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Community Calendar

Monday, Aug. 31

Senior Menu: Cheeseburger on bun, tator tots, carrots, fruit.

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

JH Football vs. Ellendale at Kulm, 4:30 p.m.

JV Football at Kulm, 5:30 p.m.

JH Volleyball hosts Redfield (7th and 8th at 6 p.m. on 2 courts in the Arena)

Tuesday, Sept. 1

Senior Menu: Vegetable stir fry with chicken, brown rice, fruit, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Cereal

School Lunch: French bread pizza, peas.

Boys Golf at Milbank, 10 a.m.

Volleyball hosts Ipswich: (7th/C at 5 p.m., 8th/JV at 6 p.m., Varsity to follow)

Pickleball at Elementary Gymnasium, 5:30 p.m.

City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.

United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.

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PO Box 34, Groton SD 57445

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



Wednesday, Sept 2

Senior Menu: Spaghetti with meat sauce, green beans, fruit, breadstick.

School Breakfast: Stuffed bagels.

School Lunch: Pancake on stick, tri tater.

Groton Chamber meeting, noon, City Hall

Emmanuel Lutheran: Sarah Circle, 5 p.m.

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

Thursday, Sept. 3

Senior Menu: Ranch chicken breast, mashed potatoes with gravy, winter blend, fruit, whole wheat bread\

School Breakfast: Cheese breakfast bake.

School Lunch: Turkey gravy, whipped potatoes.

Cross Country at Redfield, 10 a.m.

Volleyball at Sisseton: 8th at 4 p.m. and 7th at 5 p.m. at Practice Facility; C at 5 p.m., JV at 6 p.m., varsity to follow at Ben Reifel Gym.

Sixth Grade football hosts Aberdeen, 6 p.m.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Nigeria Circle, 2 p.m.

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Friday, Sept. 4

Senior Menu: Baked fish, baked potato, peas, fruit, whole wheat bread.

No School

Football hosts Flandreau, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 5

JH VB tournament at Northwestern, 9 a.m.

Pickleball at Elementary Gym, 9:30 a.m.

Soccer at West Central (Girls at noon, boys at 2 p.m.)

Sunday, Sept. 6

Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship 9 a.m.

St. John's Lutheran: Worship with communion at St. John's, 9 a.m. and at Zion, 11 a.m.

Third Grade Basketball practice in the GHS Gym, 4 p.m.

United Methodist: Worship at Conde, 8:15 a.m.; at Groton, 9:30 a.m.; at Britton, 11:15 a.m.; Coffee Hour, 10:30 a.m.

Catholic: SEAS Confession, 7:45-8:15 a.m.; SEAS Mass, 8:30 a.m.; Turton Confession, 10:30-10:45 a.m.; Turton Mass, 11 a.m.

First Presbyterian Church: Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.; Worship, 11 a.m.

Groton CM&A: Sunday School, 9:15 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m.

Monday, Sept. 7

LABOR DAY

No School

Tuesday, Sept. 8

Senior Menu: Lasagna bake, mixed vegetables, fruit, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Breakfast bento bag.

School Lunch: Scalloped potatoes with ham, bun.

Golf at Milbank, 10 a.m.

Cross Country at Britton-Hecla, 4 p.m.

Boys Soccer hosts James Valley Christian, 4 p.m.

JV Football hosts Waubay/Summit, 4 p.m.

Volleyball at Webster: JH at 5 p.m., C at 5 p.m., JV at 6 p.m., Varsity to follow.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Council Meeting, 6 p.m.

St. John's Lutheran: Ladies Aid LWML, 1:30 p.m.

United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 9

Emmanuel Lutheran: Confirmation, 4 p.m.; League, 6:30 p.m.

St. John's Lutheran: Confirmation, 3:45 p.m.

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

Thursday, Sept. 10

Senior Menu: Baked pork chop, mashed potatoes with gravy, broccoli, fruit, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Scones.

School Lunch: Chicken nachos.

Groton Invitational Golf Meet, 10 a.m.

JH Golf at Sisseton, 1 p.m.

Volleyball hosts Aberdeen Roncalli (7th/C at 5 p.m., 8th/JV at 6 p.m., Varsity to follow)

Friday, Sept. 11

Senior Menu: Hot pork sandwich, oven roasted potatoes, California blend, fruit.

School Breakfast: Omelet.

School Lunch: Mac and cheese, green beans.

Football at Clark, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 12

JH Volleyball at Matchbox Tournament, 9 a.m.

Soccer hosts Vermillion (Girls at 1 p.m., Boys at 2:30 p.m.)

Fall Citywide Rummage Sale

Sunday, Sept. 13

Third Grade Basketball practice in the GHS Gym, 4 p.m.

Sunflower Classic Couples Golf Tourney

St. John's Lutheran: Worship at St. John's, 9 a.m. and at Zion, 11 a.m.; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Rally Sunday: Worship/Communion/Milestones, 9 a.m.; Sunday School, 10:15 a.m.; Women to meet after worship.

United Methodist: Worship with communion at Conde, 8:15 a.m.; at Groton, 9:30 a.m.; at Britton, 11:15 a.m.; Coffee Hour, 10:30 a.m.

Catholic: SEAS Confession, 7:45-8:15 a.m.; SEAS Mass, 8:30 a.m.; Turton Confession, 10:30-10:45 a.m.; Turton Mass, 11 a.m.

First Presbyterian Church: Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.; Worship, 11 a.m.

Groton CM&A: Sunday School, 9:15 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m.

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1440

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

Roman Telescope Launches

The Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope successfully launched yesterday, the latest in NASA's line of "great observatories" designed to study wide swaths of the universe. The five- to 10-year mission will probe questions around dark matter and dark energy, identify tens of thousands of exoplanets, and more.

Equipped with a 300-megapixel infrared camera and an 8-foot mirror, Roman has the precision of the Hubble telescope but a field of view 100 times larger and can scan 1,000 times faster. It complements the James Webb Space Telescope, which has a narrower window but can zoom in and capture exquisite details. Roughly 1.4 terabytes of data will be streamed back to Earth per day, with the first images expected early next year.

Nancy Roman, nicknamed the "Mother of Hubble," was NASA's first chief of astronomy and first female executive.

Venezuelan Oil Deal

President Donald Trump said Friday the United States had reached a deal to secure access to more than one-fifth of Venezuela's untapped oil reserves. Hurdles remain, including tens of billions of dollars of investment required to make the fields operational.

The deal involved the US partnering with Alejandro Betancourt López, whose family controls Venezuela's second-largest private oil company (he is also the subject of a Swiss arrest warrant). The US government will have a 100-year contract in 17 oil fields, facilitating access to more than 65 billion barrels of oil. Some fields have not been operational for years, however, and investment is needed to treat and transport the crude. Venezuela is meanwhile considering withdrawing from OPEC, which would give the country more independence in setting prices.

Separately, Chevron is reportedly nearing a deal to expand production in Venezuela. Details of the company's investment could be announced as soon as this week.

👂 Humankind: Blind musician pursues a career as a country musician after teaching himself how to play six instruments.

Iceland Rejects EU

Icelandic voters rejected a proposal Saturday to restart negotiations on joining the European Union. The result ends a process that has been stalled since 2013.

Around 83% of eligible voters cast ballots, marking the country's highest turnout since 2009. Opponents prevailed with 52.8% of the final tally, fearing a loss of control over the country's fishing industry, responsible for around 40% of its exports. The capital, Reykjavik, was the only area where a majority voted in favor of restarting EU talks; supporters suggested EU membership could support economic stability by lowering inflation and interest rates.

Separately, neighbor Norway's palace announced it will hold King Harald V's funeral Sept. 9. In his first speech since his father's death Friday, King Haakon VIII reaffirmed his commitment to the country's 121-year-old constitutional monarchy.

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Sports, Entertainment, & Culture

Scottie Scheffler wins PGA Tour Championship, finishing at 16 under par across four rounds to secure \$10M prize.

Anne Hathaway joins Tom Cruise in "Days of Thunder" sequel set for June 2028 release.

Melinda French Gates matches Olivia Rodrigo's \$10M donation to organizations supporting women and girls after pop star raises funds through Daisy Chain Fields.

Science & Technology

OpenAI cutting AI coding tool Cursor's access to its models after Elon Musk's SpaceX acquired the startup earlier this month; Nov. 12 is planned shut-off date.

El Niño events have become roughly 40% stronger than preindustrial levels, a new study of corals in the Galápagos Islands shows.

Scientists capture first molecular-level snapshots of water reorganizing during a chemical reaction; discovery could lead to improvements in solar panels, fuel cells, and batteries.

Business & Markets

US stock markets close down (S&P 500 -0.3%, Dow -0.0%, Nasdaq -0.5%) after new Federal Reserve Chair Kevin Warsh suggests interest rates could be raised in September to combat inflation.

Elon Musk's SpaceX to begin casting turbine blades and vanes in-house, potentially accelerating new natural gas plants for data centers coming online by 18 months.

Anthropic sued by Sony and Warner Chappell music groups, alleging intellectual property theft.

Politics & World Affairs

The US and Iran exchange strikes in first publicly disclosed military strikes in weeks.

Niger's military, with help from locally stationed Russian forces, fends off a nearly daylong mutiny in the country's capital.

An estimated 85 Americans are among more than 3,000 people missing from last week's flash flooding at the Nepal-Tibet border.

Google Maps renames Lake Ontario to Lake America for US users following US government update; see how the map shows up in different parts of the world.

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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GDILIVE viewership last week

Boys Soccer with Dakota Valley: Facebook: 672, YouTube: 188 = 860
Volleyball Huron Tournament: Facebook: 621, YouTube: 1,162 = 1,783
Football: Beresford: Facebook: 1,655, YouTube: 1,940 = 3,595

Names Released in Brookings County Fatal Crash

What: Four-vehicle fatal crash

Where: Interstate 29 at mile marker 140, 7 miles north of Brookings, South Dakota

When: 5:56 a.m., Thursday, August 27, 2026

Driver 1: Ashley Leigh Harbin, 38-year-old female from Toronto, South Dakota, life threatening injuries

Vehicle 1: 2018 Subaru Forester

Seat Belt Used: Under investigation

Driver 2: Daten Briar Odom, 19-year-old male from Brookings, South Dakota, fatal injuries

Vehicle 2: 2011 GMC Sierra

Seat Belt Used: Yes

Driver 3: Devon Halpate, 34-year-old male from Newark, Ohio, no injuries

Vehicle 3: 2024 Ford F-350

Seat Belt Used: Yes

Passenger: Benjamin Stang, 21-year-old male from Clear Lake, Minnesota, no injuries

Seat Belt Used: Yes

Driver 4: Efrain Ramirez Martinez, 25-year-old male from Brookings, South Dakota, no injuries

Vehicle 4: 2020 Chevrolet Trax

Seat Belt Used: Yes

Brookings County, S.D.- A Brookings man died Thursday in a four-vehicle crash near Brookings, South Dakota.

Preliminary crash information indicates Ashley Leigh Harbin, the driver of a 2018 Subaru Forester, was traveling southbound on Interstate 29 near mile marker 140 in the northbound lanes. At the same time, Daten Briar Odom, the driver of a 2011 GMC Sierra, Devon Halpate, the driver of a 2024 Ford F-350, and Efrain Ramirez Martinez, the driver of a 2020 Chevrolet Trax, were traveling north in the northbound lanes at the same location. Harbin struck Odom's GMC causing the Subaru to come to a stop in the roadway. The GMC rotated and struck Halpate's Ford. Martinez struck the stopped Subaru. Odom sustained fatal injuries. Harbin was life flighted to a Sioux Falls hospital. Martinez, Halpate, and his passenger Benjamin Stang were not injured.

The investigation is ongoing. All information released is preliminary.

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

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The Minnesota Vikings closed out their preseason with a whimper on Friday, losing to the Denver Broncos 34-6. Yes, preseason games don't mean anything. Yes, we still got some valuable information about some of the young players on the roster. Yes, I still wish the Vikings would have annihilated the Broncos and, specifically, their head coach Sean Payton. (Yes, I still hold a grudge since 2009.)

The most important piece of information we got from this preseason game actually happened right before the game, when the Vikings announced they would be sitting third-year QB J.J. McCarthy. It's not unusual for teams to sit players in the preseason. In fact, most of the starters on both teams

sat this game out. However, McCarthy was in line to play the entire first half, giving him one final chance to show the Vikings (and all the other teams around the league) that he has what it takes to be a starting QB in the NFL. Instead, he sat out the game with a minor injury. It was not a good look for McCarthy, and by all reports, it didn't sit well with the Vikings' front office and coaching staff either.

Now, I could spend the rest of this time recapping a game that nobody really cares about, but instead, let's look at the Vikings' initial 53-man roster. There were a few questionable decisions, and I believe some more moves are on the way, but here is the 53-man roster announced by the Vikings on Sunday:

Quarterbacks (4) - Kyler Murray; J.J. McCarthy; Carson Wentz; Max Brosmer

Running backs (3) - Aaron Jones, Sr., OR Jordan Mason; Demond Claiborne

Fullback (1) - Max Bredeson

Receivers (6) - Justin Jefferson, Jordan Addison and Jauan Jennings; Tai Felton and Myles Price; Dillon Bell

Tight ends (4) - T.J. Hockenson; Josh Oliver; Ben Yurosek; Gavin Bartholomew

Offensive line (8) - LT Christian Darrisaw; LG Donovan Jackson; C Blake Brandel; RG Will Fries; RT Brian O'Neill; T Ryan Van Demark; T Caleb Tiernan; G Joe Huber

Defensive line (6) - Tyrion Ingram-Dawkins, Jalen Redmond and Levi Drake Rodriguez; Caleb Banks, Domonique Orange and Elijah Williams

Outside linebackers (4) - Dallas Turner and Andrew Van Ginkel; Bo Richter; Chaz Chambliss

Inside linebackers (4) - Blake Cashman and Eric Wilson; Jake Golday and Ivan Pace, Jr.

Cornerbacks (5) - Byron Murphy, Jr., and Isaiah Rodgers; Chuck Demmings and James Pierre; Zemaiah Vaughn

Safeties (5) - Joshua Metellus and Jay Ward; Theo Jackson and Jakobe Thomas; Jacob Thomas

Specialists (3) - Long snapper Andrew DePaola; Kicker Will Reichard; Punter Brett Thorson

The first thing I looked at was quarterback, and I was surprised to see the Vikings keep both McCarthy and Max Brosmer. Neither QB looks capable of playing in the NFL, and I won't be surprised if the Vikings replace one of them with a recently released QB from another team.

Dillon Bell made the roster, which wasn't too surprising. The undrafted rookie played well in the preseason, even lining up as a running back occasionally. I don't think the Vikings could have snuck him onto the practice squad, so I'm glad to see him make the initial 53.

I think the Vikings would have liked to keep an additional offensive lineman, and it wouldn't surprise me to see them replace the 4th QB for a 9th o-lineman. The Vikings were able to trade Walter Rouse for a late-round draft pick, however, which was a solid move to at least get some value instead of outright cutting the player. It should be noted that center Michael Jurgens was placed on IR with a designated to return tag.

Speaking of IR, it was reported on Sunday that outside linebacker Tyler Batty will miss the entire season due to injury. I'm not sure he would have made the final 53, but it's disappointing nonetheless.

Looking ahead, the Vikings will be looking to get the team ready for their week one matchup against the Green Bay Packers on September 13. Skol!

"The Missing Pillar of Health: Why Rest Is More Than Sleep"

Have you ever slept the recommended eight hours, only to wake up feeling tired and unready to take on the day? In addition to focusing on your sleep habits, consider the health benefits of rest. Because inadequate rest can negatively affect health outcomes, mood and daily participation, rest is a crucial component of supporting and promoting health. If you are unsure when you last rested, it may be time to develop a new rest routine.

Rest is defined as engaging in "quiet and effortless actions" (AOTA, 2020, p. 32). It involves reduced physical, mental and social activity to promote relaxation, restore energy or cultivate calm, thereby supporting renewed engagement. Examples of rest include listening to music, doing a puzzle, meditating or reading. Decisions about when to rest and which types of rest to engage in are influenced by personal interests and choices, as well as sociocultural and contextual factors.

Rest is a unique experience that involves wakeful restoration across multiple categories and is a critical factor in promoting health. Physical rest includes activities such as stretching, napping or using a foam roller. This form of rest supports muscle recovery and can support the immune system. Mental rest is important for concentration and focus. This type of rest involves reducing stress and supporting emotional regulation, and it supports memory and concentration through breaks from problem-solving or decision-making. Mental rest may include meditation or can be combined with physical rest while walking.

Social rest involves taking breaks from social experiences or demanding interactions to support connecting in ways that promote energy renewal. Sensory rest focuses on reducing noise or screen time. Strategies such as dimming the lights or using noise-canceling headphones can help reduce excessive background noise. Creative rest involves taking a break from creative stimulation, returning to the task with renewed concentration and appreciation. Engaging with nature or quiet reflection can promote creative rest.

Understanding different types of rest is important; however, recognizing signs that you may benefit from rest is a critical first step. Feeling fatigued even after adequate sleep, having difficulty concentrating, feeling overwhelmed or increased caffeine use may indicate that you could benefit from more rest.

Developing practical strategies to consistently get rest that align with your lifestyle is a first step toward building more rest into your daily routine. Begin by scheduling short breaks throughout your day. Add these to your calendar and decide which restful activity you will do. When possible, spending time outdoors can be a beneficial way to rest. Another strategy to support rest is to take an inventory of your hobbies and interests. Identify what you enjoy and then set aside time to engage in these activities. View rest as a daily investment in your health and find enjoyable ways to make it part of your day.

Rest is just as important as getting the recommended amount of sleep. Despite societal, personal and family demands, rest is necessary to support health. Rest is a strategy that promotes health, reduces fatigue and prevents burnout. Begin by identifying which restful activities you enjoy. Building one intentional rest strategy into your upcoming week may be the best way to kick-start a new habit that supports rest.

Whitney Lucas Molitor, Ph.D., OTD, OTR/L, BCG, is department chair and associate professor in the Department of Occupational Therapy at the University of South Dakota. Her research interests include health promotion and productive aging. Follow The Prairie Doc® at www.prairiedoc.org, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and TikTok. Prairie Doc Programming includes On Call with the Prairie Doc®, a medical Q&A show (most Thursdays at 7pm on SDPB, YouTube and streaming on Facebook), 2 podcasts, and a Radio program (on SDPB, Sundays at 6am and 1pm).



Whitney Lucas Molitor
Ph.D., OTD, OTR/L, BCG,

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EARTHTALK

Dear EarthTalk: Has banning the sale of invasive plant species slowed their spread? —Maury Turner, Lebanon, NH

According to the United States Forest Service, invasive plant species are defined as plants that are both non-native to an ecosystem and have the potential to harm it either environmentally or economically. These invasive species are often spread by birds, wind, or even unintentionally by humans. These alien species can survive in specific ecosystems because they produce large amounts of seeds and thrive on disturbed soil.

Invasive species have significant negative impacts on specific habitats and the environment. These species compete with native species for resources while also decreasing plant diversity, destroying habitat, and leading to degraded water quality and increased soil erosion. Analysts estimate that invasive species have cost over \$1.288 trillion globally over the last half-century.

Recently, the state of Washington banned the sale and distribution of English ivy, an invasive species. For many environmental activists, this was cause for celebration. Melanie Weinecke, a park volunteer from Seattle, told NBC affiliate King 5 News in July of 2025 that she was happy about the new legislation as English Ivy is choking out trees and creating "sick forests" around the region.

Virginia is also another state that has passed legislation that limits the ubiquity of invasive species. During the 2025 General Assembly, one bill requires that sellers label invasive species at the point of sale. While this law will not be enacted until January 2027, proponents say that it will allow customers to make informed decisions about plants that could pose a real threat to the community and ecosystem.

While the banning of invasive species could prove to slow the spread in the future, current research shows that widespread availability of these species makes it difficult to regulate them. A 2021 study done in the Journal of Frontiers of Ecology and Environment found that 61% of identified invasive species were still sold in the United States. This shows that legislation may not always be effective in limiting the damage caused by invasive plant species.

Moreover, the lack of consistent regulation across states limits the goals of banning invasive species. Even if one state enacts legislation, other states may continue to allow the sale of a certain species.

Researchers say that there is a necessity for coordinated action against invasive plant species and education around the harms of introducing them to specific habitats and communities. This means increasing outreach to growers so that they understand the potential implications of certain plant species and raising consumer awareness.

Other next steps come from citizen action. The U.S. Forest Service encourages people to avoid picking noxious weeds, drive only on established roads away from harmful weeds, remove weed seeds from pack animals, and avoid picking and transferring unidentifiable wild flowers.



Banning the sale of some invasive species is at least a step in the right direction. Credit: Pexels.com.



SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

State readjusts childcare assistance after complaints about rate change, but concerns remain

After-school provider says model still needs work to cover costs

BY MAKENZIE HUBER

A Sioux Falls after-school coordinator said she fielded calls from panicked parents this month after the state altered childcare assistance payments — in some cases slashing assistance by more than 80%, she said.

Rebecca Wimmer is the coordinator for the Sioux Falls School District's after-school program. She reported hearing from families who said it would be more cost-effective for a parent to quit working and stay home with their kids than to pay for the lost assistance. She relayed those stories to state lawmakers, the Governor's Office and the state Department of Social Services.

Child Care Assistance is a federal-state program that helps low-income working parents, students and job trainees afford childcare. South Dakota's program costs the state about \$6.7 million and the federal government \$28.4 million. It covered 3,346 children in June.

At the start of this month, the Department of Social Services made a change to its payment model that Wimmer said would have cut payments to some individual families by hundreds of dollars.

The switch was part of a planned overhaul of the department's payment model, meant to make payments more predictable for childcare providers. Complaints from affected families and providers resulted in the department readjusting payments a little over a week later for urban after-school programs, where the effects were especially severe. Urban counties include Minnehaha, Lincoln, Meade and Pennington.

Change to tiered, flat rates

State Rep. Brian Mulder, R-Sioux Falls, advocated on behalf of families for the readjustment. Mulder works with Volunteers of America, which provides after-school care. He is grateful for the department's decision.

"For this school year, we're in a spot where school can start and families can feel confident they have proper funding for out-of-school care to support their needs and child's needs," Mulder said.

Under the old system, program payments were based on a child's actual hours of attendance, which meant payments could fluctuate and make it hard for providers to predict their income.

The department switched to three tiers of flat weekly rates earlier this month: a full-time rate for more than 28 hours of care per week, part-time for 16-27 hours and limited for 1-15 hours.

The rates were informed by a 2024 market survey of Child Care Assistance-enrolled providers. For after-school programs in Sioux Falls and Rapid City, the new rates set full-time reimbursement at \$185 a week, with part-time dropping to \$92.50 and limited to \$46.50.

The change cut some families' state payments by hundreds of dollars a month, Wimmer said, including one family that would have had state payments cut from \$950 a month to \$185 — a monthly cost of \$765.

After the readjustment, part-time and limited rates were both raised to \$101.25 — which "gets us very close" to the cost of after-school care, Wimmer said.

Department spokeswoman Tracy Mercer did not say if such a drastic change for families' payments was intentional or an oversight by the department. The tiered approach, she said, is a "responsible use of program dollars." Some providers have called for the state to cover full-time enrollment no matter how many hours children attend.

"Program dollars should not cover significant periods when a child is not receiving care," Mercer said. "CCA funds are limited, and the department has a responsibility to use those dollars as effectively as pos-

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sible so they can stretch to serve as many eligible families as possible.”

The state estimated the weekly, tiered payment plan would cost the state \$3 million more overall before rolling it out — money that would benefit providers and families across the state. The expected increase was within the department’s budget, Mercer said. The department did not immediately share an updated estimate with the readjusted rates.

Overall ‘revamp’ still needed, provider says

Wimmer said there are staffing and overhead costs outside of a child’s physical attendance. Her program runs at school sites, requiring staff to arrive before the school day ends to transform cafeterias into program spaces. Other off-site providers need staff to drive to a school, wait and then transport children to the off-site care location.

“The market for childcare is just not set up where a part-time rate payment works very well,” Wimmer said.

Wimmer said she expects the department will ultimately have to “revamp the whole model,” because part-time and limited rates for younger children still don’t reflect what it actually costs providers to operate and leave too many costs for providers and families to absorb.

Mulder, the lawmaker, said he heard criticism of the change from after-school providers and families. He did not hear from childcare providers for younger children or their families in the Sioux Falls area. Nor did he hear from suburban or rural after-school programs.

The department will begin its next market rate survey this fall. The department plans to update rates in fiscal year 2028.

Mercer said the department “remains open to receiving additional feedback” on the new payment model from other childcare providers.

Governor candidates react

South Dakota Democratic nominee for governor Dan Ahlers said in a news release that the fallout from the rate change “should never have happened in the first place.” The readjustment is not enough, he said.

Ahlers serves as president of the Dell Rapids before- and after-school program, where he said state funding decisions can “put enormous pressure on providers and families.”

Childcare providers already struggle to balance worker wages, affordability for families and quality care for a service that is “essential to our economy, our workforce and the future of our communities,” he added.

“As governor, I will work with parents, providers, employers and communities to make quality childcare more affordable for families and help providers remain viable,” Ahlers said.

Republican Gov. Larry Rhoden, Ahlers’ opponent in the Nov. 3 election, told South Dakota Searchlight that the Department of Social Services addressed “some of the immediate concerns” of families and providers.

“We’ll continue to peel these issues off as they come and work for solutions for whatever it might be,” Rhoden said, “but I’m pretty happy with the way that our team has responded so far, and we’ll continue to try and respond appropriately on issues as they come forward.”

Billy Mawhiney, with the South Dakota Afterschool Network, said any changes should increase access and affordability, not reduce it.

“If kids are going to an after-school program, their grades will be higher, their self esteem will be higher, their reading scores and math scores — everything we want for a child is going to improve,” Mawhiney said. “The better opportunity, more affordability and more access we can get for after-school care, the more South Dakota kids will have access to a better life.”

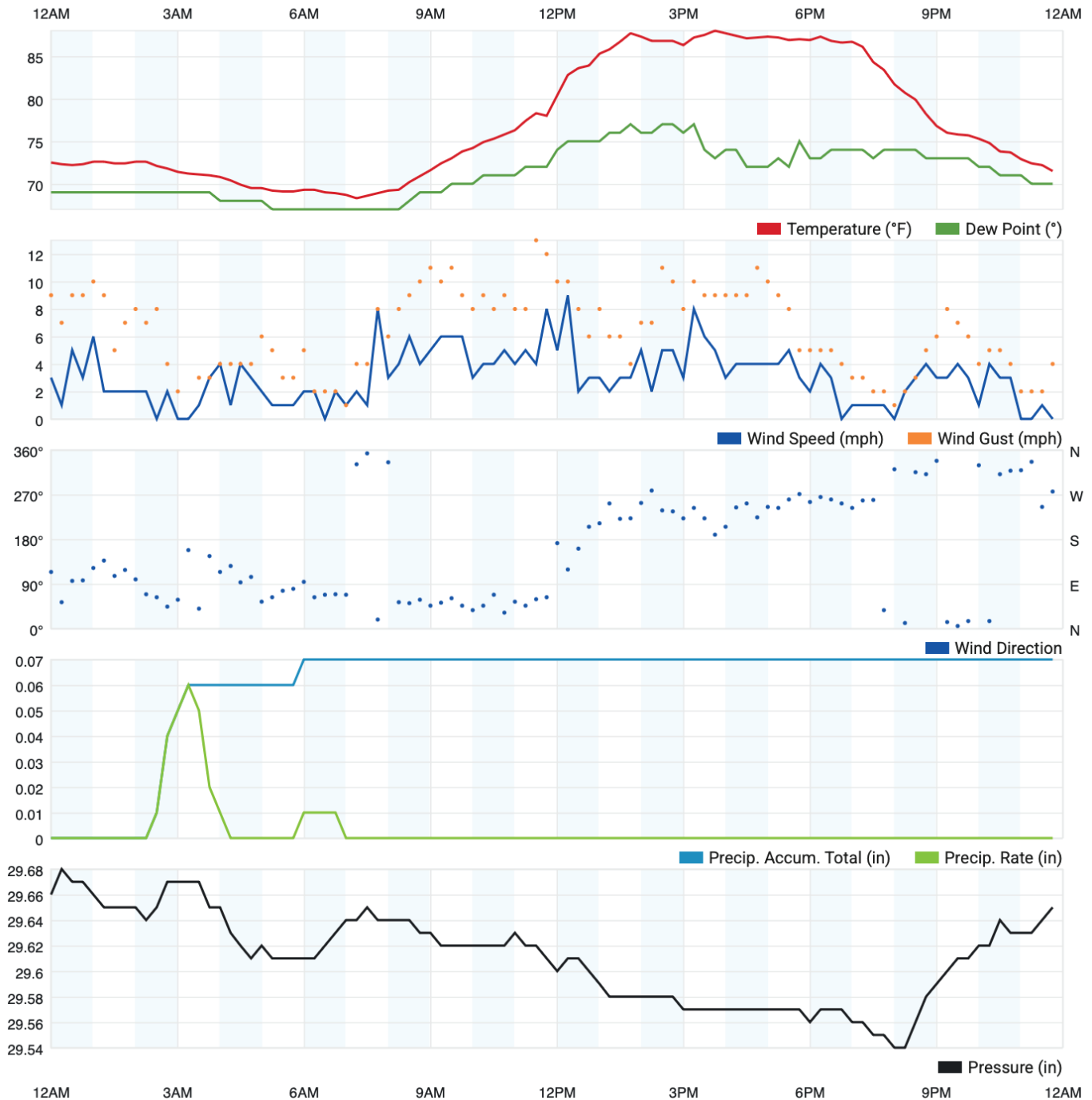
Makenzie Huber is a lifelong South Dakotan who regularly reports on the intersection of politics and policy with health, education, social services and Indigenous affairs. Her work with South Dakota Searchlight earned her the title of South Dakota’s Outstanding Young Journalist in 2024, and she was a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

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs

August 30, 2026



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Today



High: 83 °F

Sunny

Tonight



Low: 56 °F

Partly Cloudy

Tuesday



High: 80 °F

Increasing
Clouds

Tuesday Night



Low: 57 °F

Showers
Likely

Wednesday



High: 84 °F

Mostly Sunny



Work Week Outlook

May 12, 2022
12:24 PM

Above Average Temperatures

Monday



**Highs
80 - 86**

Tuesday



**Highs
77 - 80**
30 - 70%
showers &
weak storms

Wednesday



**Highs
81 - 90**

Thursday



**Highs
84 - 91**
20 - 40%
showers &
weak storms
early

Friday



**Highs
87 - 94**



National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

The week ahead features above normal temperatures, on average about 5 to 10 degrees above normal, though Friday/Saturday will be closer to 10 to 20 degrees above normal. The first round of showers and weak storms moves through Tuesday (30 - 70%), with a second round early Thursday morning but with much lower chances and coverage of showers and weak storms.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 88 °F at 3:44 PM

Low Temp: 68 °F at 7:20 AM

Wind: 13 mph at 11:29 AM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 98 in 1921

Record Low: 32 in 1987

Average High: 80

Average Low: 53

Average Precip in Aug.: 2.24

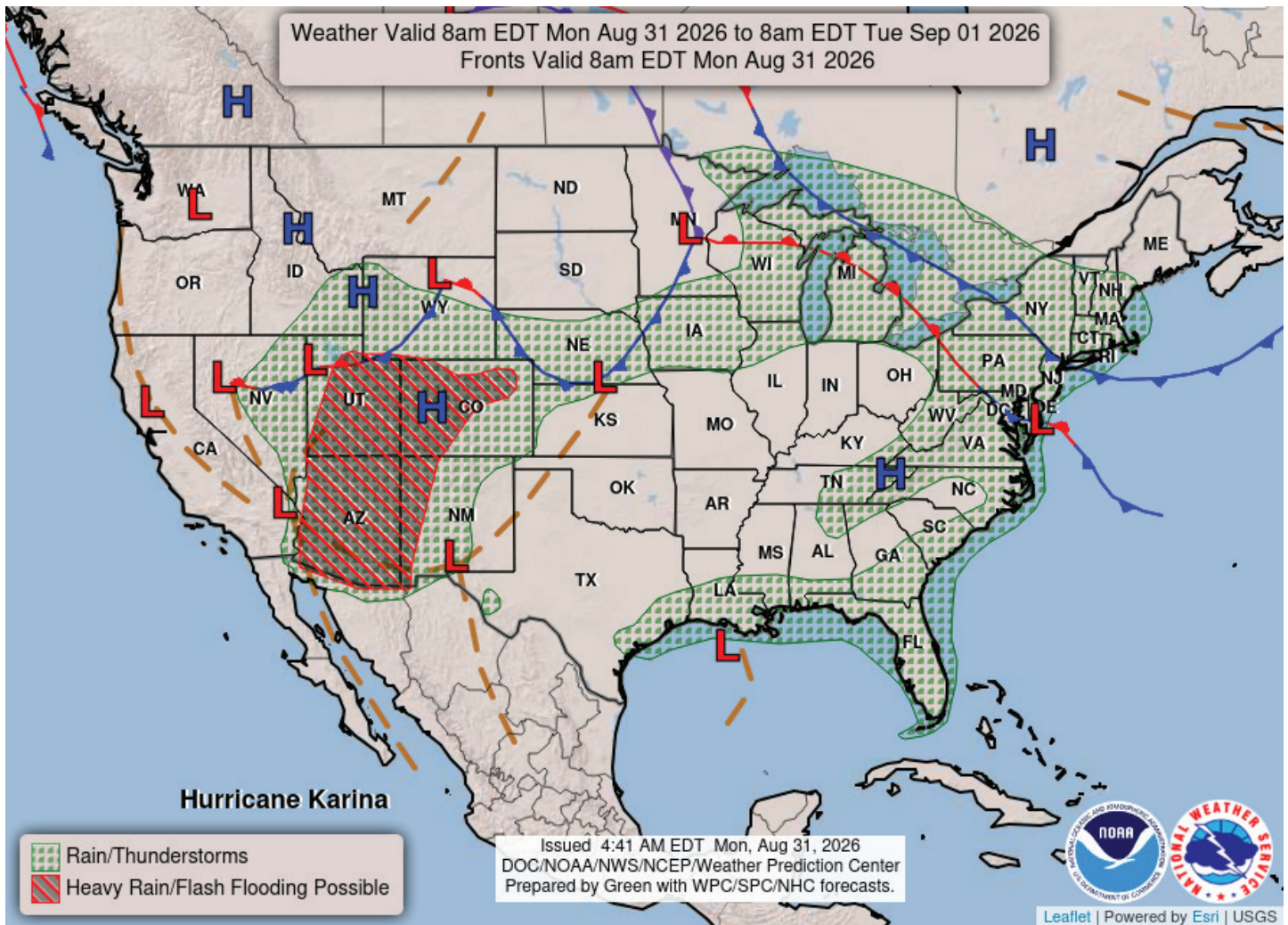
Precip to date in Aug.: 10.59

Average Precip to date: 16.34

Precip Year to Date: 20.06

Sunset Tonight: 8:13 pm

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:54 am



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Today in Weather History

August 31, 1977: High winds accompanying thunderstorms moved across the southern part of Brown County during the early morning hours. A barn was destroyed three miles west of Warner. Many trees were damaged in the Stratford area. A large, empty fuel tank, southeast of Watertown was folded inward by strong winds. High wind damage was also reported in Faulk and Day Counties.

August 31, 2013: Thunderstorms produced numerous reports of large hail and damaging winds in and near Sioux Falls on the evening of August 31st. Large hail broke windows and damaged many vehicles, as well as siding and roofs on the west side of Sioux Falls. One automobile dealer with a large temporary outdoor display reported four thousand cars were damaged. Estimated property damage was listed at four million dollars. Thunderstorm winds also destroyed several businesses, including a large retail store which was also struck by lightning. The large store lost part of its roof, while the stockroom of the same store and its contents were also damaged. A canopy type tent was destroyed, and a 20-foot retaining wall was blown down. The winds caused extensive tree damage, including several trees blown down, one of which blocked a major intersection when it fell.

1886: A magnitude 7.3 earthquake shook Charleston, South Carolina around 9:50 pm on this day. This earthquake is the most damaging quake to occur in the southeast United States. This earthquake caused 60 deaths and between 5 to 6 million dollars in damage to over 2,000 buildings in the southeastern United States. Click [HERE](#) for more information, including pictures, from the USGS.

1915 — The temperature at Bartlesville, OK, dipped to 38 degrees to establish a state record for the month of August. (The Weather Channel)

1922: An incredible hailstorm occurred near West Chester, PA dropped so much hail that fields were covered with up to two feet of drifted hail the next day.

1935 — The most intense hurricane to make landfall was a modest tropical depression on this day. Called the Labor Day Hurricane, this storm went through phenomenal intensification to become a Category 5 hurricane by September 2nd.

1954 — Hurricane Carol swept across eastern New England killing sixty persons and causing 450 million dollars damage. It was the first of three hurricanes to affect New England that year. (David Ludlum)

1971 — The low of 84 degrees and high of 108 degrees at Death Valley, CA, were the coolest of the month. The average daily high was 115.7 degrees that August, and the average daily low was 93.4 degrees. (The Weather Channel)

1984 — Lightning ignited several forest fires in Montana, one of which burned through 100,000 acres of timber and grassland. (The Weather Channel)

1987 — Eight cities in Washington and Oregon reported record high temperatures for the date, including Eugene OR and Portland OR with afternoon highs of 102 degrees. The high of 102 degrees at Portland smashed their previous record for the date by twelve degrees. Frost was reported in South Dakota. Aberdeen SD established a record for the month of August with a morning low of 32 degrees, and Britton SD dipped to 31 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 — August ended on a relatively mild and tranquil note for most of the nation. Forest fires in the northwestern U.S. scorched 180,000 acres of land during the last week of August. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 — Thunderstorms developing along a stationary front spread severe weather from Minnesota to Indiana through the course of the day and night. Thunderstorms in Minnesota produced baseball size hail near Saint Michael and Hutchinson, and drenched Moose Lake with nine inches of rain in six hours. Tucson AZ hit 100 degrees for a record 79th time in the year, surpassing a record established the previous year. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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Daily Devotion

An Honest Expression of Faith

The Lord isn't looking for perfect words—He simply wants your honest prayer.

Psalms 13:1-6: 1 How long, O LORD? Will You forget me forever? How long will You hide Your face from me?

2 How long shall I take counsel in my soul, Having sorrow in my heart all the day? How long will my enemy be exalted over me?

3 Consider and answer me, O LORD my God; Enlighten my eyes, or I will sleep the sleep of death,

4 And my enemy will say, "I have overcome him," And my adversaries will rejoice when I am shaken.

5 But I have trusted in Your lovingkindness; My heart shall rejoice in Your salvation.

6 I will sing to the LORD, Because He has dealt bountifully with me.

If you've ever brought a prayer to God and heard only silence in return, you're in good company. The psalmists knew that experience well.

What's remarkable about these songs to God is their honesty. David doesn't tidy up his pain before bringing it to his heavenly Father. He cries out, complains, and even argues: "How long, O Lord? Will You forget me forever?" (Ps. 13:1). There's no performance here, no careful phrasing. This is the honest cry of a man laying his anguish before the One he trusts with it. That trust is the thread that runs through the psalms, even the ones written in the darkest moments.

Lament in Scripture is never simply complaint—it's complaint addressed to Someone. The grief is real, but so is the conviction that the One who hears is present and capable of acting. The psalmist doesn't lose sight of who God is, even when he can't see what the Lord is doing. This is the kind of prayer God invites. Not polished words but honest ones. Not certainty that everything will resolve the way we hope but, rather, faith that He is with us in the waiting—and that He is good. When we don't know what to say, the Psalms give us words. And they remind us that crying out to God is itself an act of faith.

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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The Groton Independent

Printed & Mailed Weekly Edition

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WINNING NUMBERS

MILLIONAIRE FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS:
08.30.26

9 27 36 54 56 3

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

NEXT DRAW: 17 Hrs 43 Mins 1 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS:
08.28.26

8 17 29 42 55 2

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$160,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 17 Hrs 28 Mins 1 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS:
08.29.26

7 10 25 30 33 2

All Star Bonus: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$3,230,000

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 43 Mins 1 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS:
08.29.26

11 17 22 28 29

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$42,000

NEXT DRAW: 2 Days 16 Hrs 58 Mins 1 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS:
08.29.26

16 27 57 58 59 7

TOP PRIZE:
\$10,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 17 Hrs 27 Mins 1 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS:
08.29.26

18 56 62 65 67 18

Power Play: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$131,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 17 Hrs 27 Mins 2 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

News from the **AP** Associated Press

United Arab Emirates says it has intercepted an Iranian drone over its territorial waters

By DAVID RISING Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — The United Arab Emirates' air force intercepted an Iranian drone over its territorial waters Monday, the Defense Ministry said, an attack that comes after the United States and Iran exchanged fire on the weekend, the first significant military action in a month.

During the lull in fighting, the U.S. has been ratcheting up economic pressure on Iran with the hope of forcing concessions out of Tehran, including reopening the vital Strait of Hormuz to shipping.

After the U.S. and Israel attacked Iran on Feb. 28, Iran established a chokehold on the strait, though which a fifth of the world's traded oil passed in peacetime, slowing ship traffic to a trickle.

As the fighting resumed, the price of Brent crude oil, the international standard, climbed above \$90, up about 25% from the start of the war, presenting a growing problem for U.S. President Donald Trump ahead of the midterm elections.

UAE says Iranian attack is a 'dangerous escalation'

In a short statement, the UAE Defense Ministry said it "dealt with" an Iranian drone that was detected over its waters approaching from Iran. There were no reports of damage.

"This dangerous escalation constitutes a blatant violation of the UAE's sovereignty, security, and stability, and a direct threat to the safety of its citizens and residents," the Foreign Ministry said.

The Defense Ministry later issued a second statement denying a claim by the Iranian army that the Al Minhad Air Base in Dubai had been targeted, saying it was false.

The incident came after U.S. forces on Sunday struck Iranian rocket launchers on an Iranian island, breaking a lull in fighting in the war that has lasted more than six months.

Iran responded by launching missiles at U.S. sites in Jordan, which were intercepted.

Early Monday, Iran's Foreign Ministry said Iran would "not hesitate to exercise the inherent right of legitimate defense and will respond decisively to any military aggression."

Iran says it has right to defend itself and will 'respond decisively'

Before heading to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organization's summit in Kyrgyzstan with Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, who has favored a negotiated end to the conflict, stressed that Iran was not seeking war.

"But," he said, "we will respond decisively to aggressors."

The summit brings together a group billed as a counterweight to U.S. global influence, and includes Chinese President Xi Jinping, Russian President Vladimir Putin and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Pezeshkian was scheduled to meet with Putin on the sidelines on Tuesday.

US weekend attack comes after weeks of rising economic pressure

Meantime, U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent was set to host meetings of the Group of 20 finance ministers in North Carolina on Monday and Tuesday, which come as Washington pressures other countries to help the U.S. economically isolate Iran.

The shifting strategy centers on threats to punish any country or entity that continues to conduct business with Tehran.

Two weeks ago, the UAE suspended all trade with Iran after saying it had come under renewed fire from Iran with two missiles fired at shipping traffic splashing down harmlessly in the Persian Gulf. Iran denied the attack.

Bessent later suggested it was pressure from Washington that led to the UAE decision.

Trump stressed last week that he is "not in a hurry" to get Iran back to the negotiating table, and he continues making the case that the Islamic Republic's leadership is on the ropes.

Appointments to Iran's senior security leadership in the past month, however, have signaled Tehran's

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defiance after weathering decades of sanctions as well as a lack of tolerance for dissent at home.

US military says strike on Iranian rocket launchers 'limited' and 'precise'

On Sunday, U.S. Central Command said it had struck Iranian launchers after observing forces with Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps preparing to launch rockets with sea mines into the Strait of Hormuz. The U.S. military said last week it had completed clearing sea mines from the waterway's international shipping routes.

Semiofficial news outlets in Iran reported sounds of explosions near Larak island on the strait and the Revolutionary Guard said there had been casualties.

U.S. military officials disputed Iran's claim that the latest American strikes were an act of aggression, calling them a "limited, precise action" against what they said were minelaying forces.

Iranian state television later showed what it said were ballistic missiles being fired at American bases in Jordan, and Jordan's military said it intercepted eight that had entered its airspace.

A return to open conflict would be dangerous for the region, where Iran has targeted U.S. military bases and infrastructure in Gulf countries since the war began on Feb. 28.

The last time the U.S. military confirmed targeting Iran was on July 29, when it announced a "heavy wave of strikes" on dozens of Revolutionary Guard targets including coastal surveillance and defense sites.

Trump said on Aug. 1 he would order the military to hold off on new strikes at the urging of Gulf allies Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

Hundreds of workers feared stuck in hydropower tunnels as Nepal flood deaths cross 900

By SHRISTI KAFLE and HUIZHONG WU Associated Press

KATHMANDU, Nepal (AP) — Rescuers rushed Monday to reach workers believed to be trapped in tunnels at hydropower sites buried in mud after catastrophic flooding in Nepal and China, as the death toll continued to rise and increasingly desperate families search for their loved ones.

The combined deaths in Nepal and China surpassed 900, with more than 4,700 people missing, and a private-sector association representing power companies said at least 900 workers have been unaccounted for from 12 hydropower projects damaged by the floods in Nepal's Rasuwa and Nuwakot districts.

Mohan Kumar Dangi, president of the Independent Power Producers' Association, Nepal, or IPPAN, said there's an estimation of at least 500 of the 900 missing workers trapped in the tunnels, although authorities have provided varying numbers and said several foreign teams were assisting Nepali rescuers.

At least one expert said the tunnels offered enough space for people to take refuge and that some workers could have access to oxygen. But others warned that the chances of finding survivors were diminishing.

Dangi said some workers had managed to make contact and call for help when the disaster struck last Wednesday, and some others who managed to flee reported to authorities and relatives that many of their colleagues were still in the tunnels. But he said that, six days after the disaster, fears grew that some might have suffocated.

"We are working in search and rescue of the stranded people from hills, settlements and river areas," said Brig. Gen. Raja Ram Basnet, Nepal's army spokesman.

Nepal's disaster agency said Monday that 903 deaths had been counted in that country, with 4,247 people, including 592 foreigners, missing. As of Sunday, Chinese authorities reported 16 deaths and 546 missing, and Chinese state media said 261 of the missing were foreigners, including over a hundred Nepalis.

The stations are powered from giant tunnels where people are trapped

Workers shoveling mud from a flood-ravaged power station in Dhading, Nepal, told The Associated Press that the station is a key node for providing power to over 20,000 people in the region. The workers cleaning the power station said they hope that it is not rebuilt near the river.

Rescue efforts are focused on people trapped in the gigantic tunnels built for controlling the waterflow to produce hydropower, across multiple sites.

"The tunnels are built to access hydropower infrastructure and to divert water — an essential step to

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generate energy. These tunnels are big enough to drive trucks through," said Jakob Steiner, a geoscientist at the University of Graz in Austria, who is currently based in Dhaka, Bangladesh. "There is enough place for people to take refuge safely inside and from what we understand they have managed to get oxygen to some of those stuck inside and are trying to rescue them now. It's a race for time though as people need food and water."

In the Upper Trishuli-1 Hydropower Project, in the hard-hit Rasuwa district, at least 576 were missing, Dangi said, adding that around 300 of them were believed to be trapped inside the project's tunnel. Rescuers have been trying to find survivors for days, working through the rain.

At the Trishuli-3 Hydropower Project, crews were working to descend about 15 meters (50 feet) into the tunnel in an effort to reach those believed trapped inside, according to Basnet, the army spokesperson.

Chinese media highlight government efforts to rebuild roads

On the Chinese side, rescue and recovery efforts included rebuilding the road leading to Gyirong Port at the border between China and Nepal.

Trucks carried giant rocks as workers tried to repave a portion of the road, state broadcaster CCTV showed Monday, next to rapidly rushing waters, which have been made more powerful by rains in the past couple of days. The road is now under some 2 to 3 meters (6.6 to 9.8 feet) of water, hampering rescuers' ability to reach the border. The repaving effort was just a little over a kilometer (.62 miles) from the border, CCTV said.

Although some rescue teams have managed to reach the border, that represented only a portion of the force.

Chinese state media coverage has focused largely on the official response, highlighting the deployment of firefighters, the People's Liberation Army as well as the instructions from top leaders. Little is known about victims on the Chinese side.

Families are desperate for information about missing loved ones

Two days after the disaster, Maraval Nagappan traveled to Nepal to search for his son, who was among the missing. He visited rescue centers and morgues and went as far as 40 kilometers (25 miles) from where his son was believed to have been, but found no sign of him.

His son, Sathya Narayan had been leading a group of 49 Indian devotees who were returning from Mount Kailash — a sacred site in southwestern Tibet. The group has been missing since floodwaters swept through a Chinese immigration complex where they were waiting to cross into Nepal.

Nagappan, who owns the Chennai-based travel company that organized their pilgrimage, and said the group had been expected to complete immigration formalities and leave for Nepal within about two hours. Instead of making the crossing, they were caught in the flood, Nagappan said.

The pilgrimage had begun Aug. 14. "I haven't heard from my son since then. I don't know whether he is alive or dead," he told AP, but he said he hadn't given up on hearing from his son.

Surveillance footage showed water surging through the immigration complex at the border as people scrambled to escape. Nagappan said some of those seen fleeing were members of his son's group and were identified by the clothes they were wearing.

Wednesday's flash floods started after a glacial collapse high in the Himalayan region. Scientists who studied satellite images said bedrock underneath a glacier high in the Himalayan region had collapsed, taking part of the glacier with it. The rockfall was so extreme that it registered as a magnitude 5.2 seismic event.

The rocks and melted water then swelled the rivers in the valleys below, causing a torrent of water that swept buildings, bridges and earth downstream in Tibet and Nepal.

Novak Djokovic out in US Open 1st round for the first time. Pegula, Medvedev, Kostyuk among winners

By BRIAN MAHONEY AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The U.S. Open's Sunday start gives some players a chance to get a nice head start. For Novak Djokovic, it turned into a stunning head start back to the airport.

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The 24-time Grand Slam champion was knocked out in the first round of the U.S. Open for the first time, beaten by Mariano Navone of Argentina 7-6 (5), 5-7, 4-6, 6-2, 6-1.

Djokovic was 19-0 in the U.S. Open first round and hadn't lost his opening match in any major since the 2006 Australian Open.

"It's a good record, another one. But yeah, I'm not really thinking about it," Djokovic said. "Of course, I've been very proud of all the achievements in the past, but now is now."

And now the No. 4 seed and four-time champion in Flushing Meadows looks every bit of his 39 years, vomiting and battling leg problems during a match that lasted more than 4 1/2 hours.

"Now I have to recover," Navone said. "It's almost 12 o'clock."

It made for a lengthy first day of play, with Venus Williams and fellow wild card Sofia Kenin not getting on the court until past midnight — after their match was set to move to another stadium but the players decided to wait and keep it in the main venue. Kenin beat the 46-year-old Williams 6-2, 7-6 (6).

Nearly 12 hours earlier, third-seeded Jessica Pegula again experienced the benefits of the Sunday start that began last year.

"It is a little bit weird, but I did kind of enjoy that I could breathe for the next couple of days and everyone else is still freaking out about whether they're going to win their first round," she said.

Djokovic later experienced the downside.

"We were just talking about it, and I said, it's so nice to play on Sunday when you win. But if you lose it's not nice, because you feel like the tournament didn't even start and you're out of it," No. 11 seed Marta Kostyuk said.

Pegula and Kostyuk both won easily and now they get the benefit of any extra day of rest before returning for the second round, where Pegula will play Kenin.

Pegula leads the women's tour with 46 wins this season. She has two titles and has reached three other finals. Pegula can become No. 1 in the rankings if she wins her first major title and No. 2 Elena Rybakina loses before the semifinals.

The No. 11-seeded Kostyuk beat Storm Hunter 6-4, 6-1 for a strong start to the year's final major after reaching the semifinals at the French Open and Wimbledon.

A Sunday start but the champions don't begin until Monday

Some of the biggest headliners don't begin until Monday. Two-time defending champion Aryna Sabalenka plays her opening match against Camila Osorio, before Carlos Alcaraz, who won his second U.S. Open title last year, plays his first singles match since April after recovering from a right wrist injury.

Past U.S. Open champions Naomi Osaka, Iga Swiatek, Sloane Stephens and Stan Wawrinka are also on the Monday schedule, along with Wimbledon women's champion Linda Noskova and men's contenders such as Ben Shelton, Arthur Fils, Felix Auger-Aliassime and Frances Tiafoe.

Daniil Medvedev, the 2021 U.S. Open champion, shook off his miserable preparation for the tournament by beating Hugo Gaston 6-4, 6-2, 6-4. The No. 7 seed was just 1-3 in the North American hard-court swing, usually a time he thrives.

"Last couple of weeks was not easy," Medvedev said. "But I'm happy that today I managed to produce high-level tennis."

Rain causes havoc, even in a stadium with a roof

Other winners Sunday included No. 9 Elina Svitolina, No. 19 Jasmine Paolini and No. 31 Leylah Fernandez, the 2021 U.S. Open runner-up. No. 27 seed Barbora Krejickova, a two-time Grand Slam singles champion, lost 7-6 (4), 6-2 to Kamilla Rakhimova.

American Tommy Paul, the No. 20 seed, bounced back from losing a first-set tiebreak to Coleman Wong to win 6-7 (3), 6-1, 6-3, 6-3. Wong a year ago became the first man from Hong Kong to win an Open-era Grand Slam men's singles match on the way to reaching the round of 32.

Seven matches couldn't be completed because of rain — and one was delayed even though it was being played in the other stadium with a retractable roof. There was a mechanical issue with one of the sensors at Louis Armstrong Stadium, and even after the roof finally closed, the court had to be dried before No.

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15 seed Alexander Bublik beat J.J. Wolf.

Maric Cilic, the 2014 U.S. Open champion, and 2022 runner-up Casper Ruud both withdrew with injuries. The U.S. Open is in the process of getting a new look

Though the main draws didn't begin until Sunday, action at the U.S. Open has already been going on for nearly a week. Large crowds gathered for the mixed doubles tournament, an exhibition headlined by Roger Federer's return to Flushing Meadows and the singles qualifying tournaments, with admission to the grounds free.

Fans who came for the first time Sunday may have noticed a tournament in transition. The U.S. Open is in the second year of a three-year renovation of Arthur Ashe Stadium, the main venue at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center. The improvements in the \$800 million project include the addition of some lower-level seating, upgrades and additions of entertainment areas and the construction of a player performance center.

"Please pardon our appearance while we are reimagining spectacular," reads a sign above the entrance to Ashe.

The project is scheduled to be completed in time for the 2027 U.S. Open.

Grand Canyon flash flood leaves 1 dead and several missing or unaccounted for, park service says

By JAMIE STENGLE and FELICIA FONSECA Associated Press

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. (AP) — One person died and about 15 people are missing or unaccounted for after a major flash flood at the Grand Canyon forced evacuations, pushed large boulders into the Colorado River and knocked out the sole water pipeline that serves tourists and residents, the National Park Service said Sunday.

The body of a 46-year-old man was recovered Sunday evening near Crystal Rapids along the Colorado River, the park service said without providing additional details. Officials from an Arizona coroner's office were on scene.

The flooding Saturday in Bright Angel Creek, which flows into the river, led to more than 60 people being airlifted from the depths of the canyon. The park service asked anyone with details about hikers or campers still unaccounted for to get in touch. The Arizona Department of Public Safety was helping with additional evacuations Sunday.

The limited potable water supply because of the damaged pipeline means tourists won't be able to stay overnight at lodges and hotels within the park, starting Monday. Year-round residents are being asked to conserve water.

"These measures are crucial for ensuring the safety and sustainability of water resources," the park said in a statement.

Visiting the Grand Canyon — a crown jewel of the national park system — can be particularly dangerous in the summer because of the risk of flash flooding that accompanies the monsoon, or rainy season. Clear days can give way quickly to thunderstorms and downpours.

Parth Desai was hiking through a narrow passage in Bright Angel Canyon with fellow physicians and a park ranger when heavy rain started falling Saturday.

"We saw the creek flood, waterfalls coming up out of nowhere, boulders, mud, landslides happening everywhere," he said.

Later, as they made their way toward Phantom Ranch, a colleague shouted "Up, Up, Up, Up!" as a 4-foot (1-meter) debris wall headed toward them and they ran up into a patch of cacti, he said. They were rescued by helicopter late Saturday after making it to the Phantom Ranch area, he said.

Torrents of water wiped out footbridges over the creek and altered the landscape, widening the creek bed and extending an existing river rapid or creating a new one. The flood was a major blow to an enduring effort to modernize the pipeline that serves 6 million visitors a year and roughly 1,600 residents of

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Grand Canyon Village.

"Heaven help us if the whole thing down there at the bottom has to be reconstructed," said Jack Schmidt, director of the Center for Colorado River Studies at Utah State University. "Where are they going to get the money?"

Halting overnight stays at the park because of a lack of water is rare, although the pipeline frequently has failed over the years. While the Grand Canyon has large storage tanks for potable water on the South Rim, they won't be refilled while the pipeline is out of service.

A \$208 million rehabilitation of the pipeline and upgrades to the associated water delivery system started in 2023, with the park service calling it a crucial investment to ensure the park can meet the needs of residents and visitors. The project was expected to be completed next year.

Popular tourist spots, including the Bright Angel Campground, the North Kaibab Trail and Phantom Ranch, home to a historic canteen and dormitories, remained closed Sunday. Lodging is still available just outside the park's South Rim entrance station in Tusayan.

Erica Viola said she and about 50 other hikers at that campground watched the creek rise Saturday and debris start to flow by, including what looked like a bunkhouse. The helicopter ride out cut her adventure short by two days, she said.

About half an inch to 1 inch (1 to 2.5 cm) of rain fell within about 20 minutes on a rocky slope where there's a steep drop in elevation, said National Weather Service meteorologist Darren McCollum in Flagstaff. The deluge was preceded by two smaller systems that drenched the area hours earlier.

"So when the main storm moved in, torrential rain fell on everything that was already soaked, and that caused all the problems that we're seeing," McCollum said.

The weather service said the flooding happened on the north side of the Grand Canyon, where Bright Angel Creek comes from the North Rim down to the Colorado River, dropping around 6,000 feet (1,828 meters).

More rain and thunderstorms were possible for the area into Monday.

USS Abraham Lincoln sails past Singapore on its way home from Middle East

By DITA ALANGKARA and FADLAN SYAM Associated Press

BATAM, Indonesia (AP) — The U.S. aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln sailed past Singapore early on Sunday as it headed home after a grueling deployment in the Middle East. It's expected to stop in Thailand for a port visit.

Associated Press journalists on the Indonesian island of Batam, across the Singapore Strait, spotted the massive vessel as it transited waters near Singapore just after 1 a.m. local time.

The Lincoln, one of the U.S. Navy's largest warships, was supporting the U.S. war against Iran. Its deployment included a record-setting uninterrupted time at sea of more than 250 days. Concerns have grown about the Lincoln's lengthy deployment following reports of deteriorating mental health among the crew and shortages of supplies including food and hygiene products.

Thai officials have said the Lincoln will stop in Thailand for rest and recovery before returning to its U.S. base.

Aaron Donald ends his 2 1/2-year retirement and returns to the Los Angeles Rams

By GREG BEACHAM AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Aaron Donald returned to the Los Angeles Rams on Sunday, ending his retirement after 2 1/2 years to chase another Super Bowl title.

The 35-year-old Donald made his decision after several weeks of discussion and nearly three months of intensive workouts for a star defensive lineman who reigned atop his position in a Rams uniform from

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2014 until his retirement in early 2024.

Donald joined a light practice at the Rams' training complex later Sunday, shaking hands and exchanging hugs with Myles Garrett and the rest of his teammates, both old and new.

While he hasn't decided whether he will play in the Rams' season opener against the 49ers in Australia next month, Donald is eager to complete a comeback that seemed improbable only three months ago.

"Do I feel like I can play at a high level? Yes," Donald said. "Do I feel like I can still be myself? One hundred percent, and if I didn't feel like that, I wouldn't be here."

Donald agreed to a one-year contract, and ESPN reported he will make at least \$20 million in an incentive-laden deal.

Donald became one of the greatest defensive players of his era during a decade spent entirely with the Rams in St. Louis and Los Angeles. He won three AP NFL Defensive Player of the Year awards while earning 10 Pro Bowl selections, eight All-Pro selections and a Super Bowl ring before he retired somewhat abruptly following the 2023-24 season.

After two years of tending to his business interests and enjoying ample family time, Donald began to entertain the notion of a comeback this summer after the Rams traded young lineman Jared Verse in a deal for Garrett, one of Donald's few peers in contemporary defensive line play.

"I already thought it was a stacked D-line with Verse ... and then you bring a guy like Myles Garrett, a generational talent, and then it's like, 'Gosh, that could be fun,'" Donald said with a grin.

Donald and Garrett have combined to win five of the AP's past nine Defensive Player of the Year awards, including two of the past three for Garrett with the Cleveland Browns. While Garrett said he wouldn't attempt to influence Donald's decision, the two have exchanged numerous text messages while Donald went through the training necessary to become his teammate.

With MVP Matthew Stafford returning to lead the league's most productive offense, Los Angeles was already the betting favorite in most sportsbooks to win its second Super Bowl title under coach Sean McVay even before Donald's comeback. Along with Garrett, Los Angeles added cornerbacks Trent McDuffie and Jaylen Watson from Kansas City to a defense that now looks more equipped to keep pace with the Rams' offense, which returns every major contributor around Stafford.

"I think this is a complete team with me here or without me here, so for me to even have the opportunity to be a part of this, to be with this team, I take nothing for granted," Donald said. "It's a blessing to be retired from the game for two years and then have the opportunity to come back and be a part of something special."

McVay has seemed confident for weeks that Donald was leaning toward a return. Donald said he finalized his decision to return about two weeks ago after being in almost daily contact with McVay for several weeks.

"He means a lot to me, and it's way bigger than football," McVay said. "There's a lot of history. There's a lot of experiences that we've shared, a lot of love for each other's families. I'm excited to start this journey."

Donald stayed in decent shape during his retirement, and he was pleasantly surprised by the way his body responded to its return to NFL-level training. He also says his famed defensive line technique hasn't declined.

"I've been in a football mindset for the last 14 weeks," Donald said. "If anything, it's just getting back on the grass and knocking the rust off as far as playing football again, 11 on 11. Work on my eyes, getting the feel for the game, certain reaction things that made me who I am. I put myself in the best position the best way I can with training to get to where I'm at now."

Donald's 111 career sacks are the Rams' franchise record and the second-most in NFL history among linemen who primarily played on the interior. His ability to generate a pass rush between the tackles is the primary basis of his greatness, but Donald also was a run-stuffer whose agility and technique forced defenses to double-team him regularly, freeing up his teammates to excel.

The decision resets Donald's eligibility clock for his all-but-automatic induction into the Pro Football Hall of Fame, but he's much more interested in seizing the strong opportunity to play for a second ring while lining up alongside Garrett and talented young contributors Byron Young, Kobie Turner and Braden Fiske

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on what should be an opponents' nightmare of a defensive front.

Donald joins a significant group of recent NFL stars who have ended retirements and returned to this punishing sport, including Philip Rivers, Jason Witten, Marshawn Lynch, Rob Gronkowski and Eric Weddle, the safety who came back from 2 1/2 years away and joined Donald on the Rams' short-handed defense for its playoff run to a championship in early 2022.

US strikes Iranian rocket launchers on the Strait of Hormuz in first military action in weeks

By KONSTANTIN TOROPIN, CARA ANNA and BEN FINLEY Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. forces struck Iranian rocket launchers on the Strait of Hormuz in their first military action in a month on Sunday, breaking a lull in fighting during an intermittent war that has lasted more than six months. Vowing to retaliate for what it called a deadly attack, Iran later said it had launched missiles at U.S. sites in Jordan.

Forces with the Revolutionary Guard Corps were observed preparing to launch rockets with sea mines into the strait, according to Tim Hawkins, a spokesperson for the U.S. Central Command. The U.S. military last week completed clearing sea mines from the strait's international shipping routes.

Semiofficial news outlets in Iran reported sounds of explosions near Larak island on the strait. The Guard in a statement carried by Iran's state broadcaster noted "the martyrdom and injury of several of our fighters and compatriots."

Later, Iranian state television showed what it said were ballistic missiles being fired by Iran at U.S. bases in Jordan in response to the American strikes. Jordan's armed forces said they intercepted eight missiles that penetrated the country's airspace early Monday in the Mideast.

U.S. military officials disputed Iran's claim that the latest American strikes were an act of aggression, calling them a "limited, precise action" against what they said were minelaying forces.

"In essence, Iran created the threat and the U.S. military eliminated it to protect civilian mariners, commercial shipping, and the free flow of global commerce," U.S. Central Command said in a statement late Sunday.

A return to open conflict would be dangerous for the region, where Iran has targeted U.S. military bases and infrastructure in Gulf countries since the war began on Feb. 28.

The last time the U.S. military confirmed targeting Iran was on July 29, when it announced a "heavy wave of strikes" on dozens of Revolutionary Guard targets including coastal surveillance and defense sites. On Aug. 1, U.S. President Donald Trump said he would order the military to hold off on new strikes at the urging of Gulf allies Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

The US had turned to economic pressure

The attack comes just days after the Trump administration said it would turn its focus to increasing economic pressure — rather than military action — to try to end its war with Iran. The shifting strategy centers on threats to punish any country or entity that continues to conduct business with Tehran.

Sunday's attack was a "fatal mistake by the Trump regime during the economic war" and the enemy will pay the consequences militarily and economically, a Guard spokesperson, Gen. Hossein Mohebi, said in a statement carried by Iranian media.

The U.S. turn to using sanctions came as the administration weighs diminished munitions stockpiles after months of war, sparking concerns that the prolonged conflict could undermine U.S. military readiness in other parts of the globe.

As the conflict grinds on, Trump's talk of finding a quick end to the war also appears to be fading. He stressed last week that he's "not in a hurry" to get Iran back to the negotiating table, and he continues making the case that the Islamic Republic's leadership is on the ropes.

Appointments to Iran's senior security leadership in the past month, however, have signaled Tehran's defiance after weathering decades of sanctions as well as a lack of tolerance for dissent at home.

Trump has consistently emphasized that the U.S. and Israeli campaign has been devastating for Iran's

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navy and air force. Iranian officials have said the country has suffered \$270 billion in direct and indirect damage. Israeli military strikes in the first weeks of the war wiped out much of the theocratic government's leadership structure.

Iran leans on the strait for leverage

But Iran has found leverage through its strikes against vessels on the Strait of Hormuz, where relatively few ships carrying oil and liquefied natural gas are risking passage. Iran still has enough drones and missiles to fire at vessels transiting the waterway through which 20% of the world's oil normally flows.

Crude oil prices rose Sunday in response to the U.S. attack. The price for a barrel of U.S. oil went up 1.8% to \$84.94, while the price for a barrel of Brent crude, the international standard, rose 1.9% to \$89.79.

Tehran continues to assert that even after it works out a management plan for the strait with Oman, its neighbor on the other side of the waterway, the U.S. can't use it until it fulfills its obligations under the memorandum of understanding the countries signed in mid-June.

Trump has repeatedly declared that the "Strait of Hormuz is open," saying 24 vessels passed through last week. But that's a fraction of the roughly 130 vessels that transited daily before the war began.

Earlier on Sunday, a multinational coalition overseen by the U.S. Navy said commercial traffic through the strait remained at "reduced levels."

And a monitoring agency run by the British military said an unknown projectile struck a tanker ship on Saturday north of Khasab, Oman, in the strait. The United Kingdom Maritime Trade Organization said no casualties or environmental impact had been reported, and cited unspecified military authorities. There was no immediate claim of responsibility.

The U.S. military said that as of Sunday, it had redirected 83 commercial vessels and disabled three under its blockade of Iranian ports.

Nepal warns of possible fresh flooding as communities grapple with devastation

By VICTORIA MILKO and NIRANJAN SHRESTHA Associated Press

DHADING, Nepal (AP) — Authorities in Nepal warned of possible fresh flooding on Sunday and urged residents in flood-affected districts to remain on high alert after water levels rose in the Bhotekoshi River.

Flood warning notices were sent to people's phones early Sunday as rescue crews worked to clear a major highway connecting Kathmandu to one of the areas worst hit by Wednesday's catastrophic floods, which killed at least 800 people and left more than 3,000 missing in Nepal and Tibet.

The latest warnings came after Chinese authorities informed their Nepalese counterparts of increased water flow upstream, according to Dharam Raj Uprety, chief executive of Nepal's National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority.

The Chinese state news agency Xinhua, citing the country's water resources ministry, said a new lake formed after Wednesday's floods high in the mountains had largely drained.

But Xinhua said the ministry warned that a crater located 5.6 kilometers (3.5 miles) upstream, which held an estimated 1.4 million cubic meters (370 million gallons) of water, still posed some risk and required close monitoring.

Nepal's disaster agency said Sunday the death toll had climbed to 788 with 2,502 missing, while Chinese authorities reported 16 deaths and 546 missing on the Chinese side of the border.

The missing include hundreds of people from over a dozen countries who were in the region to work, visit the mountains or make a pilgrimage to a sacred peak. On Sunday, Chinese state media said 261 foreigners were missing in Tibet, including over a hundred Nepalis and others from around the world.

Some are returning to what remained of their homes

In Dhading, one of the worst-hit regions in Nepal, some residents began returning to ruined homes to see what can be salvaged.

Residents sat in homes with walls washed away by the floods, shoveling sludge-like mud and rubble off

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balconies or window frames. Others scanned the ground for items they could pick out of the mud and rinse off. One man had returned for his chickens, which he found alive. He tied them up and put them in the cabin of his truck.

"Everything is finished. Nothing is left. Not even our home," Sharmila Tamang, a Dhading resident who was trying to salvage items from her home, told The Associated Press.

At a key power plant that was severely damaged by the floods, workers started inspecting the facilities Sunday to survey the destruction. The plant serves over 20,000 people across four districts.

In the town of Galchhi, a group of residents sought higher ground on a nearby bridge and watched as the river roared by. Some pointed to enormous rocks washed downriver during the earlier floods, while others standing on a suspension bridge were warned off with whistles.

Along the river, homes, vehicles and farm tractors could be seen jutting from the thick gray-brown sediment that enveloped entire villages in some areas. Parts of rice terraces along the riverside had dropped into the river after landslides hit them.

Residents are receiving constant flood warnings

Homes and businesses left intact after the flooding were still without electricity on Sunday, as twisted power line poles and wires lay tangled in the mud.

Residents of flood-hit villages said they were struggling to make sense of near-constant alarms they've received since the initial floods.

"Sometimes they say a flood is coming, then we have to run again to higher ground, even at night. There is also rain," said Govind Shreshta, a resident. "It's really difficult for me. I have a 72-year-old father and 70-year-old mom. I must carry them and I am exhausted. It's going on like this for those who are still alive."

Large concrete and smaller suspension bridges were destroyed, leaving communities on the other side of the river with less easy access.

"Those who are there are now stuck there. Those who are here are stuck here. It's going to be very difficult," said Sattan Singh Tamang, 47, who was working near a bridge when Wednesday's floods came.

Minister says Nepalis have become victims of climate change

Wednesday's flash floods started after a glacial collapse high in the Himalayan region. Scientists who studied satellite images said bedrock underneath a glacier high in the Himalayan region had collapsed, taking part of the glacier with it. The rockfall was so extreme that it registered as a magnitude 5.2 earthquake.

The rocks and melted water then swelled the rivers in the valleys below, causing a torrent of water that swept buildings, bridges and earth downstream in Tibet and Nepal.

Nepal's foreign minister called for a global response to climate change, saying Nepal was bearing a disproportionate share of its impact.

"Despite having only 0.1% contribution to the global emissions, people of Nepal have become major victims of climate change," Shisir Khanal said Saturday.

Scientists have said it is too early to draw a direct connection between global warming and Wednesday's catastrophe. However, they said that as Earth's temperature rises because of human activities such as burning oil, gas and coal, the chances of such disasters increase, especially in the Himalayan mountains, which are warming considerably faster than many other parts of the world.

Meanwhile, Malaysia's Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim said Sunday his country will send a search-and-rescue team to Nepal to assist with relief efforts and help evacuate Malaysians affected by the disaster.

Malaysia has also pledged \$1 million in financial aid to Nepal, he said in a statement.

AP Exclusive: US coaches Polish forces in a drone-focused drill based on lessons from Ukraine

By KONSTANTIN TOROPIN Associated Press

HOHENFELS, Germany (AP) — On a moonless and rainy night, a group of soldiers emerged from a ramshackle building meant to resemble a church. The alpine terrain loomed over them as they quietly set off for the tree line of the German countryside a short distance away.

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The soldiers are members of the Polish special forces and are taking part in an exercise designed only months ago that simulates moving through enemy lines, traversing miles of enemy territory and launching a drone strike on a key enemy location.

Initially designed by the Army's Green Berets for U.S. special forces, the exercise that began Friday is informed by and simulates many of the challenges that Ukrainian troops have experienced in their conflict with Russia. It is the first time a NATO ally like Poland has undertaken the training, and it comes at a time when tensions between Russian President Vladimir Putin and NATO countries have escalated.

"We're using lessons learned from Ukraine," an Army Green Beret officer assigned to the training complex said Thursday. "All of those effects that we're seeing either Russia or Ukraine having to overcome — we're doing our best to replicate."

The Associated Press received rare access to both the training ground and the troops conducting the exercise, which has only been conducted twice before, both times this year, by two different Green Beret teams.

The drill highlights the focus that some parts of the U.S. military have on learning the latest techniques in drone warfare, pioneered by Ukraine during its 4 1/2-year effort to repel Russian forces. It also shows how the U.S., its NATO allies and Ukraine are working together to counter the threat of possible further Russian action in coming years even as the Trump administration has warned of troop drawdowns in Europe.

CIA Director John Ratcliffe went to Moscow this week to warn Russia not to attack NATO countries, The Wall Street Journal reported. Russia has the appetite to conduct sabotage and cyberattacks against NATO countries, but Putin wants to avoid a direct confrontation, according to three Western officials, who spoke Friday on condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive military matters.

How special forces are learning to sneak behind enemy lines to deploy drones

During the exercise in Germany, a senior enlisted soldier familiar with the training scenario at Joint Multinational Readiness Center Hohenfels — about an hour's drive southeast from Nuremberg — said the plan is to run it several times a year. The officer said he expects most, if not all, of the 32 NATO nations to express interest in sending their troops to try the exercise.

Both spoke on condition of anonymity in line with the U.S. military's longstanding policy of not publicly identifying individual members of special forces units.

The scenario, which runs for several days, takes place on a large, 1,100-square-mile (3,000-square-kilometer) plot of land nestled in the Bavarian countryside.

Poland's special forces will be expected to sneak past a U.S. Army airborne infantry unit, whose soldiers will play the enemy. The U.S. airborne infantry unit will parachute into the closed-off training area at the Army's Hohenfels base and set themselves up into a front line.

Assuming the Polish forces can make their way past the U.S. Army, they must then move north — through about 60 miles (100 kilometers) of German countryside — to another training area in the town of Grafenwoehr, where they are expected to destroy a simulated target.

In between lie German farms and villages, private and government cameras, as well as a city with a large population, all of which not only pose as obstacles but also create the potential for them to be spotted.

The senior enlisted soldier said that in previous instances of the exercise, the Army Green Berets removed their uniforms "so they can blend in" before adding that "blend in also means don't get seen by civilians."

German civilians in the area largely are not aware of the exercise and serve as a reasonable test of how well special forces can blend into the local population. If they fail, reports of suspicious people to police will make it back to the military, which will use them to pinpoint the team.

"This is supposed to be Russia and you're going to stand out in Russia," the enlisted soldier added.

Plus, the U.S. Army also will be looking for the Polish forces with drones of their own.

If they're spotted, "now you have the entire Russian arsenal coming at you," the enlisted soldier said.

The U.S. Army can either send a military police unit to hunt for the Polish special forces with dogs or direct more drones to the area. In previous versions of the exercise, the U.S. Army had access to more than a hundred drones, the enlisted soldier said.

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Troops are able to be "captured or killed" as part of the training.

Countries seek help from Ukraine on drone warfare

While the exercise taps into drones and NATO teamwork, the message of collaboration and the value of drones has been somewhat mixed lately across the military.

President Donald Trump stirred confusion among NATO allies by going back and forth on drawing down U.S. troop levels in Europe, and the administration has launched a force review on next steps. And last week, the Army's top officer shuttered a unit that specialized in drone warfare.

But overall, there is growing interest in tapping Ukraine for its expertise on modern warfare and, specifically, drones.

In March, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said his country was helping five countries in the Middle East and Gulf region counter Iranian drone attacks launched during the war with the United States, while the U.S. and European countries were among those requesting support.

Meanwhile, the number of mysterious drone incursions in Europe have grown, including as recently as this month, when a pair of drones were spotted over a German military base and a drone carrying explosives was found at a key cargo airport in Germany.

Karina rapidly becomes a major hurricane in the Pacific far from land, forecasters say

MIAMI (AP) — Hurricane Karina formed Sunday in the Pacific Ocean and swiftly intensified into a dangerous major storm within hours, fueled by warm waters far offshore where it poses no immediate threat to land.

Karina gained Category 1 hurricane status early Sunday with top sustained winds of 80 mph (130 kph) and then took mere hours to jump up to a dangerous Category 3 hurricane with maximum sustained winds of 125 mph (205 kph), the U.S. National Hurricane Center in Miami said.

A major hurricane is a Category 3 or greater with maximum sustained winds of at least 111 mph (178 kph). Meteorologists said some additional strengthening is possible over the next day or so.

On Sunday, Karina was located about 960 miles (1,545 kilometers) west-southwest of the southern tip of Mexico's Baja California Peninsula and was moving west at 9 mph (15 kph). It was on a forecast path expected to take it farther out into the Pacific.

While Karina was expected to stay well away from land, swells from the storm were likely to cause dangerous surf and rip current conditions along stretches of coastline in southwest Mexico and the Baja California Peninsula, the hurricane center said. There are no coastal watches or warnings in effect.

Elsewhere in the Pacific, Tropical Storm Lowell was about 985 miles (1,585 kilometers) east-southeast of Hilo, Hawaii. The storm had maximum sustained winds of 50 mph (85 kph) and posed no immediate threat to land. Forecasters said Sunday that Lowell could become a hurricane by Monday night or Tuesday.

US plans to sanction another bank in effort to clamp down on Iran transactions, Bessent tells AP

By FATIMA HUSSEIN Associated Press

ASHEVILLE, N.C. (AP) — President Donald Trump's administration plans to impose sanctions on another bank this week as it intensifies efforts to economically isolate Iran, U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent told The Associated Press on Sunday.

"This is going to be financial violence if we have to," Bessent said in the interview. "We are showing people that we know who you are, you know who you are, and this has got to stop."

Bessent spoke with the AP ahead of Group of 20 meetings in Asheville, North Carolina, where he will huddle individually with his counterparts from the world's major and developing economies to encourage cooperation against Iran.

He said he plans to focus on encouraging economic growth in his meetings, which are taking place as he faces scrutiny for an unusual bond buyback program and his approach to \$40 trillion in U.S. debt, and

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he defended the Treasury's decision to exclude certain reporters from covering the event.

Bessent did not name the bank that would face sanctions this week. His comments come after the Trump administration signaled that it would shift from military strikes to economic pressure during a war that recently reached the six-month mark, promising what it called an "economic D-Day" against a country that has already weathered decades of punishing sanctions.

The US is trying to squeeze Iran

However, hostilities between the U.S. and Iran flared on Sunday. U.S. forces struck Iranian rocket launchers on the Strait of Hormuz in their first military action in a month, breaking a lull in fighting. Iran vowed to retaliate for what it called a deadly attack.

In addition, the administration has mostly relied on warnings rather than new sanctions against Iran's trading partners. There's also the question of how Trump will handle China, which is Iran's biggest trading partner and leading buyer of its oil.

Bessent told the AP he would speak to his Chinese counterparts at the G20 meeting and "all options are on the table" in terms of sanctioning Beijing for its continued purchases.

But he rejected the idea that the administration was reluctant to confront China, calling it "a completely false narrative that the media picked up on." He insisted that China and the U.S. agree on the need to reopen the Strait of Hormuz and prevent Iran from developing a nuclear weapon.

Treasury's first official action in this campaign of economic pressure was a proposed rulemaking on Friday, which would, if finalized, sever the Emirati branches of Banque Misr, Egypt's second-largest bank, from access to the U.S. financial system.

In stopping short of imposing sanctions on the Egyptian bank, the Republican administration appeared to be signaling its reluctance to penalize major trading partners that do business with Iran, including China and India.

Treasury restricted media access to G20 meeting

The Treasury barred certain reporters from The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal and Bloomberg News from covering the G20 meetings.

The Times said it was "not just another disturbing effort by the administration to undermine independent journalism, but a blatant attempt to evade public scrutiny."

Treasury officials have not explained their decision.

Bessent defended the exclusion by telling the AP that "it has nothing to do with point of view."

Bessent faces scrutiny on bond market

Bessent said he wanted to focus on growth at the summit with his counterparts.

"The world has this mountain of debt, and we do have to grow our way out of it because you know there are many countries that have very large budget deficits, but they also have zero growth," he said.

Bessent surprised financial markets earlier this month with an unusual intervention into the bond market that sparked criticism that the administration has not done enough to address fiscal issues.

The move — which occurred on the same day the U.S. debt topped \$40 trillion — was seen as a way to try to put a cap on rising bond yields, which have pushed up borrowing costs for consumers.

Some of the sharpest criticism came from Stan Druckenmiller, CEO of Duquesne Family Office LLC — a former boss of Bessent's in the 1990s — who wrote in The Wall Street Journal that the Treasury Department was on "the wrong side of that trade" and needed to do more to address the deficit.

Bessent promises action on debt and deficit

Asked about the criticism, Bessent acknowledged that "we've been in touch" and said: "Stan's a great money manager. He changes his mind a lot."

"He's twice called for the U.S. to default on its debt — once in the 1990s, and once in 2011 — so he likes extreme measures. I don't think we're at the point where we need extreme measures yet," Bessent said.

Druckenmiller in a 2011 interview said a technical default on the debt "would be horrible" but not "the end of the world" if it led to measures that reined in spending on U.S. government programs.

Bessent told the AP that he was working with Russ Vought, the director of the Office of Management and

Budget, on a fiscal package to bring down the debt and deficit that would be revealed in coming weeks. He also argued that long-term U.S. bond yields were down in August "for all the noise" and said that rising yields were "a global phenomenon."

Bessent blamed tariff refunds for the deficit hike. The government was forced to refund some tariffs paid by businesses after the U.S. Supreme Court said Trump had overstepped his authority with sweeping tariffs on imports from most countries.

Icelandic voters reject a proposal to restart negotiations to join the European Union

By KWIYEON HA and BRIAN MELLEY Associated Press

REYKJAVIK, Iceland (AP) — Iceland's voters rejected restarting negotiations to join the European Union in a referendum that pitted concerns about geopolitical stability against keeping national control of Iceland's prized fisheries, officials said Sunday.

Opponents defeated the measure by a margin of 52.8% to 47.2%, the National Electoral Commission said. The result puts the divisive issue to rest for now — more than a decade after a euroskeptic government ended EU talks that had begun after the 2008 financial crisis.

The vote Saturday was held in the shadow of repeated threats by U.S. President Donald Trump to take control of nearby Greenland. Although Iceland is a NATO member, supporters said European solidarity would provide greater protection if Trump ever made similar threats toward the volcanic island.

Iceland's left-leaning coalition government, elected in 2024, moved up the EU referendum it had planned for next year after Trump mistakenly named Iceland four times while speaking about his designs on Greenland.

The Trump administration respects "the sovereign decision" by Iceland, State Department spokesman Tommy Pigott said in a statement. "We look forward to strengthening our partnership with Iceland on all fronts including security, energy, innovation, and economic and cultural ties, to further advance our shared vision of peace and prosperity," he said.

Voters faced a simple question

Prime Minister Kristrún Frostadóttir said she did not see the loss as a setback for her coalition government but as a win for democracy as more than 82% of the eligible 270,000 voters cast ballots. She said she would respect the result but would not rule out a future attempt to reopen the issue.

"Things happened in the past couple of years, though, that I could not have predicted," she said. "But this government will not go forward with it. And something big has to change in the next 24 months for this to be at the top of the agenda."

Guðrún Hafsteinsdóttir, leader of the opposition Independence Party who opposed the measure, said the result is a blow to the government but not European relations.

"The best way to heal the wounds is for the government to listen to the conclusion and put this path aside," she told RUV, the national broadcaster. "Because we want to remain in close contact with the European Union, Europe and as many other countries as possible, the nation is sending a clear message that we intend to steer that course ourselves."

Voters faced a simple yes-or-no question: Should Iceland resume accession negotiations with the European Union?

The capital of Reykjavik was the only area in the island nation of 400,000 people where a majority supported the referendum.

The influential fishing industry led opposition to the referendum over fears the bloc's common fisheries policy would open its waters to Spanish, Dutch and other trawlers.

Iceland is already in the EU single market

Descendants of Vikings, Icelanders, who won their independence from Denmark in 1944, have lived off the sea for centuries, and fishing is central to their national identity. Iceland has a proud history of refusing

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to be pushed around by bigger and richer European nations, winning the so-called Cod Wars with Britain in the 1970s over the right to control its waters.

Opponents also rallied around the fact that Iceland already reaps benefits from being in the EU's frictionless single market and the Schengen free-travel zone without the sovereignty compromises that come with full membership. They argued that Iceland's voice would be muted in the large European Parliament and that it would be better off cutting its own trade deals, such as one with China.

Backers said EU membership would lower inflation and interest rates, and the euro would bring more stability than Iceland's volatile króna currency. They said it was also in the nation's interest to get closer to its European neighbors to tackle issues that don't respect borders, such as climate change.

Other countries face a more difficult path to EU membership

If the proposal had been approved, it would have been a preliminary step to revive the lengthy negotiating process with the EU's executive branch, the European Commission, to discuss areas from the economy to human rights. Voters would have needed to approve any negotiated deal.

The result is sure to disappoint many in the European Union. As a wealthy, stable and democratic country with vast fishing grounds, Iceland could have joined the bloc relatively quickly. Croatia was the last country to join, in 2013.

Most of the other candidates waiting — including several countries in the Balkans, plus Moldova and conflict-torn Ukraine — must still undertake time-consuming reforms to bring their laws and standards into line with those of the EU.

Getting Iceland into Europe's rich club, perhaps along with Montenegro and possibly Moldova, over the next two years could have helped to lay to rest the damage to the EU caused by the departure of Britain in 2020, even though London now appears willing to mend ties.

Voter Daniel Bjarkason, who opposed the measure, said Iceland should wait a decade or two before trying again to join the EU.

"For now we're too divided and that's not a good look," he said. "It should be 70-30 Yes if we're going to do it."

1 dead and 5 wounded in a shooting at a rave in Switzerland

GENEVA (AP) — A shooting at a rave in the northern Swiss canton of Aargau left one person dead and five injured early Sunday, local police and media reported. Police said they are still looking for potentially more than one suspect.

Aargau cantonal police wrote earlier on X that a 22-year-old woman died of injuries at the scene. Four men and one woman, between 24 and 27 years old, were taken to the hospital with injuries ranging from minor to severe.

All of the victims are residents of Switzerland, police said. They did not release their names in line with Swiss privacy rules.

However, Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni on Sunday evening identified the woman who was killed and two other victims as Italian citizens.

"I express my deepest condolences for the death of Maria Spinelli, the young Italian woman who was a victim of the tragic shooting in Aarau, Switzerland," she wrote on X, identifying the dead woman by name.

"My thoughts also go to the other injured individuals, among whom there are two Italian citizens, and to all the people involved in this dramatic event," she said, adding that she trusts "the work of the Swiss authorities to shed full light on what happened and identify those responsible."

Earlier on Sunday at a press briefing, Aargau police said all its forces were involved in finding the suspect or suspects.

"The manhunt is continuing nonstop at full speed," police spokesperson Bernhard Graser told reporters.

He said police had no information yet about possible motives. Asked whether a terrorist attack was a possibility, Graser said that "the fact that the rave was already winding down suggests that's not the case. A fight could also be a possibility."

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Public shootings are rare in the Alpine country despite relatively widespread gun ownership.

"In terms of its nature, this incident is certainly unique in recent years," Graser said. "We don't yet know the full extent of it, but based purely on the circumstances, it is something truly extraordinary. That's why there's such a large police presence."

Authorities were alerted around 2:30 a.m. local time to the shooting in the canton's capital Aarau, 46 kilometers (29 miles) west of Zurich, police spokesperson Pascal Wenzel told Swiss public broadcaster SRF.

At the time of the incident, the "Aarau Rave VOL. 7" was taking place at the horse racing track in Aarau's Schachen district, SRF reported. The fire department cordoned off a large area around the site.

A major police operation was still underway on Sunday afternoon and locals were asked to stay away from the area scoured by investigators for possible links connected to the crime. Officers, firefighters and ambulances were on the scene in large numbers. Police in Freiburg, in neighboring Germany, also took part in search efforts for the suspect, the German news agency dpa reported.

"Right now, virtually the entire Aargau police force is out on the streets," Graser said, adding that they had no information on where the suspect or the suspects might be. However, police have ruled out the possibility that they could pose a threat again.

Swiss daily Blick reported that rave visitors initially mistook the shots for fireworks until somebody shouted "everyone down."

The newspaper wrote that the shooting took place right after the event ended. Police later took the remaining visitors to a nearby gym, where many were interrogated, Graser said.

Police asked any witnesses with videos or photos to share them with investigators.

The Aargau Racing Club, which runs the horse racing track, expressed shock at the shooting.

"We extend our deepest sympathy to all those affected and their families, who are facing this difficult and trying situation," it said on its website. "We would like to thank the emergency responders and all others involved who worked professionally and with dedication on the scene."

Swiss DJ Tekibo, who performed at the rave, wrote on Instagram that "what happened at Aarauer rave is absolutely heartbreaking."

"Techno and raves are supposed to be a place for freedom and safety, never a place where something like this happens," he added.

Aarau has about 22,300 residents. It is about 30 km (18 miles) south of the German border.

Meep, meep. 'Coyote vs. Acme' opens with \$15.5 million, 'Spider-Man' stays No. 1 for fifth weekend

By JAKE COYLE AP Film Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Three years after Warner Bros. abruptly canned "Coyote vs. Acme," the Looney Tunes feature film that was given a new lease on life by Ketchup Entertainment debuted with an estimated \$15.5 million in ticket sales over the weekend.

For the fifth weekend in a row, "Spider-Man: Brand New Day" topped the North American box office. It grossed \$22.2 million in U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to studio estimates Sunday, bringing its worldwide total to \$2.33 billion and making it the fourth highest-grossing film of all time.

"Coyote vs. Acme," which had been relegated to the dust heap, fared best of the newcomers, debuting in second place.

The Ridley Scott action drama "The Dog Stars," starring Jacob Elordi, flopped. The film, about a pilot and German Shepherd who survive a global pandemic, opened in fifth place with \$8 million for 20th Century Studios. It added \$11.3 million overseas, a poor result for a film that cost between \$70 million and \$100 million to make.

"Coyote vs. Acme," however, scored a decent, hard-earned opening. In 2023, Warner Bros. canceled any release of the completed film, preferring to take a tax write off on a movie originally produced for its streaming service, HBO Max. Warner also shelved "Batgirl" and "Scoob! Holiday Haunt," both of which remain unreleased.

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"Coyote vs. Acme," based on an Ian Frazier "Shouts and Murmurs" New Yorker column, is about Wile E. Coyote suing the Acme Corporation for its faulty products. It stars Will Forte, John Cena, Lana Condor and Eric Bauza.

The film, a hybrid of live-action and animation directed by Dave Green, cost \$70 million to make. But despite good test screening scores, Warner Bros. opted to ax the completed film. After an outcry, the studio put the film up for sale. Early last year, Ketchup Entertainment acquired worldwide distribution rights for about \$50 million.

For the makers of the film, just getting released was a victory.

"Coyote vs. Acme" is finally, gloriously, in theaters now," Green said on social media Friday. "Which means one thing. WE WON."

Reviews and audience scores were also good. Moviegoers gave it an "A" CinemaScore. Critics were just as enthusiastic. On Rotten Tomatoes, it rated 95% fresh.

While the result might have counted as a disappointment for some \$70 million movies, the opening weekend for "Coyote vs. Acme" was the best ever for Ketchup. The indie distributor's previous high was 2024's "The Day the Earth Blew Up" (a \$3.1 million opening), another Warner-made Looney Tunes castoff.

"The box office numbers are fair, but the reception is excellent and the release should set up good ancillary business for kids' viewing, where the film should recoup its investment," said David A. Gross, who publishes the box office newsletter FranchiseRe.

"The Odyssey," in its seventh weekend, slid to third place with \$14.3 million. It remains unusually strong overseas, where the Christopher Nolan movie grossed \$48.6 million over the weekend. Altogether, the Universal Pictures release has collected \$1.55 billion in global sales.

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," \$22.2 million.
2. "Coyote vs. Acme," \$15.5 million.
3. "The Odyssey," \$14.3 million.
4. "Insidious: Out of the Further," \$10.1 million.
5. "The Dog Stars," \$8 million.
6. "Buddy," \$5.4 million.
7. "The End of Oak Street," \$5 million.
8. "PAW Patrol: The Dino Movie," \$4.9 million.
9. "Mutiny," \$2.8 million.
10. "Tony," \$2.2 million.

At least 8 dead after ferry with nearly 270 passengers and crew capsizes off Cyprus' northern coast

BODRUM, Turkey (AP) — At least eight people have died after a ferry carrying nearly 270 passengers and crew capsized off the coast of the breakaway north of ethnically divided Cyprus on Sunday, Turkish media reported.

Unal Ustel, the north's Turkish Cypriot prime minister, told Turkish state broadcaster TRT that 237 people have so far been rescued. A search is underway for another 22 people, officials said.

Ustel said the ferry faced adverse weather conditions and began taking on water just 15 minutes after departure. A call for help was issued shortly after, he said. Police detained eight people — including the ferry captain — as part of an investigation into the sinking, according to Ustel.

Turkish Cypriot leader Tufan Erhurman said weather conditions "were not bad" and urged against speculating about the cause of the accident. He said the vessel went down in waters 500 meters (1,640 feet) deep, encumbering search efforts.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan offered his condolences and said his government was coordinat-

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ing with Northern Cyprus in the search and rescue effort.

"We hope we'll be receiving positive news," Erdogan said on Sunday in Ankara while speaking at the graduation ceremony of the Turkish Military Academy.

The catamaran-style ferry was traveling from the port of Kyrenia, also known as Girne, to the Turkish port of Tasucu in Mersin province.

Kyrenia Mayor Murat Senkul said the ship belonged to the Filo Denizcilik ferry company and sank off the coast of Diana beach on Cyprus' northern coast.

The ferry started taking in water about 7.5 kilometers (4 nautical miles) off the coast, TRT reported.

Video footage from the scene shows people with life-vests floating in the waters around the capsized vessel.

Cyprus was split along ethnic lines in 1974 when Turkish invaded a few days after an Athens junta-backed coup by supporters of union with Greece. Turkish Cypriots declared independence in 1983, but only Turkey recognizes the north where it maintains more than 35,000 troops.

Cyprus joined the European Union in 2004, but only the Greek Cypriot south — where the internationally recognized government is seated — enjoys full benefits.

Cyprus government Constantinos Letymbiotis said in a post on X Sunday that the government had expressed its readiness to assist in search and rescue efforts with all available means.

"In these trying times, our thoughts are with those who lost their lives, those who were injured and all those who are living this tragedy," Letymbiotis said.

"At such times, the protection of human life is paramount."

NASA's newest space telescope launches on a quest to explore the hidden universe

By MARCIA DUNN AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — NASA's newest crown jewel blasted off Sunday to hunt for planets around other stars, explore secret dark energy and survey the cosmos like never before.

SpaceX launched the \$4.3 billion Roman Space Telescope shortly after daybreak aboard a triple-the-firepower Falcon Heavy rocket. Roman blazed toward an observation point 1 million miles (1.6 million kilometers) away that's home to the Webb Space Telescope, one of NASA's other big-ticket eyes in the sky.

The bus-sized telescope — named after the late Nancy Grace Roman, NASA's first chief astronomer — will take more than three months to reach its destination. Once there, it will cast the widest gaze yet on the hidden parts of the universe from space, uncovering the unimaginable with unsurpassed speed.

"It's going to find thousands of supernovae, tens of thousands of planets, billions of galaxies and tens of billions of stars," said NASA science mission director Nicky Fox. "It's going to be able to do things that we've never been able to do before with its massive field of view."

3... 2... 1... Liftoff! And a call from the president

Several minutes after the thunderous launch from Kennedy Space Center, the rocket's two reusable side boosters descended tail-first in a thrilling scene, producing sharp sonic booms as they landed back at Cape Canaveral. Soon afterward, the telescope separated successfully from the rocket's upper stage, drawing applause from ground controllers.

Fox was in tears watching the action unfold. "It's such a good day!" she said.

NASA Administrator Jared Isaacman was in the middle of a news conference a couple hours later, predicting that the Roman Space Telescope would soon become a household name, when his cellphone rang. President Donald Trump was on the line, offering congratulations.

"Boy, it looked beautiful on television," said Trump, fresh off his visit to Houston's Johnson Space Center on Friday to honor the Artemis II moon crew. "You're the hottest in space."

Roman Space Telescope will provide a wider perspective

Roman's field of view is more than 100 times wider than that of NASA's Hubble Space Telescope, still churning out celestial glamour shots after 36 years in orbit. Webb joined the effort several years ago

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with an even narrower yet spot-on vision capable of zooming in on objects almost as old as the universe-creating Big Bang.

These three orbiting powerhouses will join forces — along with the European Space Agency's Euclid spacecraft and the National Science Foundation's Vera C. Rubin Observatory in Chile — to reveal some of the universe's biggest secrets.

Inside the countless galaxies awaiting discovery are stars with planets. Once these new worlds are spotted by Roman, the more powerful and sensitive Webb will take aim to fill in the blanks.

"Roman's vast reach will allow us to find the weird, the rare and the unusual," senior project scientist Julie McEnery said on the eve of launch. "We'll redefine what it means to find a needle in a haystack."

Perhaps even more important, astronomers expect Roman to shed light on the dark matter and dark energy that make up most of the universe yet remain concealed. Roman's catalog of galaxies will help scientists ascertain how quickly the universe is expanding due to these puzzling, unseen forces.

Roman will scan the sky 1,000 times faster than Hubble

Roman's superpower is speed.

A month of Milky Way observations by Roman would take Hubble a century to complete, according to McEnery. Roman should make quick work of scanning the galactic bulge at dead center, she added, providing the deepest look yet into the heart of our galaxy.

Besides a wide-field infrared camera that matches Hubble's sensitivity but is 1,000 times faster, Roman holds an instrument to block out starlight. This experimental, eclipse-creating coronagraph will allow Roman to directly image any planet, however faint, that might be orbiting the masked star.

While Roman isn't designed to search for life, Fox said it will pave the way for future observatories to answer what NASA considers the biggest question: "Are we alone? Is there another Earth 2.0 looking back at me?"

The telescope is designed to be refueled, meaning if a robotic tanker becomes available in the coming decade, that could extend its life.

The telescope's mirror has a surprising origin

Launching nearly a year ahead of schedule and within budget, Roman is NASA's first space telescope to be named after a woman.

Retired NASA scientist Ed Weiler said the honor is long overdue. He coined the phrase "Mother of Hubble" for Roman, who hired him in 1978. Observatories above Earth's obscuring atmosphere can see farther and better, she insisted after joining the brand new NASA in 1959. She died in 2018 at age 93.

"This is very, very fitting. I think Nancy would be very proud" that the namesake telescope will tackle some of the biggest, lingering questions about the universe such as dark energy, Weiler said.

Hubble launched in 1990 with a flawed mirror that required spacewalking astronauts' dramatic intervention. Roman's primary mirror is the same size as Hubble's — nearly 8 feet (2.4 meters) in diameter — and is actually spy satellite surplus.

The National Reconnaissance Office donated two leftover mirrors to NASA more than a decade ago for repurposing. The second mirror is still in storage.

Olivia Rodrigo's festival is uniting women and girls behind nonprofits promoting their well-being

By JAMES POLLARD Associated Press

Evoking the same do-it-yourself pop-rock feminism of her '90s musical influences, Olivia Rodrigo raised \$20 million for women's well-being with a benefit show that activated her young audience.

Daisy Chain Fields united a women-led lineup boasting queer pop star Chappell Roan, breakout rapper Doechii and riot grrrl pioneers Bikini Kill behind issues of women's health, workplace protections and legal rights. Ahead of Saturday's festival in Irvine, California, Rodrigo announced the show had already raised enough to make a \$10 million donation to 10 nonprofit partners including Planned Parenthood, National Women's Law Center and Black Mamas Matter Alliance.

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Philanthropist Melinda French Gates pledged another \$10 million through her Pivotal Ventures in a surprise appearance at the start of Rodrigo's set, praising her for "showing a new generation how much their voices matter."

Rodrigo said the festival's artists and activists give her hope despite the "regression of women's rights" today.

"That's actually why I fell in love with the name 'Daisy Chain,'" she said Friday. "It served as a reminder of how individual parts can come together to create something strong and unbreakable."

Rodrigo, 23, has made a name channeling the rage and dissatisfaction of modern romance into chart-topping songs that are equal parts Taylor Swift and Alanis Morissette. Now, she looks to bridge the gap between Gen Z and nonprofits, which have struggled to build relationships with younger donors who tend to prefer informal ways of giving.

The connection is not lost on Daisy Chain Fields attendees.

"People don't join together and mobilize unless they feel connected to the group that is mobilizing," said Grace Slevin, 24. "What's better than music?"

All-star benefit concerts have proven popular for driving millions of dollars toward everything from refugee relief to pandemic response. But it's been decades since a young artist with Rodrigo's following brought her peers together for gender justice.

That focus comes as President Donald Trump attempts to overhaul family planning grants that reproductive health clinics use to provide birth control and treat sexually transmitted infections. His administration paused \$27.5 million last year for such organizations, including some Planned Parenthood affiliates, before officials agreed to restore the money.

For Slevin, an Orange County, California, resident who does anti-sex-trafficking advocacy, Daisy Chain Fields embodies the sentiment of "be who you needed when you were younger." She loves that attendees are welcome to learn about the beneficiaries' work in addition to donating.

Nonprofit partners engaged with fans in Daisy Chain Fields' "philanthropy village." Festivalgoers collected pins from booths as they learned about health services from Planned Parenthood or pay tribute to caregivers through the National Domestic Workers Alliance.

An art installation by the Guerilla Girls, anonymous artist activists, invited fans to air their grievances on chalkboards. Handwritten responses included "PROTECT QUEER KIDS!" and "Put women in charge and pay us more!!!" as well as "ICE OUT!" and "ABORTION RIGHTS 4 ALL."

Younger generations expect a level of authenticity beyond a "pseudo-sort-of-progressiveness," Slevin said. "They can see just how deeply intertwined the music is with the cause," she said. "It's not just, like, a second thought."

Do you get déjà vu? Rodrigo's effort recalls '90s feminist push

Rodrigo took inspiration from Lilith Fair, the all-women festival that raised \$10 million for charity from 1997 to 1999. Sarah McLachlan, who founded the show to dispel the music industry's notion they couldn't book women consecutively, performed with Rodrigo Saturday.

Planned Parenthood National Director of Arts and Entertainment Caren Spruch recalled working on Lilith Fair, adding that concert outreach is an important tool to reach people "where they are."

That culture-shifting work grows more important during times like this, she acknowledged, when abortion clinics are closing in restrictive states and anti-abortion groups are pushing the courts to limit access to drugs most commonly used in abortion.

Rodrigo, Spruch said, talks about those topics with "no shame or stigma." As she did with other nonprofits, the three-time Grammy winner appeared in informational videos on Planned Parenthood's social media.

"All of that does so much to help us normalize the whole range of reproductive health and rights," Spruch said.

Intergenerational change

Melissa Shaw, 33, drove to the festival from Tucson, Arizona, with her 8-year-old daughter.

They didn't plan to spend the day camped out for close-up views. Shaw wanted to let her daughter ask

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questions as they explored the nonprofits and visited art installations. She appreciates that Rodrigo is not only promoting well-known organizations such as Planned Parenthood, but also groups focused specifically on Black maternal health or baby formula access.

"It's really important for me as a parent to expose my daughter to celebrities who set that example," Shaw said.

To her, the lineup seemed intentionally curated to attract multiple generations. Her daughter loves Rodrigo and Roan, and she herself grew up listening to Bikini Kill and fellow performer Santigold. She saw many mother-daughter duos sharing their festival plans online.

The festival's nonprofit partners were eager to join that multigenerational community of women, too.

"At a time when decisions about our bodies, our health, our safety and our futures are being made for us not by us, a day built around care and community is its own kind of statement," FreeFrom founder Sonya Passi said in a statement.

National Domestic Workers Alliance President Ai-jen Poo said the festival's joyful atmosphere serves as a "powerful reminder to women everywhere of all ages that, no matter what, we have each other."

Her organization works to ensure federal workplace protections for domestic workers, who are disproportionately women and immigrant women. She wants to recruit more young people, many of whom she said are worried they can't afford to take care of their loved ones or start families.

"The only way change happens is through intergenerational connection and movements in our country," she said. "This generation of young people has the opportunity to really change how we support caregiving for future generations."

Philanthropy takes center stage

Organizers vowed to work with nonprofit partners to put the grants toward their most urgent and under-resourced needs.

Newer nonprofits also appreciated the opportunity to expand their networks. Black Mamas Matter Alliance co-founder Angela Doyinsola Aina said the nonprofit, just 10 years old, reached people who wouldn't have otherwise encountered their work on Black maternal health.

For the National Women's Law Center, the gift offers flexibility to plug their own budgetary holes as they litigate sex discrimination cases. Uma Iyer, the nonprofit's chief external affairs officer, said the support also boosted staff morale.

"We work on really hard things every day," she said. "It was really energizing for us and it's been really uplifting."

Including both everyday audiences and front-line workers in benefits is key, according to Farm Aid co-executive director Jennifer Fahy. The annual fundraising concerts — launched by Willie Nelson, Neil Young and John Mellencamp to raise awareness of family farmers' challenges — celebrated their 40th anniversary last year.

"It's just wonderful to see an artist of that generation, that new young generation, who is embracing that opportunity that exists to do these kinds of events, to share the stage and microphone to highlight issues that are important to the artist," Fahy said.

Moulton says Sen. Markey, 80, is too old for another term. Young Massachusetts Democrats are divided

By LEAH WILLINGHAM Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — In a race that has centered on whether Ed Markey, 80, is too old for another U.S. Senate term, the Massachusetts Democrat's answer to a recent debate question was especially striking.

When asked whether he uses AI platforms like Claude or ChatGPT in his work, Markey seemed unclear on the topic. He responded that he uses "whatever is inside of my iPhone or my iPad — whatever comes up" and added that he doesn't know "what companies my iPad may be using."

For Arsen Bagdassarian, an 18-year-old supporter of Markey's rival, 47-year-old U.S. Rep. Seth Moulton, the answer reinforced a concern that has become central to Moulton's campaign to unseat the incumbent

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in Tuesday's party primary: that Markey, who would be 86 at the end of another term, is too old to represent a generation confronting problems that didn't exist when Markey entered Congress 50 years ago.

"To be frank, I didn't expect him to be as clueless as he really was on that topic," said Bagdassarian, an incoming freshman at Boston's Northeastern University. Artificial intelligence is "a major concern," he said, and the country needs leaders "who understand what they're being asked to regulate."

The 2026 midterms have brought a number of generational challenges like the one Moulton is waging against Markey, with younger Democrats taking on — and in some cases unseating — longtime incumbents. There are signs that Democratic voters, especially, are looking for change, and some young voters argue older politicians can't truly understand a world transformed by artificial intelligence, rising housing costs and student debt.

But that hasn't been the case for all young people voting for the Senate nominee in a heavily Democratic state where the primary often decides who wins office. Markey has a strong following of young supporters, some of whom say that the internal party debate is more over policy than age. He's won the endorsement of the High School Democrats of America and the College Democrats of America, as well as the backing of popular progressives such as U.S. Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of New York and New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani.

Among those younger supporters is Matt Kelly, president of the UMass Lowell College Democrats. Kelly doesn't dispute that Markey stumbled when asked about his use of AI, saying, "I'll admit it wasn't a good answer."

But Kelly said he cares less about whether Markey knows how to use the latest technology than whether he understands how to govern it. Moulton's relative youth, Kelly said, doesn't necessarily make his views more representative of young voters.

"Just because he has a younger face doesn't mean that he has younger ideas," he said.

For young Markey supporters, longevity can be an asset

Many of Markey's younger supporters turn Moulton's argument about the senator's 50-year political career on its head. To them, longevity provides a record they can judge — one that shows whether politicians held the same positions before they became popular with younger voters. One example is Markey's vote in 2002 against the creation of the Department of Homeland Security, which later led to the creation of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Milan van Dam, a 17-year-old who serves as national chair of the High School Democrats of America, said generational leadership is "less about an age on a Wikipedia page" than the ideas a candidate represents and their consistency through time.

Abby Shadden, a 21-year-old Emmanuel College student, similarly pointed to Markey's co-authorship of the Green New Deal and his early support for Medicare for All.

"There is this idea that younger people are just automatically more progressive when, in this case, it is very much not true," she said.

For Kelly, the debate over AI is already playing out close to home. A proposed data center in Lowell, where he attends college, has generated opposition from some residents over its potential impact on the community. Kelly said Markey's push for greater regulation of data centers matters more to him than the senator's awkward answer about AI.

Kelly said his generation will be graduating into an economy increasingly shaped by artificial intelligence while facing a cost of living that has made it harder to achieve the same financial security as previous generations.

"Yes, Ed Markey's answer rhetorically didn't come off well, optically didn't look well," Kelly said. But when it comes to who will be good for "the group that's graduating into this new economy," he said, Markey's record matters more.

Moulton says it's time for a new generation of Democratic leaders

Moulton seized on Markey's debate answer, telling him: "Senator, if you don't even know what you're using on your phone or your iPad, like this is why we need a new generation of leaders to regulate these

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technologies." Moulton called Markey's loose grasp of the technology "potentially disqualifying."

Markey pushed back, saying, "It doesn't make any difference whether it's called Siri or it's called Claude," and emphasizing that familiarity with individual AI products was less important than putting safeguards around the technology. He pointed to legislation he has introduced to regulate AI's effects on children, workers, civil rights, and the environment.

Moulton has emphasized Markey's age throughout the race, calling for "generational change" and age limits for members of Congress.

For some of Moulton's young supporters, however, the argument is about more than the candidates' ages.

Molly Blander, an 18-year-old incoming Tufts University freshman, pointed to artificial intelligence and social media as technologies that have reshaped life for her generation — including its mental health. She cited Moulton's work to establish 988 as the national suicide and crisis lifeline as an example of the kind of response she wants to see.

"Social media has created a modern mental health problem, so we need modern solutions," Blander said.

"The world before AI is so different than it is now," Blander added. "I think what was hard to see and hard to understand is that my senator does not understand one of the challenges that we've been facing."

Her generation's political world has also been shaped by Republican President Donald Trump.

"In my lifetime, I haven't seen the Democratic Party and the Democratic establishment really make things much better," she said, pointing to rising housing and energy costs and Trump's rise and reelection. "And so I feel like the status quo and the establishment that we have now just isn't working."

College sports kicks off its season under the long shadow of court fights over eligibility

By EDDIE PELLIS AP National Writer

Imagine the Dallas Cowboys threatening to sue the NFC East, then teams in the division saying they won't play them unless they remove a player from their roster. No well-run pro sports league would dream of it.

College sports? Threats, lawsuits and instability are now as common as play-action passes and handoffs.

The week leading to the start of the 2026 season featured LSU and the Southeastern Conference squaring off amid a destabilizing frenzy of lawsuits over eligibility and the mind-bending reality that players who signed on with a pro team, albeit briefly, might soon be suiting up in college again. Two months ago, it was the Big 12 going to court against one of its own teams, Texas Tech.

In between: threats about leagues breaking away, talk of "conference-led governance" and a bill meandering through Congress that proposes to fix it all.

"We can enjoy the fact that the players can benefit financially from playing in college now," Duke football coach Manny Diaz said, diagnosing the original reason for the problem. "At the same time, recognize the ultimate truth that we're not a professional sports franchise. We are a collegiate, scholastic school activity, and we've got to rein that in."

Or, as Barbara Osborne, a professor at the North Carolina law school who is an expert on NCAA governance put it: "The difference between a professional sports league and collegiate athletics is literally night and day."

Indeed, most colleges are public institutions whose athletic departments are a small part of the overall equation on their campuses. Unlike pro sports, where finances usually rule the day, decision-makers in college come from classrooms, boardrooms and research programs. Even when teams in a certain conference (like the SEC) or division (like Division I) agree, the decisions don't always lead to smooth sailing.

Eligibility issues consistently land the NCAA in court

In the past week, in the wake of the NCAA's new five-year eligibility rule that excluded last year's graduating class from that extra year, the Big Ten and SEC passed rules barring players from returning after leaving for the pros. The Big 12 and ACC quickly passed similar rules.

But there were no immediate signs that LSU — the SEC school actually planning on bringing back some pros — was changing its plans. Louisiana's governor, who keeps his hand in sports at the state's biggest

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school, declared: "Don't hate the player, hate the game."

The Big 12's lawsuit against its own team, Texas Tech, came in June after quarterback Brendan Sorsby's admission that he had a gambling addiction. Sorsby eventually withdrew from college and gave up the fight, but the lawsuit lingers on — triggered by a state court order that had temporarily allowed Sorsby to play despite the NCAA longtime ban of players who gamble.

On all the different forms the eligibility issue takes, the courts are having quite a say. The smartest plaintiffs' attorneys are doing a good job shopping for judges sympathetic to their cases — and there are more than 30 at the moment with nearly 400 athletes involved. Most claim it is unfair to exclude high school Class of 2022 athletes the way the NCAA rule did, but it's also clear that many athletes hoping to come back can count on money — revenue-sharing, NIL deals — that were not available six years ago.

"Unfortunately, this is the latest example of member schools weaponizing locally elected judges to skirt member-agreed upon rules," said NCAA senior vice president Tim Buckley in response to a ruling from a Louisiana judge who sparked the LSU case and keeps finding against the NCAA and SEC. "College sports are supposed to be a launching pad to careers, not a fallback for professional athletes who already competed throughout their time in college."

Lots of ideas to fix problems, no solutions on the horizon

Senators, governors, commissioners, judges, lawyers, regents and even the president of the United States have taken cracks at fixing the problems that engulf college sports. None have stemmed the cascade of lawsuits.

One of the most pressing issues is a federal antitrust exemption, the likes of which most pro sports have some part of but college does not. Not having it has left the NCAA and its schools open to legal challenges for decades. The most notable — and the genesis of the trouble college sports currently finds itself in — involved players' right to earn endorsement money.

A trio of lawsuits dating to 2009 have, in many ways, settled that debate, forcing schools to open their pocketbooks which, in turn, has made them have to find new ways to generate revenue and control costs.

Other issues — namely, those involving eligibility — leave the NCAA open to litigation.

"There are certain premises in college athletics that I think the public supports," said Tyrone Thomas, an attorney at Fox Rothchild who advises universities and pro programs on employment and compliance issues. "We need some rules that are enforceable within the system that we're in. But we're in a system that's only been around for less than a half-dozen years. I think it makes sense to keep the perspective on where we are now, compared to where we were."

The Senate bill seeks to provide the NCAA limited lawsuit protection over issues like rulemaking about eligibility. Absent that passing you get weeks, and summers, like the one we've just witnessed.

Two of the core principles of college sports is that they are not played by pros; and they cannot be played by players who gamble on the games they play. But even those somewhat uncontroversial ideas have been muddled by the facts that these "amateur" players are getting paid — and that some of the very schools that disdain gambling now have gambling companies as sponsors.

Thomas offered a glimmer of hope in the fact that the flurry of court actions involved in the five-year rule have a limited number of potential plaintiffs — only those who graduated high school in 2022 and saw their eligibility run out last spring.

"I look at these as maybe not the house-on-fire issue of the day," he said. "There are definitely 'fire' issues. But I don't look at the essential 'house-on-fire' issue that's going to determine how things move forward."

Today in History: August 31

Diana, Princess of Wales, dies in Paris crash

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Monday, Aug. 31, the 243rd day of 2026. There are 122 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On Aug. 31, 1997, Diana, Princess of Wales, was killed after the car she was riding in crashed in Paris;

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her partner Dodi Fayed and driver Henri Paul (who was found to have been intoxicated at the time of the accident) also died.

Also on this date:

In 1881, the first U.S. tennis championships (for men only) began in Newport, Rhode Island.

In 1886, an earthquake with an estimated magnitude of up to 7.3 devastated Charleston, South Carolina, killing at least 60 people.

In 1962, the Caribbean nation of Trinidad and Tobago became independent of British colonial rule.

In 1972, the charismatic Soviet gymnast Olga Korbut, 17, won individual gold medals on the balance beam and floor exercise at the Summer Olympics in Munich; she also won gold for the team all-around competition and a silver in the uneven parallel bars.

In 1980, Poland's Solidarity labor movement was born with an agreement signed in Gdansk (guh-DANSK') that ended a 17-day-old strike.

In 1992, white separatist Randy Weaver surrendered to authorities in Idaho, ending an 11-day siege by federal agents that had claimed the lives of Weaver's wife, son and a deputy U.S. marshal.

In 1994, Russia officially ended its military presence in the former East Germany and the Baltics after half a century.

In 2006, Edvard Munch's painting "The Scream" was recovered by Norwegian authorities after being stolen nine days earlier.

In 2010, President Barack Obama announced the end of the U.S. combat mission in Iraq, declaring no victory after seven years of bloodshed and telling those divided over the war in his country and around the world: "it's time to turn the page."

In 2019, a gunman carried out a shooting rampage that stretched 10 miles between the Texas communities of Midland and Odessa, leaving seven people dead before police killed the shooter outside a movie theater in Odessa.

In 2025, a landslide wiped out an entire village in Sudan's western region of Darfur, killing an estimated 1,000 people in one of the deadliest natural disasters in the African country's recent history.

Today's Birthdays: World Golf Hall of Famer Isao Aoki is 84. Violinist Itzhak Perlman is 81. Singer Van Morrison is 81. Rock musician Rudolf Schenker (The Scorpions) is 78. Actor Richard Gere is 77. Actor Stephen McKinley Henderson is 77. Attorney and author Marcia Clark is 73. Olympic gold medal hurdler Edwin Moses is 71. Rock singer Glenn Tilbrook (Squeeze) is 69. Rock musician Gina Schock (The Go-Go's) is 69. Singer-composer Deborah Gibson is 56. Queen Rania of Jordan is 56. Golfer Pádraig (PAH'-drig) Harrington is 55. Actor Chris Tucker is 55. Actor Sara Ramirez is 51. Former NFL wide receiver Larry Fitzgerald is 43. NBA All-Star Jalen Brunson is 30. Actor Jaylen Barron is 29. Actor Jason Maybaum is 19.