.

A new option to graduate more quickly, but with reduced credit

For decades, colleges have offered accelerated programs that let students finish faster, often by forgoing long summer breaks, maximizing transfer credits and condensing semester-long courses into shorter, five- to 10-week terms.

But those programs maintained the same course load, measured as credits. The new programs let students finish faster by completing as few as 90 credit hours. That shaves a year off the typical 120-hour bachelor's degree.

Three-year bachelor's degrees are common in other countries including the United Kingdom, India, France and Italy. But they can create complications for graduates seeking admission to U.S. graduate schools, which sometimes require extra coursework.

Some of the earliest colleges in colonial America, modeled after English institutions like Oxford and Cambridge, initially had three-year degrees, said John Thelin, the author of "A History of American Higher Education." By the 19th century, the four-year format had taken hold, partly because there wasn't an established system of public high schools to prepare students, Thelin said.

"The colleges would have to kind of start from scratch," he said.

A change in accreditation opened the door to shorter degrees

The idea of bringing three-year degrees to the U.S. got attention in 2009 when Robert Zemsky, the founding director of the Institute for Research on Higher Education at the University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Education, argued in a Newsweek cover story that three-year degrees could shake up

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a broken system.

But there was a roadblock, he recalled recently. "Accreditors said, 'College is 120 credits, not 90 credits,'" he said.

Years passed. And in 2022, amid mounting concerns about college affordability, Zemsky helped revive the idea. The College-in-3 Exchange was born, and dozens of higher education institutions joined the network to look for ways to help students get degrees faster.

The Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities was the first accreditor to say yes in 2023, when it approved reduced-credit programs at Ensign and Brigham Young University-Idaho. Other accreditors quickly followed.

As of May, 119 reduced-credit programs had been publicly announced, according to the RAND analysis, which was conducted to help education officials in Ohio as they weigh the feasibility of reduced-credit degrees.

It comes at a time when tuition and fees averaged \$11,950 for in-state students at public schools and \$45,000 at private nonprofits last school year, although many students get discounts that reduce the price, according to a report from the College Board, the nonprofit that oversees the SAT.

Some degrees are easier to compress

Private nonprofit schools offer three-quarters of the reduced-credit programs, frequently online. Typically, they compress the majors by reducing electives. Business degrees in fields such as marketing and management are the most common, followed by computer and information sciences.

Other majors, such as engineering, with its extensive math requirements, have been harder to shrink. And RAND found just six reduced-credit degrees in teacher education, which involves real-world experience requirements and state licensure.

Jill Cohen, 42, lives on a ranch in rural Yoder, Colorado, and is completing her teaching degree through one such program at Indiana Wesleyan.

She quit her old job selling life insurance and turned to teaching after a farming accident nearly claimed her life. Already, she is in the classroom, teaching middle school English, as she works on the degree through a special "Grow Your Own" program designed to address staff shortages.

Because her home is busy — she has twin 12-year-olds, along with a menagerie that includes horses, goats and chickens — she appreciates the streamlined degree.

"Why do I need to take, you know, underwater basket weaving when I could just take the evolutionary structure of the English language — what I'm going to be teaching," she said.

However, programs with state licensing requirements are one of the biggest worries for Jenna Kramer, a policy researcher at RAND.

Indiana Wesleyan, which has a growing slate of reduced-credit offerings, said its education programs are specifically designed to meet Indiana licensing requirements. Students from elsewhere will need to check if the programs meet their state requirements, said Pam Downing, the school's director of communications, in an email.

The RAND report also found the programs are so new that there are no standard practices for admitting three-year degree recipients into graduate school.

Students acknowledge it's a gamble

Gabriella Staten, a 20-year-old student in the reduced-credit digital marketing program at Mount Mary University, a Catholic women's institution in Milwaukee, estimates it will save her at least \$20,000. While she sometimes wonders whether employers will take her degree as seriously as a four-year degree, she decided she could prove herself.

"Even if they were to look a little bit down on the three-year pathway, I can show them otherwise with the work," she said.

Wesley Hardy, who is three semesters into a bachelor of applied science in accounting at Ensign, also sees the pros and cons. He likes that the three-year format will get him into the workforce faster.

But he noted that the requirements to become a certified public accountant — something he has considered — vary by state. Many require 120 semester hours to sit for the exam and 150 to become licensed.

Graduate school often is needed.

Bruce Kusch, president of Ensign, said he has talked to multiple college presidents and doesn't anticipate that graduate school will be a problem. But Hardy, 22, has questions about how it would work.

"Would I have to take extra classes?" he asked. "It's definitely something I've thought of."

Tropical Storm Moke set to dump more heavy rain on hurricane-stricken Hawaii

HONOLULU (AP) — Tropical Storm Moke was swirling past Hawaii on Sunday, close enough to dump heavy rain on Big Island communities in the aftermath of Hurricane Lala.

The National Hurricane Center located Moke's center about 320 miles (515 kilometers) south-southwest of Hilo around midday. Top sustained winds were around 40 mph (65 kph), though the real impact was expected from rainfall in places where last weekend's hurricane flooded communities, triggered mudslides and damaged roads and power lines. Two deaths linked to the hurricane have been reported in Hawaii.

Hawaii County Mayor Kimo Alameda advised residents in a social media post Sunday they "should stay off the roads and shelter in place" as a precaution. He said anyone in need could take refuge at shelters that the county had opened at several locations.

Forecasters expected Moke to produce as much as 10 inches (25 centimeters) of total rain across the Big Island, and up to 15 inches (38 centimeters) in some isolated places, enough to cause life-threatening flooding and mudslides for the windward and southeast slopes, especially in steep terrain and over areas affected by Lala. The center of the storm was expected to pass south of the Big Island, then south of the smaller main islands of Hawaii.

In eastern Maui, up to 6 inches (15 centimeters) of rain was expected, and the other islands may get an inch or two (between 2.5 and 5 centimeters), according to the hurricane center.

As with Hurricane Lala, the Big Island was expected to bear the brunt of Moke's rain and winds as the storm moves westward, south of the island chain. After moving away from the islands, Lala was downgraded and remained a strong tropical storm on Sunday far out in the Central Pacific.

The northeast coast of the Big Island saw the heaviest total rainfall from Lala, at 43.54 inches (1.1 meters), according to the weather service.

Ahead of Moke's approach, Hawaii Gov. Josh Green urged people to prepare by restocking food, medicine and other essentials. More than 6,500 customers in the county remained without power Sunday stemming from Lala, according to poweroutage.us.

In the eastern Pacific, meanwhile, Tropical Storm Iselle formed earlier Sunday and was gaining strength, far away from Mexico's southwest coast.

Iselle had top sustained winds of 50 mph (85 kph) on Sunday afternoon and was about 535 miles (860 kilometers) southwest of the southern tip of Mexico's Baja California peninsula. No coastal watches or warnings were in effect for Iselle as it moved to the northwest at 16 mph (26 kph).

The U.S. National Hurricane Center in Miami said Iselle could become a hurricane in another day or two and would kick up strong ocean swells on Baja's western coastline starting Monday.

Zelenskyy details rift with Ukraine's dismissed Defense Minister Fedorov

By SAMYA KULLAB Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said that he believes actions taken by dismissed Defense Minister Mykhailo Fedorov, including his involvement in mass protests and calls for an election, were misguided, as he publicly detailed their dispute for the first time.

Zelenskyy also alluded to problematic decisions over defense spending and said that inaccurate information provided by the Defense Ministry contributed to an awkward encounter with U.S. President Donald Trump over the use of Starlink in Russia.

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Zelenskyy disclosed figures showing Ukraine's growing shortage of Patriot air-defense missiles needed to counter Russian ballistic attacks, with deliveries from Western allies declining in the past three years even as Russian missile strikes intensified.

He highlighted battlefield gains, however, saying Ukrainian forces have almost completely recaptured the Dnipropetrovsk region, with only about 10 square kilometers (around 4 square miles) remaining under Russian control.

The Ukrainian president made the remarks during a two-hour off-the-record meeting with reporters on Saturday, with a transcript released publicly on Sunday.

Zelenskyy's first public comments on Fedorov dismissal

His comments ranged widely, covering the latest battlefield developments, efforts to counter Russian ballistic attacks, the state of peace negotiations, Ukraine's budgetary challenges and the political turmoil surrounding Fedorov's dismissal.

"I really had and still have a very positive attitude toward Mykhailo. We have been through a lot together. But I believe that he himself goes, or is pushed, into the wrong things," he said.

Fedorov, a popular minister credited with modernizing Ukraine's armed forces and accelerating the military's embrace of technology and drone warfare, was dismissed last month after reportedly falling out with the country's top military commander. His removal triggered mass protests that lasted for weeks, but ultimately failed to force a reversal of the decision. Fedorov later called for an election.

Zelenskyy said that he had offered Fedorov four different options to continue working in the government. Fedorov, he said, rejected all of them.

The Ukrainian leader told journalists that he believes holding an election during the war would be a huge risk with the potential to "split Ukraine apart."

"I believe elections during a war like this would generally pose enormous risks. Holding elections right now would be a tsunami for the state that would split Ukraine apart," he said.

Zelenskyy said he had previously faced pressure to hold an election during the war, but no partners had come up with a plan for how a poll could be held safely, legitimately and democratically.

Inaccurate information led to uncomfortable White House encounter

Zelenskyy appeared to link Fedorov to an awkward episode involving Starlink and Elon Musk. Zelenskyy said that earlier this year, the Defense Ministry had told him that SpaceX had agreed to allow Ukraine to use Starlink over Russian territory to carry out deep strike operations, subject to political approval.

Acting on that, Zelenskyy said, he raised the issue directly with U.S. President Donald Trump. He told Trump that Musk had confirmed the proposed use. Zelenskyy said the two sides subsequently sought Musk's confirmation and discussed financing for the project.

But at a later meeting, Zelenskyy said that Trump told him that Musk had rejected the proposal and accused him of having misled the U.S. president. Musk considered the move a dangerous escalation, according to Zelenskyy.

"He said that I had supposedly deceived him, because Musk had denied Ukraine the use of Starlink on Russian territory. I went back to our Ministry of Defense and they said that maybe it was so," he said.

Zelenskyy didn't explicitly accuse Fedorov of lying. He said that the situation was among the reasons behind "some of the steps."

Zelenskyy also pushed back against protesters' vilification of former army chief, Gen. Oleksandr Syrskiy, who he dismissed, and current Defense Minister Maj. Gen. Yevhen Khmara, saying they had gone too far.

"Maybe someone doesn't like Syrskiy for one reason or another. But the slogans 'Syrskiy is the devil, Khmara is the devil,'" he said. "Listen, this is too much. Do you understand? In principle, you can't treat the military like this and tolerate it, especially when it was the military that made it possible for any peaceful protests to take place in the Ukrainian capital at all."

Pressure on defense budget but military successes

Zelenskyy also described severe financial pressure on Ukraine's defense effort. He said that the Defense Ministry faced a \$27 billion budget shortfall after spending decisions earlier in the year brought forward

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funds originally intended for the second half of this year.

Touching on a corruption inquiry that led Zelenskyy to fire one of his most senior officials this week, he said that anti-corruption investigators don't believe that the president was involved. The investigators had named a deputy head of the presidential office among the suspects in a money-laundering case.

"The heads of anti-corruption agencies have zero questions for me. They understand perfectly well that I am not involved in anything like that. And this is important to me," he said.

On the battlefield, Zelenskyy was optimistic. In addition to Ukraine almost completely regaining control of the Dnipropetrovsk region, he said that another operation was underway elsewhere and that its results were expected by the end of August.

He also predicted that by the end of the year, Ukraine could reach parity between the territory occupied by Russia since the beginning of the year and the territory retaken by Ukrainian forces. Zelenskyy said that Russia had occupied about 990 square kilometers (380 square miles) since the start of the year, while Ukraine had restored control over roughly 820 square kilometers (315 square miles).

The president said that Russia's principal objective remained the Konstantynivka-Sloviansk-Kramatorsk axis, and that Moscow was still demanding that Ukraine withdraw from the Donbas region as a condition for a settlement.

Still struggling for access to Patriot missiles

Zelenskyy said that Ukraine was receiving substantially fewer Patriot interceptor missiles even as Russian ballistic attacks are increasing.

He said that Ukraine received 675 Patriot missiles in 2023, compared with 364 in 2025 and an expected 264 this year. Zelenskyy said that he wanted to secure 300 additional Patriot missiles for the coming winter, while Ukraine's air force had requested 360.

The shortfall is particularly serious, because the United States and European partners are struggling to expand production. Zelenskyy said that he hoped Ukraine could obtain even 5% or 10% of U.S. reserves and was able to pay for them.

Zelenskyy said that Russia could eventually produce up to 1,300 ballistic missiles a year, compared with an estimated current capacity of 600.

He said that Ukraine was also preparing alternatives to Starlink, including a European communications project, as Russia and China work on their own competing system.

Other developments

— Debris from a Ukrainian drone hit two industrial facilities including a warehouse belonging to online retailer Ozon, local officials in Russia's Orenburg region said Sunday.

As well as shifting the war onto Russian soil through long-range drone strikes on oil facilities that have caused fuel shortages across Russia, Ukraine has unsettled the Russian public by striking warehouses of online retailers, including Russia's biggest one, Wildberries, and competitors such as Ozon.

— One person was killed and six wounded in Ukrainian drone attacks on Russia's Belgorod border region, local authorities said Sunday. A woman also died in a drone attack in the Tula region.

— Two women were killed and five other people were wounded when a Russian drone hit an electric train in Ukraine's Kharkiv region, the Ukrainian national police said Sunday.

— Leaders from Nordic and Baltic nations arrived in Kyiv on Sunday, the eve of Ukraine's Independence Day, in a show of solidarity from some of Ukraine's closest partners before a larger "coalition of the willing" meeting.

Leaders from Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania and Norway attended a flag-raising ceremony, as Ukraine marked Ukraine's National Flag Day.

"We feel we are not alone. Our allies are with us," Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha wrote on X on Sunday, noting that the leaders would hold bilateral and multilateral talks with Zelenskyy.

A landslide at a landfill in the capital of Guinea kills 30 people, officials say

CONAKRY, Guinea (AP) — A mountainous heap of refuse collapsed at the largest landfill in Guinea 's capital of Conakry early on Sunday, killing 30 people, according to the central government.

Authorities said that heavy rains, which started at around 2 a.m., washed over the refuse at Dar Es Salam — the largest landfill in Conakry — and triggered a landslide that buried nearby shacks. A search and rescue operation was underway to find survivors. Six people were seriously injured and several homes were destroyed.

The site, an open-air waste dump which is the largest in the city, had been designated for closure on Sunday, according to Lt. Col. Baldé Mamadou Bailo, the sanitation officer for the military engineering battalion.

Locals living around the landfill had been given eviction notices, which forced many to leave the area, but many others were still around at the time of the disaster, according to authorities.

"We will ensure that the remaining families are relocated elsewhere," Dienabou Touré, the minister of territorial administration and decentralization, said at the scene.

Guinea is mineral-rich with huge deposits of bauxite — the largest in the world — and also has iron ore, gold, diamonds and minerals. However, according to the World Bank, 43.7% of the population lives below the national poverty line.

Officials warn wildland firefighters about the risks of using a supplement for smoke exposure

By MARTHA BELLISLE Associated Press

SEATTLE (AP) — Fire and medical officials have issued warnings about a supplement offered to Western wildland firefighters who have been exposed to toxic chemicals while battling some of the country's biggest blazes.

The supplement glutathione, given through an IV or an inhaler-like machine called a nebulizer, has not been proven to be safe or effective and could expose firefighters to illness if there is contamination while it's produced, experts say.

At least two pharmacies recalled the supplement in August due to bacterial contamination found during testing at their labs, with one saying it had received reports of people suffering from fever, chills, severe headache and other symptoms.

"Because glutathione is not an FDA-approved drug, consumers should be cautious about product safety and claims that glutathione can treat or prevent diseases," said a safety advisory issued last week by the International Association of Firefighters, a labor union representing some 360,000 first responders.

Warning followed supplement's use during Spokane wildfires

Glutathione was offered to firefighters during recent blazes that destroyed hundreds of buildings in and around Spokane, Washington. During morning briefings, medical unit leaders on scene from California urged crews to check out a tent where a nonprofit run by licensed naturopathic doctors offered the supplement.

A group of naturopaths called The Integrative Health Action Network had previously provided the supplement to firefighters during the January 2025 wildfires that tore through Los Angeles County. The group's work with firefighters began following a 2017 blaze that destroyed thousands of homes in California's wine country.

Though there is no evidence to back its use, some firefighters have said the supplement helped them feel better after breathing toxic smoke and they have urged California pharmacy officials not to restrict access.

The supplement's promotion in Spokane prompted physicians and some members to contact the IAFF with concerns about health claims despite no research proving those claims or showing the supplement's safety, said Sean DeCrane, IAFF assistant to the general president for health and safety. Some doctors have warned of adverse effects.

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The IAFF also received reports saying some firefighters felt worse or became sick after getting treated. Medical treatments being marketed to firefighters should be evaluated and tested to make sure there are no unintended consequences, DeCrane said.

In response to the safety advisory, Jen Riegler, a naturopathic doctor and co-founder of The Integrative Health Action Network, said the organization recognizes the need for peer-reviewed research on whether glutathione can reduce chemical burdens in firefighters and is "actively exploring partnerships to that end."

How inhaling wildfire smoke harms the body

More studies are showing the wide-ranging negative health impacts of inhaling wildfire smoke, which is especially toxic when blazes tear through urban areas and burn up household appliances, batteries and chemicals. Tens of thousands of people die annually in the U.S. from long-term impacts of wildfire smoke.

Firefighters work in extreme conditions that make it impractical to use a respirator with an air tank. That means they are exposed to a "slew of chemicals" that have short- and long-term impacts on their health, DeCrane said.

Pasadena Fire Captain Matt Caffey, also a paramedic for 28 years, helped fight last year's Eaton fire in Southern California and said the smoke exposure from burning neighborhoods brings on coughing, vomiting and brain fog.

"You can't remember things. You're just so behind the eight ball. You can't catch up. You're not recovering," he said.

Caffey is among the firefighters who say glutathione helps, and he urged Integrative Health Action Network providers to come to Spokane. The California Board of Pharmacy in 2025 reversed course on regulations that would have made the supplement more difficult to acquire after pushback from some firefighters.

Experts say health claims are not backed by evidence

Experts warn anecdotal claims of relief are not proof.

Such claims are "interesting and provocative and deserve further study," said Dr. Cora Sack, a pulmonary specialist with expertise in environmental and occupational lung disease at the University of Washington School of Medicine. But "we lack clinical evidence of its efficacy."

Glutathione is an antioxidant made primarily in the liver that neutralizes other unstable molecules that attack the body and cause cellular damage. Wildfire smoke creates oxidative stress in the body, and there is an "interesting biological plausibility" to think antioxidants could impact that, Sack said. But she does not endorse glutathione's use without clear evidence.

Taking glutathione through a nebulizer may constrict the airways of people who have asthma or chronic lung conditions. Glutathione is processed in sterile compounding pharmacies, and there have been cases of people getting poisoned due to contamination at these facilities, Sack said.

Injecting a contaminated product "could cause significant medical events including fevers, hypotension, inflammatory reactions, anaphylactic shock and death," according to the recent pharmacy recalls.

Luke Montrose, a professor at Colorado State University whose research focuses in part on the impact of wildfire smoke on disease risk, said glutathione has anti-inflammatory properties.

"But because it hasn't been studied, I'm hesitant," he said.

Iran official says support for new sanctions would be an 'act of war,' and other Middle East news

By The Associated Press undefined

The new head of Iran's top security body warned Sunday that Tehran will see any country's support for new U.S. economic measures against the Islamic Republic as an "act of war," while Iran's president defended a memorandum of understanding with the United States as the best way out of the stalled conflict.

Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent on Monday is expected to announce the new measures after the U.S. vowed to impose an "unprecedented" level of economic warfare and isolation on a country that has lived for decades under sanctions. Also Monday, Pakistan's army chief is expected to visit Iran as mediators try to revive talks.

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Meanwhile, attacks calmed on the Strait of Hormuz but posturing did not, as a recently created Iranian authority listed dozens of vessels it said will face restrictions on future transits.

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

Iran's security chief sharpens warning to neighbors

The hard-line leader of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, Mohsen Rezaei, issued his latest warning on X, with the comments quickly shared by Iranian state media.

It came a day after Rezaei's most extensive public comments since being named to the post this month.

"If (Trump) wants to do something, we will retaliate in a seismic manner," he had told the state broadcaster in an interview that aired late Saturday. He said Iran would target other oil-shipping routes from the Persian Gulf — alternatives to the Strait of Hormuz.

Rezaei, a former Revolutionary Guard commander and military adviser to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei, was part of senior appointments widely seen as hardening Tehran's political and military stance.

Iranian president wants to move past 'neither war nor peace'

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian earlier Sunday said the memorandum of understanding signed in mid-June was the best way to move beyond a situation of "neither war nor peace," adding that Tehran can't attract investment nearly six months after the war began.

"There is not a single provision in this agreement that amounts to capitulation," Pezeshkian said in a speech published by state-run IRNA. "The supreme leader sets the policies, and we will follow that path."

The interim deal opened a 60-day period for talks aimed at ending the war and reaching an accord on Iran's nuclear program. That period ended last week with no signs of compromise or extension.

No attacks confirmed on the strait, but new restrictions

There were no confirmed attacks in the Strait of Hormuz over the past 48 hours, a multinational coalition overseen by the U.S. Navy said Sunday, with shipping traffic still at reduced levels. The U.S. military said its blockade of Iranian ports had redirected 70 commercial ships and disabled three as of Sunday.

Iran's recently created Persian Gulf Strait Authority, sanctioned by the U.S., published a list of dozens of ships it said had violated arrangements for transiting the strait and would face future restrictions like fines or seizures. The strait had been considered an international waterway before the U.S. and Israel attacked Iran on Feb. 28.

Iran and Oman, on the strait's other side, are now discussing management of it, which likely will include ships paying fees.

Pakistan's army chief will visit Tehran

Pakistani Field Marshal Asim Munir will lead a delegation to Tehran on Monday, Iranian state television reported, citing Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesperson, Esmail Baghaei.

Two regional officials said the visit was part of Islamabad's efforts to de-escalate tensions between the United States and Iran and urge them to return to the negotiating table. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the matter publicly.

— By Munir Ahmed in Islamabad

Iran executes man arrested during January protests

The Iranian judiciary's Mizan news agency reported the latest execution connected to nationwide protests early this year, saying Majid Adineh was arrested Jan. 9 in Mohammadshahr, west of Tehran.

The judiciary said forensic examinations indicated the handgun found on him had been fired on Jan. 8 and 9. Mizan said Adineh had joined the unrest following calls by groups opposed to Iran's government and alleged that he had received training from groups outside the country. He was convicted under Iran's law imposing harsher penalties for espionage and cooperation with hostile states.

Israeli settler arrested in beating of Palestinian amputee

Police arrested a 16-year-old boy from the Israeli settlement of Avigayil in the beating of a 61-year-old Palestinian, Saeed Muhammad Ibrahim Rabah, outside his home in the occupied West Bank, a year after he lost a leg after being shot by a settler.

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Rabah told The Associated Press that the violence at his home in Khirbet al-Rakeez on Saturday was an effort to make families leave, but "we will remain, no matter what happens."

Separately, the West Bank Health Ministry said a 14-year-old in the Askar refugee camp in Nablus was shot dead by Israeli forces, who did not immediately comment. The uncle of Islam Maher Ajouri, Nehad Ajouri, called the shooting indiscriminate.

And Israel's military said it detained a suspect in a stabbing attack that wounded a 24-year-old Israeli man in the area of al-Auja in the West Bank. Israel's emergency services said the man was in moderate condition.

Airstrike in Gaza kills a 4-year-old child

Four-year-old Mohammed Taha died after an Israeli airstrike hit a central Gaza house on Sunday and wounded at least five others, according to the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital, which received the casualties.

Israel's military later said it struck and killed a Hamas commander in central Gaza. The hospital confirmed that the man named, Ismail Abu Ful, was killed.

An Israeli strike in southern Gaza wounded at least seven people, including three children, according to health officials at Nasser Hospital. The military did not immediately comment.

And Defense Minister Israel Katz in a statement said he instructed the military to "act immediately and forcefully" to prevent launches of balloons, kites or drones from Gaza toward nearby Israeli communities.

Before the Oct. 7, 2023, attack by Hamas-led militants on Israel — when 1,200 people were killed and 251 taken hostage — burning kites and balloons were sent from Gaza into southern Israel, causing fires and other damage.

Hamas in a statement Sunday accused Israel of "using children's toys as a pretext" for attacks and further displacement of Gaza residents.

Carney warned about economic coercion. Now Trump is testing the Canadian prime minister

By ROB GILLIES Associated Press

TORONTO (AP) — Mark Carney drew international attention as Canada's prime minister by warning that middle powers must resist economic coercion by more powerful countries. Now President Donald Trump is putting that warning to the test with sweeping new tariffs that could show how much economic pain Canada can absorb.

Tensions escalated late Friday when Canada walked away from negotiations after Carney concluded the United States was demanding too much in exchange for tariff relief. The U.S. imposed 50% duties Saturday on about \$20 billion worth of Canadian goods, and Carney announced dollar-for-dollar retaliation beginning Sept. 8.

"We're going to hit back," Carney said.

Carney is doing what many other American allies have so far avoided: risking economic pain rather than yielding to tariff pressure.

For Carney, the showdown is the clearest test yet of his argument that middle powers must stand up to economic pressure from great powers such as the United States and China, even when it comes at a cost. Canada's response could show how countries navigate a world in which long-standing alliances offer less protection and economic ties themselves become sources of leverage.

It could also shape how Carney is viewed at home and abroad, and how other U.S. allies respond to the Republican president.

The trade dispute also has become a test of sovereignty.

Carney said Washington introduced language in the final hours of negotiations that would have restricted Canada's ability to make trade deals with other countries. He said that demand was "unacceptable" and "a question of sovereignty."

British Columbia Premier David Eby said accepting such a condition would have reduced Canada "to the economic equivalent of the 51st state" — a status Trump has mused about often.

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Canada becomes a test case for the world Carney warned about

Carney's message resonated in January when he addressed the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, as Europe braced for Trump's threats over Greenland and new tariffs.

Carney said the international order was undergoing "a rupture, not a transition." He argued that sovereignty would depend increasingly on a country's ability to "withstand pressure" and warned that middle powers negotiating alone with great powers do so from weakness.

Trump responded a day later by stressing Canada's dependence on the United States. "Canada lives because of the United States," he said. "Remember that, Mark, the next time you make your statements."

The president has repeatedly talked about making Canada the 51st U.S. state and dismissed the allies' border as artificial. On Sunday, Trump returned to that theme, writing on Truth Social that "Canada wants the benefits of being a State, without being one!!!" and accusing Canada of charging U.S. farmers "massive amounts" of tariffs for years. "No more!!!" he wrote.

Seven months since Davos, Canada has become a test case for the world Carney described.

"Our government understood, before many, that America would transform all its commercial relationships," Carney said Saturday. He accused Washington of using "economic integration as a weapon" and said its "signature was written in pencil."

The price of resistance and will Canada show the way?

Historian Robert Bothwell said Canada is uniquely vulnerable to U.S. pressure.

"No country is more exposed than Canada," Bothwell said. "Other countries have to fear American misbehavior, but none as much as Canada."

Bothwell said success ultimately means Canada retaining its independence "in the face of Trump's desire to subordinate it and absorb it." He said Carney "sees that very well."

But Canada's dependence on the U.S. market makes that difficult.

Nearly three-quarters of Canadian exports go to the United States, whose economy is roughly 10 times larger. Canada can sign new trade agreements, but replacing customers and supply chains built around the enormous U.S. market over decades is considerably harder.

Carney acknowledged retaliation would "raise costs and reduce choice for Canadians."

U.S. Trade Representative Jamieson Greer rejected Canada's account of the breakdown in talks, saying Ottawa introduced new demands and backed away from commitments even after Washington offered to reduce tariffs on steel, autos, lumber and other goods.

He said the United States was moving ahead with additional measures in response to Canada's retaliation, raising the prospect of further escalation.

The European Union prepared retaliatory tariffs against the United States last year but repeatedly suspended them while negotiating with Washington.

Nelson Wiseman, a professor emeritus of political science at the University of Toronto, said Canada is providing the biggest test yet of whether Carney's strategy can work and whether resistance by one middle power could change the calculations of others.

"Will there be a domino effect? We'll see," Wiseman said.

Carney's defiance also drew notice in Europe. Former Italian Prime Minister Paolo Gentiloni, who later served as the European Union's economy commissioner, shared video of Carney's Saturday remarks on social media and wrote, "Here is a speech I would like to hear in Europe."

Carney tries to hold the line as anger grows among Canadians toward Trump

Ian Bremmer, president of the Eurasia Group, said Americans underestimate how angry Canadians are with the Trump administration.

"Taking a hard line in response to U.S. policy perceived as predatory — even with major economic cost to Canada — is popular among most Canadians," he said in a social media post.

The confrontation is also reviving calls to shun U.S. goods. Quebec Premier Christine Fréchet urged residents to buy local, calling it "a nationalistic action" and "an action of solidarity."

That anger again spilled into sports over the weekend. Fans in Vancouver and Montreal booed the U.S.

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national anthem before Major League Soccer matches Saturday, echoing similar scenes early in the trade war last year.

Manitoba Premier Wab Kinew said Canadians should be prepared for a prolonged confrontation and that Trump could emerge weaker after the U.S. midterm elections in November.

"He's got two more years left in office. We should be prepared to duke it out for two years, and then hopefully, sanity will return," Kinew said.

Carney has framed the confrontation as a test of whether Canada can preserve its independence under U.S. pressure.

"Last spring, I warned that America is trying to break us so that they can own us," Carney said Saturday. "And I promised: 'That will never, ever happen.' We are keeping that promise."

Trump waves the green flag to start the IndyCar race as drivers zoom through Washington's streets

By MICHELLE L. PRICE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — For once, things were moving fast in the nation's capital.

Washington was hosting an IndyCar race through its streets Sunday, with President Donald Trump and first lady Melania Trump kicking off the Freedom 250 Grand Prix by leading a slow lap in the presidential limousine through the course. Soon after, the president waved the green flag to start the race and drivers began whipping through downtown, including a stretch along Pennsylvania Avenue not too far from the White House.

"I'm going to make a little circle in a nice, secure car, slightly slower than the ones we're going to witness, but we're going to have fun," Trump said in an interview on Fox shortly before the ride.

The open-wheel race, with cars whizzing past Washington's monuments at speeds approaching 200 mph, is the latest of Trump's celebrations this year to mark America's 250th birthday.

Trump's other events to mark the semiquincentennial of the Declaration of Independence's signing have included a UFC fight on the White House lawn, military aircraft flyovers, a massive July Fourth fireworks show on the National Mall and a Great American State Fair that the president headlined after scores of '90s-era musical acts dropped out. The events have all had a Trumpian flair, featuring appearances from his friends and the aim of showcasing spectacle, Americana and power.

In this latest case, it was be horsepower.

Racing day brings out some of Trump's favorites

Sunday included some of Trump's favorite flourishes. One of his favorite singers, tenor Christopher Macchio, performed, "The Star-Spangled Banner." A trained bald eagle was dramatically released near the start line, and it swooped and flew overhead before returning to its handler.

There were flyovers of military aircraft, which have boomed over the city during the July Fourth celebrations, among other events. One flyover Sunday involved a formation featuring a B-2 stealth bomber, which Trump frequently boasts about for its role in dropping massive bunker-buster bombs on Iranian nuclear facilities last year.

Air Force One, escorted by four fighter jets, flew overhead as Trump did his lap. The jet was the Qatar-gifted aircraft that the president has been using as Air Force One, which has attracted scrutiny not only for Trump's acceptance of the luxury gift but because it is not equipped with some of the same missile detection and countermeasure systems found on older presidential jets.

The IndyCar race took place Trump has struggled to resolve the war he started nearly six months ago with Iran, a conflict that has driven up gasoline prices and exacerbated worries from officials in his Republican Party that voters in this November's midterm elections see the president as distracted and not focused enough on cost-of-living concerns.

Trump in his second term has increasingly seemed to focus on relishing the presidency's ceremonial aspects. That's included a healthy dose of visits to sporting events — including an appearance last month at the World Cup final, where he presented the trophy to winner Spain and lingered onstage with the team

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as its members jumped in a hail of confetti.

Bringing Indy to DC was a longtime quest for racing series owner

From his viewing box, Trump had the honor of waving the green flag to kick off the race.

Before the race, Trump and his wife met and chatted with some of the race drivers. They then took a slow drive through the course in a small motorcade and could be seen waving at the crowd as a Marine Corps band played "Stars and Stripes Forever."

IndyCar series owner Roger Penske, a longtime friend of Trump's who received the Presidential Medal of Freedom from him in 2019, helped lead the effort to bring the race to Washington.

Trump told Fox on Sunday that Penske told him that he had been trying to bring the race to Washington for 20 years.

"When he came to see Trump it got done in about 15 minutes and it's turned out to be much bigger than we ever even thought possible," the president said, referring to himself in the third person.

Penske met Trump when he arrived at the course and later joined him in his viewing box, as did the president's friend and UFC CEO Dana White, who helped put on the fight at the White House in June.

An executive order Trump signed earlier this year calling for the Freedom 250 Grand Prix declared that the "cars and drivers inspire awe and respect in all who watch this quintessentially American sport," and the event will "showcase the majesty of our great city as drivers navigate a track around our iconic national monuments in celebration of America's 250th birthday."

House Speaker Mike Johnson, R-La., told Fox News Channel that he wants to push to bring the event back next year and make it an annual event.

Trump wanted to hear 'freedom roar' from the powerful racing machines

"Their beautiful cars are going to make freedom roar. This will be a freedom that's roaring like never before," Trump said at the White House earlier this month as he promoted the event.

Bud Denker, president of Penske Corporation and the race's chair, said that Penske is paying for the "vast majority" of the race, including building the track and road improvements, while the District of Columbia handled some repaving.

Among the changes needed on the city's streets for the Indycar race was the welding of more than 200 maintenance hole covers to ensure the race cars don't suck them up off the road.

Sunday's festivities were also the latest opportunity for Trump to revel in the way he's putting his mark on the nation's capital, including large banners showing his face on government buildings, the construction of a massive White House ballroom, a gold-adorned Oval Office and botched repairs at the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool.

Lando Norris wins F1's Dutch Grand Prix after a daring pass on Kimi Antonelli

By JAMES ELLINGWORTH AP Sports Writer

ZANDVOORT, Netherlands (AP) — Lando Norris had a clear message for his Formula 1 rivals after a spectacular race-winning pass on standings leader Kimi Antonelli. Write off his title defense at your peril.

"This fight is still on," Norris said over team radio after winning the Dutch Grand Prix for back-to-back F1 victories and a trophy presented by the King of the Netherlands.

Norris asked his McLaren team to "just keep bringing upgrades (to the car), just keep bringing performance please" as he eyes an 83-point gap to Antonelli.

Max Verstappen nearly reeled in a similarly vast lead last year as Norris held on by just two points. Now the British driver is the hunter.

"There's still plenty of things we can do better and need to do better if we're going to fight for a championship," Norris added.

Norris seizes his chance

Norris started on pole but was overtaken by Antonelli's Mercedes at a restart after the race was stopped for a heavy crash by home hero Verstappen, who was unhurt, shortly after the start.

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Norris reeled in Antonelli before passing him around the outside of the first corner in a daring move on lap 54 of 72, then took the lead from Ferrari's Hamilton before the lap was over.

The defending champion held on with old tires to take the win. "This fight is still on," he said over team radio.

"The move (to pass Antonelli) was good. I knew I was not going to get many chances. Every lap I spent behind him my chances got lower and lower," Norris said. "Well played from my part...I probably had one chance."

Antonelli was second after his Mercedes teammate George Russell was ordered to move out of his way, following a failed gamble on a tire change by Antonelli. Russell clung on to finish third ahead of Hamilton.

Antonelli's standings lead grew to 59 points over Russell and Hamilton, who are now level. Norris moved ahead of Charles Leclerc for fourth.

Antonelli and Russell question Mercedes strategy

There was tension at Mercedes as both Antonelli and Russell criticized the team's decisions over the radio.

Antonelli called his team's strategy "too risky" when the team congratulated him on second place, while Russell earlier seemed to object to being asked to give way to his teammate.

"Is he fighting for the win? Or is he planning to catch Norris?" Russell questioned, at a point where Norris was far ahead of both.

Russell relented after the race and said he felt Mercedes had made the right decision to avoid the two battling for position as Hamilton closed in behind.

Antonelli "would have overtaken anyway so it was the right decision," said Russell, who won the sprint race Saturday. "It's been a strong weekend overall so I'll take the positives."

Verstappen's big crash and Hülkenberg's big save

There was a half-hour delay after Verstappen slammed into the wall on a damp first lap, stopping the race and ensuring a nightmare end to his last home race in the Netherlands for the foreseeable future.

Just a couple of seconds later, there would have been another huge collision if not for lightning reactions by Nico Hülkenberg. As his Audi teammate Gabriel Bortoleto span across the track, the German swerved around him through a cloud of tire smoke.

"It was crazy with Gabi, I almost T-boned him," Hülkenberg said over team radio.

The Dutch Grand Prix is dropping off the schedule after this season and the many orange-clad Dutch fans who turned up to support Verstappen instead saw Norris and his orange McLaren take the win.

Verstappen said he simply misjudged his speed on the damp track after pre-race rain.

Charles Leclerc was fifth on another disappointing day for Ferrari ahead of its home race in Italy in two weeks' time. Norris' teammate Oscar Piastri was sixth after running in the top three early on, and Liam Lawson salvaged seventh for Red Bull after being called in to replace the injured Isack Hadjar.

Hülkenberg was eighth for Audi, with Fernando Alonso ninth in the best result of an otherwise-disastrous 2026 for Aston Martin. Alpine's Pierre Gasly rounded out the top ten.

'Spider-Man' tops box office in fourth weekend; 'The Odyssey' becomes Nolan's highest-grossing film

By LINDSEY BAHR AP Film Writer

"Spider-Man: Brand New Day" fought off a slew of newcomers, including a comedy, a horror franchise, a Jason Statham action movie and a family pic, to maintain its first-place spot at the box office in its fourth weekend in theaters. "The Odyssey" also became Christopher Nolan's highest grossing movie ever, both domestically and internationally.

For the year, "The Odyssey" is second only to "Spider-Man," which added \$39 million from 4,006 theaters in the U.S. and Canada, according to studio estimates Sunday. "Spider-Man," which has now made over \$854.9 million in North America, will soon surpass "Avengers: Endgame" to become the second highest-grossing domestic release of all time. The record holder is currently "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" (\$936.7 million).

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Sony also had the second biggest movie of the weekend with "Insidious: Out of the Further." The sixth movie in the franchise, produced by Blumhouse Atomic Monster, made \$25.3 million from 3,303 theaters. Internationally, it made \$35 million. Its \$18 million production budget makes it the most expensive movie of the series.

Third place went to "The Odyssey," which earlier this week became the highest grossing R-rated movie of all time, surpassing "Deadpool & Wolverine." It added \$19.5 million in its sixth weekend in North American theaters, where it continues to play in over 3,000 locations, bringing its domestic total to just under \$539.1 million. That pushes it past the \$534.9 million from "The Dark Knight" — a previous high-water mark for Nolan — not accounting for inflation. Internationally, it added \$68 million, driven largely by China and Korea, which brings its worldwide total to \$1.4 billion.

The other big newcomers landed further down the charts. "Mutiny," starring Statham as a man wrongly accused of murdering his billionaire boss, opened in sixth place with \$7.5 million from 2,703 locations. The Lionsgate release (an acquisition) was intended to be a theatrical only release, but a few days before it opened it was accidentally available for free on Prime Video for a few hours before the mistake was remedied. The glitch might have impacted its opening weekend earnings, but the film also had some fairly bad reviews working against it.

Even more poorly reviewed was "Spa Weekend," a girl's trip comedy from the men behind "The Hangover" and "Bad Moms," starring Isla Fisher, Leslie Mann, Anna Faris and Michelle Buteau. It made an estimated \$3.1 million in 2,009 locations. Women accounted for some 84% of opening weekend ticket buyers, according to PostTrak. The 25th anniversary re-release of "The Fast and the Furious" made slightly more.

"The Magic Faraway Tree," starring Andrew Garfield, opened outside of the top 10 with \$1.4 million from 1,611 screens.

The young Anthony Bourdain movie "Tony" continues to do quite well, however, earning \$5 million from 1,652 screens.

The summer season, which runs through Labor Day, has now generated an estimated \$4.4 billion in ticket sales in North America, putting it among the top four highest grossing summers ever.

"We're in the home stretch of what I think will go down in box office history as maybe one of the most key and pivotal summer movie seasons ever," said Paul Dergarabedian, the head of marketplace trends for Rentrak. "I don't know how you can replicate this summer. Studios will try."

Michael O'Leary, the president and CEO of the movie theater trade organization Cinema United, noted the wide variety of movies in the marketplace that have helped contribute to a big summer. Part of that, he told The Associated Press, was that the industry pipeline is finally bouncing back from the effects of the Hollywood strikes in 2023.

"The thing that I'm most excited about, frankly, is just the enthusiasm of moviegoers," O'Leary said. "You feel it when you go to the theater. There's an energy about being in the theater that hasn't been there in the recent past."

The year overall has also surpassed \$7 billion, which is up about 20.4% from 2025, but about 7.1% behind 2019.

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," \$39 million.
2. "Insidious: Out of the Further," \$25.3 million.
3. "The Odyssey," \$19.5 million.
4. "Paw Patrol: The Dino Movie," \$9.1 million.
5. "The End of Oak Street," \$9 million.
6. "Mutiny," \$7.5 million.
7. "Tony," \$5 million.
8. "The Fast and the Furious" (25th anniversary re-release), \$3.1 million.

9. "Spa Weekend," \$3.1 million.

10. "Teenage Sex and Death at Camp Miasma," \$1.9 million.

Kazakhstan votes in a parliamentary election expected to strengthen president's grip on power

By YURAS KARMANAU Associated Press

TALLINN, Estonia (AP) — Kazakhstan voted on Sunday in a parliamentary election that is expected to further strengthen President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev's grip on power in Central Asia's largest nation.

The pro-presidential Adilet party is widely predicted to win an overwhelming majority, with several smaller parties loyal to Tokayev also anticipated to enter parliament. The vote was the country's first election to a new, single-chamber parliament called the Kurultai.

The 73-year-old Tokayev, a former Soviet official and Kazakh diplomat who previously worked at the United Nations, has been in office since 2019.

Sunday's vote was the culmination of a constitutional overhaul that Tokayev initiated in March, when 87% of voters supported a referendum to merge the two chambers of parliament into one and grant the president authority to appoint key officials, subject to parliamentary approval, including reestablishing the vice presidency.

Tokayev, who has sought to maintain a delicate balance between Moscow and the West since sanctions were imposed on Russia over the war in Ukraine, has justified the changes by citing the need for rapid decision-making in a fast-changing world.

Last month, Kazakhstan's Constitutional Court ruled that the amendments effectively reset the clock on Tokayev's previous terms in office, opening the door for him to run for another seven-year term.

The election comes at a difficult economic moment for Kazakhstan: inflation hit 10.2% in February, and tax hikes have fueled public discontent.

Analysts say the economic strain has made authorities wary of a repeat of the unrest of January 2022, when fuel price protests spiraled into violence that left dozens of protesters and police officers dead — a scenario Tokayev is seeking to guard against by concentrating power in his own hands.

Ahead of the election, Tokayev said it promised to be a "truly historic event."

"Without a doubt, these elections will be remembered as perhaps the most interesting in our country's history," Tokayev said on Friday. "Amid unprecedented geopolitical tensions and mounting global challenges, we must firmly and consistently implement our strategy to transform Kazakhstan into a truly developed state."

The vote also took place against a backdrop of intensifying crackdowns on media freedom. Media organizations have urged Tokayev to drop criminal charges against several journalists under house arrest and to revise the country's legislation to ensure media freedom. Authorities have opened roughly 10 criminal cases against independent journalists and popular bloggers.

The most recent case involves Lukpan Akhmedyarov, an independent journalist who hosts the YouTube project "Prosto Zhurnalistika," or "Simply Journalism."

He told The Associated Press that a criminal case was opened against him in August on charges of "disseminating false information," after he published a list of Kazakhstan's citizens fighting in Ukraine. He faces up to seven years in prison.

"In the run-up to these parliamentary elections, repression has intensified sharply, with attacks on independent media, cyberattacks, and criminal cases launched against independent journalists and popular bloggers," Akhmedyarov told the AP, speaking from Almaty, Kazakhstan's largest city.

"It feels like the authorities want to silence all media outlets they don't control — everyone they couldn't reach an agreement with or couldn't buy off," he added.

Akhmedyarov said that the streets of Kazakhstan's major cities are "flooded with advertisements and posters for the pro-presidential Adilet party."

"It is not very difficult to predict the outcome of these elections," he said.

Pete Buttigieg returns to South Carolina as he weighs another White House run

By JOEY CAPPELLETTI and MEG KINNARD Associated Press

ORANGEBURG, S.C. (AP) — The last time Pete Buttigieg was giving a political speech in South Carolina, it was to mark a distant finish in the state's primary that effectively ended his campaign for president.

Returning this weekend as he mulls a second run for the White House, Buttigieg set out to reintroduce himself to the state and the Black voters he struggled to win in 2020. The results were encouraging.

There was a standing ovation in a Black church in South Carolina when Buttigieg was credited for helping bring millions of federal dollars to the area for a project as President Joe Biden's transportation secretary. A second ovation came as Buttigieg gave a speech warning of a country in "big trouble" while laying out his own vision for what should come next.

"There is no such thing as again in real life. The only way out is through," Buttigieg told the crowd of more than 200 people at an NAACP Freedom Fund Dinner. "If we recognize and embrace a future that is different from the past, we will do better."

The warm applause was a markedly different reception than six years ago, when a fourth-place showing in South Carolina helped derail Buttigieg's presidential campaign while exposing his failure to connect with Black voters. The state is likely to have an even greater say in his political future as the first contest in the Democratic presidential primary in 2028.

Starting the election calendar in South Carolina is intended in part to give Black voters a greater voice at the outset of the nominating process. For Buttigieg and other potential contenders, winning the support of this group that makes up a majority of South Carolina's Democratic electorate is essential.

"You need to demonstrate that you can win Black voters," said Jaime Harrison, a former Democratic National Committee chair and South Carolina Democratic Party chairman. "If you can't win Black voters, you can't be the nominee of our party."

The 2028 campaign is already coming to South Carolina

Buttigieg insists he has made no final decision about whether to run for president again.

"Right now, I'm totally focused on 2026," he told reporters Saturday.

But his South Carolina trip — a week after visiting another early-voting state, Nevada — had all the trappings of a potential presidential bid.

He raised money Friday in Charleston with Nancy Lacore, a U.S. House candidate trying to flip a Republican-held seat. On Saturday morning, he spoke at a policy conference before traveling to Claflin University, a historically Black university in Orangeburg.

Davina Perry, a third-year student at Claflin, said she came away from Buttigieg's visit thinking he would be a "good candidate" if he ran.

"Secretary Pete has definitely put himself on my radar for 2028 now, for sure," Perry said. But, she added, "I do want to see more representation from people who look like me."

That evening, Buttigieg attended a dinner at a church in Orangeburg, a nearly three-quarters Black city with a deep history in the Civil Rights Movement. The crowd included local NAACP leaders, ministers and elected officials. Buttigieg worked the room, giving hugs and taking photos.

"He is responsible for the Railroad Corner," said Orangeburg Mayor Michael Butler, referencing a project aimed at revitalizing the city's downtown that received a \$22.7 million federal grant. "Do I need to say any more? We need to stand and welcome the former secretary."

Buttigieg used the speech that followed to make a broader case about the direction of the country, arguing that Democrats cannot separate Americans' economic frustrations from a political system he described as increasingly broken.

"I have come to believe that the kitchen table cannot be improved unless we are also reforming the institutional and political floor on which that kitchen table sits."

Black voters will have the first say for Democrats in 2028

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For Buttigieg, the weekend offered signs of how much has changed since he came to South Carolina in 2020 as a 38-year-old Indiana mayor asking voters to take a chance on him. He points to what he delivered during four years in Biden's Cabinet, including specific projects in the state.

But Buttigieg said he also came to South Carolina "to propose something" about the country's future. Butler, Orangeburg's mayor, liked what he heard.

"His speech was what you talk about at the kitchen table. How America is going to survive all of this?" Butler said. "He brought hope to us."

South Carolina Democratic leaders say the close, personal engagement with candidates is exactly what they hoped for. Those involved in the push to make South Carolina first envisioned the living-room conversations and retail politics long associated with Iowa and New Hampshire.

"You got to go listen. You got to go all over the place," Harrison said. "You have to make meaningful investments. That's how you win South Carolina."

Buttigieg is hardly alone in his early trip to the state.

Other potential 2028 contenders, including California Gov. Gavin Newsom, Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear, U.S. Rep. Ro Khanna of California and U.S. Sen. Cory Booker of New Jersey have made trips to the state as what is expected to be a large Democratic field begins to take shape. Former Vice President Kamala Harris already has deep ties in the state.

The electorate they will encounter has changed from 2020, when Biden's victory in the state resurrected his presidential campaign and put him on a path to ousting Republican President Donald Trump.

Four years later, Trump defeated Harris and returned to the White House, which Black leaders say has significantly hurt their community. Earlier this year, a Supreme Court decision weakened a core provision of the Voting Rights Act, threatening Black political representation across the South.

"We must start our process where democracy must still be fought for, in the full view of the nation," former interim DNC chair Donna Brazile said in a speech this year advocating for South Carolina to go first.

Buttigieg addressed that anxiety directly Saturday night, describing efforts to weaken the Voting Rights Act as the culmination of a "multidecade effort." He warned of a broader push "to demolish African American political power."

Harrison said Buttigieg's trip this weekend was a "good start," but that Buttigieg and all the other potential 2028 candidates have a long road ahead to prove themselves to the state's voters.

"It has to be a good start and then you got to continue," Harrison said. "It can't just be, 'Oh, pop in and then I'm going to pop back out.'"

Breanna Stewart wants a safe space as transgender debate sparks rallies at Fever games

By DOUG FEINBERG AP Basketball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — New York Liberty star Breanna Stewart has always seen the WNBA as an inclusive place that has served as a safe space for both its fans and the players. That's been challenged lately.

The WNBA has been the subject of recent debates on whether transgender women — people assigned male at birth who transition to align with their gender identity — should be allowed to participate in the league. There has never been such a player in the WNBA. Although the league's collective bargaining agreement says the WNBA is restricted to women, it contains no more specific language about gender identity or sex assigned at birth.

There have been small rallies and protests outside Indiana Fever games after the issue came to a head when Sophie Cunningham of the Fever said in an ESPN profile published last month that she was opposed to transgender girls and women competing in girls' and women's sports. There were a pair of peaceful rallies representing both sides of the transgender issue that took place before the Fever faced the New York Liberty on Saturday night. The Liberty won the game 109-102.

"Knowing that rallies are happening on both sides shows the platform that the W has and the stunts for attention are just continuing to try and ride the wave that we have," Stewart told a small group of report-

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ers Saturday morning. "I want Liberty fans and even Indy fans that are going to come here tonight to be able to have this arena be a safe space."

Cunningham felt that all the attention that her comments have garnered has been positive by bringing more fans to the game.

"You have a lot of new fans, not only just watching, but coming to games and seeing the environment and seeing the talent," she said before the game. "I think anytime you can get more eyes on the W, that's an awesome thing, because then that inspires other young kids that maybe have never seen the game or heard about the game or been to a game, they get that experience. So I definitely think that it's been a very positive thing."

At least three fans were asked by WNBA security personnel to cover shirts that had messages about transgender women participating in women's sports during last Sunday's game at Atlanta between the Dream and the Fever. The league later said the fans should have been free to wear those shirts.

Stewart said Liberty fans specifically, but WNBA fans in general, come to games because "they can feel like they can be themselves in whatever capacity that is and we don't want to lose sight of that."

The Liberty forward said everyone is entitled to their own opinion and if that stops being allowed there are much bigger issues. However, she said, trying to divide teams and players shouldn't be tolerated.

"If we don't allow (free speech), we need to like really kind of go back and look at more things. I think the bigger thing is people are trying to divide us as teams, but also as teammates or as opponents," she said. "This league is incredibly inclusive and what we continue to fight for and stand up against. So, we don't want to take that platform away."

Stewart has been an ally for the transgender community during her career. She faced some online backlash last year when one of her signature shoes had a Harry Potter theme to it. Stewart is a huge fan of the Harry Potter books and subsequent movies by author J.K. Rowlings, who has drawn criticism for her anti-trans stance.

Stewart has donated royalties from that shoe to The Trevor Project, a suicide prevention and crisis intervention nonprofit organization for LGBTQ+ youth.

China abruptly postpones ambitious Chang'e-7 lunar mission launch

HAIKOU, China (AP) — China said on Sunday it was postponing its planned ambitious Chang'e-7 lunar mission, which was set to carry out explorations including searching for water ice on the moon.

The Chang'e-7 spacecraft was originally set to lift off in the coming days from the Wenchang Space Launch Site on China's southern Hainan island.

The mission does not meet the launch conditions, said the China Manned Space Agency in a brief statement, and "cannot take place during the planned window this year."

The decision was made following a "comprehensive assessment," the agency added, and was based on the principles of "prudence, reliability and absolute mission success." It did not further elaborate on the reasons behind the decision.

Preparations have been carried out at the Wenchang launch site for the Chang'e-7 mission over the past weeks, the seventh in the Chang'e moon exploration program. It aimed at making breakthroughs in key technologies, the official Xinhua news agency previously reported.

It was set to explore permanently shadowed craters on the moon and conduct environmental and resource surveys of the lunar south pole, the Xinhua report said, citing the space agency.

Chang'e refers to a Chinese moon goddess. The Chang'e-6 probe returned to Earth in 2024 with rock and soil samples from the far side of the moon in a world first.

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Harry Kane, Giulia Gwinn are Germany's players of the year

BERLIN (AP) — Bayern Munich's Harry Kane and Giulia Gwinn have won Germany's player of the year awards for 2026.

Bayern's Vincent Kompany won the coach's accolade, Kicker magazine announced Sunday, according to the results of its yearly polls of members of the Association of German Sports Journalists (VDS).

Kane scored 61 goals across all competitions, including the German Supercup for Bayern last season, helping the men's team defend its Bundesliga title and win the German Cup. He scored a hat trick in the cup final.

Kane also helped Bayern win the new season's German Supercup with a 2-1 win at Borussia Dortmund on Saturday, though he didn't score in that game.

Gwinn wins women's award

This time Gwinn doesn't need to share it.

Last year, the 27-year-old Gwinn and Germany teammate Ann-Katrin Berger received the same number of votes for the award.

Kicker said Sunday that Gwinn received 106 votes to finish ahead of Bayern teammate Klara Bühl and Jule Brand of French champion OL Lyonnes.

Gwinn and Bühl helped Bayern to a Bundesliga and German Cup double for the second year in a row last season. Bayern's Bundesliga title was its fourth straight and its fifth from six years as the Bavarian powerhouse's women's team proves as dominant as its men.

Bayern reached the semifinals of the Women's Champions League last season.

The women's player of the year award has been awarded since 1996. Three-time world player of the year Birgit Prinz, who played for FFC Frankfurt (now called Eintracht Frankfurt), won the award eight times between 2001-08.

Kane and Kompany honored after outstanding season

Kane gathered more votes (272) than teammate Michael Olise (203), Kicker said.

Stuttgart forward Deniz Undav received 61 votes, followed by Bayern's Joshua Kimmich (21) and Hoffenheim goalkeeper Oliver Baumann (14). There were three invalid votes.

Kompany received nearly half the votes for the coach's award, more than Freiburg's Julian Schuster, who won it last year.

Florian Wirtz won the men's player's award last year.

The men's player of the year accolade has been awarded since 1960, with the coaches honored since 2002. Franz Beckenbauer leads the player category with four wins, while Jürgen Klopp and Felix Magath both won the coach's award three times.

As the Clancy case highlights postpartum psychosis, a mom stricken by it shares her story of hope

By LAURA UNGAR AP Medical Writer

About two weeks after giving birth, Bridget María Chesterton was curled up on the bathroom floor, saying things that made little sense. Later, in the emergency room, she kept repeating, "What's going on?" She'd lost touch with reality.

The family eventually learned that Chesterton had postpartum psychosis, a severe mental health disorder thrust into the spotlight by the case of Lindsay Clancy, a Massachusetts woman on trial for strangling her three children. A key question is whether postpartum psychosis drove Clancy to do it.

Researchers estimate that the condition — a mental health emergency that is less common than postpartum depression — afflicts 1 to 2 out of 1,000 women after delivery. Although most who develop postpartum psychosis don't harm their children, mothers with severe cases may try to harm themselves or their kids.

If not for medication and strong family support, Chesterton said her own situation "could have gone sideways."

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Chesterton bristles at online comments about the Clancy case suggesting postpartum psychosis is not a real disorder. She feels driven to raise awareness by sharing her story publicly; a poem she wrote about the experience will be published in a journal in the fall. She wants to dispel misconceptions about the widely misunderstood condition — and let families know there is hope.

"It's something that we do not talk about as a society," said Chesterton, a 52-year-old history professor who lives outside Buffalo, New York. "I'm not embarrassed about what happened. I want people to know about it."

A mom was fine at first, then 'in bad shape'

Chesterton and her husband James Fitzsimmons wanted a baby desperately and underwent fertility treatment for years. She finally got pregnant in her mid-40s and had severe asthma during the pregnancy that put her in the hospital. She gave birth to her daughter by C-section in January 2019, about two months early.

"Everything about bringing her into the world was awful," Chesterton said. "It was the longest seven months of my life."

Just after the birth, the baby was hurried off to the neonatal intensive care unit, where she spent her first weeks of life. To protect the child's privacy, The Associated Press is withholding her name at the family's request.

EDITOR'S NOTE: This story includes discussion of suicide. If you or someone you know needs help, the national suicide and crisis lifeline in the U.S. is available by calling or texting 988.

Chesterton went home and seemed fine at first. But the day Fitzsimmons found her on the bathroom floor, her family said, she had trouble remembering basic details of her life and made strange comments, such as "it's meditation day" even though she doesn't meditate. Fitzsimmons called his wife's mom, Maria Chesterton, who met the couple at the hospital.

"She didn't even remember having a baby," the elder Chesterton said. "She knew us vaguely."

People with certain conditions are more likely to be affected

Disorganized thinking and delusions are among the symptoms of postpartum psychosis, which also may include hallucinations, paranoia, agitation and mood changes. Postpartum depression, by contrast, is a mood disorder affecting about 1 in 7 women after giving birth — or more, according to some research.

Postpartum psychosis can happen to anyone after giving birth, but the chances are higher for people with certain mental health conditions such as bipolar disorder. Chesterton didn't have such conditions, said Dr. Emily Williams of Buffalo OB/GYN, one of her doctors.

Chesterton was transferred to BryLin Hospital in Buffalo, which provides crisis mental healthcare, and spent about two weeks there. Her mom, who was staying at the couple's house to help out, remembers visiting her with food and Valentine's Day chocolates.

When she was released, she did OK for a few days, her mom remembers, then "just lost it." She stared blankly ahead, not knowing where she was or what was happening. But she did manage to aggressively express that she didn't want to go back to the same place she'd just left, so she was institutionalized involuntarily.

"We had no choice," her mother said. "She was in bad shape."

She stayed for another two weeks — apart from her baby.

"I was kind of lucky that she was in the NICU," Chesterton said, "because we had somebody to take care of her when I was so sick."

Medication and family support help a mom recover

Chesterton believes antipsychotic drugs ultimately brought her back to reality. But just as essential was the support of her family. When the baby came home after nearly two months at the hospital, her team of helpers included her husband, mom, dad and a postpartum doula.

"She helped me learn how to take care of the baby, remember her — you know, to become a parent again," Chesterton said, adding that she knows how lucky she is that her family had the resources to

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provide such care.

Williams, the doctor, said family support is crucial in the postpartum period even if everything is going well. "The more hands on deck, the better," she said.

Over the next several months, it was as if a fog slowly lifted.

"We could see improvement in her. It was a little bit at a time," her mother said. "She was taking care of the baby. The glassy-eyed look was gone."

Chesterton stayed on antipsychotics for about a year. By her daughter's first birthday party, she was back to normal.

Doctor encourages families to be on alert for signs of trouble

Williams said Chesterton's family did the right thing when they took quick action after symptoms arose. Sometimes, the doctor said, people may deny that something so serious could be wrong with a loved one's mental health and attribute signs of postpartum psychosis to things like needing more sleep.

Chesterton's mother advised other families to be vigilant for signs of the illness, then come together to shepherd loved ones through it.

"If my daughter would not have had the support system," she said, "I don't know how this would have turned out."

Powerful storm hits Baltic countries, killing 2 and leaving hundreds of thousands without power

By CLAUDIA CIOBANU Associated Press

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — Two people died and around half a million people were left without electricity across Latvia and Lithuania after a powerful cyclone, bringing rain and strong winds, hit the region on Saturday and into Sunday morning.

"This seems to be the most severe storm in Latvia since 2005 in terms of its overall impact," Andris Viksna, from the Latvian Environment, Geology and Meteorology Center, told the AP.

One person died in Jelgava, central Latvia, when part of a building collapsed on Saturday, and others were injured across the country. Wind speed exceeded 67 mph on Saturday in the capital, Riga. At many stations, half of the average monthly rainfall was recorded on Saturday.

More than a quarter-million people were left without electricity and mobile services were disrupted.

Rail and other public transport services were affected by trees and other objects falling on infrastructure. The Riga airport said on Sunday morning that flights could be delayed or rerouted because of the severe storm overnight.

One person also died in neighboring Lithuania after being hit by a falling tree. Others were injured and over 200,000 residents were without electricity on Sunday morning.

Strong winds also battered Estonia, with the western and northern parts and its islands most affected. Ferry services to islands were disrupted and trains arriving from Latvia and Lithuania delayed.

Northeastern Poland was affected by the storm, too, with over 100,000 people losing power.

The contribution of climate change cannot be properly assessed yet, said Viksna from the Latvian Environment, Geology and Meteorology Center, but "it is plausible that human-caused climate change may have intensified the rainfall associated with the cyclone."

The situation was expected to improve on Sunday and certainly by Monday.

Today in History: August 24, Hurricane Andrew strikes Florida

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Monday, Aug. 24, the 236th day of 2026. There are 129 days left in the year.

Today in history: On Aug. 24, 1992, Hurricane Andrew smashed into Florida; the storm resulted in 65 deaths and caused more than \$26 billion in damage across Florida, Louisiana and the Bahamas.

Also on this date:

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In 1814, during the War of 1812, British forces invaded Washington, D.C., setting fire to the still-under-construction Capitol and the White House, as well as other public buildings.

In 1912, Congress passed a measure creating the Alaska Territory.

In 1932, Amelia Earhart embarked on a 19-hour flight from Los Angeles to Newark, New Jersey, making her the first woman to fly solo, non-stop, from coast to coast.

In 1949, the North Atlantic Treaty came into force.

In 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the Communist Control Act, outlawing the Communist Party in the United States.

In 1981, Mark David Chapman was sentenced in New York to 20 years to life in prison for murdering John Lennon; he has repeatedly been denied parole.

In 1989, Baseball Commissioner A. Bartlett Giamatti (juh-MAH'-tee) banned Pete Rose from the game for betting on his own team, the Cincinnati Reds.

In 1991, in response to a coup attempt by hard-line Communist leaders attempting to reassert control over the Soviet Union, Ukrainian parliamentarians voted to approve a Declaration of Independence for the state of Ukraine.

In 2006, the International Astronomical Union declared that Pluto was no longer a full-fledged planet, demoting it to the status of a "dwarf planet."

In 2012, a Norwegian court found Anders Behring Breivik guilty of terrorism and premeditated murder for twin attacks on July 22, 2011, that killed 77 people; he received a 21-year prison sentence that can be extended as long as he is considered dangerous to society.

In 2018, the family of Arizona Sen. John McCain announced that he had discontinued medical treatment for an aggressive form of brain cancer; McCain died the following day.

In 2019, police in Aurora, Colorado, responding to a report of a suspicious person, used a chokehold to subdue Elijah McClain, a 23-year-old Black man; he went into cardiac arrest en route to the hospital and was later taken off life support and died.

Today's Birthdays: Composer-musician Mason Williams is 88. R&B singer Marshall Thompson (The Chi-Lites) is 84. WWE co-founder Vince McMahon is 81. Author Paulo Coelho is 79. Actor Anne Archer is 79. Author Alexander McCall Smith is 78. Composer Jean-Michel Jarre is 78. Author Orson Scott Card is 75. Poet Linton Kwesi Johnson is 74. Actor-writer Stephen Fry is 69. Actor Steve Guttenberg is 68. Baseball Hall of Famer Cal Ripken Jr. is 66. Actor Jared Harris is 65. Actor Marlee Matlin is 61. Basketball Hall of Famer Reggie Miller is 61. Film director Ava DuVernay is 54. Actor-comedian Dave Chappelle is 53. Actor James D'Arcy is 52. Actor Alex O'Loughlin is 50. Author John Green is 49. Actor Chad Michael Murray is 45. Actor Rupert Grint is 38. Basketball player Kelsey Plum is 32. Actor Griffin Gluck is 26.