

Groton Daily Independent

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Community Calendar

Tuesday, Sept. 1

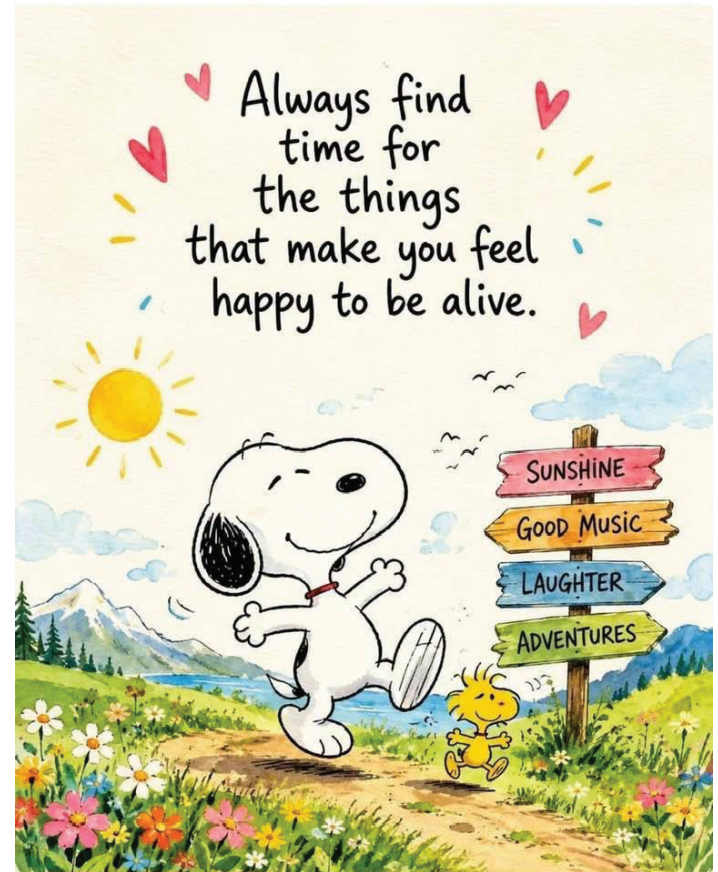
Senior Menu: Vegetable stir fry with chicken, brown rice, fruit, whole wheat bread.
School Breakfast: Cereal
School Lunch: French bread pizza, peas.
Boys Golf at Milbank, 10 a.m.
Volleyball hosts Ipswich: (7th/C at 5 p.m., 8th/JV at 6 p.m., Varsity to follow)
Pickleball at Elementary Gymnasium, 5:30 p.m.
City Council Meeting, 7 p.m. (Postponed to Thursday)
United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.

Groton Daily Independent

PO Box 34, Groton SD 57445

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

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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.
City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
Sixth Grade football hosts Aberdeen, 6 p.m.
Emmanuel Lutheran: Nigeria Circle, 2 p.m.

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1440

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

Apple's New Era

John Ternus takes over as CEO of Apple today, succeeding Tim Cook after 15 years at the helm of the \$4.6T tech giant. The 51-year-old joined Apple in 2001 and most recently led hardware engineering, overseeing products including the iPhone, iPad, Mac, and AirPods.

Ternus inherits a company looking to strengthen its position in AI and develop new product categories. His first major product event comes next week when Apple is expected to unveil its latest iPhones, including its long-awaited first foldable model. Early in his Apple career, Ternus reportedly spent hours counting tiny grooves on screw heads to make sure a supplier matched Apple's design.

Cook will remain executive chairman. Since succeeding Steve Jobs in 2011, he oversaw annual revenue growth from roughly \$108B to over \$400B, the launches of the Apple Watch and AirPods, and the shipment of roughly 3.1 billion iPhones.

Grand Canyon Flooding

Authorities discovered a second body yesterday after flash flooding hit parts of Grand Canyon National Park Saturday. About 15 people were still missing as of this writing; more than 60 people have been airlifted to safety.

The deluge impacted Bright Angel Creek and Phantom Ranch, a remote area accessible by hiking, mule, or rafting. Four waves of rainfall set the conditions for flash flooding, including downfall on the so-called Dragon Bravo fire scar, where lightning caused a wildfire last year. Nearly all footbridges to the creek were destroyed. The flooding also damaged the canyon's sole water pipeline, leading to water restrictions for visitors and more than 1,000 residents.

Grand Canyon National Park is the US' fourth-most visited national park, receiving more than 4.4 million visitors last year.

Galliano Exhibit Canceled

The Metropolitan Museum of Art canceled its spring 2027 exhibit honoring British fashion designer John Galliano yesterday over his history of antisemitic and anti-Asian remarks.

Galliano earned a reputation in the 1990s as one of high fashion's most influential designers, known for his avant-garde and theatrical style. However, fashion house Christian Dior fired him in 2011 after a video surfaced of him saying, "I love Hitler." Months later, a French court convicted Galliano of a hate crime for directing antisemitic and anti-Asian insults at patrons of a Parisian bar. Galliano later apologized, attributing the comments to alcohol and prescription drug abuse. In 2014, he was hired as the creative director of fashion house Maison Margiela.

The spring show dictates the theme and title of the Met Gala, the Costume Institute's primary fundraiser that draws hundreds of celebrities annually. The museum will announce a new exhibit for spring 2027 later this year.

👉 **Humankind:** A Pennsylvania hospital reunites NICU staff with former patients and their families at a pajama party.

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Sports, Entertainment, & Culture

Jury finds Duane "Keffe D" Davis guilty of first-degree murder in the 1996 killing of rapper Tupac Shakur. Lionel Messi retires from international soccer at age 39, capping a career that included eight Ballon d'Or awards and one World Cup win; will continue to play for US Major League Soccer club Inter Miami.

Howard Stern inks deal with HBO Max to bring filmed episodes of his SiriusXM show to the streamer beginning Sept. 17.

Singer D4vd pleads not guilty to murder of 14-year-old girl after parting ways with his legal team.

Science & Technology

The EU subjects ChatGPT, Reddit, and Roblox to stricter rules as they surpass 45 million monthly users, including annual risk assessments.

Blocking a protein in certain breast cancer cells can weaken tumors' mitochondria, improving the efficacy of a second drug; two-pronged approach may avoid the need for chemotherapy, a new preclinical study suggests.

Researchers name new predatory spider species found in Idaho's Rocky Mountains "Hexura vandal" after University of Idaho's mascot (More, w/photo) | How do new species get their names?

Business & Markets

US stock markets close lower (S&P 500 -0.3%, Dow -0.7%, Nasdaq -0.1%) as renewed US-Iran fighting pushes oil prices higher; Dow finishes in positive territory for fifth straight month.

Amazon sued by FTC and 22 states, alleging it secretly inflated prices for its online ads and auction systems, costing advertisers tens of billions of dollars.

Prediction market Kalshi issues first-ever lifetime ban to former Rep. George Santos (R, NY-3), who allegedly made over \$17K betting on whether he would attend President Donald Trump's State of the Union.

Politics & World Affairs

Army Secretary Dan Driscoll resigns, reportedly after months of tension with Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth, including over staffing decisions.

House Intelligence Committee report reviewing 9/11 Commission report treats China as the top counterintelligence threat, warns AI could pose a 9/11-level threat.

Supreme Court rules 5-4 to allow \$400M White House ballroom construction to continue as lower courts consider challenges; new ballroom is believed to be 65% completed.

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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**Volleyball**
Ipswich at
Groton Area
Tuesday, Sept. 1, 5 p.m.



Groton
Area
Tigers
Groton, SD

GDILIVE
 YouTube
A production of the
Groton Daily Independent

For more info: GDILIVE.COM



C match at 5 p.m.
JV at 6 p.m.
Varsity to Follow

Varsity match sponsors on GDILIVE.COM are: Agtegra, Avantara-Groton,
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Dacotah Bank, Farmers Union Insurance, Groton Ag Partner,
Groton Chamber, Groton Ford, Heartland Energy, Jacobson Electric,
John Sieh Agency, Jungle Lanes & Cafe,
Rix Farms / R&M Farms, S & S Lumber,
Spanier Harvesting and
The Meat House of Andover.

Name Released in Turner County Fatal Crash

What: Single-vehicle fatal crash

Where: 451st Avenue and 269th Street, 6 miles northwest of Parker, South Dakota

When: 6:12 p.m., Thursday, August 27, 2026

Driver 1: Nancy Jane Ruland, 61-year-old female from Parker, South Dakota, fatal injuries

Vehicle 1: 2019 Toyota Rav 4

Seat Belt Used: Yes

Turner County, S.D.- A Parker woman died Thursday in a single-vehicle crash near Parker, South Dakota.

Preliminary crash information indicates Nancy Jane Ruland, the driver of a 2019 Toyota Rav 4, was traveling northbound on 451st Avenue near the 269th Street intersection. The Toyota left the road, drove over a culvert, and rolled. It came to a rest upside down in a shallow pond. Ruland sustained fatal injuries.

The investigation is ongoing. All information released is preliminary.

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



SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

South Dakota seeks to ban use of food assistance for soda purchases as court ruling clouds issue

BY MAKENZIE HUBER

The South Dakota Department of Social Services said Monday that it submitted a request to the U.S. Department of Agriculture to bar the purchase of soft drinks with government food assistance, after a June court decision vacated similar bans in five states and caused some other states to delay implementing their bans.

A Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program waiver from the federal government is necessary for states to limit the kinds of food or beverages that can be purchased using the benefits, which in South Dakota are loaded onto cards that function like debit cards. South Dakota's Legislature and governor approved a law earlier this year requiring the state Department of Social Services to seek a waiver to ban soft drink purchases, and to submit the waiver application by this Tuesday.

The new law defines a "soft drink" as "a nonalcoholic beverage that contains natural or artificial sweeteners," with exemptions for milk or milk products; rice, soy or similar milk substitutes; and some juices.

Benefits are available to income-eligible families, and in South Dakota they can be used to purchase nearly any kind of food or beverage. Roughly 72,000 people, or 36,500 households, receive benefits in South Dakota, according to the department.

The department said in a news release that the ban on soft drinks will begin six months after federal approval, though it did not address the federal court decision or delays in other states.

North Dakota was set to ban candy, soda and other sweetened drinks this week, but delayed its rollout. The North Dakota Health and Human Services Department received a letter from the USDA citing the recent federal court decision that struck down similar bans in five states. The decision criticized the USDA for not following requirements to publish notice of the restrictions and accept public comment.

North Dakota and South Carolina are among the states postponing their restrictions to Nov. 1 to allow the USDA to consider the impact of the court decision, publish a public notice in the Federal Register and assess public comment before each state's ban goes into effect.

The USDA has approved 23 SNAP food restriction waivers, according to its website, including the five states where the waivers were vacated by the court ruling.

Sioux Falls Republican Rep. Taylor Rehfeldt introduced the bill requiring South Dakota to seek a waiver. Rehfeldt, a nurse anesthetist, said the submitted waiver is "progress," despite the potential delay.

"I think it's important that we move forward with what's best for South Dakota," Rehfeldt said. "And what's best for South Dakota is getting unhealthy, sugary drinks out of the SNAP program — both from a patient and holistic health standpoint and as responsible stewards of taxpayer dollars."

Opponents said during the legislative session that the bill would create administrative burdens for the state and retailers without producing the desired effects.

"If our goal is better nutrition, we should reward nutritious choices instead of punishing food choices," said Rep. Liz May, R-Kyle, during debate on the bill in February. May is a grocery store owner.

An estimate prepared by the Legislative Research Council said hiring the staff and paying for the software necessary to implement a ban would cost the state \$310,000 in the first two years, and about a quarter-million dollars annually thereafter.

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.

Food landscape assessment reveals South Dakota's gaps in access, affordability and assistance

BY MAKENZIE HUBER

In a survey weighted toward South Dakotans most likely to experience food insecurity, 30% indicated they were skipping meals to stay within their budget, according to the recently released South Dakota Food Landscape Assessment.

The assessment is the first of its kind in the state, identifying gaps in food affordability, access, assistance, availability and quality statewide. The information will give policymakers, lawmakers, researchers and community organizers a shared foundation to improve programs and drive policy changes, said Jennifer Folliard, principal consultant at Health and Nutrition First and coordinator for the South Dakota Healthy Nutrition Collaborative.

With the skipped meals and affordability information in hand, for example, the report recommends introducing produce prescriptions in South Dakota — a program that lets healthcare providers “prescribe” fruits and vegetables, redeemable at grocery stores or farmers markets. Other states have funded similar programs through Medicaid waivers, which allow states to use federal health insurance dollars in new ways, or through nonprofit funding.

The idea was discussed during the latest legislative session, Folliard said, when lawmakers approved a law that requires the state Department of Social Services to seek a waiver to ban soft drinks from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. The state submitted its waiver request on Monday.

“When we were talking about SNAP restrictions, we also tried to raise the idea that if you restrict, it’s also good to incentivize healthy food,” Folliard said. “I think we can have those conversations next session a little bit more based on the data that came from this report.”

The state Department of Health has already designated child food sufficiency as a priority through its maternal and child health programs, providing momentum for the collaborative’s work, Folliard said.

The longer-term goal is a full food systems plan — a coordinated, statewide strategy for how food is grown, distributed and accessed, especially during times of economic stress. The collaborative is seeking funding to create the plan.

The assessment was produced through a partnership with the state Department of Health, Avera Research Institute, University of South Dakota’s Center for Prevention of Child Maltreatment, and the South Dakota Healthy Nutrition Collaborative. The collaborative brings together 40 organizations, including the state departments of Health, Human Services and Social Services.

More than 500 people participated in the assessment survey — including 217 community members (weighted toward South Dakotans most at risk of food insecurity based on age, geography and tribal affiliation) and 295 people involved in the food system, in fields such as healthcare, education, policy, etc. The assessment also included one-on-one interviews and focus groups.

Food security information is often scattered across agencies and organizations, Folliard said, making it hard for anyone to see the full picture.

“Food is at the base of all health,” said Folliard, who co-authored the assessment. “It’s everywhere, so no one’s taking ownership of it. The organizations that came together for this assessment recognized that we all have to play a part in figuring this out together.”

In South Dakota, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 1 in 8 people and 1 in 5 children have limited or uncertain access to enough food, and 1 in 8 residents eat enough fruits and vegetables each day.

Those gaps don’t just affect individual health — they can drive up healthcare costs, strain schools and social services, and limit economic opportunity across the state, the assessment said.

In addition to affordability, the assessment included findings in key areas of food security and the state's food system, including:

Assistance: About 70,000 South Dakotans rely on the federal-state Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, and income cutoffs create a "benefits cliff" where earning slightly more can cost a family nearly \$1,000 in monthly food assistance.

Access: 13 counties have food insecurity rates above the national average and 43 counties are considered food swamps, which are areas where dollar stores and convenience stores outnumber grocery stores.

Availability: 359 of South Dakota's 28,299 farms are specialty operations growing the fruits, vegetables and whole foods that improve nutrition security.

The assessment's data extends beyond the published report. The state Department of Health recently launched an interactive dashboard because of the assessment, drawing on several datasets — dollar-store counts, diabetes rates, farm-to-school participation and SNAP vendor locations — that the department will update periodically.

That information gives local governments, community organizations and researchers the ability to examine their specific county and identify where targeted action is most needed, said Christine Hockett, director of community research at Avera Research Institute and a University of South Dakota associate professor who co-authored the assessment.

"When reports like these are published, a lot of times it happens once and then it's like, 'OK, what happens now?' There's no sustainability plan," Hockett said. "As we were harmonizing and bringing the data together, we were doing it with the idea that we would ultimately share this with the Department of Health to make it accessible to everybody."

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.

Summit forfeits two CO2 storage permits in North Dakota, continues legal fight over third

BY JACOB ORLEDGE AND JEFF BEACH

Summit Carbon Solutions is abandoning two-thirds of its planned project to store carbon dioxide underground in North Dakota.

The company, which had been granted permits to store CO2 in three designated areas in central North Dakota, has requested permits for two of the areas to be canceled.

"Summit #1 and Summit #2 have determined as a matter of business judgment that they will not proceed with development, construction, operation, or implementation of either proposed storage facility," Summit said in a filing with the North Dakota Supreme Court.

A North Dakota district court voided permits for all three areas earlier this year. Summit and the state are appealing that decision. But the company is now asking the Supreme Court to limit the appeal to one of the storage areas, known as Summit #3.

The company's decision to abandon two of its storage facility permits is a victory for many of the landowners opposing the project. Most of those landowners have objected to what they characterize as the company's unwillingness to negotiate on matters of liability and compensation. Only one of the landowners involved in the litigation owns property in the third storage area.

In an email last week, Summit said it is prioritizing Summit #3, where the company has about 98% of the storage rights secured.

Summit's filing stated the Industrial Commission, a three-member board chaired by Gov. Kelly Armstrong that regulates CO2 storage among other things, had approved the two permit cancellations.

The company's original proposal involved transporting carbon dioxide from ethanol plants in five states

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to central North Dakota where it could be injected into rock layers deep underground. The injection sites were located at the intersection of Mercer, McLean and Oliver counties.

Summit announced a change of plans earlier this year. The company now plans to transport carbon dioxide to a storage site in Wyoming for injection underground, but did not close the door on continuing to pursue its North Dakota operations to some degree.

Summit said in an email that its North Dakota pipeline route easements and storage rights are still valuable assets.

"Over time, we expect to further develop and utilize these assets as opportunities materialize," the statement said.

The company's storage permits from the Industrial Commission, the state law authorizing the Industrial Commission to issue those permits, and the pipeline route permit from the Public Service Commission are all the subject of litigation in North Dakota. District court judges have voided the storage permits and struck down the underlying law; both cases are on appeal to the Supreme Court. The third case is waiting on a decision from the district court.

This story was originally produced by North Dakota Monitor, which is part of States Newsroom, a nonprofit news network which includes South Dakota Searchlight, and is supported by grants and a coalition of donors as a 501c(3) public charity.

Jacob Orledge is a reporter based in Bismarck through ProPublica's Local Reporting Network. He most recently worked for the Tioga Tribune in Williams County. You can reach him at jorledge@northdakotamonitor.com.

North Dakota Monitor Deputy Editor Jeff Beach is based in the Fargo area. His interests include agriculture, renewable energy and rural issues.

US Supreme Court lets Trump move ahead with his White House ballroom project

BY ASHLEY MURRAY

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump does not have to follow a lower court order to stop above-ground construction on his \$400 million East Wing ballroom, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled Monday in a 5-4 decision, all but guaranteeing work on the new complex will continue to accelerate.

In an opinion from the conservative super-majority, the justices wrote that historic preservationists who sued to stop the project likely do not have standing and that the administration would be irreparably harmed by halting the construction.

National security officials, including several Cabinet members, the majority justices wrote, issued statements in the case "attesting to national security and other harms that would likely arise from enjoining a 'single, coherent' project that cannot be readily cleaved into distinct below- and above-ground pieces."

"The Secretary of the Army, for example, represents that '[t]he height and mass' of the planned above-ground ballroom are 'crucial' to shield the planned underground military installation 'from kinetic impacts,' and that, without such height and mass, 'engineers would need to dig impractically deep,'" according to the unsigned opinion.

The justices wrote the stay is in effect pending a "timely" petition from the Trump administration to ask the high court to take the case this upcoming term, also known as granting a writ of certiorari. Monday's opinion came from what's known as the emergency docket, which provides expedited decisions without full oral arguments.

"Should certiorari be denied, this stay shall terminate automatically. In the event certiorari is granted, the stay shall terminate upon the sending down of the judgment of this Court," the justices wrote.

Trump triumphant

Trump wrote on his platform Truth Social that he's "pleased to report that the United States Supreme Court has just ruled in favor of the Ballroom/Military Complex being built without any further contingency, doubt, or threat. We are living in the Golden Age of America, and this Building will be one of the Greatest

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ever constructed in Washington, D.C.”

Trump added he expects the “magnificent” project to be completed by the summer of 2028 and that it is “totally funded by Great Patriots and Corporations and, therefore, is a Gift — At no cost to the American Taxpayer.”

The administration has maintained in court filings that the East Wing project is paid for by private donations.

Trump continued: “The Project, despite the baseless lawsuit brought by the so-called National Trust for Historic Preservation of the United States, which is not in any way affiliated with the United States Government, is under budget and ahead of schedule.”

Brent Leggs, president and CEO of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, said in a statement the organization is “deeply disappointed” and disagrees with the ruling.

“It is noteworthy that the majority did not weigh in on whether the ballroom project was in fact legal.

We are pleased with Chief Justice Robert’s strong dissent, which reiterated what we have maintained from the start of our case—that construction of the White House ballroom is unlawful,” said Leggs, who leads the private nonprofit that was chartered by Congress in 1949 to encourage the protection of historic sites.

“In addition, this is not the final decision on the merits of our case and does not resolve our fundamental argument—that each President is a temporary steward of the People’s House and does not have the unilateral authority to demolish and redesign it without the approval of Congress.”

Leggs said the Trust expects the administration to file a writ of certiorari, and they urge the justices to “expeditiously” consider it.

Roberts disagrees

In a dissent, Chief Justice John Roberts and liberal Justices Sonia Sotomayor, Elena Kagan and Ketanji Brown Jackson wrote the construction is “likely unlawful” because Congress did not approve the changes to the White House grounds, which sit on federal park land.

“Today’s decision is no victory for the separation of powers,” Roberts wrote in the dissenting opinion.

The administration filed to the court’s emergency docket Aug. 13 asking the justices to block the lower court’s order, after a panel of federal appeals judges upheld it in a split decision a week prior.

Roberts granted a weeklong temporary stay on the lower court’s order while the justices took more time to consider the arguments.

The Trump administration maintained the planned 90,000-square-foot facility slated for where the White House East Wing used to stand will reach deep underground and will seat approximately 1,000 guests in an aboveground ballroom that is vital to national security. Trump demolished the East Wing in October 2025.

Officials told the Supreme Court justices in their stay application that as of mid-August, the project was already 65% complete, with a concrete-and-steel “superstructure” reaching five stories underground and 70 feet high, occupying nearly 50,000 square feet.

Over the past four months, workers on a 250-person crew had been operating 20 hours a day, seven days a week, “to keep the Project ahead of schedule and under budget,” U.S. Solicitor General D. John Sauer wrote, adding that \$200 million has been spent or committed to date, and has been “shouldered by private donations.”

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

Judge calls Trump mail ballot rule 'substantively unconstitutional' as court battle extends

BY JACOB FISCHLER

A Massachusetts federal judge on Monday declined the Trump administration's request to overturn the temporary restraining order she signed last week that blocks the U.S. Postal Service from carrying out a rule placing new restrictions on mail-in voting.

The 14-day order published Aug. 27 was not appealable, U.S. District Judge Indira Talwani wrote in a brief order Monday. But even if the order could be appealed, the administration would lose on the merits, Talwani wrote.

"It is likely that the USPS lacked authority to issue the Final Rule and that the Final Rule is substantively unconstitutional and contrary to law," she wrote.

She dismissed the administration's argument that the temporary restraining order came too close to Election Day as a "cynical interpretation" of the U.S. Supreme Court's Aug. 24 decision that allowed President Donald Trump's related executive order to move forward on procedural grounds.

The high court found that Trump's executive order, which directed the Postal Service to create the rule, could not be challenged until the rule itself was in place. It made no determination on the merits of the rule.

"A Final Rule has now issued and, contrary to Defendants' cynical interpretation, the Supreme Court has not endorsed the view that any challenge to the Final Rule is now too late," Talwani, whom President Barack Obama appointed to the bench, wrote.

She added that she disagreed with the USPS argument that the requirements of the rule, which would force states to overhaul their vote-by-mail systems ahead of the Nov. 3 midterm elections and to gain federal government approval of lists of voters who requested mail ballots, were "modest."

The administration is also fighting Democratic-led states and voting rights groups in the 1st U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals over Talwani's temporary restraining order and in Talwani's court over a longer pause of the final rule.

Several Republican state attorneys general, representing Alabama, Florida, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota and Texas, joined the suit on the federal government's side.

The rule's challengers say it is an inappropriate incursion of states' power to administer elections, and would likely disenfranchise people who depend on mail ballots to vote.

Trump has long claimed, without evidence, and despite his personal use of the service, that mail voting enables election fraud.

The administration has said its rule is needed to ensure that noncitizens do not vote in federal elections, which studies have shown is rare.

Trump issued the executive order March 31. States and voting rights groups immediately sued to stop it, but the legal battle heated up last week with the Supreme Court's procedural decision on its emergency docket.

The states and groups challenging the law quickly refiled their lawsuits to reflect that the rule had been published Aug. 21.

Jacob covers federal policy and helps direct national coverage as deputy Washington bureau chief for States Newsroom. Based in Oregon, he focuses on Western issues. His coverage areas include climate, energy development, public lands and infrastructure.

More rural hospital closures would mean long drives for pregnant women seeking obstetric care

Closures might accelerate as a result of Trump administration policies, new study says

BY SHALINA CHATLANI

In 14 states, the closure of the closest rural hospital or its obstetric unit would force many Medicaid patients to drive an hour or more to get to another hospital that provides inpatient maternity care, according to an analysis released this week.

Nationwide, the median drive time between hospitals providing inpatient maternity care to Medicaid enrollees and the closest in-state alternative is 43 minutes for rural hospitals compared with 13 minutes for urban hospitals, the analysis found.

The study by KFF, a healthcare research organization, suggests that the closure of rural obstetrics units will accelerate as a result of the healthcare changes included in the broad tax and spending measure President Donald Trump signed last summer. That law will reduce some payments to hospitals and cut Medicaid enrollment by introducing work requirements.

Already, rural obstetric services are diminishing at a rapid rate: From 2010 to 2022, 238 rural hospitals closed their obstetrics units while only 26 hospitals opened new units. In 2023, almost half of rural counties did not have a hospital offering obstetrics services.

A 2022 report by the Government Accountability Office cited low Medicaid reimbursement rates and the challenge of recruiting and retaining providers as major factors.

Brittini Frederiksen, the lead KFF researcher for the report, said in an interview that rural hospitals already operate on thin margins, and that the additional cuts could push some of them over the edge.

"There are likely going to be rural hospitals that close their obstetric units or have to close the entire hospital, and so people will have greater distances to travel to safely deliver a baby," said Frederiksen, an associate director at KFF who specializes in women's health policy.

The states with the longest potential driving times, according to the KFF analysis, are Alaska, Nevada and North Dakota. The other states where the median trip would be an hour or more are Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Hawaii, Massachusetts, Montana, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Vermont, Virginia, and Wyoming.

The states with the shortest drive times are New Jersey, Louisiana, and Ohio.

A lack of access to maternity care can lead to increased maternal mortality, low birthweight and premature births.

The United States has one of the worst maternal mortality rates among higher-income countries, at 17.9 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2024, according to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. The U.S. rate is double, or even triple, the rate in most other high-income countries, according to The Commonwealth Fund, a philanthropic and research group.

Outcomes are even worse for women on Medicaid, the government insurance program for people with lower incomes. A recent survey of Medicaid patients who gave birth in 2023 and 2024 found that those patients experienced more complications, such as high blood pressure and gestational diabetes, than women with private insurance.

"We already have a maternal health crisis in this country, and already have very poor outcomes when it comes to delivering babies safely in this country. And then in rural areas, in particular, people already have to travel long distances to deliver," Frederiksen said.

"Anytime you increase the distance to delivery, you know the likelihood that it could result in poor outcomes increases."

This story was originally produced by Stateline, which is part of States Newsroom, a nonprofit news network which includes South Dakota Searchlight, and is supported by grants and a coalition of donors as a 501c(3) public charity.

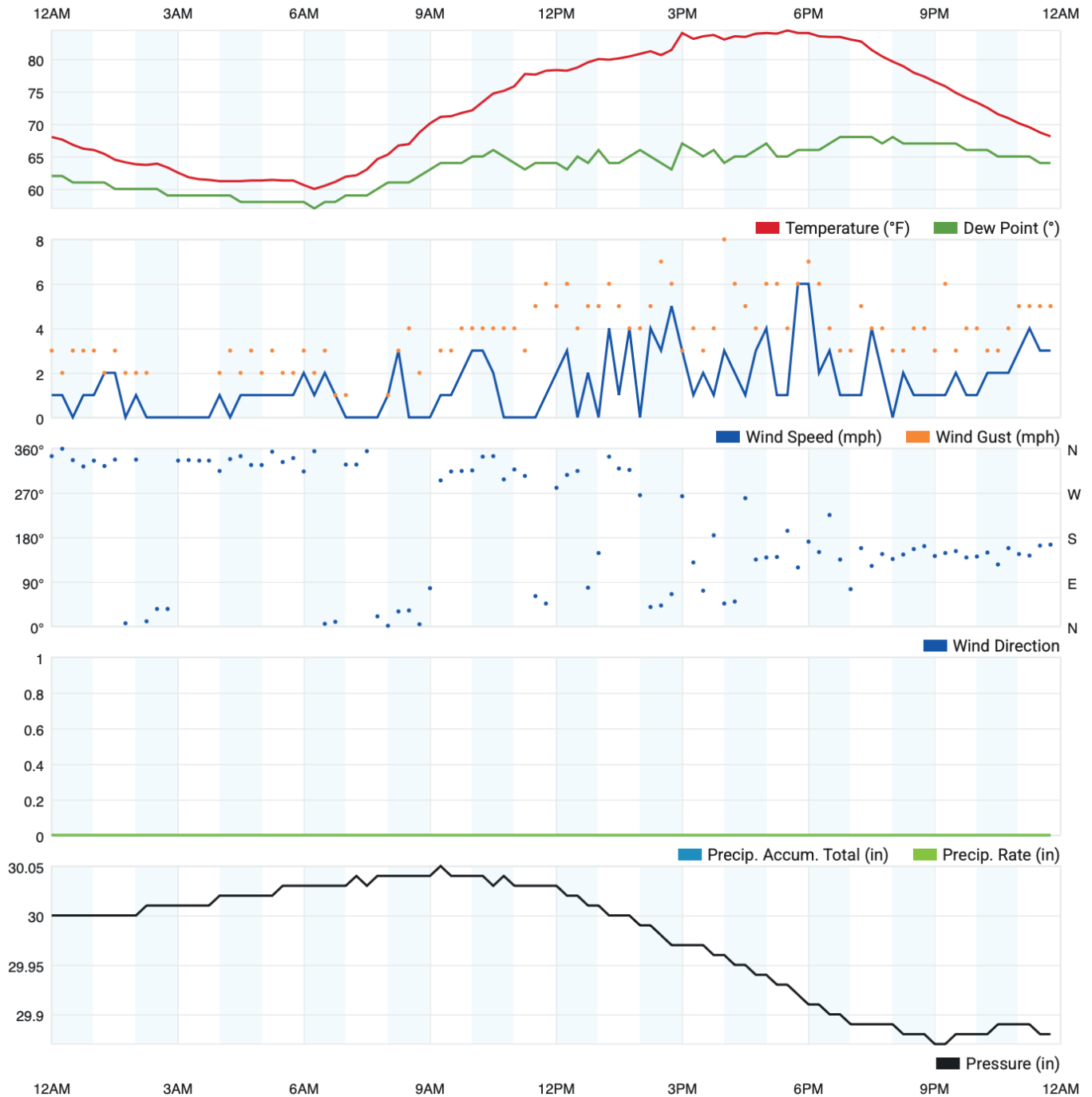
Shalina Chatlani covers health care and environmental justice for Stateline.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs

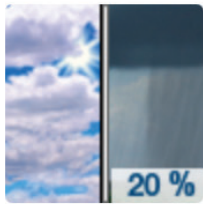
August 1, 2026



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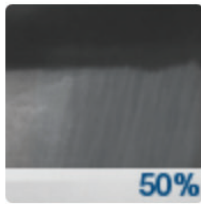
Today



High: 80 °F

Partly Sunny
then Slight
Chance
Showers

Tonight



Low: 57 °F

Chance
Showers

Wednesday



High: 84 °F

Mostly Sunny

Wednesday
Night



Low: 64 °F

Slight Chance
T-storms

Thursday



High: 89 °F

Sunny

THREAT ASSESSMENT

HIGHEST LOCAL RISK

2

WHAT THIS MEANS:
Scattered Severe Storms
Possible

5 PM to 10 PM

PRIMARY THREATS



Wind Gusts
of 60-75 mph



Quarter to
Golf-ball Sized
Hail

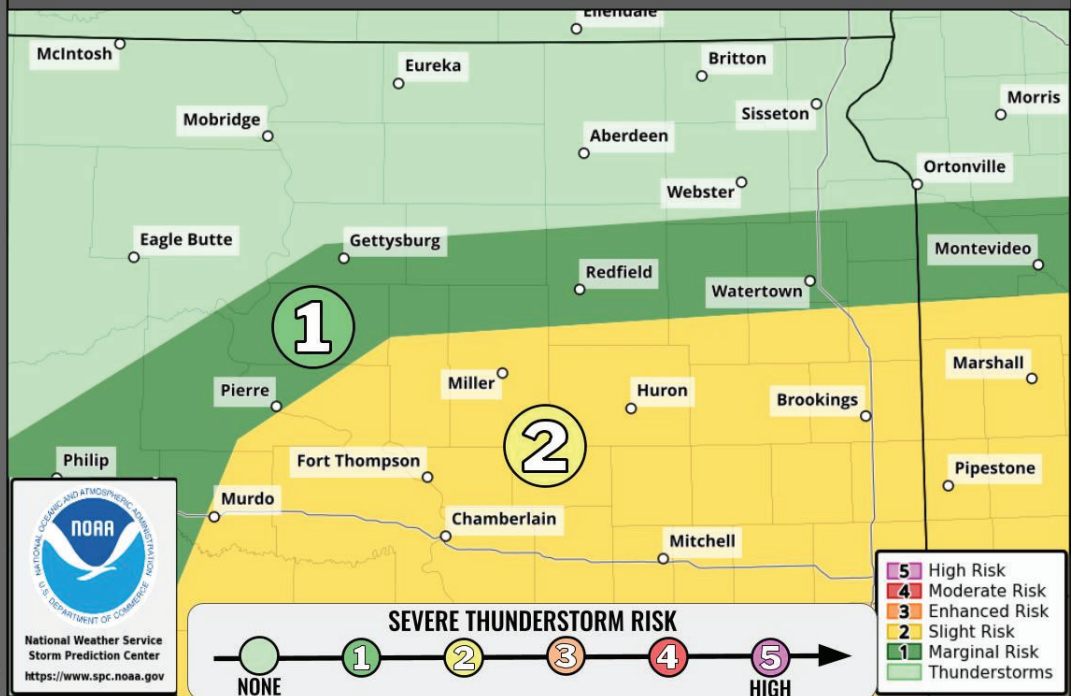
SECONDARY THREATS



Heavy Rainfall

NWS
Aberdeen, SD

Slight Risk For Severe Storms Late This Afternoon/Evening



A system will bring showers to the region today, however stronger storms are possible along and south of Highway 212 from about Pierre and points east. Storms will develop around 5 pm in the Pierre area and spread east from there. There is a risk for large hail and high winds with any of these storms, before everything moves on into west/southwest Minnesota by around 10 pm.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 85 °F at 6:13 PM

Low Temp: 56 °F at 7:23 AM

Wind: 15 mph at 12:26 AM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 102 in 1970

Record Low: 30 in 1893

Average High: 80

Average Low: 52

Average Precip in Sept.: 0.07

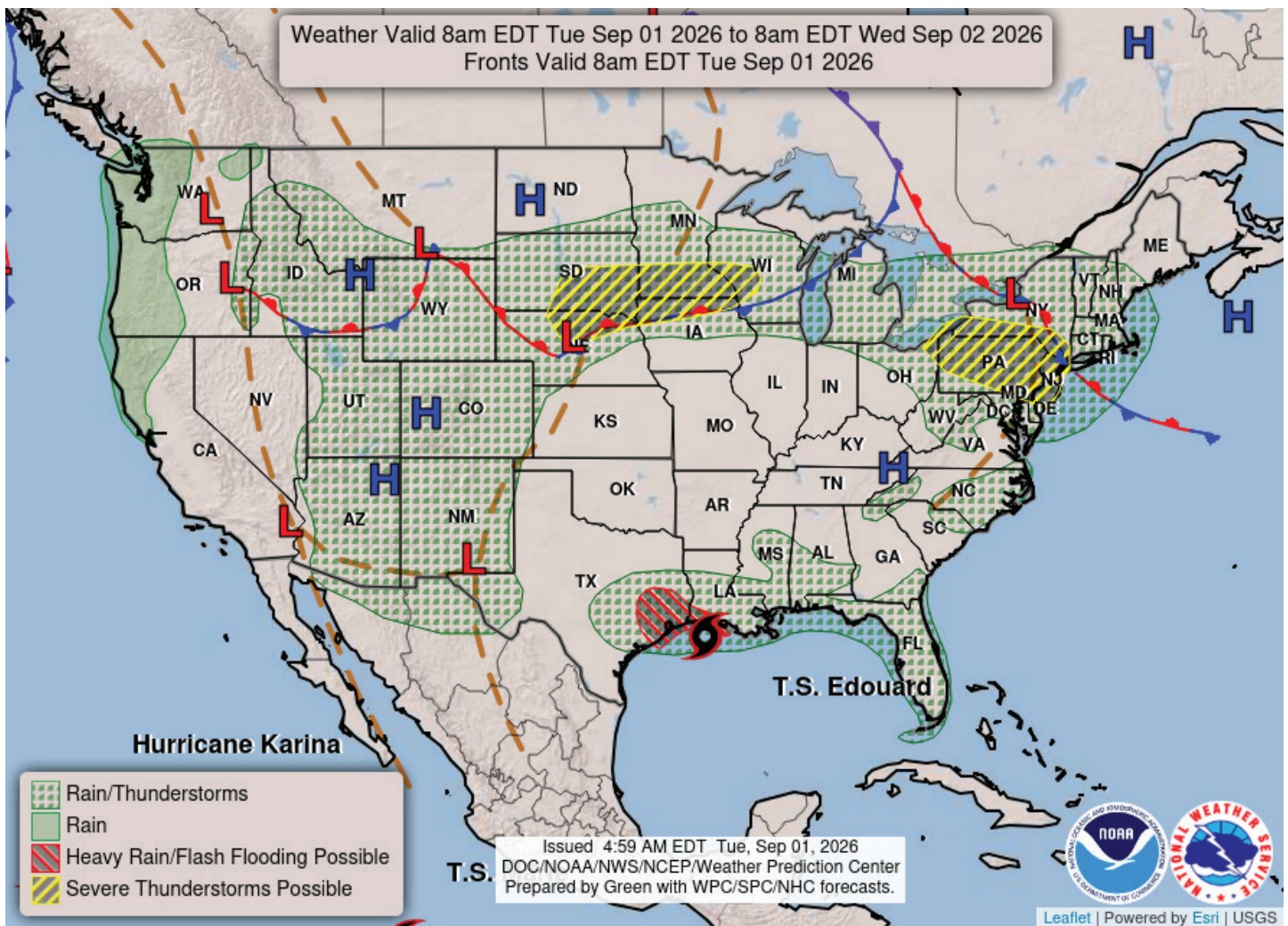
Precip to date in Sept.: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 16.41

Precip Year to Date: 20.06

Sunset Tonight: 8:11 pm

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:55 am



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Today in Weather History

September 1, 1990: Several severe thunderstorms in northwest South Dakota dropped from penny to softball size hail during the afternoon and early evening hours. The hail caused a good deal of structural damage to houses and farm buildings. The largest hailstone of 4 inches in diameter was reported at Sorum in Perkins County. There was also a wind gust to 86 mph measured at Buffalo during a severe thunderstorm.

September 1, 2010: A couple of weak tornadoes touched down briefly in the late evening west of Tulare with no damage occurring.

1859: One of the largest geomagnetic storms on record occurred on this day in 1859.

1862: The Battle of Ox Hill (or Chantilly) is also known as the only major Civil War battle to have been fought during a storm. "A severe thunderstorm erupted, resulting in limited visibility and an increased dependence on the bayonet, as the rain soaked the ammunition of the infantry and made it useless." From Taylor, Paul. *He Hath Loosed the Fateful Lightning: The Battle of Ox Hill (Chantilly), September 1, 1862.*

1869: Cleveland Abbe issued the first Weather Bulletin for the city of Cincinnati, Ohio. It contained a few observations telegraphed from distant observers and the "probabilities" for the next day. The bulletin was written by hand.

1894: The Great Hinckley Fire, which burned an area of at least 200,000 acres or perhaps more than 250,000 acres including the town of Hinckley, Minnesota occurred on this day. The official death count was 418 though the actual number of fatalities was likely higher.

1897 — Hailstone drifts six feet deep were reported in Washington County, IA. (The Weather Channel)

1914 — The town of Bloomington, MI, was deluged with 9.78 inches of rain in 24 hours to establish a state record. (31st-1st) (The Weather Channel)

1928: Leslie Gray from the Weather Bureau in San Francisco was the first weather forecaster to be deployed to a wildfire.

1952: A cold front brought damaging winds to Fort Worth, Texas, including the Carswell Air Force Base where thirty-five B-36 planes received damage. The anemometer indicated 90 mph winds before being smashed by debris.

1955 — The temperature at Los Angeles, CA, soared to an all-time high of 110 degrees during an eight day string of 100 degree weather. (David Ludlum)

1961: An F4 tornado traveled through parts of Butler and Bremer Counties in Iowa. Unfortunately, there is limited information in the Storm Data entry about this event. Per Thomas Grazulis in *Significant Tornadoes*, the tornado began NW of Dumont and ended NE of Horton. Several farms along the path were "leveled". It was reported at one farm that fruit jars were "sucked out of the basement" after the house was swept away. There were 7 injuries reported with this event and zero fatalities.

1974: Lt. Judy Neuffer became the first female to fly a Hurricane Hunter aircraft through the eye of a hurricane.

1979 — A home in Centerville TN was hit by lightning and totally destroyed. It marked the third time that the house had been hit by lightning since being built in 1970. (The Weather Channel)

1987 — Cool Canadian air invaded the Midwest. Six cities reported record low temperatures for the date, including Indianapolis IN with a reading of 44 degrees. Hot weather continued in the northwestern U.S. Five cities reported record high temperatures for the date, including Hanover WA, where the mercury soared to 106 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 — Thunderstorms produced heavy rain in the Upper Mississippi Valley. Ely, MN, was drenched with three inches of rain in two hours, and pelted with one inch hail. The heavy rain flooded streets and basements, and the high water pressure which resulted blew the covers off manholes. (The National Weather Summary)(Storm Data)

2017: The temperature at Downtown San Francisco reached 106° setting their all-time record high. The previous record was 103° on June 14th, 2000.

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Daily Devotion

Listening to God

God gives us many means to hear His voice and see His work in our life.

Proverbs 2:1-5: 1 My son, if you will receive my words And treasure my commandments within you,
2 Make your ear attentive to wisdom, Incline your heart to understanding;
3 For if you cry for discernment, Lift your voice for understanding;
4 If you seek her as silver And search for her as for hidden treasures;
5 Then you will discern the fear of the LORD And discover the knowledge of God.

Learning to listen to God is an essential part of following His will. He speaks to His children through ... Scripture. The Bible is a rich revelation of who God is—His character, His promises, and His purposes (2 Timothy 3:16-17). It is an invaluable source that can help Christians discover what He is like and develop trust in Him. As we take in His Word, we can listen for the ways He might be directing us to apply it.

Prayer. God designed prayer to be a conversation, not a monologue. When we bring our heart to Him, we should linger—making space for Him to speak into our stillness (Psalm 46:10).

Circumstances. Throughout Scripture, the Lord revealed His ways to men and women through their circumstances—and He hasn't stopped. Situations change, but our God does not.

Others. Pastors, friends, and mentors can all speak truth into our life. The Lord places believers in community so they can be encouraged, challenged, and helped.

In order to reach His children, God uses all four of these avenues, often working through two or more simultaneously. Our part is to stay attentive—always remembering that a message from the Lord will agree with His Word. What might He be saying to you today?

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:

08.31.26

2 9 30 37 45 4

TOP PRIZE:

\$1,000,000/year

NEXT DRAW: 17 Hrs 34 Mins 32 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS:

08.28.26

8 17 29 42 55 2

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$160,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 17 Hrs 19 Mins 32 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS:

08.31.26

8 22 27 30 34 4

All Star Bonus: 4x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$3,400,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 16 Hrs 34 Mins 31 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS:

08.29.26

11 17 22 28 29

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$42,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 16 Hrs 49 Mins 31 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS:

08.31.26

4 26 28 44 67 20

TOP PRIZE:

\$10,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 17 Hrs 18 Mins 32 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS:

08.31.26

11 17 25 37 49 10

Power Play: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$146,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 17 Hrs 18 Mins 32 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

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News from the **AP** Associated Press

PREP VOLLEYBALL

Clark-Willow Lake def. Elkton-Lake Benton, 25-16, 25-13, 25-19

Dell Rapids St Mary's def. Oldham-Ramona-Rutland, 25-15, 25-11, 25-16

Deubrook def. Iroquois-Lake Preston, 25-12, 25-10, 25-5

Hay Springs, Neb. def. Edgemont, 18-25, 26-24, 21-25, 25-10, 15-4

Lead-Deadwood def. Dupree, 25-15, 25-16, 25-12

Some high school volleyball scores provided by Scorestream.com, <https://scorestream.com/>

Oil prices rise and stocks slide as Middle East violence flares, adding to uncertainty

By ELAINE KURTENBACH AP Business Writer

BANGKOK (AP) — Oil prices jumped 2% and world shares skidded Tuesday as recurring violence in the Iran war after more than a month with no significant fighting heightened uncertainty over the future of the conflict.

Shares in online fast-fashion retailer Shein fell as much as 10% after they began trading in Hong Kong on Tuesday. They closed 4% lower.

Brent crude gained 2% to \$92.35 per barrel. It gained 2.7% on Monday after the U.S. attacked rocket launchers on an Iranian island on Sunday, saying they were preparing to launch mines into the Strait of Hormuz. Iran responded by launching missiles at U.S. sites in Jordan, all of which were intercepted.

The war has curtailed traffic in the Strait of Hormuz, which once accounted for about 20% of the world's oil shipments. Oil prices remain high after an initial surge earlier in the war, and that has made everything from gasoline to shipped goods more expensive.

U.S. benchmark crude climbed 2.5% to \$87.84 per barrel.

In early European trading, Germany's DAX lost 1.1% to 25,982.28, while the CAC 40 in Paris gave up 0.4% to 8,303.65. Britain's FTSE 100 declined 1.1% to 10,702.25.

In Asian share trading, Hong Kong's Hang Seng fell 0.9% to 25,329.73 and the Shanghai Composite index shed 0.2% to 3,979.89.

Tokyo's Nikkei 225 gave up early gains, falling 0.2% to 66,215.34. The Kospi in South Korea added 0.2%, to 6,835.80.

The S&P/ASX 200 in Australia slipped 0.1% to 9,066.70.

Taiwan's Taiex picked up 1.8% and the Sensex in India fell 0.3%.

U.S. futures were 0.1% higher.

Wall Street closed out August on a downbeat note Monday as the S&P 500 index fell 0.3%. The Dow Jones Industrial Average dropped 0.7% and the Nasdaq composite slipped 0.1%.

Monday's losses were broad, with nearly every sector within the benchmark S&P 500 finishing in the red.

Edison International slumped 23.1% and PG&E fell 20.1% for the two steepest declines. That followed reports about potential California wildfire legislation that would allow insurers to sue utilities over related claims.

But energy stocks notched gains. Exxon Mobil rose 2.7% and Chevron rose 2.1%.

Higher energy prices have fueled already stubbornly high inflation, well above the Federal Reserve's 2% target. That has been weighing on household spending and consumer confidence and given the Fed a more complicated path ahead for its interest rate policy.

The yield on the two-year Treasury, which closely tracks expectations about Fed moves, held steady Monday at 4.34%, where it was late Friday. That's up significantly from about 3.50% at the beginning of

2026.

The yield on the 10-year Treasury rose to 4.75% from 4.73% late Friday. That's back up around the level seen two weeks ago when the Trump administration took the unusual step of announcing it would intervene in the bond market.

Any increase to interest rates that could cool inflation also risks hurting the jobs market. Later this week, the U.S. will report August jobs data. In July, the U.S. job market stalled unexpectedly as employers cut 23,000 jobs. Labor Department revisions slashed another 103,000 jobs from May and June payrolls.

In other dealings early Tuesday, the U.S. dollar rose to 159.90 Japanese yen from 159.74 yen. The euro slipped to \$1.1598 from \$1.1619.

Rescuers comb through mud and debris as Nepal-China floods leave more than 1,000 dead

By SHRISTI KAFLE and SHEIKH SAALIQ Associated Press

KATHMANDU, Nepal (AP) — Rescue teams with search dogs combed through mud, rocks and debris Tuesday in Nepal and China looking for thousands of people still missing after catastrophic flooding tore through communities across the Himalayas, leaving more than 1,000 dead.

Nepal's disaster agency said Tuesday that 987 deaths had been counted there, with 3,916 people missing, including 583 foreigners. Chinese authorities, in their latest update on Sunday, reported 16 deaths and 546 people still missing, including 261 foreigners.

The scale of last week's disaster was hampering rescue efforts in both regions, with landslides, destroyed roads and widespread damage cutting off remote areas. Crews faced challenging conditions as they searched unstable terrain and piles of debris, raising fears the death toll could rise as rescuers reach isolated communities.

Rescuers race to reach missing hydropower workers

In Nepal, rescuers were racing to reach hundreds of workers believed to be trapped inside tunnels at hydropower projects damaged by the floods. About 900 workers are missing from 12 projects, with roughly 500 believed to be trapped in tunnels, according to Nepalese authorities.

Brig. Gen. Raja Ram Basnet, Nepal's army spokesperson, said teams assisted by foreign experts were working at several hydropower projects. Visuals released by the army showed rescue teams entering dark, debris-filled tunnels, wading through mud and water and climbing over rocks as they searched for signs of life.

On the Chinese side, rescue crews scoured areas hit by mudslides, particularly around the Gyirong Port border crossing, which was destroyed.

Some rescuers, aided by search dogs, searched gaps among rocks and debris for signs of life. Other teams used heavy machinery to clear a major highway leading to Gyirong Port, hoping to clear the way for equipment, personnel and supplies to reach the disaster zone, according to China's state-run Global Times newspaper.

Relief operations expand to reach stranded communities

At least 11,814 people have been rescued so far, according to Nepalese authorities. Emergency crews were using helicopters and other aircraft to reach stranded communities in areas where roads and bridges have been destroyed by the flooding and landslides.

Authorities on Tuesday also stepped up efforts to provide assistance to survivors in areas where roads and other transportation routes had been damaged or cut off.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun said China's second batch of relief supplies for Nepal was expected to ship Tuesday, including drones, DNA testing and water purification equipment. Chinese DNA testing experts will also help Nepal identify bodies, he said.

Bimal Sharma, a helicopter pilot who has been flying rescue and relief missions since the disaster began, said he was shocked to see the devastation in Timure, a border town close to Tibet that he has known for years.

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"It felt like I was flying over an entirely different landscape," he said.

Sharma said he has had little opportunity to speak with the people he rescued, but their expressions told him how deeply the disaster had affected them.

"I can see the pain in their eyes. It's heartbreaking," he said.

The disaster began with a glacial collapse high in the Himalayas

The Aug. 26 disaster began with a chain of events high in the Himalayas. A glacial collapse sent large amounts of rock, ice and meltwater into valleys below, triggering powerful floods downstream.

Scientists studying satellite imagery said the collapse appears to have involved the failure of bedrock beneath a glacier in the Himalayan region. The rockfall was powerful enough to register as a magnitude 5.2 seismic event.

The resulting surge of water and debris entered rivers that flow through valleys in Tibet and Nepal, causing them to rise rapidly. Floodwaters swept away homes, buildings, roads and bridges and carried mud and rocks downstream.

Nepal's Prime Minister Balendra Shah said that the disaster highlighted the need for action to combat climate change.

"This incident has indicated that the risks we face in the Himalayan region are increasing with climate change," Shah said in a social media post Monday night. "Therefore, this region must be alert, and at the same time, it is time for us to strongly raise the issue of disasters caused by climate change before the international community."

A sixth straight day of Russian strikes hammers Kyiv, killing at least 12

By SAMYA KULLAB Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Russia launched a large aerial assault in and around Ukraine's capital overnight into Tuesday morning, killing at least 12 people and wounding more than a dozen others, including three children, local authorities said.

The strikes marked the sixth straight day of heavy Russian attacks on Kyiv that began last week and are an unprecedented stretch of consecutive aerial assaults since Russia launched a full-scale invasion of its neighbor more than 4½ years ago. Moscow's aim is to grind down civilians by disrupting their daily life, Ukrainian officials say.

Several million Ukrainian schoolchildren returned to classes Tuesday for the new school year, just as Russia unleashed its onslaught of cruise and ballistic missiles, jet-powered drones, glide bombs and artillery salvos at Kyiv as well as eight other regions of Ukraine.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said that 12 people were killed, including an Indian citizen.

The attack struck civilian infrastructure and residential buildings in several districts of Kyiv, authorities said, with eight people killed in the city itself and three others in the surrounding region.

Six employees of state-owned railway company Ukrzaliznytsia were among those killed in Kyiv when a ballistic missile hit a depot and other premises, company chairman Oleksandr Pertsovskyy said in a social media post.

Nearly 350 emergency workers were deployed in Kyiv and the surrounding region, Zelenskyy said.

The Russian Defense Ministry said that its forces carried out a "massive strike" on Ukraine overnight with "precision-guided weapons" and long-range drones. The assault targeted facilities manufacturing and storing weapons as well as military-related infrastructure, it said.

Ukraine's air force said that Russia began the attack at 6 p.m. Monday, using ballistic, cruise and anti-radar missiles, as well as 218 drones and decoys. About a third of the drones were jet-powered, which are much harder to intercept than the propeller-driven version.

The main Russian targets were in the Kyiv and southern Odesa regions, the air force said in a statement.

The attack on the Odesa region, located on the Black Sea, damaged civilian infrastructure and wounded one person, regional head Oleh Kiper said.

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Two residential buildings were damaged, while a fire broke out at a textile factory. Russian forces also struck the Orlivka international ferry crossing on the border with Romania, he said.

Russia also shelled the northern Zhytomyr region, starting fires at an industrial facility and a warehouse, Ukraine's Emergency Service said.

In the capital, first responders worked to clear rubble from damaged apartment buildings and free trapped residents.

Meanwhile, the Russian Defense Ministry said Tuesday that its air defenses overnight intercepted 516 Ukrainian drones over 18 Russian regions, as well as the illegally annexed Crimean Peninsula and the Black Sea.

In the Leningrad region, the drone attack sparked a fire in the port of Ust-Luga, Gov. Alexander Drozdenko said, as Ukraine extended its campaign to hurt Russia's oil sector, which is a mainstay of the economy.

Ust-Luga is one of Russia's largest oil and gas export terminals more than 800 kilometers (500 miles) away from Ukraine. It has been repeatedly targeted by Ukrainian drone attacks this year.

Nepal flood survivors fear loss of culture and community

By NIRANJAN SHRESTHA and VICTORIA MILKO Associated Press

KATHMANDU, Nepal (AP) — In the days since Tsering Gelbu Lama's wife was swept away by devastating floods along the Nepal-Tibet border, he hasn't managed to tell his 4-year-old daughter that her mother is dead.

Lama wiped away tears as he sat on the floor of a Buddhist monastery turned makeshift shelter for hundreds of others evacuated from remote villages to the capital, Kathmandu.

"I don't know how I will pass on our culture to her," he said as he coaxed a spoonful of rice into her mouth.

For Lama and a rising number of others displaced by the floods, the losses go beyond homes and belongings. Communities whose culture and practices, often tied to ancestral land, are eroding as young people leave for the city now worry if their sacred traditions can be preserved.

"We've become homeless not only because we've lost our land — we've become homeless with our culture and tradition," said Tsering Sherpa, 36, from Rasuwa, as he sat on the monastery steps.

Nepal is home to more than 120 ethnic groups, with many preserving distinct languages, rituals and festivals that have been passed down for generations.

Rasuwa, a district in the Himalayas along the Nepal-Tibet border, is known for its distinct Buddhist culture and Indigenous communities. The Tamang Heritage Trail has become a popular trekking route for tourists looking to see Tibetan Buddhist culture.

Flood survivors now living in the monastery described their villages' forests as thick with trees and filled with bears, deer and butterflies. Others showed pictures of steep, green hills along a river.

Survivors at the monastery also shared photos and videos of what life in their villages was like before the floods: Women chopping juniper together to make incense, making new decorations for a monastery being built, men and women wearing colorful traditional clothing and dancing during festivals.

"Now all of it is finished," said Tenzin Dolma Ghale, a 20-year-old from Rasuwa.

Survivors described to The Associated Press how they fled the surging river water by climbing to the top of hills, seeking refuge in monasteries they had built just a year earlier, after the older ones were destroyed by a 2015 earthquake.

Many said they didn't have time to take anything from their homes and are now left with only the clothes they wore when being evacuated by helicopter. Others spoke of losing important heirlooms that are usually passed down from generation to generation.

The loss came amid concerns that community traditions were already in decline as young people moved to cities for better education and employment, said Alina Lama, 26, a shelter volunteer from Rasuwa.

She said that they wanted to be "a little bit modern," she said. "There are many little details about our culture that I don't know, because I never got to spend time with my family."

Several flood survivors sheltering in the monastery said that children who have become orphans during

the floods are a particular concern.

"We don't know who will teach them," Alina Lama said.

Save the Children estimated that thousands of children need humanitarian assistance. No information is available on how many children have been orphaned during the floods.

With local monasteries destroyed and monks with highly localized knowledge gone, Sherpa expressed that important Buddhist autumn festivals would be an example of further loss of cultural practices.

"We used to celebrate these festivals in our monasteries. Right now we don't even have a monastery," he said. "Culture and tradition are passed generation to generation by practice. If I can't follow the tradition now, how can I pass it on to the next generation?"

Rescuers saved some 80 people in Grand Canyon floods that left 2 dead and 1 missing, officials say

By JAMIE STENGLE and TY ONEIL Associated Press

GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK, Ariz. (AP) — The bodies of a Texas chiropractor and a lifelong martial artist have been found after a major flash flood swept through the Grand Canyon. One person remains unaccounted for after about 80 others were rescued over the weekend, officials said Monday.

Saturday's flash flood severely damaged the only water pipeline serving Grand Canyon National Park. Officials barred tourists from staying at lodges and hotels inside the park and issued emergency water restrictions for year-round residents. Waves of torrential rain hit the Bright Angel Creek area of the tourist destination that hosts 4.4 million visitors a year.

Grand Canyon Deputy Superintendent Brian Drapeaux said officials haven't fully surveyed the damage, but the park has said about 40% of the pipeline is damaged.

Incident Cmdr. Dave Black said searchers used night vision and other equipment to find people who needed rescuing during the deluge. By sunset Saturday, 45 people were rescued, and 37 more were evacuated Sunday.

Rangers referred to the park's permit system and checked vehicle license plates to track the number of missing people.

"As of right now, they have no reason to believe, from the tips we've been through so far, that there's anybody besides the one" missing person, Black said during a news conference Monday evening.

The flood threatened people who hike far into the Grand Canyon

The flood happened deep in the canyon on Bright Angel Creek, which flows into the Colorado River near Phantom Ranch. The area has a set of historic dormitories, a canteen and a campground that is a popular stopover for river rafters and people hiking from one rim of the Grand Canyon to the other.

Scores of visitors had to be evacuated from by helicopter. They talked of a massive deluge and rangers warning of rockslides and saw huge pools of logs and debris rolling down the river as they stood nearby awaiting rescue.

Hiker Daniel Evans said it rained several times before the worst 30-minute downpour Saturday afternoon. He had been planning to rest through the hot day and spend the night near the hard-hit Bright Angel Campground area.

Earlier, rangers told him it looked to be safe. Then, as the rain poured, they told him it was time to go. He thought of Nepal and the massive floods and landslides that poured down mountain valleys last week.

"The entire time it was raining — the entire time I'm going through all this and packing — I'm just keeping my eyes upstream, just praying that a wall of water isn't coming toward us," Evans said.

Two hikers are identified as rescuers search for their friend

The families of chiropractor John Giusti and martial arts studio owner Brent Rosenkranz, 42, identified them as the two people whose bodies have been recovered, said Hannah Barricks, a liaison for the families.

A third buddy — 53-year-old Wyoming pilot Timothy Smith — went on the trip with them and was still missing, Barricks said late Monday by text message.

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The men spoke to their families Thursday and found their campsite Friday at the bottom of the Grand Canyon. They have not been heard from since, the three families said in a joint statement released earlier Monday through Barricks.

All three men had ties to Granbury, Texas. Their families said they planned "several days of hiking, camping, fishing and exploring together."

Park officials said they recovered the body of a 46-year-old man Sunday evening near Crystal Rapids along the Colorado River and, later, recovered a second body but provided no other details.

It's 'monsoon season' in the Grand Canyon

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

Rain also fell on part of the Dragon Bravo Fire scar, a burn area left by a lightning-caused wildfire in July 2025. It burned for days before exploding into a fast-moving conflagration that forced evacuations and consumed the historic Grand Canyon Lodge, some cabins and other structures on the North Rim.

Without vegetation, a barren burn scar allows runoff to flow more quickly.

The steep, rocky nature of the canyon itself funnels water rapidly. What might be a normal summer downpour somewhere else can become a charging wall of water in the canyon.

El Niño has this year's monsoon in the desert especially intense

This year's monsoon is especially intense because there is a higher amount of water vapor in the atmosphere, mostly because of a strong El Niño, said A. Park Williams, a hydroclimatologist at the University of California, Los Angeles.

The natural warming of parts of the Pacific Ocean can warp weather globally. That extra water vapor in the Southwest U.S. gets wrung out in the storm in the form of rainfall, he said.

The link to human-caused climate change and the heavy Arizona rain is pretty strong, said climate scientist Daniel Swain of the California Institute for Water Resources.

A few months ago, Swain and colleagues published a study in the journal *Weather and Climate Extremes* finding that during the summer, short-term intense downpours in the West — akin to the one that hit the Grand Canyon — have become 10% stronger since 2000.

The flood knocks out the canyon's water supply line

The flood was a major blow to an enduring effort to modernize the water pipeline that serves visitors and the roughly 1,600 residents of Grand Canyon Village.

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, though that timeline is now unclear.

While the Grand Canyon has large storage tanks for potable water on the South Rim, they won't be refilled because the pipeline is out of service.

Thailand's Pattaya anticipates USS Abraham Lincoln visit following its Middle East deployment

By JINTAMAS SAKSORNCHAI and ANTON L. DELGADO Associated Press

PATTAYA, Thailand (AP) — Thousands of American service members are about to descend on eastern Thailand, as the USS Abraham Lincoln makes a port call near the city of Pattaya, famous for its beaches and nightlife.

The aircraft carrier sailed past Singapore over the weekend on its way back to the U.S. after a lengthy deployment in the Middle East as part of the U.S. war against Iran.

The Lincoln is expected to dock at a port in Chonburi province this week, according to Thai officials.

More than 5,000 American service members are onboard and many are expected to visit Pattaya, according to the city's Mayor Poramet Ngampichet, who hopes the port call will boost the local economy.

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He said destroyer USS Frank E. Petersen Jr. will dock at a different port.

"For Pattaya to be seen as an important vacation spot is something that we have aimed for," Poramet said. "We welcome more visits of the troops in the future, whether for a drill or a vacation, before they go back to the U.S."

After meeting with American officials Monday, Poramet shared that the service members will be banned from certain recreational activities such as parasailing and marijuana use. Medical cannabis was legalized in Thailand in 2022 and dispensaries have become common in Thai cities.

Pattaya hopes for economic boost

Poramet said the visit is particularly welcome as international tourism has declined worldwide due to soaring gas prices as a result of the conflict in the Middle East.

Government officials are warning local businesses not to overcharge American sailors and there will be a greater police presence in popular areas along Pattaya Beach and the city's Walking Street, he said.

Pattaya, a popular beach destination about 150 kilometers (93 miles) southeast of Bangkok, is also known for its seedier night scene. In recent years, though, the city has tried to promote its image instead for natural and cultural attractions.

Law enforcements agencies have been ordered to step up security measures to prevent undesirable situations, city police Chief Anek Srathongyoo said.

He said that if any U.S. service members break Thai law, they will be prosecuted accordingly.

Local business owners feeling the tourism slump from the Iran war are eager for the new arrivals — a banner hung over a local bar near a beach reading "Welcome all US military personnel Thank you for your service."

Some, however, are more skeptical. Somkiet Noree, who runs a souvenir shop on Walking Street, said he knows about the upcoming visit but isn't sure if that will boost sales.

"Pattaya is quiet at the moment," he said. "I hope they will come here and buy things."

Bar employee Bualuang Ponok said she has seen American service members stroll Walking Street during past visits, but she doesn't expect many of them will be spending.

"They said 5,000 people will come here, but how many will reach us?" she said, unsure of where service members will choose to go.

Thailand port call follows Middle East deployment

Earlier in August, the usually Asia-based U.S.S. George Washington relieved the long-deployed Lincoln in the Middle East.

The Lincoln, one of the U.S. Navy's largest warships, was part of American efforts in the Iran war, which flared back up over the weekend for the first time in a month.

This deployment included a record-setting uninterrupted time at sea of more than 250 days, which caused concerns following reports of deteriorating mental health among the crew and shortages of supplies including food and hygiene products.

U.S. President Donald Trump later downplayed these concerns and said that the deployment was "not nearly long enough."

Thai officials have said the Lincoln will return to the U.S. after its port call in Thailand.

Tropical Storm Edouard forms near Texas and Louisiana while a storm moves toward Hawaii

MIAMI (AP) — Tropical Storm Edouard formed Monday in the Gulf of Mexico and was expected to gain strength before bringing potentially heavy rains and flooding into parts of Texas and Louisiana.

The storm was upgraded Monday night from a tropical depression and forecasters with the National Hurricane Center expect it will make landfall in Texas on Tuesday.

Early Tuesday the storm was about 85 miles (135 kilometers) southeast of Cameron, Louisiana, and 115 miles (185 kilometers) southeast of Port Arthur, Texas, with maximum sustained winds of 40 mph (65 kph) while moving west-northwest at 7 mph (11 kph).

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Texas Gov. Greg Abbott said the biggest problem expected from the storm is flooding. Forecasters are anticipating 3-6 inches (7-15 centimeters) of rain in the greater Houston area, with some areas of the state's upper coast getting up to 9 inches (22 centimeters). More than 4 inches (10 centimeters) per hour could fall and will likely cause flash flooding in low-lying and urban areas, according to the National Hurricane Center.

"This is our first big storm of the season, and I'll tell you, Texas is prepared," Orlando Alanis of the Texas Division of Emergency Management said during a news conference.

Crews worked Monday to clear dry vegetation that could ignite from a lightning strike and cause fast-spreading fires, Abbott said.

Meanwhile, the remnants of Hurricane Dolly brought rain and thunderstorms to parts of Haiti and the Dominican Republic, the Turks & Caicos, and the Bahamas, the hurricane center said.

In the Pacific Ocean on Monday evening, Tropical Storm Lowell was about 690 miles (1,110 kilometers) southeast of Hilo, Hawaii, and moving west with maximum sustained winds of 70 mph (110 kph) while moving west at 10 mph (17 kph). Forecasters said Lowell could rapidly intensify and become a major hurricane by Wednesday.

Elsewhere in the Pacific, Hurricane Karina became a hurricane Sunday, fueled by warm waters far from any shore, and strengthened Monday into a powerful Category 4 storm. But it did not threaten land, forecasters said.

On Monday evening, Karina remained a Category 4 hurricane and was centered 1,135 miles (1,830 kilometers) west-southwest of the southern tip of the Baja California peninsula of Mexico with maximum sustained winds of 130 mph (215 kph) while moving west-northwest at 9 mph (15 kph), the center said.

Flash flooding causes major damage to the Grand Canyon's critical water pipeline

By MICHAEL PHILLIS Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The sole pipeline that supplies water for millions of Grand Canyon visitors was badly damaged by weekend flash flooding, setting up a tricky repair scenario and upending a yearslong construction project to upgrade the line laid over terrain so rugged helicopters are often required to make basic fixes.

"We anticipate miles of the pipeline being destroyed," Grand Canyon Deputy Superintendent Brian Drapeaux said, but a full survey of the devastation won't be completed until Tuesday at the earliest.

From flyovers, park officials estimate that roughly 40% of the pipeline endured damage. The long-term implications to the park's infrastructure, visitors and year-round residents weren't immediately clear. The 12.5-mile (20-kilometer) long Transcanyon Waterline has endured dozens of breaks in recent years. A more than \$200 million repair and replacement project was well underway when the floods hit.

At least two people died in the floods, and one person remained missing Monday night after rescuers saved some 80 people over the weekend, officials said. The park halted overnight accommodations, and officials said significant water reductions are needed — short showers, turning off the tap while brushing teeth and flushing toilets selectively to protect the limited stored water on the South Rim, where most visitors go.

"They have got to keep law enforcement going, they have to keep rescue operations going, backcountry operations, park admin going, the clinic and the campground," said longtime river runner and Grand Canyon hiker Tom Martin. "In the past, the park has hauled water" in tanker trucks.

Even routine repairs can be tricky

The pipeline, which was finished in the 1970s, has broken more than 85 times since 2010. It moves water from one side of the canyon, down to its base, across a bridge and back up the other side of the rough landscape. Any effort to fix a break from rock falls or flash floods is time-consuming, precarious and costly, so addressing the latest damage will be complicated.

The pipeline upgrade project, which began in 2023, took more than a decade to design, consider and

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fund. It involves installing helicopter pads, building water treatment facilities and replacing several miles of pipeline. The project also sought to move the water intake for the pipeline further down the canyon to Bright Angel Creek. That would place it closer to Phantom Ranch, a popular lodge at the base of the canyon. An evaluation of the project in 2018 said key infrastructure for the intake would be outside of areas likely to flood.

Basic decisions were complicated. For example, the original pipe was aluminum, which is lighter and easier to move into the steep canyon but is susceptible to breaking. Engineers picked a flex-steel material to balance weight with durability.

Frequent breaks cause water restrictions

Even routine pipeline breaks force water restrictions. In 2016, a hotel on the canyon's rim that offers luxury dining and boasts about its history hosting presidents was forced to reduce dishwashing and use paper plates and plastic utensils.

In 1995, a 28-day repair effort on the pipeline required officials to truck in water.

The park had water conservation measures in place even before the latest bout of flooding and damage.

The flooding has forced parts of the park to close and additional flooding was possible Monday, according to the National Park Service.

"Consider changing your plans if you were going to hike, boat, or paddleboard to a slot canyon or normally dry wash. If you do still decide to recreate, check in at a nearby visitor center or ranger station," a notice on the park website said.

Officials said previously that the repair and replacement project would ensure that the park will be able to meet its water supply needs for the next 50 years or more. The park had roughly 4.4 million visitors last year.

When the original pipeline was nearing completion in the 1960s, more than a foot (0.3 meters) of rain fell, flooding the inner canyon. That rare, historic flood caused 40% of the project to be destroyed, officials said.

New US missile appears to have left wide path of death and destruction in Iranian city, report says

By JULIA FRANKEL Associated Press

It has been touted by the manufacturer as the ballistic missile of the future: lethal, long-range and pinpoint. Lockheed Martin's Precision Strike Missile has the U.S. military investing billions to update its arsenal.

But a close look at what is believed to be its first use in combat — on the first day of the Iran war — highlights the potential peril of deploying this weapon near population centers because it appears to spray pellets over a wide area, according to a review by the conflict monitor Airwars and interviews with weapons experts and former defense officials.

Three missiles that struck the southern city of Lamerd on Feb. 28 killed civilians as far as 50 meters (164 feet) from where they detonated, and caused damage more than three times farther away, Airwars found. The missiles detonated above a sports complex and two residential neighborhoods, Airwars found. The blasts killed at least 21 civilians, including seven children, according to Iranian officials.

Airwars is the first to map the damage radius of the strikes in Lamerd and estimate the lethal range of the weapon used.

The PrSM is designed to explode midair and propel tens of thousands of dense metal pellets at high speed in all directions. Photos, videos and satellite images of the Lamerd strikes' aftermath analyzed by Airwars and verified by The Associated Press show buildings, streets and vehicles were heavily pockmarked in a blast pattern that experts say is consistent with the PrSM's capabilities.

The U.S. military has confirmed firing PrSMs into Iran, but has denied attacking Lamerd.

It is unclear who or what was the intended target in Lamerd. An Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps compound is located nearby, but satellite images showed no damage there.

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Six weapons experts, including two who are former military officials, told AP they believe PrSMs struck Lamerd — and they said it was unlikely that Israeli or Iranian weapons were used. All said militaries should avoid firing the PrSM at targets near civilian areas.

“You would be hard-pressed to find a reason to use the PrSM in a densely populated area,” said Michael Meier, a former U.S. Army adviser on the laws of war.

How Airwars reached its conclusions

Airwars, a London-based nonprofit, was founded more than a decade ago to track reports of civilian deaths from U.S. airstrikes in Syria and Iraq, and it has also monitored conflicts in Gaza, Ukraine and elsewhere. It relies on publicly available material, such as photos, videos, satellite images, social media and news reports, and uses geolocation software and other tools to help it analyze this evidence.

Airwars used these methods to investigate the strikes on Lamerd. It mapped the approximate locations of the missiles’ detonations, where civilians were reported killed and where damage was visible and consistent with blast patterns. It then measured the distances between the positions to estimate the blast radius.

AP verified Airwars’ blast radius estimate by measuring the distance between where civilians were killed, based on Iranian media reports, and where the missiles detonated midair, based on security camera and other videos. AP also examined satellite images, photos and videos of damage from the attack sites.

Lockheed Martin, which did not respond to a request for comment, has not said how wide the missile’s impact is. It has released an animated video modeling a PrSM blast.

US touted use of PrSMs in Iran, but denied attacking Lamerd

In a post to X on March 1, the day after Lamerd was struck, U.S. Central Command included what munitions experts say was an image of the PrSM being fired during the Iran operation. Three days later, it touted that PrSMs — in a “historic first” — had been used in Iran, though not where.

Several weeks later, as reports about the strikes in Lamerd garnered media attention, a spokesperson for Central Command said in a statement that U.S. forces did not launch PrSMs or any weapons into Lamerd on Feb. 28, and that they do not target civilians. The spokesperson said footage of one of the strikes suggested it was an Iranian Hoveyzeh cruise missile.

Weapons experts said a missile seen in security camera video from Lamerd does not match that Iranian model, which has a rounded engine.

The Israeli military told AP it did not strike anywhere in Iran as far south as Lamerd on the first day of the war, and experts said Israel’s military is not known to have missiles that detonate midair.

When asked about Airwars’ and AP’s findings, U.S. Central Command reiterated its denial of responsibility, saying that was based on an earlier review of what happened there. Its commander, Adm. Brad Cooper, also told Congress in May that they were only investigating one case of U.S. fire killing civilians — a strike on an Iranian school in Minab.

What the PrSM is meant to do

The new missiles are meant to replace the Army Tactical Missile System used for decades, according to the U.S. military.

While the ATACMS can travel approximately 300 kilometers (186 miles), the PrSM can hit targets over 499 kilometers (310 miles) away, Lockheed Martin says.

The PrSM differs from its predecessor in another key way. Where ATACMS shatter into steel fragments or small bomblets over their target area, an exploding PrSM fires tens of thousands of pellets made of tungsten in all directions, Airwars and weapons experts say.

Because of tungsten’s high density and melting point, the pellets retain their shape after detonation. That makes them extremely lethal, capable of piercing soft armor, according to defense journals.

Missiles in Lamerd caused damage far from where they exploded

Airwars found footage of a school in Lamerd that was damaged by the missile detonated over the Shahid Naimi Sports Hall about 170 meters (557 feet) away.

That blast killed seven civilians, mostly children, Iranian state media reported. Airwars says it used open-source material to confirm the deaths. Among them were three teenage girls playing volleyball and a woman smoking a hookah in front of her house.

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A separate blast over the Tal-e Khandagh neighborhood killed 2-year-old Avina Barzegar, who was playing in her yard. Airwars estimates the pellet that struck Barzegar traveled 50 meters from the blast site. It reached that conclusion by geolocating her house, based on a video showing its front gate, and measuring the distance from the house to the site.

Neither Airwars nor AP could find any reports indicating that military or security personnel were killed in the strikes, or that military infrastructure was hit.

The US, UK and Australia are committed to buying more PrSMs

Since the Lamerd strikes, the Pentagon signed a contract worth over \$4 billion with Lockheed Martin to quadruple PrSM production. The U.K. said in June it had set aside 130 million pounds (\$177 million) to procure the weapon. Australia bought the missiles in 2025 and in April invested billions of dollars into the PrSM program.

Weapons experts say the PrSM provides valuable new capabilities, but it should be used carefully.

"Its proper use should be reserved for things like large concentrations of enemy personnel with hard and soft armor," said Wes Bryant, a former Pentagon adviser on precision warfare and civilian harm mitigation.

Trevor Ball, a former explosives expert for the U.S. Army, also urged caution.

"It will kill people outside their homes who aren't protected by walls," he said.

Carlos Alcaraz returns to the US Open with a victory, Aryna Sabalenka also wins her first match

By BRIAN MAHONEY AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Carlos Alcaraz was nervous. He was excited. Best of all, he was pain-free.

Alcaraz beat Roman Safiullin 6-4, 6-4, 6-4 on Monday, showing no problems with the right wrist injury that had sidelined the 23-year-old Spaniard since April.

"I don't know how it looked from outside, but from inside, my feeling was that I was hitting normal," Alcaraz said. "I was playing pretty normal, playing my style, and yeah, the arm, the wrist, everything felt great."

In that case, don't rule out a run at a repeat.

Following fellow two-time U.S. Open champion Aryna Sabalenka onto Arthur Ashe Stadium, the No. 2-seeded Alcaraz appeared more comfortable as the match went on and delivered the all-around game that has made him a fan favorite in New York. He held his hand to his ear to encourage louder cheers and pumped his fist after a pretty volley winner in the final game of the match.

Alcaraz could be an even bigger favorite after Djokovic's loss

Forced to miss the French Open and Wimbledon, Alcaraz decided he was good enough to come back at the U.S. Open, stepping right back into Grand Slam tennis without a warmup event.

"I had more nerves than usual, but just happy, because, for me, my goal here is to compete, to enjoy, and let's see how my body's going to react after the matches, after the competition again," Alcaraz said.

"I don't know how far I'm going to go in the tournament. I didn't know if I was going to lose this one, if I'm going to make the second round, final. I don't know how far I'm going to go. But what I just really want to do is enjoy every time that I'm going to walk into the court feeling the energy from the people, feel the competition."

No man has won consecutive U.S. Open titles since Roger Federer took five in a row from 2004-08. If Alcaraz stays healthy, the seven-time Grand Slam champion may quickly become a huge favorite with top-ranked Jannik Sinner sidelined by a knee injury and No. 4 Novak Djokovic losing in the U.S. Open's first round for the first time on Sunday.

With the tournament thrown into shock by that result — Djokovic had been 19-0 in the first round at Flushing Meadows, where he won four of his men's record 24 Grand Slam titles — Sabalenka brought back some normalcy.

Sabalenka likes the look of her outfit and her game

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Sabalenka beat Camila Osorio 6-4, 6-4 to begin her bid to be the first player to win three straight U.S. Open championships since Serena Williams from 2012-14.

She has been to the last three U.S. Open finals, rebounding from a loss to Coco Gauff in 2023 by winning in 2024 and then topping Amanda Anisimova last year to repeat.

"I feel like this is one of my favorite stadiums," Sabalenka told the crowd afterward. "I really experienced the best emotions here in this stadium."

Sabalenka changed up her look from last time she played on Ashe. Her orange Nike outfit was covered by orange mesh, rather than the black mesh of last week in her mixed doubles match with Djokovic that drew some criticism on social media. Sabalenka dismissed the comments, saying all that mattered was she loved it, and turns out the reason for the change was simple.

"To be honest, I didn't know that I have a day dress," she said. "I thought I have a black dress with orange underneath. I figured (out) when I went to Nike that I actually have day session and night session, which is just like black and orange for the day."

She must have certainly been happier with the level of tennis she delivered Monday, after a series of poor events coming into the U.S. Open. She was knocked out in the fourth round in both Toronto and Cincinnati, after being ousted at the same point at Wimbledon.

That has left Sabalenka needing help to retain the No. 1 ranking, even if she wins again in New York. No. 2 Elena Rybakina will pass her if she reaches the semifinals, and won't even need to win any matches if Sabalenka fails to win the title.

Wawrinka says goodbye and Tsitsipas signals that he may be back

Past U.S. Open champions who advanced included No. 8 Iga Swiatek and 2017 winner Sloane Stephens, before two-time champ Naomi Osaka won in two tiebreakers in a look inspired by former NBA superstar Allen Iverson. Stan Wawrinka lost to Matteo Berrettini in the final Grand Slam match before the three-time major champion from Switzerland, who won the title in 2016, retires at 41.

"I'm going to miss it for sure. I'm going to miss it big time," Wawrinka said.

Another top-10 seed followed Djokovic out when No. 10 Arthur Fils, coming off the title in Cincinnati, was ousted by Stefanos Tsitsipas 4-6, 7-6 (3), 6-1, 6-4. Tsitsipas, who is unseeded at the U.S. Open for the first time, was asked if he can regain the form that catapulted the Greek to the No. 3 ranking and two losses to Djokovic in Grand Slam finals.

"Why not?" Tsitsipas said.

No. 8 Ben Shelton recovered from a miserable start in which he was broken three times in a 28-minute first set and beat Tallon Griekspoor 1-6, 6-1, 7-6 (3), 6-2. No. 11 Frances Tiafoe rallied to edge fellow American Martin Damm in five sets.

Other winners included No. 6 Linda Noskova, the Wimbledon champion; No. 7 seed Karolina Muchova, who lost to her fellow Czech in the final at the All-England Club, and No. 10 Anisimova. Sara Bejlek, another Czech and the No. 28 seed who stunned Sabalenka in Cincinnati, fell in three sets to Cristina Bucsa.

Navarro moves on and Boisson melts down

No. 26 seed Emma Navarro outlasted Lois Boisson 7-6 (6), 6-7 (1), 6-3 in a first-round match that began Sunday but was not completed until Monday because of rain.

An ESPN camera captured the thrill of victory and the agony of defeat in one shot. As Navarro pumped her fist toward the crowd, Boisson could be seen behind her smashing her racket repeatedly to the court.

Lindsay Clancy jury set to deliberate for another day

By MICHAEL CASEY Associated Press

PLYMOUTH, Mass. (AP) — Jurors in the Lindsay Clancy murder trial are set to enter their fourth day of deliberations Tuesday over whether to hold her criminally responsible for killing her three young children at her Massachusetts home in 2023.

The jury began deliberating in secret last Thursday. It has been quiet since then, with no communications to the judge suggesting how things might be going.

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Clancy, a former labor and delivery nurse, doesn't deny strangling her children but says postpartum psychosis led to her actions. Prosecutors argue she knew what she was doing. Clancy, 36, has pleaded not guilty by reason of lack of criminal responsibility.

The jury could convict her of murder or manslaughter, or acquit her if they believe her deteriorating mental health was to blame. A conviction could lead to a life prison sentence. If she is acquitted, a judge could still order her confined to a mental health facility if an evaluation determines she is a danger to the public.

Clancy's lawyer argued at the trial that she loved her children, but killed them because she lost her grip on reality — and on herself — due to postpartum psychosis, a rare mental illness that can follow childbirth. In the months before the killings, Clancy sought treatment for her worsening mental health, including a stay in a psychiatric hospital.

Prosecutors said Clancy strangled the children because she was depressed and tired of living, and made a conscious choice to kill them before attempting suicide.

Army Secretary Dan Driscoll is stepping down after 18 months on the job, White House says

By BEN FINLEY and AAMER MADHANI Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Army Secretary Dan Driscoll is stepping down after 18 months on the job, the White House said Monday, in the latest departure of a top military leader during the Trump administration.

No reason was given for the departure of Driscoll, who is a friend of Vice President JD Vance, but tensions with Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth have been widely reported. It marks the latest in a series of shakeups of the military leadership, with the Army especially seeing major upheaval.

"Secretary Driscoll has been highly effective in advancing President Trump's agenda to Make America Strong Again at the Department of the Army by providing outstanding leadership during historic military operations, restoring an emphasis on readiness and lethality, assisting with negotiations between Russia and Ukraine, and more," White House spokeswoman Anna Kelly said in a statement.

"The United States Army is more powerful than ever thanks to his work alongside the Commander-in-Chief and Secretary of War," she added.

A U.S. Army official, who was not authorized to comment publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity, said Driscoll spoke with President Donald Trump on the current state of the Army and submitted his resignation. The official did not provide additional details. The Pentagon referred questions to the Army. Driscoll's resignation was reported earlier Monday by The Wall Street Journal.

Exit follows other Army departures, rollback of drone program

Driscoll's departure follows the ouster of one of his allies from the Army as well as the rollback of a drone program he had championed. Hegseth had suddenly ousted the service's top uniformed leader, Gen. Randy George, in April, while the Army's commander in Europe and Africa, Gen. Christopher Donahue, unexpectedly stepped down in June.

Gen. Christopher LaNeve, who has made a meteoric rise under Hegseth, took George's place as the Army's acting chief of staff. Under LaNeve, the service is pulling the plug on a drone modernization program. An Army unit based in Europe was building its own drones before LaNeve directed it to end its efforts and return to being a traditional infantry battalion, officials said in August.

Driscoll was a George ally and lamented his departure, along with both Republican and Democratic lawmakers. He told Congress in April that he and his family drove to George's house following his resignation "and we all gave him a hug."

"That being said, the civilian leadership, the design of our system, is that they get to pick the leaders that they want," Driscoll added.

Republicans and Democrats respond to departure news with praise for Driscoll

Rep. Steve Womack, an Arkansas Republican who had served in the Army National Guard, said on X that Driscoll is "a transformative leader who brought common sense and discipline to the Department of

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the Army.”

“I had the pleasure of working with him closely, and appreciated how engaged he was from mentoring cadets at West Point to leading the Army at the Pentagon,” Womack wrote. “The Army is better equipped and prepared to tackle emerging threats because of his leadership that strengthened the force while putting our Soldiers first.”

Rep. Jason Crow, a Colorado Democrat and former Army Ranger, told reporters that he worked well with Driscoll despite their policy differences.

“It was actually nice, I will say, having somebody who was smart, that knew the policy, that wanted to do the work, that had a background in these issues,” Crow said, adding that “it’s unfortunate that somebody like that can’t last in this administration.”

Crow, who serves on the House Armed Services Committee and co-chairs the House Army Caucus, said the “Pentagon right now is, in some cases, rudderless,” with so many senior leaders gone. “So, I’m gravely concerned about it,” he said.

Rhode Island Sen. Jack Reed, the ranking Democrat on the Senate Armed Services Committee, said in a statement that Driscoll “worked to transform the Army for the battlefield of the future, and he engaged with Congress candidly and consistently.”

“Secretary Hegseth is cultivating a culture where dissent is punished and competence is secondary to personal allegiance,” said Reed, a former Army officer, while noting that “hundreds of thousands of soldiers are deployed around the world, many in combat zones.”

Driscoll was an unlikely negotiator in Ukraine-Russia war

Driscoll is an Iraq war veteran, tech investor and former adviser to Vance, whom Driscoll met at Yale Law School. When nominating Driscoll in 2024, Trump called him “a disruptor and change agent.”

As Army secretary, Driscoll was tapped for the unusual role of key negotiator to try to end the war between Russia and Ukraine. He was also a major force behind trying to cut the red tape for military contractors to quickly develop more drones and counter-drone capabilities as warfare rapidly changes around the world.

The Senate confirmed him in February 2025, voting 66-28, following an Armed Services Committee hearing that was largely unfrontational and focused on how the Army could modernize its systems, improve recruiting and beef up the military industrial base.

Driscoll noted that his father and grandfather served in the Army, and he vowed to be a secretary focused on the needs of soldiers. According to the Army, Driscoll served as an armor officer from August 2007 to March 2011, deploying to Iraq from October 2009 to July 2010.

He also ran unsuccessfully in the Republican primary for a North Carolina congressional seat in 2020, getting about 8% of the vote in a crowded field of candidates.

His departure comes after Hegseth ousted several other generals and admirals, including the head of the Navy.

The Pentagon abruptly announced in April that Navy Secretary John Phelan was leaving the job, becoming the first head of a military service to depart during Trump’s second term.

Hundreds feared stuck in hydropower tunnels as flood deaths surpass 950 in Nepal and Tibet

By SHRISTI KAFLE and HUIZHONG WU Associated Press

KATHMANDU, Nepal (AP) — Rescuers raced Monday to free hundreds of workers believed to be trapped in tunnels at hydropower sites that were buried in mud by catastrophic flooding on the Nepal-China border, as the death toll climbed and increasingly desperate families searched for missing loved ones.

The combined deaths in Nepal and China surpassed 950, with more than 4,400 people missing. A private-sector association representing power companies said at least 900 workers were unaccounted for at 12 hydropower projects damaged by the flash floods in Nepal’s Rasuwa and Nuwakot districts.

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About 500 of those workers were believed to be trapped in tunnels. At least one expert said that some workers could have access to oxygen, but others warned that the chances of finding survivors were diminishing. As the rescue efforts intensified, four bodies were recovered from three mud-filled tunnels, Nepal's army said.

Some workers managed to call for help when the disaster struck last Wednesday, and others who managed to flee reported that many of their colleagues were still in the tunnels, said Mohan Kumar Dangi, president of the Independent Power Producers' Association, Nepal, or IPPAN.

It was unclear whether rescuers have had any contact with the trapped workers since the initial calls for help.

Six days after the disaster, fears were growing that some might have suffocated, Dangi said.

Giant tunnels are built to control water flow

Rescue efforts were focused on people trapped in the gigantic tunnels built for controlling the flow of water.

"These tunnels are big enough to drive trucks through," said Jakob Steiner, a geoscientist at the University of Graz in Austria based in Dhaka, Bangladesh. "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 people were missing, Dangi said, adding that around 300 of them were believed to be trapped inside the project's tunnel.

At the Trishuli-3 Hydropower Project, crews were working to descend about 15 meters (50 feet) into a tunnel to reach those believed trapped inside, according to Brig. Gen. Raja Ram Basnet, Nepal's army spokesman.

Workers shoveling mud from a flood-ravaged power station in Dhading, Nepal, told The Associated Press that the station is a key connection for providing power to over 20,000 people in the region.

Chinese media highlight government efforts to rebuild roads

On the Chinese side, rescue and recovery efforts included rebuilding the road leading to the Gyirong Port border crossing that regulated travel 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 days of rain. The road is now under 2 to 3 meters (6.6 to 9.8 feet) of water. The repaving effort was just a little over a kilometer (0.62 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 and instructions from top leaders. Little is known about victims on the Chinese side.

Families are desperate for information about missing loved ones

Nepal's disaster agency said Monday that 939 deaths had been counted in that country, with 3,925 people missing, including 592 foreigners. As of Sunday, Chinese authorities reported 16 deaths and 546 missing. Chinese state media said 261 of the missing were foreigners, including over 100 Nepalis.

Eighty Americans are missing, and 13 have reached safety, the U.S. State Department said.

Two days after the disaster, the owner of an Indian travel company, Maraval Nagappan, traveled to Nepal to search for his missing son. 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 travelers who were returning from Mount Kailash in Tibet. The group has been missing since floodwaters swept through a Chinese immigration complex where they were waiting to cross into Nepal.

Nagappan, whose Chennai-based company organized the pilgrimage, 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.

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The pilgrimage began Aug. 14. "I haven't heard from my son since then. I don't know whether he is alive or dead," he told AP.

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 with a glacial collapse high in the Himalayan region. Scientists who studied satellite images said bedrock underneath a glacier 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, creating a muddy torrent that swept buildings, bridges and earth downstream in Tibet and Nepal.

UN says thousands in need of water, sanitation materials

Nearly a week after the disaster, some 65,000 people need emergency water, sanitation and hygiene materials, the U.N. said Monday.

U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric told reporters that more than 22,000 children need protection, 2,600 children younger than 5 will likely need treatment for severe wasting and around 10,500 pregnant and breastfeeding women need nutrition assistance. He also noted schools were damaged or destroyed or are being used as shelters for displaced people.

"More than 10,000 school-age children need psychosocial support, and preliminary reports indicate that 107 children may have been separated from their parents or caregivers," Dujarric said.

Jury convicts a man of first-degree murder for the 1996 killing of rap icon Tupac Shakur

By JESSICA HILL and JONATHAN LANDRUM Jr. Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — A jury found Duane "Keffe D" Davis guilty of orchestrating the 1996 killing of rap icon Tupac Shakur, finally bringing a measure of resolution to a case that had gripped hip-hop fans and lingered in the public imagination for decades.

The 63-year-old Davis was convicted Monday of a single count of murder with a deadly weapon and could be sentenced to life in prison. The jury deliberated for less than three hours after a weeklong trial in Las Vegas.

After the verdict was read, Shakur's sister, Sekyiwa "Set" Shakur, cried and hugged the prosecutors. Davis' son covered his face with one hand.

Chief Deputy District Attorney Binu Palal told jurors in closing arguments earlier Monday that Davis acquired a gun and "went hunting" for Shakur and Death Row Records co-founder Marion "Suge" Knight after the men had beaten up Davis' nephew earlier that night.

"He is responsible of the murder of Tupac Shakur," Palal said. "Tell him you hear him. Find him guilty."

Prosecutors said that while his story had changed over the years, Davis repeatedly placed himself inside a white Cadillac from which the shots were fired. And they said that while he did not pull the trigger, evidence showed he'd called for the gunfire as a powerful gang leader the younger men in the car, including his nephew, were going to listen to.

Defense attorney Michael Sanft asked jurors if there was any evidence that Davis had ever called the shots before or after the shooting.

The panel of 16 jurors, four of whom are alternates, heard testimony from 24 prosecution witnesses and three defense witnesses over nine days.

The prosecution said the state would dismiss a gang enhancement charge due to witness logistics. Prosecutors declined to comment following the verdict, and members of Shakur's family said they were waiting until sentencing, which is scheduled for October.

The decades-old case has drawn the attention of hip-hop fans and crime experts alike

The trial brought to a head a decades-old case that for years has drawn the attention of hip-hop fans and true crime experts alike. Shakur, who was considered one of the most influential rappers of all time,

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was in Las Vegas on Sept. 7, 1996, and stopped at a red light when a white Cadillac pulled up beside him, and shots were fired. He died six days later from his wounds. Knight was also wounded but survived.

For years, nobody had been charged in the rapper's death until Davis began making public statements, saying he was in the Cadillac and gave the gun to others in the backseat, calling the shooting a retaliation for the earlier beating of his nephew. Davis is the only person still alive among the four men prosecutors say were in the Cadillac.

Witnesses described the hostile rivalry between the Los Angeles gang sects Mob Piru and Davis' South-side Compton Crips leading up to Shakur's death and how the gangs became affiliated with Knight's Death Row Records and Sean "Diddy" Combs' Bad Boy Records.

Defense argued public statements were untrue, and physical evidence was lacking

Sanft, Davis' attorney, argued there was no physical evidence connecting his client to the shooting. He said the book Davis co-authored and the public statements he made were dramatized bravado designed to make money, not to tell the truth.

Throughout the trial, Sanft poked holes in prosecutors' narrative. He said investigators did not back up the claims made by his client, and he repeatedly pointed out a lack of physical evidence, such as phone records, that showed Davis was the shot caller.

"They have nothing in this case that says that man was here in Las Vegas on Sept. 7, 1996," Sanft said during his closing argument.

In a rebuttal argument, prosecutor Marc DiGiacomo pointed to a scrapbook Davis kept containing articles about Shakur.

"This guy's scrapbooking his murder, for God's sake," DiGiacomo told jurors.

Davis' own words were front and center

Palal held up Davis' 2019 memoir, "Compton Street Legend," and played an interview in which Davis encouraged people to buy it to get the "real truth." Although the book contains a disclaimer saying some facts were changed, prosecutors argued the central account did not.

Sanft also turned to his client's memoir during his closing argument. While reading an excerpt, he said the N-word aloud, prompting people watching in an overflow courtroom to recoil and shake their heads.

In multiple interviews, Davis said he handed the gun to the back seat, but in others as well as in his book, Davis wouldn't say who pulled the trigger.

Gang and record label rivalries provided the backdrop

While insisting Davis' words alone were enough to convict him, prosecutors said a gang rivalry helped explain why the shooting happened.

Witnesses described the hostile rivalry between the Los Angeles gang sects leading up to Shakur's death, and how the gangs became affiliated with two rival labels — Mob Piru with Knight's Death Row Records and the South Side Compton Crips with Sean "Diddy" Combs' Bad Boy Records.

The shooting death of Bad Boy's the Notorious B.I.G. six months after Shakur came up many times during the trial, with law enforcement witnesses saying Davis was briefly a suspect in that killing before being discounted. That case, which has also been an obsession of hip-hop fans, remains unsolved.

Bessent huddles with G20 to try to rally allies on Iran as tariffs strain ties

By FATIMA HUSSEIN Associated Press

ASHEVILLE, N.C. (AP) — Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent is meeting with finance ministers of the world's largest economies this week at a time when the United States has disrupted the international order with aggressive tariffs on major allies and an unpopular war on Iran that is keeping gas prices high for consumers.

As Bessent opened meetings of the Group of 20 finance ministers in Asheville on Monday, he said he wants to focus on ways to grow the global economy and rein in mounting debt. But the event comes after hostilities renewed between the U.S. and Iran, and as trade friction with Canada spiked following a breakdown in negotiations that led to escalating tariffs.

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Bessent told The Associated Press in an interview on Sunday that he plans to turn up pressure on Iran by sanctioning another bank, part of what he is calling "Operation Economic Outcast." The administration earlier this month took steps to limit an Egyptian bank's operations in the United Arab Emirates. He said the administration is prepared to exact "financial violence if we have to."

Asked by reporters Monday how long it would take for the Iranian economy to collapse, Bessent said: "I think it could be within weeks or months -- and the economy doesn't have to collapse, we just have to have the regime come to their senses."

Bessent said the European Union had backed his sanctions efforts with "fulsome support." On Sunday, the EU said in a statement it welcomes added economic pressure on Iran and will work with the U.S. and other partners to keep the squeeze on Iran.

France's finance minister, Roland Lescure, told reporters he hopes there will be a global statement from the G20 on an agreed-upon path for economic growth worldwide.

He said the world economy is "a bit like the weather in Asheville -- it's unpredictable, it's foggy."

Russia's finance minister is at the meeting too

Russia's finance ministry said Finance Minister Anton Siluanov met with Bessent on Monday on the sidelines of the meeting.

Asked why the Russian official had been invited to the meeting despite invading Ukraine more than four years ago, President Donald Trump said, "We like getting along with everybody."

Bessent told Siluanov that the U.S. would not give Russia economic relief until it ends the war, a source familiar with the meeting said, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak on the record to journalists. Siluanov tried to discuss areas of interest, but Bessent "forcefully interrupted" to say that no actions were possible until the war ended, the source said.

Under the circumstances, it might be hard to marshal allies

Daniel Fried, a former assistant secretary of state for European affairs in George W. Bush's Republican administration, said the U.S. may "find it difficult to rally its usual friends and allies" under the circumstances.

If Bessent and other administration officials want international support, he said, they will need to "take greater care in consulting with allies and partners than the U.S. has shown in recent months."

Bessent wants other countries to help the U.S. isolate Iran in order to force its capitulation during a war that recently crossed its six-month mark. Although the U.S. struck Iran again on Sunday, the administration has previously signaled its intention to focus on economic pressure rather than military action to achieve its goals.

So far, Trump has not followed through on threats of an "economic D-Day" for Iran, instead largely relying on warnings to Iran's trading partners. A particular challenge is China, which is the largest buyer of Iranian oil.

Bessent told the AP that "all options are on the table" in terms of sanctioning Beijing for its continued purchases.

Sanctioning China for Iranian oil purchases would come with consequences

Nicholas Mulder, a Cornell historian who specializes in sanctions, said "we might see a gradual trickle of smaller listings but a large designation of, say, a major Chinese bank would cause serious upheaval and prompt retaliation."

But Bessent rejected the idea that the administration is reluctant to confront China, calling it "a completely false narrative." 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.

Mulder also cautioned that any disruption to global oil flows through secondary sanctions would boost inflation and force the Federal Reserve to raise interest rates.

"Given that Bessent's Treasury already finds itself having to quell a growing unease in the bond markets, it will be very challenging to do the same in the sanctions enforcement space with credibility," Mulder said.

The G20 meetings are taking place in Asheville, which was devastated by Hurricane Helene in September 2024. The natural disaster killed more than 250 people and caused nearly \$80 billion in damage from Florida to the Carolinas.

Bessent said Asheville — which rebuilt after the storm — was a symbolic backdrop for discussions about economic growth.

"We want the rest of the world to come along with our growth agenda, whether it's deregulation, the energy independence, and we want to discuss global imbalances, banking regulations, some sovereign debt restructuring for developing countries," Bessent told the AP.

He added that "the world has this mountain of debt, and we do have to grow our way out of it."

Argentina star Lionel Messi retires from international soccer with World Cup title and 125 goals

By DÉBORA REY Associated Press

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) — Argentina superstar Lionel Messi announced his retirement from international soccer on Monday, ending 21 years of national-team duty that were capped by winning the World Cup in 2022 to secure his place in the pantheon of the game's greatest ever players.

"It was a decision that hurt — and still hurts deeply — but I understand that the time has come," the 39-year-old Messi said on his Instagram account.

Messi, who will continue to play at club level with Inter Miami in Major League Soccer, played in a record-tying six World Cups. He won it four years ago in a tournament he dominated in Qatar and also led Argentina to the title match in 2014 and again this year, when the Albiceleste lost to Spain in extra time in New Jersey.

Messi stands shoulder to shoulder with Diego Maradona, a compatriot with whom he was so often compared, and Brazil icon Pelé as the greatest players of all time.

For many, he's the best.

"I swear to you that I always gave it my all — not just in these last few years when we won everything, but before that too," Messi wrote. "I always fought and left everything on the field for this jersey, to bring you joy and make you feel proud to be Argentine through football."

Messi played 207 games for Argentina and finishes as its all-time leading scorer with 125 goals, 21 of them in World Cups. Only one player has more goals in men's internationals — his long-time rival Cristiano Ronaldo, who has 146 and has yet to announce his retirement from Portugal duty.

Messi became the all-time leading World Cup scorer for a month in the recent tournament in the U.S., Mexico and Canada, but finished one goal behind France's Kylian Mbappé.

Messi decided two days after World Cup final

In a long social-media post, Messi explained he wrote his retirement letter on July 21 — two days after the World Cup final in which he struggled to make an impact — but waited to publish it because his father was facing health issues that eventually claimed his life.

Jorge Messi died on Aug. 8 in his native Rosario.

Two months after Messi starred at the 2005 world under-20 championship, scoring both of Argentina's goals in the final triumph, he was given his senior Argentina debut at 18. His first appearance lasted only two minutes; the substitute was sent off against Hungary in Budapest.

His journey with the national team was fraught with more frustration — he briefly retired from Argentina duty in 2016 after three defeats in three consecutive major finals — until he finally lifted the World Cup four years ago, either side of also winning Copa America titles in 2021 and '24.

"Thank you for all the love these past 20 years," he said. "I'm going to miss hearing you all from the inside so much. Now I'm going to be one of you, cheering and supporting you from the outside (through thick and thin, even more so)."

In the letter, Messi did not say how long he intends to continue playing. The recent World Cup showed he's still one of the best players in the world, as did a four-goal display for Inter Miami at the weekend in a 7-1 victory over CF Montreal.

"I leave with the peace of mind and pride of having given you — along with my teammates — moments we once only dreamed of. Experiencing this with you was incredible. I love you all," he added.

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The second retirement

Messi's stellar recent success with Argentina nearly didn't happen.

A decade ago he retired from the national team following Argentina's defeat in the 2016 Copa America final to Chile on penalty kicks — one of which he missed.

A public campaign led by Maradona and the president changed his mind and Messi shook off the notion of not being able to win the big matches, returning to the Argentina team and continuing to star for Barcelona, then Paris Saint-Germain, then Inter Miami.

He's the two-time MVP in MLS, the star of the league champion and someone who still creates goals in the biggest moments.

He's also a record eight-time world player of the year.

"He is pure history," Argentina coach Lionel Scaloni said during the recent World Cup. "History. A legend."

Forever grateful

The retirement announcement sparked a wave of reactions.

Argentina President Javier Milei wrote on Instagram: "Thank you very much, impossible man."

FIFA President Gianni Infantino praised Messi "for an extraordinary international career that has inspired millions of people and redefined our sport. Your magical talent and humility will be remembered forever."

The Argentine Football Association wrote: "Thank you for everything, Leo. Thank you for representing Argentina. Thank you for making us dream. Thank you for turning so many dreams into reality. The legend is yours, forever."

Argentina and Inter Miami teammate Rodrigo De Paul highlighted on social media "your unconditional love for our country, your internal battles to never give up, your strength in always enduring injustices, and your leadership and character in your dealings with every player."

Leandro Paredes, another Argentina teammate, said, "Thank you for absolutely everything. You are and always will be the greatest of all time. We love you, Captain."

Defender Cristian Romero said: "I love you, I admire you, and I will always be grateful for the impact you've had on me and on our country. Thank you for so much, Captain."

DA says a teen who recorded San Diego mosque shooting livestream has been charged with murder

By GENE JOHNSON Associated Press

A 17-year-old North Carolina girl who recorded a livestream of a shooting that killed three people at a San Diego mosque and then disseminated the attackers' white-supremacist writings has been charged with murder by aiding and abetting, a district attorney said Monday.

Forsyth County District Attorney Jim O'Neill said at a news conference in Winston-Salem that the girl, identified in court records as Sarah L. Santiago, was arrested last week. A grand jury indicted her on three counts of murder and one count of conspiracy Monday.

"At this time I can confirm that my client is innocent of all these charges," Santiago's attorney, Alan Doorasamy Sr., wrote in an email to The Associated Press. He said he had not received evidence from law enforcement and did not elaborate on any connection between Santiago and the attackers.

Under North Carolina law, the aiding-and-abetting charges carry the same penalties as if the girl had committed the attack herself, O'Neill said. She is charged as an adult and was being held without bond.

According to the indictment, Santiago agreed prior to the attack that she would record the livestream as the gunmen filmed it, distribute the recording, and release a document written by the attackers. She carried out those tasks, it said. She's also accused of purchasing a patch bearing a white-supremacist symbol and sending it to one of the gunmen to wear during the attack.

In all, three people watched the initial livestream, O'Neill said. It was not immediately clear if investigators had identified the others, and the indictment did not specify on which platforms the livestream was recorded or shared.

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"The individual here, locally, was the person who was recording the livestream," O'Neill said. "She disseminated that information and she published their manifesto."

Cain Clark, 17, and Caleb Vazquez, 18, stormed the Islamic Center on May 18 before being driven back outside by a security guard who exchanged gunfire with them as he initiated a lockdown, helping to protect 140 children who were just steps away.

The pair killed the guard, Amin Abdullah, and two other men before taking their own lives in a vehicle nearby. They left behind rambling writings full of vitriol against a wide range of people, and cited the shooter who killed 51 people at two mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand, in 2019, as one of the models for their violence.

Clark and Vazquez also planned subsequent attacks on two other targets: a Jewish temple and a predominantly Black high school, O'Neill said. He credited the guard and other victims at the mosque with having saved countless lives.

The attackers' writings cited a range of far-right ideological inspirations, including the notion that white people are being replaced by other populations, and detailed their motives and goals. They included hateful rhetoric toward Jewish people, Muslims and Islam, as well as the LGBTQ+ community, Black people, women, and the political left and right.

They indicated they were trying to accelerate the collapse of society. Vazquez wrote of having "some mental health issues" and being rejected by women.

In a written statement, the Vazquez family said Caleb Vazquez was on the autism spectrum and had grown to resent parts of his identity. The family said they believed that, combined with exposure to hateful rhetoric online, contributed to his radicalization.

Tazheen Nizam, executive director of the San Diego office of the Council on American-Islamic Relations, a Muslim civil rights group, said it is essential to hold everyone involved in such attacks accountable.

"We as a community need to invest in dismantling anti-Muslim hate," Nizam said.

Santiago's arrest came just days before classes were to begin for the new school year, O'Neill said.

"The thought of her going back to school ... we didn't know what she was capable of," he said.

Amid backlash, museum cancels planned Met Gala exhibit on fashion designer John Galliano

By JOCELYN NOVECK AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The Metropolitan Museum of Art is canceling its planned exhibit honoring British designer John Galliano — plans that had led to bitter backlash from the Jewish community and beyond because of the designer's past antisemitic and racist statements.

"John Galliano: Horizons," the high-profile spring Costume Institute exhibit that was to be launched by the annual Met Gala next May, will be replaced by another exhibit, the museum said Monday.

"Following thoughtful discussions with John Galliano, we have together decided not to proceed with the exhibition," Max Hollein, director and CEO of the museum, announced in a statement.

The designer joined in the statement, saying: "After much reflection and discussion with The Met and all those involved, I have decided, with great sadness, that it is best for the exhibition not to take place at this time. I remain fully accountable for the pain caused by my words in the past, particularly the hurt I caused to the Jewish and Asian communities, and I remain deeply sorry for it."

Galliano was convicted in an antisemitism trial in France

Galliano, long recognized as one of the fashion world's biggest talents for his creatively flamboyant designs, was at the pinnacle of that world for years as creative director of Christian Dior. He was fired from the post when a series of racist and antisemitic comments from 2010 and 2011 surfaced and went viral, leading to his conviction in an antisemitism trial in France.

Among the remarks Galliano made to bar patrons, circulated on video, were "I love Hitler." He also told patrons, who were Jewish, that their mothers and forefathers would have been "gassed." He also made derogatory comments to an Asian patron.

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Dropped by Dior, Galliano spent several years involved in public and private efforts to rehabilitate. He made a comeback in 2014 when he was hired by Paris fashion house Maison Margiela, where he remained for a decade.

He was to become only the third living designer to be honored with a solo show at the Costume Institute. Anna Wintour calls Galliano's decision to step aside courageous.

The spring exhibit is launched each year by the star-studded Met Gala, the most visible event on the fashion calendar, where celebrity guests tour the show's galleries during cocktail hour. The gala is overseen by Anna Wintour, Vogue's global editorial director and one of the most influential figures in fashion. Wintour has been longtime supporter of Galliano.

In her own statement released by the museum, she called Galliano's decision to step aside a courageous one.

"John's decision that the exhibition devoted to his work should not take place at this time is very courageous and a measure of the man he is," Wintour said. "I believe this is the right decision, and both he and the Museum have my full support."

Andrew Bolton, the Costume Institute's longtime curator, also said he agreed with the decision, given "the pain and concern this exhibition has caused."

The Met, when it announced the show at the end of July, had taken pains to say the exhibit would forthrightly examine Galliano's past mistakes. It also held discussions with Jewish community leaders before announcing the show, in an ultimately unsuccessful attempt to ward off anticipated backlash.

One of the key critics of the planned show was New York City Council Speaker Julie Menin, who issued a statement Monday saying she'd met many times with the museum to voice opposition to an exhibit honoring Galliano.

"From the beginning, I have told them that I strongly disagreed with this decision, and at this rising time of antisemitism, it had served as a gut punch to the Jewish community," said Menin, who noted she was the daughter of a Holocaust survivor. "This is the correct decision, as the harm and pain this was causing was simply unacceptable."

In a further complication for the museum, the gala takes place by tradition on the first Monday in May, which in 2027 falls on Holocaust Remembrance Day. There had been speculation that the museum might change the date for this reason.

Critics of the Galliano exhibit react

Jonathan Greenblatt, chief executive of the Anti-Defamation League, said Monday in a post on X that the planned exhibit had been "the wrong move at the wrong moment."

"With antisemitism at crisis levels, the Met honoring John Galliano at this moment was misguided, and even Galliano ultimately recognized what the Met should have done at the start," Greenblatt said. He had met with Hollein a few weeks ago, along with a Met board member, urging the museum director to cancel, according to a person with knowledge of the situation.

Greenblatt had, in earlier comments when the show was announced, praised Galliano's efforts to repair the damage from his remarks, saying the ADL had long since accepted the designer's apology. But he also indicated the timing was difficult for such an honor and urged the museum to consider that reality.

Another recent public critic of the show was David Ingber, a rabbi who is senior director for Jewish life at the Bronfman Center at 92NY, the prominent New York Jewish institution. Ingber praised Galliano's decision to withdraw from the honor in recognition of its cost to other people.

As for the Met, he said there was a big difference between the issue of redemption and the granting of a rare and hugely visible honor. "Redemption doesn't entitle someone to every honor that we have," he said.

"It wasn't that the Met was merely studying Galliano's work," added Ingber, who was not included in the museum's outreach to Jewish community leaders. "It was a solo exhibition that would be launched at the gala, and that would be an act of institutional celebration of his work. Galliano hasn't been erased ... the question was whether the Met should build its most glamorous annual gala celebration around him."

Supreme Court lets White House continue construction on Trump's \$400 million ballroom

By LINDSAY WHITEHURST Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A divided Supreme Court on Monday allowed the White House to continue construction on a \$400 million ballroom project as lawsuits play out, a win for President Donald Trump as he flexes unprecedented executive power and remakes the capital in his image.

The apparent 5-4 decision replaces a temporary order issued earlier this month, shortly before a court-ordered halt would have gone into effect.

That temporary order was signed by Chief Justice John Roberts, assigned to handle appeals from the capital. But he publicly disagreed with the latest decision, writing a strong dissent that said the project is likely unlawful because it hasn't been approved by Congress.

"Today's decision is no victory for the separation of powers," Roberts wrote. The court's three liberal-leaning justices agreed.

The majority, on the other hand, found the National Trust for Historic Preservation likely did not have the legal right to challenge the project.

The unsigned order pointed to government arguments that the ballroom would address national security concerns by shielding a planned underground military installation and offering a more secure structure for large events than the tents currently used.

By contrast, "the only harm the Trust claims is the offense one of its members will suffer from having to view a structure of the 'scale,' 'height,' and 'massing' the government intends," it states.

Trump applauded the decision, writing in a social media post, "I am pleased to report that the United States Supreme Court has just ruled in favor of the Ballroom/Military Complex being built without any further contingency, doubt, or threat."

The majority's order did not directly decide the legality of the project, and the suit will return to lower courts. Documents filed in the case, though, say that key portions of the project could be complete within months — a quick timeline compared with a typical legal case.

The trust's president and CEO, Brent Leggs, said the group was disappointed with the decision but pleased with Roberts' dissent. "This is not the final decision on the merits of our case and does not resolve our fundamental argument — that each President is a temporary steward of the People's House and does not have the unilateral authority to demolish and redesign it without the approval of Congress," he said in a statement.

The Trump administration asked the justices to intervene after federal courts found the project must halt because it didn't have congressional approval.

The lawsuit from the trust argued that Trump has no unilateral authority to undertake the work, which has included demolishing the East Wing. The group's lawyers accused the White House of trying to "outrun the courts" by accelerating construction.

In lower courts, the administration has argued that the president has total authority to renovate the White House and other federal buildings.

The trust and the four dissenters, however, note that federal law prohibits the construction of any structure on federal parks or public grounds in D.C. "without express authority of Congress."

The trust and its members, meanwhile, are "deeply committed to the preservation of historic American buildings," bolstering their legal right to sue, Roberts wrote.

Trump on Monday called the lawsuit "baseless."

"When completed in the Summer of 2028, the magnificent Ballroom and Military Complex will be something that the entire Country is very proud of," he wrote.

The administration has said crews are working 20 hours a day on the planned 90,000-square-foot (8,400-square-meter) ballroom. The framework is expected to be completed in November and much of the facade done by April, with full completion slated for August 2028, according to court documents.

U.S. District Judge Richard Leon ordered a stop to aboveground construction of the planned ballroom in

April, though the order would allow work on bunkers and military installations below ground to continue. Leon was nominated by President George W. Bush, a Republican.

The ruling was suspended but later upheld by a divided appeals court panel. Two judges appointed by Democratic presidents found the project was for Congress to decide and "not a matter for Executive self-help." A third judge, appointed by Trump, found that the preservationist group that challenged the project had no legal right to sue.

Solicitor General D. John Sauer also made that argument to the justices and said the decision halting the work was "extraordinary and unlawful." He said the completion of the project was "vitally required by national security." National security was not an initial focus when Trump announced the work he said would be funded by private donations.

The administration has scored a series of other victories on the high court's emergency docket, though the justices have ruled against some of the president's signature policies after fuller review.

Singer D4vd loses prominent lawyers defending him in killing of 14-year-old Celeste Rivas Hernandez

By ANDREW DALTON AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Singer D4vd lost his high-profile private lawyers Monday at a hearing where he entered a new not guilty plea to charges that he killed, sexually abused and dismembered 14-year-old Celeste Rivas Hernandez.

It's not clear why Blair Berk and her colleagues Marilyn Bednarski and Regina Peter parted ways with the indie-pop singer whose legal name is David Anthony Burke. They were replaced by a lawyer from the Los Angeles County Public Defender's Office.

The defense attorneys said in a statement only that the judge granted their request to withdraw after finding that Burke qualified for a court-appointed lawyer.

"We continue to support David and his defense against these serious charges," the statement said. The lawyers would not answer specific questions about their departure outside the courtroom.

Burke earned at least \$10 million through his music from 2023 through 2025, according to testimony from his money handlers at a previous hearing. It's not clear how he financially qualifies for a public defender whose job is to defend clients who lack the money for a lawyer.

Without providing details, the Public Defender's Office said in an email that it had completed a thorough financial evaluation and found he was eligible.

Deputy Public Defender Walid Kandeel took over the defense. Judge Charlaire F. Olmedo denied his first request as the singer's lawyer to delay the arraignment. Olmedo demanded a plea Monday instead, and scheduled a status conference for October. No trial date has been set.

Olmedo ruled after a five-day evidentiary hearing in July that there was enough evidence for Burke to stand trial on charges of murder, continuous lewd and lascivious acts with a child under 14 and unlawful mutilation of human remains.

A second arraignment and plea, like Burke gave Monday, is standard practice after such a hearing and finding. He is eligible for the death penalty, but District Attorney Nathan Hochman said after Monday's hearing that his office is still deciding whether to pursue it.

Hochman said the new lawyers will make no difference in how his office pursues the case, though the switch may delay the process. He said regardless of the timing, his office is "ready to prove all three charges beyond a reasonable doubt."

Outgoing attorney Berk has for years been among the go-to lawyers for A-list clients. They've included Leonardo DiCaprio, Jennifer Aniston, Reese Witherspoon, Harvey Weinstein and the late Ozzy Osbourne.

New attorney Kandeel said in a statement that "We recognize the loss of life underlying the allegations and extend our sympathies to those who are grieving. At the same time, David Burke is entitled to a defense that takes his circumstances seriously and carefully examines the evidence."

Nick Reiner, charged with killing his parents, the director Rob Reiner and Michele Singer Reiner, recently

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lost a similarly prominent private lawyer in favor of a public defender because his source of money was cut off. He's now seeking access to a trust so he can rehire the attorney, Alan Jackson.

Authorities allege Burke stabbed Rivas Hernandez to death in April of last year after she threatened to expose sexual abuse that began when she was 13 and crater his rising career just days before his debut album dropped.

"i will end ur career and ur life," she told him in a text message sent the night before her death.

Prosecutors said the following night Burke sent an Uber for her and stabbed her when she entered his house. They presented evidence that her phone went permanently silent at that moment.

Rivas Hernandez's dismembered and decomposing body was found in the trunk of Burke's Tesla in the Hollywood Hills in September while he was on tour.

Prosecutors argued at the July hearing that the "mountains of evidence" they presented were overwhelming. Burke's lawyers argued that the evidence of murder was insufficient.

D4vd (pronounced "David") became an online musical phenomenon as a teen with a blend of indie rock, R&B and lo-fi pop. He had huge followings on TikTok, SoundCloud and Spotify, where his top songs, including his 2022 breakthrough "Romantic Homicide," have more than a billion plays.

In 2024, he played the Coachella music festival and released his first full-length album, "Withered," two days after authorities say Rivas Hernandez was killed.

Oil prices rise and stocks fall after US hits Iranian sites in the Strait of Hormuz

By DAMIAN J. TROISE and ALEX VEIGA AP Business Writers

Wall Street closed out August on a downbeat note Monday as stocks fell and the price of oil rose after the U.S. launched its first military action in a month against Iran.

The S&P 500 index fell 0.3%. The Dow Jones Industrial Average dropped 0.7% and the Nasdaq composite slipped 0.1%.

August had no shortage of turbulence for the market, but the S&P 500 and Nasdaq each posted a gain for the month after losing ground in July and June. The Dow, meanwhile, managed its fifth-straight monthly gain.

Monday's losses were broad, with nearly every sector within the benchmark S&P 500 finishing in the red. Energy stocks, though, notched gains. Exxon Mobil rose 2.7% and Chevron rose 2.1%.

On the losing side, Edison International slumped 23.1% and PG&E fell 20.1% for the two steepest declines. That followed reports about potential California wildfire legislation that would allow insurers to sue utilities over related claims.

Amazon fell 2.5% after The Wall Street Journal reported that the Federal Trade Commission and more than 20 states are preparing to sue the online retail giant over claims the company manipulated prices on its platform.

The U.S. war with Iran remained a key focus for Wall Street. U.S. forces struck Iranian rocket launchers on the Strait of Hormuz on Sunday. Meanwhile, the United Arab Emirates said it intercepted an Iranian drone over its waters on Monday.

The aggressive actions follow a lull in activity in the U.S. war with Iran, which has lasted more than six months.

The war has curtailed traffic in the Strait of Hormuz, which accounts for about 20% of the world's oil shipments. Oil prices remain high after an initial surge earlier in the war and that has made everything from gasoline to shipped goods more expensive.

The price of Brent crude, the international standard, rose 2.7% to settle at \$90.49 per barrel on Monday. Brent fell below \$80 earlier in August but has since moved higher with no sign of an imminent end to the war.

The national average for gasoline in August has been above \$4 per gallon every day of the month for the first time ever, according to the AAA. It has been the most expensive August at the pump on record,

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outpacing even the enormous supply chain crunch during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2022.

Higher energy prices have fueled already stubbornly high inflation. That has been weighing on household spending and consumer confidence. It has also given the Federal Reserve a more complicated path ahead for its interest rate policy.

The rate of inflation remains well above 3%, which is far beyond the Fed's 2% target. Wall Street expects the central bank to raise interest rates at least once before the year ends in an effort to cool inflation. On Friday, Fed Chair Kevin Warsh said that inflation is still too high and suggested a rate hike might be necessary in the coming months.

The Fed gets its next inflation update on Sept. 11, just days ahead of its next meeting to determine interest rate policy. Wall Street is forecasting a 66% chance that the Fed will raise its benchmark rate at that meeting, according to CME FedWatch.

"While a September hike is not a foregone conclusion, we expect the Fed to have limited tolerance for meaningful upside inflation surprises," wrote Brock Weimer, investment strategy analyst at Edward Jones, in a research note.

The yield on the two-year Treasury, which closely tracks expectations about Fed moves, held steady at 4.34%, where it was late Friday. That's up significantly from about 3.50% at the beginning of 2026.

The yield on the 10-year Treasury rose to 4.75% from 4.73% late Friday. That's back up around the level seen two weeks ago when the Trump administration took the unusual step of announcing it would intervene in the bond market.

Any increase to interest rates that could cool inflation also risks hurting the jobs market. Later this week, the U.S. reports August jobs data. In July, the U.S. job market stalled unexpectedly as employers cut 23,000 jobs. Labor Department revisions slashed another 103,000 jobs from May and June payrolls.

Company updates helped move several stocks Monday. GameStop rose 2.9% after the video game retailer provided a preliminary second-quarter earnings outlook above its year-ago results. Shares of Aon slid 9.5% as the company announced that it was buying insurance broker USI Insurance Services from private equity firm KKR in a deal valued at \$17 billion, including debt.

All told, the S&P 500 fell 25.62 points to 7,686.14. It rose 2.6% in August and is up 12.3% so far this year.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average dropped 374.09 points to 53,185.90. The Nasdaq fell 31.53 points to 26,370.89. The index, which is heavily weighted with big tech stocks, posted a 3.9% gain for the month and is up 13.5% this year.

Markets were mixed in Europe.

Kalshi bans ex-Congressman George Santos for life after concluding he likely was insider trading

By LARRY NEUMEISTER Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The online prediction market platform Kalshi said Monday that it has permanently banned former U.S. Rep. George Santos for his bets on whether he'd attend the State of the Union address and has fined and temporarily banned North Carolina congressional candidate Laurie Buckhout for bets she now calls a "dumb mistake."

The company announced the ban on Santos, a Republican, after its Compliance Department found reasonable cause to believe Santos engaged in insider trading, contributing to speculation over whether he would attend the address before turning a \$17,839 profit on his trading activity when he did not.

Kalshi spokesperson Elisabeth Diana said it was the first permanent ban in the company's history. She said those affected by four other new enforcement cases announced Monday would be banned from trading temporarily because they cooperated with Kalshi's probe.

The company also levied a \$2,589 fine and three-year ban against Buckhout, a Republican and retired colonel who's running against Democratic Rep. Don Davis in a swing district in northeastern North Carolina, and three-year bans on failed candidates for governor in California and Maine.

Kalshi said Buckhout admitted placing bets of less than \$1,000 on her campaign.

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"I bet on myself. Literally. It was a dumb mistake, and as soon as I learned there was an issue, I worked to make it right," Buckhout said in a statement. "Safe to say my career as a Kalshi trader was short-lived."

The lifetime ban, effective last Friday, on Santos prevents him from accessing Kalshi's platform directly or indirectly. The site also imposed a \$71,356 penalty.

The convicted ex-congressman had repeatedly discussed his intention to attend the State of the Union, which came just four months after he was granted clemency by President Donald Trump in a fraud case that led to his expulsion from the U.S. House.

On the eve of Trump's speech, Kalshi put the odds of Santos attending at close to 75%.

Then, minutes into the speech, Santos posted on X that he had been waylaid at the airport. Immediately, several social media users accused him of running another scheme.

An email seeking comment from Santos on Monday was not immediately returned.

On X, Santos called Kalshi "an unserious company" and labeled the ban "frivolous nonsense" in one post and, in another, said "thanks for the lifetime ban from your gambling platform," adding: "Let's see how much longer you guys are around for."

Kalshi's Compliance Department said Santos was prohibited from trading over his attendance plans because he was capable of influencing the outcome. Yet, it added, he placed several large bets between Feb. 2 and Feb. 25 on whether he would attend and then spoke publicly to influence the price of the bets, including making "false or misleading statements."

A month ago, Santos agreed to pay \$35,000 to settle a federal investigation by the Commodity Futures Trading Commission into the trades. The federal probe prompted rival online prediction platform Polymarket to cut ties with Santos in June.

In March, Santos addressed complaints about his attendance at the State of the Union address on his podcast.

"I guess people lost money," he said. "Some people made unexpected money. That's to show you how fragile these markets are."

Santos, who won office after inventing a bogus persona as a Wall Street dealmaker, was sentenced to seven years in prison after pleading guilty to fraud and identity theft in 2024. After serving just 84 days, he was ordered released by Trump, who called Santos a "rogue" but said he did not deserve a harsh sentence and should get credit for voting Republican.

Kalshi's temporary bans announced Monday also were imposed on Stephen Cloobek, a timeshare mogul who briefly ran for California governor and who Kalshi says bought \$10,000 worth of contracts on his candidacy, and Ben Midgley, a businessman who briefly competed for the GOP nomination for Maine governor and bet less than \$1,000 on his campaign. Cloobek could not immediately be reached for comment.

Midgley said in a statement that he was not aware candidates could not support themselves on Kalshi when he used the platform he viewed as "a novelty and entertainment source."

"The moment I became aware the site preferred not to have candidates supporting themselves, I suspended any involvement," he said. "I mean it is hard to take a site seriously which allows bets on virtually anything. Obviously, the novelty has worn off. I had no winnings and made a donation to charity in accordance with Kalshi's policies."

US military has no plans to send troops to the polls in November, top general says

By BEN FINLEY Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The highest-ranking officer in the U.S. military says there are no plans to send troops to polling places during November's midterm congressional elections, addressing concerns among Democrats that the Trump administration could use the military to interfere with the vote.

Gen. Dan Caine, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, made the statement in a letter to Michigan Democratic Sen. Elissa Slotkin, who recently asked Caine and Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth to confirm they won't send troops to the polls.

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"The Joint Force has no plans to send Federal military personnel or Federalized members of the National Guard to polling places during the 2026 elections," Caine said in the letter to Slotkin, which was obtained Monday by The Associated Press. "Likewise, the Joint Force has no plans to use such personnel to seize ballots, voting machines, or other election-related material."

Caine, who advises Hegseth and President Donald Trump on military matters, also wrote: "I have neither received nor anticipate receiving any unlawful order concerning the role of the Joint Force in the upcoming November 2026 midterm elections."

Anxiety among Democrats that the Trump administration could try to meddle in the midterm elections has grown, particularly after the president deployed federal agents in Democratic-led states over the objections of local leaders.

Slotkin told the AP earlier in August that Trump has been laying the groundwork to claim the elections were stolen. She noted that Trump contemplated using the military to seize voting machines after his loss in 2020 and has deployed the National Guard to cities against the wishes of Democratic leaders. He also deployed active duty Marines to Los Angeles during his immigration crackdown in 2025.

Federal law prohibits the deployment of armed federal forces to election locations unless "necessary to repel armed enemies of the United States." If any element of the military were to get involved, it would likely be the National Guard under state control.

White House chief of staff Susie Wiles denied in a Vanity Fair interview last year that Trump would use the military to suppress voting in the midterms.

Sonja Thrasher, Slotkin's press secretary, said Hegseth has not replied to the letter asking him to confirm troops won't be deployed to the polls in November. Slotkin had asked for a response by last Thursday.

The Pentagon did not immediately respond to an email from the AP asking for the status of Hegseth's response to Slotkin. The Pentagon previously said it would respond directly to the senator.

Slotkin asked Hegseth during an April congressional hearing if he would follow orders to seize ballots. Hegseth called the question a "gotcha hypothetical," but said, "I've never been ordered to do anything illegal, and I won't."

In 2020, Gen. Mark Milley, then-chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, responded to a similar letter from Slotkin, then a congresswoman.

"I believe deeply in the principle of an apolitical U.S. military," Milley wrote. "In the event of a dispute over some aspect of the elections, by law U.S. courts and the U.S. Congress are required to resolve any disputes, not the U.S. military."

Russia's jet-powered drones bring empty Kyiv supermarket shelves and rattle Ukrainians

By HANNA ARHIROVA and BARRY HATTON Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Russian forces relentlessly battered Kyiv and cities in the region around the Ukrainian capital for a fifth straight day on Monday, leaving some supermarket shelves bare after repeated strikes on warehouses, as Ukraine reels from attacks with jet-powered drones.

Russia has intensified its aerial attacks in recent months, more than four years after it invaded its neighbor. Almost constant air raid alerts in the Kyiv region in recent days have severely disrupted daily routines. Two major attacks in July killed almost 50 civilians, and a strike on Saturday killed at least 38 people.

Classes were due to resume at Ukrainian schools on Tuesday, but it was unclear whether parents would send their children. Schools have air raid shelters, and classes can also be held online. But about 1 million textbooks have been destroyed in Russian attacks on publishing houses, potentially delaying deliveries for the start of the school year, Ukraine's Education Ministry said earlier this month.

"Right now, Russia's tactic is to wear down Ukraine and Ukrainians — first and foremost, our people," Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on social media late Sunday.

Ukraine has also tried to make Russian civilians feel the burden of war by hammering major online retailers and oil facilities. The attacks have brought shortages for ordinary Russians, but the assaults haven't

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been as deadly for Russian civilians as the attacks on Ukrainians are.

U.S.-led diplomatic efforts to stop the war are on ice after making little progress last year on key issues and with Washington's attention now gripped by the Iran war.

Zelenskyy is keen to restart the mediation, however, and he said that he had "a good call" Monday with U.S. President Donald Trump's envoys Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner, describing their phone conversation as "detailed and constructive."

"Importantly, the dialogue between negotiating teams of the U.S. and Ukraine continues all the time, and now we are talking about locking in the dates for the visit to Ukraine" by Witkoff and Kushner, Zelenskyy said on social media.

Ukraine builds technology to counter jet-powered drones

A pall of black smoke drifted over Kyiv on Monday morning. In Brovary and Boryspil, cities in the Kyiv region, the aerial attacks struck several warehouses and four people were wounded, said Tymur Tkachenko, head of the regional military administration.

Zelenskyy conceded on social media that Ukraine is struggling to counter fast-flying jet-propelled drones that Russia is increasingly deploying.

Between Thursday and Sunday, Russia fired almost 1,500 drones at Ukraine, and around 800 of them were jet-powered, Zelenskyy said.

Combat aircraft are trying to stop the jet-powered versions while Ukraine looks to develop more effective technology.

"Four companies have developed the relevant interceptor drones, and one company has the most successful technology," Zelenskyy said. He didn't elaborate.

A Kyiv official says Ukrainians won't go hungry

Repeated Russian strikes on food distribution centers and retail hubs have disrupted Ukrainian logistics, leaving some supermarket shelves bare and fueling public concern about shortages.

Those fears prompted Zelenskyy adviser Serhii Beskrestnov to say on social media Monday that Ukraine won't go hungry. He urged the public not to give in to rumors, disinformation or panic, saying producers and retailers are restructuring supply chains.

Beskrestnov said that European countries would be ready to fill any food supply shortfall, if necessary.

At the same time, Russia has kept up its attacks on Ukraine's power grid, seeking to leave civilians cold and without running water in the approaching winter.

Russian forces launched what officials said was a massive overnight drone attack on Ukraine's northern Chernihiv region, which borders Russia, where an energy facility was damaged, according to Viacheslav Chaus, head of the regional military administration. He didn't provide details of the damage.

The Russian Defense Ministry said Sunday that it's preparing "massive strikes" on Ukraine's energy infrastructure.

Overnight, Russia shot down 239 Ukrainian drones over 14 Russian regions, the occupied Crimean Peninsula and the waters of the Black Sea, the Defense Ministry in Moscow said Monday.

A Ukrainian missile attack on Sunday evening on the Russian border city of Belgorod killed three people, acting regional Gov. Alexander Shuvayev said.

Also, a Ukrainian drone attack wounded four people in the Russian city of Yekaterinburg, regional Gov. Denis Pasler said Monday. Yekaterinburg is Russia's fourth-biggest city, located more than 2,000 kilometers (1,250 miles) from Ukraine's border, and is an industrial hub.

Survivors of Cypriot ferry disaster describe terror and panic aboard sinking ship

By ANDREW WILKS Associated Press

ISTANBUL (AP) — Survivors of a ferry disaster off the coast of northern Cyprus that killed at least eight people described on Monday the moments of terror as they scrambled to escape the sinking vessel.

The passengers spoke as rescue teams searched for 20 people missing since the ship carrying 267

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passengers and crew capsized after leaving Kyrenia, a port in breakaway northern Cyprus, for Tasucu in Turkey on Sunday afternoon. Authorities had earlier said 18 were missing.

Among those unaccounted for were a 12-year-old girl and her brother, 6. "My daughter slipped from my grasp. She was holding my hand. The suitcase fell, she slipped from my hand," their mother, Ayten Bicer, 35, told Turkey's DHA news agency.

Serkan Kunduraci, who escaped the sinking ferry by hauling himself through a broken window, said he saw children and others drowning in the sea some 7.5 kilometers (4.6 miles) off the Cypriot coast.

"I saw some who didn't know how to swim die in the sea," he told DHA. "There were those who, in a panic, didn't grab life jackets. Some jumped (into the sea) immediately out of fear. There was an old man, we couldn't get him. We tried to pull him up, but we couldn't. He drowned, too.

"We saw and witnessed a family's children, boys and girls, very young children, drowning."

Panic and confusion as the ship began listing

Survivors told how the ship, the Filo Jet, began listing and taking on water after they heard a number of loud noises from below decks.

"The crew came, took a look and told us there wasn't a major problem, just a loose gasket causing a leak," Kunduraci said.

When the order to evacuate came, he added, people were already panicking. He said the ship began tilting as the captain apparently made an effort to return to Kyrenia, known as Girne in Turkish.

"There was so much screaming and so many people were trapped behind — they had been left in the rear," Kunduraci said. "They couldn't get out. There were bodies and people piled on top of them. Those trapped underneath were the unlucky ones, they stayed down there."

Deniz Ozpolat also recalled the sense of panic onboard the ferry, which was owned by Filo Denizcilik.

"We headed toward the exit. A crush of people had already formed. We couldn't find the life jackets. They shut the doors on us and we couldn't get out," he told DHA.

"They opened them later. We jumped into the water. The ship began to sink after listing to the side. We broke the windows and rescued people. There was a family out in the open water, there were children."

Rescue boats filled to capacity

Rescuer Muhammed Ozcelik, who runs a water sports company, said his boat was one of the first on the scene and began hauling people from the sea.

"We tried to do more than we could. People were saying, 'Take me too, take me too,' but the capacity was full. We even took far more than (our capacity) ... People were fighting for their lives."

Images in the Turkish media showed passengers in orange life vests standing on the upturned ferry as they waited for rescue. Many were later shown disembarking small pleasure boats at a port.

The ferry's eight crew and a Filo Denizcilik company director appeared in a northern Cypriot court to face charges of causing death through negligence and carelessness Monday, the Turkish Cypriot newspaper Kibris reported. They were detained for a further three days.

Unal Ustel, the prime minister of northern Cyprus, said late Sunday that "even the slightest negligence will be uncovered. Whoever is found to be at fault or responsible will not be spared."

On Monday, he identified all the dead and missing. The port authorities who authorized the Filo Jet's voyage had been dismissed, Ustel added, as the Transport Ministry said all Filo Denizcilik operations had been suspended.

The Turkish coast guard and military were assisting rescue teams from north Cyprus, Ustel added, describing the incident as the worst maritime disaster in Cypriot history.

Meanwhile, Turkish Cypriot Transport Minister Erhan Arikli said in a statement that the ferry had been sailing at 60% capacity and there were enough life vests for all passengers.

An inspection of the submerged ferry was hampered by the sea depth of 500 meters (1,640 feet), he added, but a remotely operated submarine would be used to search for bodies. It is expected to arrive at the site from Turkey on Tuesday.

Cyprus was split along ethnic lines in 1974, and Turkish Cypriots declared independence in 1983. Only Turkey recognizes the north, where it maintains more than 35,000 troops.

Dolly Parton estate announces 2-day festival 'Dollyfest' to celebrate her legacy

By MARIA SHERMAN AP Music Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Dolly Parton is not done yet. The estate behind the icon, who died of cancer last week at age 80, has announced Dollyfest, a two-day festival to be held in Nashville and London across two consecutive weekends in 2027.

According to a press release Monday morning, the festival was originally scheduled to take place in January 2026 — around her 80th birthday — and was going to feature Parton as a performer and host. Now, it will serve as a celebration of her legacy.

"We had the venue booked and we had the announcement ready to go. And then, in August 2025, Dolly had to take a step back after her initial health challenges. A lot of people always say, WWDD (What Would Dolly Do?), and, well, at this moment, Dollyfest is WDWD (What Dolly Would Do!)," organizer Danny Nozell, founder and CEO of CTK Enterprises, said in a statement.

"We are not discouraging people from celebrating Dolly in the ways they choose. However, as far as a traditional memorial goes, that is not something Dolly wanted," he continued. "So, instead, it feels more appropriate for us to take a beat, let all the tributes that immediately make sense occur naturally, and then, see through this festival-style concept that was truly dreamed up by Dolly."

There was a private service for Parton on Friday attended only by immediate family, The Associated Press has confirmed. There will not be a public ceremony, per Parton's wishes.

Parton's great-niece, Lainey Parton, posted a tribute on Instagram on Saturday, writing in the caption: "This is a really hard post for me to make. I wanted to wait until after my granny was laid to rest yesterday before I tried to put any of this into words. From the time I was little, my granny always had a way of making me feel like I was enough. She never made my dreams feel too big or made me feel like I couldn't do something. She believed in me before I even knew how to believe in myself."

Ticket information and dates for Dollyfest are forthcoming. Fans can sign up to receive additional details at www.dollyparton.com.

France to supply Sweden with 4 frigates to bolster the NATO country's defense

By JOHN LEICESTER and SYLVIE CORBET Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — France and Sweden signed agreements Monday to supply the Nordic country with 4 modern frigates, strengthening the defenses of NATO's newest member in the strategically important Baltic Sea region, where Russia uses key shipping lanes and airspace.

The signature ceremony took place during Emmanuel Macron's visit to Sweden as the French president pushes for greater European military autonomy to reduce the continent's reliance on the United States. The U.S. administration last week pressed European allies in NATO to demonstrate that they are strengthening their defenses as Washington shifts its attention to security challenges closer to home and in the Indo-Pacific region.

"These frigates will serve as platforms that will provide long-range capabilities at sea and protection against ballistic missiles," Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson said. The war in Ukraine "has shown us the importance of being able to defend against this type of missile."

Under the 4.3 billion-euro (\$5 billion) contract, France also will supply weapons and other equipment for the warships, which can carry air-defense interceptors capable of shooting down ballistic missiles, as well as torpedoes and long-range cruise missiles, according to French presidential officials. France also will provide training.

French shipbuilder Naval Group is expected to deliver the first vessel in 2030, the officials said. They spoke on condition of anonymity in line with the French presidency's customary practices.

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Macron praised a “major strategic cooperation” between France and Sweden. “We are thereby strengthening the European defense industrial and technological base,” he said.

The agreements were signed aboard the *Amiral Ronarc’h*, the first in a new series of French “defense and intervention” frigates. The vessel was launched in 2022 and delivered to the French navy in October 2025. Sweden is buying ships of the same class.

Macron and Kristersson held talks aboard the vessel before a working dinner scheduled later that day. French officials said the talks also were expected to include Sweden’s participation in France’s unprecedented initiative to coordinate its nuclear deterrence efforts with European allies.

Britain, Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, Greece, Poland, Denmark and Norway also have expressed interest in the initiative. It allows France to temporarily deploy nuclear-armed aircraft to allied countries and enables partners to take part in French deterrence exercises. Allied non-nuclear forces also could participate in activities supporting France’s nuclear deterrence.

France is also turning to Sweden for defense equipment. It ordered two GlobalEye surveillance aircraft from Swedish manufacturer Saab in December.

Sweden formally joined NATO in 2024 as the trans-Atlantic military alliance’s 32nd member, ending decades of post-World War II neutrality and centuries of broader nonalignment with major powers. Security concerns across Europe have intensified since Russia’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022.

Keeping cool saves thousands of lives yearly, but at a cost of worsening global warming, experts say

By SETH BORENSTEIN AP Science Writer

Cooling from air conditioning saves lives — more than 5,000 a year in the United States alone — but it also heats up the planet and taxes our electrical grid, scientists say.

As the world warms, heat waves strike nearly every continent and United Nations officials estimate that about half a million people die a year from heat, air conditioning is needed and being used more than ever. A study in *Nature Health* reported Monday that air conditioning saved nearly 58,000 lives between 2010 and 2020 in the U.S. Air conditioning use is skyrocketing around the world, with electricity demand from cooling expected to triple, according to the International Energy Agency and the United Nations Environment Programme.

It’s also more of a problem than ever. Because most of the electricity for cooling comes from the burning of fossil fuels, the U.N. projects the amount of heat-trapping gas spewed into the atmosphere from air conditioning use to rise from 4.5 billion to 7.2 billion tons in the next 25 years or so. That 7.2 billion tons is almost as much as the carbon pollution from the United States and Europe now.

“Everyone knows air conditioning works, but air conditioning from a climate change perspective is not an ideal,” said Kai Chen, an epidemiology professor at the Yale School of Public Health who was the senior author on the new study. “It leads to more carbon emissions ... then it accelerates the climate warming problem.”

Because of a global energy crunch triggered by the war in Iran, eight countries — Bangladesh, Cambodia, Jordan, Malaysia, the Philippines, the Seychelles, Singapore and Sri Lanka — have limited how cool air conditioning can be in offices or even mandated one day a week for public offices to switch it off, according to the IEA. In 2025 the Indian government proposed limits on how cool air conditioners can go.

Experts from 75 countries and 250 cities are trying to walk the tightrope of creating more cooling to reduce deaths from the rising heat, but without worsening climate change. The Global Cooling Pledge will meet in September in Singapore.

Air conditioning is rescuing more people on hotter days

One measurement experts use to tally accumulated heat as related to potential air conditioning use is something called “cooling degree days,” a calculation of how much energy is needed to cool buildings when it’s hot outside. The number of cooling degree days in the United States has increased by 28% since

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1990, with 2024 setting a record, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration. Through May, 2026 has been on pace to beat 2024 for the most cooling degree days, EIA data shows.

In Europe, the number of cooling degree days has more than doubled since 1990, and air conditioning use there has jumped up by 44%. Meanwhile, usage has tripled in India and more than doubled in Southeast Asia, the IEA reported.

In the new study, Chen and his team went through 30 million U.S. death records over an 11-year time span, used county-by-county calculations for levels when heat becomes dangerous and calculated how many lives air conditioning saved during extreme heat. The most lives saved were in Arizona, Florida, Texas, Louisiana and southern parts of Nevada, Alabama and Mississippi. More than a dozen northern states, from Washington to Maine, had fewer than 10 lives a year saved, according to the study.

Chen said the study concluded that "the essential role" of air conditioning saved on average 5,267 lives a year. But it also found that has to be balanced with "overuse." He pointed to offices — like his — which are cooled so much that many workers wear sweaters even in the summer. More than half the cases researchers looked at could be considered overuse, he said.

Many places use 75 degrees (24 degrees Celsius) as a reasonable limit for air conditioning, Chen said.

He also said the study found that using more air conditioning than needed doesn't save more lives, but it does worsen climate change.

Fairness, smog and urban waste heat

Air conditioning in cities adds extra warmth to the urban heat island effect, as anyone who walks by air conditioning units knows because that's where waste heat is expelled outdoors, Chen said. And the added power use increases traditional soot and smog air pollution.

It's also an issue of fairness since many of the world's most vulnerable populations don't have access to or can't afford air conditioning, according to both Chen and U.N. officials.

Lily Riahi, head of the cooling buildings and energy unit at UNEP, said that in this year's heat waves, "many families had to choose between paying for medicines or running their air conditioner."

"In a warming world, thermal comfort should not be a luxury," UNEP chief heat officer Eleni Myrivili said. "It's becoming a prerequisite for health, dignity and increasingly survival."

Solutions include using nature and AC

Riahi said the goal is not less cooling but rather "smarter and more equitable cooling," and she pointed to Singapore as an example for effective solutions.

"Singapore is a country I think has really tackled cooling from a very comprehensive perspective, looking at individual adaptation measures, early warning systems, passive measures in the city in terms of urban greenery, which saves them, I think, \$35 million in energy costs per year," Riahi said. Officials there also require new and old buildings to have more efficient cooling and ventilation systems.

Singapore has lowered temperatures in some places by 14 degrees (8 degrees Celsius), Riahi said.

But sometimes it can get so hot and humid in places that even green solutions aren't enough and air conditioning will be needed, Riahi said.

Until it's too hot and humid, fans and a low level of air conditioning work, Chen said.

DEA tactic that let fentanyl flood the streets is being investigated by House Republicans

By JOSHUA GOODMAN and JIM MUSTIAN Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — A controversial policing tactic that permitted staggering amounts of deadly fentanyl to reach the streets as federal authorities sought to build bigger drug cases is now under investigation by Republicans on the House Oversight Committee.

The committee's chairman, Rep. James Comer, a Republican from Kentucky, sent a letter Monday to Attorney General Todd Blanche requesting records related to the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration's controversial strategy of monitoring — yet not seizing — major fentanyl shipments.

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The request echoes concerns raised by officials in New Mexico, the epicenter of the fentanyl crisis, where DEA whistleblowers recently reported being ordered to stand down rather than seize hundreds of thousands of fentanyl pills in possible violation of Justice Department rules intended to safeguard communities. Last week, the state's attorney general, Raúl Torrez, sued the Justice Department seeking to force it to turn over some of the same records being sought by Republicans on Comer's committee.

"While DEA agents may not have the resources to intercept every single known shipment, a policy directing them not to intercept significant shipments is unconscionable and undoubtedly resulted in considerable harm and lives lost," Comer wrote in the letter, a copy of which was obtained by The Associated Press.

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

The lawsuit and congressional inquiry come two months after an AP investigation found DEA agents repeatedly monitored major fentanyl shipments in New Mexico between 2023 and 2025 that were allowed to hit the streets as federal authorities built out criminal cases.

The fentanyl went unseized amid the deadliest drug epidemic in U.S. history and even as DEA led a public awareness campaign — "One Pill Can Kill" — emphasizing that even a few milligrams of the substance can be lethal. Last year, the White House designated the synthetic opioid a "weapon of mass destruction."

Comer requested records covering only the Biden administration, citing what he described as its "relaxation of fentanyl risk mitigation protocols" developed during President Donald Trump's first term. The protocols, Comer said, should have prevented the fentanyl from hitting the streets in such large numbers.

The earlier policy, adopted in 2017, called on agents to "seize or otherwise prevent the distribution" of fentanyl "as soon as practicable." The department rewrote those rules in 2024 to afford law enforcement far more discretion in whether to take action to prevent fentanyl trafficking, citing "the benefits to be achieved through preserving the investigation."

AP reporting found the investigative strategy — known as allowing drugs to "walk" — continued into Trump's second administration during the run-up to the largest fentanyl bust in DEA history, a takedown announced in May 2025 by then-Attorney General Pam Bondi.

As part of that investigation, authorities seized some 3 million fentanyl pills. But even larger quantities went unseized as agents in Albuquerque stood by and watched as drug couriers entered hotels with backpacks believed to be carrying as many as 100,000 fentanyl pills.

The entire network could have been dismantled six months earlier, according to a former DEA supervisor who worked on the case and is now among three whistleblowers sounding the alarm about the longstanding practice.

The Justice Department's internal watchdog this month announced a nationwide review of government policies and wiretap investigations to determine whether federal authorities have used the same tactic elsewhere.

"Our investigations are long term and they are complex and they are done under the guidance of the law," DEA Administrator Terry Cole said in an interview this month with Fox News welcoming the inspector general's review. "We will continue to do that, but we need to stay 100% focused on the adversary."

Trump still teases seeking a third term. But he's now talking more about post-presidency life

By WILL WEISSERT Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump has frequently suggested he wants to seek a third term, posting about mounting another campaign, donning 2028 caps and discussing ways to make it happen — even as he's acknowledged the Constitution prohibits it.

But lately, Trump has begun showing signs that even he doesn't really believe another run will happen.

During recent speeches, the Republican president has begun describing life after the White House when his term ends in January 2029, predicting he'll be at home and agonizing as his successor claims credit for his accomplishments.

"Your next president is going to say, 'What a great job I did,'" Trump told an event on Long Island, New

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York, this month. "He'll be sitting around, watching television. A real stiff. Unless you vote Republican, of course."

A sitting president talking about becoming a former one is always politically fraught. But with midterm elections now just nine weeks away, Trump is approaching the point of his presidency where there will be more and more reminders that his power will soon wane.

Being willing to say he's contemplating a White House without him marks a notable shift for Trump. Going back to his first term and from virtually the moment he won a second, he's left the door open to staying put for more than eight years.

"He is all over the place," said Brian Kalt, a Michigan State University constitutional law professor. "And what that does is, it allows him to point to his own words to support any number of mutually exclusive things."

Trump can say, "Oh yeah, I made it clear that I wasn't gonna run," Kalt said. "Or, if he decides that he will, he could say, 'Well, you know, I never said I wouldn't.'"

Trump suggests his post-presidency may make him cry

The White House dismissed suggestions that Trump's thoughts are increasingly turning to the clock running out on his presidency — and the legacy he'll leave behind. Spokesperson Olivia Wales said he "is fighting every day" to deliver on promises to reduce violent crime, crack down on the U. S-Mexico border and lower prescription drug prices.

"The only legacy President Trump is concerned with is making America greater than ever before," Wales said.

Still, hinting at how he'll be remembered is something Trump is suddenly talking about a lot.

During a recent Pennsylvania rally, he said, "Whoever the next president is, he's going to be talking about what a brilliant president he is. And I'll be home. And I'll be saying, 'That son of a gun,' because we did the job."

A week later in Georgia, Trump was predicting that once his presidency was over, "I'll be sitting home."

"I may be crying," the president added, arguing that Democrats could retake the Senate and scrap filibuster rules, making it easier to move their key legislation.

Then, in Michigan, Trump injected some doubt into whether he was ready to hand over the Oval Office and move back to Florida.

"In two and a half years, you may have a different president — may," he said, emphasizing the "may."

"I'll be sitting home. I'll be reading the papers. I'll be watching television," Trump said, before swiping at his predecessor, President Joe Biden. "And I'll be having some guy — like last time, a real idiot — stand up and say, 'We are doing record business.'"

Mixed Trump signals are still most common

But even as he's begun to suggest he'll be leaving the presidency, Trump has also continued to tease a 2028 reelection run.

Addressing the rescheduled White House Correspondents' Association dinner last month, Trump joked, "Just like my presidency, the second time is always better" and that "the third time will be better yet. I'm only kidding." He later wore a 2028 campaign cap to finish the speech.

The Constitution's 22nd Amendment says no one can be elected president more than twice. It was ratified in 1951, six years after President Franklin Delano Roosevelt died, months into his fourth term. Until Roosevelt, no other president had defied the tradition of stepping down after two terms that George Washington started.

Still, Trump had only been back in the White House for a couple of months when he told NBC News, "There are methods which you could" use to seek a third term.

He acknowledged that one method was to be the running mate to Vice President JD Vance in 2028 — then have Vance step aside if the pair won.

"There are others, too," Trump said then, alluding to more options. He later told Time Magazine, "There are some loopholes," while also saying he didn't believe in using them.

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The president has since often used his social media posts to promote "Trump 2028" logos featuring his slogan "Make America Great Again."

But Trump has also at times seemed definitive about the ban on him making another run, acknowledging recently to reporters: "I'd love to run, but the law is very strong."

Kalt wrote about a two-term president possibly getting back to office by running for vice president in "constitutional Cliffhangers: A Legal Guide for Presidents and Their Enemies."

"People do tend to find, in Trump's words, whatever it is that they want to hear," he said.

Trump may be fighting the 'lame duck' factor

Second-term presidents typically see their power and influence wane during their last two years, particularly if their party suffers big midterm defeats. But Trump's comments could also be a sign he's thinking about cementing his legacy, a stage that many of his predecessors also reached.

"They all, particularly as they cross the midpoint of their second term, start thinking about legacy," said Paul Begala, a former adviser to President Bill Clinton.

"They all banish the word. I know Clinton and Bush, they said, 'Can't use the L-word.' But they do," Begala said, referring to his old boss Clinton and to President George W. Bush. "They all think about it. And the staff thinks about it and the Cabinet thinks about it."

In his last two years of office, Clinton threw himself into trying to broker a Middle East peace agreement. Bush used the slogan "sprint to the finish" during his presidency's final year in 2008, and Biden adopted a "run through the tape" ethos after abandoning his reelection bid.

Trump has leaned into molding the White House and Greater Washington in his own image, harkening back to his days as a real estate developer in 1970s and 1980s New York.

He's ordered up a towering arch near the Lincoln Memorial and restored city fountains, while constructing a Rose Garden patio area and helipad on the White House lawn and adding scores of gilded touches to the building's stately interior and exterior.

And then, there's the massive ballroom that Trump has crews rushing to finish in the face of legal challenges — a project the president says will only be completed late in 2028, shortly before he leaves office.

"It's not for me, 'cause I'm going to be here a very short period of time" when the work is finished, Trump recently told reporters in the Oval Office. "I'll be there for four, five, six months. This is for future presidents."

Suspect arrested after shooting at rave in Switzerland that left 1 person dead

GENEVA (AP) — A suspect has been arrested after a weekend shooting at a rave in northern Switzerland that left one person dead and five wounded, police said Monday.

The 43-year-old Swiss citizen was detained shortly before 1 a.m. Monday, police in Aargau canton (state) said in a statement.

They said that investigations into a possible motive are ongoing and that at present they believe the shooting was carried out by a lone perpetrator. They did not specify where the suspect was arrested.

The shooting took place in the early hours of Sunday in Aarau, the regional capital. Police have said 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.

Swiss police have said that all of the victims are residents of Switzerland. Italian Premier Giorgia Meloni on Sunday evening identified the woman who was killed and two other victims as Italian citizens.

Aargau police said that they plan to hold a news conference on Wednesday and won't release further information until then.

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

The rave, being held at a horse racing track on the edge of Aarau, was winding down at the time when the shooting happened.

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Today in History: September 1, Titanic wreckage found

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, Sept. 1, the 244th day of 2026. There are 121 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On Sept. 1, 1985, a U.S.-French expedition located the wreckage of the Titanic on the floor of the Atlantic Ocean roughly 400 miles off the coast of Newfoundland.

Also on this date:

In 1715, following a reign of 72 years, King Louis XIV of France died four days before his 77th birthday; he was succeeded by his five-year-old great-grandson, Louis XV.

In 1807, a federal jury in Virginia acquitted former Vice President Aaron Burr of treason for plotting to seize lands belonging to Spain in Louisiana and Mexico.

In 1897, the first section of Boston's new subway was opened, creating the first underground rapid transit system in North America.

In 1914, the passenger pigeon, once one of the most abundant bird species on earth, went extinct as the last known example, named Martha, died in captivity at the Cincinnati Zoo.

In 1923, the Japanese cities of Tokyo and Yokohama were devastated by an earthquake that claimed some 140,000 lives.

In 1939, Nazi Germany invaded Poland, an event regarded as the start of World War II.

In 1952, Life magazine published Ernest Hemingway's "The Old Man and the Sea" in its entirety; also released as a book, it won a Pulitzer Prize in 1953.

In 1964, pitcher Masanori Murakami of the San Francisco Giants became the first Japanese baseball player to play in a Major League Baseball game.

In 1969, a coup in Libya brought Moammar Gadhafi to power.

In 1972, American Bobby Fischer won the international chess crown in Reykjavik, Iceland, as Boris Spassky of the Soviet Union resigned before the resumption of their 21st and final game.

In 1983, 269 people were killed when a Korean Air Lines Boeing 747 was shot down by a Soviet fighter jet after the airliner entered Soviet airspace.

In 2004, Islamic terrorists took more than 1,000 people hostage in a school in Beslan, North Ossetia, Russia; the siege would end three days later in gunfire and explosions, leaving 334 people dead — more than half of them children.

In 2015, invoking "God's authority," Rowan County, Kentucky, Clerk Kim Davis denied marriage licenses to gay couples again in direct defiance of the federal courts and vowed not to resign, even under the pressure of steep fines or jail. (Davis would spend five days in jail as a result, and is currently appealing a ruling ordering her to pay hundreds of thousands of dollars in related legal fees.)

Today's Birthdays: Attorney and law professor Alan Dershowitz is 88. Comedian-actor Lily Tomlin is 87. Singer Barry Gibb is 80. Talk show host Dr. Phil McGraw is 76. Singer Gloria Estefan is 69. TV host-author Padma Lakshmi is 56. Actor Ricardo Antonio Chavira is 55. Fashion designer Rachel Zoe is 55. Actor Scott Speedman is 51. Composer-producer Ludwig Göransson is 42. Actor-singer Zendaya is 30.